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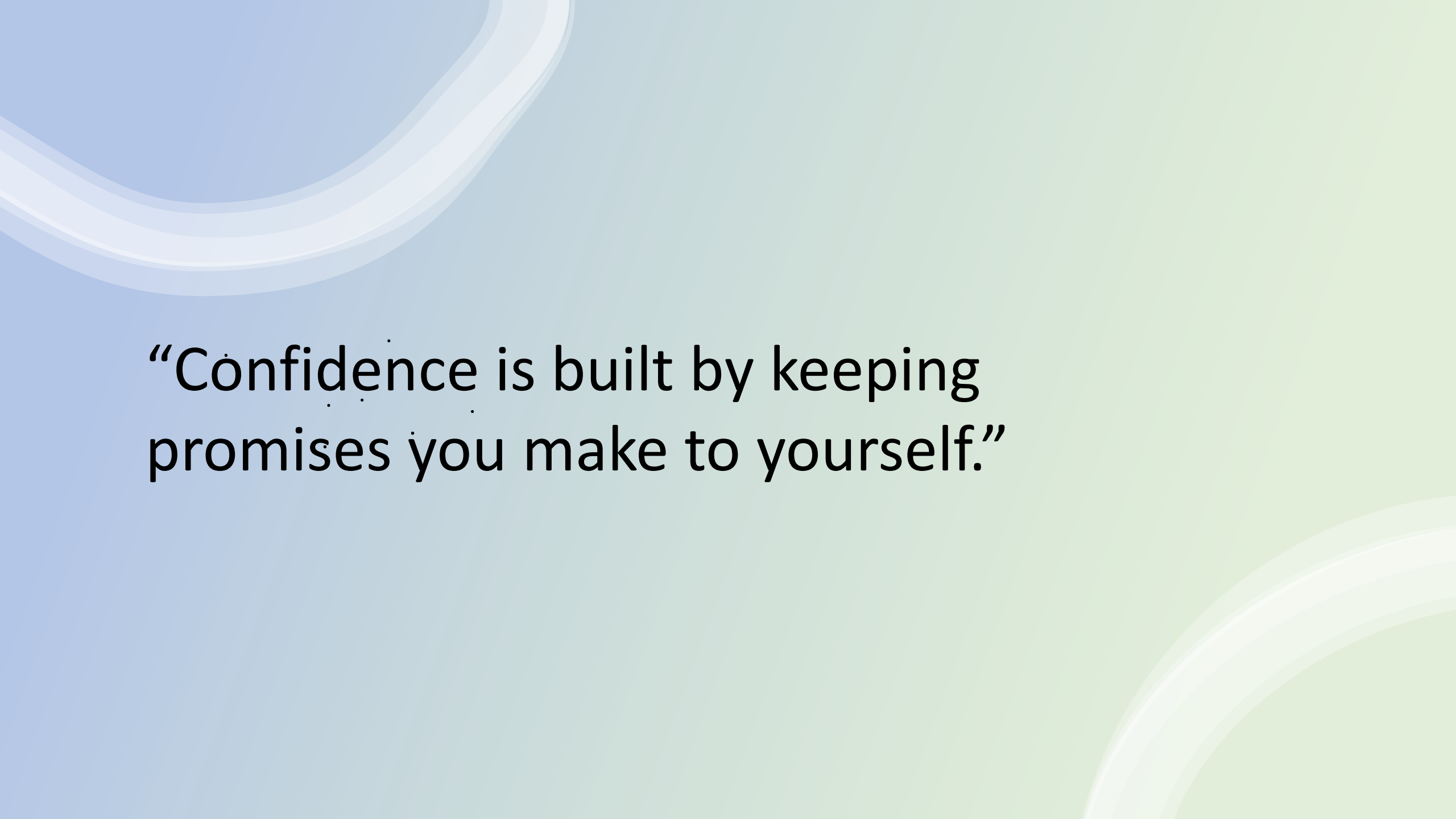


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“Confidence is built by keeping promises you make to yourself.”

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**NEARBY**



**NSE asked to pay ₹1,800 crore over pending disputes**  
An external panel set up by Securities and Exchange Board of India has recommended the National Stock Exchange settle pending legal disputes by paying a little over ₹1,800 crore, two sources said. The figure is close to resolving its long-running dispute with SEBI. **NEWS | PAGE 12**

**Japan opens its doors to global weapons market**  
Japan on Tuesday scrapped the ban on lethal weapons exports, a major change in its postwar pacifist policy as it seeks to build up its arms industry amid worries over Chinese and North Korean aggression. Japan's defence partners like Australia have welcomed it. **NEWS | PAGE 14**

**Stricter norms may be applied to AI content**  
The government on Tuesday mooted stricter disclosure norms for AI-generated content, proposing tweaks to IT rules that would require users to identify synthetically generated information to be visible for the full duration of the display of the content. **NEWS | PAGE 6**

**T.N. seeks ₹1,041.8 crore in damages over shipwreck**  
The Centre has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that Tamil Nadu has sought a compensation of about ₹1,041.8 crore for the environmental damage and other losses along its coast after the sinking of oil tanker ship MRC 51 off Kerala on May 25, 2022. **NEWS | PAGE 3**

**High-decibel campaigning for the Assembly election in Tamil Nadu and for the first phase of polling in West Bengal concluded on Tuesday evening.**  
In Tamil Nadu, over 8.73 crore voters will decide the fate of 4,023 constituencies on Thursday. To seek 224 MLAs to the Assembly.  
The two alliances led by the DMK and the AIADMK are locked in an intense fight. DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has billed this election as a

**Campaigning for T.N. polls, Bengal first phase ends**

**The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI/KOLKATA**  
High-decibel campaigning for the Assembly election in Tamil Nadu and for the first phase of polling in West Bengal concluded on Tuesday evening. In Tamil Nadu, over 8.73 crore voters will decide the fate of 4,023 constituencies on Thursday. To seek 224 MLAs to the Assembly. The two alliances led by the DMK and the AIADMK are locked in an intense fight. DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has billed this election as a

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief M.K. Stalin meets voters during campaigning in Chennai on Tuesday. **PHOTO: N. SURESH**  
Tamil Nadu versus New Delhi fight, while AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami has maintained

Joseph Vijay has projected the contest as one between his Tamilaga Vetti Kaalagam and the DMK. In Bengal, polling for 182 seats across 10 districts will be held on Thursday, while the rest will go to polls on April 29. Around 3.6 crore voters will determine the fate of 1,482 constituencies in the first phase. **Record deployment** The Election Commission has deployed a record 2,407 companies of Central Armed Police Forces for this phase. It is also implementing 100% voter-

**U.S-Iran talks in doubt; truce expiring today**

President Trump eyes 'great deal', while Tehran rules out joining talks 'under shadow of threats' | All arrangements made for talks, yet to receive confirmation from the Iranians, says Pakistan | Trump said on Monday that V-P Vance, Envoy Witkovsk and Jared Kushner had left for Islamabad

**Stanley Ishiyak**  
With the two-week truce in the U.S.-Iran deal on Tuesday the U.S. blockade of its ports and the seizure of a tanker in the Gulf of Oman announced to violation of ceasefire, Iran said that it has yet to decide whether to join a new round of talks with Washington in Islamabad, even as U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that his team would "soon" hold negotiations with Tehran.



Shadow of war: Iranian planes with a mural against U.S. and Israel in Tehran on Tuesday, a day before the end of the two-week ceasefire. **AP**

Pakistan said it has made all arrangements for the talks, but has yet to receive formal confirmation from Iran about its participation, as of Tuesday evening. "Blockading Iranian ports is an act of war and thus a violation of the ceasefire. Striking a commercial vessel and taking its crew hostage is an even greater violation," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas

Vance trip on hold Mr. Trump on Monday said that Vice-President J.D. Vance, Special Envoy Steve Witkovsk and the President's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, had already left for Islamabad, but U.S. media reported on Tuesday, citing White House officials, that Mr. Vance's planned trip to Pakistan was put on hold as Iran failed to respond to American positions. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's Parliament speaker and chief negotia-

tor, said Mr. Trump was seeking Iran's surrender which his country would not accept. "Trump, by imposing a siege and violating the ceasefire, seeks to turn this negotiating table... into a table of surrender or to justify renewed warmongering," he wrote in a so-

numerous times". In an interview with CNBC, he said the U.S. was "going to end up with a great deal" with Iran as "they have no choice". He added that the U.S. "is loaded up" to respond if Iran failed to make a deal. "We have so much ammo, so much of eve-

rything... We've used this to restock, and they probably have done a little bit of restocking. We're ready to go." Pakistan's Information Minister Anwarul Karar said on Tuesday that Islamabad continued its efforts to hold the talks between the two warring sides. As of 7:30 p.m. Pakistan time, a formal response about Iran's participation "is still awaited", he said in a statement. "Pakistan as the mediator is in constant touch with Iran and pursuing the path of diplomacy and dialogue. Ceasefire ends at 4:30 am PST, 22 April. Decision from Iran to attempt the talks before the end of two weeks ceasefire is critical," Mr. Karar added. "Pakistan has made sincere efforts to convince the Iranian leadership to participate in the second round of talks."

Mr. Trump announced the two-week ceasefire, after 40 days of war, on April

8. On April 11, Vice-President Vance held direct talks with an Iranian delegation led by Mr. Ghalibaf in Islamabad. But they failed to reach a breakthrough. The next day, Mr. Trump enforced a blockade on ships going to and coming from Iranian ports. On Sunday, the U.S. military seized an Iran flagged tanker in the Gulf of Oman, stating tensions ahead of the ceasefire expiry.

Last week, Iran announced that it would reopen the Strait of Hormuz for commercial traffic but reversed its decision after Mr. Trump said the U.S. blockade would remain in place until there is a deal between the two countries. Iran's Faramin news agency reported on Tuesday that the U.S. naval blockade and "ceasefire demands" have prevented the formation of a new round of talks.

**KEEPING AIRSPACE** **NEWS | PAGE 14**

**Setting the tone**



Protesters demand a ban of assembly grounds for the activities of the Kedar Nath Temple in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on Tuesday. The gates of the shrine will be opened for devotees on Wednesday morning after being closed for seven days. **AP**

**13 killed in explosion at fireworks unit set up for Thrissur Pooram festival**

**The Hindu Bureau TRISSUR**  
At least 13 people were killed and nearly 40 injured in a series of explosions and blaze at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Muralathikode, near Thrissur, in Kerala on Tuesday, one of the worst such incidents reported in the region. The unit, situated on a five-acre paddy field, was preparing fireworks for the Thiruvambady Devaswom, one of the two groups organising the famous Thiruvambady Pooram. These materials included supplies for a sample fireworks show on Friday.

The explosion occurred around 3:30 p.m., triggering a fire that engulfed multiple structures. Of the eight sheds operating at the site, five were gutted with three of them housing large quantities of explosive materials. The deafening blast, heard kilometres away, initially caused panic among residents, many of whom mistook it for an earthquake. Thick plumes of smoke enveloped the area and spread to nearby areas. Human body parts were found scattered.

According to Thiruvambady Medical College, five of the injured are in a critical condition, one is in a 90% burn, while four others have sustained around 70% burns. Several others are undergoing treatment at various hospitals. The fireworks unit was operating under a licence



Fire raged, forcing personnel to evacuate the site following the blast at the fireworks unit near Thrissur, Kerala, on Tuesday. **S. S. RAJESH**

issued in the name of Muralathikode Saraswathi, who is among those reported to have sustained serious burns. The exact number of workers present at the time of the incident remains unclear. The incident happened two days after 28 people were killed in an explosion at a fireworks unit in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Saturday.

Leaders express grief President Droupadi Murmu condoned the loss of lives on Tuesday and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. "Sadness to learn about the loss of lives... My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Mr. Murmu said in a post on X. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives and announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for those injured. Chief Minister Pinarayi

# Kuki, Naga villagers clash during Manipur shutdown

One person injured after security personnel opened fire to prevent a mob from storming venue of CMs event; shutdown called by Meitei women's groups and social organisations enters third day

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

Clashes broke out between Kuki and Naga villagers in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Tuesday during a shutdown called by the United Naga Council in protest against the killing of two highway passengers on April 18.

Officials said the clashes in Kangpokpi — a Kohima-Imphal district — had broken out hours after the three-day shutdown took effect on Tuesday. There were reports of some throwing and firing, allegedly by extremists.

Separately, a person sustained bullet injuries after security personnel opened fire to prevent a mob from storming the venue of Chief Minister Numanthem Chhangma's speech to grammar in Thoubal district of the Indian-dominated Imphal Valley.

Protesters, demanding the arrest of those responsible for the killing of two minors in Bishanpur district a few days ago, also blocked a highway that the



Protesters gathered to block the vehicle of Manipur CM Numanthem Chhangma while an oxygen supply van to pass during a shutdown in Thoubal on Tuesday.

view of the escalating situation, the minimum necessary force was applied. As a last resort, controlled firing was undertaken in the event of non-compliance with the established protocols to disperse the mob and neutralise the threat," the police said in a statement.

The police said a large group of people, illegally armed with stones and catapults, advanced towards the function venue during the Chief Minister's visit.

The Chief Minister arranged the opposition to his visit. "I recently visited many hill districts, and there was no opposition. I

am surprised by the protest against my visit to Thoubal," he said, addressing a gathering at the event. He insisted that the differences could be sorted out through dialogue. "All solutions come after talks between the parties involved," he said.

Meanwhile, a separate shutdown called by Meitei women's groups and social organisations kept much of the Imphal Valley tense for the third successive day. The shutdown from April 18, initially for five days, has now been extended to seven days.

# Congress leader Venugopal submits privilege notice against PM to LS Speaker

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary K. C. Venugopal submitted a privilege notice against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday for "containing aspersions on and impugning motives" to the Opposition members for voting against the Constitution (101st Amendment) Bill, 2020, which sought to link defilement and reservation of Lok Sabha seats with women's reservation.

In his notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mr. Venugopal alleged a "clear and deliberate breach of privilege" by Mr. Modi, and said the matter should be referred to the Committee on Privileges for inquiry.

Following the Rules of Procedure, Mr. Venugopal said the Prime Minister, in his April 18 televised address to the nation following the bill's defeat in the Lok Sabha, made "direct reflections" on the voting behaviour of Opposition MPs and attributed motives to them. The bill failed to secure the two-thirds majority.

He urged the Speaker to take immediate and decisive steps to uphold the parliamentary convention bars any reflection on the conduct of MPs in the discharge of their duties. Such remarks interfere with the free exercise of legislative functions, he said.



K.C. Venugopal

sanity of Parliament and the constitutional protections afforded to its members, so that "such violations are neither ignored nor repeated."

Pointing Mr. Venugopal's letter on X, party's communications chief JaiRam Ramiah said a Prime Minister's address is meant for members of both and Opposition members were protesting against it, he said.

The bill, which sought to strike at the very roots of the basic structure of the Constitution in an attempt to amend Article 32, 301B, "in the guise of implementing" women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly "unconstitutionally sought to amend Article 32 of the Constitution in as much as by doing away with constitutional protection of fundamental rights," he said.

Mr. Venugopal said in his notice that the Constitution (101st Amendment) Bill, 2020, "in the guise of implementing" women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly "unconstitutionally sought to amend Article 32 of the Constitution in as much as by doing away with constitutional protection of fundamental rights," he said.

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# BJP seeks EC action against Kharge for remark on PM

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday sought action against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his "provocative" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, terming it a violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

In a complaint to the Election Commission, the BJP said such "provocative" remark lowered the level of campaign discourse, inflamed passions, and undermined free and fair elections. The scolding "the country's latest political leader" in a "provocative" for electoral purposes was a "gross violation" of the MCC, it said.

The BJP said Mr. Kharge should be directed to submit a public apology, and candidates' names should be imposed on him. At a press conference in Chennai on Tuesday, Mr. Kharge had initially referred to the Prime Minister as a "terrorist" while criticising the AIADMK's alliance with the BJP. However, when pressed by reporters to clarify the context of his remark, Mr. Kharge said he meant that the Prime Minister was a "terrorist" in the democratic fabric of the country.

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# Tourists return to Pahalgam; hotels offer discounts

Perrazada Ashu BAHALGAM

On the eve of the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, tourists returned to the scenic destination with a new pledge: "We will keep coming to paradise." With the hill station teeming once again with tourists, hotels are offering rebates on tariffs. Pony riders and taxis are offering free rides on Wednesday as a goodwill gesture. "Many taxi drivers have volunteered to offer a one-hour free drive to tourists on the occasion," Jan Khatoon, a driver, said.

These arrangements have set the stage for tourists to hold a street rally in Pahalgam to send across a message. "We do not support the killing of civilians, and we stand with our guests," Hamid Dar, a horse owner, said.

Plaque with the names of all 26 victims, killed by a group of ter-

rists on April 22, 2020 in the meadow of Baramat, has been erected at the entry to Pahalgam. The memorial, set up at Pahalgam's famous "sitting point", will be thrown open on the first anniversary of the tragic event.

"It is incumbent on me to ensure the safety of my guests. I remain extra vigilant now. I report any suspicious movements to security agencies," Abdul Haqq, a guide, said.

The sitting point is bustling with tourists, and local selling various goods, including shawls. Such a scene vanished from Pahalgam, with tourist flow halting after the attack. "We could not see anything close to the negative narrative being built around Kashmir. People are warm and sweet. We will keep coming to paradise," Arshi Parvath, a tourist from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, said.

# Post Pahalgam attack, security grid overhauled

Vijaya Singh Saurabh Trivedi NEW DELHI

After the terror attack in Pahalgam last year, the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security forces returned to the region. From training personnel in single warfare to establishing temporary operating bases in the upper reaches at altitudes up to 7,000 feet, the police and Central security forces reworked their approach to track down terrorist modules, a senior government official told The Hindu.

The ghastly terror attack on April 22, 2020, on the Baramat meadow, which left 26 people dead, mostly tourists, led to a complete overhaul of the security grid in the Kashmir Valley as well as the Jammu region. "We could not see anything close to the negative narrative being built around Kashmir. People are warm and sweet. We will keep coming to paradise," Arshi Parvath, a tourist from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, said.

Since mid-2020, targeted operations have included attacks against security forces and infrastructure, including the killing of a police officer in a near-by area. Unlike in the past, when the terrorists would hide or seek shelter in crowded areas, the strategy has shifted in the past two



Tourists pay tribute at the Baramat memorial on Tuesday, ahead of the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack.

years in the Kashmir Valley and since mid-2021 in the Jammu region. The operation, codenamed Mahaveer, was preceded by security forces scouting a 300 sq km for militants' hideouts for more than 60 days. The official said the terrorists were sighted multiple times in the forest, but they managed to escape.

After the Pahalgam terror attack, just one local person from J&K has pho-

ically joined the terrorist ranks, the official said, adding that overall only five local persons remain with the terrorist groups, which explains the presence of a disproportionately higher number of foreign terrorists, around 68, who have been active in J&K over the past few years.

The official said the terrorists had chosen Baramat as they could not get any other "soft targets". The terror attack led to a review of the security grid in the Union Territory. The Special Operations Group (SOG) of the J&K Police was "re-organised", and younger officers were made part of the crack teams. The SOG received training alongside the Greyhounds, the elite anti-air force units, and the Para (Special Forces) of the Army, the official added.

Over 40 temporary operating bases have come up in the forest areas, and security forces conduct long-range patrols frequently. "Greyhounds have been the pioneers in counter-in-

tervention operations in forest areas against the Maoists. As the terrorist groups changed tactics and instead of urban areas, they created bases in forests and upper reaches, a realignment in training was required. There were instances when disorientation of security personnel also occurred. We are the one changing them now," said the official.

Tech-driven warfare The Army, recent operational lessons highlight a decisive shift towards technology-driven warfare. Precision weapons, better night vision, and Kamikaze drones have proven highly effective, while air defence systems successfully neutralised multiple aerial threats, safeguarding military and civilian assets.

"Dense forest areas continue to pose operational challenges, requiring specialised units and sustained patrols. The focus on indigenous defence production has intensified."

"Greyhounds have been the pioneers in counter-in-

# Sharad Pawar hospitalised, will not vote in byelection

Vijaya Deshpande Pandit MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharada) leader Sharad Pawar has been admitted to hospital in Mumbai owing to "deteriorating health". In a post on X on Tuesday evening, he said that owing to his hospitalisation, he will not be able to vote in the Baramat assembly bypoll to be held on Thursday.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of his nephew, Ajit Pawar, in a plane crash in January. The NCP veteran has appealed to the residents of Baramat to vote for Ajit's wife, Smitra Pawar, as a tribute to the deceased leader.

# 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' conspiracy: Gujarat ATS arrests two men

Ashfaq Deshpande AHMEDABAD

A social media trail had led the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) to arrest two men accused of allegedly plotting activities against national security and attempting to radicalise young online influencers. According to investigators, the suspects were allegedly planning towards building a network with the intent of carrying out attacks and promoting the idea of "Ghazwa-e-Hind".

Officials received information regarding Irfan Ka-

# SRMIST, The Hindu to host a webinar on public health

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology under the aegis of SRMIST and The Hindu will organise a webinar on "Public Health in India: From reactive care to preventive ecosystem" on Saturday, exploring the evolving healthcare landscape, the role of data, AI, and telemedicine in strengthening public health systems, and the need to bridge the urban-rural healthcare divide, while examining lessons from re-

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# Gauhati High Court orders Assam govt. to stop buffalo fights

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has directed the Assam government to ensure that no buffalo fights (Moh-high) take place in the State and to initiate appropriate penal action against any organisers of such events in 90 further orders.

Justice Anjan Mookherjee heard the case on April 4. The interim order, released on Tuesday, was passed following a writ petition filed by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals India (PETA), citing illegal buffalo fights in Assam. The court observed that buffalo fights in Assam are not permitted under the

statutory provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and that any subsequent organisation of such events would violate binding judicial precedents.

PETA had filed new photographic evidence of alleged cruelty to buffaloes before the Gauhati High Court. The documentation showed buffaloes with open wounds, often torn with thick sticks during the events and pulled by nose ropes to force them to fight, resulting in injuries.

PETA India sought accountability and urgent action against the events that took place and immediate intervention to prevent further events from being held. The court observed that buffalo fights in Assam are not permitted under the

# Congress leader Venugopal submits privilege notice against PM to LS Speaker

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary K. C. Venugopal submitted a privilege notice against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday for “casting aspersions on and imputing motives” to the Opposition members for voting against the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which sought to link delimitation and expansion of Lok Sabha seats with women’s reservation.

In his notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mr. Venugopal alleged a “clear and deliberate breach of privilege” by Mr. Modi, and said the matter should be referred to the Committee on Privileges for inquiry.

Invoking Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure, Mr. Venugopal said the Prime Minister, in his April 18 televised address to the nation following the Bill’s defeat in the Lok Sabha, made “direct reflections” on the voting behaviour of Opposition MPs and attributed motives to them. The Bill had failed to secure the two-thirds majority.

He urged the Speaker to take immediate and decisive steps to uphold the



K.C. Venugopal

sanctity of Parliament and the constitutional protections afforded to its members, so that “such violations are neither ignored nor repeated”.

Posting Mr. Venugopal’s letter on X, party’s communications chief Jairam Ramesh said a Prime Minister’s address is meant for moments of unity and reassurance. “The Prime Minister’s unabashed partisan demagoguery during this address – with 59 different attacks on the Congress – will be yet another permanent stain on his record as Prime Minister,” Mr. Ramesh said.

Mr. Venugopal, in his notice, said imputing motives to members for their votes constitutes a “gross breach of privilege and contempt of the House”, as

parliamentary convention bars any reflection on the conduct of MPs in the discharge of their duties. Such remarks interfere with the free exercise of legislative functions, he said.

## ‘Appalling stance’

Mr. Venugopal said in his notice that the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, “in the guise of implementing” women’s reservation in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies “surreptitiously sought to amend Article 82 of the Constitution in as much as by doing away with constitutional protection/guardrail *vis-a-vis* delimitation, and leave it to the whims and fancies and *mala fide* intent of the ruling party”. This is what the Opposition members were protesting against, he said.

The Bill, which sought to strike at the very roots of the basic structure of the Constitution, fell, and rightly so, said the Congress general secretary. It is appalling that the Prime Minister had “cast aspersions” on MPs who were honestly performing their duties, and in this case protecting the Constitution, he said.

- **Parliamentary privilege** means MPs have special protections to perform their duties freely — they cannot be sued for what they say in Parliament, and others cannot attack/criticize them for how they voted.
- **संसदीय विशेषाधिकार** का मतलब है MPs को अपने कर्तव्य स्वतंत्र रूप से निभाने के लिए विशेष सुरक्षा होती है — वे संसद में कही बात के लिए मुकदमे से सुरक्षित हैं, और अन्य उनके मतदान के लिए उन पर हमला नहीं कर सकते।
- The 131st Amendment Bill (to increase Lok Sabha to 850 seats and link to women's reservation) failed — it didn't get the 2/3 majority needed to amend the Constitution.
- 131वाँ संशोधन विधेयक (लोकसभा को 850 सीटों तक बढ़ाना और महिला आरक्षण से जोड़ना) विफल हुआ — संविधान संशोधन के लिए आवश्यक 2/3 बहुमत नहीं मिला।
- After this defeat, PM Modi gave a national address where he criticized MPs who voted against the Bill. Congress says this is a "breach of privilege" — because criticizing MPs for how they voted in Parliament is like interfering with their freedom to vote freely.
- इस हार के बाद, PM मोदी ने राष्ट्रीय संबोधन में विधेयक के विरुद्ध मतदान करने वाले MPs की आलोचना की। कांग्रेस कहती है यह "विशेषाधिकार का उल्लंघन" है।
- Congress also argues the entire Bill was unconstitutional — it tried to use a simple majority to decide which Census to use for delimitation, bypassing Article 82's protections and damaging the Constitution's basic structure.
- कांग्रेस यह भी तर्क देती है कि पूरा विधेयक असंवैधानिक था — यह परिसीमन के लिए कौन सी जनगणना उपयोग करना है यह साधारण बहुमत से तय करने की कोशिश, अनुच्छेद 82 की सुरक्षाओं को दरकिनार कर मूल संरचना को नुकसान पहुँचाना।

## D2. Key Constitutional/Parliamentary Grounds / मुख्य संवैधानिक/संसदीय आधार

### Rule 222 — Prohibition on Reflections on MPs

- **Rule 222 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha:** A parliamentary convention that bars any reflection on the conduct of MPs in the discharge of their duties.
- **लोकसभा की प्रक्रिया और कार्य संचालन नियम 222:** MPs के अपने कर्तव्यों के निर्वहन में आचरण पर किसी भी टिप्पणी पर रोक लगाने वाला संसदीय सम्मेलन।
- **Why it matters:** MPs must be free to vote according to their conscience; if PM can publicly attack their voting choices, it creates pressure and undermines legislative freedom.
- **यह क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है:** MPs को अपनी अंतरात्मा के अनुसार मतदान करने की स्वतंत्रता होनी चाहिए।

### Parliamentary Privilege — Breach of Privilege

- **Parliamentary privilege:** Special rights/immunities of Parliament and its members — freedom of speech in Parliament (Article 105), freedom from arrest during session, etc.
- **संसदीय विशेषाधिकार:** संसद और उसके सदस्यों के विशेष अधिकार/उन्मुक्तियाँ — संसद में भाषण की स्वतंत्रता (अनुच्छेद 105)।
- **Contempt of House:** Actions that obstruct Parliament or its members in performance of their functions; imputing motives to MPs for their votes = contempt.
- **सदन की अवमानना:** संसद या उसके सदस्यों को उनके कार्य में बाधा — MPs के मतदान पर उद्देश्य आरोपित करना = अवमानना।

## E. Multi-Subject Connections / बहु-विषय संबंध

### History / इतिहास

- **History of parliamentary privilege in India:** Inherited from British Parliament (Westminster model); codified in Rules of Procedure; used historically to protect members from executive pressure.
- **भारत में संसदीय विशेषाधिकार का इतिहास:** ब्रिटिश संसद से विरासत; नियमों में संहिताबद्ध।
- **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973):** Supreme Court laid down the **Basic Structure Doctrine** — Parliament cannot amend the Constitution in a way that destroys its basic structure; Article 368 does not give unlimited amending power.
- **केसवानंद भारती मामला (1973):** मूल संरचना सिद्धांत — संसद मूल संरचना को नष्ट नहीं कर सकती; अनुच्छेद 368 असीमित संशोधन शक्ति नहीं देता।

### Geography / भूगोल

- **North-South divide in voting:** Southern states' MPs (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana) largely voted against the Bill — fearing loss of seats due to 2011 Census-based delimitation; northern MPs (UP, Bihar) supported.
- **मतदान में उत्तर-दक्षिण विभाजन:** दक्षिणी राज्यों के MPs ने मोटे तौर पर विरोध किया।

## Polity / राजव्यवस्था

- **Parliamentary Privilege — Constitutional Basis:**
  - **Article 105:** Powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and its members — freedom of speech; no proceedings of Parliament can be questioned in court; MPs protected from arrest during session (civil cases)
  - **Article 194:** Same for State Legislatures
  - **अनुच्छेद 105:** संसद के अधिकार, विशेषाधिकार, उन्मुक्तियाँ — भाषण की स्वतंत्रता; गिरफ्तारी से सुरक्षा (दीवानी) | **अनुच्छेद 194:** राज्य विधानमंडलों के लिए
- **Committee on Privileges:**
  - Examines questions of breach of privilege and contempt of the House
  - Chaired by a senior member (usually a ruling party leader)
  - Reports to the House; House makes final decision
  - **विशेषाधिकार समिति:** विशेषाधिकार उल्लंघन की जाँच; सदन को रिपोर्ट।
- **Breach of Privilege — Types:**
  1. By a member: Misconduct within Parliament
  2. **By an outsider (including PM):** Obstructing Parliament's work, reflecting on MPs' conduct, contempt of House
  - Congress alleges PM Modi committed Type 2 — as PM addressed nation attacking MPs' voting choices

- **Rule 222 of Rules of Procedure (Lok Sabha):**
  - Part of Lok Sabha's rules; prohibits "reflections on the conduct of Members in discharge of their duties"
  - The convention extends to third parties — PM or anyone else cannot publicly criticize MPs for their votes in Parliament
- **Contempt of House:**
  - Any action that obstructs Parliament or its members in performance of their functions
  - Also includes: malicious misrepresentation of proceedings; molestation of members; false reports about Parliament
  - **सदन की अवमानना:** संसद/सदस्यों को कार्य में बाधा; गलत रिपोर्टिंग; सदस्यों से दुर्व्यवहार।
- **Article 82 — Delimitation:**
  - Mandates readjustment of Lok Sabha seats after each Census
  - Currently frozen under 84th Amendment until after 2026 Census
  - Congress says Bill "surreptitiously amended" Article 82 by allowing simple majority to decide when/which census to use for delimitation — removing the constitutional guardrail
  - **अनुच्छेद 82:** प्रत्येक जनगणना के बाद लोकसभा सीटों का पुनर्समायोजन; 84वें संशोधन द्वारा जमाया।
- **Basic Structure Doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati 1973):**
  - Basic structure includes: Supremacy of Constitution, Separation of Powers, Judicial Review, Federalism, Secularism, Democracy, Sovereignty, Republic
  - Parliament cannot amend these even with special majority
  - Congress argues: Bill undermining federalism (by tilting seats toward populous northern states at expense of southern states) and democratic representation = attack on basic structure
  - **मूल संरचना:** संविधान की सर्वोच्चता, न्यायिक समीक्षा, संघवाद, लोकतंत्र, धर्मनिरपेक्षता — संशोधन नहीं।

- **Breach of Privilege vs Contempt of House:**

	<b>Breach of Privilege</b>	<b>Contempt of House</b>
<b>Definition</b>	Violation of specific privilege of a member	Broader — any act lowering dignity/authority of House
<b>Example</b>	Assaulting an MP; disclosing secret proceedings	False reporting; misbehaving in public toward MPs
<b>Punishable by</b>	House through Committee on Privileges	Same

- **Basic Structure — Key Elements (from various cases):**

- Supremacy of Constitution
- Democratic and republican form of government
- Secular character
- Separation of powers
- Federal character (federalism)
- Unity and integrity of India
- Judicial review
- Free and fair elections
- **मूल संरचना:** संविधान की सर्वोच्चता, लोकतंत्र, धर्मनिरपेक्षता, शक्ति पृथक्करण, संघवाद, न्यायिक समीक्षा, स्वतंत्र चुनाव।

#	Exam	Year	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	Under Article 105 of the Indian Constitution, which of the following is NOT a privilege enjoyed by Members of Parliament?	(a) Freedom of speech in Parliament (b) Immunity from court proceedings for votes given in Parliament (c) <b>Freedom from arrest in criminal cases during Parliament session</b> (d) Right to regulate internal proceedings	(c) <b>Criminal cases</b> — privilege from arrest is only in CIVIL cases, not criminal
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	A "Breach of Privilege" notice in Parliament can be raised by:	(a) Any citizen of India (b) Only the Speaker (c) <b>Any Member of Parliament</b> (d) Only the Leader of Opposition	(c) <b>Any Member of Parliament</b>
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	The "Basic Structure Doctrine" was laid down in which landmark case?	(a) Golaknath vs State of Punjab (b) Minerva Mills vs Union of India (c) <b>Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973)</b> (d) S.R. Bommai vs Union of India	(c) <b>Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973)</b>

4	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	Which of the following correctly describes the "two-thirds majority" required for constitutional amendments under Article 368?	(a) 2/3 of total membership of the House	(b) 2/3 of members present and voting, provided it is also a majority of total membership (c) Simple majority plus one (d) 2/3 of total membership plus state ratification always
5	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	Which of the following is/are correct about the "Committee on Privileges" in Indian Parliament? 1. It is a permanent standing committee 2. It is constituted by the Speaker when needed 3. Its report is final and not subject to approval by the House	(a) 1 only (b) <b>2 only</b> (c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 and 3	<b>(b) 2 only</b> — It is NOT permanent (ad hoc); report NOT final (House decides)
6	UPSC CSE Mains GS-2	2021	"Parliamentary privilege is essential for legislative independence but must be balanced against democratic accountability." Critically examine with reference to recent controversies.	<i>(Mains descriptive)</i>	Key: Article 105; freedom of speech; contempt; Committee on Privileges; Keshavananda Bharati on basic structure; recent 2024 SC ruling on bribery

7	UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	Article 194 of the Indian Constitution deals with:	(a) Parliamentary privileges of Lok Sabha members (b) Privileges of the Prime Minister (c) <b>Powers, privileges and immunities of State Legislature members</b> (d) Privileges of Rajya Sabha members	(c) <b>State Legislature members</b> — mirrors Article 105 for state legislatures
8	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	Under which article of the Constitution is the Lok Sabha Speaker's authority to maintain order in Parliament primarily derived?	(a) Article 100 (b) Article 105 (c) <b>Article 93 read with Rules of Procedure</b> (d) Article 368	(c) <b>Article 93</b> (Speaker's office) + Rules of Procedure
9	UPSC CSE Prelims	2024	In 2024, the Supreme Court's 7-judge Constitution bench overruled its earlier judgment in P.V. Narasimha Rao vs State (1998) on the issue of:	(a) Anti-defection provisions (b) <b>Parliamentary privilege and bribery — MPs taking bribe to vote NOT protected by privilege</b> (c) Rights of Speaker in disqualification cases (d) Floor-crossing by MPs	(b) <b>Bribery for vote NOT protected</b> — Sita Soren case 2024
10	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	Which of the following Constitutional Amendments specifically froze delimitation of Lok Sabha seats until after the first Census published post-2026?	(a) 42nd Amendment (b) 87th Amendment (c) 73rd Amendment (d) <b>84th Amendment</b>	(d) <b>84th Amendment (2001)</b>

## L. Statement-Based MCQ / कथन-आधारित MCQ

Consider the following statements about parliamentary privilege and the 131st Amendment Bill controversy: संसदीय विशेषाधिकार और 131वें संशोधन विधेयक विवाद के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Under Article 105 of the Constitution, MPs enjoy freedom of speech in Parliament and cannot be questioned in any court in respect of anything said or vote given in Parliament. संविधान के अनुच्छेद 105 के तहत, MPs को संसद में भाषण की स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त है और संसद में कही गई किसी बात या दिए गए वोट के संदर्भ में किसी भी न्यायालय में प्रश्न नहीं किया जा सकता।
2. Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure in Lok Sabha bars any reflection on the conduct of MPs in the discharge of their duties and applies equally to statements made outside Parliament. लोकसभा की प्रक्रिया के नियम 222 MPs के कर्तव्यों के निर्वहन में उनके आचरण पर किसी भी टिप्पणी पर रोक लगाता है और संसद के बाहर दिए गए बयानों पर समान रूप से लागू होता है।
3. The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 failed to become law because it did not secure the two-thirds majority of members present and voting as required under Article 368. संविधान (131वाँ संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026 कानून नहीं बन पाया क्योंकि इसे अनुच्छेद 368 के तहत आवश्यक उपस्थित और मतदान करने वाले सदस्यों का दो-तिहाई बहुमत नहीं मिला।
4. The Committee on Privileges is a permanent standing committee of Parliament that continuously examines matters of privilege throughout the parliamentary year. विशेषाधिकार समिति संसद की एक स्थायी स्थायी समिति है जो पूरे संसदीय वर्ष में लगातार विशेषाधिकार के मामलों की जाँच करती है।

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

IN BRIEF



Indian Army chief holds talks with U.S. Army's Pacific head

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, held high-level talks with General Ronald E. Clark, Commanding General of the United States Army Pacific, in Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii, focusing on strengthening defence cooperation and advancing a shared vision for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Deal linked for critical equipment for battle tanks

The Defence Ministry on Tuesday signed contracts worth approximately \$975 crore with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. and Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (Delhi) Private Ltd. for the procurement of TRAWI, Assault for T72 and T90 tanks.

SC directs committee to formulate plan for disabled-friendly prisons

Krishnakumar Rajasekhar NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked a high-powered committee, headed with streamlining and improving open correctional institutions across the country, to expand its ambit and formulate a comprehensive plan to make prisons disabled-friendly while taking into consideration security requirements.



The order is the latest in a series passed by the Supreme Court on a petition filed by Satyanarayan Naravore, represented by advocate Kalasegowan Raj and Thulasi K. Raj, highlighting the traumatic and inhumane prison conditions suffered by activists G. Subhas and Sunil Swamy.

Scholar and human rights activist with disabilities, was directly attributable to his deteriorating health, exacerbated by prolonged incarceration and the inhumane conditions of his detention. Mr. Swamy, who suffered from Parkinson's syndrome, was denied a slipper cup in prison. In an earlier order in February, the court had made it clear that prison authorities who abuse disabled prisoners would be penalised under the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD) Act.

On Tuesday, the court found that a high-powered committee was already in existence, though its functions were currently in a nascent stage, to recommend reforms in the prison system. The committee included as members the Chief Secretaries and District Secretaries of Prisons of States and Union Territories, the National Legal Services Authority and the Secretaries of the Ministries of Home, Social Justice and Empowerment, Law and Justice, and Women and Child Development.

The court order on Tuesday said the Secretary of the Department of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, and the Secretaries of the Departments of Social Justice and Empowerment of all States and Union Territories to the panel. "High-Powered Committee shall formulate a comprehensive and implementable action plan for the provision of appropriate assistive devices, mobility aids and other necessary support equipment to prisoners with disabilities, ensuring that such measures are tailored to their specific needs and functional requirements," the court ordered.

India-Africa Summit to focus on development initiatives

The upcoming summit is being held more than a decade after the third IAPS in October 2015; will provide India with an opportunity to take stock of its strategic and diplomatic footprint in Africa

Kailash Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

Development initiatives, education, capacity building, expansion of diplomatic footprint, and defence cooperation are expected to be on the agenda when New Delhi hosts the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAPS) 2026 on May 10-12, official sources said on Tuesday. Plans for the summit will be presented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced.

India has been holding consultations with partner countries in Africa as the plans for the IAPS have been under way for some time. In March, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with Ministers and diplomats of the Africa Group members on the sidelines of the 44th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon where he discussed plans for expanding India's investment agenda in Africa and the upcoming summit in India.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar chairing a consultative committee meeting on India-Africa ties in New Delhi on April 7.

It is especially significant as it is being held after more than a decade as the third IAPS was held in October 2015. The fourth IAPS has an additional dimension as it is being organised against the backdrop of supply chain disruption that has gripped the global economy following U.S.-led attack on Iran.

critical issues remain stable. However, India will have to ensure that it matches its commitment to Africa as an additional dimension as it is being organised against the backdrop of supply chain disruption that has gripped the global economy following U.S.-led attack on Iran.

Stable supply chains Analysts are saying that unlike the energy disruption in the Gulf region, Africa does not have a similar supply chain shock potential for India as despite nearly 80 countries on the continent, supply chains of

Foreign Direct Investment. "For that, Indian big business has to step in. But can they avoid the western dominance of African content while investing in critical areas? That is what we have to see," said Mr. Dubey, arguing that Indian attempts for engaging Africa in "small and medium enterprises" was not attractive to African partners anymore as they were looking for investments from the Global South leaders as well.

The summit will provide India with an opportunity to highlight some of the latest initiatives that the Government of India has undertaken since the opening of the IT Madras campus in Zanzibar and it will also provide India to take stock of its strategic and diplomatic footprint in the vast continent. India has already opened its new missions in Africa since 2018 which has pushed India's diplomatic presence to 48 countries in the continent and the summit will provide an opportunity to take stock of its diplomatic outreach among the member countries of the African Union.

Govt. moots stricter norms for content generated using AI

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday mooted stricter disclosure norms for AI-generated content, proposing tweaks to IT rules that would require clear and continuous labels identifying synthetically generated information to be visible throughout the entire duration of the visual display.

In a notice, the IT Ministry said the wording "ensures prominent visibility in the visual display" would be substituted by "ensures continuous and clearly visible display of such label throughout the duration of the content, in a visual display". Adding this to the draft IT Rules amends the definition of deepfakes among other changes, also proposes to bring independent news creators on the Centre's radar and mandate compliance with guidelines by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has extended the deadline for stakeholders' feedback to May 7 from the once-already-extended deadline of April 25, 2026.

IT Ministry extends the deadline for stakeholders' feedback to May 7 from the earlier April 25

submit feedback/comments freely without any hesitation," the Ministry emphasised.

Earlier this year, the government tightened rules for social media platforms such as YouTube and X, mandating the takedown of unlawful content within three hours, and requiring clear labelling of all AI-generated and synthetic content. At that time, the government said the move was necessitated by the growing misuse of Artificial Intelligence to create and circulate obscene, deceptive, and fake content on social media platforms. Another flashpoint in the draft amendments to IT Rules is the proposal to mandate 'intermediaries' compliance with IT ministry-issued clarifications, advisories, SOIs and guidelines - a move that the civil society has pushed back against, saying it is akin to bringing information instruments not part of the parent statute into a legal ambit.

No guns, just greasepaint in this role

Surrendered Naxals take the stage in a theatre workshop launched by the local administration of Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur. In collaboration with the National School of Drama, New Delhi

Shubhrajyoti Aikhal NEW DELHI

A group of surrendered Naxals are among those who have taken the stage in a month-long performance-oriented theatre workshop launched by the district administration of Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with the National School of Drama, New Delhi.



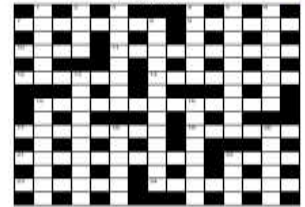
The stage is the world. Participants at a theatre workshop in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh. (PTI/ANANDI)

Inaugurated on Sunday, Hira Manikpur, 50th anniversary of the 2007 batch, who is heading the team conducting the workshop, says the objective was that through violence and killing in dense forests for long, they have remained limited in scope so far. So they feel interaction with fellow citizens from other walks of life, former Naxals say, were taking a step towards

rehabilitation under stood their rights and their new role in society. "Involving in armed violence and hiding in dense forests for long, they have remained limited in scope so far. So they feel interaction with fellow citizens from other walks of life, former Naxals say, were taking a step towards

belong. We want to tell them that they can create a space for themselves after joining the mainstream," Mr. Manikpur said. The participants will stage a play after their training is completed. Most rehabilitation programmes focus on vocational training or documentation access but an initiative such as a theatre workshop recognises that a person cannot fully rebuild a life without building a sense of meaning, Mr. Jain said. "By placing surrendered Naxals with tribal youth and BISE members in a creative space, the administration is creating conditions for a different mode of conversation - one conducted not in offices but on a stage, through a sense of belonging that is a society where they she said.

THE CROSSWORD 14774



- Across 7 Creature regularly seen in bazaar, very amusing on the outside (6) 9 Counter figure, a customary covering (6) 10 Rush of animal migration, at the outset (4) 11 You kiss and love tenderly, vowing to show attachment to wife in excessive words (10)

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

- 32 Fairly huge swans carrying small number (6) 34 Get base negotiated by bees (6) 35 Straight one in opposite squad, near slips (8-3-6) 37 It may be revealed by a top division (6) 38 Not too pleasant to talk about pain reliever (3,5) 39 Fast food cooked by baker, nuts on slice of bread (9,5) 40 Hovet day or month (4) 42 Look around South America for an oil seed (6) 24 Tiny tree representing the affable (6) Down 1 Monkey's born with a gift (6) 2 American lady talked the First Gentleman (4) 3 Indian bureaucrats going to Hong Kong with a Russian lady (6) 4 Medieval Chinese dynasty installing a King's assistant (6) 5 Hands-on flight support at all levels (10) 6 Bang on target, oppressor controlled south-eastern Europe (5,3) 8 Intelligent line gained back large advantage (1,3) 9 I am unclear about negotiator with huge chamber (10) 15 Follow - a cold at heart recluses, one who hurts with a bite (6) 16 Endlessly question holy books expressing one's petty complaints (6) 18 Bank letter mentions a piece of jewellery (6) 19 Moved over long time to freshen up (6) 22 Dead English buried in Scottish city mound (4)

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Rating: ★★★★★ 14774

FAITH

The saviour of Ramanuja

Embar Swamikal was a prominent guru in the Sri Vaishnava tradition and is revered for his unwavering devotion and spiritual dedication. Born as Govinda in Maduranagan, a village near Srirangam, he was closely related to the great philosopher-saint Ramanuja, being his cousin. Embar's life is a shining example of loyalty, devotion, and spiritual transcendence. Sri Anandha Padmanabha Swamy said in a discourse that a significant episode in Embar's life highlights his deep commitment to Ramanuja. During a pilgrimage to the Ganga, Ramanuja's teacher Yashava Prakash grew jealous of his brilliance and plotted to harm him. Govinda, later known as Embar, discovered this conspiracy in time. Out of his profound affection, he warned Ramanuja and helped him escape safely through the dense Vindhya forest. This act not only saved Ramanuja's life but also demonstrated Embar's courage and devotion. The name "Embar" was affectionately given to him by Ramanuja in recognition of his deep detachment from worldly life and his intense spiritual inclination. Inspired by his qualities, Ramanuja later initiated him into spiritual discourse. Ino, marking a turning point in his spiritual journey. The day following Embar's birth star is celebrated as Thai Pushyam, also known as "Guru Pushyam", a day considered highly auspicious. It is also remembered as the day when the idol of Ramanuja was installed in Srirangam by his devoted disciple Madhalayandan. Had it not been for the timely intervention of Embar, we would not have had Ramanuja to reverse today, nor would we have had his sacred teachings to guide us and bestow his blessings.

# India-Africa Summit to focus on development initiatives

The upcoming summit is being held more than a decade after the third IAFS in October 2015; will provide India with an opportunity to take stock of its strategic and diplomatic footprint in Africa

**Kalol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**D**evelopment initiatives, education, capacity building, expansion of diplomatic footprint, and defence cooperation are expected to be on the agenda when New Delhi hosts the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) 2026 in May-end, official sources said on Tuesday. Plans for the summit will be presented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced.

India has been holding consultations with partner countries in Africa as the plans for the IAFS have been under way for some time. In March, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with Ministers and diplomats of the Africa Group members on the sidelines of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon where he discussed plans for expanding India's investment agenda in Africa and the upcoming summit in India.

The upcoming summit



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar chairing a consultative committee meeting on India-Africa ties in New Delhi on April 7. ANI

is especially significant as it is being held after more than a decade as the third IAFS was held in October 2015. The fourth IAFS has an additional dimension as it is being organised against the backdrop of supply chain disruption that has gripped the global economy following U.S.-Israel attack on Iran.

## Stable supply chain

Analysts are saying that unlike the energy disruption in the Gulf region, Africa does not have a similar supply chain shock potential for India as despite nearly 50 conflicts on the continent, supply chains of

critical items remain stable.

However, India will have to ensure that it matches its commitment to African states with implementation. "As of now, India is able to implement only 40% of what it commits to Africa. This has to improve significantly so that what India commits is fully implemented on the ground in Africa," said Ajay Dubey, Distinguished Fellow at the Chintan Research Foundation (CRF).

Mr. Dubey pointed out that Line of Credit was no longer popular in Africa where countries now expect India to come up with

Foreign Direct Investment. "For that, Indian big business has to step in. But can they avoid the western dominance of African continent while investing in critical areas? That is what we have to see," said Mr. Dubey, arguing that Indian attempts for engaging Africa in "small and medium enterprises" was not attractive to African partners anymore as they were looking for investments from the Global South leaders as well.

The summit will provide India with an opportunity to highlight some of the latest initiatives that the Government of India has undertaken like the opening of the IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar and it will also provide India to take stock of its strategic and diplomatic footprint in the vast continent.

India has already opened 16 new missions in Africa since 2018 which has pushed India's diplomatic presence to 45 countries in the continent and the summit will provide an opportunity to take stock of its diplomatic outreach among the member countries of the African Union.

Aspect	Details
Event	4th India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS 2026)
Previous Summit	3rd IAFS – October 2015
Timing	After more than a decade gap
Venue	New Delhi, India
Key Minister	S. Jaishankar (External Affairs Minister)
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Strengthen India–Africa relations</li><li>- Expand strategic &amp; diplomatic footprint</li></ul>

## Agenda & Focus Areas

Sector	Details
Development Initiatives	Infrastructure, socio-economic growth
Education	Capacity building, skill development
Diplomacy	Expansion of India's presence in Africa
Defence Cooperation	Strategic security partnerships
Investment	Boost FDI & business engagement

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Global Supply Chains</b>	Africa relatively <b>stable vs Gulf disruptions</b>
<b>Geopolitical Background</b>	Impact of <b>US–Iran tensions</b> on global economy
<b>India’s Challenge</b>	Only <b>~40% of commitments implemented</b> in Africa
<b>Need</b>	Improve <b>execution &amp; delivery on ground</b>

## **Opportunities for India**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Diplomatic Expansion</b>	16 new missions since 2018 → total <b>45 countries covered</b>
<b>Global South Leadership</b>	Compete with Western & Chinese influence
<b>Investment Scope</b>	Infrastructure, SMEs, energy sectors
<b>Zanzibar Project</b>	Opening of <b>IIT Madras campus</b>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Project / Initiative</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Key Details</b>
<b>2026</b>	<b>Tanzania (Zanzibar)</b>	<b>IIT Madras Campus</b>	Education	First IIT campus abroad; capacity building in STEM
<b>2026</b>	<b>Pan-Africa (Multiple)</b>	<b>IAFS Development Projects (Planned)</b>	Multi-sector	Infrastructure, health, digital, defence cooperation
<b>2026</b>	<b>Kenya / East Africa</b>	<b>Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)</b>	Digital	UPI, Aadhaar-like systems support (proposal stage)
<b>2026</b>	<b>African Union Nations</b>	<b>Expansion of Diplomatic Missions</b>	Diplomacy	Coverage expanded to ~45 African countries

Year	Country	Project / Initiative	Sector	Key Details
2025–26	Mauritius	Metro Express & Supreme Court Building	Infrastructure	Completed with Indian LoC support
2025–26	Mozambique	Solar Electrification Projects	Energy	Renewable energy expansion
2025–26	Rwanda	Industrial Parks & Capacity Building	Industry	Skill + manufacturing support
2025–26	Ethiopia	Sugar Factories (Financing + Tech)	Agriculture/Industry	LoC-funded mega projects
2025–26	Sudan / South Sudan	Oil Sector Cooperation (ONGC Videsh)	Energy	Exploration & production support
2025–26	Nigeria	Power Transmission Projects	Energy	Grid strengthening under LoC
2025–26	Tanzania	Water Supply Projects	Infrastructure	Urban water systems
2025–26	Uganda	Power Line Projects	Energy	Electricity transmission
2025–26	Senegal	Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	Transport	Urban mobility project
2025–26	Ghana	India–Africa Institute of IT (IAIIT)	Education	Skill + IT training
2025–26	Pan-Africa	e-VidyaBharati & e-ArogyaBharati (e-VBAB)	Education/Health	Tele-education & telemedicine
2025–26	Multiple Countries	Lines of Credit (LoC) Projects (180+ projects)	Multi-sector	Infra, agriculture, energy



The Onion wants to turn infowars of conspiracy theorist Alex Jones into a parody platform. AP

# The Onion launches new bid to take over Alex Jones' Infowars

## Associated Press

The satirical news outlet The Onion is back with a new plan to take over the infowars platform of conspiracy theorist Alex Jones at his company Infowars liquidation over more than \$1 billion in defamation judgments owed to relatives of victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Under a proposal submitted on Monday to a state judge in Texas, The Onion would be granted an exclusive, temporary license to the intellectual property of Infowars' parent company, Free Speech Systems, allowing it to put its content on the infowars website and social media accounts.

Ben Collins, chief executive of The Onion, said the deal could be in place around April 30, if approved by Judge Maga Guzmán-Gaundee in Austin.

After the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, which killed 20 first graders and six educators in Newtown, Connecticut, Mr. Jones called it a hoax staged by "evil actors" in an effort to increase gun control. Many relatives of the victims, along with an FBI agent who responded to the shooting, sued Jones and his company for defamation and infliction of emotional distress.

On his show on YouTube, Mr. Jones vowed to fight the licensing proposal in court but acknowledged he and his crew could be kicked out of the building at the end of the month. He said he would continue his shows in another studio he is preparing, and they would air on his personal X account and other new social media accounts and websites, as well as dozens of radio stations. He also has set up new websites for the merchandise he sells, including dietary supplements and clothing that bring in millions of dollars.

The licensing deal with The Onion would be for six months, with the right to renew it for another six months as a court-appointed receiver works to eventually sell the assets of Infowars' parent company, Austin-based Free Speech Systems, and give proceeds to the Sandy Hook families.

# As Israel pursues conflicts on multiple fronts, its economy takes a heavy blow

The Bank of Israel's preliminary estimates suggest that Israel's war with Iran came at a cost of \$11.52 billion in budgetary expenses. Its operations in Gaza till 2025 cost the country around 8.6% of its annual gross domestic product. Israel allocated nearly 17% of its March 2026 budget to defence

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Sambhav Pathak/Sastry

The aftermath of the October 7 Hamas attack strongly rippled the scales in Israel's priorities towards security. What began as a military response in Gaza expanded to conflicts spanning multiple fronts, including Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran. But with revised growth forecasts, domestic concerns about the country's finances, and the need to address challenges such as lowering the deficit to 5.2%, the bank's annual report for 2025, emphasised that Israel would need to formulate a comprehensive strategic plan to address

2026 to less than 4% as the war prolonged in Iran and southern Lebanon. This is much lower than its initial estimates of 5.2%. The war increased the country's defence expenses and surged its debt-to-GDP from 60% in 2023 to 68%.

These concerns have been taken note of by institutions in Israel. Last month, Governor of Bank of Israel Professor Amir Yaron, while presenting the bank's annual report for 2025, emphasised that Israel would need to formulate a comprehensive strategic plan to address challenges such as lowering the deficit to 5.2%, the bank's annual report for 2025, emphasised that Israel would need to formulate a comprehensive strategic plan to address

However, the events unfolding in Tel Aviv such as the prolonged conflict and the need to address the debt-to-GDP ratio, high foreign exchange reserves and strong trade. But reports and data show that these assets are losing their standing.

Firstly, Israel's military operations themselves have come at a significant economic cost. The Bank of Israel's preliminary estimates suggest that Israel's war with Iran came at the cost of \$11.52 billion in budgetary expenses. Its operations in Gaza till 2025 cost the country around 8.6% of its annual gross domestic product.



Sprawling east: The war increased the country's defence expenses and surged its debt-to-GDP from 60% in 2023 to 68%.

Secondly, it has also come at the risk of losing economic potential. The finance ministry reported Israel's economic growth for

real emergency military sales and foreign aid in that period. Mr. Hever pointed out that most of the economic burden of the war is still on Israel's shoulders, creating a deep economic crisis.

As for the impact on households, surveys conducted by the Israeli Democracy Institute show that a majority of people in Israel are concerned about their financial situations. These concerns arise from direct impact such as loss of income and the indirect impact on sectors such as education, health, and transportation.

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Detailing on this, Mr. Hever said, "Classrooms grow bigger and the children are barely able to learn, and the academic school year is getting shorter and shorter. Fewer young Israelis enroll in higher education than the population growth. The defence and military come up with the slogan 'From startup nation to

shut-down nation", and to my great surprise Israeli protestors used it in demonstrations against the government. Because, indeed the tech sector in Israel is falling apart. The big companies are trying to exit (CWS and Cyberark for example have sold themselves out to US investors)", said Mr. Hever.

Since 2023, Israel's intensifying military operations and violations of ceasefire, specifically in Gaza, have come under heavy criticism globally. The International Criminal Court (ICC), in 2024, even issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and former defence Minister Yoav Gallant, alleging crimes against humanity and war crimes, including starvation as a method of warfare. Tel Aviv from Pew Research Centre show that more people now hold unfavourable views of Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Despite strong internationalisation, the situation showed a higher share of Israelis supported Operation Rolling Lion, the country's term for its joint attack with the U.S. on Iran. Mr. Hever noted that while Israel has almost run out of allies, there is no discussion about this inside the country. He said, "The people of the right government offers promises of 'total victory' and expanding Israel's borders into Lebanon and Syria. The Lebanon becomes more religiously fanatic, and this makes it difficult to have a critical discussion."

As Israel's military operations intensified in Gaza, the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement grew bigger and the children are barely able to learn, and the academic school year is getting shorter and shorter. Fewer young Israelis enroll in higher education than the population growth. The defence and military come up with the slogan 'From startup nation to

shut-down nation", and to my great surprise Israeli protestors used it in demonstrations against the government. Because, indeed the tech sector in Israel is falling apart. The big companies are trying to exit (CWS and Cyberark for example have sold themselves out to US investors)", said Mr. Hever.

## Whale in distress



Rescue bid: A stranded whale is sprayed with water as it got stuck on a sand bank in the island of Fehm, Germany, on Tuesday. AP

# Iran gives its field commanders more power over Tehran-backed militias in Iraq

## Associated Press

### BAGHDAD

Baghdad has failed to take a tougher stance. Despite mounting pressure from the U.S., Baghdad has struggled to contain its militia forces. The most hard-line factions now operate under an extension of Iran's regional campaign and escalating attacks on U.S. assets in Iraq before a serious ceasefire deal was reached in April.

The U.S. is still going to try to use the freedom of action to hit Iraq militia," said Michael Knights, head of research for Horton Energy, a geopolitical risk consulting firm, and an analyst fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "That may well play out into an effort to try and guide a low militia dominated government formation."

They also said they've solved authority to regional military forces, and an ad-hoc senior Iraqi Kurdish government official said.

In the heart of government efforts to curb militia groups like a paradox.

The Islamic Republic, we have coordination with our brothers in the Islamic Republic," Stahel al-Kadi said.

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# Canadian Army aims to show it can go it alone in the inhospitable Arctic



A file photo of Canadian rangers riding on a long range patrol across the ice from Cambridge Bay to Qaja Hanu. AP/CPA

Over the past three months, Canadian soldiers conducted a more than 8,000 km arduous patrol in extreme Arctic conditions trekking from Inuvik, Northwest Territories to Manning, Manitoba, braving blizzards and minus 60 degree Celsius temperatures to military exercise designed to prepare for a future conflict and demonstrate Canada's ability to take care of itself.

The political climate has changed since U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated threats to make Canada an American state, take control of Greenland, and withdraw from NATO,

Group, a special unit of the Canadian Armed Forces reserve. "They're stretching their abilities across some of the most inhospitable terrain and climate that you can possibly imagine."

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# Canadian Army aims to show it can go it alone in the inhospitable Arctic

**Reuters**

CAMBRIDGE BAY

Over the past three months, Canadian soldiers conducted a more than 5,000-km snowmobile patrol in extreme Arctic conditions travelling from Inuvik, Northwest Territories to Churchill, Manitoba, braving blizzards and minus 60 degree Celsius temperatures in military exercises designed to prepare for a foreign threat – and demonstrate Canada's ability to take care of itself.

That's a tall order. The political climate has changed since U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated threats to make Canada an American state, take control of Greenland, and withdraw from NATO,



A file photo of Canadian rangers riding on a long-range patrol across the sea ice from Cambridge Bay to Gjoa Haven. REUTERS

but the harsh realities of operating in Canada's frozen north have not.

"There are Canadians up here defending (the country) at all times of the day," said Travis Hanes, a commanding officer of the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol

Group, a special unit of the Canadian Armed Forces' reserve. "They're stretching their abilities across some of the most inhospitable terrain and climate that you can possibly imagine."

He spoke to Reuters

while recovering from a frostbitten nose after weeks of being on the snowmobile patrol. To Mr. Hanes and many of his fellow Rangers, the idea that any foreign power might challenge Canada's sovereignty in a region that is about 40% the size of continental Europe is baffling. "We are the landowners and it's hard to see how someone thinks it could be taken away," he said.

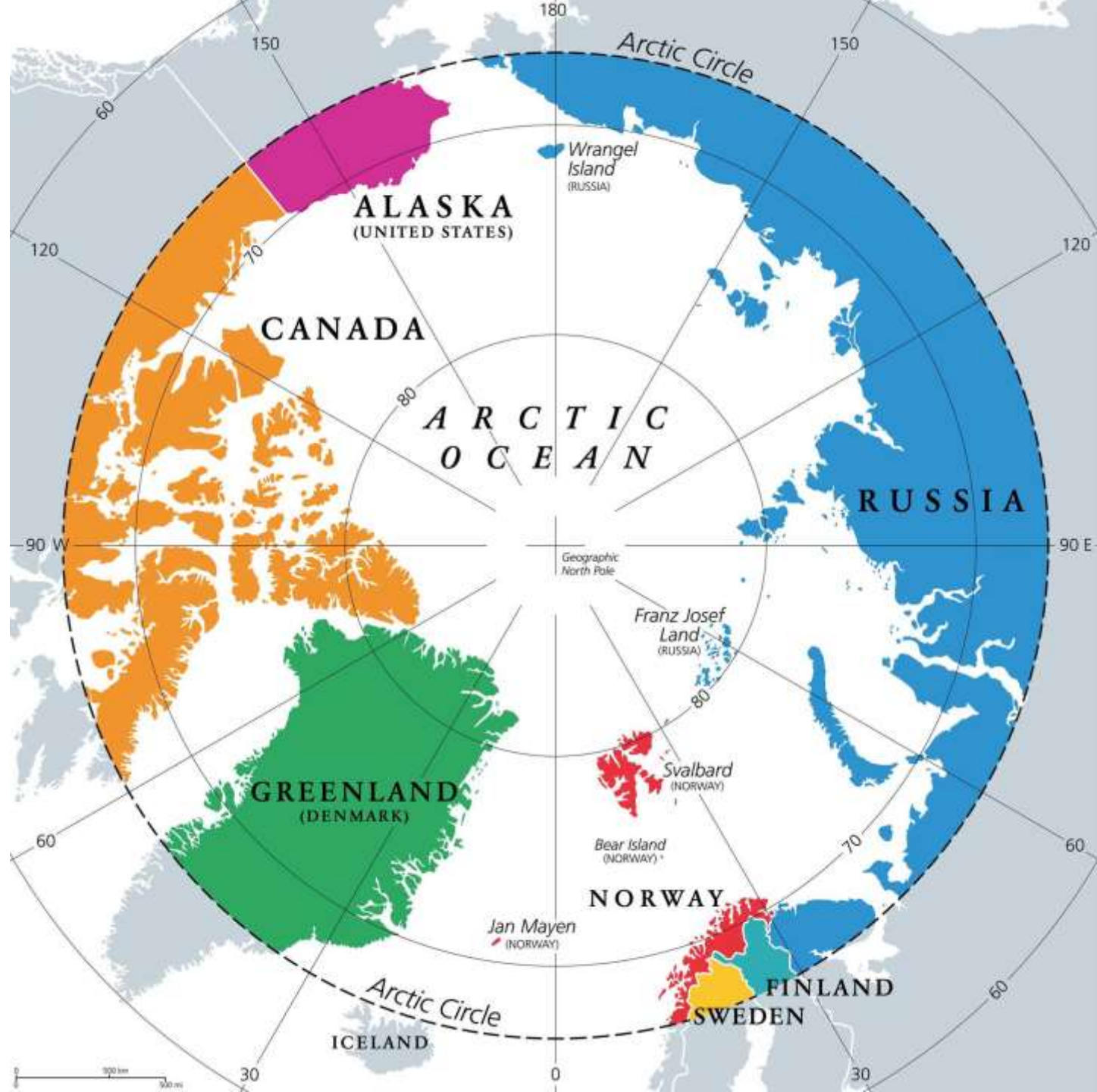
NATO members Canada and the United States have worked together for decades in the Arctic. They officially formed NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, in 1958 because neither country could independently respond to a threat by the Soviet Union.



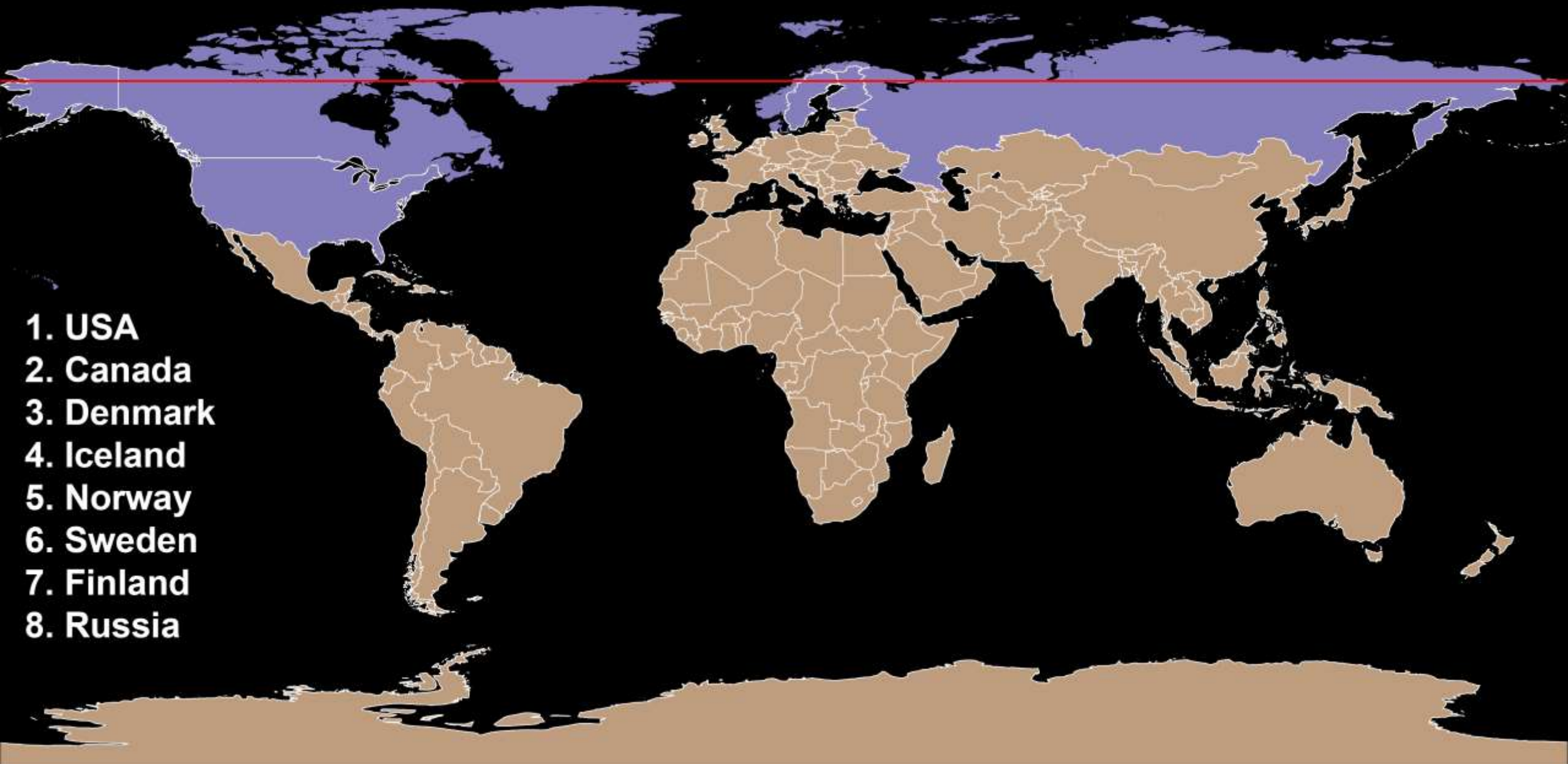
Source: Canadian Armed Forces

- **Canadian soldiers conducted a 5,000+ km snowmobile patrol** — from Inuvik (Northwest Territories) to Churchill (Manitoba) — in extreme Arctic conditions (blizzards, -60°C) — to **demonstrate Canada's ability to defend its Arctic sovereignty**.
- **कनाडाई सैनिकों ने 5,000+ किमी की स्नोमोबाइल गश्त की** — Inuvik (उत्तरपश्चिम प्रदेश) से Churchill (मैनिटोबा) तक — चरम आर्कटिक परिस्थितियों में (-60°C) — **आर्कटिक संप्रभुता की रक्षा करने की कनाडा की क्षमता प्रदर्शित करने के लिए**।
- **Political context:** US President Trump's **repeated threats** to (1) make Canada an American state, (2) **take control of Greenland**, and (3) **withdraw from NATO** — have changed the political climate significantly.
- **राजनीतिक संदर्भ:** US राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प की (1) कनाडा को अमेरिकी राज्य बनाने, (2) **ग्रीनलैंड पर नियंत्रण**, (3) **NATO से वापसी की बार-बार धमकियाँ** — राजनीतिक माहौल बदल दिया।
- **Canada's Arctic region:** About **40% the size of continental Europe** — enormous; Canada's Canadian Rangers (reserve unit) patrol this vast territory.
- **कनाडा का आर्कटिक क्षेत्र:** महाद्वीपीय यूरोप के आकार का ~**40%** — विशाल; कनाडाई रेंजर्स (रिजर्व यूनिट) इस विशाल क्षेत्र की गश्त करते हैं।
- **NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command):** Formed 1958 jointly by Canada and USA — neither country could independently respond to Soviet threat; now under strain due to Trump's rhetoric.
- **NORAD:** 1958 में कनाडा और USA द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से गठित — सोवियत खतरे के विरुद्ध; अब ट्रम्प के बयानबाजी के कारण तनाव में।
- **1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group:** Special unit of Canadian Armed Forces' reserve; operates in Arctic; "stretching abilities across most inhospitable terrain."
- **1st कनाडाई रेंजर पेट्रोल ग्रुप:** कनाडाई सशस्त्र बलों की रिजर्व की विशेष इकाई; आर्कटिक में संचालन।





# Countries That have territories above The Arctic Circle



1. USA
2. Canada
3. Denmark
4. Iceland
5. Norway
6. Sweden
7. Finland
8. Russia

## Geography / भूगोल

- **Arctic Ocean geography:**
  - Surrounded by: Canada, USA (Alaska), Russia, Norway, Denmark (Greenland), Iceland
  - **Arctic Council members:** Canada, USA, Russia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland
  - **Observer states** include India, China, UK, France, Germany
  - Area: ~14 million sq km
  - **आर्कटिक महासागर:** कनाडा, अमेरिका, रूस, नॉर्वे, डेनमार्क (ग्रीनलैंड), आइसलैंड से घिरा; **आर्कटिक परिषद:** 8 सदस्य; भारत, चीन, UK पर्यवेक्षक।
- **Northwest Passage:** Sea route through Canadian Arctic Archipelago connecting Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; becoming navigable as ice melts; Canada claims sovereignty; USA disputes.
- **उत्तरपश्चिम मार्ग:** कनाडाई आर्कटिक द्वीपसमूह से होकर अटलांटिक-प्रशांत जोड़ता है; बर्फ पिघलने से नौगम्य; कनाडा vs अमेरिका विवाद।
- **Northern Sea Route:** Russia's Arctic sea route; alternative to Suez Canal; much shorter for Europe-Asia trade; Russia charging tolls.
- **उत्तरी समुद्री मार्ग:** रूस का आर्कटिक मार्ग; स्वेज नहर का विकल्प।
- **Greenland:** World's largest island; part of Denmark (autonomous territory); strategic location between Atlantic and Arctic oceans; major US military base (Pituffik Space Base); rich mineral resources.
- **ग्रीनलैंड:** विश्व का सबसे बड़ा द्वीप; डेनमार्क का स्वायत्त क्षेत्र; अमेरिकी सैन्य अड्डा; खनिज संपदा।

## Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

- **Arctic resources:**
  - US Geological Survey estimates: ~30% of world's undiscovered natural gas; ~13% of undiscovered oil in Arctic
  - Vast mineral deposits: rare earth elements (crucial for green technology), nickel, cobalt, platinum
  - आर्कटिक संसाधन: ~30% अनिष्कर्षित प्राकृतिक गैस; ~13% तेल; दुर्लभ भू-तत्व।
- **Arctic shipping routes economic value:**
  - Northwest Passage: 7,000 km shorter than Panama Canal route for Atlantic-Pacific trade
  - Northern Sea Route: Cuts Europe-Asia shipping time significantly vs Suez Canal route
  - आर्कटिक शिपिंग मार्गों का आर्थिक मूल्य: पनामा नहर से 7,000 किमी छोटा।
- **Economic coercion dimension:** Trump's threats to Canada include trade tariffs (25%+ on Canadian goods) + annexation rhetoric — Canada's economy heavily integrated with USA's.
- आर्थिक दबाव: ट्रम्प के कनाडाई सामान पर 25%+ टैरिफ; कनाडाई अर्थव्यवस्था अमेरिका पर अत्यधिक निर्भर।

## **F1. Past Background / भूतकाल**

- **1867:** USA buys Alaska from Russia — sets precedent for Arctic territory transactions.
- **1867:** USA का रूस से अलास्का खरीद।
- **1949:** NATO formed — with Canada and USA as founding members.
- **1949:** NATO गठन।
- **1958:** NORAD formed — joint Canada-USA aerospace defense.
- **1958:** NORAD गठन।
- **1996:** Arctic Council established.
- **1996:** आर्कटिक परिषद।
- **2007:** Russia plants flag on Arctic seabed — escalating sovereignty claims.
- **2007:** रूस का आर्कटिक सीतल पर झंडा।
- **2013:** India becomes permanent observer in Arctic Council.
- **2013:** भारत आर्कटिक परिषद में स्थायी पर्यवेक्षक।
- **2022:** India releases its first Arctic Policy.
- **2022:** भारत की पहली आर्कटिक नीति।

- **Arctic Council — Detailed:**
  - Founded: 1996, Ottawa Declaration
  - 8 member states: Canada, Denmark (Greenland/Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United States
  - 6 categories of non-member participants including Permanent Observers
  - **India as Permanent Observer (since 2013):** Along with China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Germany, UK, France, Poland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain
  - Cannot deal with military matters
  - Russia's Arctic Council participation suspended/limited after Ukraine invasion
  
- **India's Arctic Policy (2022) — Six Pillars:**
  1. Science and Research
  2. Climate and Environmental Protection
  3. Economic and Human Development
  4. Transportation and Connectivity
  5. Governance and International Cooperation
  6. National Capacity Building
  - Ministry: Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

- **India's Arctic Research Infrastructure:**
  - **Himadri Station:** Opened 2008; Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, Norway; India's permanent research station
  - **IndARC:** India's first multi-sensor mooring observatory in Arctic Ocean (Kongsfjorden); monitors oceanographic parameters
  - **Svalyus:** Annual Arctic expedition
  - NCPOR (National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research): Goa; nodal agency
- **Arctic vs Antarctic — Key Differences:**

Parameter	Arctic / आर्कटिक	Antarctic / अंटार्कटिक
Nature	Ocean surrounded by land	Continent surrounded by ocean
Governance	No specific treaty; UNCLOS applies	Antarctic Treaty System (1959)
Sovereignty claims	Multiple countries claim territory	No sovereignty — protected
Resources	Active resource extraction	No resource extraction allowed
Military	No prohibition	Military activities prohibited
India's station	<b>Himadri</b> (Norway)	Maitri + Bharati

#	Exam	Year	Question	Options	✔ Answer
1	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	India became a permanent observer in the Arctic Council in which year?	(a) 2008 (b) 2011 (c) <b>2013</b> (d) 2016	<b>(c) 2013</b>
2	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	India's first permanent Arctic research station "Himadri" is located at:	(a) Longyearbyen, Norway (b) <b>Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, Norway</b> (c) Reykjavik, Iceland (d) Tromsø, Norway	<b>(b) Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, Norway</b>
3	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) was formed in which year?	(a) 1945 (b) 1949 (c) <b>1958</b> (d) 1963	<b>(c) 1958</b> — during Cold War to defend against Soviet threat
4	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	Which of the following is/are correct about the Arctic Council? 1. It was founded in 1996 2. Military matters can be discussed in the Arctic Council 3. India has been a permanent observer since 2013	(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) <b>1 and 3</b> (d) 1, 2 and 3	<b>(c) 1 and 3</b> — Military matters CANNOT be discussed

5	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	The "Northwest Passage" is:	(a) A sea route through Russia's Arctic (b) A land route through northern Canada (c) <b>A sea route through Canadian Arctic Archipelago connecting Atlantic and Pacific Oceans</b> (d) A passage through Greenland's inland ice	(c) <b>Through Canadian Arctic Archipelago</b>
6	UPSC CSE Prelims	2021	Article 5 of the NATO treaty relates to:	(a) Procedure for adding new members (b) Financial contributions of member states (c) <b>Collective defense — attack on one = attack on all</b> (d) Rules for peacekeeping operations	(c) <b>Collective defense</b>
7	UPSC CSE Mains GS-2	2023	"India's Arctic policy is driven by scientific interests but is increasingly acquiring strategic dimensions." Critically analyse India's Arctic engagement and its implications for India's foreign policy.	<i>(Mains descriptive)</i>	Key: Himadri; IndARC; Arctic Council observer; 2022 Arctic Policy; climate research + monsoon; shipping routes; rare earth; Russia-China competition; balance

8	UPSC CSE Prelims	2022	"Permafrost" is associated with which of the following?	(a) A type of Arctic fish (b) A Russian military base in Arctic (c) <b>Permanently frozen ground that releases methane when thawed</b> (d) Ice caps at the poles	<b>(c) Permanently frozen ground releasing methane</b>
9	UPSC CSE Prelims	2020	Greenland is an autonomous territory of which country?	(a) Iceland (b) Norway (c) <b>Denmark</b> (d) Canada	<b>(c) Denmark</b>
10	UPSC CSE Prelims	2023	Which of the following countries are members of the Arctic Council? 1. India 2. Russia 3. Norway 4. China	(a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2 and 3 only (c) <b>2 and 3 only</b> (d) 1, 3 and 4	<b>(c) Russia and Norway</b> (India and China are observers, not members)

**Consider the following statements about the Arctic region and Canada's Arctic exercise:**

**आर्कटिक क्षेत्र और कनाडा के आर्कटिक अभ्यास के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. Canadian soldiers from the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group conducted a 5,000+ km snowmobile patrol braving minus 60°C temperatures, partly motivated by US President Trump's threats to make Canada an American state. 1st कनाडाई रेंजर पेट्रोल ग्रुप के कनाडाई सैनिकों ने -60°C तापमान में 5,000+ किमी की स्नोमोबाइल गश्त की, जो आंशिक रूप से US राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प की कनाडा को अमेरिकी राज्य बनाने की धमकियों से प्रेरित थी।
2. NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) was officially formed in 1958 because neither Canada nor the United States could independently respond to the threat posed by the Soviet Union. NORAD 1958 में आधिकारिक रूप से गठित किया गया क्योंकि न तो कनाडा और न ही अमेरिका सोवियत संघ के खतरे का स्वतंत्र रूप से जवाब दे सकता था।
3. India is a full member of the Arctic Council, having joined in 2013 when it was first established. भारत आर्कटिक परिषद का पूर्ण सदस्य है, जो 2013 में पहली स्थापना पर शामिल हुआ।
4. Canada's Arctic region is approximately 40% the size of continental Europe — demonstrating the enormous scale of the territory Canada is defending. कनाडा का आर्कटिक क्षेत्र महाद्वीपीय यूरोप के आकार का लगभग 40% है — वह क्षेत्र जिसकी कनाडा रक्षा कर रहा है।

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



# Tim Cook to Step Down as Apple CEO

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Event	Tim Cook to step down as CEO of Apple Inc. on 1 September 2026 after ~15 years	Tim Cook लगभग 15 वर्षों के बाद 1 सितंबर 2026 को Apple Inc. के CEO पद से हटेंगे
Successor	John Ternus (Senior VP, Hardware Engineering) named next CEO	John Ternus (सीनियर VP, हार्डवेयर इंजीनियरिंग) नए CEO होंगे
New Role of Cook	Will become Executive Chairman (strategic role, not daily operations)	Executive Chairman बनेंगे (रणनीतिक भूमिका, दैनिक संचालन नहीं)
Previous CEO Transition	Cook became CEO in 2011 after Steve Jobs	Cook 2011 में Steve Jobs के बाद CEO बने
Tenure Highlights	Expansion beyond iPhone: Apple Watch, AirPods, Services (Music, TV+), subscription growth	iPhone से आगे विस्तार: Apple Watch, AirPods, Services (Music, TV+), सब्सक्रिप्शन वृद्धि
Financial Achievement	Apple became world's most valuable listed company multiple times	Apple कई बार दुनिया की सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनी बनी
Technology Focus Ahead	Shift toward Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced chips, next-gen hardware	भविष्य में AI, एडवांस चिप्स और नई हार्डवेयर तकनीक पर फोकस
About John Ternus	Joined Apple in 2001, leads hardware innovation (Mac, iPhone, iPad)	2001 में Apple जॉइन किया, हार्डवेयर (Mac, iPhone, iPad) नवाचार का नेतृत्व
Strategic Signal	Focus on product engineering & silicon chips (M-series)	प्रोडक्ट इंजीनियरिंग और सिलिकॉन चिप्स (M-series) पर जोर

Aspect	Details
New CEO	<b>John Ternus</b> (Head of Hardware Engineering)
Replacing	<b>Tim Cook</b> (after ~15 years as CEO)
Background of Ternus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- At Apple ~25 years</li><li>- Led iPad, iPhone, Apple Watch, AirPods</li><li>- Key role in transition to <b>in-house chips (Apple Silicon)</b></li></ul>
Leadership Context	Leadership exits + rising pressure in <b>AI race</b>

## Core Challenges

Category	Explanation
AI Lag	Apple behind peers like <b>Microsoft, Google, Meta, Amazon</b>
Apple Intelligence Gaps	AI features (Siri upgrade) still limited vs competitors
Software Weakness	Strong hardware, but weaker <b>AI software ecosystem</b>
WWDC Performance	2024: Announced "Apple Intelligence" 2025: Seen as <b>underwhelming</b>
Supply Chain Issues	Geopolitical tensions + rising <b>chip/memory costs</b>





 Japan Ends  
Ban on Lethal  
Weapons  
Exports

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Event	Japan ends ban on export of <b>lethal weapons</b>	Japan ने घातक हथियारों के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध समाप्त किया
Decision Authority	Approved by PM <u>Sanae Takaichi's</u> Cabinet	निर्णय <u>Sanae Takaichi</u> की कैबिनेट द्वारा लिया गया
Policy Shift	Major change from post-WWII <b>pacifist policy</b>	द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद की शांतिवादी नीति से बड़ा बदलाव
Earlier Policy	Ban on export of military equipment (except limited non-lethal uses)	पहले सैन्य उपकरणों के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध (केवल सीमित गैर-घातक उपयोग)
Now Allowed	Export of <b>fighter jets, missiles, warships (destroyers)</b>	अब <b>फाइटर जेट, मिसाइल, युद्धपोत (डिस्ट्रॉयर)</b> का निर्यात संभव
Export Limit	Only to ~17 <b>trusted countries</b> with defence agreements	केवल ~17 विश्वसनीय देशों को जिनसे रक्षा समझौते हैं
Approval Mechanism	Each deal needs clearance from <b>National Security Council</b>	हर सौदे के लिए नेशनल सिक्योरिटी काउंसिल की मंजूरी जरूरी
Restrictions Continue	No exports to countries actively in war	युद्ध में शामिल देशों को निर्यात नहीं होगा

## 🌀 Why Japan Changed Policy

### Reason (English)

### कारण (हिंदी)

Rising threat from China and North Korea

China और North Korea से बढ़ता खतरा

Indo-Pacific security tensions

इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र में बढ़ता तनाव

Strengthening alliances with United States, Australia

United States, Australia के साथ गठबंधन मजबूत करना

Boost domestic defence industry

घरेलू रक्षा उद्योग को बढ़ावा देना

Reduce import dependence

आयात पर निर्भरता कम करना

## 🤝 Strategic Partnerships

### Country/Group (English)

### Details (English)

### विवरण (हिंदी)

United Kingdom & Italy

Joint next-gen fighter jet program

अगली पीढ़ी के फाइटर जेट का संयुक्त विकास

Australia

\$6.5B frigate deal

\$6.5 बिलियन का फ्रिगेट समझौता

United States

Key defence partner in Indo-Pacific

इंडो-पैसिफिक में प्रमुख रक्षा सहयोगी



All-Women Cohort Wins 2026  
Goldman Environmental Prize



# THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE



Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Event	2026 <a href="#">Goldman Environmental Prize</a> winners are <b>all women</b> (first time)	2026 <a href="#">Goldman Environmental Prize</a> के सभी विजेता <b>महिलाएं</b> (पहली बार)
Established	Founded in <b>1989</b> by Goldman Environmental Foundation	<b>1989</b> में Goldman Environmental Foundation द्वारा स्थापित
Nickname	Known as " <b>Green Nobel Prize</b> "	" <b>ग्रीन नोबेल पुरस्कार</b> " के नाम से प्रसिद्ध
Award Focus	Honors <b>grassroots environmental activists</b>	जमीनी स्तर के पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ताओं को सम्मान
Regions Covered	6 regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Islands	6 क्षेत्र: अफ्रीका, एशिया, यूरोप, उत्तरी अमेरिका, दक्षिण अमेरिका, द्वीप
2026 Highlight	First <b>all-women cohort</b> in history	इतिहास में पहली बार <b>सभी महिलाएं विजेता</b>
Key Themes	Climate justice, biodiversity, Indigenous rights, anti-mining	जलवायु न्याय, जैव विविधता, आदिवासी अधिकार, खनन विरोध
Example Winner	<a href="#">Sasha Finch</a> (UK) – anti-fossil fuel campaigns	<a href="#">Sasha Finch</a> (UK) – जीवाश्म ईंधन विरोध अभियान

## Significance of 2026 Edition

Aspect (English)	पहलू (हिंदी)
First time all winners are women	पहली बार सभी विजेता महिलाएं
Highlights role of women in climate leadership	जलवायु नेतृत्व में महिलाओं की भूमिका
Shows power of <b>local grassroots movements</b>	स्थानीय आंदोलनों की शक्ति दर्शाता है
Reflects rising focus on <b>environmental justice</b>	पर्यावरणीय न्याय पर बढ़ता ध्यान

## Global Impact & Themes

Theme (English)	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Climate Action	Fighting fossil fuel expansion	जीवाश्म ईंधन विस्तार का विरोध
Biodiversity Protection	Forest & wildlife conservation	वन एवं वन्यजीव संरक्षण
Indigenous Rights	Protecting land from exploitation	भूमि को शोषण से बचाना
Water Conservation	River and ecosystem protection	नदियों और पारिस्थितिकी की रक्षा

## Important Exam Facts

### Point (English)

### बिंदु (हिंदी)

Total winners till now: **239 from 98 countries**

अब तक कुल विजेता: **98 देशों से 239**

Women winners till date: **112+**

अब तक महिला विजेता: **112+**

Award given annually to **6 activists**

हर साल **6 कार्यकर्ताओं** को दिया जाता है

Focus on **local action** → **global impact**

स्थानीय कार्य → वैश्विक प्रभाव

## Why Important for Exams

### Aspect (English)

### पहलू (हिंदी)

Environment & Climate Change topic

पर्यावरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन

Role of women in global governance

वैश्विक शासन में महिलाओं की भूमिका

Awards & International Organizations

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार

Grassroots movements case study

जमीनी आंदोलनों का अध्ययन

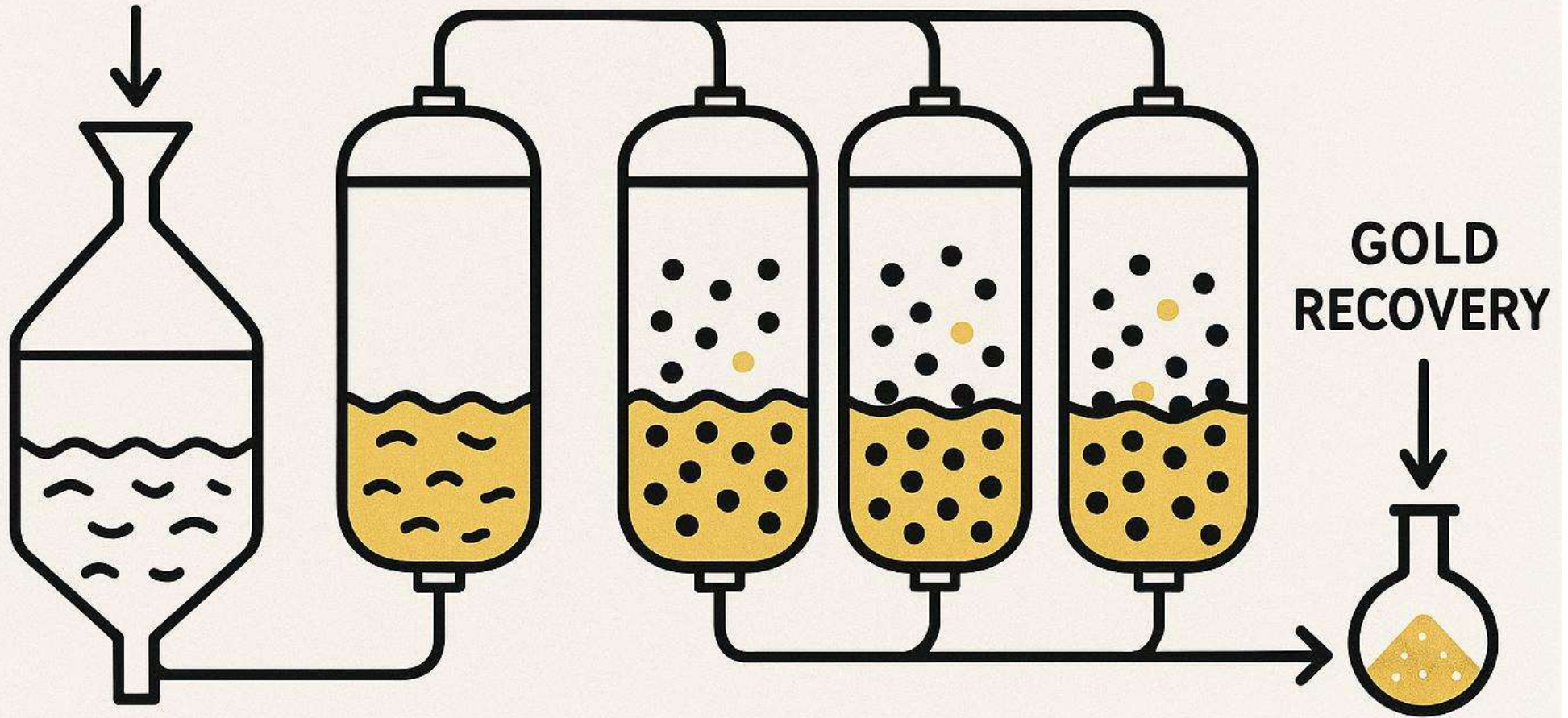


Jonnagiri Gold Mine –  
Boost to India's  
Domestic Production

# GOLD EXTRACTION

CYANIDE SOLUTION

ACTIVATED CARBON





Gold



Pre-melt



Purification



Final Casting

99.95% PURE GOLD

480 PARTS PER MILLION OF IMPURITIES

2X ASSAY TEST



Electrolysis



Final Casting

99.99% PURE GOLD

80 PARTS PER MILLION OF IMPURITIES

2X ASSAY TEST



Anode Casting



Electrolysis



Final Casting

99.999% PURE GOLD

8 PARTS PER MILLION OF IMPURITIES

3X ASSAY TEST

2X ELECTROLYSIS

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Project Name	Jonnagiri Gold Mine	जोन्नागिरी गोल्ड माइन
Location	Andhra Pradesh – Kurnool district	Andhra Pradesh – कर्नूल जिला
Significance	First <b>large-scale private gold mine</b> since Independence	स्वतंत्रता के बाद पहला बड़ा निजी गोल्ड माइन
Objective	Reduce India's <b>import dependence on gold</b>	भारत की सोने के आयात पर निर्भरता कम करना
Developers	Geomysore Services + Deccan Gold Mines + Thriveni Earthmovers	Geomysore Services + Deccan Gold Mines + Thriveni Earthmovers
Investment	₹400+ crore	₹400+ करोड़
Area Covered	~598 hectares	~598 हेक्टेयर

## India's Gold Dependency

Aspect (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Imports	India imports <b>800+ tonnes/year</b>
Domestic Production	Very low (~1.5 tonnes/year from <u>Hutti Gold Mines</u> )
Historical Mine	<u>Kolar Gold Fields</u> closed in 2000
Impact	High pressure on <b>foreign exchange reserves</b>

## Production & Capacity

Parameter	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Certified Resources	13.1 tonnes gold	13.1 टन सोना
Estimated Reserves	Up to 42.5 tonnes	लगभग 42.5 टन
Annual Production	~1,000 kg/year for 15 years	~1,000 किग्रा/वर्ष (15 साल तक)
Status	Pre-commercial stage (2026)	प्री-कमर्शियल स्टेज (2026)

## Gold Mining Process (Exam Important)

Stage (English)	Explanation (English)	व्याख्या (हिंदी)
Mining	Open-pit drilling & blasting	ओपन-पिट खनन, ड्रिलिंग व ब्लास्टिंग
Crushing	Ore crushed into fine particles	अयस्क को पीसकर छोटे कण बनाए जाते हैं
Separation	Gravity separation of coarse gold	गुरुत्वीय विधि से मोटा सोना अलग
Leaching	Cyanide dissolves remaining gold	सायनाइड से सोना घुलाया जाता है
Absorption	Gold absorbed on activated carbon	सक्रिय कार्बन पर सोना अवशोषित
Refining	Electro-winning & smelting → doré bars	इलेक्ट्रो-विनिंग व गलन → डोरे बार

## Important Exam Facts

Point (English)	बिंदु (हिंदी)
Supports <b>Aatmanirbhar Bharat</b> in minerals	खनिज क्षेत्र में <b>आत्मनिर्भर भारत</b> को बढ़ावा
Encourages <b>private sector participation</b>	निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी बढ़ाता है
Reduces import bill & forex pressure	आयात बिल और विदेशी मुद्रा दबाव कम
Boosts mining sector reforms in India	भारत में खनन क्षेत्र सुधार को बढ़ावा

# Earth Day is observed every year on April 22. Test your know facts related to this day

Sindhu Nagaraj

## QUESTION 1

In which year was this event first held?

## QUESTION 2

How is the person Julian Koenig associated with Earth Day?

## QUESTION 3

The first Earth Day was focused on which country?

## QUESTION 4

What is the Earth Day-themed single released in 1990?

## QUESTION 5

Which was the unfortunate event that gave a push for the event to be observed?



**Visual question:** How is this logo related to Earth Day?

GETTY IMAGES

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# Word of the day

## **Inconspicuous:**

not prominent or readily noticeable

---

**Synonym:** invisible

---

**Usage:** *Security personnel remained inconspicuous during the event.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/7JBGzP/](http://newsth.live/7JBGzP/)  
inˈkɒnsprɪkjʊəs

---

**International Phonetic alphabet:**  
/ɪn.kənˈspɪk.ju.əs/

---

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# Word of the day

## **Jeer:**

showing your contempt by derision

---

**Synonyms:** taunt, mock, insult

---

**Usage:** *Even after the jeers, he continued his speech.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /dʒɪə/

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Thank you 😊