

# Daily Current Affairs





3  
**The Hindu**



0  
**PIB, PRS & Other newspaper**



2  
**The Indian Express**

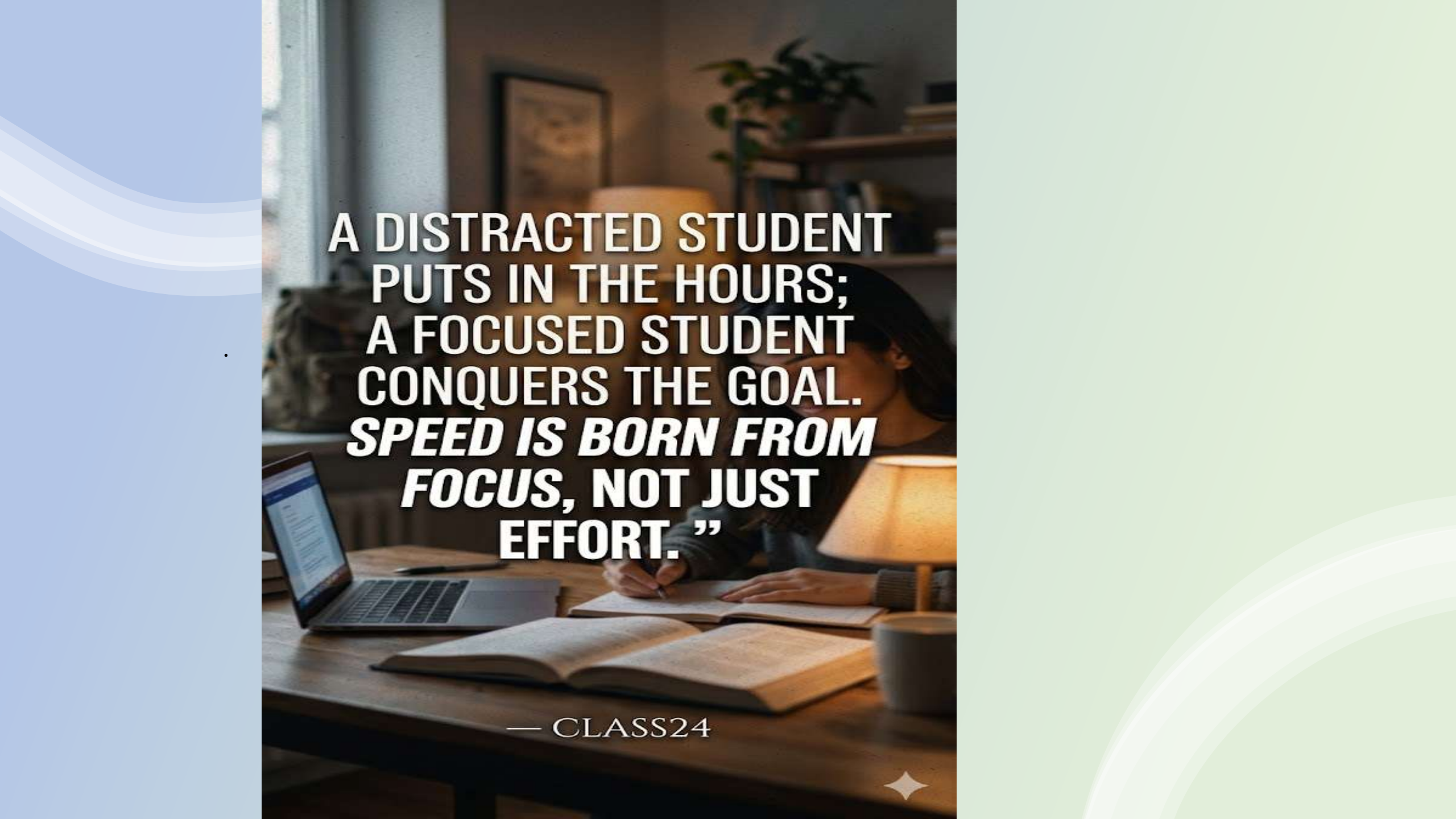


0  
**Jansatta**



2  
**Financial Express**



A student is sitting at a wooden desk in a dimly lit room, focused on reading a book. A laptop is open to the left, and another book is open in front of her. A lamp provides warm light. The background shows a window and a bookshelf.

**A DISTRACTED STUDENT  
PUTS IN THE HOURS;  
A FOCUSED STUDENT  
CONQUERS THE GOAL.  
*SPEED IS BORN FROM  
FOCUS, NOT JUST  
EFFORT.*”**

— CLASS24



# UMANG 360



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE



- ✓ UMANG 360 MAGAZINE – COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS IN ONE PLACE
- ✓ COVERS MARCH 2026 TO APRIL 2027 MONTH-WISE
- ✓ INCLUDES MCQS, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & KEY UPDATES
- ✓ EASY, CONCISE & PERFECT FOR QUICK REVISION
- ✓ SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR UPSC, SSC, STATE PCS & ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS
- ✓ AVAILABLE IN E- PDF ( DOWNLOADABLE & PRINTABLE)



 Class24

HOME / COURSES / CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GK / UMANG 360 CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE 2026

### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir covers national & international events, key facts, MCQs, and analysis. Ideal for SSC, UPSC, RRB & other exams preparation.

Class24: Team Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir (4.8)

Overview Videos Test

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 is made very simple and easy to understand in a user-friendly and simple format for competitive exam aspirants. It includes all the important current affairs between the period of March 2026 and April 2027; Current Affairs Magazine covers all national and international events, schemes of the government, important updates, as well as exam-related MCQs. The information is articulated in a clear and tight manner, making it straightforward and quick to revamp. The magazine saves you time and boosts preparation by bringing everything together and helping you prepare effectively. Umang 360 is a good choice to help you succeed in the exams, should you need a reliable and effective source of current affairs. It is available in e-PDF format for easy access anytime, anywhere.

Get success in your hand. Start study anytime anywhere.

The journey becomes simple and enjoyable when you start taking interest in it. And through our app "Class24", we will be your trusted partners in developing that interest.



### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

₹149

BUY NOW

Have a Coupon Code?

Enquiry

Whatsapp

Relative To Science Special 100 Test By : Class24 Support Hi, how can we help

LIVE QUIZZES TESTS CLASSES



# Ebola crisis: India-Africa summit postponed

Decision taken after consultations regarding 'the emerging public health situation on the continent'

New dates for summit, its associated meetings will be communicated in due course, says MEA

Last such summit was held in 2015; it had also been delayed by one year due to Ebola outbreak

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

The Ebola public health emergency in Africa cast its shadow on India's diplomatic calendar on Thursday, with the Ministry of External Affairs and the African Union announcing the postponement of the India-Africa Forum Summit-IV that was scheduled to take place here on May 28 to 31.

In a joint statement, the MEA and the AU hinted at the Ebola crisis, saying that the decision was taken in view of the "evolving health situation in parts of Africa". The last such summit was held over a decade ago, and had also been postponed by a year due to an Ebola outbreak.

Consultations were held between the Indian go-

vernment and the Chairperson of the African Union and the African Union Commission regarding the "emerging public health situation on the continent", the MEA and the AU said in their statement.

"Following these consultations, the two sides agreed that it would be advisable to convene the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit at a later date," they added.

There were several other Africa-related events to be hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations that have been cancelled, though some African delegates have arrived in New Delhi.

New dates for the Summit and its associated meetings "will be finalised through mutual consulta-



**Health concern:** India has pledged to help governments of African nations to deal with the Ebola crisis. AP

tions and communicated in due course," the MEA said. The cancellation of the summit is being viewed as a setback to India-Africa ties, though officials insisted that the decision was taken in the best interest of all stakeholders.

India expressed "solidarity with the peoples and Governments of Africa" and pledged to help them in dealing with the crisis with an "Africa-led" approach.

Earlier, the African Union had called for "collec-

## Big cat meet in capital also put on hold

NEW DELHI

In the wake of concerns over the Ebola virus, India has postponed the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit that was scheduled in New Delhi on June 1. The First IBCA Summit was scheduled in conjunction with the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit as several African countries host big cats.

tive international solidarity and cooperation" to deal with the outbreak of Ebola virus that affected multiple countries including Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

Responding to queries from *The Hindu* earlier this

week, a spokesperson for Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, had said the fourth India-Africa Forum Summit would provide an opportunity to work on "future pandemics" and response mechanism.

## 'Collective cooperation'

"While the Ebola outbreak is affecting a number of African countries, it is important to underscore that pandemics and public health emergencies respect no borders and require collective international solidarity and cooperation," the spokesperson, Nuur Mohamud Sheekh, said in an email response to *The Hindu* on Monday. That came a day after the World Health Organization declared that the Ebola outbreak in the

DRC and Uganda was "a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)".

Mr. Youssouf had earlier expressed deep concern about the Ebola virus disease, vowing that Africa would "overcome" this latest public health challenge through "unity, coordination and collective action."

The fourth India-Africa Forum Summit was planned to be held between May 28 and 31, after a gap of nearly 11 years. Indian officials have blamed the COVID-19 pandemic for the long gap since the last such summit was held in 2015.

Former Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Gurjit Singh, expressed confidence that the summit would be held once the latest health emergency stabilises in Africa.

# : Ebola PHEIC — India-Africa Forum Summit-IV Postponed

इबोला PHEIC — IAFS-IV स्थगित | WHO | IHR 2005 | DRC+Uganda | IBCA | GS II: IR + GS III: Health Security

7th

PHEIC in WHO history  
WHO इतिहास का 7वाँ PHEIC

11 yrs

Gap since last IAFS  
(IAFS-III was 2015)

90%

CFR — 1976 DRC outbreak  
मृत्यु दर (1976 DRC प्रकोप)

\$100B

India-Africa trade  
भारत-अफ्रीका व्यापार

## EBOLA FACTS / इबोला तथ्य

- Family: Filoviridae | 5 species (Zaire most lethal)
- Natural reservoir: Fruit bats (Pteropodidae)
- Vaccine: rVSV-ZEBOV (Ervebo) — WHO prequalified 2019
- First outbreak: 1976, DRC (Yambuku) + Sudan simultaneously
- 2014-16 West Africa: 28,600 cases, 11,325 deaths — largest ever
- Spread: Direct contact with blood/bodily fluids (NOT airborne)
- Treatment: Supportive; Zmapp, REGN-EB3 antivirals
- Zoonotic disease: Animal → Human (bushmeat, fruit bats)
- IHR 2005 Art.12: DG-WHO declares PHEIC on committee recommendation
- PHEIC history: H1N1(2009) → Polio(2014) → Zika(2016) → Ebola DRC(2019) → COVID(2020) → Ebola DRC+Uganda(2025)

## IAFS + IBCA / भारत-अफ्रीका + IBCA

- IAFS-I: 2008, New Delhi | IAFS-II: 2011, Addis Ababa
- IAFS-III: 2015, New Delhi — 54 AU nations, ~41 heads of state
- IAFS-IV: Planned May 28-31, 2025 — postponed (11yr gap)
- IAFS-III pledges: \$10B credit line; 50,000 scholarships; 100 institutions
- IBCA: International Big Cat Alliance (May 9, 2023, India)
- IBCA: 7 species (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Puma, Jaguar)
- IBCA: 97 range countries | Secretariat: New Delhi | India launched
- IBCA Summit June 1 also postponed (first IBCA summit)
- India-Africa trade: ~\$100B; Africa = India's 3rd export destination
- DRC: 70%+ world cobalt; Congo River; Kinshasa; Belgian colonial history

Aspect	विवरण	India–Africa trade relation	भारत–अफ्रीका व्यापार संबंध
Overall trade size	कुल व्यापार	In FY 2024–25, India–Africa trade was about <b>USD 81.99 billion</b> . <small>MEA India +1</small>	FY 2024–25 में भारत–अफ्रीका व्यापार लगभग <b>USD 81.99 billion</b> था। <small>MEA India +1</small>
Exports from India	भारत का निर्यात	India's exports to Africa were about <b>USD 42.6 billion</b> in FY 2024–25. <small>MEA India +1</small>	FY 2024–25 में अफ्रीका को भारत का निर्यात लगभग <b>USD 42.6 billion</b> था। <small>MEA India +1</small>
Imports into India	भारत का आयात	India's imports from Africa were about <b>USD 39.2 billion</b> in FY 2024–25. <small>MEA India +1</small>	FY 2024–25 में अफ्रीका से भारत का आयात लगभग <b>USD 39.2 billion</b> था। <small>MEA India +1</small>
Trade balance	व्यापार संतुलन	Trade is relatively balanced, with India exporting slightly more than it imports. <small>MEA India +1</small>	व्यापार अपेक्षाकृत संतुलित है, जिसमें भारत का निर्यात आयात से थोड़ा अधिक है। <small>MEA India +1</small>
India's rank in Africa	अफ्रीका में भारत की स्थिति	India is described by MEA as <b>Africa's fourth-largest trading partner</b> . <small>MEA India</small>	MEA के अनुसार भारत <b>अफ्रीका का चौथा सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक भागीदार</b> है। <small>MEA India</small>
Investment position	निवेश की स्थिति	India is also among <b>Africa's top five investors</b> . <small>MEA India</small>	भारत <b>अफ्रीका के शीर्ष पाँच निवेशकों</b> में भी शामिल है। <small>MEA India</small>
Main Indian exports	भारत के प्रमुख निर्यात	Major exports include <b>petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, automobiles/vehicles, rice, textiles, and machinery</b> . <small>MEA India +1</small>	भारत के प्रमुख निर्यात में <b>पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद, दवाइयाँ, इंजीनियरिंग सामान, वाहन, चावल, वस्त्र और मशीनरी</b> शामिल हैं। <small>MEA India +1</small>
Main African exports to India	अफ्रीका से भारत को प्रमुख निर्यात	Major imports from Africa include <b>crude oil, gold, coal, fertilizers, pulses, and other minerals/critical raw materials</b> . <small>MEA India +1</small>	अफ्रीका से भारत को प्रमुख आयात में <b>कच्चा तेल, सोना, कोयला, उर्वरक, दालें और अन्य खनिज/महत्वपूर्ण कच्चा माल</b> शामिल हैं। <small>MEA India +1</small>

# Sedition trials can go on if accused is willing: SC


**Aaratrika Bhaumik**

NEW DELHI

Four years after putting on hold trials in sedition cases in courts across the country, the Supreme Court on Thursday said that they could proceed with trials and appeals involving the offence of sedition under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) if the accused had no objection.

The clarification was issued by a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi while hearing a plea filed by a petitioner who has been in jail for 17 years in a case involving sedition charges.

“The petitioner’s grievance is that he has no objection if his criminal appeal is heard in its entirety, including with respect to the charge under Section 124A. That being so, we clarify... that wherever the

 We clarify... that wherever the accused has no objection to the continuation of the trial, appeal or any other proceeding in which he has been charge-sheeted under Section 124A IPC, there shall be no impediment for courts to decide such matters on merits and in accordance with law



SUPREME COURT

accused has no objection to the continuation of the trial, appeal or any other proceeding in which he has been charge-sheeted under Section 124A IPC, there shall be no impediment for courts to decide such matters on merits and in accordance with law,” the Bench observed.

In an interim order issued on May 11, 2022, the top court had put on hold trials in sedition cases pending before courts until the government com-

pleted its promised exercise “to re-examine and re-consider” the colonial-era provision.

## ‘Need to balance’

The court had also made it clear that it “hopes and expects” the Centre and States to refrain from registering FIRs, continuing investigations, or taking coercive measures under Section 124A while the “re-consideration” of the provision was under way.

A Bench headed by then

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana had also observed that while it was “cognisant of security interests and integrity of the State on one hand,” and the “civil liberties of citizens on the other”, there was a requirement to “balance” both sets of considerations.

In the present case, the Bench directed the Madhya Pradesh High Court to take up the petitioner’s appeal forthwith, along with connected matters, and decide them on merits.

The petitioner had been convicted by a trial court in 2017 on charges including sedition.

In February, Chief Justice Kant had orally observed that the Union government’s decision to review the offence of sedition under the old IPC cannot prevent Parliament from reintroducing a similar provision in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), as

the legislature functions independently of the executive.

The observation had come while the court was hearing a batch of PIL petitions challenging various provisions of the BNS, including Section 152, which criminalises acts deemed to endanger the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country.

## ‘Same old law’

The petitioners had argued that the section was a “re-packaged” version of the colonial-era sedition law. “Though the language is altered, its substantive content – criminalising vague and broad categories of speech and expression such as ‘subversive activity’, ‘encouragement of separatist feelings’, and acts ‘endangering unity or integrity of India’ – remains the same or is even more expansive,” the petition had said.

# ⚖️ : Sedition Trials Can Proceed If Accused Willing — SC

IPC धारा 124A बनाम BNS धारा 152 | Art.19(1)(a) + 19(2) | GS II: Polity | Kedar Nath 1962 | Free Speech

## 📄 Section 124A IPC (Colonial Sedition)

- Introduced: 1870 by British (James Fitzjames Stephen)
- IPC drafted by Macaulay 1860 — he excluded sedition; Stephen added 1870
- Targets: 'Disaffection' against government established by law
- Punishment: Up to life imprisonment; non-bailable
- Used against: Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1897, 1908); Gandhi (1922)
- Kedar Nath Singh (1962): SC upheld 124A — only speech 'inciting violence' = sedition
- Balwant Singh (1995): 'Khalistan Zindabad' ≠ sedition without violence intent
- May 2022: SC stays all sedition trials (S.G. Vombatkere case; CJI N.V. Ramana)
- Now replaced by BNS (July 1, 2024)

## 📄 BNS Section 152 (New Sedition Equivalent)

- Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) replaced CrP from July 1, 2024
- Section 152: 'Acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity'
- Language BROADER than 124A: includes 'subversive activity', 'separatist feelings', 'encouragement of secessionism'
- Critics: 'Repackaged colonial sedition — language altered but substantive content same or more expansive'
- BNSS replaced CrPC | BSA replaced Indian Evidence Act
- Petitioners argued 152 BNS criminalises 'vague and broad categories of speech'
- UK abolished sedition: 2009 | India remains outlier in democracies
- NCRB: Conviction rate ~3% | Cases rose 160% (2016-2019)
- SC: Bench CJI Surya Kant + Bagchi + Pancholi — trials can proceed if accused willing

## ⚖️ Article 19 — Free Speech Framework | अनुच्छेद 19 — अभिव्यक्ति स्वतंत्रता ढाँचा

**Art.19(1)(a):** Freedom of speech and expression | **Art.19(2):** Reasonable restrictions on grounds of: Sovereignty & Integrity | Security of State | Friendly relations with foreign states | Public order | Decency/morality | Contempt of court | Defamation | Incitement to offence

⚠️ **NOT a restriction ground: 'Economic interests' (frequently tested in UPSC Prelims)**



# Ladakh seeks belonging through representation

**I**t is both sad and ironic that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India argues that Ladakh needs more districts rather than a legislature or stronger constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule. It contends that Ladakh's sparse population, strategic sensitivity and financial dependence on the Centre make a legislature unnecessary, and instead offers administrative decentralisation through additional districts as a practical alternative.

This argument is fundamentally flawed and reflects an impoverished understanding of democracy. Not long ago, the British Empire claimed that Indians lacked the maturity and institutional capacity for self-rule – that Indians were too poor, illiterate and divided to govern themselves. It was against such paternalism that Sri Aurobindo championed the idea of Purna Swaraj, or absolute self-governance, as a matter of dignity and national selfhood. History proved the British wrong.

Yet, close to 80 years after Independence, the argument that Ladakh should be content with districts instead of a legislature echoes the same colonial logic in the language of nationalism. Must Ladakhis still prove they are sufficiently populous, profitable and capable enough to deserve political representation? Does being geographically vast, sparsely populated and strategically sensitive disqualify a region from having a legislature?

The recent announcement of five additional districts in Ladakh – Nubra, Changthang, Sham, Zaskar and Drass – has been celebrated as a major governance reform. Certainly, administrative accessibility matters in a region spread across nearly 59,000 square kilometres of high-altitude terrain. Villages separated by mountain passes and harsh winters do require local administrative presence.

But handing out districts is not democracy. Districts cannot legislate on land protection, demographic safeguards, ecological preservation, employment priorities, cultural autonomy, renewable energy negotiations, education policy or the long-term developmental vision of the region. Districts are instruments of administration. Legislatures are instruments of representation. A district magistrate implements policy. A legislature shapes the future of a people. A district reports upward to the bureaucracy. A legislature answers downward to citizens. No amount of administrative decentralisation and convenience can substitute for political agency.

## Expendable electoral promises

The most troubling aspect of the present discourse is that the Government of India itself repeatedly promised constitutional safeguards to Ladakh. After the abrogation of Article 370 and the creation of the Union Territory in 2019,



**Gitanjali J. Angmo**

Founder of the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh, and an education reformer and public intellectual working to reimagine education, democracy, ecology and Himalayan futures through grassroots leadership and innovation

Ladakh's democratic aspirations cannot be reduced to the administrative convenience of districts

assurances regarding Sixth Schedule protections were publicly articulated by leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party and reflected in their election manifestoes for the MP and Hill Council elections in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Yet, once the elections were over, and the party won based on these very manifestos, it went back on its commitments, raising ethical questions: Can promises made to frontier populations become expendable after elections?

## The case of the northeast

What of the objections themselves? Take the first one – that Ladakh is too strategic a border to be trusted with self-government. Arunachal Pradesh shares one of India's most sensitive borders with China. It is geographically vast, sparsely populated, strategically critical and financially dependent on the Centre. Yet, when it was granted full statehood in 1987, its strategic location was not viewed as a security risk, but as a strategic necessity. India understood that border populations cannot be held merely through bureaucratic administration or military presence. The people who feel politically enfranchised and constitutionally respected defend a nation more fiercely than people who merely live inside its lines. If strategic sensitivity was an argument for empowerment in one Himalayan frontier, by what logic does it become an argument against it in another?

The same applies to much of the Northeast. When Nagaland was granted statehood in 1963, its population was barely around 3.5 lakh. Mizoram became a State in 1987 with a population of roughly five lakh. Sikkim entered the Indian Union as a state in 1975 with a population of barely two lakh. Arunachal Pradesh itself had roughly six lakh people at the time of statehood. None of these States was financially self-sufficient. Many remain substantially dependent on central transfers even today. India did not tell them that they were too small, or too poor, or too remote for a legislature. It understood that you do not integrate a frontier through subsidy and garrison alone. You integrate it through belonging.

Which brings us to the fiscal objection – the weakest of the three. Ladakh, we are told, cannot generate enough revenue to sustain itself. But since when has fiscal solvency become the price of admission to Indian democracy? India's federal structure is built on redistribution; the Finance Commission exists precisely because some States earn more than others and the Union shares it out. Even large States depend heavily on central devolution.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State, draws enormous sums from the Centre through tax devolution, central schemes and grants-in-aid. Bihar, Assam and several Northeastern States also rely heavily on central transfers (between 70%

and 90% of their expenditure) to bridge developmental gaps.

In many of these States, mountainous terrain, sparse populations and strategic constraints limit conventional revenue generation. Yet, no one would argue that Uttar Pradesh should surrender its legislature because it depends on central funds. The suggestion would be absurd. Democracy in India has never been a reward for profitability – and if it were, much of the country would fail the test.

## Ladakh needs its own voice

And Ladakhis are worth hearing – especially when the same establishment that calls Ladakh economically negligible is planning some of India's largest energy infrastructure projects on its land. The renewable energy project in the Pang region of Changthang is expected to generate nearly 13 gigawatts of power, spread across acres of high-altitude pastureland. With investments of around ₹50,000 crore and a potential of ₹7,000 crore of annual income, this is hardly the arithmetic of an insignificant region. It is the arithmetic of a region that is central to India's energy future.

Ladakhis are increasingly watching decisions being made on solar parks, transmission corridors, mining, tourism expansion and land use. The real question, then, is who negotiates the terms of this transformation. Who decides land rights, grazing rights for Changpa herders, ecological limits, local jobs, royalties and inter-generational sustainability? A district officer cannot answer these questions. Nor was he ever meant to. That is the role of a legislature – made up of representatives accountable to the people whose lives are being shaped by these decisions.

This is what the argument ultimately comes down to. India's greatness was never administrative tidiness, but the constitutional imagination to hold staggering difference within one Union without flattening it. That same imagination produced the Sixth Schedule, recognising that fragile and distinct frontier regions need protections the plains do not. Uniformity is not equity. And Ladakh is not asking to belong to India less; it is asking to belong more fully – not as a territory administered from afar, but as a people shaping their own future. That distinction matters.

Sri Aurobindo wrote that freedom is the necessary atmosphere for a nation's soul to grow. India's spirit has often been strongest at its edges – in places that chose Bharat and defended it through hardship and sacrifice without asking what it cost. The strength of a republic is not measured by how tightly it controls its frontiers, but by how deeply even its farthest regions feel they belong. The voice rising from Ladakh today is not a demand for privilege, but a quiet appeal to be trusted with its own future.

Aspect	पक्ष	What the article says	लेख क्या कहता है
Main theme	मुख्य विषय	Ladakh wants a sense of belonging in India through proper political representation, especially a legislature.	लद्दाख भारत में अपनेपन की भावना उचित राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व, विशेषकर एक विधानसभा, के माध्यम से चाहता है।
Core argument	मुख्य तर्क	The Union government says more districts are enough, but the article argues districts cannot replace a legislature.	केंद्र सरकार कहती है कि अधिक जिले पर्याप्त हैं, लेकिन लेख का तर्क है कि जिले विधानसभा का विकल्प नहीं हो सकते।
Why districts are insufficient	जिले क्यों पर्याप्त नहीं हैं	Districts only improve administration; they do not provide law-making power, political voice, or long-term policy control.	जिले केवल प्रशासन सुधारते हैं; वे कानून बनाने की शक्ति, राजनीतिक आवाज़ या दीर्घकालिक नीति-निर्माण का अधिकार नहीं देते।
Demand of Ladakh	लद्दाख की मांग	Ladakh seeks constitutional safeguards, especially protection under the Sixth Schedule and representative institutions.	लद्दाख संवैधानिक सुरक्षा चाहता है, विशेषकर छठी अनुसूची के तहत संरक्षण और प्रतिनिधिक संस्थाएँ।
Government's stand	सरकार का पक्ष	The government argues Ladakh's sparse population, strategic location, and economic dependence on the Centre make a legislature unnecessary.	सरकार का तर्क है कि लद्दाख की कम जनसंख्या, सामरिक स्थिति और केंद्र पर आर्थिक निर्भरता के कारण विधानसभा आवश्यक नहीं है।
Article's criticism of this stand	इस तर्क की आलोचना	The article calls this argument flawed and says it reflects a weak understanding of democracy.	लेख इस तर्क को त्रुटिपूर्ण बताता है और कहता है कि यह लोकतंत्र की कमजोर समझ को दर्शाता है।



Historical comparison	ऐतिहासिक तुलना	The article compares this reasoning with colonial logic that Indians were once considered unfit for self-rule.	लेख इस तर्क की तुलना औपनिवेशिक सोच से करता है, जहाँ भारतीयों को कभी स्वशासन के योग्य नहीं माना जाता था।
New districts in Ladakh	लद्दाख में नए जिले	The recent creation of five new districts is welcomed as useful for administration in a vast and difficult terrain.	लद्दाख में पाँच नए जिलों का निर्माण विशाल और कठिन भौगोलिक क्षेत्र में प्रशासन के लिए उपयोगी माना गया है।
Limitation of new districts	नए जिलों की सीमा	Even with more districts, people still do not get legislative power over land, ecology, jobs, culture, education, or development priorities.	अधिक जिले बनने के बाद भी लोगों को भूमि, पर्यावरण, रोजगार, संस्कृति, शिक्षा या विकास प्राथमिकताओं पर विधायी अधिकार नहीं मिलता।
Administration vs democracy	प्रशासन बनाम लोकतंत्र	Administration implements policy, but democracy requires institutions that are accountable to people and can shape their future.	प्रशासन नीतियों को लागू करता है, लेकिन लोकतंत्र के लिए ऐसी संस्थाएँ चाहिए जो जनता के प्रति जवाबदेह हों और उसका भविष्य तय कर सकें।
Broken promises	टूटे हुए वादे	The article says Ladakh was repeatedly promised constitutional safeguards after Article 370 was abrogated, but those promises were not fulfilled.	लेख कहता है कि अनुच्छेद 370 हटने के बाद लद्दाख को बार-बार संवैधानिक सुरक्षा का वादा किया गया, लेकिन उन्हें पूरा नहीं किया गया।
Ethical question raised	उठाया गया नैतिक प्रश्न	It asks whether promises made to frontier populations become expendable after elections.	यह प्रश्न उठाया गया है कि क्या सीमांत क्षेत्रों की जनता से किए गए वादे चुनावों के बाद महत्वहीन हो जाते हैं।
Comparison with Northeast	पूर्वोत्तर से तुलना	The article points out that many small, strategic, and financially dependent Northeastern States were still given full statehood and legislatures.	लेख बताता है कि पूर्वोत्तर के कई छोटे, सामरिक और आर्थिक रूप से निर्भर राज्यों को भी पूर्ण राज्य का दर्जा और विधानसभा दी गई।

Examples cited	दिए गए उदाहरण	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim and others were granted representation despite low population and dependence on the Centre.	अरुणाचल प्रदेश, नागालैंड, मिजोरम, सिक्किम आदि को कम जनसंख्या और केंद्र पर निर्भरता के बावजूद प्रतिनिधित्व दिया गया।
Fiscal argument addressed	वित्तीय तर्क पर उत्तर	The article rejects the idea that financial weakness is a reason to deny representation, since many Indian States depend heavily on central transfers.	लेख इस विचार को खारिज करता है कि आर्थिक कमजोरी प्रतिनिधित्व न देने का आधार हो सकती है, क्योंकि भारत के कई राज्य केंद्र से भारी वित्तीय सहायता पर निर्भर हैं।
Resource significance of Ladakh	लद्दाख का संसाधन महत्व	Ladakh is becoming central to India's energy future through solar parks, transmission corridors, mining, tourism and land-use changes.	सौर पार्क, ट्रांसमिशन कॉरिडोर, खनन, पर्यटन और भूमि उपयोग परिवर्तन के कारण लद्दाख भारत के ऊर्जा भविष्य का केंद्र बन रहा है।
Why representation matters now	अभी प्रतिनिधित्व क्यों जरूरी है	Major decisions about land, grazing rights, ecology, jobs, royalties and sustainability are being made, and locals need a voice in them.	भूमि, चराई अधिकार, पारिस्थितिकी, रोजगार, रॉयल्टी और स्थिरता से जुड़े बड़े निर्णय लिए जा रहे हैं, जिनमें स्थानीय लोगों की आवाज़ आवश्यक है।
Article's message on voice	स्थानीय आवाज़ पर संदेश	A district officer cannot answer such questions; only a legislature accountable to the people can.	ऐसे प्रश्नों का उत्तर कोई जिला अधिकारी नहीं दे सकता; केवल जनता के प्रति जवाबदेह विधानसभा दे सकती है।
Broader constitutional idea	व्यापक संवैधानिक विचार	The Constitution was designed to accommodate diversity and protect distinct frontier regions through special arrangements like the Sixth Schedule.	संविधान विविधता को समायोजित करने और छठी अनुसूची जैसे विशेष प्रावधानों के माध्यम से सीमांत क्षेत्रों की रक्षा करने के लिए बनाया गया था।

# : Ladakh Seeks Belonging Through Representation

लद्दाख का लोकतांत्रिक घाटा | Art.370 | Sixth Schedule | UT Without Legislature | 13GW Pang Project | GS II: Polity

**59,000**

sq km Ladakh area  
(~2.74 lakh population)

**5 new**

Districts announced  
(Nubra, Changthang, Sham, Zaskar, Drass )

**13 GW**

Pang-Changthang  
energy project (₹50,000 cr)

**0**

Elected legislature  
in Ladakh UT — ZERO  
(विधानमंडल = शून्य)

## CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK / संवैधानिक ढाँचा

Article 370 (abrogated Aug 5, 2019): J&K special status ended

- J&K Reorganisation Act 2019: Split → J&K UT (legislature) + Ladakh UT (NO legislature)
- SC judgment Dec 11, 2023: Upheld abrogation; J&K elections by Sept 2024
- Sixth Schedule (Art.244(2)): Autonomous District Councils for Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
- Fifth Schedule (Art.244(1)): Tribal areas in non-NE states
- UT with legislature: Delhi, Puducherry, J&K | UT without: Ladakh, Chandigarh, D&NH+DD
- Art.3: Parliament can alter UT/State boundaries
- HDC (Hill Development Councils) in Leh & Kargil (since 1995 Act): Elected but limited advisory powers only
- BJP manifesto 2019/2020: Promised Sixth Schedule for Ladakh — not delivered
- Finance Commission: Fiscal redistribution — UP, Bihar etc also depend on centre; financial dependence ≠ no legislature

## NE PRECEDENTS + CORE ARGUMENT / उत्तर-पूर्व मिसाल + मुख्य तर्क

- Nagaland statehood 1963: Population barely 3.5 lakh → got legislature
- Mizoram statehood 1987: ~5 lakh population → got legislature
- Sikkim statehood 1975: barely 2 lakh population → got legislature
- Arunachal Pradesh: ~6 lakh at statehood → got legislature
- All financially dependent on Centre; some strategically sensitive → YET got statehood
- ARTICLE'S CORE ARGUMENT: 'Districts = instruments of administration; Legislatures = instruments of representation'
- 'A district magistrate implements policy; a legislature answers to citizens'
- 'You integrate a frontier through BELONGING, not subsidy and garrison alone'
- Pang Changthang 13GW project: Changpa nomad grazing rights, land rights being decided WITHOUT Ladakhi consent
- Sri Aurobindo: 'Purna Swaraj' (complete self-governance) as matter of dignity — not economic profitability

# Next & Lent

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Peak electricity demand in Delhi on Thursday**

**8231** In NW, Delhi started on Thursday, putting peak power demand to this summer's highest of 8231 MW, discom officials said. According to Delhi's State Load Dispatch Centre, the demand crossed the 8,000 mark for the first time this year on Wednesday. Delhi's peak power demand in 2018 was higher than the corresponding days of 2017. **on**

**Decrease in the net migration to the U.K. in 2025**

**1,71,000** In 2025, the net migration to the U.K. fell to 1,71,000, nearly half of the previous year's figure of 3,31,000, according to official data. The decline was mainly driven by fewer EU work-related arrivals following tighter visa rules. The figures came amid concern over underemployment migration. **and**

**Missing persons traced between May 7 and 21 by the Gujarat police**

**701** Gujarat police have traced 701 missing persons between May 7 and May 21 under Operation May 21 and reunited them with their families. Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghvi said on Thursday. The special drive has been launched under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's leadership, with all necessary resources made available to the police. **21**

**COVID-19 cases recorded in Singapore from May 10 to 16**

**12,700** Singapore recorded around 12,700 new COVID-19 cases between May 10 and 16, a rise of nearly 50 per cent from the previous week, according to official data. Daily new arrivals also increased, though no deaths were reported. Authorities said the H1N1.1 variant is driving infections. **25**

**Health ministry flags substandard drug samples in April audit**

**169** Central and State drug regulatory authorities identified 169 drug samples as "not of standard quality" in April, including 42 flagged by Central laboratories, the Union Health Ministry said. Authorities said action is being taken regularly to remove substandard and false medications from the market. **25**

Follow us [facebook.com/thehindu](https://www.facebook.com/thehindu) [X.com/thehindu](https://www.x.com/thehindu) [instagram.com/thehindu](https://www.instagram.com/thehindu)

## Should the rupee be left to depreciate?

Following days of sustained losses, the rupee has closed at nearly ₹97 to the dollar, while some advocate letting it find its own level, there is a risk in allowing depreciation to continue unchecked, especially as rising import costs of essential goods could fuel inflation

### EXPLAINER

Rahul Menon

Continuous days of sustained losses has sent the rupee down at almost ₹97 to the dollar, with no indication that the slide has been arrested. Rising oil prices and the threat of interest inflation will put further pressure on the rupee in the days to come. This has prompted calls for intervention to prevent further falls. Some writers, like Harvard professor Gita Gopinath, have resisted calls for intervention by the RBI, advocating for letting the rupee find its own level. A weaker rupee would automatically curtail imports and boost exports. Intervention would only obstruct the free flow of market forces.

While intervention does have its challenges, there is danger in letting the process of depreciation continue unabated, especially when much of it is being driven by speculative finance. With foreign interest rates locked to rise, capital will flow out faster, leading to stronger negative pressures on the rupee. In such a scenario, it might take inordinately long for the rupee to find its level, and the inflationary dangers of a weak rupee will soon even more stress on a populace already exposed to hardship as a result of worldwide spikes in energy prices.

**Can intervention deepen volatility?** A current account deficit implies more imports than exports, and hence a greater need for foreign currency. If this is adequately met by foreign capital inflow to purchase assets like stocks, the rupee's value relative to the dollar will not change.

If the economy experiences a deficit without sufficient inflow of foreign capital, it faces a problem, with demand for foreign exchange exceeding available supply. Mainstream models dictate that in such a situation, the rupee must depreciate. The weaker rupee makes



AP/REUTERS

exports more affordable and imports more expensive, leading to an automatic adjustment of the current account deficit relative to the available inflow of foreign capital.

In such a scenario, intervening to artificially prop up the value of the rupee only delays the inevitable. It inhibits adjustment by ensuring import demand does not fall, because the rupee has not depreciated enough to naturally shut off higher import demand, the cause of the widening deficit in the first place.

**What is the difference between a weak rupee and a falling rupee?** Arguing for non-intervention, however, confuses a falling rupee with a weak rupee. A fall in the rupee value would not automatically increase export demand if the market expects a further fall. Exports might be higher when the rupee is weak, but may not rise when the rupee is falling if foreign buyers expect the price to fall even further and for goods to become cheaper at a later date.

At the same time, if the economy imports essential goods like oil, demand may not automatically reduce sufficiently

as the rupee falls. If people expect the rupee to fall further, and for the prices to rise even more tomorrow, they may front-load purchases today and increase import demand in the short run. This can be seen in the rush for petrol when prices were raised, as consumers expected further increases in the future.

A falling rupee would see higher import values, but not necessary increase in exports, ensuring that the deficit is not curbed. The very problem that required a depreciation might just perpetuate itself. One might argue that exports would pick up and imports reduce when the rupee eventually works itself out, but the adjustment process is rarely painless. Rising import values of essential goods will lead to rising inflation in the domestic economy that has already experienced reverse migration and real wage squeezes.

**What is the role of capital flows?** For the sake of argument, one can posit an equilibrium value of the rupee driven by fundamental values, such as export and import demands that exhibit uniform and predictable behaviour as the rupee changes value. The process may be

long, but the economy might eventually settle at this value, driven by fundamental changes in the current account. However, the assumption weakens the role of speculative foreign capital.

Much of the fall in the rupee has been driven by speculative outflows of foreign institutional investment that, for whatever reasons, have not seen Indian assets as being sufficiently remunerative. Perhaps investors think returns on Indian stocks will not be high in the future, that growth is not sustainable, or that interest rates will rise in developed country markets. Whatever the reason, these speculative expectations of foreign investors can lead to capital outflow and depreciation, necessitating current account adjustments based on the sentiments of foreign investors.

In such a situation, the "actual" value of the rupee is determined not by consumption demand but by speculation. There are no fundamental or technical values underpinning the pure speculation of financial markets. With indications that foreign Central Banks may soon raise interest rates, the rupee could come under further pressure.

Intervention is one amongst many policies that must be considered, and one that even developed economies have resorted to. As the yen fell against the dollar in April this year, Japanese Finance Minister Satoru Katayama signalled that the government would take "flexible action" in financial markets to maintain the yen.

Intervention to stem speculative capital flows is extremely hard to manage, and can lead to negative outcomes if the force of speculation is too great, or if governments do not or cannot show enough commitment in markets. However, we must not assume that the rupee can find an equilibrium value soon, for its fall is being driven by speculation of foreign capital in India's growth story. (Rahul Menon is associate professor at IIT Jodhpur Global University.)

### THE GIST

➤ If the economy experiences a current account deficit without sufficient inflow of foreign capital, it faces a problem, with demand for foreign exchange exceeding available supply.

➤ Much of the rupee's decline has been driven by speculative outflows of foreign institutional investment. These speculative expectations can lead to capital outflow and depreciation, necessitating current account adjustments driven by market sentiment.

## How does the Gaganyaan's life-support system operate?

What are the systems designed to support astronauts aboard the spacecraft while in orbit?

Dhishikshan Nair E

The Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS) replicates the earth's atmosphere in earth orbit by managing air, water, temperature, and waste. In short-term space missions, all supplies are carried from the earth and waste is stored for disposal later. Long-duration missions require the waste back into useful resources like breathable air and clean water.

**What is air revitalisation?** Carbon dioxide is removed from the earth's atmosphere by photosynthesis and by dissolving in the oceans. In Gaganyaan the Indian Space Research Organisation mission to place a small crew of Indian astronauts in a 600 km orbit around the earth, astronaut exhalation will increase the cabin's

carbon dioxide content and has to be artificially removed. Elevated levels of carbon dioxide can lead to hypercapnia, causing symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, and impaired cognitive function.

A healthy adult normally exhalates around 1 kg of carbon dioxide per day, though this amount increases significantly with physical exertion. The air revitalisation system (ARS) provides fresh air, removes carbon dioxide, and filters trace contaminants of oxygen that would otherwise accumulate in the cabin. For short missions, oxygen is supplied from high-pressure gas bottles. According to standards, a healthy crew member needs 0.84 kg of oxygen per day to support metabolic functions.

Carbon dioxide is removed using lithium hydroxide canisters. Each canister has activated charcoal that absorbs any odours in the cabin air. A spent canister is

replaced by the crew with a fresh one typically every 20-24 hours. In a microgravity environment lacking natural convection, small fans in the ECLSS or the circulatory system that prevents lethal carbon dioxide and hazardous oxygen pockets from lingering.

**How are pressure, temperature and humidity controlled?** The Gaganyaan crew module is designed to maintain a comfortable environment with a temperature of 20-26°C and relative humidity between 30% and 70% to ensure crew comfort and equipment stability. The moisture released by the crew's breath and sweat are the main sources of humidity in the cabin.

Low humidity in the crew cabin can lead to dry skin, irritated eyes, and higher risk of static electricity discharge that could damage electronics. High humidity promotes microbial growth and causes

condensation that may lead to short-circuits or corrosion.

High crew metabolic heat is primarily generated by the metabolic body heat of the astronauts (60 to 100 W per crew) and continuously operating onboard electronics and avionics. An active cooling system is used to regulate temperature. Heat is removed by circulating the air through heat exchangers, which will expel the heat into space. The humidity is managed by condensing units that collect water to prevent fogging and short circuits.

The pressure is held at 101.3 kPa. To mimic the earth's sea-level conditions, the pressure control system uses electronic carbon dioxide and hazardous oxygen levels from lingering.

**Where does water come from?** The primary challenge in space is water. The Gaganyaan crew module is designed to prevent fogging and short circuits or pose a hazard if inhaled accidentally. To ensure crew comfort and equipment stability, the moisture released by the crew's breath and sweat are the main sources of humidity in the cabin.

Low humidity in the crew cabin can lead to dry skin, irritated eyes, and higher risk of static electricity discharge that could damage electronics. High humidity promotes microbial growth and causes

condensation that may lead to short-circuits or corrosion. High crew metabolic heat is primarily generated by the metabolic body heat of the astronauts (60 to 100 W per crew) and continuously operating onboard electronics and avionics. An active cooling system is used to regulate temperature. Heat is removed by circulating the air through heat exchangers, which will expel the heat into space. The humidity is managed by condensing units that collect water to prevent fogging and short circuits.

The pressure is held at 101.3 kPa. To mimic the earth's sea-level conditions, the pressure control system uses electronic carbon dioxide and hazardous oxygen levels from lingering.

**Where does water come from?** The primary challenge in space is water. The Gaganyaan crew module is designed to prevent fogging and short circuits or pose a hazard if inhaled accidentally. To ensure crew comfort and equipment stability, the moisture released by the crew's breath and sweat are the main sources of humidity in the cabin.

Low humidity in the crew cabin can lead to dry skin, irritated eyes, and higher risk of static electricity discharge that could damage electronics. High humidity promotes microbial growth and causes

condensation that may lead to short-circuits or corrosion. High crew metabolic heat is primarily generated by the metabolic body heat of the astronauts (60 to 100 W per crew) and continuously operating onboard electronics and avionics. An active cooling system is used to regulate temperature. Heat is removed by circulating the air through heat exchangers, which will expel the heat into space. The humidity is managed by condensing units that collect water to prevent fogging and short circuits.

**How is waste managed?** In microgravity, liquid and solid waste do

not "fall", requiring suction-based airflow systems to pull waste away from the body and prevent it from floating around. These systems must also separate and stabilize waste to avoid microbial contamination and the buildup of toxic gases like ammonia.

In Gaganyaan, specialised fiscal collection bags will be used and urine will be recycled through toilets. All waste will be chemically treated to neutralise odours and inhibit bacterial growth, then stored in sealed containers for disposal after return.

**How are fires suppressed?** The lack of gravity allows fires to expand into a sphere that is harder to reach with traditional suppressants. In Gaganyaan, smoke detectors will sound an alarm to alert the crew. Fire extinguishers that create fine water mist can be used to put the fire out. A water mist effectively cools the fire and also results toxic smoke particles.

Rahul Menon has the option to depressure the cabin as a last resort to extinguish the fire after the crew has worn a pressure suit. (Dhishikshan Nair E is Former Director, VSSC and IITP, Founding Director, IISPC, and an expert in launch vehicle systems, risk of static electricity discharge that could damage electronics. He is currently working as Dr Sarabhai Professor at VSSC.)

# Should the rupee be left to depreciate?

Following days of sustained losses, the rupee has closed at nearly ₹97 to the dollar; while some advocate letting it find its own level, there is a risk in allowing depreciation to continue unchecked, especially as rising import costs of essential goods could fuel inflation

## EXPLAINER

Rahul Menon

Continuous days of sustained losses has seen the rupee close at almost ₹97 to the dollar, with no indication that the slide has been arrested. Rising oil prices and the threat of external inflation will put further pressure on the rupee in the days to come. This has prompted calls for intervention to prevent further falls.

Some writers, like Harvard professor Gita Gopinath, have resisted calls for intervention by the RBI, advocating for letting the rupee find its own level. A weaker rupee would automatically curtail imports and boost exports. Intervention would only obstruct the free flow of market forces.

While intervention does have its challenges, there is danger in letting the process of depreciation continue unabated, especially when much of it is being driven by speculative finance. With foreign interest rates bound to rise, capital will flow out faster, leading to stronger negative pressures on the rupee. In such a scenario, it might take inordinately long for the rupee to 'find its level', and the inflationary dangers of a weak rupee will exert even more stresses on a populace already exposed to hardship as a result of worldwide spikes in energy prices.

### Can intervention deepen volatility?

A current account deficit implies more imports than exports, and hence a greater need for foreign currency. If this is adequately met by foreign capital inflow to purchase assets like stocks, the rupee's value relative to the dollar will not change.

If the economy experiences a deficit without sufficient inflow of foreign capital, it faces a problem, with demand for foreign exchange exceeding available supply. Mainstream models dictate that in such a situation, the rupee must depreciate. The weaker rupee makes



GETTY IMAGES

exports more affordable and imports more expensive, leading to an automatic adjustment of the current account deficit relative to the available inflow of foreign capital.

In such a scenario, intervening to artificially prop up the value of the rupee only delays the inevitable. It inhibits adjustment by ensuring import demand does not fall, because the rupee has not depreciated enough to naturally shut off higher import demand, the cause of the widening deficit in the first place.

### What is the difference between a weak rupee and a falling rupee?

Arguments for non-intervention, however, conflate a falling rupee with a weak rupee. A fall in the rupee value would not automatically increase export demand if the market expects a further fall. Exports might be higher when the rupee is weak, but may not rise when the rupee is falling if foreign buyers expect the price to fall even further and for goods to become cheaper at a later date.

At the same time, if the economy imports essential goods like oil, demand may not automatically reduce sufficiently

as the rupee falls. If people expect the rupee to fall further, and for the prices to rise even more tomorrow, they may front-load purchases today and increase import demand in the short run. This can be seen in the rush to buy petrol when prices were raised, as consumers expected further increases in the future.

A falling rupee would see higher import values, but no necessary increase in exports, ensuring that the deficit is not curtailed. The very problem that required a depreciation might just perpetuate itself. One might argue that exports would pick up and imports reduce when the process eventually works itself out. But the adjustment process is rarely painless. Rising import values of essential goods will lead to rising inflation in the domestic economy that has already experienced reverse migration and real wage squeezes.

### What is the role of capital flows?

For the sake of argument, one can posit an equilibrium value of the rupee driven by fundamental values, such as export and import demands that exhibits uniform and predictable behaviour as the rupee changes value. The process may be

long, but the economy might eventually settle at this value, driven by fundamental changes in the current account. However, this assumption neglects the role of speculative foreign capital.

Much of the fall in the rupee has been driven by speculative outflows of foreign institutional investment that, for whatever reason, does not see Indian assets as being sufficiently remunerative. Perhaps investors think returns on Indian stocks will not be high in the future, that growth is not sustainable, or that interest rates will rise in developed country markets. Whatever the reason, these speculative expectations of foreign investors can lead to capital outflow and depreciation, necessitating current account adjustments based on the sentiments of foreign investors.

In such a situation, the 'actual' value of the rupee is determined not by consumption demand but by speculation. There are no fundamentals or technical values underpinning the pure speculation of financial markets. With indications that foreign Central Banks may soon raise interest rates, the rupee could come under further pressure.

Intervention is one amongst many policies that must be considered, and one that even developed economies have resorted to. As the yen slid against the dollar in April this year, Japanese Finance Minister Satoshi Katayama signalled that the government would take 'decisive action' in financial markets to maintain the yen.

Intervention to stem speculative capital flows is extremely hard to manage, and can lead to negative outcomes if the force of speculation is too great, or if governments do not - or cannot - show enough commitment in markets. However, we must not assume that the rupee can find an equilibrium value soon, for its fall is being driven by speculation rather than any fundamental economic behaviour. It is time to have a serious conversation regarding the role and place of foreign capital in India's growth story. (Rahul Menon is associate professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.)

## THE GIST

▼ If the economy experiences a current account deficit without sufficient inflow of foreign capital, it faces a problem, with demand for foreign exchange exceeding available supply.

▼ Much of the rupee's decline has been driven by speculative outflows of foreign institutional investment. These speculative expectations can lead to capital outflow and depreciation, necessitating current account adjustments driven by market sentiment.

# ₹₹ : Should the Rupee Be Left to Depreciate? (₹97/USD)

रुपये का अवमूल्यन बनाम RBI हस्तक्षेप | J-Curve | Impossible Trinity | FII Hot Money | Gita Gopinath | GS III: Economy

₹97

Rupee vs USD  
(Sustained losses, no arrest)

~\$640B

India's forex reserves  
(4th largest globally)

85%

India's crude oil  
imported (inflation risk)

J-Curve

Trade balance first worsens  
then improves post-depreciation

FOR vs AGAINST INTERVENTION / हस्तक्षेप पक्ष vs विपक्ष

- ✓ FOR letting rupee fall: Auto-curtails imports; boosts exports; markets find equilibrium; Gita Gopinath's view
- ✓ FOR: Intervention depletes forex reserves; delays inevitable adjustment
- ✗ AGAINST: India imports 85% oil — essential goods; rising import costs → inflation → hits poor
- ✗ AGAINST: Fall SELF-PERPETUATING: people expect further fall → rush to buy dollars → more pressure
- ✗ AGAINST: Current fall is SPECULATIVE (FII), not fundamental — can overshoot equilibrium
- ✗ AGAINST: Exports don't auto-rise: foreign buyers delay if expecting further fall
- ⚖️ ARTICLE'S VIEW: Intervention is 'one amongst many policies' — not panacea but cannot be dismissed

Japan parallel: Yen fell (April 2025); FM Satsuki Katayama signalled 'decisive action'

Key distinction: WEAK rupee (fundamentals) ≠ FALLING rupee (speculative expectations)

Intervention stems speculative flows — extremely hard but necessary when speculation overwhelming

## KEY ECONOMIC CONCEPTS / मुख्य आर्थिक अवधारणाएँ

- **IMPOSSIBLE TRINITY:** Cannot have (1)Fixed rate + (2)Free capital mobility + (3)Independent monetary policy simultaneously
- **J-CURVE:** Trade balance **WORSENS** before improving after depreciation (old import contracts at old prices)
- **MARSHALL-LERNER CONDITION:** Depreciation improves trade balance **ONLY** if export+import elasticities  $> 1$
- **MANAGED FLOAT:** India's regime — market-determined + RBI smoothing volatility (neither fixed nor pure float)
- **FII/FPI = Hot Money:** Short-term, volatile, speculative; exits rapidly; causes exchange rate instability
- **FDI:** Long-term, stable; investment in physical assets — India needs **MORE** FDI, less reliance on FII
- **CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT (CAD):** Imports  $>$  Exports + transfers → demand for foreign exchange
- **FEMA 1999:** Regulates forex transactions | Replaces FERA 1973 | Enforced by ED
- **RBI:** Governor Sanjay Malhotra (Dec 2024) | MPC: 4% inflation target ( $\pm 2\%$ )
- **Gita Gopinath:** IMF First Deputy MD | Harvard professor | Born Mysore, Karnataka | Non-interventionist view

# At 47.6°C, UP's Banda yet again the hottest place in India: IMD

**Press Trust of India**

*New Delhi, May 21*

SEVERAL STATES across India sweltered under blistering heat on Thursday, with Uttar Pradesh's Banda district again emerging as the hottest place in India at 47.6 degrees Celsius (°C). The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that "heatwave" to "severe heatwave" conditions prevailed in several places of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

As Banda again recorded the highest temperature in India with 47.6°C, the IMD issued a 'Red' warning for the next three days as well as an 'Orange' warning, thereafter, in view of the possibility of heatwave to "severe heatwave" conditions and warm night conditions at isolated places across Uttar Pradesh over the next week.

In view of the "severe heatwave" and continuously rising temperatures in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to exercise complete vigilance regarding relief and rescue operations. A 'Red' warning is the highest level of weather alert, meaning "take action".

The Meteorological Centre, Lucknow, said that the absence of an active weather system, enhanced radiational heating due to clear sky and dry weather, and the subsidence of hot winds

associated with an anticyclone over central India in the middle tropospheric levels have aggravated the heat conditions in UP.

Similar conditions prevailed in the neighbouring states of Haryana and Punjab too. Haryana's Sirsa, with 45.8°C, and Punjab's Faridkot, with 45.9°C, turned out to be the hottest places in the two states. Chandigarh braved yet another hot day at 44.2°C, over four notches above normal, the MeT said. The maximum temperature at Gurugram was 42°C.

In Punjab, Bathinda saw the maximum temperature at 45.6°C, while Patiala recorded 44.9°C, five degrees over normal. Ludhiana saw temperatures rising to 43°C, four degrees above normal, and Amritsar at 41.5°C.

Heatwave conditions persisted at several places in Himachal Pradesh, with mercury levels staying three to five degrees above normal. Una sizzled at 44.3°C, followed by Neri at 41°C and Sundernagar at 39.9°C. The local Meteorological station issued an 'Orange' alert for thunderstorms, along with lightning, hail and gusty winds for Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Chamba for May 22.

In Uttarakhand, the administration advised children, senior citizens, and outdoor workers to exercise special caution. The weather office warned that temperatures in the plains may exceed 40 degrees Celsius, while hill districts will likely breach the 30°C-mark.

Topic	Exam-Relevant Points
News Context	UP's Banda recorded <b>47.6°C</b> , becoming the hottest place in India again.
दूरसूचना संस्था	दिल्ली के प्रेस ट्रस्ट ऑफ इंडिया, नई दिल्ली, 21 मई
Reporting Agency	Press Trust of India, New Delhi, May 21.
मुख्य संस्था	भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग, नई दिल्ली
Main Institution	India Meteorological Department, IMD.
संस्था का नाम	भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग, IMD
Highest Temperature	Banda, Uttar Pradesh: <b>47.6°C</b> .
दूरसूचना संस्था	भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
Type of Warning	IMD issued <b>Red Warning</b> for next three days and <b>Orange Warning</b> thereafter.
दूरसूचना संस्था द्वारा जारी सूचना	भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग ने अगले तीन दिनों के लिए <b>लाल</b> चेतावनी जारी की है और उसके बाद <b>नारंगी</b> चेतावनी जारी की है।
UP Government Response	CM Yogi Adityanath directed officials to ensure vigilance in relief and rescue operations.
UP सरकार द्वारा जारी सूचना	यूपी के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने आदेश दिया है कि राहत और 구출 작전 में सतर्कता बरतनी है।



<b>Rule</b>	<b>Remember</b>
Plains	40°C + 4.5°C to 6.4°C departure = Heatwave
मैदान	40°C + सामान्य से 4.5°C से 6.4°C अधिक = हीटवेव
Hills	30°C + 4.5°C to 6.4°C departure = Heatwave
पहाड़	30°C + सामान्य से 4.5°C से 6.4°C अधिक = हीटवेव
Coast	37°C + 4.5°C or more departure = Heatwave
तट	37°C + सामान्य से 4.5°C या अधिक = हीटवेव
Actual Temperature	45°C = Heatwave
वास्तविक तापमान	45°C = हीटवेव
Actual Temperature	47°C = Severe Heatwave
वास्तविक तापमान	47°C = गंभीर हीटवेव

---

# Word of the day

## **Boffo:**

resoundingly successful and popular

---

**Synonyms:** outstanding, triumphant, phenomenal

---

**Usage:** *The singer made a boffo comeback this year.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /bɒfəʊ/

---

# UMANG 360



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE



- ✓ UMANG 360 MAGAZINE – COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS IN ONE PLACE
- ✓ COVERS MARCH 2026 TO APRIL 2027 MONTH-WISE
- ✓ INCLUDES MCQS, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & KEY UPDATES
- ✓ EASY, CONCISE & PERFECT FOR QUICK REVISION
- ✓ SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR UPSC, SSC, STATE PCS & ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS
- ✓ AVAILABLE IN E- PDF ( DOWNLOADABLE & PRINTABLE)



 Class24

### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir covers national & international events, key facts, MCQs, and analysis. Ideal for SSC, UPSC, RRB & other exams preparation.

Class24: Team Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir (4.8)

Overview Videos Test

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 is made very simple and easy to understand in a user-friendly and simple format for competitive exam aspirants. It includes all the important current affairs between the period of March 2026 and April 2027; Current Affairs Magazine covers all national and international events, schemes of the government, important updates, as well as exam-related MCQs. The information is articulated in a clear and tight manner, making it straightforward and quick to revamp. The magazine saves you time and boosts preparation by bringing everything together and helping you prepare effectively. Umang 360 is a good choice to help you succeed in the exams, should you need a reliable and effective source of current affairs. It is available in e-PDF format for easy access anytime, anywhere.

### Get success in your hand. Start study anytime anywhere.

The journey becomes simple and enjoyable when you start taking interest in it. And through our app "Class24", we will be your trusted partners in developing that interest.



### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

₹149

BUY NOW

Have a Coupon Code?

Enquiry Whatsapp

Relative To Science Special 100 Test By : Class24 Support Hi, how can we help

LIVE QUIZZES TESTS CLASSES



# SSC FOUNDATION

*Dream.  
Prepare.  
Succeed.*

**CGL**



**CHSL**



**CPO**



**MTS**



**3 DAYS FREE  
DEMO CLASSES**



**BATCH STARTS**

**27 APRIL**

**MONDAY**

**8:00 AM**

## KEY FEATURES



✓ Complete Foundation (Pre & Mains)



✓ Live from Classroom



✓ Weekly Tests & Rank Analysis



✓ Doubt Solving Sessions



✓ Shortcut Tricks & Smart Methods



✓ Previous Year Questions (PYQs) Practice



✓ Regular Performance Tracking



✓ Exam-Oriented Preparation



✓ Guidance by Selected Mentors



### ADDRESS:

201, Basant Vihar  
Opp. Bhandari Hospital  
Gopalpura Mode, Jaipur



### CONTACT US :

**9257021070 / 71 / 72 / 73**



Thank you 😊