Daily Current Affairs











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10 MCQ QUIZ



 "The world moves for those who decide to move even when nothing around them is moving."

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Class24



COP30 draft text skips mention of fossil fuel





A snakebite that sparked a change A girl's death at a Keral school in 2019 tripgered a systemic overhaul



INSIDE



Modi meets Australian counterpart

JOHANNERBURG
Prime Minister Resemble Modione Minister Resemble Modion Fridge mot his Australian
counterpart anthony Albaneau
to Johannesberg. The two
leaders took stock of progress
in compensation is deveral areas,
including defents, critical
immorals, people-to-people
ties, and investment. In PARE 8 AVORA SESSIONARIO



'Ukraine's choice is between its dignity and U.S.

to confront the possibility of looing its dignity or risking the look of a key partner as it figures out how to respond to a U.S. peace proposal to end fluctors war with his quetry, a Page La

Domee in free fall. slips under 89 on trade concerns

Friday degree lated to it's Ifetime low of 80.0650 again the U.S. Dollar compared with fown 98 paine this to negative cues from global and done equity markets owing to tracks related concerns, fures enelysis said is padd as

Rajasthan books two missionaries over 'conversion'

Rajasthan Police has registered the first case under the State's vessely erracted anti-conversion egislation against two Christian missioneries in Rota, toward them of carrying out eligious conversions through religious conversions through "allurement" at a gathering. The three-day "Spiritual. Settlerig" was held in Kota from Recommer 4-6, a name 2

Congress to hold rally against 'vote theft' on Dec. 14

NEW DELIN

NEW PILLIE
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signatures that the party has
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August, Congress general
see relaty K.C. Versupped said
on Friday. The stilly will be tread
at Ramilla Maidan. In PRIGE 4

Centre notifies four new Labour Codes

They replace 29 fragmented laws, some dating back to 1930s, and promise gender pay parity unions call them 'pro-employer' and 'anti-worker' back to 1930s, and promise gender pay parity

Contract workers to receive benefits; gig work, platform work, and aggregators are defined

men workers, giving statu-mry backing for minimum wages, and introducing

wages, and arrocheing Excellent employment. The Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on So-cial Recurry (2020), and e Occupational Safety salth and Working Condi-ina (OSHWC) Code (20) had been held back e to protests from trade ions, which continue. In Joint statement, 10 Cen Trade Unions called

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ative opportunities. "It greatly emprises our workers, it also signifi-cardly simplifies com-pliance and promotes Base of Ooing Business"," he said in a post on X.
Union Labour Minister the Codes will formulise.

Consolidated Codes

worker protections, and tens simpler, safer and glo-bally alignost.

He had been in regular ments, trade unions and employer bodies for the past there years. The Mi-ant there years The Mi-all States had putilished draft rules for the Codes, folding those States and Union Territories that were yet to fame the rules. Earls on Wages (#0.1%) unifice four labour laws related wages and business m Endustrial
Melations Code
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laws governing to
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process units, and a single registration, beence and return system. Additional

systemic reforms include a

model for supportive com-pliance, faster dispute re-solution through two-member tribunals, and a National Geoupstional Sa Acty, Health (OST) Board to harmonton safety stan-

The reforms are aimed at streamlining contractual workers with the provision of "band turns application" equal to those of perma-nent workers, including leave, medical, and social security. The Codes have defined gig work, platform work, and aggregators for the first time.

Andhaar linked Universal Account Number will

and available across States. regardless of migration-Plantation workers will be Plantation workers will be brought under the DMFWC Code and the Social Securi-ty Code. The government will now initiate consulta-tions to frame detailed rules and schemes.

urged her not to imple-ment the Codes. On Friday, 10 unions sent a message that the netification of these codes, amidst deepening unem-ployment crists and traing inflation is nothing short of 'declaration of war.' on the

"The Union government in caboots with its capital ist cropies is attempting to take the country back to the exploitative era of master-servant relationship," they said, adding that a se-

ianuched on November 26 against the Godes. The Grub Rad observed a one-day general surface on high surface of the control of the Grub Rad observed as the control of the Grubes, had been asking the government to remove and worker prices of the Grubes, had been asking the government to remove and worker prices of the Grubes and Select Social Selection (1998) compulsory consultation with trade unpert of the Grube on Wages. port of the Code on Wages (2019) and the Code on No-cial Security (2020).

CH Director Genera Chandralit Banerico halles bour landscape. "The im-plementation of four La-bour Codes marks a transformative leap to-wards a modern and sim-

IAF's Tejas jet crashes during demo flight at Dubai Air Show; pilot killed



The Hindu Bureau

An Indian Air Force (AAP)
Trigos fighter jet crashed
daring the Dulial Air Show
of the pilot, Wing Commander Namansk Syst.
The accident occurred
the Al Makhtourn Discreta
the Al Makhtourn Discreta
thank Airport, the vorane of
the Viral visuals on social
media show the jet spiraling out of control lust
above the ground, igniting
above the ground, igniting An Indian Air Porce (IAF)

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on impact, and selding for a short distrace before being enguised in therees. Earner district of Home-chall Praiseab.

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Earner district of Hims-chall Praiseab.

Earner district of Hims-the 1AF and it deeply re-grets the loss of life and ex-pressed solidarity with the pressed solidarity with the industry has been endered to determine the case of the district of the ex-pression of the ex-licit of the ex-tension of the ex

tions of a brave and coura-geous LAF pilot. The ration stands farmly with the fa-perature of the standard of the Friday was the last sign of the air drow that oppered in Newsmitter IV. The lar-pitots, it showcased aertal and static displaye of va-lary sirrash, UAVs, dromes, and helicopters. The LAF contingent comprised crow members, Nearly 100 all force teams from va-tions countries total part.

This is the second Tejas accident in recent years. On blanch 12, 20c, 4, a list of the property of the propert

SC issues notice to EC on Kerala's plea seeking to put off SIR citing staff shortage

Krishnadas Rajagopal Niw mixiri

The Supreme Court of In-dia toward nation to the Rection Commission of India (RC) on Priday on a batch of petitions filed by the Kerala government, the the keralit government, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Indian Union Muslim League seeking deferment of the special intensive revision OHR of electoral rolls in the State as the "cumber-

the State in the "cumber-nome" exercise would clash with elections to le-cal bulles.

A three-judge Benich headed by Jeatice Surya Rant urgently listed the pe-titions for hearing and or-ther for Stevenber 26, the form Severmber 4 to De-

from November 4 to De-cember 4 and the local bo-dy elections on December 9 and 11.

'Near impossibility'
The State government, re-presented by advocate C.K. Sast, pointed out that simultaneous conduct of the SIR and the elections would be a "near impossibility". "SIR is a large exer-cise requiring deployment of L75,000 personnel from government and quast-go vernmental services for election-related duties," it admitted.

It said that the exercise also required deployment of further 68,000 police and other security person nel. "SIR is also a compre-bensive process with a cumbersonce procedure,"

is added.

The Communist Party of India (CPO), a partner in the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, has also moved the apex court suparately seeking not only

but also a justicular directions to quanti the rectaining pro-cess, which has now aprend to 28 Sures and Un-ter parties filed by the CH, through State secre-larly through State secre-larly Bloop Viewans, repre-sented by advocate Seriesms Parakhan, and the SIR was a deliberate plan to "weed a deliberate plan to "weed"

out" registered voters who form the support base for and arbitrary SIR exercise affects not merely an isolat-ed individual or class, but every registered elector in Kerala, thereby justifying invocation of Article 32 (writ jurisdiction) by a na-

tional political party whose members, cades, supporters, and consti-tuents Statewide stand to be disonfranchised," said the CPI petition.
The Communist Party of

was "loaded with alterior

all the political parties have started coming about the SIR." Instice Kant remarked.

Earlier in November, To

ercise. Pointing out that the EC

Centre notifies four new Labour Codes

They replace 29 fragmented laws, some dating back to 1930s, and promise gender pay parity

PM hails Codes as 'comprehensive', while trade unions call them 'pro-employer' and 'anti-worker'

Contract workers to receive benefits; gig work, platform work, and aggregators are defined

A. M. Jigeesh Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

he Centre on Friday notified all four Labour Codes, ushering in major reforms, including extending universal social security coverage for gig workers, promising gender pay parity, expanded rights and safety for women workers, giving statutory backing for minimum wages, and introducing fixed-term employment.

The Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020), and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSHWC) Code (2020) had been held back due to protests from trade unions, which continue. In a joint statement, 10 Central Trade Unions called the Codes an "anti-worker and pro-employer" re-

form. The laws, which came into effect on Friday, replace 29 fragmented laws, many of which date back to pre-Independence and early post-Independence eras (1930s-1950s).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described these as "one of the most comprehensive and progressive labour-oriented reforms since Independence". He said these laws will serve as a strong foundation for universal social security, minimum and timely payment of wages, safe workplaces, and remunerative opportunities.

"It greatly empowers our workers. It also significantly simplifies compliance and promotes 'Ease of Doing Business'," he said in a post on X.

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the Codes will formalise employment, strengthen worker protections, and make the labour ecosystem simpler, safer and globally aligned.

He had been in regular touch with State governments, trade unions and employer bodies for the past three years. The Ministry had said that almost all States had published draft rules for the Codes, and the Centre is handholding those States and Union Territories that were yet to frame the rules.

The reforms include expanded rights and safety for women, including night-shift work, free annual health check-ups for workers aged over 40 years, pan-India ESIC coverage including hazardous process units, and a single registration, licence and return system. Additional systemic reforms include a national floor wage, gender-neutral work policy, inspector-cum-facilitator

Consolidated Codes

An overview of the four Codes notified by the Centre and their scope

- Code on Wages (2019) unifies four labour laws related to wages and bonuses
- Industrial Relations Code (2020) consolidates laws governing trade unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishments, and the settlement of industrial disputes
- Code on Social Security (2020) extends social security benefits to all employees and workers, covering both the organised and unorganised sectors
- Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020) consolidates and modernises 13 existing central labour laws related to workplace safety, health, and working conditions

model for supportive compliance, faster dispute resolution through twomember tribunals, and a National Occupational Safety, Health (OSH) Board to harmonise safety standards.

The reforms are aimed at streamlining contractual workers with the provision of "fixed term employees" which entails all benefits equal to those of permanent workers, including leave, medical, and social security. The Codes have defined gig work, platform work, and aggregators for the first time.

Aadhaar-linked Universal Account Number will make welfare benefits easy to access, fully portable, and available across States, regardless of migration. Plantation workers will be brought under the OSHWC Code and the Social Security Code. The government will now initiate consultations to frame detailed rules and schemes.

'Back to exploitation'

On Thursday, the CTUs met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and urged her not to implement the Codes.

On Friday, 10 unions sent a message that the notification of these codes, amidst deepening unemployment crisis and rising inflation is nothing short of "declaration of war" on the working masses.

"The Union government in cahoots with its capitalist cronies is attempting to take the country back to the exploitative era of master-servant relationship," they said, adding that a series of protests will be launched on November 26 against the Codes. The CTUs had observed a oneday general strike on July 9.

The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), which welcomed the implementation of the Codes, had been asking the government to remove 'anti-worker' provifrom sions Occupational Safety Code and Industrial Relations Code through compulsory consultation with trade unions. The BMS was in support of the Code on Wages (2019) and the Code on Social Security (2020).

CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee hailed the reforms as a "historic milestone" for India's labour landscape. "The implementation of four Labour Codes marks a transformative leap towards a modern and simplified and future ready labour ecosystem," he said.

The Union Government has **notified all four Labour Codes**, bringing major reforms to India's labour regulatory architecture.

The codes replace 29 fragmented labour laws, many dating back to the pre-Independence (1930s) and early post-Independence period.

Objective: Universal social security, formalisation of gig & platform workers, gender pay parity, simplified compliance, and ease of doing business.

2. The Four Labour Codes (Overview)

Code on Wages, 2019

- Consolidates laws on wages, bonus, minimum wages, and equal remuneration.
- Ensures statutory national floor wage and gender pay parity.

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

- Merges laws on trade unions, industrial disputes, and standing orders.
- Aims to streamline hire & fire, retrenchment procedures, and dispute settlement.

Code on Social Security, 2020

- Universalises social security for organised + unorganised workers, gig workers, platform workers, and fixed-term employees.
- Covers EPF, ESI, maternity benefits, workers' compensation, gratuity, etc.

Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

 Consolidates 13 laws on workplace safety, health, working hours, women workers' safety, and migrant workers' rights.

NEW CODES, NEW GUARANTEES

Code on Wages, 2019

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

Code on Social Security, 2020

Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

- Mandatory appointment letters
- Social security for all, including gig & platform workers
- Timely payment of wages
- Health check-up for workers above 40
- Night shifts for women, in all types of work, subject to consent and safety measures
- ESIC coverage for establishments with even one employee engaged in hazardous processes

• LABOUR CODES COME INTO EFFECT: WHAT WILL CHANGE

After a five-year-wait, the Centre has notified the four labour codes on wages, industrial relations, social security & occupational safety health and working conditions, effective November 21. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has detailed the key features below:



	PRE-LABOUR REFORMS	POST-LABOUR REFORMS	
Formalisation of employment	No mandatory appointment letters.	Mandatory appointment letters to all workers to ensure transparency, job security, and formalisation.	
Social Security Coverage	Limited social security coverage	Under the Code on Social Security, gig & platform workers will also get social security coverage	
Minimum wages	Minimum wages only for scheduled industries; large sections of workers not covered	Code on Wages introduced concept of floor wage, provides workers statutory right of minimum wage payment	
Preventive healthcare	No legal requirement for employers to provide free annual health check- ups to workers	Employers must provide all workers with a free annual health check-up	
Timely wages	No compliance for timely payment of wages	Mandatory for employers to provide timely wages. Provides financial stability, cuts work stress and boosts overall morale of the workers	
Women's workforce participation	Female employment in night shifts and certain occupations was restricted	Women to be permitted to work at night and in all types of work across all establishments, subject to the consent and required safety measures	
Compliance burden	Multiple registrations, licences and returns across various labour laws	Single registration, pan-India single licence and single return	

3. Key Provisions & Reforms

√ Universal Social Security

- Aadhaar-linked Universal Account Number (UAN) for portability.
- Coverage extended to gig, platform and migrant workers.

√ Gender Pay Parity

- Mandatory equal remuneration for equal work.
- Night-shift provisions and enhanced safety for women workers.

√ Fixed-Term Employment

- Contractual workers get benefits similar to permanent staff.
- Focus on formalisation & reducing informal labour.

√ Common Registration & Return Filing

A single licensing system, single registration, single return filing.

√ Labour Ecosystem Simplified

Consistent with Ease of Doing Business, reducing compliance burden for MSMEs.

√ Gig & Platform Workers Recognised

· First time legally recognised as a workforce category in India.

Journey of Tejas

FLIGHT PATH

Aug 1983 | Govt approves Light Combat Aircraft project, with initial Rs 560 crore, to replace ageing MiG-21s

Jan 2001 | 1st prototype flies

Dec 2013 | Single-engine Tejas gets Initial Operational Clearance (IOC)

Jan 2015 | IAF gets 1st multirole jet July 2016 | Raises 1st squadron (Flying Daggers) with only 2 jets at Sulur

Feb 2019 | Tejas gets final operational clearance (FOC)

May 2020 | IAF raises 2nd squadron (Flying Bullets)

Nov 2025 | Only 38 jets inducted by IAF till now

Crash site after an IAF Tejas aircraft met with an accident during an aerial display at the Dubai Airshow. The pilot sustained fatal injuries



COST

- ➤ Development of IAF/Navy variants, trainers & failed Kaveri engine | ₹17,269 crore
- ➤ March 2006 contract for 20 Tejas Mark-1 in IOC configuration | ₹2,813 crore

- ➤ Dec 2010 contract for 20 Tejas Mark-1 in FOC configuration | ₹5,989 crore
- ➤ Feb 2021 contract for 83 Tejas Mark-1A | ₹46,898 crore
- ➤ Sept 2025 contract for 97 Tejas Mark-1A | ₹66,500 crore
- > Aug 2022 Cabinet Committee

- on Security (CCS) cleared development of Tejas Mark-2 prototypes | ₹9,000 crore.
- ➤ March 2024 CCS cleared development of fifth-generation AMCA (advanced medium combat aircraft) | ₹15,000 crore.

Trade Union Concerns

Criticism: Codes are "anti-worker" and "pro-employer."

Concerns include:

- Hire-and-fire flexibility in IR Code.
- Weakening of collective bargaining.
- Dilution of workplace protections.

Protests continue; nationwide strikes planned. Promotes Article 14 (equality),
Article 21 (right to livelihood &
safety), Article 23 (prohibition of
exploitation).

Related Directive Principles:

- Art. 38 (social justice),
- Art. 39 (equal pay, humane conditions),
- Art. 41-43A (right to work, social security, participation of workers in management).

• Aligns India with global labour and social security norms under: • ILO standards, SDG-8: Decent Work & Economic Growth, • SDG-10: Reduced Inequalities.

- Consider the following statements about India's Labour Codes:
- The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code consolidates 13 existing labour laws.
- Gig and platform workers are recognised under the Code on Wages.
- Fixed-term employees are entitled to benefits similar to permanent employees.
- Which of the above are correct?
- **A)** 1 and 3 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- **C)** 1 and 2 only
- **D)** 1, 2 and 3

US ultimatum to Ukraine: Accept peace deal by Nov 27 or we will cut intel, arms

Have to choose between dignity and major partner: Zelenskyy to citizens

Tom Balmforth & Olena Harmash

Kyiv, Washington, Nov 21

THE UNITED States has threatened to cut intelligence sharing and weapons supplies for Ukraine to press it into agreeing to the framework of a U.S.brokered peace deal, two people familiar with the matter said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Kyiv was under greater pressure from Washington than during any previous peace discussions, and that the U.S. wanted Ukraine to sign a framework of the deal by next Thursday. "They want to stop the war and want Ukraine to pay the price," one of the sources said.

Zelenskyy appealed to Ukrainians for unity on Friday and vowed he would never betray Ukraine, in a solemn address to the nation after the United States presented Kyiv with a plan that endorses key Russian demands.

Speaking in the street outside his office, Zelenskyy said Ukraine was trying to preserve its freedom while retaining the support of its most important ally. "Now, the pressure on Ukraine is one of the heaviest. Now, Ukraine can face a very difficult choice — either losing dignity or risk losing a major partner," he said. "I will fight 24/7 to ensure that at least two points in the plan are not overlooked – the dignity and freedom of Ukrainians," he said.

Washington has presented Kyiv with a 28-point peace plan, which calls for Ukraine to cede territory, accept limits to its military and renounce ambitions to join NATO.

US President Donald Trump in a radio interview on Friday said that he wants an answer from Zelenskyy on his 28-point



People stand at a memorial for the victims of a Russian attack in Ternopil, Ukraine, on Friday. REUTERS

plan by Thursday, but says an extension is possible to finalize terms. "I've had a lot of deadlines, but if things are working well, you tend to extend the deadlines," Trump said in an interview on Fox News Radio. "But Thursday is it — we think an appropriate time."

Zelenskyy held a phone call on Friday with the leaders of allies Britain, Germany and France, and later spoke to U.S. Vice President JD Vance. In earlier remarks he appeared careful not to reject the U.S. plan or to offend the Americans. "We value the efforts of the United States. President Trump, and his team aimed at ending this war... This must be a plan that ensures a real and dignified peace," he said.

European countries see their own futures at stake in Ukraine's fight against the Russian invasion and have insisted on being consulted in peace efforts.



Plan focuses on Russia-NATO ties

The plan focuses heavily on NATO-Russiaties, with expectations that Russia will not invade its neighbours and NATO will not expand further. US-brokered talks will address all security concerns and create future economic opportunity. NATO will never accept Ukraine and nor will it station troops there. The US will also receive 50% profits from investments for a reconstruction venture in Ukraine. using frozen Russian assets.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said: "Russia has no legal right whatsoever to any concessions from the country it invaded. Ultimately, the terms of any agreement are for Ukraine to decide." REUTERS & AP

- The United States has warned Ukraine to accept a U.S.-brokered 28-point peace plan by 27
 November 2025.
- If Ukraine refuses, the U.S. may cut intelligence support, weapons supplies, and funding.

2. Key Elements of the U.S. Peace Plan

Component	Details
Territory	Ukraine must cede certain areas currently occupied by Russia.
Military limits	Ukraine must limit its military capacity and expansion.
NATO ambitions	Ukraine must renounce NATO membership aspirations.
Security guarantees	U.S. will ensure Russia does not expand further west.
Economic reconstruction	U.S. will use frozen Russian assets to fund 50% of Ukraine's reconstruction.

3. Ukrainian Response

- Zelenskyy warns Ukrainians about a choice between "dignity and a major partner".
- Says Ukraine will not surrender its sovereignty and freedom.
- Acknowledges heavy pressure from the U.S. and allies.
- Open to negotiations but rejects unfair demands.

4. U.S. Position

- Washington presented Kyiv with the 28-point proposal.
- U.S. says ongoing support depends on progress toward the peace deal.
- Trump indicated a possible deadline extension, but insists on a resolution.

5. European Reaction

- European allies (UK, Germany, France) oppose pressuring Ukraine.
- EU foreign policy chief: "Russia has no right to impose terms after invasion."
- Europe demands Ukraine must be a full participant in shaping peace terms.

Geopolitical Impact

- Signals a shift in U.S. support.
- Major test of U.S. global credibility—especially in security guarantees.
- Sets precedent for peace settlements in asymmetric wars.

Implications for NATO

- Could weaken NATO's stance on expansion.
- May embolden Russia in Eastern Europe.

Impact on Global South

- India & others watch closely for:
 - Rules on sovereignty
 - Use of frozen assets
 - Power politics in international conflict resolution



- Consider the following statements regarding the recent U.S. ultimatum to Ukraine:
- The 28-point U.S. peace plan calls for Ukraine to cede certain territories and restrict its future military capabilities.
- The plan requires Ukraine to formally renounce its ambition to join NATO.
- Under the proposed deal, the U.S. and NATO will guarantee that Russian troops will permanently withdraw from all occupied Ukrainian territories.
- The U.S. has warned that refusal to accept the plan may result in reduced intelligence and military assistance to Ukraine.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

TABLE 1

India's top agricultural export items

	2024-25*	Apr-Sep 2024*	Apr-Sep 2025*	Growth in %
Marine Products	7405	3385.82	3974.94	17.4
Non-Basmati Rice	6527.98	2251.3	2871.05	27.53
Basmati Rice	5944.49	2869.88	2763.46	-3.71
Spices	4451.97	2091.02	2146.89	2.67
Buffalo Meat	4060.54	1806.15	2187.08	21.09
Coffee	1805.57	932.47	1048.75	12.47
Fruits & Vegetables	2068.93	848.8	948.9	11.79
Tobacco	1979.01	986.12	993.96	0.8
Processed F&V	1805.83	852.82	918.4	7.69
Oilmeals	1346.8	698.66	585.39	-16.21
Oilseeds	1343.98	628	632.2	0.67
Castor Oil	1152.37	622.09	612.29	-1.58
TOTAL	51951.15	23768.61	25867.48	8.83

TABLE 2

India's top agricultural import items

	2024-25*	Apr-Sep 2024*	Apr-Sep 2025*	Growth in %
Vegetable Oils	17366.26	8806.46	9991.77	13.46
Pulses	5477.28	2187.21	1031.87	-52.82
Fresh Fruits	3043.7	1299.58	1549.15	19.2
Cashew	1669.43	937.13	1590.5	69.72
Spices	1625.42	761.24	725.59	-4.68
Raw cotton	1219.32	477.38	676.71	41.75
Alcoholic Beverages	1115.36	511.42	563.52	10.19
Natural Rubber	1069.05	592.71	542.09	-8.54
TOTAL	38,542.23	18,444.42	19,528.88	5.88

A rupee fall

Rupee vs dollar (Inverted scale) 89.41 Close: Nov 21 101.83 Nov 21, 2025 88.71 Previous close





Miss Universe 2025

Topic Details

Event Fatima Bosch from Mexico wins Miss Universe 2025

Edition 74th Miss Universe Pageant

Host Country Thailand

Significance Mexico wins the crown after 5 years

Contestants Over 100 contestants participated

Winner's Profile Fatima Bosch – 25-year-old fashion & apparel designer from

Villahermosa, Tabasco (Mexico)

Personal Challenges

Dyslexia, ADHD, Hyperactivity — used her journey for advocacy &

empowerment

Professional Background Studied fashion design across Mexico, Italy & USA

Key Themes of Her Campaign

Authenticity, women empowerment, inclusion, mental health

awareness

- Miss Universe began in **1952** (USA) - Mexico has won before in

1991, 2010, 2020

Geographical Angle

Mexico: - Part of **North America** - Known for rich cultural heritage, indigenous traditions, tourism

Economic Angle

Global pageants contribute to soft power, cultural diplomacy & tourism economy

International Relations Angle

Thailand hosting reinforces its aim to be a **global** events hub

Social Angle

Highlights issues of **neurodiversity**, women empowerment & equal representation

Cultural Significance

Pageant platforms used for awareness on mental health & social upliftment

Tiger Returns to Gujarat

Topic Details

Event Tiger officially spotted in Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Gujarat

Last confirmed sighting 1989 → Tigers declared **extinct** in Gujarat

Significance First confirmed tiger presence in 35 years

Other big cats in Gujarat Lions (Asiatic), Tigers, Leopards

Parallel initiative Project Cheetah – Breeding & Conservation Centre

Location

Other Name

Established

Terrain

Major Flora

Important Trees

Fauna

Hydrology

Dahod district, Gujarat; borders Jhabua & Kathiwada

(Madhya Pradesh)

Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary

1982

Foothills of Ratanmahal; part of tribal belt

• Dry teak forests • Mixed deciduous forest • Dry

bamboo thickets

Mahua and Jamun → essential food sources for Sloth

Bears

Major habitat for **Sloth Bear (max population in**

Gujarat); hosts many **leopards**

Forms **catchment of River Panam** → key for irrigation

& watershed in Dahod

Category

Historical Note

Reason for Return

Geographical Relevance

Ecological Importance

Project Cheetah Link

Conservation Challenges

Added Insights (Good for Mains & Prelims)

Gujarat historically had **tiger populations in Panchmahal & Dahod region**, but habitat loss & hunting led to local extinction by late 1980s.

Likely **natural migration** from MP's **Ratapani**, **Jhabua**, and **Baria forest ranges**.

Ratanmahal lies within the **Vindhyan landscape**, a known tiger movement corridor between **MP**– **Gujarat**.

Sanctuary supports tribal livelihoods; Mahua collection is economically vital.

Gujarat strengthening wildlife profile with **lion** conservation success + cheetah centre + now tiger return.

Tiger presence requires conflict mitigation in tribal villages; better prey base; anti-poaching measures.

Point Data

State with only wild Asiatic Lions Gujarat (Gir Forest)

Tiger population in India (2022) 3,167

Largest tiger population states MP > Karnataka > Uttarakhand

Last State where tigers went extinct Gujarat (1989)

Ratanmahal WLS famous for Sloth Bears



- It is located in the Dahod district of Gujarat and borders Madhya Pradesh.
- It is primarily known for housing the largest population of Sloth Bears in Gujarat.
- It was notified as a wildlife sanctuary after the year 2000.

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Class24

Word of the day

Excoriate:

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

Synonyms: condemn, decry, objurgate, reprobate, chafe

Usage: His latest article received excoriating reviews.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/excoriatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪkˈskɔɹ.iˌeɪt/, /ɪkˈskoʊɹ.iˌeɪt/

