Daily Current Affairs



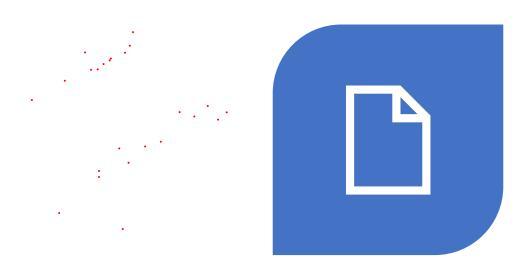








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10 MCQ QUIZ

"Keep Going

Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep going. Tough situations build strong people in the end."

Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart



POLITICAL BATTLES SC cautions ED against being 'used' NEWS II PAGE 4





2000 TRAIN BLASTS Bombay HC acquits all 12 convicted persons

Boys continue to outnumber girls in private schools Enrolments have grown but gender gap persists



#### **ENDEREDE**



#### Mamata rallies against Centre's Timentatic terror

KOLEATS.

West Bengel Chief Mirester Mamata Banerjee announced the launch of a "language ement' in postest against the 'attack' on Bengali language, or PAGE 1.

#### Policeman who was tortured to get ₹50 lakh

NEW DELLER

the J&K government to pay whursheed Ahmad Chohan 150 takh for the "life-debilitating injuries he suffered" while in police custody a rang a

#### Parliament starts process for judge impeachment

NEW DELIN

Yashwani Yarma from uffice was set in motion on Monday. submitting notices to the presiding officers, a PAGE 6

## Dhankhar submits his resignation to President

The 14th Vice-President of India leaves office with two years left in his term; decision comes on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament; stepping down to abide by medical advice, he says

Vice-President Jag-deep Dhunkhur, 74, post citing health reasons at Monale, "To prioritise health care and abtde by medical advice, I hereby resign as the Vice President of India, affective immediately, in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constitution, the resignation letter addrawed to President Brow-padi Murmu, which was posted on the Vice-Presi-dent's official X account. said. He had called on Pre-sident. Murmu in the

Mr. Ohankhar had suf-ferred a cardiac event in force of cardiac event in recovered and had been participating in his enjage-nositis since. The rest of "deep grafitude" to Prime "deep grafitude" to Prime Minister Nacendra Modi-and the Council of Mini-vaerinth, rost and affec-tion" that he had received from MPs.

Mr. Dhankhar was elect-



ent Juggleep Dhankhur greets the mornhers of the flages fields on Munday, au-

dent in August 2022, and has two years left for his term to complete. Presi-dent Murmu has not indi-cated whether she had ac-cepted the resignation.

The move has come as a surprise to many leaders, as Mr. Dhankhar had preremoval of High Court judge Justice Yashwam Var-ma. He did not return for sided over Rajya Sabha proceedings on the first the post-funch Session but spoke to MPs and floor inadors till evening.
Several MPs that The
Hinds spoke to said be did
not give any indication of
quitting. He size presided
over the Business Advisory
Committee meeting of the
Upper Hunes at 12.30 p.m.
sources said that he was

unlikely to attend the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. Mr. Dhankhar, who had been Governor of West Beergal before being elect-ed V-P, had an eventful te-nure, especially in terms of his public speeches and his role as presiding officer of the Rays subba. In December 2024, De-

In December 2024, De-puty Chaltrperson of the Rays Sabha Hartvansh Na-rayen Singh dlamiased a motion of Impeachment against Mr. Dhankhar muved by the Opposition, calling it "a move to demi-grate the dignity of a con-stitutional authority", re-flecting the somewhat saky relationship between

the Opposition and himself.
Sonior Congress leader and party's chief whip in the Upper House, Jairan Bamesh said Mr. Bhankhar's resignation was "in explicable" and "shocking

#### chess World Cup: venue to be decided

## India to host

Monday confirmed that to dia would be hosting the chess World Cup later this cheas World Gup later this-pear, but the wenne has not yet been declared, "We are considering a few cities and will soon about the and considering a few cities and will soon accre-tary. Dev Patel, told The Hindu. The World Gup will be held from October 30 to November 27, with 206 power we were the kinder of the knocks our tearments.

#### VS, communist icon and ex-Kerala CM, passes away

personal and political straiggles. He lost his pa-

The Hindu Bureau

The former Kerala Chief The former Kerala Chief Minister VS. Achutthanan-dan passed away in a principle of the passed away in a principle hospital in Thirtuvanian-thapuram on Monday. He was 101. The end came at 3.20 p.m. December attributed the cases of death to a massive careliae arrest. Mr. Achutthannakan hari with drawn from public life af ter a minor stroke in 2019. He had since led an assist-ed life at the residence of his sen, V.A. Arun Kumar, In Thiruvananthapuram.

The veteran communist and freedom fighter had

rems early, his mother to smallpox, and was minated into the freedom movebeen an iron-jawed toon of the communist mercement in trovals and a transcriper it in Rorals and a towering, if not herry, presence in State politics for decades. As a crusacting Louder of the Opposition in the Assemb-ly, Mr. Achuhanandan was a standard-hearer for un-derdags and uprid public causes, including environ-mental protection, reader

es, transgender rights, and free software. He began his political odyssey at the age of 16 by joining the popular opposi-tion against the fiscial lan-diords and colonial rule in Alappustia. He cut his teeth as an activist and ag-tator by organising inden-tured agriculture labourers In 1964, Mr. Achethanan-dan left the national coun-cil of the undivided Comand Aspinwall factory workers in Kuttanad. Mr. Ashuthanandan was

cil of the undivided Com-munist Barty of India to become one of the found-ing members of the breaks.

India (Marsish), Luter, dur-ing the Kinespency, the go-vertiment jailed him.

M. Achubanded Life, M. M. Achubanded Life, M. M. Achubanded and the control of the control of the con-trol of th Mr. Admilianamanan was servively involved in the mil-ianat Left agitation against the colonial government in the colonial government in the solution of the colonial government in the storied and trage: Paningra-Nayalar yurshing. He swent underground but was arrested and rortured in pulies custody. He later re-beat him and pierced the sole of his frost with a rifle bayones, the said the police left him for dead, and he would have sended in all the police.

One of CPI(M) founders

Opposition, Mr. Acharha-nandari defied the party's diktot. He called on the wife of slain CPI(M) dissiamonymous grave if not for a fellow prisoner who spot ted signs of life. Born into a family of agricultural workers in dent and Revolutionary Markist Party leader T.P. Chandrasekharan, K.K. Re-Funnapra, Alappusha, in 1923, Mr. Achuthanandan ma. The Congress used the visit to assall CPRO, which it blamed for the killing. Mr. Adhathanandan was daily deprivations of po-verty alongside distressing

who rurely retroited from ideological moorings. However, his critics have blamed him for allegedly being out of tune with the harsh realities of neoliber-

into the freedom move-ment as fo by the pioneering communist leader 1. Strahna Pilla, He would just the control of the control of the political purpose and di-rection in life.

Mr. Achauthanandan of-tem juleat that he would im-pond until the only let of clothes he owned dried on the steps. The temple prices fied him fettivers of remitted as a sallor. harab realities of seculber-alism, accusing party col-leagues of right-wing devia-tion and "alterting factionalism". Mr. Achustunandan's speech was stititustive, characterised by a risuite drawl, terialling with bitting sercasm and hard-hitting burnour. He was a mignet for crowde and a staple of for crowds and a staple of \_\_\_ premitered as a tadlor.

V.S. ACHETHANANDAN GREE-2028)

tist Pirappancode Murali, a former M.A. sought to place Mr. Achuthanandan in a Left-bustorical context "Mr. Achutharundan is the last of the communists who was active in politics

Candid about faith
As a rationalist and athelia,
Mr. Achierhamandan had a
candid take on faith. When
ing the 2006-2011 period, a
school mindent playfully
quarted Mr. Achierhamandan about his favourits
Hindi god. "Like all of un, the tales of gods absorb me. But, like everybody slae, I wonder whether

plied.

Mr. Achusthanandan's wife, R. Vanamathy, and their chauginer, V.V. Asha, don, Mr. Arun Kumar, and grandchildren survive him.

## Sky is calling



### Exclusion from rolls under SIR won't affect

Krishnadas Rajagopat

The Election Commission The Election Commission (EC) assured the Supreme Court on Monday that a person would not come to be a citizen merely on behe a cilizen merely on be-ing found ineligible for re-gistration on the electoral rolls under the special in-tensive revision (SIR), un-der way in poll-bound blue.

filling.
The electoral body was responding to allegations raised by petitioners that CM ASSESSED.

### citizenship, EC tells SC

screening" and would lead to mass disenfranchise-

ment.

"The guidelines issued for SIR are countrictions and in the interest of males toming the purity of electronic testing the purity of electronic that determination of non-eligibility under Article 328 will not lead to cancellation of cities the country of the state of the

## People of T.N. favour only single party rule, says EPS

half of the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parlia-ment on Monday, which in-

cluded an important inter-

and repeated ameritors y Bharattya Janata Party (BUP) strategist and Union Home Minister Amit Shah that his party and the All India Anna Dravida Munindia Anna Dravida Mun-netra Kashagam, consti-uents of the National De-paration of the National Op-ment in Tarul Nedu after the 2021 Assembly elec-tion, AIADMK goneral se-cretary McJappadi K. Pala-cretary McJappadi K. Pala-the people of Taruli Nadu expected only a "single-purry rule" in the State. At the same time, he in

sisted that attempts to break the alliance of the two parties would not materialise.

In an interview with The Hindu in Tiruvarus, Mr. Palaniswami, who is on a Sta-towide tour as part of his "Makkalai Kappom, Tha-mishagathai Meetpom mishagathai Meetpom (Will save people, retrieve Tamil Nadu)\* campaign, said the next government would be fremed in line with the people's senti-

with the people's assu-ment.

The people of Tamil Na-du favoured a single-party rule. "We also with for the same. The AIADMK will certainly form the next go-vernment on its own with

'Sinister campaign 'Seniorer campation'
Asked about his recent remarks that "ALADMK men
ire not foods" in light of the
demand for a coalition government, he said the
statement was aimed at

an abachite majority and failill the people's expecta-tions," he said.

Mr. Palanievami down-played the BBP's pre-poll assertion about forming a coalition government, said-ing that such claims were merely mean! "In online

"scotching the well-planned, sinister care-paignt" by the ruling DMK alliance. While contending that the AIADMK has not held

any talks so far with actor Vijay's fledgling party, Ta-mizhaga Vettri Kazhagam, he said his appeal to all like-minded parties to join hands with the AIADMK to hands with the AIADME to defeat the DMK applied for the actor politician tos The same was applicable. The actor politician tos Kaichi, a recognised State political party headed by Tamil nationalist Sceman. "There are eight more months for the slection, A clear picture will energy at

aid.
The Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly accused Chief Minister M.E. Stalin of not under standing the sufferings of the people. Mr. Stalin, he said, was projecting him-self as the best "due to arrogance of power", He said, "The people themselves will unseat him

themselves will urneat him [Stalio] from the pass," A little would come when some officers will be sub-jected to questioning it and Mr. Palaniawann's assem-ment, there has been an overwhelming response from the people to his madelness.

# Dhankhar submits his resignation to President

The 14th Vice-President of India leaves office with two years left in his term; decision comes on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament; stepping down to abide by medical advice, he says

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

ice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, 74, resigned from his post citing health reasons on Monday.

"To prioritise health care and abide by medical advice, I hereby resign as the Vice President of India, effective immediately, in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constitution," the resignation letter addressed to President Droupadi Murmu, which was posted on the Vice-President's official X account, said. He had called on President Murmu in the evening.

Mr. Dhankhar had suffered a cardiac event in March but was said to have recovered and had been participating in his engagements since. The rest of the letter expressed his "deep gratitude" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Council of Ministers as well as the "warmth, trust and affection" that he had received from MPs.

Mr. Dhankhar was elected India's 14th Vice-Presi-



Final session: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar greets the members of the Rajya Sabha on Monday. ANI

dent in August 2022, and has two years left for his term to complete. President Murmu has not indicated whether she had accepted the resignation.

The move has come as a surprise to many leaders, as Mr. Dhankhar had presided over Rajya Sabha proceedings on the first half of the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday, which included an important intervention in the Opposition-led motion for removal of High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma. He did not return for the post-lunch Session but spoke to MPs and floor

leaders till evening.

Several MPs that *The Hindu* spoke to said he did not give any indication of quitting. He also presided over the Business Advisory Committee meeting of the Upper House at 12.30 p.m. Sources said that he was unlikely to attend the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Mr. Dhankhar, who had been Governor of West Bengal before being elected V-P, had an eventful tenure, especially in terms of his public speeches and his role as presiding officer of the Raiya Sabha.

In December 2024, Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh dismissed a motion of impeachment against Mr. Dhankhar moved by the Opposition, calling it "a move to denigrate the dignity of a constitutional authority", reflecting the somewhat testy relationship between the Opposition and himself.

Senior Congress leader and party's chief whip in the Upper House, Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Dhankhar's resignation was "inexplicable" and "shocking.

- Jagdeep Dhankhar, the 14th Vice-President of India, resigned from his post on health grounds.
- He submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament (2025).

## 2. Constitutional Provisions

• Resignation made under Article 67(a) of the Indian Constitution:

The Vice-President may resign by writing addressed to the President.

## 3. Background

- Elected in August 2022, Mr. Dhankhar had two years left in his term.
- He had recently recovered from a cardiac event in March 2025, but was active in his duties until the day of resignation.

## 4. Immediate Reactions and Developments

- Surprise move: Many MPs and leaders were unaware of his intention to resign.
- Presided over Business Advisory Committee earlier the same day.
- President Murmu has not yet accepted the resignation formally.

## 5. Political and Institutional Relevance

- Mr. Dhankhar was Governor of West Bengal prior to becoming Vice-President.
- Known for:
  - Outspoken speeches,
  - Assertive role as Chairman of Rajya Sabha,
  - Active interventions in parliamentary procedures.

Aspect	Details 🗇		
<b>Constitutional Provision</b>	Article 63 to 73 of the Indian Constitution		
Office Established	In 1950, with the adoption of the Constitution		
First Vice President	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1952–1962)		
Current Vice President	Jagdeep Dhankhar (since August 11, 2022)		
Election Method	Elected by Electoral College consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament (elected + nominated)		
Election Process	Proportional Representation by single transferable vote via secret ballot		
Eligibility Criteria	<ul><li>Indian citizen</li><li>Minimum age 35 years</li><li>Qualified to be a Rajya Sabha member</li></ul>		

Term of Office	5 years (eligible for re-election)		
Oath of Office	Administered by the <b>President of India</b>		
Resignation	Submits resignation to the <b>President</b>		
Removal	Can be removed by <b>resolution of Rajya Sabha</b> passed by majority and agree by Lok Sabha		
Ex-officio Role	Chairman of Rajya Sabha (Upper House)		
When President is Absent	Acts as <b>President</b> in case of President's <b>death, resignation, removal or absence</b>		
Salary	Receives Chairman of Rajya Sabha's salary		
Power & Functions	<ul><li>- Presides over Rajya Sabha</li><li>- Decides on disqualification under anti-defection</li><li>- Acts as President when needed</li></ul>		

Difference from President	<ul><li>- Elected only by MPs, not MLAs</li><li>- Mainly a legislative role as RS Chairman</li></ul>
Key Fact for UPSC	Only office that functions in both executive & legislative capacities

## Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Vice-President of India:

- 1. The Vice-President may resign from office by addressing a letter to the President under Article 67(a).
- 2. The Vice-President is not allowed to preside over any proceedings of the Rajya Sabha if an impeachment motion is pending against him.
- 3. Jagdeep Dhankhar served as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh before becoming Vice-President.
- 4. The Vice-President is elected for a term of five years but can resign before completing the term.

## Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 4 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1, 2 and 4 only
- D) 1, 3 and 4 only

#### CAG report flags lapses amounting to ₹573 cr. in Railways

#### Mattet Porecha

for-General of India (CAG) Ragged lapses worth 1573 crore in the Railways as detailed in the 'Union Gorabled in Lok Sabba on Monday.

The report contains 28 audit observations includ-

sudit observations includ-ing shortfalls in revenue re-covery, and execution of recovery, and execution of some. The intrances men-tioned in this report came to relate to the course of financial year 2023-23.

One of the most experi-wax the Northern Rail-way's moncompliance with fallway found direc-st the rate of 65 of land va-lue from five government-thal treasure of license

thert recovery of license fee of \$148.6t crore.

Another coatly shortfall involved nine railway zones being unable to re-cover \$85.51 core during the period from January

mining related operations. Contribution towards DMP is supposed to be deducted with royalty, in case the

The report notes that non-realisation of shunting non-realisation of shurring charges for shurring activity by using railway engines to the control of the control of the real Ballway resulted in non-realisation of \$50.77 crore from the siding own-land of \$20.70 crockes resided in ineffec-tive and deficient asserts at a cost of \$25.70 crore as the focility time even after three geners of manufacturing.

years of manufacturing, the report said. Non-implementation of

the revised rate of electric-try charges of various State Electricity Boards (SEBo) for recovery from the occu-by Additional Sollicitor nor recovery from the occu-pants of railway quarters in Dhathari Division of Itani Contral Railway resulted in short recovery of R4.89 crore, the report said.

#### SC cautions ED against being used to fight political battles

Bench dismisses appeal against a HC decision to set aside charges against the Karnataka Chief Minister's wife in MUDA case: HC had raised doubts about the ED's haste in initiating proceedings

be Supreme Court on Monday cau-tioned the Enforce-Directorate (RD) about being "used" to fight "political bardes" even as it liamissed appeals filed by the Central agency against a karmanda right Court de-clation to set adde money of the court of the Central agency again

Onot try to use the political battles. Do not percolar this virus across the country. Lerpolitical bardes be fought before the electorate... Why are you [ED] being used...? JUSTICE B.B. GAVAL observations from the The CH Bench also re-

The GF Bench also re-fused to entertain an ap-pead filed by the State of Karnotaka against a High Cautr order quantity. MY Tejan's Surya on allega-tions that he spread "Fake news" on the suicide of a news" on the suicide of a "Please de not politicise the matter. What is that" the CH subset. Court as a platform for pol-tical battles. Fight no-mewhere sies, "the ST had safewent in that case.

observations from the COURT.

"Flower mouths for this case, we have been saying since morning to not use the superime COURT as the saying since morning to not use the superime COURT as a visit, we will have to make harsh comments against the EEV Chief Institute Graval had warned an NGD against using the court to fight peditical bat contents to fight peditical bat COURT and Applications of the tion. The NGS had moved a contempt—case—against Wast Bengal Chief Minister Marmata Banerjoe for her alleged remarks on the top court's judgment in the teacher recruitment scam-sant.

there was no clear evi-dence of 'laundering' of 'proceeds of crime'. They had contended that Ms. Purvathi had surrendered 14 rites allocated to her and she was neither in posses sion of nor enjoying any 'so-called proceeds of Doubts on ED's action

ac on the alloged diagabites in allotment of hundreds of sites by MUDA to various individuals, including coal estate businessmen, agents, officials, and va-rious influential individuals. The court, however, agreed to Mr. Baju's request to record that its or-

der would not be used a

#### ED crossing all limits. says SC on issue of summons to lawvers

#### Krishmadas Bajagopal

Cavas on Monday observed the Directorate of Enforce-ment (ED) "is crossing all limits" even as Solicitor General Tushur Mehts orged the Supreme Court to not make any "general-teed" observations that may fuel a concerted ef-fort, already under way, to build a narrative against

build a narrative against the Central agency. The hearing was on a sur motor case registered with motor case registered with the control of the RT against two entire devocates, Arvind Datas and professional advices they had given a client. Attorney-Central B. Verslatassatumi took a mil-need agreed of the fact the professional advices they had given a client.

been apprised of the fact that "what they had done that "what they had done is certainly wrong". He said the aummons had been later withdrawn. "Your officers are crossing all limits," Chief Justice Gaval addressed Mr. Verkataramunt. Mr. Mehta intervened to

A narrative is built the SC takes up a

case, there was a danger that such observations against the RD as an institu-tion. 'But we have found the ED overstanding for

the ED overstepping in ma-ny cases," the Cil respond-ed to Mr. Mehria.

In many cases, the nar-rative-building start even-before the Supreme Court hears the matter. This is done deliberately: the Sol-icitor-General argue.

The Cil Indicated the court was also aware of the

court was also aware of the ground realities in ED cases with political overtunes. "There are cases in which after the High Court has peal," Chief Justice Gavas pointed out.

The court has set the

#### Exclusion from rolls under special intensive revision won't affect citizenship, EC tells SC

Krishnadas Raingopal

(BC) assured the Supreme Court on Monday that a person would not cease to be a citizen merely on being found ineligible for re-gistration on the electoral rolls under the special in-tensive revision (SIR), un der way in poll-bound Biline. The electoral body was

rue decental issay was responding to allegations raised by petitioners that SIR was "citizenship screening" and would lead to mass disenfranchise

page affidavit that it was vested under the law and constitution with power to request proof of citizen-ship for "enabling the constitutional right to vote".
"The guidelines issued

for SIR are constitutional and in the interest of mainrail rolls... However, it is ral rolls... However, it is rai rolls were published in nai roll. relierated that determina. Bihar on January 7, 2028 af "This claims period is tion of non-eligibility of tera special summary revisitional for another pe



EC says electors with names featured in Bihar's electoral rolls in 2009 have to file civily the pentially pro-filled enumeration form, attorns

The BG made it clear that vaters who were already part of the existing efectoral rolls of Bihar would feature on the draft roll to be published on August 1, provided their enumeration forms, with or without documents. The existing electoral rolls were published in

anyone under Article 228 issuin. "In substance, such leads to cancellation of city special control of the contr the enumeration form," the affidavit stated.

Claims period The electors who were un-able to submit their enum-eration forms with documents in time for the draft roll had snother opportun-ity to be included on the fi-nal roll.

riod of 31 days after publi-cation of the draft roll," the

tration Officers (EROs) shall accuttoise the enum-eration forms and docuseation forms and deci-ments furnished after pur-blication of the draft rolls. If the ERO has any doubt if the ERO has any doubt the experiment of the experiment and the experiment of the

"Even after the publica-tion of the final roll, new electors can be enrolled up to the last date of nominato the fast date of nomina-tions of the forthcoming bi-har elections... Any appre-heision of large disenfranchisement is mis-leading and non-existent," Further, the EC said electors whose names at ready feature in the electoral rolls of Bihar in 2003

the MUDA case had come in Murch after Ms. Parvetti and the State Minister chal-

when the last intensive re-vision was held, were ex-empted from furnishing documents to prove their eligibility. "They are only required to file die partial-ly pre-filled enumeration form along with the extrac of the 2003 roll," the affida Though the Supreme Court had asked the EC to consider including And-consider including And-court of the Court of the purpose of side of the court of side of the court o

cards\*, making the docu-ment untrustworthy.

#### listing of plea seeking FIR in judge case

The Chief Justice of India The Chief function of India B.B. Gove on Mouslay asked a putitioner seeking an urgent bearing of a piece to register a first inframement of the property of the property of burnt cash from the registerial presents of a confidential presents of a confidential presents of a confidential presents of a confidential presents of the registerial properties of the particular than the wanted the petition of the wanted the petition of the dismission of the petition filed by the petition filed by the petition, the third in a series, the lawyer criticised the Centre for not increased the Centre for not

into the allegations.

An in-house inquiry committee had submitted

a confidential report on the alleged incident in ear-ly May, affirming the pre-sence of each and recom-

The then CH, fuetice Sanjiv Khanna, had forwarded the report to the President and the Prime Minister to commence the processes of a removal motion in Parent, Justice Varma has

lament, Justice Varran has timsed approached the supreme Court, question-ing the legality of the in-termediate of the court of the Mr. Neddunpara's plea has coincided with tools parker Varran approaching the apps court and the seedon of Parliament. In his first petition, the court had asked Mr. Ne-dumpara tools for the in-"After the panel submit-ed lis require, the PHI was registered. The publishers too and was asked by the

tion and was asked by the too and was asked by the court to approach the Pre-sident and the Prime Mi-nister. To the petitioner's knowledge, no FIR has been registered till date," Mr. Nedumpara submitted.

## SC non-committal on | Al flight veers Mumbai amid

#### The Hindu Hursau Sew 1983.00

bat airport, an Air India air-craft veered off the runway while making a landing on Monday merning.

The Airbon A320 aircraft is now grounded, Air India said. The primary runway at the airport was shut, and an alternative runway was

procured and mud on a section of the sirccaft's wing and the

made a landing at 9.27 a.m. on Monday morning. The aircraft taxted safely to the gate, where passengers and crew were able to dis-embark, Air India's state

pur overshot the main run-way on landing at Mumbal airport. It took nearly two

the very guides officer with the very guides officer with the very guides officer with the the purphy. Superintens to report to the office of the Steiner Superintensions as the control with a nancolici is sue. When Chohan to part the pulse of the Steiner Superintensions as national ways to the control with a nancolici is sue. When the chapter of the case to the control with a nancolici is sue. When the the pulse of the Steiner Superintension of a crimin reached this office, he was taken to the hospital in a common condition, the case, granted him at the control was taken to the hospital in a common condition.

#### EC shares list of voters who didn't submit |₹50 lakh relief to J&K police forms or 'not found' with Bihar parties

undertaken a special inten-sive revision (SDO of electoday said that political parties in the State had been provided with de-tailed lists of 29,62 lakh

nearly 43.93 lash electors who were not found at their addresses. Chief Blectoral Officers (CKO), Electoral Registra-tion Officers (BEO) and Booth-level Officers (BLO) have held meetings with the representatives of all 12 major political parties, and the parties have also been reassented to comment with requested to connect with those remaining electors, through their district presi-



dents and nearly 1.5 lakh total electors, the forms

intrie sluction machinery, including the policies particle an include places; include a multiple places; include a multiple places; indicate multipl

total electors, the forms that been received from 90.67% voters, 8.86% have not been found at their addresson 2.1% are probably deceased, 0.95% are rolled at multiple places; 2.2% have been finand to have probably permanent; by shifted, and 0.00% are not traceable, the poll hedy and in a satienteed.

State in the country to achieve the target of one polling station for 1,260 electors or less and 12,817 new polling stations have been added to prevent

long queues.
As per the Bihar SIR order dared have 24, the ear lier ceiling of 1,500 elec-tors per polling station had been revised to 1,200. After adding 12,817 new sta-tions, the total number of pulling statums in the State will go up from 77,898 to

will go up from 77,198 to 90,712.
This major achievement in Bihar is to be followed in other States and Union Ter-ritorius, the Election Com-mission said.

The Supreme Court, in a judgment on Monday, directed the Central Bureau. of investigation (CBD to take over the probe into the custodial toristre of a Jammu and Kashmir Police FD 2

annum and Kashuir Police constable, who suffered genital multilation at the hands of his colleagues. A Brench of Justices Vis-tum hath and Sandeep and Kashuir government to pay Elmziseed Alumad Clushan a comprehension of 500 laik for the "life-debit-isating injuries he suffered while in the santony of his control appear to conduct.

Central agency to conduct the investigation and arrest the perpetrators. The alleged incident



constable tortured in custody

pealed to the senior police officers to register a case; however they had turned a deaf ear, she stated. registered against ber husband. huiband.

Her appeal to the State

Figh Court gave the case to
the very police officer who
had issued the signal to Mr.

# CAG report flags lapses amounting to ₹573 cr. in Railways

#### Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) flagged lapses worth ₹573 crore in the Railways as detailed in the 'Union Government (Railways) - Compliance Audit Report' tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday.

The report contains 25 audit observations including shortfalls in revenue recovery, and execution of projects across multiple zones. The instances mentioned in this report came to notice in the course of test audit conducted up to financial year 2022-23.

One of the most expensive lapses for Railways was the Northern Railway's non-compliance with Railway Board directives to recover licence fee at the rate of 6% of land value from five government-aided schools, which led to short recovery of licence fee of ₹148.61 crore.

Another costly shortfall involved nine railway zones being unable to recover ₹55.51 crore during the period from January 2015 to March 2024 towards District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations. Contribution towards DMF is supposed to be deducted from contractors along with royalty, in case the same is not paid by the contractor.

The report notes that non-realisation of shunting charges for shunting activity by using railway engines at Bina Siding of East Central Railway resulted in non-realisation of ₹50.77 crore from the siding owner between April 2020 and March 2023.

Plans by Southern Railway to replace 28 Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) coaches resulted in ineffective and deficient assets at a cost of ₹27.91 crore as the coaches were not put to effective use even after three years of manufacturing, the report said.

Non-implementation of the revised rate of electricity charges of various State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for recovery from the occupants of railway quarters in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway resulted in short recovery of ₹14.89 crore, the report said.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged lapses worth ₹573 crore in the Indian Railways.

The findings were published in the 'Union Government (Railways) – Compliance Audit Report', tabled in the Lok Sabha.

## 2. Nature of Lapses Identified (25 Audit Observations)

## a) Shortfalls in Revenue Recovery

 Northern Railway failed to recover licence fees from 5 govt-aided schools as per Railway Board norms:

Loss: ₹148.61 crore

Nine railway zones didn't recover District Mineral Foundation (DMF) contributions:

Loss: ₹55.51 crore

Period: January 2015 – March 2024

East Central Railway (Bina Siding) failed to realise shunting charges:

Loss: ₹50.77 crore

Period: April 2020 – March 2023

 Dhanbad Division (East Central Railway): Failed to apply revised electricity charges from State Electricity Boards:

Loss: ₹14.89 crore

## b) Project Execution Failures

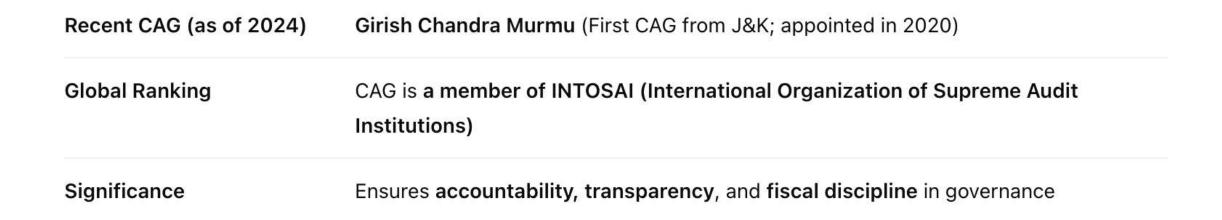
- Southern Railway replaced 28 Nilgiri Mountain Railway coaches, but:
  - Coaches remained unused for 3+ years post-manufacturing.
  - Asset loss: ₹27.91 crore

## 3. Financial Year Covered

Up to 2022-23 (for some entries till March 2024).

Aspect	Details	
Article in Constitution	Article 148 to 151 of the Indian Constitution	
Position	Constitutional Body (Guardian of public purse)	
Appointment	By the <b>President of India</b>	
Tenure	6 years or until 65 years of age, whichever is earlier	
Oath	Administered by the <b>President of India</b>	
Oath Removal	Administered by the <b>President of India</b> Same manner as a <b>Supreme Court judge</b> (via impeachment by Parliament)	

Reports Submitted To	President, who lays them before Parliament	
Main Functions	<ul> <li>Audits all receipts &amp; expenditure of Government of India &amp; States</li> <li>Audits accounts of govt. companies</li> <li>Audits expenditure from Contingency Fund and Public Account</li> </ul>	
No. of Reports Submitted	<ul> <li>3 main types:</li> <li>Audit Report on Appropriation Accounts</li> <li>Finance Accounts</li> <li>Public Sector Undertakings Report</li> </ul>	
CAG as per DPC Act, 1971	Performs duties and powers as prescribed under CAG (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971	
Type of Audit	- Compliance Audit - Financial Audit - Performance Audit	
Limitations	- No power to <b>take executive action</b> - Cannot question <b>policy matters</b>	



## Q. Consider the following statements regarding the recent CAG audit report on Indian Railways:

- 1. The report identifies over ₹500 crore worth of lapses due to revenue shortfalls and unused assets.
- 2. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is a constitutional body under Article 148.
- 3. The report includes cases where Indian Railways failed to recover District Mineral Foundation contributions.
- 4. Southern Railway was praised in the report for optimal use of Nilgiri Mountain Railway coaches.

## Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- B) 1, 3 and 4 only
- C) 2 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

#### The threat to India's 'great power' status

sapite U.S. President Donald Trump's claims of having vanquished Iran's enrichment U.S.-barasebran war romains alive. A combination of brasil Prime Minister Benjamin Fetanyahu's legal problems, his government's regional agenda, and the neoconservative influence in the U.S. threaten to overwhelm Mr. Trump's instincts towards

non interventionist peace. War would be disastrous for War would be disastrous for india's economic interests and harm its 'great power' ambitions if fran's government is toppled. U.S. led unipolarity in West Asia would be consented, precluding would be comented, preducing the ability of rising powers such a India to grow their strategic footprint. This touches on a fundamental schimm between india and the West - Delhi's multipular world vision. The Trump administration offers an

What Iran's defeat could mean A restart of the brack-fran war dramatically alter the distribution of power in West Asia. There yould remain no nation state that is both for U.S. aligned and controls all of its territory Anair Allah does not control all Vernero, Begardiess of frew benign U.S. intentions towards hells are, this would impect the teapertory Delhi has been following for the last decade, of strengthening its strategic influence in the region. The negotiating power India held with brace and Gulf Status was ursderpinned by the fact that Delhi also engaged alternatively aligned states each as syria and tran. This states mich as Syria and Irat. This has already descraced sinie Printident Bashar al-Assad's coppling and would nosedine if Iran's government is ousted. All of isdula's West Asia energy imports would have to be sourced from governments dependent of U.S. seasity guarantees, rather than from the diverse mix Felhu

Kadira Pethiyagoda Author, geopolitics expert at the University of Melbourne, former shallowers, and political advisor (QEOPHTHY agrees)

> India should urase the U.S. to tolerate from in West Asia and accopt multipolarity globally

draws on now.

All this would harm India's ability to rise as a great power. The first is in part because reinforcing the stronger of the estimagigation of the estimagigation, that U.S., means a relative weakening of all rising. powers. But it is also due to a fundamental clash in world visios between the American begemon

and rising India.

Before his Moscow visit, India's External Affairs Minister revealed. the tracks of this clash saying the meeting with Russia would discuss "...the building of a multipolar world order". By definition, this

world order." By definition, this involves the displacement of 11.6.-bed unipolarity. This means that, on this crucial question, the control of the control on by NATO head Mark Ruite, to slap secendary americans of 100% on countries parchasing Russian dl. gas, or other strategic goods. Before this, when India commissioned 1985 Tamal, a warship manufactured by Russia, the LLE, Jupier, The Holgraph, rain the headline 'India is on enemy, not a friend or a neutral'. When I comes to fundamental question of geopolitics, the corporate media in the West reflects the views of the foreign policy

A multipolar world order, in which India is one of the poles, constitutes one of the principal pillars of New Delhi's foreign policy, India's main motivatio supporting partnering with the U.S. — balancing against the China threat – does not outweigh the multipularity goal. This shapes indica interests, not only in India's interests, not only in relation to Iran and to West Asia, but also the New Cold War more broudly and the hor ware that will in future spring from it. It has been most clear in india's definance of Western dentands regarding indiating Namia.

Cotting forward, the Colling forward, the

Share of students employ-

greater tole in informing Delhi's, policy choices, thus inhibiting actions that reinfirms U.S.-tel unipolarity. Therefore, even given the existing strategic antenomy preference, it looks increasingly, less likely that treits will align with the Western bloc. Moreover, Delha Bkely perceives its clashing worldview with Washington as amplifying U.S. and Western offensive intentions towards India.

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and economic interests by accepting global multipolarity. When considering the alternati of kinetic great power war, or (though less likely) Chimese hegemony over Asia and Africa, multipolarity is far from the worst ecenario from the West's view.
The present moment offers
possibility in this regard. Despite

the recent differing on detente with Bassia, Mr. Trump knows he was elected on a compatible foreign policy platform of non-interventionium, secretary of State Marco Bubio acknowledged early on that the world is moving early on that the world is moving towards multiplicative, Poffs show towards multiplicative, Poffs show Trump's base, view the country's vital interests as homesand and mair abroad-centred. This poles materianing hegemony within their own regions, independent state that the U.K. regards as a partner, Indian anatom would carry weight.

#### Skeletons in the closet

The hope is that the SFF will find answers to the 'mysterious deaths' in Dharmastala

Baulucya.M.

ith a former sanita-tion worker claim-ing to have buried many bodies in Dharmastala, about 80 kilometres from Mangabers in coastal Kornata-ka, discussions on the "myste-ricia deaths" of people in the temple town have gained trac-

tion yet again.
After some dithering, the
state government on July 19 state government on July 19
set up a Special Investigation
Team (S47), headed by DirecSecurity Pronab Molunty, to
investigate the Claims of the
mutation worker. Administration
to have worked in Dimension
to have worked in Dimension
to have worked in Dimension
to between 1998 and 2014. He
said that during his service per
rect, he burded men and wo-

rich the trivial men and wo-men and also mirrors who had been raped and murdered. He said that there were "prewerful people" behind the crimes who had covered him to bar-yine bedies. He claimed that he the bedies. He claimed that he fled the place abong with his family members when a members of his own family was securily assaulted. The worker said that he had chosen to tell the story now out of sheer resource. He also asked that more than 100 bodies he burded be advanced, boothed.

ried be exhumed, identified, and given a decent farewell. Accusing the parasiletional and develop on the interests of police of delay in initiating the process of eshuming the hardes, advocates representing the sanitation worker, and yet, and public intellectuals. Court hidge V. Gopala Gowda, urged the government to set up the RT.

There has been chatter and policy of the public that t



five decades. Some even con-

live decades. Some even com-meded that many of the dead were devotees who ended their lives in the hope of Charles over the shall see grew lender in October 2012 stripe authorities also held demonstrations to take out demonstrations to take out to be a supported to the out-type in october 2012 stripe in October 2012 stri

nya's marder or in any of the earlier deaths.

Protesters also demanded a separate police station in Disermantals. Surprisingly, the bringle town did not have use despite a substantial popula-

tion of its own along with a floating crowd of pilgrims. The State government handed over investigation of the murder to the Criminal Investigation Department and then to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Novem-ber 2013, and set up a Dhar-mastala police station in 2016. On June 16, 2023, the spe-

On June 18, 2023, the spic-cial CBI cours in Bengalour se-quitted learnors Han, the lone accased in the Noujanya mur-cher case. Scarline, beard on a the court conducted an inqui-ry into allegations against tree persons associated with the temple in the alcheritor, rape, and market of Soujanya. Hand according to the con-legation. The CBI court con-

chaled that the predictionary in vestigation had been shooldy and directed the State Asspai-al Committee to initiate ac-tion of the state of the ers and the official who conducted the post-nortem. Sonjanya's parents and Rus-Bled separate appeals before the Karnataka High Court seeking de novorementages tion of the case. Turning down the plea for reinvestigation, the Division Banch of the Kar-nataka High Court, on August 30, 2024, said that it was "doubtful that evidence that could not be sollected at the could not be tollected at the golden tune is still available." Also positing to the bungled flucted the form of the bungled flucted the first government to expedite the process of tak-ing action against erring offic-ing action against erring offic-ty to initiate independent still for the programment of activities to the programment do all it can to trace the real cul-ary against the programment of all it can to trace the real cul-ary against the programment of the programment of all it can to trace the real cul-ary group where members

sApp group where members have been asked to keep up the demand to trace the real accussed in the murder case. A few days after the sanita-

tion worker registered his complaint in the Dharmastala police station, Sujatha Bhat, a former CHI employee and the mother of Ananya Bhat, a mother of Ananya Bhat, a medical student who went missing in 2004 in Dharmeta-la, approached the police. She sought their help in finding ni. approached to proces, inter-ution whether Anarya's body was among those allegelly hu-ried by the annitation worker. If she finds her daughter's re-mains, the will finally be able told Dabshira Karrasals Supe-tion of the state of the state of the riversed and the state of the riversed and the state of the "registerium deaths" in Dhar-tontala.

#### Boys continue to outnumber girls in private schools

In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than Indias average of 48.1%

#### DATA POINT

#### Devranski Bihani Visnosh Badhakrishnan

ver the past decade, the share of private schools and the proportion of loys and girls enrolled in them have both increased across India, have both increased across india, likely rentrocring each other. However, the share of girls arrending by lower than that of boys, in oth-er wards, while parents increas-ingly prefer private schooling, a shrows a slight preference for an-cilling their some over their rentrocring their some over their rentrocring their some over their marther of girls are enrolled com-pared to boys in schools across near their and overtorn tradis-cring their some over their comments, government stated,

vernment, government alded, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. The share of government schools has fallen from 74.2% to 69.0%, whereas the share of private acheols has increased

from 7.2% to 22.5%.
Chart 2 shows the share of sindents enrolled in government, government-aided, private, and oth-

serminent aided, private, and other achools in 2012.3 and 2032.4. The shure of children surrolled in from 57.98 to 51.48, whereas the share of private subunds has in the share of students enrolled in government and private schools in 1023.24, 545 of girls studied in 2023.24, 546 of girls studied provention of the subunds and 336 in government achools and 339 in private schools and 339 in private share of studied in government.

Chart 4 shows the Statewise and gonder-wise share of studies.

and gender-wise share of students enrolled in any school. In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than India's aver-age of 48,7%.

#### Gender divide persists Data for the charts were assumed from the Lorenz District Information System for Education Plus (UDBS:-) database Chart Li The share of generoment, government-nided, private, and offer schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. Figures in % Chart 3: The share of students enrolled or Chart in The gender-wise share of shotters accorded to hoos is 2012-13 and 2023-24. Pigures in 9 2012-14. Fig. 2012-13 P024-24 MB 2011 2: 1 THE 2011 R-0-4 104 133 49 5.8 S.B. 1000 3.0 S.B. 1.9 30 316 33 and S their theret signal that enthans first boot sided for inthers. Chart 4: The State-wise and goodenwise shark of students emplied in any Chart to The State-wise and aunder-wise share of girls enrolled in assertanced Marthern - Woodern - Scuttern - Lastern - Hortheadann Routhers St. Western St. Smallers St. Baston St. Barthanders a a offer to offer and 0 0000 000 0000 W & 8 8 8 000

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES The Windu.

#### PIPTY YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1971 Antique dealer held in Bombay for thefts in T Nadu

Rombay, July 21: A notorious ided lifter and a hawker-turned millionaire, bahadur Sirgh Teja Sirgh Lamy, who was running two workshops in Bombay for manufacturing fake idels, was arrested by the Bombay Police under COPRECIAN postersky under calers of the Maharashira Geograment.

Maharaditria clovermient.

Bahadar Singh Trija Singh had been earlier ordered by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magsteate, Mr. 5C. Korwel, to be released on a trivelving the their of several leids from Seath Indian temples worth Re. 18, errors.

Following this the Additional Commissioner of Police, Mr. A. Kulkarra, moved the State Government for the arrest under the Covernment for the arrest under the

Conservation of sorting instanting and Prevention of Simugaling Activities Act (COFFIPOSA).

Batsadur Singh was running a musleru sir conditioned emportum "Radimpong Art House" in a push locality in Contral Hombox, and two workshops called Handleraft Emportum osternishy for selling handleraft. Homportum

Hut actually the workshops were manufacturing replicas of priceless South Indian temple idols which were to be substituted for the original ideals with the communicate of temple priests. The original ideals were in turn experied at fabricous prices, the police said.

An inspector and two Sub inspectors of the

Tamil Nada Police who had come here to take away Bahadur Singh returned to Madras as they had been directed by the Bombay Police to get a Magistrate's order for taking him. Bahadur hingh has now been lodged in the

#### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1825 British doctors and press articles

According to the London correspondent of "The fratesiman" the British Medical Association has forbidden decrease to contribute articles to the newspapers under their own names. For orable landmark in the progress of doctors, denoting their enancipation from the old-time seclution and absorbers.

g800000

## Boys continue to outnumber girls in private schools

In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than India's average of 48.1%

#### DATA POINT

#### Devyanshi Bihani Vignesh Radhakrishnan

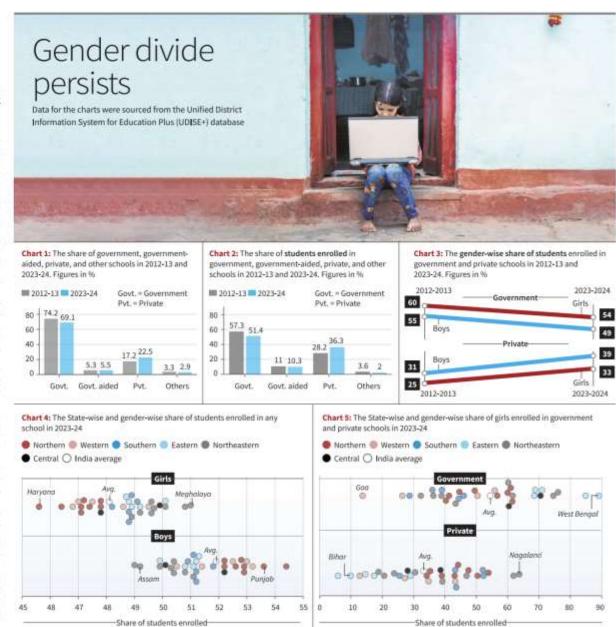
ver the past decade, the share of private schools and the proportion of boys and girls enrolled in them have both increased across India, likely reinforcing each other. However, the share of girls attending private schools remains considerably lower than that of boys. In other words, while parents increasingly prefer private schooling, a considerable share of them still shows a slight preference for enrolling their sons over their daughters. Also, a relatively low number of girls are enrolled compared to boys in schools across northern and western India.

Chart 1 shows the share of government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. The share of government schools has fallen from 74.2% to 69.1%, whereas the share of private schools has increased from 17.2% to 22.5%.

Chart 2 shows the share of students enrolled in government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. The share of children enrolled in government schools has fallen from 57.3% to 51.4%, whereas the share of private schools has increased from 28.2% to 36.3%.

Chart 3 shows the gender-wise share of students enrolled in government and private schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. For instance, in 2023-24, 54% of girls studied in government schools and 33% in private schools, while 49% of all boys studied in government schools and 39% in private schools.

Chart 4 shows the State-wise and gender-wise share of students enrolled in any school. In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than India's aver-



THEMMMHINDU

#### NEWS IN NUMBERS

The score of India's first Olympic dressage rider in S-level meet

in sec cent. Amath Agarwalia, Index's first Olympic dressings rider, won his first-week. S-level competition at the Jubilaumsturnier hat/poisener Open in Germany, & Level dressage involves autorensed miscorress intercements like plaffit, passage, autorensed miscorress intercements like plaffit, passage, Bying changes, and canter pirouettes, as

#### Worth of assets attached by ED in Delhi real estate scam

6582 In ticros. That's the valual of imminishing as the control of Sandeep Yaday and Arvind Walla, director and majority shareholders of the firm. as-

#### Estimated value of drugs seized in arms. drugs haul in Manipur

Manipur. The joint operation by Assam Rifles, Manipur Police, and CRPF led to the recovery of 616 map cases of heroin and 60,000 muthamphetamine tablets. Ass.

#### Number of drunk driving cases in Delhi from January to July

driving challens averaged to over \$1 per day this year, according to Dethi Traffic Palice data. The northern range, including areas like Robins and Rawana, topped the had worth 4.581 canes. 'You

#### Extent of encroached land claimed by the Assam government

In linkh acree. According to Assom Chief Minister Himano Bawa Sarma, this land is \$100 encroached by "illegal Bangladeahu and doubtful citizens". Mr. Sarma said that 43,000 acres were cleared in the last four years through existing drives. In COMPANIES FOR HUMBER BATA TEAN

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## What is the legal status of right to vote?

What is the difference between a constitutional right and a statutory right? What does Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951

#### ENPLAINER

#### Bangaralan, S

The story so far:

The starry so fast he Supreme Court is hearing the supreme Court is hearing the supreme the start of the supremental suprement of the supremental supr

What are various rights? Before understanding the status of 'right to vote' in India, let us briefly understand

the different types of rights.

Natural rights are inherent and inalienable rights that are hestowed by mature on individuals, Right to life and liberty are considered to be natural rights Indian courts may decide that a natural right is embodied in a fundamental right, right is embodied in a fundamental right, but they do not silrestly enforce any natural right, and amental rights summarized and guaranteed in Parr III of the Constitution secure equality and liberty which are secure equality and liberty which are state is prohibited from Presurable. The state is prohibited from making laws that stocket these rights. They are directly enforceable in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution.

Constitutional rights are contained in the Constitution but outside of Part III. These rights include right to properly, free trade, and no taxation without the tree trate, and no taxation witness the authority of few. These rights are operationalized through Union and State legislations aligning with the constitutional mandate. They are enforceable in a High Court under Article 226 or as per the legal process in the laws.

that operationalize them.
Statutory or legal rights are provided and amended by ordinary laws of Purhament or State legislature. Examples include right to work under the MGNREG Act; rights of scheduled tribes under the Forest Rights Act; right to subsidized food



erifying legality: Booth level officers fill and collect the counting forms from exblock of Vaishali, Bittar on July 18, see

Act etc. These are enforceable as per the legal process in the laws that provide these rights.

What does the Constitution say about What does the Constitution say about interests adult framchise? Article 236 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination. It provides that every citizen, who is not less than it years of age on such data as may be fixed by law and is not otherwise disqualified under the Constitution or any law on certain grounds, shall be entitled to be registered

The laws enacted by Parliament in this

regard are the Representation of the People Act, 1960 (RP Act, 1980) and the Psopies Act, 1980 QCP Act, 1980 and the Sepresentation of the People Act, 1981 QEP Act, 1981). Section 18 of the RP Act, 1981 dequalifies a non-titizen from being enrolled in the electrical roll. Section 19 of the name law requires that the persons is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is "ordinarily resident".

qualitying time areas
in a constituency.
Section 62 of the RP Act, 1951 provides
the right to was to every person whose
name is enseed in the electoral roll of a
constituency it further specifies that
tight shall not be searcisable by a person
who is disquilled under the RP Act, 1950

or is in prison.

#### What have courts ruled?

What have courts ruled? The legal status of the right to vote has been a subject matter of delsate in various value in our country, in the N.P.Pormacuomi case (1982), a N.P.Pormasusumi cane (1983), a Constitution Breach of the Supressue Gourn held that the right to vote is a statisticity right and subject to limitations imposed by it. In the Jord Hains cane (1982), the court reterated that the right to vote is neither a fundamental right not a common law right but a simple statutory right. Subsequently in many cases, the same ratio was followed and upheld by the coart. In the PUCL case (2003), Justice F.V. Reddy observed that the right to vote, Fnot a fundamental right, is certainly a constitutional right.

remainstitutional right.

However, a committation Benich of the Supremie Court in the Ruldin Waper ease only a statisticy right.

In the Rul Hulle case (COSR), a thirdsion bornh of the Supremie Court, based on the Rul Hulle case (COSR), a thirdsion bornh of the Supremie Court, based on right to vote is a constitutional right. However, in the Anaeya Huranawa' Case (COSR), the mujority opinion, reterated that the right to vote is only a statutory a statutory a statutory a statutory a statutory. that the right to vote is only a statutory right. Hence, the current legal status of the right to vote is that it is a stanstory

right.

Justice Ajay Bassagi, in his partial dissent in Amous Bassaman, noted that the right to vote is an expression of the choice right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(01a). Right to vote is mirrors: to free and fair electrics that is mirrors. One and the electrics that is considered a fundamental right, this right originates from Article 226 of the Countitution and is shaped by statutes made by Parliament. Considering these factors, the Supreme of the following the countitude of the country of th

right to vote into a constitutional right.

Rangurajan, R is a former IAS officer
and author of Courseware on Polity Simplified. Views expressed are personal

#### THE GIST

Matural rights are inherent and mationable rights that are testioned by nature on individuals. Sight to tile and

## What have courts ruled with respect to AI and copyright?

Can Al models be trained on datasets which contain both copyrighted and public domain content?

#### G.S. Bainal

The story so far:

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training on logitimately acquired mote Car

restant on primate content and tracelean

market implaces thrower, the tesse

perspective.

Do Al models violate copyright

protive Al montels can occasionally

even duplicates specific works from their training datasets, raising concerns shoot ethics and law. Legal outcomes often ethics and law. Legal outcomes often objected on whether enabling AI on or signal works and its aduction of the control of the

determining the unage of databases and published works in the triatoing of generative At models are grounded in intellectual Property (IP) Saw, contractual obligations, and privacy regulations. obligations, and privacy regulations, Guerrative AI has many P incoretainties, Guerrative AI has many P incoretainties, Guerrative AI has many private and private and whether the training of AI using P protected data, and the generated outputs constitute P inbringements, forms nations provide P law exceptions, on the mining, and minporary copying that may apply in easy involving generative AI However, the absence of global harmoniantics and the sevent application harmoniantics and the sevent application. harmonisation and the actual application of generative A developtions has ret yet foun instead, throwing up further logal uncertainty. Additionally, the ownership uncertainty Additionally, the ownership is legally uncertain. Presently, where is no explained A Presently, where is no explained in harmonised global regulation that additiones the intellectual property unpfanious of generative At. The matchest of the property laws of more institute.

ware developed long before the advent of Al, leading to legal uncertainty own whether IF lights can adolest it in the legal to legal to legal to legal would own them. This uncertainty is most pronounced in the arm of copyright, where softwarbig tenditionally requires human creativity.

What did the U.S. judgments state? The two landmark U.S. court judgments, one in fiscear of Authoryte and the other Meta, declace that the use of copyrighted stateful for ruthing Al systems could qualify as fair use. However, those submode on not close the debate regarding the

do not close the debate regarding the inguistic of social pitting data from a large state of the social pitting data from the social pitting data are social pitting data are social pitting data are social pitting data are social pitting data and social pitting data from the social pitting data are social pitting data from the social

boom ought to figure out ways to share boom ought to figure out ways to share the wealth with companies that held capyrights. In both relings, the judges adopted a broad view of the concept of adopted a broad view of the concept of provided tech firms with legal prosection. From copyright islability. But the concerns of unauthorized data furvesting, is of future transford data furvesting, is of princy is still a liability and that

#### What are the implications for

Hodds?

The API series OpenAI leavest is associated in charitying free finalist association in charitying free finalist association in charitying free finalist processors. In the charity reproduction of the committee finalist in challing reproduction, of the committee finalist in challing reproduction, require permissions for commercial use require permissions for commercial use requires an exception under Sex from 152 this region of the committee of the committee of the contract season of the contract seguity for t the major that the first case, Judge Vines Chindria of the Posthern District of Cabifornia ruled in Menta Server, concluding the the plantifith had not easily lained that the plantifith had not easily lained that the result in march edibilities of that the post that the post of the concentration of the configuration making money of the Al and Almanuty Controllers including measures against digital controllers, including measures against digital controllers in the configuration of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the configuration of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controllers in the Change of the Al and Almanuty Controll

## What is the legal status of right to vote?

What is the difference between a constitutional right and a statutory right? What does Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provide? What did Justice Ajay Rastogi state in his partial dissent in the Anoop Baranwal case?

#### EXPLAINER

#### Rangarajan, R

#### The story so far:

he Supreme Court is hearing cases filed against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. One of the questions that has arisen during this debate has been the legal status of the 'right to vote.'

#### What are various rights?

Before understanding the status of 'right to vote' in India, let us briefly understand the different types of rights.

Natural rights are inherent and inalienable rights that are bestowed by nature on individuals. Right to life and liberty are considered to be natural rights. Indian courts may decide that a natural right is embodied in a fundamental right, but they do not directly enforce any natural right. Fundamental rights enumerated and guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution secure equality and liberty which are enshrined in our Preamble. The state is prohibited from making laws that violate these rights. They are directly enforceable in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution.

Constitutional rights are contained in the Constitution but outside of Part III. These rights include right to property, free trade, and no taxation without the authority of law. These rights are operationalised through Union and State legislations aligning with the constitutional mandate. They are enforceable in a High Court under Article 226 or as per the legal process in the laws that operationalise them.

Statutory or legal rights are provided and amended by ordinary laws of Parliament or State legislature. Examples include right to work under the MGNREG Act; rights of scheduled tribes under the Forest Rights Act; right to subsidised food grains under the National Food Security



Verifying legality: Booth level officers fill and collect the counting forms from electors in the Patepur block of Veishali. Bihar on July 10. Me

Act etc. These are enforceable as per the legal process in the laws that provide these rights.

## What does the Constitution say about universal adult franchise?

Article 326 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination. It provides that every citizen, who is not less than 18 years of age on such date as may be fixed by law and is not otherwise disqualified under the Constitution or any law on certain grounds, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter.

The laws enacted by Parliament in this

regard are the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act, 1950) and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951). Section 16 of the RP Act, 1950 disqualifies a non-citizen from being enrolled in the electoral roll. Section 19 of the same law requires that the person is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is 'ordinarily resident' in a constituency.

Section 62 of the RP Act, 1951 provides the right to vote to every person whose name is entered in the electoral roll of a constituency. It further specifies that this right shall not be exercisable by a person who is disqualified under the RP Act, 1950 or is in prison.

#### What have courts ruled?

The legal status of the right to vote has been a subject matter of debate in various cases in our country. In the N.P.Ponnuswami case (1952), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that the right to vote is a statutory right and subject to limitations imposed by it. In the Noti Basy case (1982), the court reiterated that the right to vote is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right but a simple statutory right. Subsequently in many cases, the same ratio was followed and upheld by the court. In the PUCL case (2003), Justice P.V. Reddy observed that the right to vote, if not a fundamental right, is certainly a 'constitutional right.'

However, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the Kuldip Nayar case (2006), again held that right to vote is only a statutory right.

In the Raj Bala case (2015), a division bench of the Supreme Court, based on the ratio in the PUCL case, held that the right to vote is a constitutional right. However, in the Anoop Baramwal case (2023), the majority opinion, reiterated the judgment in the Kuldip Nayar case, that the right to vote is only a statutory right. Hence, the current legal status of the right to vote is that it is a statutory right.

Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his partial dissent in Anoop Baramwal, noted that the right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(D(a). Right to vote is intrinsic to free and fair elections that is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Even if not considered a fundamental right, this right originates from Article 326 of the Constitution and is shaped by statutes made by Parliament. Considering these factors, the Supreme Court may consider elevating the status of right to vote into a constitutional right.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

#### THE GIST

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Natural rights are inherent and inalienable rights that are bestowed by nature on individuals. Right to life and liberty are considered to be natural rights.

\*

Article 326 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination.

\*

Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his partial dissent in Anoop Barameni, noted that the right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a).

## 2. Types of Rights (Contextual Understanding)

Type of Right	Description	
Natural Rights	Inherent, inalienable rights from birth (e.g., life, liberty).	
Fundamental Rights	Granted under <b>Part III</b> of the Constitution (e.g., equality, liberty). Enforceable in court.	
Constitutional Rights	Broader than fundamental rights; include rights under other parts of the Constitution.	
Statutory Rights	Granted through laws passed by Parliament/State Legislature (e.g., voting under RP Act).	

## 3. What Does the Constitution Say?

- Article 326:
  - Grants the right to vote in direct elections based on adult suffrage (18+ years).
  - Excludes those disqualified due to non-residency, mental incapacity, or criminal convictions.
- However, the actual implementation of voting rights is governed by:
  - Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950 & 1951.
  - Thus, voting is treated as a statutory right, not a fundamental one.

## 4. What Have Courts Ruled?

Case Name	Year	Ruling Summary
N.P. Ponnuswami	1952	Right to vote is a <b>statutory right</b> .
Jyoti Basu	1982	Reiterated voting is a <b>statutory right</b> , not fundamental or common law right.
PUCL case	2003	J.P. Reddy: Right to vote is a <b>constitutional right</b> , though not fundamental.
Kuldip Nayar case	2006	Constitution Bench upheld <b>statutory status</b> of voting.
Rajbala case	2015	Agreed with Kuldip Nayar: voting is statutory.
Anoop Baranwal case	2023	Majority: Voting is a <b>statutory right</b> .  Justice Ajay Rastogi (dissent): Voting is a <b>constitutional expression of citizenship</b> under <b>Article 19(1)(a)</b> .

## Q. Consider the following statements regarding the right to vote in India:

- 1. Article 326 of the Constitution provides for adult suffrage in direct elections.
- 2. As per the Supreme Court's majority view, the right to vote is a fundamental right under Article 19.
- 3. The Representation of the People Act, 1950 operationalizes the legal right to vote.
- 4. Justice Ajay Rastogi, in a dissenting opinion, called the right to vote a constitutional expression under Article 19(1)(a).

## Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 3 only
- B) 2 and 4 only
- C) 1, 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

## Bharti third-most valued firm

Bharti Airtel has claimed the position of India's third-most valued company, an ascent that is a combination of both a gain in its share price as also a sharp fall in the price of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Since January, TCS has lost ₹3.4 lakh crore in market cap, while Bharti has gained ₹1.95 lakh crore. —fe Bureau

## TOP 10 COMPANIES BY MARKET CAP

(in ₹ lakh crore)



# 7/11 Mumbai train terror: High Court acquits all 12 facing death and life; eight walk free



Creating false appearance of having solved a case gives a misleading sense of resolution... this deceptive closure undermines public trust: Bombay HC





One of the seven local trains targeted in the Mumbai blasts on July 11, 2006. File



Relatives of some of those acquitted with the head of the NGO that provided legal aid. Ganesh Shirsekar



Ramesh Naik lost his 27-year-old daughter Nandini when a bomb went off on a train at Borivali. Ganesh Shirsekar

#### **OMKAR GOKHALE**

MUMBAI, JULY 21

THE BOMBAY High Court Monday set aside the 2015 verdict of a special court that had awarded death sentence to five accused and life imprisonment to seven others in the 7/11 Mumbai train blasts. It acquitted all the 12 accused, and refused the Maharashtra government's plea seeking confirmation of the death penalty for five.

Hours after the verdict, eight of them were released from various prisons across the state. Two were released from Nagpur Central Prison, four from Amravati Central Jail and one each from Yerawada Jail in Pune and Nashik Jail, respectively. While two were not released

due to pending cases, one was already released on parole and one had died of Covid in 2021 in the Nagpur prison.

On July 11, 2006, a series of bombs ripped through seven local train coaches of the Western Suburban Railway around 6.30 pm, killing 189 people and injuring 824. The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad investigated the case.

Of the total 13 accused originally, one was acquitted by the Special Court under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act (MCOCA) on September 11, 2015. Later, on September 30, the court sentenced five to death, including the one who died of Covid, and seven to life imprisonment.

On Monday, a special bench CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 'To whom should I go for justice now?': Pain, anger among victims' families

KARTIKA JAMDAR, SIDDHANT KONDUSKAR, NAYONIKA BOSE MUMBAI, JULY 21

JUSTICE DENIED

That there is no closure, only

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## 1. Background of the Case

- Date of Incident: July 11, 2006 (7/11)
- Nature: Seven bombs exploded in Mumbai's local trains around 6:30 pm.
- Casualties:
  - Deaths: 189
  - Injured: 824
- Investigation: Maharashtra ATS (Anti-Terrorism Squad)
- Law Invoked: MCOCA, UAPA, IPC, Explosives Act, Railways Act

## 2. Timeline of Trial

Chargesheet filed: Post-2006

Special Court verdict (2015):

Death sentences: 5 accused

Life imprisonment: 7 accused

Acquittal: 1 accused already acquitted during trial

Total accused: 13

## 3. Bombay High Court Verdict (July 21, 2025)

- All 12 convicted earlier were acquitted.
- Grounds for Acquittal:
  - Confessional statements were obtained via torture and were inadmissible.
  - Prosecution failed to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.
  - TIP (Test Identification Parade) and prosecution witnesses were unreliable.
  - High Court held that false closure of a cas ndermines public trust.

"Creating false appearance of having solved a case gives a misleading sense of resolution... this deceptive closure undermines public trust." – Justice Anil Kilor

- The court stressed:
  - Actual perpetrators remain at large.
  - Need for rule of law and public safety.

## 5. Reactions and Implications

- CM Devendra Fadnavis: Called the verdict shocking; announced appeal in Supreme Court.
- Victims' families: Expressed pain and disappointment.
- Legal fraternity:
  - Defence lawyers cited fabricated confessions and lack of evidence.
  - State argued it was a "rarest of the rare" case.
- 8 of 12 released from jails across Maharashtra.



• Union Minister inaugurated a Cyber Skill Centre in Kandivali, Mumbai to promote cybersecurity training among youth under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

## What It Is?

- An advanced **cybersecurity training centre** aimed at equipping India's youth with industry-relevant digital skills and practical cyber defense knowledge.
- <u>Nodal Ministry:</u> Launched by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, in collaboration with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) and Kyndryl Foundation.
- <u>Aim:</u> To bridge the cybersecurity skills gap, create job-ready professionals, and support India's digital economy and security ecosystem.

## Key Features

- Annual Training Capacity: Around 1,000 candidates, with a special focus on women.
- <u>PMKVY Integration</u>: Operates under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, ensuring alignment with national skilling goals.
- <u>Hands-on Learning:</u> Offers live cyberattack simulations, advanced cyber ranges, and industry-focused curricula.
- <u>Urban Focus</u>: Targets densely populated urban clusters like North Mumbai for scalable impact.
- <u>Career Pathways:</u> Facilitates employment and innovation opportunities in the cyber domain.

# AdFalciVax – First Indigenous Two-Stage Malaria Vaccine

• The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is developing AdFalciVax, India's first indigenous two-stage malaria vaccine, to combat Plasmodium falciparum using a novel multistage antigen design.

## What it is?

- AdFalciVax is a recombinant, chimeric malaria vaccine candidate targeting *Plasmodium falciparum*.
- It combines antigens from two lifecycle stages to provide dual protection.

## Developed by:

- Jointly developed by ICMR, RMRC-Bhubaneswar, NIMR, and DBT-NII.
- Production uses *Lactococcus lactis*, a safe food-grade bacterium platform.

## Objective:

- To prevent malaria infection at the individual level and break the transmission chain within communities.
- It aims to provide immunity against both liver-stage infection and mosquito-stage transmission of *Plasmodium falciparum*.

## Key Features:

- <u>Dual-stage immunity:</u> Targets both pre-erythrocytic and sexual stages, blocking infection and halting spread.
- **Extended stability:** Remains functional at room temperature for over 9 months, aiding storage in tropical regions.
- <u>Broader immune response:</u> Combines multiple antigens to reduce immune evasion and improve long-term protection.
- <u>Scalable production:</u> Uses *Lactococcus lactis*, a food-grade bacterium, making it safe and cost-efficient to manufacture.
- <u>Licensable model</u>: ICMR will allow non-exclusive licensing, encouraging domestic and global production partnerships.

# Kashi Declaration

• The Youth Spiritual Summit concluded in Varanasi with the adoption of the Kashi Declaration, setting a national roadmap for youth-led action against drug abuse.

## What It Is?

- The **Kashi Declaration** is a national action plan adopted at the Youth Spiritual Summit to combat substance abuse through youth and spiritual leadership.
- It emphasizes a multi-dimensional, culturally rooted framework to eliminate drug addiction from Indian society.
- <u>Declared By:</u> Initiated by the <u>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</u> during the Youth Spiritual Summit 2025.

## Word of the day

## Surreptitious:

marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed; conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

**Synonyms:** furtive, sneaky, stealthy, clandestine, secret, undercover

**Usage:** He took a surreptitious glance at his watch.

## Pronunciation:

newsth.live/surreptitiouspro

## International Phonetic Alphabet: /sʌuɪpˈtɪʃəs/

