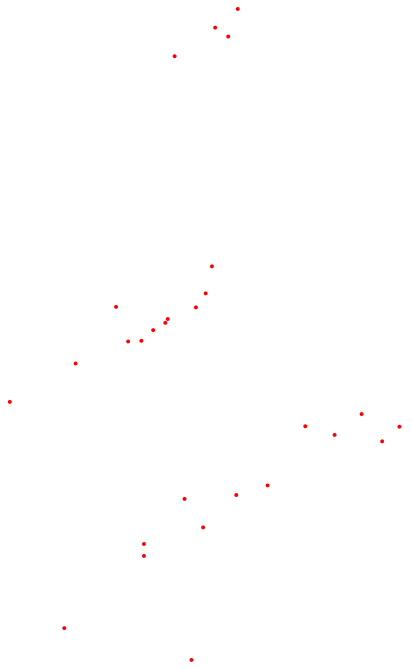


Daily Current Affairs





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PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

“

Your success is found in your
daily routine.

—

During that day, I was in the company of the minister of the interior and the president of the Union of the Buddhist Ladhak, including the various religious and society groups were in the company of the minister.

"It was indicated to me that the MHA officials that Article 370 was not in the Constitution of India, Ladhak, but we were adamant on inclusion under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. The officials heard us patiently, but they were not convinced and said they will come back to us soon. No assurance was given that they will come back to us again," he said.

"We strongly demanded that the government of India, Wangchuk and other detainees without any delay, should be released from the MHA officials to provide compensation to the families of the detainees. We also in police prison and also those injured during the 1987-89 period."

"It was suggested by the Ministry that safeguarding the rights of the people can be explored. However, we have demanded inclusion of Ladhak in the 6th schedule of the KDA."

The sub-committee submitted a report to the next ten days, following which the high-powered committee was formed by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai was

Modi, Trump speak; U.S., India versions vary

U.S. President extends Deepavali greetings to Modi ahead of a possible meeting in Malaysia

President Trump says PM Modi has conveyed India's decision to stop purchasing Russian oil

Trump says call focused on trade deal, oil, and Pakistan; India denies Pakistan was discussed

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Days ahead of a possible meeting in Kuala Lumpur, and amidst intense ongoing trade negotiations, U.S. President Donald Trump called Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday to extend Deepavali greetings, the leaders said. However, the two sides differed vastly in their comments following the call.

Mr. Modi referred to a united stance on terrorism, while Mr. Trump said the conversation focused on the trade deal, Russian oil, and ensuring "no war with Pakistan". However, government sources insisted that Pakistan was not discussed during the call.

For the fourth time in a week, the U.S. President said that Mr. Modi had conveyed the government's decision to cut its imports of Russian oil in an effort to end the Ukraine conflict, a claim he asserted in the presence of Indian Ambassador to Washington Vinay Kwatra, which was not refuted.

Trade talks

"I just spoke to your Prime Minister today," the U.S. President said on Tuesday, addressing the "people of India" directly in comments at the White House, where he held a special Deepavali celebration for prominent Indian-Americans and Indian Embassy officials.

"We had a great conversation. We talked about

On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms

NARENDRA MODI



We had a great conversation. We talked about trade. We talked about a lot of things, but mostly the world of trade. He's very interested in that

DONALD TRUMP



trade. We talked about a lot of things, but mostly the world of trade. He's very interested in that," he added.

A few hours later, the Prime Minister thanked the U.S. President for his phone call and "warm Diwali greetings".

"On this festival of

lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms," Mr. Modi said, without offering any further details.

No comment from MEA

The Ministry of External

Affairs did not comment on the discussion between the two leaders, who are both due to travel to Malaysia this weekend to attend ASEAN-related summits, including the East Asia Summit together.

The Ministry has thus far declined to confirm that Prime Minister will be visiting Kuala Lumpur for the summits, as well as the annual India-ASEAN Summit.

While side-stepping Mr. Trump's other comments, a government source pointedly denied that Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi had spoken about Pakistan, a sore point as the U.S. President has repeatedly claimed he mediated the India-Pakistan ceasefire despite India's denials.

Mr. Trump also said that

he had spoken to Mr. Modi earlier about "having no wars with Pakistan", suggesting again that he had used trade as a leverage to "talk [PM Modi] out of that".

On Russian oil

Addressing India's imports of Russian oil, Mr. Trump said that he believed India had already reduced its intake.

"[Mr. Modi] wants to see that war end as much as with Russia and Ukraine as much as I do. And as you know, they're not going to be buying too much oil. So, they've got it way back, and they're continuing to cut it way back," Mr. Trump said.

The government has not explicitly denied that it is reducing Russian oil im-

ports, although the Ministry of External Affairs said that the government would make decisions based on consumer prices and supply reliability.

Indian trade negotiators are believed to be speaking to their U.S. counterparts about a broader Free Trade agreement (FTA) which would include lowering U.S. tariffs, while India would also cut tariffs, increase market access for U.S. agricultural and other products, and give up its Russian oil imports.

It remains to be seen whether such a deal that is agreeable to both sides can be hammered out in time for an announcement of some sort on the sidelines of the ASEAN summits, to be held from October 26 to 28.

The report covers a **telephonic conversation between PM Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump** held ahead of a possible **meeting in Kuala Lumpur** during the upcoming **ASEAN and East Asia Summits**.

The discussion occurred amid **ongoing trade negotiations** and **U.S. pressure on India to reduce imports of Russian oil** amid the Ukraine conflict.

Aspect	India's Version	U.S. Version (Trump's Statement)
Focus of Call	India emphasized "shared commitment against terrorism in all forms."	Trump emphasized trade, Russian oil, and no war with Pakistan.
On Pakistan	MEA sources denied any discussion on Pakistan.	Trump claimed he had earlier told Modi about "no wars with Pakistan," implying the topic was referenced indirectly.
On Russian Oil	No official comment from India.	Trump claimed Modi agreed to cut Russian oil imports and support global efforts to end the Ukraine war.
Tone & Outcome	Modi thanked Trump for Deepavali greetings, calling it a "warm conversation."	Trump described it as a "great conversation" mainly on "the world of trade."





Issue

India's Position



U.S. Expectation

Russian Oil Imports

Continue purchases for energy security

Cut imports to support Ukraine sanctions

Trade Tariffs

Seek tariff reduction for Indian exports

Increase market access for U.S. farm goods

Pakistan Relations

Dialogue only if terrorism ends

Use trade leverage to prevent conflict



Union govt. proposes mandatory labelling of synthetic AI-generated content on social media

Aroon Deep

NEW DELHI

The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry on Wednesday proposed mandatory disclosure and labelling of artificial intelligence (AI)-generated “synthetic” content on social media platforms.

The Ministry released a draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, that requires social media companies to allow users to self-declare if the content they upload is AI-generated. In cases where users fail to make such declarations, platforms must proactively detect and label AI-generated content.

The declaration must

Disclosure mandate

The draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, outlines the Ministry’s proposed approach to **regulating synthetic content**

- All synthetic content — whether video, photo, audio, or text — must carry a disclosure

- The disclosure should cover at least 10% of the surface area in all AI-generated audiovisual posts



- Users must be given the option to self-declare AI-generated posts

cover 10% of the content’s area, and applies to all types of synthetic content, including text, video, and audio, and is not limited to photorealistic content, according to officials and the draft text.

“In Parliament as well as many other fora, people have demanded that something should be done

about the deepfakes which are harming society,” IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told presspersons.

“People are using some prominent persons’ images and creating deepfakes, which are then affecting their personal lives, privacy as well as [creating] various misconceptions in society. So the step we

have taken is making sure that users get to know whether something is synthetic or real. Once users know, they can take a call. That distinction will be led through mandatory data labelling.”

The proposal marks a shift in the Ministry’s approach to synthetic content. It had previously contended that existing penalties against impersonation were sufficient to address the worst harms from AI-generated content. The proposal brings a long-foreshadowed “tweak” to that stand, a senior official said.

It says that “[w]here an intermediary offers a computer resource which may enable, permit, or facilitate the creation, generation, modification or alteration of information as

synthetically generated information, it shall ensure that every such information is prominently labelled or embedded with a permanent unique metadata or identifier, by whatever name called, in a manner that such label, metadata or identifier is visibly displayed or made audible in a prominent manner on or within that synthetically generated information, covering at least ten per cent of the surface area of the visual display”.

The Ministry has sought feedback on the draft amendment to the IT Rules till November 6. Officials claimed that in private conversations, social media platforms had indicated that they had the technical capabilities to implement what these rules require.



AI

REAL PHOTO

REAL



AI GENERATED



a**Five faces judged as human most often**

AI female 29 (93%)



AI male 45 (92%)



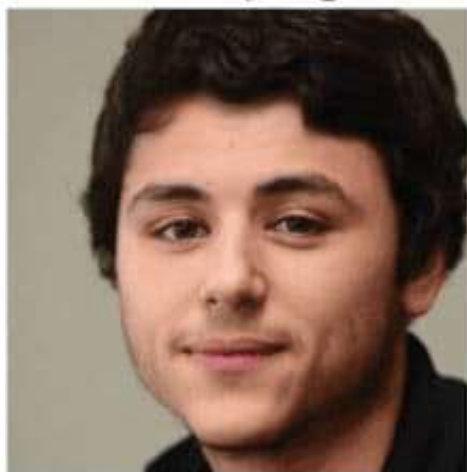
AI male 13 (90%)



Human male 40 (90%)



AI male 34 (89%)

b**Five faces judged as AI most often**

Human male 37 (90%)



Human male 47 (86%)



Human female 31 (84%)



AI female 44 (82%)



Human male 18 (79%)

- 
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has proposed a **draft amendment** to the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**.
 - The amendment seeks to **make it mandatory** for social-media platforms to **label or disclose AI-generated “synthetic content”** (text, audio, image, or video).
 - The move comes amid growing concerns about **deepfakes, AI-generated misinformation, and impersonation of public figures**.



Provision

Mandatory Disclosure

Area of Disclosure

Self-Declaration Option

Platform Responsibility

Metadata Requirement

Details

All synthetic or AI-generated content (video, photo, audio, or text) must carry a visible disclosure.

The disclosure label should **cover at least 10% of the surface area** in AI-generated audio-visual posts.

Users must be given an option to **self-declare** if their uploaded content is AI-generated.

If users fail to disclose, **social-media intermediaries** must proactively detect and label such content.

The label must be **embedded with a permanent metadata tag or identifier**, ensuring traceability of synthetic content.





Earlier Position (2023-24)

Relied mainly on existing **impersonation & misinformation penalties**.

Focused on **post-facto removal** after harm.

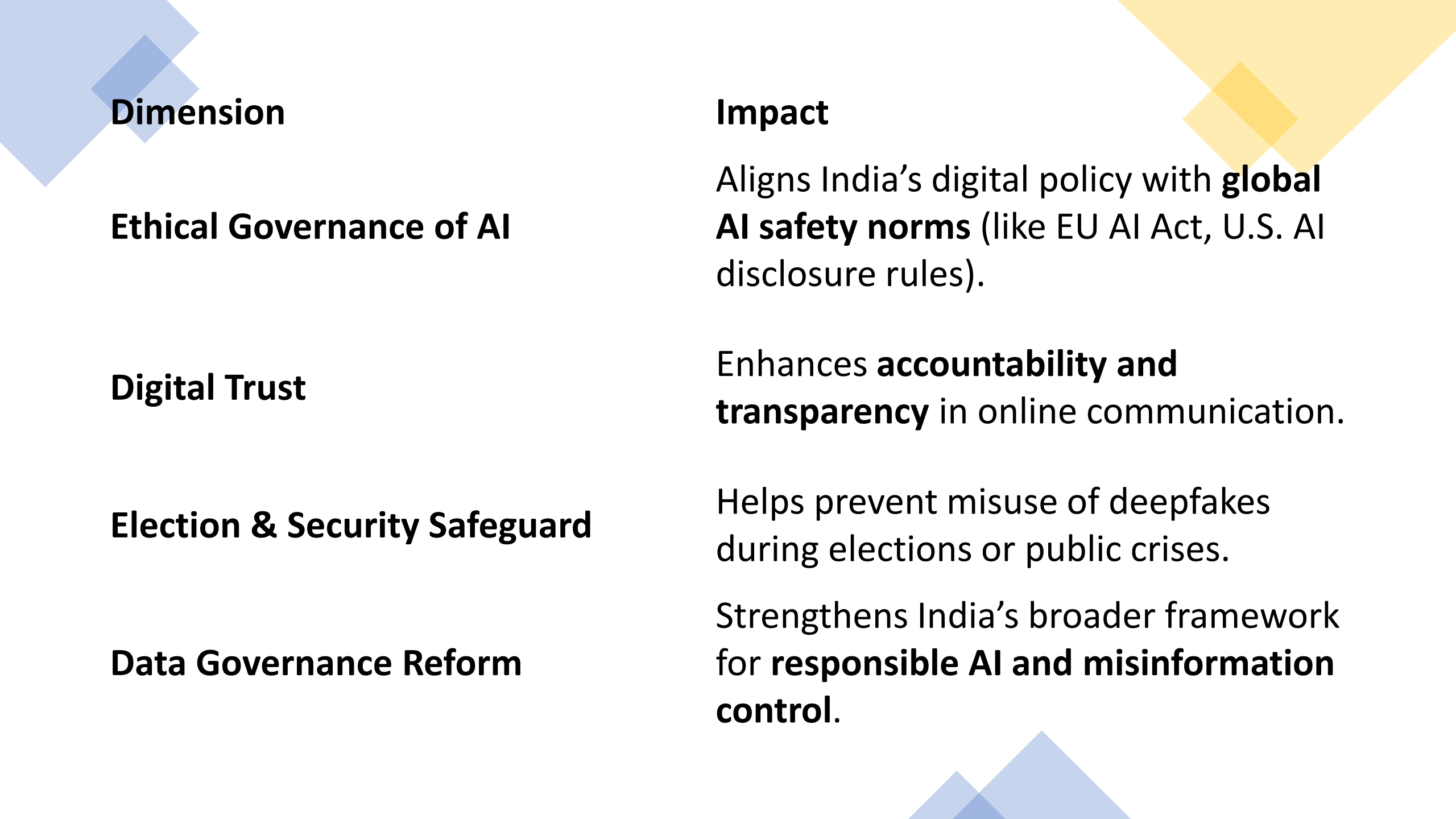


New 2025 Proposal

Introduces **proactive labelling** and **traceability** for all AI-generated content.

Emphasizes **pre-emptive disclosure and transparency**.





Dimension

Ethical Governance of AI

Digital Trust

Election & Security Safeguard

Data Governance Reform

Impact

Aligns India's digital policy with **global AI safety norms** (like EU AI Act, U.S. AI disclosure rules).

Enhances **accountability and transparency** in online communication.

Helps prevent misuse of deepfakes during elections or public crises.

Strengthens India's broader framework for **responsible AI and misinformation control**.

Kerala to be first State 'free of extreme poverty'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will officially declare the State free from extreme poverty at a function to be held at Central Stadium in the capital on November 1.

Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh said at a press conference on Wednesday that the extreme poverty eradication programme began in 2021 as one of the first Cabinet decisions of the LDF government.

"Kerala will become the first State in the country to achieve this landmark," the Minister said.

Securing future

Through the Extreme Poverty Eradication Project launched in 2021, the Kerala government prepared micro-plans for every family

- 1,03,099 individuals from 64,006 families identified as extremely poor
- 21,263 families received essential documents
- 3,913 families were provided new houses
- 1,338 families were allotted land



- 5,651 families received up to ₹2 lakh each for house renovation
- 3,822 families got livelihood assistance

Kerala will officially be first State 'free of extreme poverty'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will officially declare the State free from extreme poverty at a function to be held at Central Stadium in the capital on November 1.

Actors Mohanlal, Mammootty and Kamal Haasan will be special guests at the event to which all State Ministers as well as Leader of the Opposition V.D. Sathesnan will be invited, Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh said at a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Mr. Rajesh said the extreme poverty eradication programme began in 2021 as one of the first Cabinet decisions of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.

"According to the NITI Aayog's study in 2021, Kerala is the State with the lowest poverty rate in the country with a poverty rate of 0.7% of the total population. The government took the lead in reaching out to

this small population and meeting their needs. Kerala will become the first State in the country to achieve this landmark," the Minister said.

Over 64,000 families

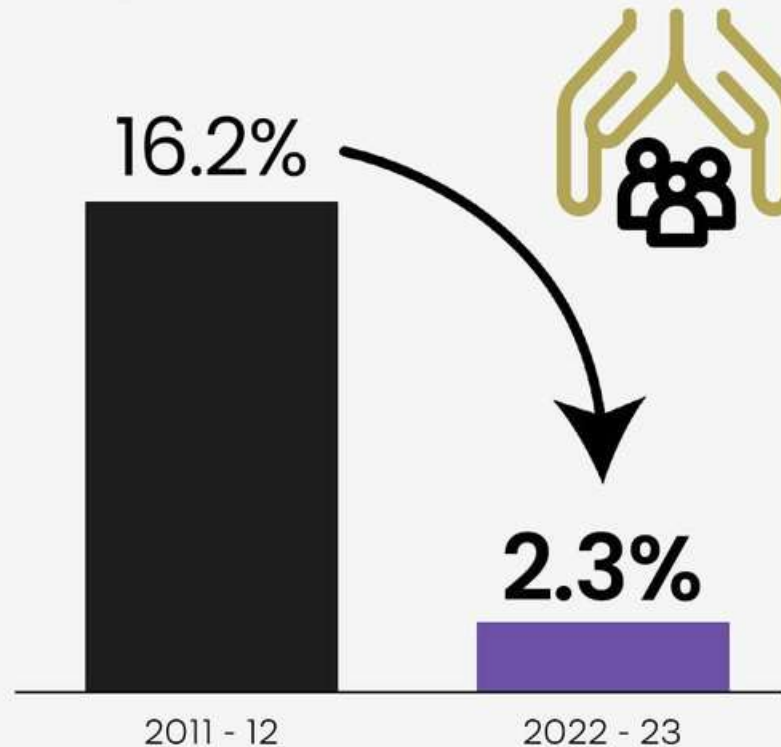
After ground-level surveys, 64,006 families across the State were identified as extremely poor, based on factors such as food, health, livelihood, and shelter.

Many marginalised people, whose names were not even on the voters' list and who did not even have a ration card or Aadhaar, were on this list. Micro plans on the immediate and long-term needs were prepared for each of the families. Essential documents were given to 21,263 individuals lacking these. Houses were provided to 3,913 families, land for 1,338 families, house repair works of up to ₹2 lakh each done for 5,651 families, he said.

"It is the result of a collective effort as all local bodies, including those ruled by the Opposition front, also had a role to play in this," Mr. Rajesh said.

India Charts a New Path: **17 Crore Indians Escape Extreme Poverty, Says World Bank !**

Extreme Poverty Shrinks
(living on less than \$2.15 per day):





Extreme poverty in India down to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India's extreme poverty rate slid sharply to 5.3% over a decade from 27.1% in 2011-12 even as the World Bank revised upwards its threshold poverty line to \$3 per day.

Given India's inflation rate between 2017 and 2021, a revised extreme poverty line of \$3 would constitute a 15% higher threshold than \$2.15 expressed in

2021 prices and result in a 5.3% poverty rate in 2022-23, the World Bank said.

In India, 54,695,832 people lived on less than \$3 per day in 2024. Thus, the poverty rate at \$3 per day (2021 PPP – percentage population) was 5.44% in 2024. Extreme poverty rate slid from 16.2% to 2.3% between 2011-12 and 2022-23 while the poverty rate at the lower middle income country line declined by 33.7 percentage points.

01

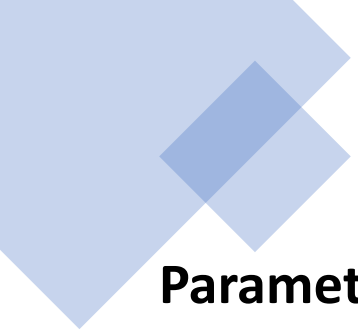
Kerala will become the **first Indian State to officially declare itself “free of extreme poverty”**.

02

The announcement will be made by **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** at a public event on **November 1**, at Central Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram.

03

The declaration marks the culmination of the **Extreme Poverty Eradication Project**, launched in **2021** by the **Left Democratic Front (LDF)** government.



Parameter

Data / Action Taken



Individuals identified as extremely poor

1,03,099 people

Families identified

64,006 families

Families provided new houses

3,913

Families receiving house renovation aid (₹2 lakh each)

5,651

Families allotted land

1,338

Families provided livelihood assistance

3,822

Families given essential documents (Aadhaar, ration card, etc.)

21,263

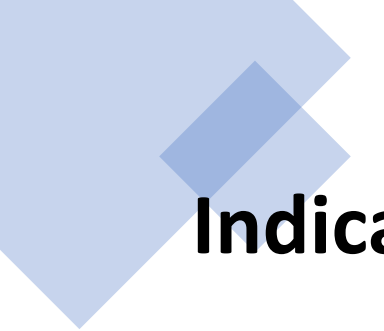


3 About the Project

- The **Extreme Poverty Eradication Project** was one of the **first Cabinet decisions** of the LDF government in **2021**.
 - Aimed at ensuring **no family in Kerala remains in extreme poverty**, defined by lack of access to **food, health, shelter, and livelihood**.
 - **Micro-plans** were prepared for every identified family — addressing **immediate and long-term needs**.
 - Implementation was through **Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs)** in coordination with **state welfare departments**.
-

4 Methodology & Identification

- **Ground-level surveys** across all districts to locate families living in **extreme deprivation**, including those:
 - Not on the **voters' list**.
 - Without **ration cards** or **Aadhaar**.
- The government prioritized **direct field verification**, ensuring even **marginalised and invisible populations** were covered.
- **Actors Mohanlal and Kamal Haasan** will attend the formal declaration ceremony.



Indicator

Poverty rate (2021)

Study Source

Major Factors for Success

Kerala's Standing

0.7% of total population — lowest in India

NITI Aayog's *National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)*

Strong public health system, decentralized governance, and social welfare infrastructure





Focus Area	Intervention
Shelter	New houses and renovation support up to ₹2 lakh
Health	Linking families to health insurance & PHCs
Livelihood	Assistance and skill development for 3,800+ families
Documentation	Identity documents provided to over 21,000 families
Land Access	1,300+ families allotted land for permanent settlement





- ☒ **First Indian state to eradicate extreme poverty:** Kerala.
- ☒ **Project launched:** 2021 under LDF government.
- ☒ **Beneficiaries:** 64,000+ families, 1.03 lakh individuals.
- ☒ **Core approach:** Micro-plan for every family.
- ☒ **Support areas:** Housing, documents, land, livelihood, financial aid.
- ☒ **Poverty rate:** 0.7% (lowest in India).
- ☒ **Event Date:** November 1, 2025.

NHAI to deploy 3D sensors to identify potholes, road cracks across 23 States

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

In order to identify road defects, including potholes and cracks on road surfaces, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will deploy advanced sensors and data acquisition systems across 23 States, covering a distance of over 20,000 km in order to take corrective action.

The move is being undertaken to improve the riding experience of commuters, a statement by the NHAI said.

The data collected by the Central government agency in-charge of developing and maintaining National Highways will help with the inventory of roads and the condition of their paving in order to take decisions on maintenance, asset management, infrastructure planning, and improving the safety and efficiency of the country's National Highways network across the country.

The exercise will involve deploying vehicles equipped with advanced sensors and data acquisition systems, including a 3D laser-based system, a global positioning system (GPS), and an electronic device that measures an object's acceleration and angular velocity.

"The data collected will be uploaded on the NHAI's AI (Artificial Intelligence)-based portal Data Lake,



Data on the status of roads shall be collected for all projects involving two- to eight-lane highways. FILE PHOTO

The data collected will be uploaded on the NHAI's AI-based portal Data Lake, where it will be analysed

where it will be analysed by a dedicated team of experts at NHAI to transform data into knowledge and subsequent actionable insights. Finally, the data collected at regular intervals as per Government of India guidelines shall be preserved for future technical purposes in Road Asset Management system in prescribed formats," the NHAI said.

The data shall be collected for all projects involving two- to eight-lane highways.

The data collection will

start before road development work starts, and thereafter, with a gap of six months. The NHAI has also invited bids for the project.

Separately, the NHAI has also been identifying "black spots" based on the accident reports received from the concerned State governments, which is based on the occurrence of a certain number of accidents involving fatalities and grievous injuries.

Of the 13,795 black spots identified on the National Highways in the country until March 2025, long-term rectification has been completed on 5,036 black spots. The Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) project is a central repository for reporting and managing road accidents data.

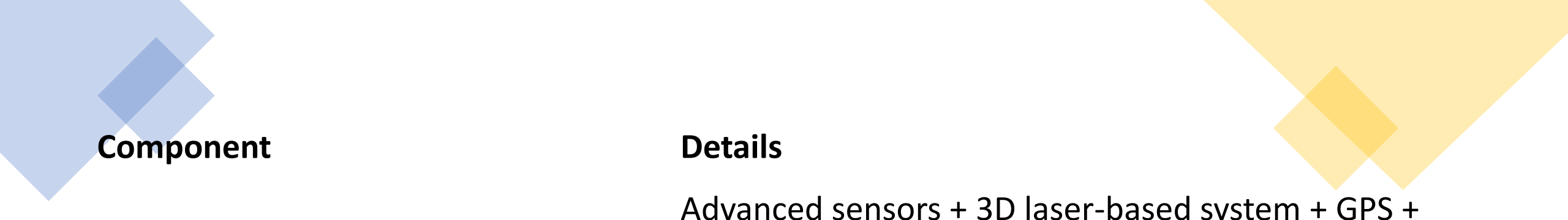








- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has initiated a large-scale plan to **identify road defects**—including **potholes, cracks, and surface deterioration**—using **3D laser sensors** and **AI-based data systems**.
- The initiative spans **23 States** and covers over **20,000 km** of National Highways.
- Objective: Improve **road safety, maintenance efficiency, and commuter experience**.



Component

Technology Used

Data Platform

Coverage

Distance Covered

Frequency of Surveys

Responsible Agency

Details

Advanced sensors + 3D laser-based system + GPS + electronic accelerometers measuring object acceleration and angular velocity

All collected data to be uploaded on **NHAI's AI-based portal "Data Lake"**

23 States; highways from **two-lane to eight-lane**

Over **20,000 km** in first phase

Data to be collected **before new roadwork** begins, and then **every 6 months**

Dedicated technical team at NHAI for **AI-based analysis** and **actionable insights**



3 Purpose & Objectives

- ✓ To create a **digital inventory** of India's highways
 - ✓ To support **data-driven decisions** for:
 - Maintenance & repair
 - Asset management
 - Infrastructure planning
 - ✓ To enhance **road safety** and **reduce travel time** by early identification of surface defects
-

4 Data Collection & Processing

- Vehicles equipped with the **3D sensors** and data acquisition systems will collect real-time data.
- The collected data will be uploaded to the **AI-powered "Data Lake"** portal.
- NHA experts will analyse the data to:
 - Detect cracks, potholes, uneven surfaces
 - Assess overall pavement health
 - Generate **maintenance & rectification plans**

"The data collected at regular intervals shall be preserved for future technical purposes in Road Asset Management System (RAMS)," — *NHA Statement*

5 Related Road Safety Measures

- NHAIs are also identifying ‘**black spots**’—road stretches with frequent accidents based on fatality data from States.
- As of March 2025:
 - **13,795 black spots** identified nationwide.
 - **5,036** have been rectified.
- Linked initiative: **Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR)** — a central repository for **real-time road accident data** and **management**.

6 Broader Impact

Area	Expected Outcome
Safety	Faster identification of accident-prone areas
Efficiency	Optimized repair & maintenance schedules
Cost Saving	Reduced long-term resurfacing & repair costs
Governance	Integration with AI for predictive asset management
Sustainability	Less material wastage through preventive maintenance

PARIS

France's Macron orders tighter security as Louvre reopens doors



French President Emmanuel Macron ordered stepped-up security measures at the Louvre, as the Paris museum reopened its doors after a shocking daylight heist. The reopening comes as the museum's director is set to face a grilling by senators to explain how thieves made off with \$102 million in jewels.

Israel must ease passage of aid into Gaza, provide 'basic needs', says ICJ

Israel is under an obligation to agree to and facilitate relief schemes provided by the UN and its entities, says ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa. Israel categorically rejects the ICJ's advisory opinion. Norway to propose UN General Assembly resolution

Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

The International Court of Justice said on Wednesday that Israel was obliged to ease the passage of aid into Gaza, stressing it had to provide Palestinians with the "basic needs" to survive.

The wide-ranging ICJ ruling, quickly rejected by Israel, came as aid groups scrambled to scale up much-needed humanitarian assistance into Gaza, setting upon a fragile ceasefire agreed earlier this month.

The ICJ's "Advisory Opinion" is not legally binding, but the court believes it carries "great legal weight".

TEL AVIV

Vance moots the 'tough task' of disarming Hamas, rebuilding Gaza



U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance warned on Wednesday of the tough task ahead in disarming Hamas and building a peaceful future for Gaza, as Washington sought to reassure its ally Israel over the next steps in its ambitious ceasefire deal. Mr. Vance met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the second day of his trip to Israel.

YANGON

SpaceX cuts off 2,500 Starlink devices at Myanmar scam centres



SpaceX has cut service to more than 2,500 Starlink internet devices at Myanmar scam centres, a company executive said. Spawning corporations where internet scammers target foreigners with romance and business cons have thrived along Myanmar's loosely governed border during its civil war, sparked by a 2021 coup.

WASHINGTON

Two dead in U.S. strike on alleged drug-smuggling boat in Pacific



A new U.S. strike on an alleged drug-smuggling boat killed two people, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in a post on X on Wednesday, announcing the first such attack on a vessel operating in the Pacific Ocean. The strike brings the total number to at least eight, leaving at least 34 people dead.

Imprisoned journalists win EU's top human rights award

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

Two journalists, one imprisoned in Belarus and the other in Georgia, have won the European Union's top human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced on Wednesday.

Andriy Pucholov is a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. He was convicted of "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal colony.

Mala Amagishvili, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's largest news outlets, was convicted in August of slapping a police chief during an anti-go-



Long (right), Georgian journalist Mala Amagishvili is one of the recipients of this year's Sakharov human rights prize.

vernment protest. She was sentenced to two years in prison in a case that was condemned by rights groups as an attempt to curb media freedom.

"Both are journalists currently in prison on trumped-up charges solely for doing their work and for speaking out against injustice. Their courage has

made them symbols of the struggle for freedom and democracy," Ms. Metsola said at the parliament in Strasbourg, France.

The annual EU award, named after Soviet dissident Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honour individuals or groups who defend human rights and basic freedoms.

Iran ratifies law to join UN convention against terror finance

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran ratified a law joining a United Nations convention against terror financing, local media reported on Wednesday, in hopes that it will lead to access to global banking, an easing of trade and relieving pressure on its sanctions-hit economy.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian was elected last year on a promise to ease relations with the West and secure the lifting of sanctions that are hurting the economy.

His administration is trying to bring the country into line with the demands of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which monitors money laundering and terrorist financing.

"Iran has for years provided support to the Palestinian Hamas militant group, Lebanon's Hezbollah group, and Yemen's Houthis — all designated as 'terrorist' groups by the U.S., along with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)."

Iran was returned to the FATF blacklist of non-cooperative countries in 2020, which includes North Korea and Myanmar. Along with heavy international sanctions, particularly by the U.S., Iran's inclusion in the blacklist has isolated the country's financial sector and severely restricted its access to the international banking system.

"President Masoud Pezeshkian has promulgated... the law on the Islamic Republic of Iran's accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (ICFT)," Tas-



Seeking shelters, Palestinians bury 94 unidentified bodies in Dheir al-Balah on Wednesday after they were returned by Israel.

news agency said on Wednesday. Joining the ICFT treaty has been the subject of a heated debate in recent weeks, with ultra-conservatives arguing it could grant "enemy" countries access to sensitive economic and military information, particularly related to Iran's support of regional militant groups.

Iranian lawmaker Mehdi Shahriri said earlier this month that Iran's non-membership in the FATF and ICFT had "created difficulties" in trade, including with key allies Russia and China, according to the pro-labour news agency IRNA.

Reformists and moderates in Tehran view compliance with FATF standards as a vital step toward reconnecting with the international banking system and stabilising the economy.

However, international sanctions remain the primary obstacle to Iran's economic and trade activities.

Local media reported on Tuesday that an Iranian representative attended an FATF meeting in Paris for the first time in six years.

In September, the United Nations reimposed sanctions on Iran.

The move came after months of tense diplomacy aimed at reviving talks derailed since June, when Israeli and U.S. forces bombed Iranian nuclear facilities.

'White House down'



A wildfire rages from the East Wing as work continues on the demolition of a part of the East Wing of the White House in Washington on Tuesday, before construction of a new ballroom.

Bangladesh court detains 15 high-ranking Army officers for enforced disappearances

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

A Bangladesh court recommended in custody on Wednesday 15 high-ranking Army officers on charges of enforced disappearances and atrocities committed during the 2024 uprising that toppled the government.

It is the first time that formal charges have been brought for enforced disappearances in Bangladesh, and the first time so many senior military officials have faced a civilian trial.

The men, including five generals, are accused of running a secret detention centre during the tenure of the now-outed Prime Mi-

sparked the war. The ICJ ruled that Israel had not substantiated the allegations. Israel did not take part in the proceedings and hit back at the findings.

"Israel categorically rejects the ICJ's 'advisory opinion,' which was entirely predictable from the outset regarding UNRWA," foreign ministry spokesman, Oren Mazarovitz, posted on X.

"This is yet another political attempt to impose political measures against Israel under the guise of 'international law'."

Mr. Iwasawa said the ICJ "rejects the argument that the request abuses and weaponises the international judicial process."

Another Israeli official added that Israel "cooperates with international organisations, with other UN agencies regarding Gaza. But Israel will not cooperate with UNRWA."

Within hours of the ruling, Norway said it would propose a UN General Assembly resolution demanding that Israel lift restrictions on Gaza aid.

And the Palestinian delegate to the ICJ, Ammar al-Hanani, urged nations to ensure Israel complies with the court to let aid into Gaza.

"The responsibility is on the international community to uphold these values and oblige Israel, bringing Israel into compliance," he told reporters.



Towards justice: Police escort detained Army officers to the International Crimes Tribunal court in Dhaka on Wednesday.



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her this month. "They declared their allegiance to the law of the land and their respect for the judicial process," the court's chief prosecutor said.

That was reflected in the cooperation they have extended. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk, in a statement on October 19, said that the court process was an important step towards accountability.

"It is a significant moment for victims and their families," Mr. Turk said. Bangladesh is prosecuting former senior figures connected to Mr. Hasina and her now-deposed Awami League party.

Six killed in massive missile, drone attack on Ukraine by Russia

Associated Press
KYIV

A large-scale Russian drone and missile attack on Ukraine killed at least six persons, including a woman and her two young daughters, officials said on Wednesday, as U.S.-led efforts to end the war floundered and Ukraine's President sought more foreign military help.

Waves of missiles and drones throughout the night targeted at least eight Ukrainian cities, as well as a village in the Kyiv region where a strike set fire to a house in which the mother and her 6-month and 12-year-old daughters were sleeping, regional head Mykola Kalashnyk said.

At least 29 people, including five children, were injured in Kyiv, authorities said. Russian drones also hit a kindergarten in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, later on Wednesday when children were in the building, Mayor Ihor Tereshchuk said.

One person was killed and six were injured but no children were physically harmed, he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said "all Ukrainians were in shock. He said the attack

targeted the wider Kyiv, Odessa, Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Zaporizhzhia, Cherkassy, and Sumy regions.

Russia fired 405 strikes and dozens of drones and 28 missiles at Ukraine, mainly targeting Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly expressed frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin's refusal to budge from his conditions for a settlement after Ukraine offered a ceasefire and direct peace talks.

Mr. Trump said on Tuesday that his plan for a swift meeting with Mr. Putin was on hold because he didn't want it to be a "waste of time."

European leaders accused Putin of stalling. Mr. Zelenskyy said Mr. Trump's proposal to freeze the conflict where it stands on the front line "was a good compromise."

A step that could pave the way for negotiations. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the planned summit required careful preparation, suggesting that laying the groundwork could be premature. "No one wants to waste time neither President Trump nor President Putin," he said.



The kindergarten that was hit by a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv on Wednesday.

Imprisoned journalists win EU's top human rights award

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

Two journalists, one imprisoned in Belarus and the other in Georgia, have won the European Union's top human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced on Wednesday.

Andrzej Poczobut is a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*. He was convicted of "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal colony.

Mzia Amaghlobeli, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's independent media outlets, was convicted in August of slapping a police chief during an anti-go-



Long fight: Georgian journalist Mzia Amaghlobeli is one of the recipients of this year's Sakharov human rights prize. AFP

vernment protest.

She was sentenced to two years in prison in a case that was condemned by rights groups as an attempt to curb media freedom.

"Both are journalists currently in prison on trumped up charges simply for doing their work and for speaking out against injustice. Their courage has

made them symbols of the struggle for freedom and democracy," Ms. Metsola said at the parliament in Strasbourg, France.

The annual EU award, named after Soviet dissident Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honour individuals or groups who defend human rights and basic freedoms.

- Two journalists — **Andrzej Poczobut (Belarus)** and **Mzia Amaghlobeli (Georgia)** — have won the **European Union’s top human rights award, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought (2025).**
- The award was announced by **European Parliament President Roberta Metsola** in **Strasbourg, France.**

2 About the Laureates

Name	Country	Background & Charges	Sentence / Status
Andrzej Poczobut	Belarus	Journalist with <i>Gazeta Wyborcza</i> (Poland-based newspaper). Convicted of “harming Belarus’ national security.”	Serving 8 years in Novopolotsk penal colony.
Mzia Amaghlobeli	Georgia	Prominent journalist, founder of independent media outlets in Georgia. Convicted of slapping a police officer during a protest.	Sentenced to 2 years in prison (August 2025).

Aspect	Information
Award Name	<i>Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought</i>
Established by	European Parliament (EU)
Year Instituted	1988
Named After	<i>Andrei Sakharov</i> — Soviet dissident & Nobel Peace laureate
Purpose	To honor individuals/groups defending human rights and freedom of expression
Prize Ceremony	To be held in Strasbourg, France

About the Sakharov Prize

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graph TD; A[About the Sakharov Prize] --> B[Named after Andrei Sakharov, Soviet nuclear physicist and human rights activist.]; B --> C[Recognizes those who defend freedom of thought, human rights, and democracy.]; C --> D[Previous winners include: Nelson Mandela (1988), Alexei Navalny (2021), Mahsa Amini and Iran's "Woman, Life, Freedom" Movement (2023), Maria Kalesnikava & Belarus opposition (2020)];
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Named after **Andrei Sakharov**, Soviet nuclear physicist and human rights activist.

Previous winners include:

- Nelson Mandela (1988)
- Alexei Navalny (2021)
- Mahsa Amini and Iran's "Woman, Life, Freedom" Movement (2023)
- Maria Kalesnikava & Belarus opposition (2020)

Recognizes those who **defend freedom of thought, human rights, and democracy.**

Saudi Arabia Abolishes Kafala System





The Kafala System

- 1 **The Kafala system**, meaning "sponsorship" in Arabic, is used in **Gulf countries** like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE.
- 2 **Kafala** regulates the **relationship between employers and migrant workers**, requiring foreign workers to have an in-country sponsor, typically their employer.
- 3 This sponsor controls the worker's visa and legal status. **Workers cannot change jobs or leave the country without the sponsor's permission**, leading to potential exploitation, non-payment of wages, poor working conditions, and restricted freedom of movement.



Saudi Arabia has officially abolished the decades-old kafala labour sponsorship system, a controversial practice long criticised by international labour and human rights groups as a form of modern-day slavery.

The move marks a major policy shift under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 reform programme, aiming to reshape the country's global image and attract foreign investment.

End of a Controversial Era

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graph TD; A[End of a Controversial Era] --> B[The kafala system, introduced in the 1950s, governed the employment of foreign workers by linking them to a local sponsor, or kafeel.]; B --> C[This arrangement granted employers excessive control, including the authority to confiscate passports, restrict movement, and decide job changes or exits from the country. The system left millions vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, with limited legal recourse.];
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This arrangement granted employers excessive control, including the authority to confiscate passports, restrict movement, and decide job changes or exits from the country. The system left millions vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, with limited legal recourse.

- 
- Human rights organisations, including Amnesty International and the (ILO), have repeatedly condemned the practice.
 - It was particularly harsh on domestic workers and women, who were often subject to physical and sexual abuse by their sponsors.



OpenAI Launches ChatGPT Atlas Browser

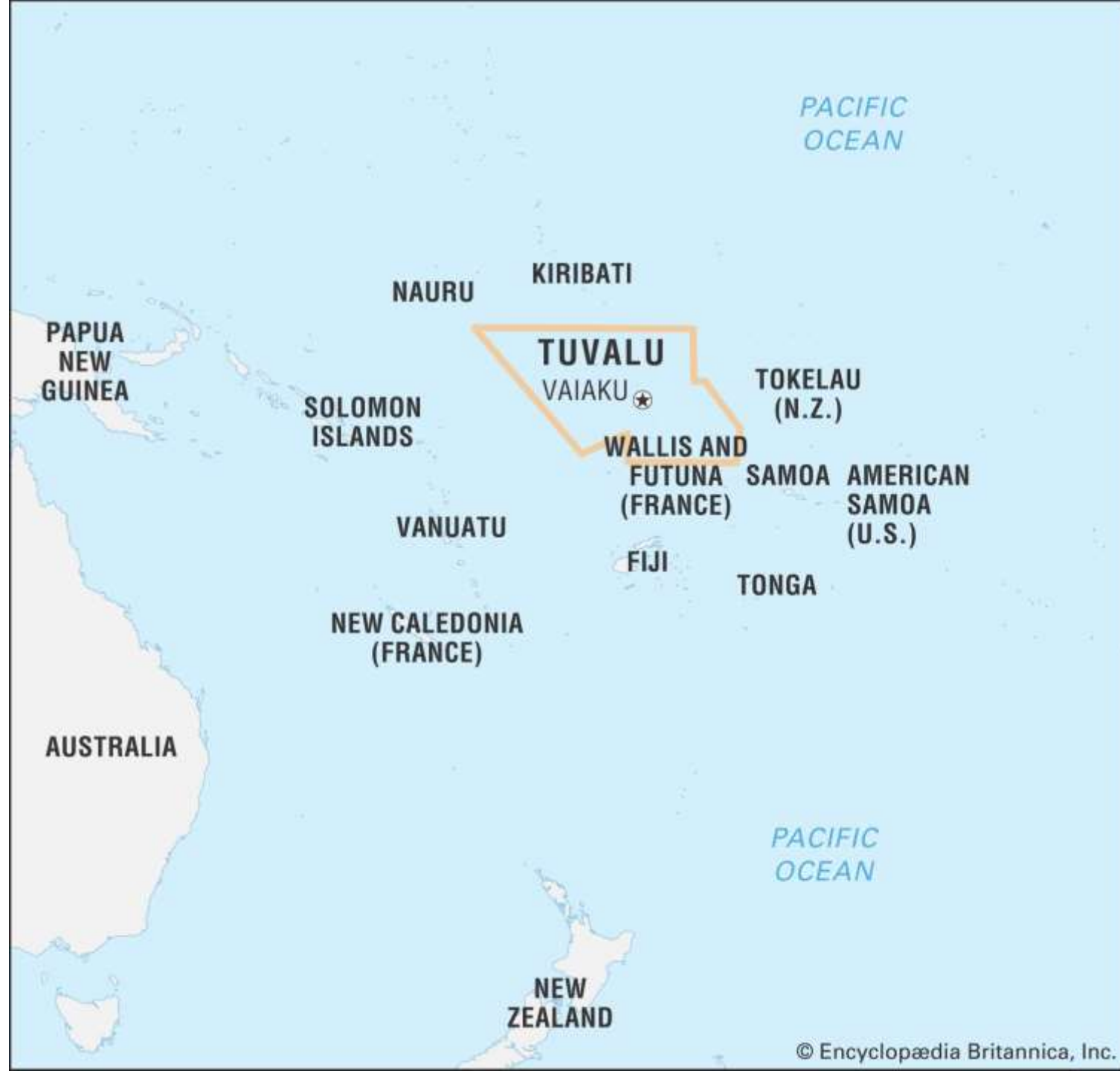
-
- OpenAI has unveiled ChatGPT Atlas, a new web browser designed to integrate its AI assistant directly into everyday internet use.
 - Positioned as a direct competitor to Google Chrome, Atlas aims to make browsing and searching more conversational, efficient, and personalised, marking a significant shift in how users interact with the web.

- **What Is ChatGPT Atlas?**

- ChatGPT Atlas is a full-featured web browser that embeds OpenAI's ChatGPT into the browsing experience itself. Users can interact with the AI on any webpage without switching tabs or copying content. Acting as a "super-assistant," Atlas helps users find information, automate tasks, and manage workflows within a single interface.
- The browser is now available globally on macOS for Free, Plus, Pro, and Go users, while Business users can access a beta version. Versions for Windows, iOS, and Android are expected soon, with enterprise and education access dependent on administrator permissions.

Tuvalu Joins IUCN as 90th Member State





- **Tuvalu: A Nation at Risk**

- Tuvalu consists of nine atolls and low-lying islands, covering just 26 square kilometres. Despite its small land area, Tuvalu boasts a vast Exclusive Economic Zone of approximately 900,000 square kilometres.

- This area is rich in marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, fisheries, and migratory seabird populations. However, Tuvalu faces severe threats from climate change, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and invasive species.

- These challenges endanger both the natural environment and the livelihoods of Tuvalu's people.



Centre Launches ₹600 Crore Kapas Kranti Mission

-
- The central government has launched the ₹600 crore “Kapas Kranti Mission” to enhance high-yield, long-staple cotton cultivation through innovative agricultural practices and technology.
 - The mission aims to replicate successful High-Density Plantation (HDP) methods from Maharashtra in Telangana. A new mobile application, “Kapas Kisan App,” will facilitate the cotton procurement process, ensuring transparency and fair pricing for farmers.

Rangarajan Poverty Line

- Economists from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Department of Economic and Policy Research published a paper in which they 'updated' the Rangarajan Poverty Line for 20 major states of India, using data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23.



- What are the Key Highlights of RBI's Paper on Updated Rangarajan Poverty Line?
- **Biggest Improvements: Odisha and Bihar** showed the largest decline in poverty levels since 2011-12, with rural poverty in Odisha falling from 47.8% to 8.6% and urban poverty in Bihar falling from 50.8% to 9.1%.
- **Smallest Declines: Kerala and Himachal Pradesh** showed the least decline in poverty percentages because their poverty levels were already low.
- **Rural and Urban Extremes:** In 2022-23, rural poverty was lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.4%) and highest in Chhattisgarh (25.1%). Urban poverty was lowest in Tamil Nadu (1.9%) and highest in Chhattisgarh (13.3%).
- **Consumption Pattern Changes:** The study acknowledges that consumption patterns changed between 2011-12 and 2022-23, suggesting that poverty baskets and lines may need further updates in the future.

HIGHEST THREE POVERTY LINES

RURAL		2022-23	2011-12
Delhi		2,577	 1,492
Haryana		2,083	 1,128
Punjab		2,048	 1,127
URBAN		2022-23	2011-12
Maharashtra		2,791	 1,560
Haryana		2,696	 1,528
Gujarat		2,664	 1,507

LOWEST THREE POVERTY LINES

RURAL		2022-23	2011-12
Jharkhand		1,621	 904
Odisha		1,608	 876
Chattisgarh		1,586	 912
URBAN		2022-23	2011-12
Bihar		2,277	 1,229
Odisha		2,182	 1,205
Chattisgarh		2,149	 1,230

Poverty Estimation in India:

- **Pre-Independence:** Efforts to estimate poverty began with **Dadabhai Naoroji's** book *"Poverty and Un-British Rule in India"*, followed by the **National Planning Committee (1938)** and the **Bombay Plan (1944)**, which discussed minimum living standards and income levels.
- **Post-Independence:** The **Planning Commission (1962)** initiated an official poverty assessment.
 - Later committees like **Alagh Committee (1979)** and **Lakdawala Committee (1993)** refined the methodology, focusing on consumption expenditure and calorie norms.
- **Tendulkar Committee (2009):** Shifted from calorie-based norms, recommended a **uniform all-India Poverty Line Basket (PLB)**, and adopted **Mixed Reference Period (MRP)** consumption data.
 - It estimated the 2011–12 poverty line at Rs 816 (rural) and Rs 1,000 (urban) per capita per month.
- **Rangarajan Committee (2014):** Formed after criticism of the Tendulkar method, it reverted to separate **rural and urban PLBs**, estimating Rs 972 (rural) and Rs 1,407 (urban) per capita per month.
 - However, the government did not adopt its recommendations officially.

- **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):** Launched in 2010 by **United Nations Development Programme** and **Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**, the MPI measures poverty beyond income, considering deprivations in health, education, and living standards.
 - It reflects both the proportion of poor people and the average number of deprivations they experience simultaneously.
 - In **2025**, the **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** shows that **1.1 billion people (18.3%) across 109 countries** live in acute multidimensional poverty, with **43.6% facing severe deprivation in at least half of the indicators**.
- **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI):** NITI Aayog uses **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** to measure the NMPI.
 - The multidimensional poverty in India has declined from **29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23** with about 24.82 crore people escaping poverty.
 - The **Gini index** declined from **28.8 in 2011-12 to 25.5 in 2022-23**, showing reduced inequality.



Six-Pocket Syndrome



A *Kaun Banega Crorepati* episode featuring a child's overconfident behaviour towards Amitabh Bachchan has sparked debate on overindulgent parenting among Generation Alpha (people born from 2010-2024/25), which experts link to the "**Six-Pocket Syndrome.**"

What is Six-Pocket Syndrome?

- **About:** The Six-Pocket Syndrome, a term from **China's one-child policy era (1979-2015)**, describes how **one child was doted on by six adults** (two parents and four grandparents) who poured all their affection and resources into them.
 - This overindulgence fostered **entitlement and a sense that every wish deserves to be fulfilled**, leaving little room for discipline, patience, or empathy.
- **Indian Context:** In India, the Six-Pocket Syndrome is common in **urban middle-class families**, where working parents and indulgent grandparents shower children with attention, gifts, and leniency.
 - This overcompensation fosters a belief in **the right to demand and be rewarded instantly**, without understanding effort, boundaries, or consequences.

- **Sociological Perspective:** Reflects the shift from a **responsibility-based society** (where children contribute and adapt) to a **right-based society** (where children feel entitled to comfort and attention).
 - **Erving Goffman's "Dramaturgical Perspective":** Explains how modern children, shaped by family and media, learn to **perform roles that attract validation rather than build character**.
 - Childhood becomes a stage for social approval rather than moral learning.
 - **Zygmunt Bauman's "Liquid Modernity":** States that society now prioritises instant gratification, fluid identities, and social visibility over long-term emotional grounding.
- **Psychological and Behavioural Effects:**
 - **Low frustration tolerance:** The child cannot handle rejection, denial, or criticism.
 - **Reward-demanding behaviour:** They associate love with material rewards and expect instant gratification.
 - **Emotional immaturity:** Limited capacity for patience, empathy, or self-control.
 - **Dependency and fragility:** The child struggles with autonomy and resilience when facing failure or peer pressure.
 - In severe cases, such children may exhibit **tantrums, aggression, or anxiety** when denied their wishes.

What are the Challenges Facing Generation Alpha?

- **Impatience and Instant Gratification:** Growing up in a digital world of one-click solutions and fast content, Generation Alpha struggles with **delayed gratification**.
 - They expect quick results and often lack **patience, persistence, and tolerance for failure**.
- **Overconfidence and Entitlement:** Constant validation both at home and online breed **excessive self-assurance without competence**.
 - This results in **low humility**, difficulty accepting criticism, and unrealistic self-perception.
- **Erosion of Behavioural Norms:** With social interactions increasingly mediated through screens, children show declining **respect for elders, authority, and social etiquette**.
 - Exposure to unfiltered online content normalises **informality and irreverence** in language and conduct.
- **Emotional Fragility and Mental Health Issues:** Overprotection, combined with constant comparison on social media, weakens emotional resilience.
 - Rising levels of **anxiety, irritability, and self-esteem issues** are evident among school-age children.

- **Declining Social and Empathic Skills:** Reduced face-to-face interaction limits their ability to **read emotions, negotiate differences, or handle conflict.**
 - Virtual connections often replace real friendships, creating **emotional isolation.**
- **Consumerism:** Influencer culture promotes materialism and a **performative lifestyle**, where self-worth depends on visibility and possessions.
- **Overdependence on Technology:** Early digital exposure leads to **reduced creativity, shorter attention spans, and addictive behaviour.**
 - The ability to think critically or solve problems independently is gradually diminishing.
- **Data and Privacy Risks:** Generation Alpha is the **first fully datafied generation**, with their information collected from birth.

Word of the day

Precipitate:

bring about abruptly; separate as a fine suspension of solid particles; fall vertically, sharply, or headlong; hurl or throw violently; done with very great haste and without due deliberation

Synonyms: hasty, fall

Usage: *Our economy has precipitated into complete ruin.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/
precipitatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pɹɪ'sɪpɪteɪt/, /pɹə'sɪpɪteɪt/



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Thank you 😊

