



6
The Hindu



2
PIB, PRS & Other newspaper



3
The Indian Express



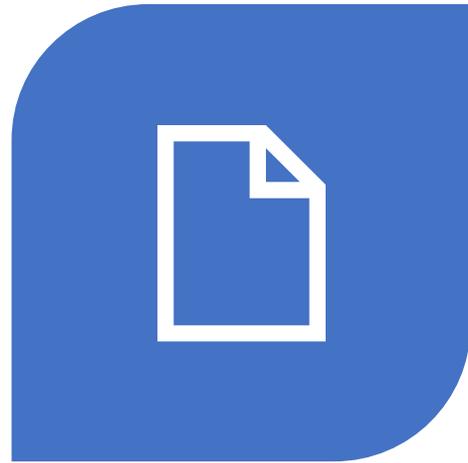
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10 MCQ QUIZ

“Exams test memory; life tests character.”

Sonal
MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE
India will be in the top 5 by 2047: Sonawal
NEWS PAGE 4

WE DON'T SHARE DATA WITH META: WHATSAPP
CASE IN FC
NEWS PAGE 6

IOFC FIRST FRAUD
Staff plotted with outsiders: Bank CEO
BUSINESS PAGE 12

STRATEGIC ADOPTION
Energy shift through green ammonia
India's approach can shape global standards
EDITORIAL PAGE 8

BIG BATTLE
England faces the Pakistan challenge
SPORT PAGE 14

INSIDE

Canada's Carney arrives for trade talks on Feb. 27
NEW DELHI
Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will travel to Mumbai and Delhi this week as part of a three-nation tour of India, Australia, and Japan aimed at enhancing Canada's trade relations, his office announced on Monday. PAGE 4

Bengal SIR: 250 judicial officers aid with backlog
KOLKATA
Following a Supreme Court order, nearly 250 judicial officers on Monday started work on resolving pending cases related to the ongoing special internet revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. PAGE 8

Trinamool leader Mukul Roy dies at the age of 71
KOLKATA
Trinamool Congress leader Mukul Roy passed away in the early hours of Monday morning. He was 71. One of the founding members of the Trinamool Congress, Roy was considered a 'Chakravyuh' of West Bengal politics. PAGE 9

Iran expresses optimism about talks with the U.S.
TEHRAN
Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has expressed cautious optimism about talks with Washington, while Steve Mnuchin, the U.S. special envoy for West Asia, said President Donald Trump had set clearer lines regarding Iran's programme. PAGE 14

Centre unveils policy to tackle terror threats

PRAHAAR states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts — water, land and air, capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy, it adds; policy aims at criminalising all terrorist acts and denying terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funding, weapons and safe havens, says Union Home Ministry

Vibhita Singh
NEW DELHI
The Union Home Ministry on Monday released the country's first-ever anti-terror policy, emphasising that other than terrorism, religion, ethnicity, nationality or caste are not the basis for "sponsored terrorism" from across the border, "criminal hackers and nation states" coming together to target India through cyber-attacks.

The policy, titled PRAHAAR — has been uploaded on the ministry's website. It states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts — water, land and air — and that capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy, including power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space and atomic energy, from both state and non-state actors. The *Hindu* first reported

on December 23, 2018, that the National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy had been finalised and would be released soon. The policy underlines that "India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation".

Cross-border terrorism
However, it notes that India has been affected by "sponsored terrorism" from across the border, with "attacks terror outfits as well as their front organisations" continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks. "India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and IS, which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells," it says, adding that extremists operating from foreign countries have hatched conspiracies to promote terrorism. "Their handlers from across the border frequently use the latest technologies, including the use of drones, for facilitating terror-related activities and attacks in India and J&K. Increasingly, terrorist groups are engaging organised criminal networks for

logistics and recruitment to execute and fund terror strikes in India," the policy says. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced on November 7, 2018, that a National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy was being drafted to fight terrorism and its ecosystem.

Following the April 23, 2018, Pahalgam terror incident, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted meetings with anti-terror units of all states and apprised them of the measures aimed at preventing and stopping such attacks. The policy further states that for propaganda, communication, funding and guiding terror attacks, these terror groups use social media platforms as well as "instant messaging applications" and technical advancements such as encryption, dark web, crypto wallets etc., making them to operate anonymously.

"Disrupting/intercepting terror efforts to access and use CERNET (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive), digital materials remains a law challenge for Counter Terrorism (CT) agencies. The threat of state and non-state actors misusing drones and robotics for lethal purposes remains another area of concern," it flags. As a way forward, the policy suggests that to make appropriate cases against the perpetrators of acts of terrorism, there is a need to associate legal experts at every stage of investigation. "Terrorist groups based outside from abroad nowadays use the infrastructure, logistics and terrain knowledge of local outfits for launching attacks. National actions, coupled with international and regional cooperation, are key elements in addressing the transnational terrorism challenge," it emphasises. The MHA said Indian intelligence and law enforcement agencies have

continuously working to prevent the recruitment of Indian youth by extremist groups. Underlining the role of community and religious leaders, the policy states that moderate preachers and NGOs are engaged to spread awareness about the adverse consequences and impacts of radicalisation and extremist violence. The Ministry said there is a move to establish a uniform anti-terrorism structure across states, an standardisation of processes and procedures would ensure similar and synergistic responses to terror attacks. It said that the policy aims to criminalise all terrorist acts and deny access to funds, weapons and safe havens.

Rescue efforts on after air ambulance with 7 aboard crashes in Jharkhand

Praan Trivedi of India
RANCHI

A Delhi-bound air ambulance carrying seven persons crashed in a forest near Niamaria in Chhota district of Jharkhand on Monday. Ranchi airport Director Vinod Kumar said search and rescue teams have been dispatched, but there was no immediate confirmation about casualties, officials said. The crash occurred after the air ambulance took off from the Ranchi airport at 7:10 p.m. The helicopter CRJ plane operated by Red Bull Airways lost contact with air traffic control 15 minutes after take off. Incident investigation Bureau (IAB) team is being dispatched for investigation. The actual reason would be as-



The wreckage of the air ambulance after it crashed near Niamaria in Chhota district of Jharkhand. PHOTO

certained only after a probe, Mr. Kumar added. An Aircraft Accident investigation Bureau (AAIB) team is being dispatched for investigation. "The aircraft was airborne from Ranchi at 7:10 p.m. After establishing contact with Kolkata at 7:34 p.m., the aircraft lost communication and RA-

Directions in hate crime ruling may be too difficult

Krishnakumar Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday described the "unambiguous" general directions issued by the Supreme Court in a 2018 judgment to the Union government and States to prevent and prosecute cow vigilantes and mobocracy. Rather, the Chief Justice observed in favour of an ideological approach, taking up such crime on its merits and facts and not acting on any infraction of a person's right or freedom. The Directorate of Full Report ON PAGE 4



Tragic incident: A health official collecting a blood sample from a person who consumed milk supplied by the vendor. PHOTO

'Adulterated milk' claims four lives in Andhra Pradesh

T. Anjala Naidu
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Four elderly persons have died from acute renal failure after consuming adulterated milk in Rajamahendravaram City in Andhra Pradesh, the East Godavari district administration said on Monday. Officials said 12 people, including the dead, had taken ill after consuming the milk. Eight victims are suffering from acute uraemia (absence of urine), and are undergoing treatment and dialysis. Three of them are children aged below four years and are critical, said officials.

The deceased have been identified as N. Noshagiri Rao, 72, Radha Krishna Murthy, 74, Thadi Krishnamoorthy, 76, and Thadi Ramaiah, 56. East Godavari District Collector Kirithi Chekurla said the victims consumed milk supplied by the same vendor, Adhik Ganeswara Rao. The vendor, who procured milk from 40 dairy farmers and supplied to 100 families, has been detained. "All the 12 persons are from Paravoor Nagar and Choudwaru Nagar areas of Rajamahendravaram," Mr. Kirithi said.

25 troops killed as Mexico cartel chief's killing triggers violence

Alexandra Escobar-Perez
GUANAJUATO

Twenty-five Mexican troops died in clashes with cartel gunmen following a raid that led to the death of the country's most-wanted drug lord, a top security official said on Monday. Mexico was on high alert on Monday as schools closed and travellers stranded, as members of the powerful drug cartel went on a violent rampage across parts of the country after the Army announced it had killed its leader. Kenneth "El Menchero" Ocegueda, leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, was wounded in a clash with soldiers in the town of Tapalpa, in Jalisco State, and died while being flown to Mexico City, the Army said on Sunday. He had a \$15 million U.S.

bonus on his head. News of his death triggered cartel members across the country to block roads, torch vehicles and businesses, and send fear and confusion to his followers. At least 25 National Guard members were killed in subsequent clashes, Security Secretary Claudia Sheinbaum said. He added that a prison guard, a member of the state police and 20 suspected members of the drug cartel organisation were also killed. "The state capital Guanajuato were almost empty as stores, pharmacies and restaurants shut down. The violence spread to the neighbouring Michoacan, where the cartel has a presence,



Conflict scene: A bus set on fire by organised crime groups in Zapopan, Mexico, on Sunday. PHOTO

and gripped the resort city of Puerto Vallarta. Travel warnings from the U.K., Canada and the U.S. have been issued in the fallout, with Australia urging citizens to "exercise a high degree of caution" early Monday. The Indian Embassy in Mexico on Monday issued an advisory to Indian nationals residing in the country, urging them to exercise caution and remain indoors and avoid public places. "The U.S. Foreign Office advised on Monday against all but essential travel to parts of Mexico, including Jalisco. Washington asked U.S. citizens to "abster in place until further notice".

Centre unveils policy to tackle terror threats

PRAHAAR states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts – water, land and air; capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy, it adds; policy aims at criminalising all terrorist acts and denying terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funding, weapons and safe havens, says Union Home Ministry

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Monday released the country's first-ever anti-terror policy, emphasising that other than terror sponsored from across the border, "criminal hackers and nation states continue to target India through cyber-attacks".

The policy – titled PRAHAAR – has been uploaded on the Ministry's website.

It states that India faces terrorist threats on all three fronts – water, land and air – and that capacities have been developed to protect critical sectors of the economy, including power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space and atomic energy, from both state and non-state actors.

The Hindu first reported

on December 23, 2025, that the National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy had been finalised and would be released soon. The policy underlines that "India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation".

Cross-border terrorism

However, it notes that India has been affected by "sponsored terrorism" from across the border, with "Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations" continuing to plan, coordinate, facilitate and execute terror attacks. "India has been on the target of global terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and IS, which have been trying to incite violence in the country through sleeper cells," it says, adding that extremists operating from foreign countries



have hatched conspiracies to promote terrorism.

"Their handlers from across the border frequently use the latest technologies, including the use of drones, for facilitating terror-related activities and attacks in Punjab and J&K. Increasingly, terrorist groups are engaging organised criminal networks for

logistics and recruitment to execute and facilitate terror strikes in India," the policy says.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had announced on November 7, 2024, that a National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy was being drafted to fight terrorism and its ecosystem.

Following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror incident, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted meetings with anti-terror units of all States and apprised them of the measures aimed at preventing and pre-empting such attacks.

The policy further states that for propaganda, communication, funding and guiding terror attacks, these terror groups use social media platforms as well as 'instant messaging applications' and technological advancements such as encryption, dark web, crypto wallets etc, enabling them to operate anonymously.

"Disrupting/Intercepting terrorist efforts to access and use CBRNED (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive, Digital) materials remains a challenge for

Counter Terrorism (CT) agencies. The threat of state and non-state actors misusing drones and robotics for lethal purposes remains another area of concern," it flags.

As a way forward, the policy suggests that to make appropriate cases against the perpetrators of acts of terrorism, there is a need to associate legal experts at every stage of investigation.

"Terrorist groups based outside (from abroad) nowadays use the infrastructure, logistics and terrain knowledge of local outfits for launching attacks. National actions, coupled with international and regional cooperation, are key elements in addressing the transnational terrorism challenge," it emphasises.

The MHA said Indian intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been

continuously working to prevent the recruitment of Indian youth by extremist groups.

Underscoring the role of community and religious leaders, the policy states that moderate preachers and NGOs are engaged to spread awareness about the adverse consequences and impacts of radicalisation and extremist violence.

The Ministry said there is a move to establish a uniform anti-terrorism structure across States, as standardisation of processes and procedures would ensure similar and synergistic responses to terror attack.

It said that the policy aims to criminalise all terrorist acts and deny access to terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, weapons and safe havens.

- The Union Home Ministry released India's first-ever National Counter Terrorism Policy named PRAHAAR.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने भारत की पहली राष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद-रोधी नीति "PRAHAAR" जारी की।

- It addresses terrorist threats across water, land and air domains.

यह जल, थल और वायु—तीनों मोर्चों पर आतंकवादी खतरों को संबोधित करती है।

- The policy aims to criminalise all terrorist acts and cut access to funding, weapons and safe havens. नीति का उद्देश्य सभी आतंकी कृत्यों को अपराध घोषित करना तथा आतंकियों की धन, हथियार और सुरक्षित ठिकानों तक पहुँच रोकना है।
-

2 Nature of Threats / खतरे की प्रकृति

(A) Cross-Border Terrorism / सीमा पार आतंकवाद

- India has faced “sponsored terrorism” from across borders.
भारत ने सीमा पार प्रायोजित आतंकवाद का सामना किया है।
- Groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS have attempted sleeper-cell based violence.
अल-कायदा और आईएस जैसे समूहों ने स्लीपर सेल के माध्यम से हिंसा फैलाने का प्रयास किया है।
- Handlers use drones and latest technologies for attacks in Punjab and J&K.
आतंकी संचालक पंजाब और जम्मू-कश्मीर में ड्रोन सहित आधुनिक तकनीकों का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।

(B) Cyber & Tech-enabled Terrorism / साइबर व तकनीकी आतंकवाद

- Use of encryption, dark web, crypto wallets and instant messaging.
एन्क्रिप्शन, डार्क वेब, क्रिप्टो वॉलेट और इंस्टेंट मैसेजिंग का उपयोग।
- Threat of misuse of drones and robotics.
ड्रोन और रोबोटिक्स के दुरुपयोग का खतरा।

(C) Radicalisation / उग्रवाद

- Recruitment of youth via propaganda and social media.
सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से युवाओं की भर्ती।
- Role of moderate religious leaders and NGOs to counter radicalisation.
उग्रवाद रोकने हेतु धार्मिक नेताओं व NGOs की भूमिका।

3 Institutional & Policy Measures / संस्थागत एवं नीतिगत उपाय

- Coordination with NIA and state anti-terror units.
NIA और राज्यों की एंटी-टेरर इकाइयों के साथ समन्वय।
 - Uniform anti-terror structure across states.
राज्यों में समान आतंकवाद-रोधी ढांचा।
 - Legal experts to assist investigations at every stage.
जांच के हर चरण में विधिक विशेषज्ञों की सहायता।
 - Focus on disrupting CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) threats.
रासायनिक, जैविक, रेडियोलॉजिकल और परमाणु खतरों पर विशेष ध्यान।
-

Historical Background / ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- 1967: UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) enacted.
1967: गैरकानूनी गतिविधि (निवारण) अधिनियम लागू।
- 2001: Parliament Attack → Strengthening of anti-terror laws.
2001: संसद हमला → आतंकवाद-रोधी कानून सख्त।
- 2008: Mumbai 26/11 attacks → Creation of NIA (2008).
2008: मुंबई 26/11 हमले → NIA की स्थापना।
- 2019: Amendment in UAPA allowing individuals to be declared terrorists.
2019: UAPA संशोधन – व्यक्तियों को आतंकी घोषित करने का प्रावधान।

Geographical Dimensions / भौगोलिक आयाम

- Border states: Punjab, J&K, Rajasthan vulnerable to infiltration.
सीमावर्ती राज्य पंजाब, जम्मू-कश्मीर, राजस्थान घुसपैठ के प्रति संवेदनशील।
 - Coastal security strengthened post-26/11.
26/11 के बाद तटीय सुरक्षा सुदृढ़।
 - India's proximity to unstable regions impacts security.
अस्थिर क्षेत्रों की निकटता से सुरक्षा प्रभावित।
-

Political Aspects / राजनीतिक आयाम

- National security central to federal cooperation.
राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संघीय सहयोग का प्रमुख विषय।
- Standardisation across states ensures uniform response.
राज्यों में मानकीकरण से समान प्रतिक्रिया सुनिश्चित।
- Counter-terror diplomacy via international cooperation.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग के माध्यम से आतंकवाद-रोधी कूटनीति।

Economic Impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Terrorism affects FDI and investor confidence.
आतंकवाद से प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश व निवेशक विश्वास प्रभावित।
- Critical sectors protected: Power, Railways, Ports, Aviation, Defence.
ऊर्जा, रेलवे, बंदरगाह, उड्डयन, रक्षा जैसे क्षेत्रों की सुरक्षा।
- Cyber attacks can disrupt financial systems.
साइबर हमले वित्तीय प्रणाली बाधित कर सकते हैं।

Comparison with Global Frameworks / वैश्विक तुलना

| Country | Key Feature | Year |
|---------|----------------|-------------|
| USA | PATRIOT Act | 2001 |
| UK | Terrorism Act | 2000 |
| India | UAPA + PRAHAAR | 1967 / 2025 |

| Exam | Date | Question | Answer |
|------------------|------|--|---|
| UPSC CSE Prelims | 2011 | Which Act deals with unlawful activities and terrorism in India? | UAPA 1967 |
| UPSC CSE Prelims | 2013 | NIA was constituted after which incident? | 26/11 Mumbai attacks |
| SSC CGL | 2019 | Which agency investigates terror offences in India? | NIA |
| CDS Exam | 2020 | What does CBRN stand for? | Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear |
| RPSC RAS | 2021 | UAPA amendment 2019 allows designation of whom as terrorists? | Individuals |
| Railway NTPC | 2022 | Headquarters of NIA is located in which city? | New Delhi |
| IB ACIO | 2023 | Dark web is associated with which type of threat? | Cybercrime/Terror financing |

25 troops killed as Mexico cartel chief's killing triggers violence

Agence France-Presse

GUADALAJARA

Twenty-five Mexican troops died in clashes with cartel gunmen following a raid that led to the death of the country's most-wanted drug lord, a top security official said on Monday.

Mexico was on high alert on Monday with schools closed and travellers stranded, as members of the powerful drug cartel went on a violent rampage across parts of the country after the Army announced it had killed its leader.

Nemesio 'El Mencho' Oseguera, leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, was wounded in a clash with soldiers in the town of Tapalpa, in Jalisco State, and died while being flown to Mexico City, the Army said on Sunday.

He had a \$15 million U.S.

bounty on his head.

News of his death triggered cartel members across the country to block roads, torch vehicles and businesses, and send fearful residents into hiding.

At least 25 National Guard members were killed in subsequent clashes, Security Secretary Omar Garcia Harfuch said.

He added that a prison guard, a member of the state prosecutor's office and 30 suspected members of Oseguera's criminal organisation were also killed.

Empty streets

The streets of the State capital Guadalajara were almost empty as stores, pharmacies and gas stations shut down. The violence spread to the neighbouring Michoacan, where the cartel has a presence,



Conflict zone: A bus set on fire by organised crime groups in Zapopan, Mexico, on Sunday. AFP

and gripped the resort city of Puerto Vallarta.

Travel warnings from the U.K., Canada and the U.S. have been issued in the fallout, with Australia urging citizens to "exercise a degree of caution" early Monday. The Indian Embassy in Mexico on Monday issued an advisory to Indian nationals residing in

the country, urging them to exercise caution and remain indoors amid escalating violence.

The U.K. Foreign Office advised on Monday against all but essential travel to parts of Mexico, including Jalisco.

Washington asked U.S. citizens to "shelter in place until further notice".

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum urged citizens to remain calm.

The Mexican government also sent 2,500 troops to Jalisco – a State that is scheduled to host four football World Cup games this summer.

Oseguera, 59, was considered the last of the drug lords who acted in the flashy, brutal mould of the now-imprisoned Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada. With his son Ruben 'El Menchito' Oseguera Gonzalez, 35, convicted by a federal jury in Washington in September, experts have warned the "the absence of a direct succession" could lead to a "power vacuum." "That opens the door to violent realignments within the organization," David Mora, an expert at the Crisis Group

analysis center, said.

Mexico said in addition to its own military intelligence, the operation to seize Oseguera was carried out with "complementary information" from U.S. authorities.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Washington "provided intelligence support".

Six suspected cartel gunmen besides Oseguera were also killed and three soldiers were wounded, the Mexican Army said.

Washington has classified the cartel as a terrorist organisation and accuses it of sending cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl into the U.S.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau welcomed the operation and called Oseguera "one of the bloodiest and most ruthless drug kingpins."

- Twenty-five Mexican troops were killed in clashes after a raid targeting cartel chief Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera.

कार्टेल प्रमुख नेमेसियो "एल मेंचो" ओसेगुएरा पर कार्रवाई के बाद झड़पों में 25 मैक्सिकन सैनिक मारे गए।

- Oseguera, leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), was wounded and later died.

जालिस्को न्यू जेनरेशन कार्टेल (CJNG) का नेता घायल हुआ और बाद में उसकी मृत्यु हो गई।

- Cartel members blocked roads, burnt buses and attacked security forces across Jalisco and nearby states.

कार्टेल सदस्यों ने जालिस्को व आसपास के राज्यों में सड़कें जाम कीं, बसें जलाईं और सुरक्षा बलों पर हमला किया।

- Government deployed 2,500 additional troops to restore order.

शांति बहाली हेतु 2,500 अतिरिक्त सैनिक तैनात किए गए।

2 प्रमुख व्यक्ति / Key Personalities

- Nemesio Oseguera ("El Mencho") – Leader of CJNG.

नेमेसियो ओसेगुएरा ("एल मेंचो") – CJNG का प्रमुख।

- Claudia Sheinbaum – President of Mexico urged citizens to remain calm.

क्लाउडिया शेनबाउम – मैक्सिको की राष्ट्रपति, नागरिकों से शांत रहने की अपील।

- U.S. authorities supported operation with intelligence inputs.

अमेरिकी अधिकारियों ने खुफिया सहायता प्रदान की।

3 भौगोलिक आयाम / Geographical Dimension

- Violence centered in Jalisco state, particularly Guadalajara and Zapopan.
हिंसा का केंद्र जालिस्को राज्य, विशेषकर ग्वाडलाहारा और ज़ापोपान रहा।
 - Spread to Michoacán and resort city Puerto Vallarta.
हिंसा मिचोआकान और पर्यटन स्थल पुएर्टो वल्लार्टा तक फैली।
 - Mexico's proximity to the U.S. border intensifies drug trafficking routes.
अमेरिका की सीमा से निकटता मादक पदार्थ तस्करी मार्गों को बढ़ाती है।
-

4 राजनीतिक आयाम / Political Impact

- Demonstrates state vs non-state actor conflict.
राज्य बनाम गैर-राज्य तत्वों का संघर्ष।
- Highlights federal cooperation between Mexico and the U.S.
मैक्सिको और अमेरिका के बीच संघीय सहयोग को दर्शाता है।
- Raises concerns over governance in cartel-dominated regions.
कार्टेल-प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में प्रशासनिक चुनौतियाँ।

5 आर्थिक प्रभाव / Economic Impact

- Tourism hit in Puerto Vallarta (host city for international events).
पुएर्टो वल्लार्टा में पर्यटन प्रभावित।
 - Disruption of supply chains and local businesses.
आपूर्ति श्रृंखला और स्थानीय व्यापार बाधित।
 - Drug trafficking linked to global narcotics market (cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl).
मादक पदार्थ तस्करी वैश्विक नशीले पदार्थ बाजार से जुड़ी।
-

6 ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि / Historical Background

- Mexican Drug War began in 2006 under President Felipe Calderón.
2006 में राष्ट्रपति फेलिपे काल्देरोन के समय ड्रग युद्ध शुरू हुआ।
- CJNG emerged as one of the most powerful cartels after 2010.
2010 के बाद CJNG शक्तिशाली कार्टेल के रूप में उभरा।
- Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán (Sinaloa Cartel) captured and extradited to U.S.
जोआक्विन "एल चापो" गुज़मान को गिरफ्तार कर अमेरिका प्रत्यर्पित किया गया।



| Exam | Date | Question | Answer |
|------------------|------|--|-----------------------|
| UPSC CSE Prelims | 2018 | “Golden Crescent” is associated with which activity? | Drug production |
| UPSC CSE Prelims | 2020 | FARC was active in which country? | Colombia |
| SSC CGL | 2021 | DEA is related to which country? | USA |
| CDS | 2019 | Mexico shares border with which country? | USA |
| CAPF AC | 2022 | What is fentanyl? | Synthetic opioid drug |
| RAS | 2021 | El Chapo was associated with which cartel? | Sinaloa Cartel |
| IB ACIO | 2023 | Dark web is commonly linked to which illegal trade? | Narcotics trafficking |



Consider the following statements:

1. CJNG operates primarily in Mexico's Jalisco state.
2. The Mexican Drug War began after 2015.
3. The U.S. has provided intelligence support against drug cartels.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

THE KERALA 2 STORY
Film portrays State in wrong light Kerala HC
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Jharkhand Accident
Probe team visits site of plane crash that killed 7
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BSEI
SHARP DECLINE
IT sell-off drags down stock indices
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DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT
PM's Israel visit and its impact
It has potential long-term implications for both countries
EDITORIAL > PAGE 5

CAPTAIN'S BRICK
Brook's century puts England in semifinals
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INSIDE

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of 'firing' at border
ISLAMABAD
Pakistan on Tuesday accused the Afghan Taliban of "unprovoked firing" along the border, while warning of a severe response to any further such attack. > PAGE 14

Cong. slams PM's Israel visit amid regional tensions
NEW DELHI
The Congress on Tuesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Israel, questioning its timing amid existing tensions in West Asia. > PAGE 8

MP flags failure to utilise funds for the Northeast
NEW DELHI
Tribal MP on Tuesday raised concerns and sought a probe into budget underutilisation and limited reach of Centre schemes in the northeast and West Bengal. > PAGE 9

Bangladesh's new govt. announces major changes
NEW DELHI
The Tarique Rahman-led government of Bangladesh carried out changes to the country's armed forces as well as the international courts. Tribunal. > PAGE 14

SC expands judicial team to aid West Bengal SIR

Bench says judges can be borrowed from neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand, if needed; it permits use of civil judges for the exercise; move follows Calcutta HC Chief Justice flagging lakhs of claims and objections pending EC; allowed to publish voter list on February 28, which would be followed up by supplementary lists till the Assembly election

Rishnadas Ratsnopal
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday moved to quickly to swell the ranks of judicial officers deployed to aid the Election Commission (EC) in the completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) in West Bengal, even alerting neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand to spare their judges. A Special Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant met urgently after receiving a letter from the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court detailing the perils of the "special exercise". The High Court Chief Justice said a whopping 80 lakh claims and objections, raised by voters excluded on grounds of logical discrepancies and



Long waits: People submitted for hearings during the special intensive revision exercise in Bhatnagar, West Bengal. (P)

mapping, were pending before the Electoral Registration Officers/Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. "Drop in the ocean" The letter said the 204 districts and additional district judges selected to deal with the verification process was merely a drop in the ocean. Even if each one heard 200 cases a day, the entire process would take 80 days to be completed. Time was already stretched and deadlines for the Assembly election were drawing close. On February 25, the Supreme Court took the "extraordinary" decision to increase the judiciary in the ongoing SIR exercise in the State, citing the persistent "trust deficit" between the Mamata Banerjee govern-

Trinamool, BJP had Supreme Court order

KOLKATA
The Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party both hailed the Supreme Court's order allowing the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice to deploy judicial officers from neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand to deal with claims and objections in West Bengal SIR. > PAGE 8

ment and the EC. The top court had requested the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to deploy senior and retired judicial officers to West Bengal for SIR hearings. They would hear lakhs of voters who found themselves purged from the draft roll, and had received hearing notices after the EC found them "unhappened" or detected "logical discrepancies" in their personal details. On Tuesday, the Special Bench, including Justices KJ Somaiya, Rajiv R. Pawar and M. Parasath, nullified the Calcutta Chief Justice to request his counterparts in neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand to spare serving or retired judicial officers for the verification work in West Bengal. The Supreme Court also asked the Chief Justices of Jharkhand and Odisha High Courts to consider the Calcutta Chief Justice's request, if made, sympathetically. The court instructed that the verification of objections and claims regarding logical discrepancies/missing voters to be based on documents listed in the EC's October 27, 2025 SIR notification. The court underscored that Assam, Classes 10 admit card and pass certificate would be considered as proof during SIR verification. Most significantly, the court allowed EC to publish a voter list in West Bengal on February 28, 2026. However, supplementary lists would be published on a continuous basis till nominations are filed for the Assembly election. The Supreme Court invoked its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to declare that voters included in the supplementary list would be deemed to be part of the final electoral roll published on February 28. "The purity of election has to be maintained. Concerns from both sides... have to be addressed. Justice Rajiv observed. > PAGE 8

History on wheels



Commemorative edition: A special train on the side of train no. 498 (Shalimar), a wooden train built during the Second World War, was flagged off to mark the 33rd anniversary of the Kalyani train service on Tuesday. (P)

Panel to probe repeated failures of PSLV, says ISRO

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI
A committee that includes S. Vijay Bhagavath, former Principal Scientific Adviser, and S. Somnath, former Chairman, India Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will probe "systemic issues" underlying the successive failures of the ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). While technical committees probe and submit "failure analysis reports" when mishaps occur, this committee, *The Hindu* has repeatedly asked, will raise questions on whether "organizational" problems may have played a role in the setbacks involving the PSLV. On January 12, the PSLV-C52 failed in its mission to deliver 10 satellites into orbit as the rocket failed to ignite in the third stage. (P) of India's Space Commission, visited the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, re-portedly in connection with the failure of the PSLV-C52 mission. "A national level expert committee has been constituted and is reviewing the reason for the anomaly in the PSLV vehicle," the ISRO said in a statement to *The Hindu*. The PSLV's failures would be the core focus of

the report, and the committee would be looking into the processes in the manufacturing, procurement, and assembling of various components of the rocket. This has implications for other rockets too, *The Hindu* was told, because they have commonalities. The Failure Analysis Committee, constituted by the ISRO Chairman, is a body of experts within ISRO to lead in the event of a major incident; it is expected to reconstruct the chain of events leading up to a failure, and recommend corrective actions before the rocket is cleared to fly again. The committee members include experts within ISRO as well as relevant experts from academia. At a press conference on February 2, the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, and Earth Sciences, Bhupendra Singh, said that a "third party" analysis committee would be set up with inputs from Karnataka (in Bangalore)

Health Ministry set to roll out free HPV vaccination plan targeting girls aged 14

Hindu Shantanu Paramasivan
NEW DELHI
The Union Health Ministry is set to launch a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14. "The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost, ensuring equitable access across socio-economic groups. India will use Gardasil, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine, for protection from HPV types 16, 18, 31, and 33, which cause cervical cancer, and types 6 and 11. "Global and Indian scientific evidence confirms that a single dose provides robust and durable protection when administered to girls in the recommended age group," a senior Health Ministry official said. "The nation-wide programme will target girls aged 14 years, an age at which the HPV vaccine offers maximum preventive benefit, well before potential exposure to the virus," they said. To ensure uninterrupted availability and which India has secured HPV vaccines through a transparent, globally supported procurement mechanism. "Under India's partnership with the Vaccine Access Alliance, Gardasil vaccines, which are approved by regulatory agencies and widely used internationally, have been made available for the national programme. The procurement of Gardasil is more than 80% of cervical cancer cases in India. Despite being largely preventable through vaccination and early screening, cervical cancer continues to impose a heavy burden on women and families.

Safety shot
The Centre's nationwide HPV vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14 will begin soon. "A single-dose of Gardasil, a vaccine that provides protection against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, and types 6 and 11, will be used. "The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost. It will be administered exclusively at designated government health facilities. "The programme will be implemented in a phased manner across various states among women in India. "The forthcoming HPV vaccination programme directly addresses this challenge by preventing HPV infections before it can progress to cancer," the Health Ministry said. HPV vaccines are among the most extensive, by avoided vaccinees worldwide, with evidence demonstrating 93-100% effectiveness in preventing cervical cancer caused by vaccine-covered HPV types. The vaccine is non-live, does not cause HPV infection, and has a good safety record, supported by more than 800 million doses administered globally since its introduction in 2006. Meanwhile, globally, over 90 countries are implementing single-dose HPV vaccination schedules, improving coverage and affordability. Several countries have already demonstrated substantial reductions in HPV infection, precancerous lesions and cervical cancer incidence following widespread vaccination. India's approach is consistent with global best practices, national disease burden evidence, and expert recommendations of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, a Health Ministry official said.



HPV vaccination under the national programme will be conducted exclusively at designated government health facilities, including the Ayushman Arogya Mandals (Primary Health Centres), Community Health Centres, Sub-District and District Hospital, and Government Medical Colleges. Each vaccination session will be carried out in the presence of trained medical officers, supported by skilled healthcare teams, and equipped for post-vaccination observation and management of any rare adverse events.

Common ailment
Cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among women in India, with nearly 60,000 new cases and over 42,000 deaths reported annually. Scientific evidence attributes almost all cases of cervical cancer as HPV, particularly HPV types 16 and 18, which together account for more than 80% of cervical cancer cases in India. Despite being largely preventable through vaccination and early screening, cervical cancer continues to impose a heavy burden on women and families.

Health Ministry set to roll out free HPV vaccination plan targeting girls aged 14

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry is set to launch a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14.

The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost, ensuring equitable access across socio-economic groups.

India will use Gardasil, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine, for protection from HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, and types 6 and 11.

"Global and Indian scientific evidence confirms that a single dose provides robust and durable protection when administered to girls in the recommended age group," a senior Health Ministry official said.

"The nation-wide programme will target girls aged 14 years, an age at which the HPV vaccine offers maximum preventive benefit, well before potential exposure to the virus," they said.

To ensure uninterrupted availability and quality, India has secured HPV vaccine supplies through a transparent, globally supported procurement mechanism.

"Under India's partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Gardasil vaccines, which are approved by India's drug regulator and widely used internationally, have been made available for the national programme. The procurement follows stringent quality and cold chain standards, enabling the government to provide the vaccine free of cost to eligible girls across all States and Union Territories," the official said.

Safety shot

The Centre's nation-wide HPV vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14 will begin soon

■ A single-shot of Gardasil, a vaccine that provides protection against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, and types 6 and 11 will be used

■ The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost. It will be administered exclusively at designated government health facilities

■ Cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among women in India



HPV vaccination under the national programme will be conducted exclusively at designated government health facilities, including the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Primary Health Centres), Community Health Centres, Sub-District and District Hospitals, and Government Medical Colleges. Each vaccination session will be carried out in the presence of trained medical officers, supported by skilled healthcare teams, and equipped for post-vaccination observation and management of any rare adverse events.

Common ailment

Cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among women in India, with nearly 80,000 new cases and over 42,000 deaths reported annually. Scientific evidence establishes that almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by persistent infection with high-risk types of HPV, particularly HPV types 16 and 18, which together account for more than 80% of cervical cancer cases in India.

Despite being largely preventable through vaccination and early screening, cervical cancer continues to impose a heavy burden on women and families.

"The forthcoming HPV vaccination programme directly addresses this challenge by preventing HPV infection before it can progress to cancer," the Health Ministry said.

HPV vaccines are among the most extensively studied vaccines worldwide, with evidence demonstrating 93-100% effectiveness in preventing cervical cancer caused by vaccine-covered HPV types. The vaccine is non-live, does not cause HPV infection, and has a good safety record, supported by more than 500 million doses administered globally since its introduction in 2006.

Meanwhile, globally, over 90 countries are implementing single-dose HPV vaccination schedules, improving coverage and affordability. Several countries have already demonstrated substantial reductions in HPV infection, precancerous lesions, and cervical cancer incidence following widespread vaccination.

India's approach is grounded in global best practices, national disease burden evidence, and expert recommendations of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, a Health Ministry official said.

- The Union Health Ministry will launch a nationwide free HPV vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14 years.

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय 14 वर्ष की बालिकाओं के लिए राष्ट्रव्यापी निःशुल्क HPV टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम शुरू करेगा।

- Vaccination will be voluntary and administered at designated government health facilities.

टीकाकरण स्वैच्छिक होगा और निर्धारित सरकारी स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में दिया जाएगा।

- Objective: Prevent HPV infection before exposure and reduce cervical cancer burden.

उद्देश्य: संक्रमण से पहले HPV रोकना और सर्वाइकल कैंसर का बोझ कम करना।

2 Vaccine Details / वैक्सीन का विवरण

- India will use **Gardasil**, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine.

भारत **गार्डासिल** नामक क्वाड्रिवैलेंट HPV वैक्सीन का उपयोग करेगा।

- Protects against HPV types 16 & 18 (cause cervical cancer) and 6 & 11 (cause genital warts).

HPV प्रकार 16 और 18 (सर्वाइकल कैंसर) तथा 6 और 11 (जननांग मस्से) से सुरक्षा।

- Single-dose schedule recommended for the target age group.

लक्षित आयु वर्ग के लिए एकल-डोज अनुसूची की सिफारिश।

- WHO evidence shows 93–100% effectiveness against vaccine-covered HPV types.

WHO के अनुसार वैक्सीन-कवर्ड प्रकारों के विरुद्ध 93–100% प्रभावशीलता।

3 Implementation Strategy / कार्यान्वयन रणनीति

- Administered through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (PHCs), CHCs, District Hospitals, Govt. Medical Colleges.
आयुष्मान आरोग्य मंदिर, सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र, जिला अस्पताल और सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेजों के माध्यम से।
 - Sessions supervised by trained medical officers; post-vaccination observation ensured.
प्रशिक्षित चिकित्सा अधिकारियों की निगरानी में टीकाकरण और पश्च-टीकाकरण अवलोकन।
 - Procurement via transparent global supply mechanism; supported by Gavi partnership.
पारदर्शी वैश्विक खरीद प्रणाली; Gavi सहयोग।
-

4 Disease Burden / रोग का बोझ

- Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India.
भारत में महिलाओं में सर्वाङ्कल कैंसर दूसरा सबसे सामान्य कैंसर है।
- ~80,000 new cases and ~42,000 deaths annually in India.
भारत में प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 80,000 नए मामले और 42,000 मौतें।
- HPV types 16 & 18 account for ~80% of cervical cancer cases in India.
HPV प्रकार 16 और 18 भारत में लगभग 80% मामलों के लिए जिम्मेदार।

Historical & Policy Background / ऐतिहासिक व नीतिगत पृष्ठभूमि

- 2006: Global introduction of HPV vaccines.
2006: HPV वैक्सीन का वैश्विक परिचय।
- WHO recommends vaccination for girls aged 9–14 years.
WHO 9–14 वर्ष की बालिकाओं के लिए सिफारिश करता है।
- 2022: WHO endorsed single-dose schedule for better coverage.
2022: WHO ने एकल-डोज़ अनुसूची को मंजूरी दी।
- India's National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) guides rollout.
भारत का राष्ट्रीय तकनीकी सलाहकार समूह (NTAGI) कार्यान्वयन मार्गदर्शन देता है।

Global Comparison / वैश्विक तुलना

| Country | HPV Coverage | Impact |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| Australia | High (>80%) | Near elimination of cervical cancer projected |
| UK | School-based programme | Significant reduction in precancerous lesions |
| India | Targeting 14-year-old girls | Aims to reduce high disease burden |

Political & Social Dimensions / राजनीतिक व सामाजिक आयाम

- Enhances preventive healthcare and women empowerment.
निवारक स्वास्थ्य सेवा और महिला सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा।
- Reduces long-term healthcare costs.
दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य व्यय में कमी।
- Supports SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being).
सतत विकास लक्ष्य 3 का समर्थन।



Consider the following statements:

1. HPV types 16 and 18 are major causes of cervical cancer.
2. WHO recommends HPV vaccination only for boys.
3. India's HPV programme targets girls aged 14 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 

Panel to probe repeated failures of PSLV, says ISRO

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A committee that includes K. Vijay Raghavan, former Principal Scientific Adviser, and S. Somanath, former Chairman, India Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will probe “systemic issues” underlying the successive failures of the ISRO’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

While technical committees probe and submit ‘failure analysis reports’ when mishaps occur, this committee, *The Hindu* has reliably learnt, will investigate questions on whether “organisational” problems may have played a role in the debacles involving the PSLV.

On January 12, the PSLV-C62 failed in its mission to deliver 16 satellites into orbit, and crashed into the sea after the third stage of the rocket failed to ignite. This was similar to the May 18, 2025 failure of the PSLV-C61, in which, too, the third stage failed to



On January 12, the PSLV-C62 failed in its mission to deliver 16 satellites into orbit as the rocket failed to ignite in the third stage. PTI

fire, destroying as a result the EOS-09 satellite intended for the government’s strategic needs.

The committee members consist of experts who are external to the ISRO, and are expected to table their findings to ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan before April.

On February 3, *The Hindu* reported that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, who is also a member

of India’s Space Commission, visited the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, reportedly in connection with the failure of the PSLV-C62 mission.

“A national-level expert committee has been constituted and is reviewing the reason for the anomaly in the PSLV vehicle,” the ISRO said in a statement to *The Hindu*.

The PSLV’s failures would be the core focus of

the report, and the committee would be looking into the processes in the manufacture, procurement, and assembling of various components of the rocket. This has implications for other rockets, too, *The Hindu* was told, because they have commonalities.

Report in a week

India’s space ecosystem now involves several private companies and, therefore, the probe will not only be about which part or component failed, and who was responsible, but also whether there is a process in place to fix accountability, and how it may be improved.

A technical committee of the ISRO will first table a report on the PSLV-C62 incident this week, *The Hindu* has learnt through reliable sources.

The ISRO’s historical response to rocket failures has been to have a Failure Analysis Committee probe the reasons, and publicise its findings. This, however,

has not taken place in the case of both the PSLV-C61 and PSLV-C62.

The Failure Analysis Committee report of the May 18 mishap was sent to the Prime Minister’s Office before the PSLV-C62 launch, but its details have not been made public.

The Failure Analysis Committee, constituted by the ISRO Chairman, is a body of experts within ISRO to lead in the event of a major incident. It is expected to reconstruct the chain of events leading up to a failure, and recommend corrective action before the rocket is cleared to fly again. The committee members include experts within ISRO as well as relevant experts from academia.

At a press conference on February 2, the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, and Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh, said that a “third party appraisal” was ongoing.

(With inputs from Hemant C.S. in Bengaluru)

- ISRO has constituted a high-level committee to probe repeated failures of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
इसरो ने पीएसएलवी (PSLV) की लगातार विफलताओं की जांच हेतु उच्च-स्तरीय समिति गठित की है।
 - The panel includes former Principal Scientific Adviser K. Vijay Raghavan and former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath.
समिति में पूर्व प्रधान वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार के. विजय राघवन और पूर्व इसरो अध्यक्ष एस. सोमनाथ शामिल हैं।
 - It will examine systemic and organisational issues beyond technical faults.
यह तकनीकी कारणों के अलावा प्रणालीगत और संगठनात्मक समस्याओं की भी जांच करेगी।
-

2 Recent Failures / हालिया विफलताएँ

- January 12: PSLV-C62 failed to deliver 16 satellites due to third-stage ignition failure.
12 जनवरी: PSLV-C62 तीसरे चरण के प्रज्वलन में विफलता के कारण 16 उपग्रह कक्षा में स्थापित नहीं कर सका।
- May 18, 2025: PSLV-C61 also faced third-stage malfunction.
18 मई 2025: PSLV-C61 में भी तीसरे चरण में खराबी आई।
- Both incidents indicate possible common systemic issues.
दोनों घटनाएँ संभावित समान प्रणालीगत समस्याओं का संकेत देती हैं।

3 Scope of Inquiry / जांच का दायरा

- Review of manufacturing, procurement and assembly processes.
निर्माण, खरीद और संयोजन प्रक्रियाओं की समीक्षा।
 - Examine accountability mechanisms in ISRO's expanding private-sector ecosystem.
निजी क्षेत्र की बढ़ती भागीदारी में जवाबदेही तंत्र की जांच।
 - Failure Analysis Committee report to be submitted before next launch clearance.
अगली उड़ान की अनुमति से पूर्व विफलता विश्लेषण रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की जाएगी।
-

4 Institutional Context / संस्थागत संदर्भ

- ISRO traditionally forms a Failure Analysis Committee after mishaps.
इसरो परंपरागत रूप से दुर्घटनाओं के बाद विफलता विश्लेषण समिति गठित करता है।
- Findings are usually made public, but recent reports have not yet been disclosed.
सामान्यतः रिपोर्ट सार्वजनिक की जाती है, पर हालिया रिपोर्ट अभी सार्वजनिक नहीं हुई है।
- A "third-party appraisal" is also underway.
एक "तृतीय-पक्ष मूल्यांकन" भी जारी है।

About PSLV / PSLV के बारे में

- Operational since 1994; one of the most reliable launch vehicles globally.
1994 से संचालित; विश्व के सबसे विश्वसनीय प्रक्षेपण यानों में से एक।
 - Used for launching IRS, Chandrayaan-1, Mangalyaan.
IRS, चंद्रयान-1 और मंगलयान प्रक्षेपण में उपयोग।
 - Four-stage rocket: solid-liquid-solid-liquid configuration.
चार चरणों वाला रॉकेट: ठोस-द्रव-ठोस-द्रव संरचना।
-

Historical Perspective / ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य

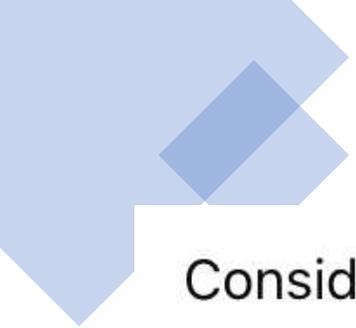
- 1979: SLV-3 first launch failure; later success in 1980.
1979: SLV-3 की पहली उड़ान असफल; 1980 में सफलता।
- 1993: First PSLV launch failure (PSLV-D1).
1993: PSLV-D1 की पहली उड़ान विफल।
- 2017: PSLV-C39 mission failed due to heat shield separation issue.
2017: PSLV-C39 मिशन हीट शील्ड समस्या के कारण असफल।
- ISRO's success rate remains above 90%.
इसरो की सफलता दर 90% से अधिक।

Geopolitical & Economic Dimensions / भू-राजनीतिक व आर्थिक आयाम

- India is a major player in the global commercial satellite launch market.
भारत वैश्विक वाणिज्यिक उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण बाजार में प्रमुख खिलाड़ी है।
- Failures may impact commercial contracts and investor confidence.
विफलताएँ वाणिज्यिक अनुबंधों और निवेशक विश्वास को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।
- Space reforms allow private players (IN-SPACe, NSIL).
अंतरिक्ष सुधारों के तहत निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी (IN-SPACe, NSIL)।
- Space security linked to defence and strategic needs.
अंतरिक्ष सुरक्षा रक्षा और रणनीतिक आवश्यकताओं से जुड़ी।

Comparison with Other Launch Vehicles / अन्य प्रक्षेपण यानों से तुलना

| Launch Vehicle | Country | Reliability |
|----------------|---------|--------------|
| PSLV | India | High (~90%+) |
| Falcon 9 | USA | Very High |
| Long March | China | High |



Consider the following statements:

1. PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages.
2. PSLV has never experienced a mission failure since 1994.
3. The recent failures were linked to third-stage malfunction.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 

TRAI backs auction of all available spectrum

Prerna Tripathi of India NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Tuesday recommended auctioning the entire available radiofrequency spectrum while proposing lower entry barriers for new players and a uniform 30MHz spectrum cap to safeguard competition in the telecom sector.

While TRAI has not officially disclosed the combined base price of the entire spectrum on offer, as per industry calculations, if all the spectrum on offer across bands (including 600 MHz) is sold, the radiofrequency could fetch nearly ₹20,000 crore at the reserve price.

While urging the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to reclaim spectrum held by telecom companies undergoing insolvency, TRAI proposed halving the net worth criteria for new entrants from ₹500 crore to ₹250 crore per licensed service area (and from ₹50 crore to ₹25 crore for Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast) to encourage more participation.

All available spectrum, across 9GHz frequency bands, should be put to auction in the future, it said, adding, it recommended.

DGCA grounds four aircraft, a month after Pawar's death

Jyoti Chandra NEW DELHI

Nearly a month after the death of then Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in a plane crash, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has grounded four aircraft operated by VSR Ventures Pvt. Ltd., the charter company that was flying him. After a high-level meeting on Tuesday following "a recent surge" in accidents, the regulator also announced a slew of measures for charter companies to ensure tighter oversight.

The multi-disciplinary audit team observed several non-compliances of approved procedures in the organisation in the area of airworthiness, air safety and flight operations," said a press statement issued by the DGCA about VSR Ventures Pvt. Limited. As a result, four aircraft were grounded for 90 days immediately grounded "till the company meets the prescribed norms for Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast) to encourage more participation.

All available spectrum, across 9GHz frequency bands, should be put to auction in the future, it said, adding, it recommended.

Probe team visits site of plane crash that killed 7 in Jharkhand

The Hindu Bureau BANSKANGA, JHARKHAND

A day after an air ambulance crashed in Chhatra district of Jharkhand, officials on Tuesday said all seven persons aboard the aircraft had died. "The entire administration swung into action as soon as we received information about the crash. Seven people on board died in the accident. It is a tragic and unfortunate incident. The weather condition was bad yesterday (Monday)," Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said.



Wreckage of the Beechcraft air ambulance which crashed on Monday. All seven persons aboard were killed.

The Beechcraft C30 aircraft, owned by RedBird Airways Pvt. Ltd., was operating a medical evacuation flight from Ranchi to Delhi when it crashed in Kharria panchayat of Chhatra district.

According to officials, the aircraft took off at 7.11 p.m. and had sought a deviation due to inclement weather, but lost communication shortly thereafter. A team from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is probing the crash, reached the accident site on Tuesday morning. Jharkhand Governor Santosh Gangwar expressed grief over the incident. Among those killed were Sanjay Rao and his wife, Archana Devi. Family members said they had arranged to fly through India to reach the air ambulance after Mr. Rao sustained severe burns and needed advanced treatment in Delhi. Their relatives, three pilots, and two medical personnel were also aboard the plane.

The crash was the second in less than a month involving a plane operated by a non-scheduled operator. On January 28, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others died in a plane crash near Baramati.

In a separate incident on Tuesday morning, a Pawar team helicopter made an emergency landing in the Arabian Sea while flying to Mayabunder from Rangit at around 3.05 a.m. All seven persons on board were rescued safely, the company said in a statement.

Religious leader seeks anticipatory bail in POCSO case

Shilpa Mishra NEW DELHI

Swami Advaitakrishnanand Saraswati on Tuesday moved the Allahabad High Court for anticipatory bail after being charged by the Uttar Pradesh Police for alleged sexual harassment of two minors.

The FIR against the religious leader and one of his aides, Mokundnand Giri, was registered in the allegations of a special court in Prayagraj.

On February 21, the court had ordered the police to act on a complaint filed by Advaitkesh Brahmarshi and two minors, aged 14 and 17, who alleged sexual abuse by the accused during the recent Magh Mela in Prayagraj.

The swami had earlier been involved in a confrontation with the Prayagraj district administration over alleged assaults on his followers on the day of Mauni Amavasya, which fell on January 16. The confrontation between the two parties stretched for weeks in which two notices were served on the religious leader by the administration. The first notice for alleged sexual harassment of two minors, while in the second, he was blamed for causing a "stampede-like situation" in the fair which was attended by millions.

Addressing the media, the religious leader said he was ready to cooperate with the investigation and claimed that he was being falsely implicated. He also claimed seeing photographs of a senior Prayagraj police officer cutting a cake with Advaitkesh Brahmarshi and alleged that the police and administration were working together to frame him in a "fake case".

UN launches road safety project in four Indian States

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The United Nations on Tuesday launched a two-year project in partnership with four Indian States for a road safety. Answering the question, "How to implement across Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the project will focus on building capacities for the effective implementation of road safety action plans and on reducing road fatalities and serious injuries. Jean Toit, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, told The Hindu that the world was not on track to achieve the pledge to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% by 2030 under the "Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030".

Show of power



Aerial display: An Indian Air Force Chinook performing a full-stop rehearsal of Exercise Vajra Shakti-2020, at the Pukhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan on Tuesday, ahead of the February 23-2020, at the Pukhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The show includes precision strike capabilities, and integrated multi-domain operations. (AP Photo)

SC closes suo motu case on polluted rivers after 5 years of near inaction

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday closed a suo motu case from 2012 on remediation of polluted rivers after five years of near inaction. It directed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to reopen the case and ensure monitoring.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant questioned the feasibility of examining the remediation of polluted rivers across the country.

"Is it possible for this court to look at all the polluted rivers? We can look at it one by one. We also keep entertaining so many matters and issues these days. We also have to see that we

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Trinamool, BJP hail SC order on deployment of judicial officers from other States for Bengal SIR

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA

The ruling Trinamool Congress and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday hailed the Supreme Court decision to allow deployment of judicial officers from Jharkhand and Odisha to deal with cases and objections arising out of the ongoing special intervention (SI) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. The inclusion of judicial officers from other States in the SIR process in Bengal does not bring glory and pride to our State, and the BJP leader said.

judicial officers for the verification work in West Bengal. The Trinamool called the decision "another resounding victory for Bengal. The inclusion of judicial officers from other States in the SIR process in Bengal does not bring glory and pride to our State, and the BJP leader said.

Amid DoT push, WhatsApp appears to test SIM-binding

Arjun Deep NEW DELHI

The online messaging platform WhatsApp appears to be preparing to comply with the SIM-binding directive of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issued late last year.

The directive requires messaging platforms to ensure that a user's registered SIM card is provisioned on the handset used to access the service, and to disable access if it is not. It also includes a potentially disruptive requirement that web-based instances, such as WhatsApp Web, be logged out every six hours.

The directive was issued on November 28, 2019, by the DoT's AI & Digital Intelligence Unit, under its expanded authority to regulate Telecom. Meta, WhatsApp's parent company, had pushed back through industry bodies in a bid to include the internet and Mobile Association of India (MAAI), arguing that the measures would cause "burden" to the modern communication habits such as use of inter-



In the latest beta version, code references to the SIM-binding directive have been detected.

national numbers during travel (or) secondary devices".

Beta version In the latest beta versions of WhatsApp, code references to the SIM-binding directive have been detected. A Meta spokesperson declined to comment on the development, while a DoT spokesperson did not immediately respond to queries on whether the implementation would come later this month as originally ordered.

The new code, discovered by WAHunters - an independent blog which tracks changes in WhatsApp's code often much before public rollout, includes a prompt on the sign-in screen saying, "Due to regulatory requirements in India, WhatsApp needs to check that your SIM card is in your device".

SC suggests PMAY benefits for Haldwani occupants

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Uttar Pradesh officials and the State Legal Services Authority to conduct camps to ensure nearly 80,000 people occupying over 30 hectares of public land near the railway tracks of Haldwani to apply for benefits and rehabilitation measures under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme.

The land is being reclaimed by the Railways for infrastructure development, compelling nearly 5,000 families to leave a place they had occupied for half a century. "This is public land. You argue as if you are the owner of the land. You can have the concession of being considered, but it is illegal to encroach on public land," Justice Jyotsna Singh said.

Justice Singh said it was the prerogative of the State to "do what it wanted on public land. For you, it is more of a help and less a right".

Additional Solicitor-General Ashwani Kumar, for the Railways, said a flooding Ghaghara River habitually disrupts railway operations in a region known as the dooryard to the hills of Uttarakhand. The Railways required more land urgently to lay new tracks. Striking a balance between development requirements and the human element behind, Chief Justice Kant suggested the State acquire alternative land under the PMAY for the rehabilitation of the evictees.

Instead of monetary compensation, the amount could be used for construction of homes which were equivalent to those the evictees had to leave behind.

UN launches road safety project in four Indian States

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The United Nations on Tuesday launched a project in partnership with four Indian States for a road safety financing framework.

To be implemented across Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the project will focus on building capacities for the effective implementation of road safety action plans and on reducing road fatalities and serious injuries. Jean Todt, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, told *The Hindu* that the world was not on track to achieve the pledge to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% by 2030 under the "Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030."

- The United Nations has launched a road safety financing framework in partnership with four Indian States.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने चार भारतीय राज्यों के साथ मिलकर सड़क सुरक्षा वित्तपोषण ढांचा शुरू किया है।

- States covered: Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam.
शामिल राज्य: राजस्थान, केरल, तमिलनाडु और असम।
 - Coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in India.
भारत में संयुक्त राष्ट्र रेजिडेंट कोऑर्डिनेटर कार्यालय द्वारा समन्वित।
-

2 Objective / उद्देश्य

- Build institutional capacity for effective implementation of road safety action plans.
सड़क सुरक्षा कार्ययोजनाओं के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन हेतु संस्थागत क्षमता निर्माण।
- Reduce road fatalities and serious injuries.
सड़क दुर्घटना मृत्यु और गंभीर चोटों में कमी।
- Align with the "Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030".
"सड़क सुरक्षा हेतु कार्रवाई का दशक 2021–2030" के अनुरूप।

3 Global Context / वैश्विक संदर्भ

- Target: Reduce global road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030.
लक्ष्य: 2030 तक वैश्विक सड़क दुर्घटना मृत्यु और चोटों में 50% की कमी।
- Jean Todt, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, highlighted that the world is not on track to meet the target.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव के सड़क सुरक्षा विशेष दूत जीन टॉड ने कहा कि विश्व लक्ष्य की दिशा में सही मार्ग पर नहीं है।
- Road traffic injuries are among the leading causes of death globally, especially among youth (15–29 years).
सड़क दुर्घटनाएँ विश्व स्तर पर विशेषकर 15–29 वर्ष आयु वर्ग में प्रमुख मृत्यु कारणों में से एक हैं।

India's Road Safety Scenario / भारत में सड़क सुरक्षा स्थिति

- India accounts for one of the highest numbers of road accident deaths globally.
भारत विश्व में सड़क दुर्घटना मौतों की उच्चतम संख्या वाले देशों में शामिल है।
- Major causes: Overspeeding, drunk driving, poor infrastructure, lack of enforcement.
प्रमुख कारण: तेज गति, नशे में ड्राइविंग, कमजोर अवसंरचना, प्रवर्तन की कमी।
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) publishes annual accident data.
सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय वार्षिक दुर्घटना रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित करता है।

Policy & Legal Framework in India / भारत का कानूनी ढांचा

- Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 – stricter penalties for violations.
मोटर वाहन (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2019 – नियम उल्लंघन पर कड़ी सजा।
 - National Road Safety Policy (2010).
राष्ट्रीय सड़क सुरक्षा नीति (2010)।
 - Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety monitors compliance.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की सड़क सुरक्षा समिति अनुपालन की निगरानी करती है।
-

Geographical & Economic Dimensions / भौगोलिक व आर्थिक आयाम

- High accident rates in urban corridors and national highways.
शहरी गलियारों और राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों में उच्च दुर्घटना दर।
- Economic cost: Road accidents cause loss of ~3% of GDP (World Bank estimates).
आर्थिक लागत: सड़क दुर्घटनाओं से लगभग 3% GDP का नुकसान (विश्व बैंक अनुमान)।
- Tourism and logistics sectors affected by poor road safety.
पर्यटन और लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र प्रभावित।

Consider the following statements:

1. The UN road safety project in India covers Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam.
2. The Decade of Action for Road Safety aims to eliminate all road accidents by 2030.
3. Road accidents significantly impact a country's GDP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

SC: Need mechanism to make voting mandatory

‘Not Necessarily Punitive Step; Measure To Make Nota Option Void’

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday said some mechanism needs to be devised, not necessarily punitive, to make voting compulsory so that democracy gets stronger by at-

► **EDIT: Vote or not. Your choice**

tracting more eligible people to contest elections and render Nota option redundant,

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joy-malya Bagchi said Nota option was devised to attract better candidates to the fray and to encourage voters to ex-

COUNTRIES WHERE IT'S A MUST

► List includes Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil (all aged 18-70), Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Honduras, Mexico, Nauru, N Korea, Peru, Paraguay, Samoa, Singapore, Turkiye & Uruguay

► Usual penalties are fines (though **Mexico has no penalty**). In some countries, the penalties are rarely enforced

► Among stricter countries, in **Brazil**, failure to justify absence or pay fine can result in person being **barred from accessing some public services**. In Singapore, **voter's name can be deleted from rolls** unless s/he seeks reinstatement

PARTIAL OR REGIONAL

► In Switzerland, only canton of Schaffhausen still enforces the rule

► France does not have compulsory voting for ordinary citizens, but it's a must for the **electoral college that chooses French senators**

ercise their franchise. The decade-long experience shows that a minuscule percentage of voters exercised the option, it said.

These observations came from the bench which was hearing a PIL by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy which argued for making Nota a candidate in the constituencies whe-

re only one candidate is in the fray to find out whether the lone contestant had the confidence of voters. The apex court pointed out that to make Nota a candidate, Parliament would be required to carry out an amendment to the Representation of People Act.

► **Continued on P 9**

1 Key Observation of Supreme Court / सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की प्रमुख टिप्पणी

- The Supreme Court stated that a mechanism may be needed to make voting compulsory, not necessarily as a punitive step.

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि मतदान को अनिवार्य बनाने हेतु कोई तंत्र विकसित किया जा सकता है, जो आवश्यक रूप से दंडात्मक न हो।

- Objective: Strengthen democracy by increasing voter participation.

उद्देश्य: मतदाता भागीदारी बढ़ाकर लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करना।

- Court indicated that NOTA (None of the Above) option could be reconsidered if reforms are introduced.

न्यायालय ने संकेत दिया कि यदि सुधार किए जाएँ तो NOTA विकल्प पर पुनर्विचार किया जा सकता है।

2 Context of the Case / मामले की पृष्ठभूमि

- Observations made during hearing of a PIL seeking reforms in the NOTA mechanism.

यह टिप्पणी NOTA तंत्र में सुधार संबंधी जनहित याचिका की सुनवाई के दौरान की गई।

- Court noted very low percentage of voters choose NOTA.

न्यायालय ने कहा कि बहुत कम मतदाता NOTA का उपयोग करते हैं।

- To make NOTA a candidate, amendment in the Representation of the People Act would be required.

NOTA को प्रत्याशी के रूप में मान्यता देने हेतु जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम में संशोधन आवश्यक होगा।

Constitutional & Legal Framework / संवैधानिक व कानूनी ढांचा

- Article 326: Adult suffrage (18+ years).
अनुच्छेद 326: वयस्क मताधिकार (18+ वर्ष)।
 - Voting is a statutory right under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
मतदान जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत वैधानिक अधिकार है।
 - NOTA introduced after 2013 Supreme Court judgment (PUCL vs Union of India).
2013 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय (PUCL बनाम भारत संघ) के बाद NOTA लागू हुआ।
-

Countries with Compulsory Voting / अनिवार्य मतदान वाले देश

- Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bolivia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Honduras, Mexico, Nauru, North Korea, Peru, Paraguay, Samoa, Singapore, Türkiye, Uruguay.
अर्जेंटीना, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, बेल्जियम, ब्राज़ील, बोलीविया, साइप्रस, इक्वाडोर, मिस्र, ग्रीस, होंडुरास, मैक्सिको, नाउरू, उत्तर कोरिया, पेरू, पराग्वे, सामोआ, सिंगापुर, तुर्किये, उरुग्वे।
- Penalties usually fines; in Brazil access to certain public services can be restricted.
दंड सामान्यतः जुर्माना; ब्राज़ील में कुछ सार्वजनिक सेवाओं तक पहुंच सीमित हो सकती है।
- In Singapore, name can be deleted from voter list unless reinstated.
सिंगापुर में अनुपस्थित रहने पर मतदाता सूची से नाम हटाया जा सकता है।
- Partial example: Switzerland (Canton of Schaffhausen).
आंशिक उदाहरण: स्विट्जरलैंड (शाफहाउज़न कैंटन)।

Political & Democratic Implications / राजनीतिक व लोकतांत्रिक प्रभाव

- Could increase voter turnout significantly.
मतदाता भागीदारी में वृद्धि संभव।
 - Raises debate on freedom of choice vs civic duty.
व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता बनाम नागरिक कर्तव्य पर बहस।
 - Strengthens legitimacy of elected governments.
निर्वाचित सरकारों की वैधता मजबूत।
-

Economic & Governance Impact / आर्थिक व प्रशासनिक प्रभाव

- Higher participation may improve policy accountability.
अधिक भागीदारी से नीतिगत जवाबदेही बेहतर।
- Administrative cost of enforcing compulsory voting.
अनिवार्य मतदान लागू करने की प्रशासनिक लागत।
- Reduces influence of money power and low-turnout distortions.
कम मतदान से उत्पन्न विकृतियों व धनबल के प्रभाव में कमी।

| Exam | Date | Question | Answer |
|------------------|------|--|------------------------|
| UPSC CSE Prelims | 2013 | Which case led to introduction of NOTA? | PUCL vs Union of India |
| UPSC CSE Prelims | 2017 | Article 326 relates to what? | Adult suffrage |
| SSC CGL | 2021 | Representation of the People Act was enacted in which year? | 1951 |
| CDS | 2019 | Election Commission of India is established under which Article? | Article 324 |
| RAS | 2022 | Voting right in India is what type of right? | Statutory right |
| CAPF | 2021 | Minimum voting age in India? | 18 years |
| NDA | 2020 | NOTA stands for? | None of the Above |

Comparative Democratic Practices / लोकतांत्रिक तुलना

| Country | Voting Type | Turnout |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Australia | Compulsory | ~90%+ |
| Belgium | Compulsory | High |
| India | Voluntary | ~65–70% average |

Statement-Based MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Voting in India is a Fundamental Right.
2. NOTA was introduced following a Supreme Court judgment in 2013.
3. Representation of the People Act governs electoral procedures in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Anthropic's Cobol tool shakes Wall St, IBM has biggest one-day fall in 25 yrs

Shilpa Phadnis & Veena Mani

Anthropic's claim that its AI coding tool Claude can understand and modernise programming language Cobol sent IBM shares down 13% on Monday, its steepest single-day fall in over 25 years, wiping out ne-

- ▶ **EDIT: Deep Steal**
- ▶ **Hegseth summons Amodei in dispute, P 14**
- ▶ **Sensex dips 1069 pts, investors lose ₹3.6L cr, P 18**

arly \$30 billion in its market capitalisation.

Cobol is a decades-old programming language that underpins many systems running on IBM's ma-

ANTHROPIC CRIES THEFT, GETS FLAK

▶ **Anthropic accuses 3 Chinese cos** – DeepSeek, Moonshot and MiniMax – of **improperly harvesting large amounts of data** from its AI technologies in an effort to accelerate the development of their own systems

▶ Rival OpenAI has also accused Chinese firms of lifting data from ChatGPT

▶ Elon Musk tweets, '**Anthropic**

is guilty of stealing training data at massive scale and has had to pay settlements'

▶ Anthropic faces multiple lawsuits accusing it of **illegally using copyrighted internet data** to train its systems

▶ NYT has sued OpenAI and Microsoft claiming **its articles were used to train chatbots** that now compete with it as a source of reliable info

inframes, which are **used by critical infrastructure, including those of banks, airlines and govts.**

Around the world, there are very few Cobol develo-

pers anymore, the original developers have retired, and universities no longer teach the language.

▶ **Continued on P 18**

- Anthropic claimed its AI tool (Claude-based system) can understand and modernise COBOL code.
एंथ्रोपिक ने दावा किया कि उसका AI टूल (Claude आधारित प्रणाली) COBOL को समझ और आधुनिक बना सकता है।
 - Following this, IBM shares fell about 13%, marking its steepest one-day drop in over 25 years.
इसके बाद IBM के शेयर लगभग 13% गिर गए, जो 25 वर्षों में सबसे बड़ी एकदिवसीय गिरावट थी।
 - Nearly \$30 billion wiped out from IBM's market capitalisation.
IBM के बाजार पूंजीकरण से लगभग 30 अरब डॉलर कम हो गए।
-

2 Why COBOL Matters / COBOL क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

- COBOL (Common Business-Oriented Language) is a decades-old programming language.
COBOL (कॉमन बिज़नेस ओरिएंटेड लैंग्वेज) एक दशकों पुरानी प्रोग्रामिंग भाषा है।
- Used in critical infrastructure such as banking, airlines, insurance and government systems.
बैंकिंग, एयरलाइंस, बीमा और सरकारी प्रणालियों जैसे महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना में उपयोग।
- Many legacy systems globally still rely on IBM mainframes running COBOL.
विश्वभर में कई पुरानी प्रणालियाँ IBM मेनफ्रेम पर चलने वाले COBOL पर निर्भर हैं।
- Shortage of COBOL developers due to retirement and declining teaching in universities.
डेवलपर्स की कमी, क्योंकि पुराने विशेषज्ञ सेवानिवृत्त हो रहे हैं और विश्वविद्यालयों में पढ़ाई कम।

3 Market & Economic Impact / बाजार व आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Investors fear AI-driven code modernization could disrupt IBM's traditional services revenue.
निवेशकों को आशंका है कि AI आधारित कोड आधुनिकीकरण IBM की पारंपरिक आय को प्रभावित कर सकता है।
 - Reflects broader AI disruption in legacy tech companies.
यह पुरानी तकनीकी कंपनियों में AI से उत्पन्न व्यापक बदलाव को दर्शाता है।
 - Wall Street volatility linked to rapid AI innovation cycles.
वॉल स्ट्रीट में अस्थिरता तेज AI नवाचार चक्र से जुड़ी।
-

AI & Data Controversy / AI और डेटा विवाद

- Anthropic accused Chinese firms (DeepSeek, Moonshot, MiniMax) of improper data harvesting.
एंथ्रोपिक ने चीनी कंपनियों (DeepSeek, Moonshot, MiniMax) पर अनुचित डेटा संग्रह का आरोप लगाया।
 - OpenAI also accused Chinese firms of lifting data from ChatGPT.
ओपनएआई ने भी चीनी कंपनियों पर ChatGPT से डेटा उठाने का आरोप लगाया।
 - Anthropic itself faces lawsuits alleging use of copyrighted internet data for AI training.
एंथ्रोपिक पर भी कॉपीराइट डेटा के उपयोग के आरोप में मुकदमे चल रहे हैं।
 - The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft over AI training on its articles.
न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स ने OpenAI और Microsoft पर अपने लेखों के उपयोग को लेकर मुकदमा किया।
-

Technological & Historical Context / तकनीकी व ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- COBOL developed in 1959; standardized by CODASYL.
COBOL का विकास 1959 में; CODASYL द्वारा मानकीकृत।
 - IBM mainframes dominate enterprise computing since 1960s.
IBM मेनफ्रेम 1960 के दशक से एंटरप्राइज कंप्यूटिंग में प्रमुख।
 - AI-based code migration tools emerging as new market segment.
AI आधारित कोड माइग्रेशन टूल एक नया बाजार खंड।
 - Generative AI disrupting software engineering industry.
जनरेटिव AI सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियरिंग उद्योग में बदलाव ला रहा है।
-

Geopolitical Angle / भू-राजनीतिक आयाम

- AI competition between U.S. and China intensifying.
अमेरिका और चीन के बीच AI प्रतिस्पर्धा तेज।
- Data sovereignty and copyright debates shaping AI regulation.
डेटा संप्रभुता और कॉपीराइट बहस AI नियमन को प्रभावित कर रही है।
- U.S.-China tech rivalry affects global stock markets.
अमेरिका-चीन तकनीकी प्रतिद्वंद्विता वैश्विक बाजारों को प्रभावित करती है।

| Company | Core Area | AI Impact |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| IBM | Enterprise mainframes | Threat from AI code modernization |
| Anthropic | AI foundation models | Competing in coding AI |
| OpenAI | Generative AI | Facing copyright litigation |
| Microsoft | Cloud & AI | Integrating AI in enterprise systems |

Consider the following statements:

1. COBOL is primarily used in legacy financial and government systems.
2. IBM's share fall was linked to AI-based code modernization claims.
3. COBOL was developed in the 21st century.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Union Cabinet Approves Renaming of **Kerala**
as **Keralam**

Dimension

Current Development

Year of Approval

Initiating Authority

Reason Given

Constitutional Provision

Procedure

Concerned Ministries

Political Context

Cultural Context

Formation of Kerala

Commemorative Day

Details

Union Cabinet approved proposal to rename **Kerala** as **Keralam**.

2026

Kerala Legislative Assembly (Unanimous Resolution – 24 June 2024)

“Keralam” reflects Malayalam linguistic identity more accurately.

Article 3 of the Constitution of India

1. President refers Bill to State Legislature for views 2. Parliament passes law 3. Amendment in First Schedule

Ministry of Home Affairs + Ministry of Law & Justice

Ahead of State Assembly elections

Assertion of linguistic and regional identity

1 November 1956 (States Reorganisation Act, 1956)

Kerala Piravi Day – 1 November

Provision

Explanation

Article 3

Parliament may alter name, area or boundaries of a State

Requirement

President's recommendation mandatory

State Role

State Legislature's opinion sought (not binding)

Schedule Affected

First Schedule of the Constitution

| State/UT | Old Name | New Name | Year | Reason |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------|---------------------------------|
| Orissa | Orissa | Odisha | 2011 | Reflect Odia pronunciation |
| Uttaranchal | Uttaranchal | Uttarakhand | 2007 | Cultural & historical identity |
| Pondicherry | Pondicherry | Puducherry | 2006 | Tamil linguistic accuracy |
| Madras State | Madras | Tamil Nadu | 1969 | Dravidian linguistic assertion |
| Mysore | Mysore | Karnataka | 1973 | Regional representation |
| Calcutta | Calcutta | Kolkata | 2001 | Bengali pronunciation |
| Bombay | Bombay | Mumbai | 1995 | Marathi identity |
| Allahabad | Allahabad | Prayagraj | 2018 | Historical/cultural restoration |
| Gurgaon | Gurgaon | Gurugram | 2016 | Mythological reference |

| Topic | Fact |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Capital | Thiruvananthapuram |
| Language | Malayalam |
| Literacy Rate | Highest among Indian States (~96%+) |
| State Animal | Indian Elephant |
| Coastline | ~590 km (Arabian Sea) |
| Human Development | Among top in India (HDI ranking high) |
| Nickname | “God’s Own Country” |
| Important Act | States Reorganisation Act, 1956 |

| Parameter | Name Change | Boundary Change |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Article Used | Article 3 | Article 3 |
| Constitutional Amendment Needed? | No (Ordinary law sufficient) | No (Ordinary law sufficient) |
| Requires State Consent? | Only consultation | Only consultation |
| Example | Odisha (2011) | Telangana formation (2014) |

PM Modi Inaugurates Full Delhi–Meerut Namoo Bharat Corridor (RRTS)



Dimension

Details

Project Name

Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

Corridor

Delhi–Meerut

Total Length

82 km

Inauguration Year

2026

Executing Agency

National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)

Key Sections Opened

5 km: Sarai Kale Khan – New Ashok Nagar (Delhi) 21
km: Meerut South – Modipuram (UP)

States Covered

Delhi & Uttar Pradesh

Integration

Connected with Meerut Metro

Top Speed (RRTS)

~160 km/h (operational ~130 km/h)

Average Speed

~100 km/h

Travel Time (Delhi–Meerut)

~55–60 minutes

Major Hub

Sarai Kale Khan (multi-modal integration hub)





Dimension

Impact

Economic Growth

Boost to NCR economic corridor

Employment

Jobs in construction, operations, logistics

Urban Planning

Promotes “Twin City” development (Delhi–Meerut)

Carbon Emission Reduction

Reduced private vehicle dependency

Real Estate Impact

Rise in peri-urban development

Ease of Living

Reduced congestion & faster commuting





Aspect

Details

Implementing Body

NCRTC (Joint venture of Centre + Delhi + Haryana + UP + Rajasthan)

Ministry

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Funding Pattern

Multilateral funding (ADB, World Bank type financing models used in similar corridors)

Related Policy

National Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy

Alignment

Gati Shakti Master Plan

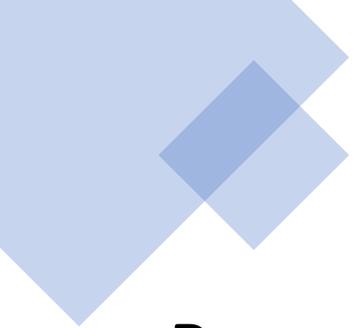




| Year | Development |
|-------------|--|
| 2005 | NCR Planning Board conceptualized regional rapid transit |
| 2013 | NCRTC incorporated |
| 2019 | Construction began |
| 2023 | First section (Sahibabad–Duhai) inaugurated |
| 2026 | Full Delhi–Meerut corridor operational |



| Proposed Route | Length | Status |
|---|-------------|----------------------|
| Sarai Kale Khan – Karnal (Haryana) | ~125–130 km | Under consideration |
| Sarai Kale Khan – Babarpur – Neemrana (Rajasthan) | Planned | Proposal stage |
| Delhi – Alwar | Planned | Future RRTS corridor |
| Delhi – Panipat | Planned | DPR stage |



Parameter

RRTS

Metro



Purpose

Inter-city rapid transit

Intra-city transit

Speed

160 km/h

80–90 km/h

Station Spacing

5–10 km

1–2 km

Travel Distance

50–150 km

10–40 km

Example

Delhi–Meerut

Delhi Metro



Goa Hosts World Ocean Science Congress 2026



Dimension

Event Name

Host Location

Date

Venue

Organisers

Previous Host Cities (India)

Theme Focus

Participants

Details

World Ocean Science Congress (WOSC) 2026

Goa, India

February 2026

CSIR–National Institute of Oceanography (NIO),
Dona Paula

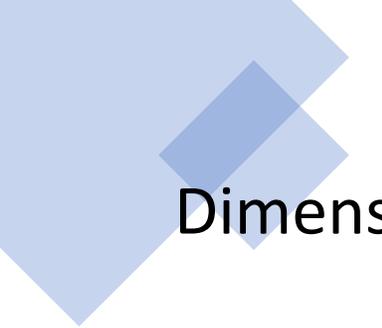
NIO, National Centre for Polar and Ocean
Research (NCPOR), Goa University

Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Chennai

Ocean health, climate resilience, blue economy,
marine ecosystems

Scientists, policymakers, researchers, students
(~600 high school students involved in outreach)





Dimension

Climate Change

Blue Economy

Marine Biodiversity

National Security

Disaster Management

Importance

Oceans regulate global climate & absorb
~30% CO₂

Sustainable marine resource use for economic
growth

Protect coral reefs, fisheries & coastal
ecosystems

Maritime surveillance & coastal resilience

Early warning for cyclones, tsunamis





Parameter

Data

Coastline Length

~193 km

Sea

Arabian Sea

Major Port

Mormugao Port

Economy

Tourism, fisheries, mining

River Systems

Mandovi & Zuari





Topic

UNCLOS (1982)

India's Maritime Zones Act
(1976)

EEZ Limit

Deep Ocean Mission

Sagarmala Project

Details

Legal framework governing
oceans

Defines territorial waters, EEZ

200 nautical miles

Launched 2021 for seabed mining
& research

Port-led development initiative



Component

Fisheries

Renewable Energy

Marine Transport

Seabed Mining

Coastal Tourism

Description

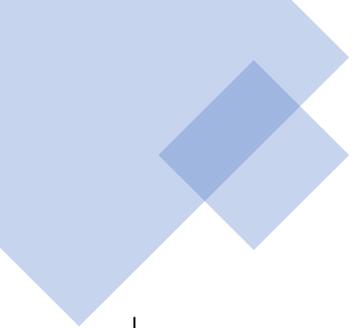
Sustainable fish stock management

Offshore wind & tidal power

Green shipping corridors

Polymetallic nodules exploration

Sustainable coastal development



Initiative

UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021–2030)

Paris Agreement

International Seabed Authority



Objective

Sustainable ocean development

Climate mitigation including ocean role

Regulates deep seabed mining





Indicator

Share in Trade

Coastal Population

Blue Economy Contribution

Major Fisheries States

Fact

~95% by volume via sea

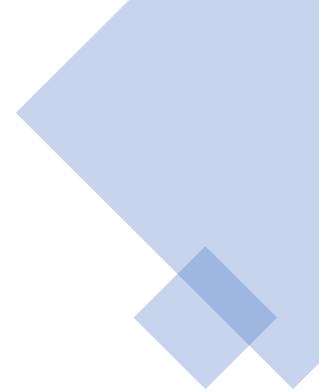
~30% of India's population

~4% of GDP (approx., growing sector)

Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh



Rob Jetten Becomes Netherlands' Youngest
Prime Minister (2026)





NORWAY

SWEDEN

DENMARK

*BALTIC
SEA*

*NORTH
SEA*

**UNITED
KINGDOM**

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM

POLAND

BELGIUM

GERMANY

**CZECH
REPUBLIC**

FRANCE

Dimension

Name

Country

Age at Swearing-in

Party

Capital

Head of State

Parliament

Coalition Partners

Main Opposition

Special Significance

Details

Rob Jetten

Netherlands

38 years (Youngest PM in Dutch history)

Rob Jetten – Leader of Democrats 66 (D66)

The Hague (Seat of Government)

Willem-Alexander (Constitutional Monarch)

150-member House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer)

D66 + Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) + People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD)

Geert Wilders – Party for Freedom (PVV)

First openly gay Prime Minister of Netherlands



Aspect

Details

Election Type

Snap Election (October 2025)

Result

Narrow victory of D66 over PVV

Coalition Talks

117 days of negotiations

Seats Controlled

66 out of 150 (Minority-dependent coalition)

Government Nature

Coalition Government (Proportional Representation system)





Event

Year

Netherlands adopts
constitutional monarchy

1815

Maastricht Treaty signed (EU
milestone)

1992 (Maastricht, Netherlands)

First female Dutch PM?

None yet (as of 2026)

Previous PM

Mark Rutte (Longest-serving PM
before stepping down)



Parameter

Fact

Major Port

Rotterdam (Europe's largest port)

Major Institutions

International Court of Justice (The Hague)

Currency

Euro (€)

Economic Model

Trade-oriented, high-income economy

Major Sectors

Agriculture, Shipping, Energy,
Technology

Sachin Tendulkar Named UN Global Road
Safety Champion

Dimension

Appointee

Title Given

Appointing Body

Year

Objective

Focus Areas

UN Initiative Linked

Details

Sachin Tendulkar

UN Global Road Safety Champion

United Nations

2026

Promote safer roads and responsible driving

Helmet use, seat belts, speed control, awareness

Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021–2030)

Aspect

Global Target

UN Special Envoy

Key Strategy

SDG Linkage

Details

Reduce road traffic deaths by 50% by 2030

Jean Todt

Enforcement + Infrastructure + Awareness

SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), SDG 11
(Sustainable Cities)

Parameter

Global Rank (Accidents)

Major Causes

Key Law

Institutional Body

Economic Loss

Data / Focus

Among highest road fatalities globally

Overspeeding, drunk driving, lack of helmet/seatbelt use

Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)

~3% of GDP (approx., World Bank estimates)

State

Rajasthan

Kerala

Tamil Nadu

Assam

Focus Areas

Blackspot correction & safer highways

School safety zones & pedestrian safety

Emergency trauma response systems

Cycling & rural road safety

Topic

Decade of Action (First Phase)

Current Phase

WHO Role

Vision Zero Model

India's Supreme Court

Fact

2011–2020

2021–2030

Technical support in road injury prevention

Originated in Sweden

Committee on Road Safety monitors compliance

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

In September 1919, Adolf Hitler joined the German Workers' Party (DAP), a small nationalist group in Munich founded by _____. On February 24, 1920, the DAP renamed itself 'NSDAP', later colloquially called the Nazi Party. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

In 1921-22, the NSDAP set up a paramilitary wing called the Sturmabteilung, or SA for short, and used it to intimidate its opponents and to stage rallies. What was the colloquial name for members of this wing, which was based on the colour of their uniforms?

QUESTION 3

Hitler didn't trust the Sturmabteilung, so in

1923 he created a separate unit in charge of his personal security. However, this unit was abolished after the event known as X that year, failed and landed Hitler in prison. Name X.

QUESTION 4

In 1925, Hitler created Y, whose name was German for 'Protection Squadron'. For Hitler's purposes, it replaced the Sturmabteilung. Thanks to the leadership of Heinrich Himmler from 1929, it went on to become one of the most powerful and feared organisations in Nazi Germany. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

Name the event of February 23, 1933, that Hitler used as a pretext to arrest communists en masse, skewing the elections on March 5 in the NSDAP's favour and eventually leading to Hitler getting the power to make laws without parliament.



Visual question:

Name this leader who, despite his dislike of Hitler, made choices that sowed political instability and allowed Hitler to consolidate power.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Name Rajinikanth's debut film. **Ans: *Apoorva Raagangal***

2. The names of Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth's characters in *16 Vayathinile*. **Ans: Kamal was Gopalakrishnan aka 'Chappani' while Rajinikanth played the villain 'Parattai'**

3. The Tamil version of the Telugu *Andamaina Anubhavam*. **Ans: *Ninaithale Inikkum***

4. The last time the two shared the screen as full-fledged co-leads was in this 1979 fantasy film. **Ans: *Allauddinum Albhutha Vilakkum***

5. Rajinikanth's first full-length comedy film. **Ans: *Thillu Mullu***

6. In their only Hindi film to date, this legend enacted the role of Kamal's sibling. **Ans: *Geraftaar* and Amitabh Bachchan**

7. This person is directing and composing the music for the reunion film. **Ans: Nelson Dilipkumar and Anirudh Ravichander**

Visual: Name this acclaimed K. Balachander work. **Ans: *Moondru Mudichu***

Word of the day

Unsolicited:

not requested or sought

Synonyms: unasked-for

Usage: *He keeps giving me and my friends unsolicited advice.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/
unsolicitedpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʌnsə'lisɪtɪd/

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2024-06-21 at 10:00 AM

Watch Now

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Part-6 Governor & Com Class-2

2024-06-13 at 11:00 AM

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Part-6 Governor & COM

2024-06-12 at 11:00 AM

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Part-5 Supreme Court Class-2 & Part-6 Governor

2024-06-11 at 11:00 AM

Watch Now

Part-5 Supreme Court

2024-06-08 at 11:00 AM

Watch Now

What you'll get

- Coverage of all major national and international events from **January 2025 to March 2026**
- **20 high-priority topics** explained in depth so you can handle both factual and analytical questions

Topics to be Covered:

1. Government Schemes (Flagship + New Launches)

2. Budget & Taxation

3. Economic Indicators

4. Reports & Indices (India's Rank)

5. International Affairs (India + Major Summits)

6. Science & Tech

7. Environment & Ecology

8. Polity & Constitution Updates

9. Awards & Honours

10. Sports

11. Banking & Financial Market

12. Defence

13. Appointments & Resignations

14. Books & Authors

15. Important Days & Themes

16. Government Committees

17. States in News

18. India Rankings & Lists

19. Sports + Govt Sports Schemes

20. Miscellaneous Must-Do

- All video lectures will be delivered in bilingual format (Hindi + English) to ensure clarity and comfort for every learner.



Thank you 😊