Daily Current Affairs



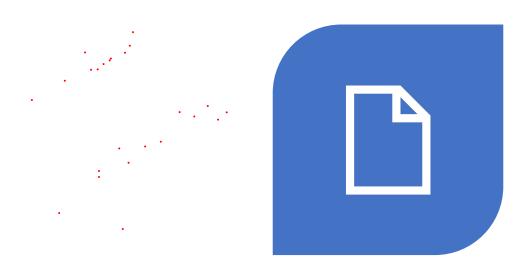








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10 MCQ QUIZ

# Current Affairs 2025—2026



By Bhunesh Sir

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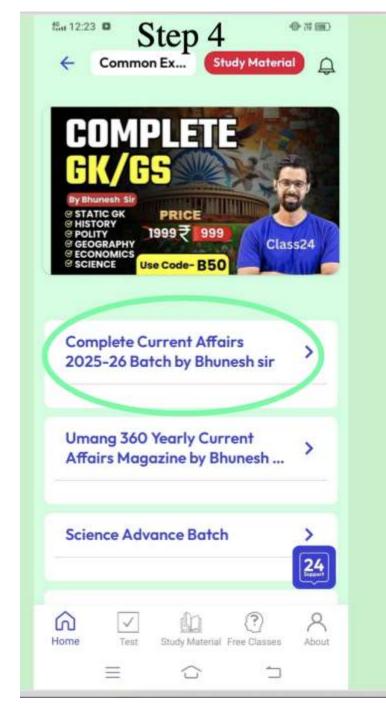
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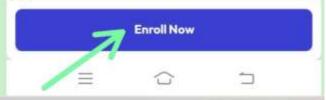






# Complete Current Affairs 2025–2026 by Bhunesh Sir

This batch is designed for learners preparing for exams conducted by UPSC Prelims, PSCs, SSC, Banking, Railway, Defence, EPFO, IB like SSC CGL, CHSL, GD, RRB NTPC, RAS, PCS, CET. The focus is to help you build a steady grip on current affairs that matter across



Marks measure answers; discipline measures destiny — and destiny always listens longer."

Convent. In Communical III RESERVE II TORRISMON IN MARKOW IN TRADE IN VANDOUGNAMENT IN THE



Karti Chidambaram charged in scam case





Two killed in Assam tribal council area

It is time to put apprehensions to rest in T.N. The way the SIR was held raises questions



Shafali and bowlers give India a 2-0 lead SPORT II PAGE 16



Netanyahu sought to evade blame for October 7 breach

ABRUSALEM A former close side to ffrime following the Onloteer 2022 Harner attack, the Israeli leader metructed him to figure out how the premier could evade responsibility for the security breach, to PAGE 14

22 Maoist cadres lay down their arms in Odisha

many as 22 armed cadre of India (Manist), including a and six Ansa Currenthius Members, base total down are before the Odisha Police. efforts to bring Mackata into mainstream, a FAUE 2.

Thackeray cousins end 20-year cold war for elections

the Shiv Sens (UBT) and the The Shie Sena (URT) and Maharashtra Navoirman are all set to contest the conving municipal corpu-elections to Maharashtra lugather, unding two decade-long differences between county Uddhar Thackeray and Rag Thackeray, is PAGE 8

Significant fall in mortality during deliveries: Nadda

Ureon Health Minister J.P. Nacida on Tuesday and the Institutional delivery rate in th which led to a significant reducition to the maternal mortality rate. The Minister said the Union government is. striving through healthcare services, a page 6

# Protests erupt near Bangladesh embassy

In Delhi, VHP, Bajrang Dal activists demanded safety for the Hindu community in Bangladesh Dhaka summons Indian envoy and calls for a full probe into protests outside its missions

India 'calls in' the Bangladesh envoy for 'cordial discussion' on the murder of Sharif Osman Hadi



were deployed to deal with the professes who were stopped around 800 matters from the main gate of the stopped around 800 The External Affairs Mi-nistry also 'called in' Hiaz Hamiletidish, the High Commissione of shrigh Commissione of shrigh and the stopped stopped controversy regarding the marder of radiical leader Sharf Common Had, saying

Court rejects

U.P. govť s plea

to drop Akhlaq

of the Cosle of Criminal Procedure, which sought to drop charges against 14 accused in the case. The court, marking the case as most important, in-sued directions for daily

bearing of the case and

The case will be heard next

lynching case

Mayank Kumar

Frime Minister Shoukh Ha-sina in 2024, had occaped to Iradia.

The protests also fo-cused on Bangilidesh citli-was lynched and barret in a public square law This triggered moles to the focurrity situation, in-terpretable of the triggered moles of the security situation, in-terpretable of the security situation, in-radian visa Application Indian Visa Application Gentres, but sources said the centres have since res-

the centres have sines rea-teried work stopped vi-sa facilities at the High Companies of the High Monday and shur 'all via Monday and shur 'all via and consabar' services in the Assistant High Com-mission of bangladesh in mission of bangladesh in place suitable the Hangla-desh via processing centre to Stiguri. In Mambal, on Tuesday,

account for accordance of the armind 80 activities of the VHP and Bajrang Dal gath-ered outside the Bangla-desh deputy high commis-sion holding saffron flags and 'save Hindus' placards.

Protests in Kolkata The protests in Kolkata, or-ganised under the banner of Bongiyo Hindu Jagarun', turned violent after the protesters tried to breach the barricades and police used force to prevent them. Several persons

them. Several persons were injured in the polles action, the protesters claimed. In a message, chief ad-viser of the administration Mohammad Yumus said the Mohammad Yumus said the fulling of Daw was a "hei-nous criminal act with no justification and no place in Bangladeahi society" and estended financial support to his family, (With inputs from FFI and Shin, Sahay Singh in Robam).

# India pledges \$450 million to aid Sri

### Meera Scinivasan



President Amura Kumaru Dinsanayake.

Disamayako.
Forting on social media
platform X, the Mri Lankan
leader described India's
gesture as "a new chapter"
to India Sri Lanka relations

donate support". India's post-cyclone reconstruction package in-cludes \$350 million worth of "concessional Lines of Gredit" and \$100 million in grants, targeting sectors most affected in the cli-mate shock incident that ripped through the island in late November.

ber 28, 2028, India awiffly mobilised in military per-sonnel and recourses— who were active for over two weeks on the bland— to support fir Lundam authorities in rescue oper-ations, including in re-mote, including in re-mote, included areas. As paid in "Operation is: per 28, 2028, India swiftly

# Lanka's recovery

gar Bandbur, the High Commission of India in Co-lombo sourced and helped distribute bumanitarian aid, relief supplies, and medical assistance to sugment the Sri Lankan go ment the err Lankin go-vernment's efforts. "The Indian Army set up a field hospital with 85 medical personnel near Kansly, giv-

ment abougstde Mr. Jaish-ankar, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Vijitha Heraih said Colombo deeply ap-previated his visit, as it "underscores India's stead-fast solidarity with Sri Lanka" in the aftermath of Cy-clone Dirwals. He recalled India's "unprecedented asbillion, extended through lines of credit when the is-land's economy crashed in

land's economy stasfied in 2002, beading to a historic sovereign debt default. Mr. Mahlumkar's trip also included bilateral discus-sions on origoing and further cooperation. Mr. Jantanahar later called on Prims Mitther Birthil Am-arassished in Culturill Am-arassished in Culturill Am-

### Sikh ceremony

undreds of sup-porters of the Parishad (VHP) and the Bajang Dal gathered near the Bangladeah High Com-mission in New Debt on Tuesday and demanded

safety for the minority Hin-du community in

outside the Bangladesh De-pury High Commissions in Rollara and Mumbai.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh sun-moned the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka,

Commissioner in Dhalks, Franay Verma, and lodged a strong protest.

Dhala surged India to en-sure security of its diplo-mate starf and colled for a "thorough" investigation into the protests. "Bangla-desh condomns such acts of promeditated violence

Proposts were also held

du community Bangladeab.



95 lakh electors left

# India finalising first anti-terror policy

The Union government is finalising India's first antiterror policy to provide a template for all states to combat and respond to ter-ror attacks and related incidents, a senior govern-ment official has told The

ndu. Digital radicalisation, Digital indicalisation, the misuse of open bur-ders, and convestion net-works fursied by foreign players are among the key issues being discussed in the run-up to the policy's release. the misses of open bar-ders, and conversion net-vorks funded by foreign players are among the low the run-up to the policy's the run-up to the policy's release.

The National Investiga-tion Agency (MA) is also

the misuse of open borders, and conversion networks

conference on December 26 and 27 at Delhi where the contours of the pullcy are likely to be shared.

last November that a Na-tional Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy would Policy and Sentency would be birnduced soon.

After the April 22 Pahalgam torror attack, the NAgam torror attack, the NAevent and apprised them of the measures to be put in place to prevent and presented to the put of the measures to be put in place to prevent and presented attacks.

The use of the National calisation, and Aadhaar spoofing, among others.

Police against LWE A National Policy and Ac-tion Plan for Left Wing Ex-tremism (LWE) had earlier The use of the National Triemless (2008) And earlier Intelligence Grid Oxford Intelligence (1998) And earlier Intelligence (19

### out of draft rolls of National Security Guard chief Brighu Strinivasan have briefed a few State pollue chiefa on issues such as foreign-funded conver-sion rackets, online radithree States, one U.T. The Hindu Bureau NEW DELMI

About 95 lakb names have been excluded from the draft electoral rolls in Kera-la, Chlastingarh, Malliya Pradesh, and Andaman Prodesh, and Andaman and Nicolon, which were published on Twesday as part of the ongoing special intensive revision exercise. In Kernila, names of 24.08 likh from among 2.78 erore voices were de-letted. Of the 2.12 cross elections in Chhattlegarh.

27.34 tier names were deoppied, and in Madhya Fradesh, 42.74 lath of the 5,74 crore electors were struck off. in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 64,000 of the 3,10 lath electors were removed from the first of electors were removed from the draft rolls. Voters whose names have been deletted can ap-ply for ce-inclusion. The fi-nal rolls will be insued in February 2026.

# India pledges \$450 million to aid Sri Lanka's recovery

Meera Srinivasan

COLOMBO

India on Tuesday announced a \$450-million "reconstruction package" for Sri Lanka to help the island nation recover from the devastating impact of Cyclone Ditwah, which claimed at least 643 lives and displaced scores of people.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is in Colombo as special envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made the announcement Tuesday morning, shortly after he called on President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

Posting on social media platform X, the Sri Lankan leader described India's gesture as "a new chapter" in India-Sri Lanka relations and said he conveyed Sri Lanka's "deep gratitude" to Prime Minister Modi and the Government of India for their "swift, compassionate support".

India's post-cyclone reconstruction package includes \$350 million worth of "concessional Lines of Credit" and \$100 million in grants, targeting sectors most affected in the climate shock incident that ripped through the island in late November.

### Early support

Even as Cyclone Ditwah made landfall on November 28, 2025, India swiftly mobilised its military personnel and resources — who were active for over two weeks on the island — to support Sri Lankan authorities in rescue operations, including in remote, inundated areas.

As part of 'Operation Sa-



S. Jaishankar with Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Tuesday. ANI

gar Bandhu', the High Commission of India in Colombo sourced and helped distribute humanitarian aid, relief supplies, and medical assistance to augment the Sri Lankan government's efforts, "The Indian Army set up a field hospital with 85 medical personnel near Kandy, giving emergency care to more than 8,000 people," Mr. Jaishankar said, assuring Sri Lanka that "India stands firmly with Sri Lanka more than ever before".

Making a media statement alongside Mr. Jaishankar, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Viiitha Herath said Colombo deeply appreciated his visit, as it "underscores India's steadfast solidarity with Sri Lanka" in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah. He recalled India's "unprecedented assistance" amounting to \$4 billion, extended through lines of credit when the island's economy crashed in 2022, leading to a historic sovereign debt default.

Mr. Jaishankar's trip also included bilateral discussions on ongoing and further cooperation. Mr. Jaishankar later called on Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya in Colombo.

- India announced a \$450 million reconstruction package to help Sri Lanka recover from Cyclone Ditwah.
- भारत ने चक्रवात दितवाह से उबरने में श्रीलंका की सहायता के लिए 450 मिलियन डॉलर का पुनर्निर्माण पैकेज घोषित किया।
- The cyclone caused large-scale damage, deaths, and displacement across Sri Lanka.
- चक्रवात के कारण श्रीलंका में व्यापक क्षति, जनहानि और विस्थापन हुआ।

# 2. Composition of the Aid Package

- The package includes \$350 million as concessional Lines of Credit.
- इस पैकेज में 350 मिलियन डॉलर रियायती ऋण के रूप में शामिल हैं।
- An additional \$100 million is provided as direct grants.
- अतिरिक्त 100 मिलियन डॉलर अनुदान के रूप में दिए गए हैं।
- Funds target sectors most affected by climate-related disasters.
- यह सहायता जलवायु आपदा से सर्वाधिक प्रभावित क्षेत्रों पर केंद्रित है।

# 3. Diplomatic Engagement

- The announcement was made during the visit of India's External Affairs Minister to Colombo.
- यह घोषणा भारत के विदेश मंत्री की कोलंबो यात्रा के दौरान की गई।
- India conveyed solidarity and long-term commitment to Sri Lanka's recovery.
- भारत ने श्रीलंका के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए दीर्घकालिक समर्थन और एकजुटता जताई।

# 4. Humanitarian and Military Assistance

- India deployed military personnel for rescue and relief operations soon after the cyclone.
- चक्रवात के तुरंत बाद भारत ने राहत और बचाव के लिए सैन्य कर्मियों को तैनात किया।
- Indian Army set up a field hospital with medical staff to provide emergency care.
- भारतीय सेना ने आपातकालीन चिकित्सा सहायता के लिए फील्ड अस्पताल स्थापित किया।
- Humanitarian aid included relief supplies and medical assistance.
- मानवीय सहायता में राहत सामग्री और चिकित्सा सहायता शामिल थी।

<b>Operation Name</b>	Year	Trigger Event	Key Indian Assistance	Exam Importance
Operation Sagar Bandhu	2025	Cyclone Ditwah	Rapid deployment of Indian military personnel, relief materials, medical aid, logistics support	Disaster diplomacy, Neighbourhood First
Operation Sagar Arogya	2025	Cyclone Ditwah	Field hospital set up by Indian Army, emergency medical care to thousands	Health security, humanitarian assistance
<b>Operation Sagar</b>	2020	COVID-19 pandemic	Supply of medicines, PPE kits, vaccines, medical teams	Health diplomacy
Operation Maitri	2015	Earthquake	Search & rescue, medical teams, relief supplies	HADR capability
Operation Sagar-I	2020	COVID-19	Medical assistance to Indian Ocean neighbours including Sri Lanka	Regional cooperation
Operation Sagar-II	2021	COVID-19 second wave	Oxygen, vaccines, medical support	Pandemic response
Operation Sanjeevani	2020	Medical emergency	Delivery of essential medicines	Strategic airlift
Operation Samudra Setu	2020	COVID-19	Evacuation of stranded citizens by sea	Evacuation operations
Economic Relief Package (No codename)	2022	Economic crisis & sovereign default	Lines of Credit, fuel, food, medicine	Economic diplomacy
Post-Cyclone Reconstruction Support	2025	Cyclone Ditwah	\$450 million package (LOC + grants)	Climate disaster recovery

# **Aspect Trade Relationship Total Bilateral Trade India's Exports to Sri Lanka India's Imports from Sri Lanka**

**Trade Balance** 

Share in Sri Lanka's Trade

**Major Ports Involved** 

# **Details**

India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner. ऋग्नस्र इस्त्र इत्र ढू □ ढूङ् □ ब्रत □ ग्रह्ऋस्ड् ढ्रतप्ड्वस्य प्रहु

Around USD 5–6 billion annually in recent years. प्रक्रा क्कुञ्जड्र खळ् इसा श्रेहल्ह्य छह्त्रघ चण्क्रण 5–6 श्राप्त म्कुग्रघड

Petroleum products, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food items. ह्क्ड्रम्ह्रम्यगरंग क्ष्ट्रंद्रः, ज्रवणः, व्या हेव्द्रक्ष्वंह

Tea, rubber, spices, coconut products, apparel. द्वग्र, घ्राघ, खढ़्त्रच्ह्रं ष्व्रप्रमग्रच क्ष्न्ट्रव्रः, हष्रघ्रश्चष्ट्रं

Favourable to India (India exports more than it imports). क्रक्रारू झुः हल खळू । प्रह्निघ ढ्रास्ट्रिय ह

India accounts for nearly 15–20% of Sri Lanka's total trade. व्हरमञ्जू इंड्रिंग क्रिक्स खळू क्रक्सर इंड अग्रेड्स च्राप्कर 15–20% ह

Colombo, Hambantota, Chennai, Tuticorin. ङ्कात्र ग्रह्म एद्रुष्ट्राह्न, त्रेंक्ट्रू, त्र्वहङ्काराष्ट्र

- **Q.** Consider the following statements:
  - 1. India announced a reconstruction package for Sri Lanka after a cyclone.
- 2. The package includes both concessional Lines of Credit and grants.
- 3. Disaster assistance is part of India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

## Implications of the Vande Mataram discourse

he recent debate in Parliament on Vande Mataram, beld as part of its 1500b the fact that a few lawmakers from the Opposition parties linked It to the forthcoming Assembly's elections in Wood Hengal. Several selections in Wood Hengal. Several parties are selected as a selection of the historium oblessability of the historium oblessability of the historium oblessability of a Song, as a lay source. Not supprisingly, or a lay source. Not supprisingly, or politicism's history is often more politicism's history is often more compage with such debases, mainly to reserve fairs from the deglection. For security is, the debase the Opposition parties linked it to

For secularists, the debate appeared to be more an exercise in Nebru-bashing than anything clae. Given that the Congress is almost non-existent in West Bengal, one wonders what electronal profit the HJP might

selected profit the RF ringht detrive from this exercise. The key issue that has prominently re-emerged is whether Vanda emerged is whether Vanda emitterly or only in part, as is the case since the dependence, in its avour as indiare national rong. According to brolessor probably written by Hankbrichandra Chatterjee between 1872 and 1876, but if this novel Annadamath, published to 1881. The novel first appeared ortally in Demograforsher, a verially in *bangadarshan*, a monthly journal founded by Bankjeschandra. The first instalment of Anandamath was published in the 12th issue of the journal's seventh year (Rengali circa 1387), and the final interior appeared in the Iyaistha issue of Bengali circa 1288. coording to Julius Lipner, refessor of Hinduism at the surveyanty of Cambridge Banktmchundra had a deep knowledge of Sanskrit learning



### Shatkh Mujibur Behman

discussions in

Parliament will

have implications for Indian

Hindu-Muslim

Author of Shikwa e-Hindi The Political Eutore of Indian Muslims, Views are personal

texts, and expressions in his writings. Aurobindo Ghose considered Bankim "the rishi of

and regularly reviewed Sanskrit

subjications in Banandarshan, He eferred to Sanskrit passages

considered Bankim, "the rishs of The rong played a visit role sharing the Swaderski movement. However, around the 1930s, prominent londers of major as the congress, Flinds Mahasabba, and Masalim League engaged in decassions over it, rendering it decassions over it, rendering it decassions over it, rendering it becaused to come the constraint stallim leaders objected to certain a foldarrous. According to puritan a foldarrous. According to puritan a set to worship only Allah, the Creator of all, including Mother Farth and the mother-land least. They are not per mitted the corrow rendering the control of proposed to proposed proposed

night begin to worship his likeness over time.

Among premitmet leaders, tawahariai Nebru and Kabindranath Tagers understood bow the extended version of the song might affect Muslim song might affect Muslim annibilities. As a consequence, only the first two Manzas were adopted as the netronal song. Togore said, "I freely conseeds that the whole of Banklers's Varule Matarian promi, coad togother with its context, is liable to be interpreted in ways that might wound Muslim susceptibilities." Even Mahatma Gandhi, who was initially enflusionic about

song, later reconsidered his position. In July 1939, Candid wrote in Harijan: "It had never occurred to me that it was a Hind ong or meant only for Hindus. Infortunately, now we have falle: on evil days." Gandhi reportedly advised local boards and Legislative Assemblies not to sing the song. Notably, Prof. Bhattacharya titled the first chapter of his book as 'A

Communal War Cry'. In the recent parliamentary debate, this historical context desaits, this instorical context, explains why some Muslim MPs such as Assabaddin Owsisi Galbilan and Aga Szed Bahullah (National Conference) invoked Article 28 of the Constitution, which guarantees every citizen the freedom to practise their faith freedom to practise their faith. This constitutionally protected right, in the context of singing and the context of singing and the context of singing and context of the context of the Fireds Right, instead, its leaders rend to destrois such converte as the context of the context of the row well established, any issue involving Muslims tends to be now well established, any issue involving Muslims tends to be of appearament, which only renders such arguments hollow and sampholic.

A lithmis test
It appears that the desire to sing
Vande Mataram in full has been
turned into a lithius test of Indian
nationalism. Set Indian
notionalism is far shier and for more robust. It lived in the minds and hearts of indians long before Vande Mataram was composed. Varide Malaram was composed. Even V.D. Mavarkar, the misest prominent Hindu Might thinker, prominent Hindu Might thinker, colebrated Hindu Muslim unity in the HS7 resistance against British the HS7 resistance against British less in this brook, The Indua's War of the HS7 resistance against British the Indua Misester of the Controversy in that, while some controversy in that, while some Vande Mataram idolaticists, lankimshanden hinnelf was known to oppose Medatry. In an delice in Rengal, he migraed that

deities in Bengal, he argued that idelatry was "anti-science," mimical to the growth of the numan self, and a constraint on

he human mind. Nonetheless, the tone and tenor of the debate in Parliament show that the last word on this issue has not yet been spoken - and that the ensuing discussions will have implications for Indian accularism

### It is time to put apprehensions to rest

The manner in which the SIR was conducted in Tamil Nadu raises questions

STATE OF PLAY T. Ramakrishnan

lie State Public (Gertions) Department,
bey fifthe released the
phase of the Special Intensive
services (SSP) of the electron
rells on December 15 in Tamil
rells on December 15 in Tamil
about the way the services
was surried out. This is not
just because 97.4 lash names
rolls, but also because of the
manner in which the departtion of the services of the
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by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), who heads the depart-(CEO), who heads the depart-ment, are too good to be true. The claim of distributing over 6.4 crors enumeration forms with 100% coverage appears quantionable, as many voters whose names were on the rolls until recently report that no officials visited their residecision to distribute fue forms, even in clien such a forms, even in clien such as forms, even in clien such as forms, even in clien such as forms, even in the continuty, even a voter reached out to their local officers to apply the forms. These was a such as found to flow their such as found to flow their such that their same authorities that forms online successful occupant of the forms online successful occupant of the forms on the successful occupant of the forms of the forms

rue and Tiruchi, the officials visited voters twice. But in Chennal and Madural, largely. they visited voters only once. The same was the case in Chi-danduram. In one case, in Ti-ruvallar district, enumeration forms were "submitted" with



ters concerned. This carmot be dismissed lightly in fact, identified and GPEC number were deleted from the electoristic and GPEC number were deleted from the electoristic and th was no longer my residence again without my knowledge.

again venturi by sinvestige.
Inns sayed – the Absent/
Shiffed/becaused (ASI) cutslined how the Mection
Commission or the department described how the secondtied how the Mection
Commission or the department described have a secondcompared to the secondcompare Regarding the most conte

says the assessment was made based on field inquiry. While death certificates, some HLOs insist on collecting death cer-dicates. As for the 'shifted' and 'absentee' cases, numbering 6854 lakh, it is unclear how this future has been arrived at when many tenants have not

about the previous occupants.

Regarding data dissenting tion, the authorities did not publish district wise weekly the CED's website. Only after efforts of the media did the of-fice place in the public domain sembly constituency-wise break up of AGD. But, again, or the did data are available of AGD. There are also reported of AGD. Minister of the did of AGD. Minister of the did of AGD. Minister of the did of AGD. In the did of the did of AGD. Minister of the did of AGD. In the did of the did of AGD. The did of AGD. As a did of the did of

Assembly constituencies. He pointed out how four people in a booth in the Gummidipoondi Assembly constituen-cy, enrolled as electors during the party's drive about four months ago, had been left our, with one person having been identified as the deceased.

What is obvious is that the staff rolls are not error-free or flawless. Under such circum-stances, it is natural for the ruling party and in affect to ex-tending party and the affect to ex-large scale deletions. Only the AIAIMK general sucretary came out in support of the SIK is the carry's contention that What is obvious is that the us party's contention that nost of the deleted voters

were bogus voters. However, the two Dravidian nations are on the same page when they say that no genialise roter should be left out as indusions can still be made up to January 18. Before the State CEO and the Election Com mission would do wen to con-all these apprehensions and doubts so that a conclusions on the simment is created for a free and fair election next year.

# The upskilling gap: why women risk being left behind by AI

With 10 hours less per week for self-development than men, India's working women need flexible learning and "time-saving" policies to compete

DATA POINT

Shrayani Prakash

s 2022 ends, indiane are consumed by two anxietical insections are wherher artificial inindiana, where are indicated inindiana, and whether the future belarge to Afones work weeks or 
the right to disconnect after office 
workers, and whether the future bethere is a new section of the residence 
women, a new 80-hour work 
worker is already a lived reality, as 
their worked continues long after 
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women, a new 80-hour work 
women, a new 80-hour work 
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women of the 
women of the 
residence of the 
form the long hour spent on cooking, cleaning, caregiving, plansing, and whoteload management.

(2023) makes this reality unniv
(2023) makes this reality unniv
(2023) makes this reality unniv
kalable 40% of women sow parti-

takable: 40% of women now parti-cipate in the labour force. They are ot simply leaning into paid work: instead, they are working a relan-less second shift. As women take on more paid work, their unpaid responsibilities hardly decline instead of substitution, there is stacking. This results in working women being left with limited time for personal development, letsure,

for personal receipted of the considerate of the co spend around 9.6 hours a day on combined paid and unpaid work. A substantial share of this time is, the conveyer, spent on unpaid work. A substantial share of this time is, the conveyer, spent on unpaid work. As the conveyer, spent on unpaid work of the conveyer of the

total hours of work. On average, they spend about 8.6 hours a day on combined paid and unpaid work, with more than 80% of this time devoted to paid activities (wage/salaried work, remunora-

time devoted to paid activities were devoted to paid activities the self-engineers, and production of goods and services for sales, across the working life (cycle, across the working life (cycle, across the working life (cycle, across the working local) and stable across life stages.

Women's working locars exceeds a cycle, a cycle, and stable across life stages.

Women's working locars exceeds a cycle, and stable across life stages and stable across life stages.

Women's working locars exceeds a cycle, and a cycle, when women spend double the time on unpublicategory and the largest component. Even locar in life, while more unpublication to cars for againg parents), the broader unequal contract at home on to cars for againg parents), the broader unequal contract at home countries, or income lower to the contract of the contract of the cycle, which is the contract of the cycle of the cycle

ago, women in Judia deep fewer house in a week than men, with the gap widening to around 2-2.5 hours a week during their prime working years (Chart 2).

Wantien, on average, also spend 10 hours less than men every week 10 hours less than men every week on self-development activities, in-chading learning, skill enhance-ment, building self-awareness and practices that support mental, emotional, and physical well-be-carround 11.42 hours per veek) due for the entire use groun. These fi-tre the entire use groun. These fi-

Survey shows that nearly 40% of women outside the labour market the household responsibilities as the cason. Even the recent ites at the cason. Even the recent ites at is driven largely by unpud family work and low-paid self-employ-ment. The At era could make this worse, as women's jobs are more automation-prone, and At-driven performance metrics of the pestale ing caregivers whose time con-straints remain invisible to algo-

rithms.

True empowerment sammer mean interely adding jobs, unless men's drudgery instead of compounding it. Policy, technology, the policy of the policy technology, and the policy of the policy technology in the policy of the

munerative activities.

The gender budget can be a key tool to enable this by integrating time-use metrics. Budgets must prioritise and sustain outlays to time-saving infrastructure such as affordable childcare and elderly care, piped water, clean energy, and safe public transport. Simulta-neously, to adapt and thrive in a ranecosaly, to adapt and thrive in a ra-pidly changing world of work, we-men must have access to lifebong the state of the state of the state tier designed around their time, mobility, and digital constraints the state of the state of the husbest allowations to espand pro-grammer that build locally rele-vant we calculations to espand pro-grammer that build locally rele-vant working a state of the transport of the state of the

main constrained by women's in-visible labour, time poverty and underutilised potential.

Double shift for women Chart & Frade-off between work and aloop is number of hours access age groups

Vendo aff for man

### FROM THE ARCHIVES The Mindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 24, 1875

### Move for U.N. steps to outlaw terrorism

Washington, Dec. 23; The United States is hoping that the Vienna hidrapping of OPIG Oil Ministers last wook-end by pro-Palostrinan terrorists will focus renewed attention on the urgent need to draw up a meaningful international treaty outlawing this form of blackmall too. It is noted that serial highelings, blackmett too, it is noted that aerial rigacting, which was another weapon used by Arab estremator, has virtually disappeared since has year after the international community enacted a convention under which all constrine agreed to deay asylum to higachers and decided to look upon it as a common law crime rather than as a "political act."

"prolitical see."
Provious attempts at the United Nations to mete out the some treatment in terrorism resorting to iskinapping and marcher bad failed resorting to iskinapping and marcher bad failed see the sealing of the properties of the propert Survention mulawing kidnapping.

It is now hoped that since the hostages taken

a Vienna by the terrorists calling the "Arm of the Arab Liberation" included several Arab Ministers, their Governments would be joiled into agreeing to a new international convention which will stomp political kidnappings too as a common crims

### A HUNDRED YEARS AND DECEMBER 24, 1929. Operating on heart without anaesthetic

A German medical feat. An Air Force Pilot who had been hadly wounded during the War, was, we are told in "The Lancet," in so critical a condition that an anaeshiest was our of the condition that an anaeshiest was our of the result of the condition of the condit A German medical feat: An Air Force Pilot who

### DATA POINT

### Shravani Prakash Tanu M. Goyal Chellsea Lauhka

s 2025 ends, Indians are consumed by two anxieties - whether artificial intelligence (AI) will take over their jobs, and whether the future belongs to 80-hour work weeks or the right to disconnect after office hours. But for millions of working women, a near 80-hour work week is already a lived reality, as their workday continues long after office hours, filled with unrecognised and unpaid labour. Unfortunately, no AI or algorithm has yet threatened to take over women's "unpaid work" or rescue them from the long hours spent on cooking, cleaning, caregiving, planning, and emotional management.

India's latest Time Use Survey (2024) makes this reality unmistakable: 40% of women now participate in the labour force. They are not simply leaning into paid work; instead, they are working a relentless second shift. As women take on more paid work, their unpaid responsibilities hardly decline instead of substitution, there is stacking. This results in working women being left with limited time for personal development, leisure, or adequate rest.

Chart 1 highlights a stark imbalance in how Indian men and women divide their working hours. On average, working women spend around 9.6 hours a day on combined paid and unpaid work. A substantial share of this time is, however, spent on unpaid work that largely comprises elderly and childcare activities; domestic chores such as cooking and cleaning; and other voluntary work and subsistence production. This burden peaks when women are in their prime ages (25-39 years), leading to their total working hours exceeding 70 hours a week.

In contrast, men record lower

total hours of work. On average, they spend about 8.6 hours a day on combined paid and unpaid work, with more than 80% of this time devoted to paid activities (wage/salaried work, remunerative self-employment, and production of goods and services for sale). Across the working life cycle, men's total work hours typically fall within the range of 54-60 hours per week, largely because their unpaid workload is minimal and stable across life stages.

Women's working hours exceed men's across nearly every age group. The gap is widest in the 25-39 age range, when women spend double the time on unpaid caregiving than men, with childcare forming the largest component. Even later in life, while men's unpaid contributions rise marginally (often to care for ageing parents), the broader unequal contract at home remains intact, regardless of age, occupation, or income level.

Women don't have more hours in a day, but they simply offset the burden of double shifts by cutting back on time for self-care. On average, women in India sleep fewer hours in a week than men, with the gap widening to around 2-2.5 hours a week during their prime working years (Chart 2).

Women, on average, also spend 10 hours less than men every week on self-development activities, including learning, skill enhancement, building self-awareness and practices that support mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Once again, this gap is widest (around 11-12 hours per week) during the prime age group. These figures matter immensely in an Aldisrupted economy, since time for upskilling and self-development is essential to transition from low-skilled to higher-value work.

Women contribute a mere 17% of India's GDP, not because they do too little but because much of their essential labour is unpaid and invisible, which does not get added in national income calculations. The Periodic Labour Force

Survey shows that nearly 40% of women outside the labour market cite household responsibilities as the reason. Even the recent rise in women's workforce participation is driven largely by unpaid family work and low-paid self-employment. The AI era could make this worse, as women's jobs are more automation-prone, and AI-driven performance metrics risk penalising caregivers whose time constraints remain invisible to algorithms.

True empowerment cannot mean merely adding jobs, unless paid employment replaces women's drudgery instead of compounding it. Policy, technology, and workplaces must be redesigned around women's time — an undervalued resource that underpins both care and productivity. These must shift towards an outcome-based approach that explicitly uses time-use data to free women's time from unpaid work and redirect it toward higher-value, remunerative activities.

The gender budget can be a key tool to enable this by integrating time-use metrics. Budgets must prioritise and sustain outlays to time-saving infrastructure such as affordable childcare and elderly care, piped water, clean energy, and safe public transport. Simultaneously, to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world of work, women must have access to lifelong and flexible upskilling opportunities designed around their time, mobility, and digital constraints. This calls for sustained gender budget allocations to expand programmes that build locally relevant vocational capabilities, strengthen technology and digital skills, and scale targeted initiatives such as the India AI Mission and AI Careers for Women programmes.

Until women's time is valued, freed, and mainstreamed into policy and growth strategy, India's 2047 Viksit Bharat vision will remain constrained by women's invisible labour, time poverty and underutilised potential.

- Despite rising workforce participation, Indian women face a double burden of paid and unpaid work.
- कार्यबल में भागीदारी बढ़ने के बावजूद भारतीय महिलाएँ भुगतान और बिना भुगतान वाले कार्य का दोहरा बोझ झेल रही हैं।
- Unpaid domestic and care work remains invisible and unaccounted in economic measures.
- घरेलू और देखभाल से जुड़ा बिना भुगतान का कार्य आर्थिक मापदंडों में अदृश्य बना हुआ है।

# 2. Key Data from Time Use Survey

- Working women spend about 9.6 hours per day on combined paid and unpaid work.
- कामकाजी महिलाएँ प्रतिदिन औसतन 9.6 घंटे भुगतान और बिना भुगतान वाले कार्य में लगाती हैं।
- Men spend fewer total hours largely due to minimal unpaid work responsibilities.
- पुरुष कम कुल घंटे काम करते हैं क्योंकि उन पर बिना भुगतान वाले कार्य का बोझ कम होता है।
- Women's total working hours often exceed 70 hours per week in prime working age.
- प्रमुख कार्यशील आयु में महिलाओं के कुल कार्य घंटे 70 घंटे प्रति सप्ताह से अधिक हो जाते हैं।

# 3. Unpaid Care Work Dimension

- Women spend nearly double the time on unpaid caregiving compared to men.
- महिलाएँ पुरुषों की तुलना में बिना भुगतान वाले देखभाल कार्य में लगभग दोगुना समय लगाती हैं।
- Childcare forms the largest share of unpaid care work.
- बिना भुगतान देखभाल कार्य में बाल देखभाल का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा है।
- · This unequal household contract persists across age, income, and occupation.
- यह असमान घरेलू व्यवस्था आयु, आय और पेशे के बावजूद बनी रहती है।

# 4. Impact on Well-being

- Women cut back on self-care, rest, and leisure to manage double shifts.
- महिलाएँ दोहरी जिम्मेदारियों के कारण आत्म-देखभाल, आराम और अवकाश में कटौती करती हैं।
- Women sleep fewer hours per week than men, especially during prime working years.
- विशेष रूप से कार्यशील आयु में महिलाएँ पुरुषों की तुलना में कम नींद ले पाती हैं।
- Time poverty limits women's personal development and productivity.
- समय की कमी महिलाओं के व्यक्तिगत विकास और उत्पादकता को सीमित करती है।

# 5. Skill Development & Al Challenge

- Women spend 10–12 hours less per week on self-development and skill building than men.
- महिलाएँ पुरुषों की तुलना में कौशल विकास और आत्म-विकास पर प्रति सप्ताह 10–12 घंटे कम देती हैं।
- Al-driven automation may worsen outcomes for women due to rigid performance metrics.
- AI आधारित स्वचालन कठोर प्रदर्शन मापदंडों के कारण महिलाओं की स्थिति और खराब कर सकता है।
- Care responsibilities remain invisible to algorithm-based evaluations.
- एल्गोरिदम आधारित मूल्यांकन में देखभाल जिम्मेदारियाँ अदृश्य रहती हैं।

# 6. Economic Contribution

- · Women contribute only about 17% to India's GDP due to unpaid and uncounted labour.
- बिना भुगतान और अदृश्य श्रम के कारण महिलाओं का भारत की GDP में योगदान लगभग 17% ही है।
- The issue is undervaluation, not lack of work.
- समस्या कार्य की कमी नहीं बल्कि उसके मूल्यांकन की है।

# 7. Policy and Governance Solutions

- True empowerment requires replacing unpaid drudgery with paid employment.
- वास्तविक सशक्तिकरण के लिए बिना भुगतान श्रम को भुगतान वाले रोजगार से बदलना आवश्यक है।
- Time-use data should guide policy, budgeting, and workplace design.
- समय-उपयोग डेटा को नीति, बजट और कार्यस्थल संरचना में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।
- · Gender budgeting must prioritise childcare, eldercare, water, clean energy, and transport.
- जेंडर बजटिंग में बाल देखभाल, वृद्ध देखभाल, जल, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और सुरक्षित परिवहन को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए।

# 8. Long-Term Vision

- · Freeing women's time is essential for productivity, growth, and demographic dividend.
- महिलाओं का समय मुक्त करना उत्पादकता, विकास और जनसांख्यिकीय लाभ के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Without addressing time poverty, inclusive growth goals will remain constrained.
- समय गरीबी को सुलझाए बिना समावेशी विकास के लक्ष्य अधूरे रहेंगे।

# Double shift for women

Chart 1A: Working hours for men in a day across age groups

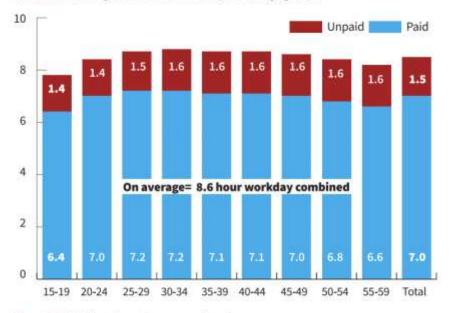
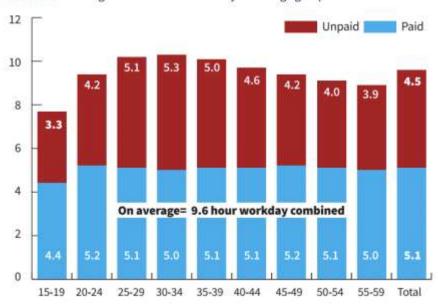


Chart 1B: Working hours for women in a day across age groups

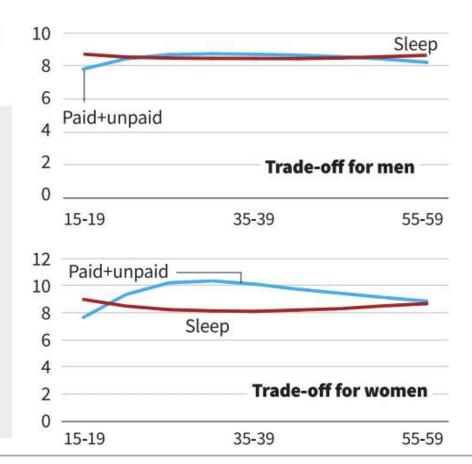


**Chart 2:** Trade-off between work and sleep in number of hours across age groups

Source: Time Use Survey (TUS), January 2024-December 2024

Authors' calculations from Time Use Survey (TUS), 2024.

The reported hours are per participant, and are calculated from the micro-data of the TUS for only those participants who reported doing both paid and unpaid work



- **Q.** Consider the following statements:
  - 1. Indian women spend more total working hours per day than men due to unpaid work.
  - 2. Unpaid care work is fully accounted for in GDP calculations.
  - 3. Time-use data can support better gender-responsive policymaking.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

# Guns, gold win in 2025, but other 'safety' trades bomb



Precious metals were the clear winner in 2025. while pretty much all other traditional "safe haven" investments underperformed. That's remarkable in a year marked by turbulence, conflict, and rumbling artificial intelligence bubble lears, teconomies ran hot, politicians, pushed for easy money, recussion fears faded, an At frency gripped markets, and geopolitical tensions rose, together shaping this year's market

Frectors metals compaced almost swerything clee. Silver and platform row than doublest, and gold mes over 60%, its biggest jump since the 1079 oil crisis. That performance trounced the 1079 oil crisis. That performance trounced the Whether gold, silver, and platform are caught in open question. But their strength is bolorored by strong expectations. But their strength is bolorored by strong control of the silver of the

carde jumping tolstroo a barret, crude prices scrudly fell 205year-on-year and now at at almost balf that level. If you were worried about global conflict, the best place to just your money eas not in traditional delendve sectors like willties and consumer staples, but in the defense sector itself. U.S. aerospace and defense stocks clocked gains of 36% to 2028, while European

counterparts jumped 55% and tiermany and the continent re-armed. consistent re-arricol.

Consistent re-arricol.

were dead weights on portfolios dis year rather than protection. From crypto tokens the historial protection. From crypto tokens the historial protection. From crypto tokens the historial protection of the control of the historial protection of the control of the historial protection of the historia protection of the histo minent re-armed. Most other traditional buffers and safety plays

annual gains of 19%, as a strong U.S. economic rebound and falling interest rates in the second half of 2025 lifted most Wall Street boats. But S&P

nat or zezz Bifed most Wall Street tools. But 885 500 "growth" sinche jumped 20%, more than double the gains of "value" stocks. The 545 '500's total return was also 5 percentage points more than the equal-weighted cut of the books. While utilities, beathcare and financials had a decent year with more than 10% gains, flay all trailed the main indus. Communic

# Big tech's depreciation games are a hidden risk to watch in 2026

Misleading yet legal financial reporting continues to represent a significant risk to markets. If the reported earnings of a company are revealed to be detached from the underlying economic reality, the firm's share price could tumble, in the case of a big firm it could take the U.S. equity market down

I is generally not a good sign when an ac-comenting issue be-comes a hot topic on Wall Street, That's why recom-chatter about U.S. technol-

cgy glants' depreciation schedules abould make in-vestors wary heading into 2026. Ordinarily, matters de-bated by those who pre-pare corporate financial tatements are too esoteric and, frankly, too dull to However, at the beginning

However, it the beginning of this sentiny, ascranning made its way into the bear of the senting and the way into the bear of the senting and t

a migractice - and, in-deed, criminal fraud - led to major changes, most mulably the Sarbanus Ox-ley Act, it made outright cleary logoly a ting of the plant among U.S. public to thips. Which ell Burry, we to the control of the control of the control of the first of the control of the control of the plant among U.S. public



companies. Investors can not afford to let down their

not afford to let down their guard, however, it leads for the company of the company is big amough, it could potentially take the broadwish it is market them. with it.

### A big worry

remember about corporations' depreciation schedules

the investor whose suc-cessful bets against the U.S. housing market in 2008 were recommed in the mo-vie "The Big Short," con-tends that the Al naggernaut is overestimating its profitability by taking too many years to write off the cont of producing its semi-conductors. The longer the depreciation period, the lower the annual charge

against servings.

Mr. Burry argues that the clips will how value the clips will how value the clips will be considered to the clips will be company adoptectation schedules. In the company adoptectation schedules, hand, suggested the lengthy period simply reflects how long the colonyary's clips and lear. Evisile is not the only tech company schope and lear. Evisile is not the only tech company whose carriogs are currently uncertainty practices. Mr. Burry claim produces the colon practices Mr. Burry cannot be considered to the colon practices. Mr. Burry claim or practices are found to the colon practices. Mr. Burry cannot be compared to the colon practices. Mr. Burry cannot be considered to the colon practices and colon practices. Mr. Burry cannot be considered to the colon practices are considered to the colon practices. cistion practices. Mr. Burry has pointed the finger at cloud computing giant ctoud computing giant Gracle, for one. And other "Magnificent Seven" com-panies, including Alpha-bet, Amason, Meta, and Microsoft, have also been extending the "assumed

assets since 2020 as their capes spending has sky-rockered. In addition, there is some evidence to suggest that IBM is getting in on the game, tigs Shee's and tropped from 84.2 billion in 2024 in 3.2 billion in 2024 in 3.2 billion in 2024 in 3.2 billion in 522.3 billion to 362.6 billion-according to 50ck Analysiu on Net, a research provider that any francial statements.

Asset disposals could al-so have contributed to BM's change, of course, along with other tweaks to depreciation policies, but extending assets' assumed

useful lives could be contri-buting as well.

An important point to remember about corpora-tions' depreciation ache-dules is their total lack of

dules is their total lack of importance in creating shareholder value.

These accounting tech-niques matter for tas par-puses, but the financial statementa companies file with the Internal Revenue Service are distinct from those they provide to

depreciation expense is merely an accounting en-try. Reducing it through a change in assumptions does not increase cash flow or, by extension, the enterprise's economic va-lue. It should thus be un-

13

to this kind of committee action.

Why, then, do comparise bother playing around with depositation of the state of the sta blic companies compen-ate their CEOs on the basis of share price rather than

Perhaps, these accounting techniques are a way to reduce seemingly "excessive" earnings multiples, something tech executives have had to justify repeat edly in recent years. Infor-mation technology stocks are currently trading with

investors seeking to deter-mine whether stocks are

indication of any fraudu

# Disruption, dislocation define LME metals complex

Rapply disruption and fa-riff dialocation have de-thred the London Meral Ex-change GARD base mends complex this year.

The demaind picture is far from rosy, but supply-chain stress has said libra-tic LMK Index, a backet of the exchange's six base metals contracts, to its highest level since the all-time peak in 2022. That was the year Russia



President metal: This year's star burn has some from the a market grapping with multiple supply threats, 65/770s.

invaded Universe Intensis Invaded Universe.

This year's turbulence has come from a different direction, as markets nave grant to the special of the proposed of the proposed

proved as disruptive as the reality.

The world's surplus cop-per has gravitated towards the U.S., litting CME stocks to multi-year highs and leaving everyone else short of metal.

reast or famine? Copper is currently both depend-ing on where you are.

The arbitrage between

The arbitrage between CME and LME copper has been a wild ride thus year as turiffs were on, then off, then on again maybe. Until Tromp makes up his mind, it will continue to define global flows of refined

centrated in too few coun-tries, including high-risk jurisdictions such as the Demostatic Republic of Congo and the semi-auto-nomous. Wa State in Myanmar,

test of the LMV's core contracts.

Tin appears to be mov-ing onso the investment ru-dar as the world wakes up to the fact that, in the form of circuit based sadder, the

then on again snaples. Until Tromp runkes up his wind, global flowe of rafined copper.

The problem is to compare the grathed the headlines, this year's star unt has come from the a market grap-freeds.

This problem is too much mise supply is com-imand and supply is com-imandiating apply is com-imandiating applies too

Any of the serious was state of the serious was stated by a constitute of the serious stated by a serious stated by the doubling of the serious stated by the serious st

of metal.

And talking of sleep-walking into a deficit, the LME sine market was recked by a fermions squeeze in October.

# China overtakes OPEC+ as the main oil price maker

### REGISER LAUNCESTON, AUSTRALIA

the crude oil market is that producers such as OPE-C-largely determine the price by altering output le-vels to achieve a desired

That shibboleth was That shibboleth was challenged in 2025 by China, which used its strate in the world's loggest oil the world's loggest oil the two the strate in the world's loggest oil the live price floor and ceiling yeither increasing or decreasing the wolume of craise. Production cuts in 2022 by OFIGE, which groups the Organization of the Setroleum Eigenship. Residual Schore up price. Rossia, did shere up price is that China was buying more crude than it needed for domestic consumption

in April this year. Now, fac-ing a looming oil glut, OFEC: has decided to at-tight and hold production levels steady in the first quarter of next year. That leaves China to mop up the messa. What China does in

What China does in 2028 is now the biggest known unknown in crude markets. Other partic-pants are likely to set their strategies in response to strategies in response to Beijing.
Clina doesn't release public information on its strategic or commercial stockpiles, making it chal-lenging not only to assess physical flows, but also to determine what policies are filely to the followed. What was clear in 3028 that China was horize



Fixed guissler; What was clear in 2015 is that China was lauving more chade than it needed for demanti-consumption and experts of refined products. *APP* 

and exports of refree products.

Citize does not allockee the volumes of stude flow-ties and commercial stock-ic and commercial stock-piles, but an estimate can or all of the surplus crude.

alsont 9,80,000 barrels per day (bpd), given that im-ports and domestic output condinsed were 15.80 nd. lion bpd, while refinery processing amounted to 14.82 million bpd. Cargoes arriving in Rep-tember would largely have been arranged at the time of the Israel-Iran conflict in June, when crude prices were elevated. Global beachmark Brent hitures spiked in a six-mouth high of 381.40 a barrel on June

The surplus has been built up since March and came after refiners made a came after retners made a rare draw on inventories in January and February, when processing rates ex-ceeded available could by

about 50,000 byd.

There is a solid correlation between the yolums of surplus crude and the price of oil, with China adding barrels when prices dip har cutting back when become

they view.
This was in reddenor in september, when the sur-plus crude decipied to 1, 70,000 bpd after hitting 1,000 in the sur-lay million by in August.

The sur-constraint view in the sur-plus crude decipied to 1,000 in the sur-plus crude decipied to 1,000 in the surplus of 1,000 in the sur-lation in the surplus of 1,000 in the surplu

els to as much ast 4 bit

and can, continue to buy excess crude when prices drop, effectively providing a floor. Estimates vary as to

how much crude China al-ready has stored, with a

since, lines, China's refiners resumed buying excess crudes, with a surplus of Lisa milition lipid sent in 1900,000 belo in October. It could be argued that China's storage flows on the milit reases that crude buying the lipid country in the milit reases that crude buying the lipid country in the militing and the militing that the lipid country is not the militing that the lipid country is not lipid to the lipid country in the lipid country is not lipid to the lipid country in the lipid country in the lipid country is not lipid country in the lipid

# China overtakes OPEC+ as the main oil price maker

Reuters

LAUNCESTON, AUSTRALIA

Conventional wisdom in the crude oil market is that producers such as OPE-C+largely determine the price by altering output levels to achieve a desired outcome.

That shibboleth was challenged in 2025 by China, which used its status as the world's biggest oil importer to provide an effective price floor and ceiling by either increasing or decreasing the volume of crude it sent to storage tanks. Production cuts in 2022 by OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, did shore up prices. Those gains faded once it began reversing the cuts

CM CM

in April this year. Now, facing a looming oil glut, OPEC+ has decided to sit tight and hold production levels steady in the first quarter of next year.

That leaves China to mop up the excess.

What China does in 2026 is now the biggest known unknown in crude markets. Other participants are likely to set their strategies in response to Beijing.

China doesn't release public information on its strategic or commercial stockpiles, making it challenging not only to assess physical flows, but also to determine what policies are likely to be followed.

What was clear in 2025 is that China was buying more crude than it needed for domestic consumption



Fuel guzzler: What was clear in 2025 is that China was buying more crude than it needed for domestic consumption and exports of refined products. AFP

and exports of refined products.

China does not disclose the volumes of crude flowing into or out of its strategic and commercial stockpiles, but an estimate can be made by subtracting refinery throughput from the total crude available from imports and domestic output.

It is worth noting that not all of the surplus crude was likely to have been added to storage, with some being processed in plants not captured by the official data. For the first 11 months of 2025, the surplus crude amounted to about 9,80,000 barrels per day (bpd), given that imports and domestic output combined were 15.80 million bpd, while refinery processing amounted to 14.82 million bpd.

The surplus has been built up since March and came after refiners made a rare draw on inventories in January and February, when processing rates exceeded available crude by about 30,000 bpd.

There is a solid correlation between the volume of surplus crude and the price of oil, with China adding barrels when prices dip but cutting back when they rise.

This was in evidence in September, when the surplus crude dropped to 5,70,000 bpd after hitting 1.10 million bpd in August.

...

Cargoes arriving in September would largely have been arranged at the time of the Israel-Iran conflict in June, when crude prices were elevated. Global benchmark Brent futures spiked to a six-month high of \$81.40 a barrel on June 23. With prices easing since June, China's refiners resumed buying excess crude, with a surplus of 1.88 million bpd seen in November, the biggest

690,000 bpd in October.

It could be argued that China's storage flows are the main reason that crude prices were locked in a fairly narrow range in the second half of 2025, with Brent anchored either side of \$65 a barrel.

since April and up from

The key question for 2026 is whether China will, and can, continue to buy excess crude when prices drop, effectively providing a floor. Estimates vary as to how much crude China already has stored, with a range from around 1 billion barrels to as much as 1.4 billion barrels.

If the assumption is that a country should have 90 days of import cover, and China's base imports are around 11 million bpd, then 1 billion barrels would be sufficient.

But at least 700 million barrels are likely commercial inventories, implying a strategic reserve closer to 500 million barrels.

That in turn suggests that Beijing may wish to add about another 500 million barrels to the strategic stockpile, though the timeline is uncertain.

Country +	Region +	Duration of membership <sup>[47][50]</sup>	Population (2022) <sup>[186][187]</sup> *	Area (km²)[188][189] *	Oil production (bbl/day, \$ 2023) [A][191]	Proven reserves (bbl, 2022) <sup>[A][192][189]</sup>
■ Algeria	North Africa	Since 1969	44,903,220	2,381,740	1,183,096	12,200,000,000
Republic of the Congo	Central Africa	Since 2018 <sup>[193]</sup>	5,970,000	342,000	261,986	1,810,000,000
Equatorial Guinea	Central Africa	Since 2017	1,674,910	28,050	88,126	1,100,000,000
Gabon	Central Africa	1975–1995, Since 2016	2,388,990	267,667	204,273	2,000,000,000
Iran	Middle East	Since 1960 <sup>[B]</sup>	88,550,570	1,648,195	3,623,455	208,600,000,000
= Iraq	Middle East	Since 1960 <sup>[B]</sup>	44,496,120	437,072	4,341,410	145,020,000,000
Kuwait	Middle East	Since 1960 <sup>[B]</sup>	4,268,870	17,820	2,709,958	101,500,000,000
Libya	North Africa	Since 1962	6,812,340	1,759,540	1,225,430	48,360,000,000
■ ■ Nigeria	West Africa	Since 1971	218,541,210	923,768	1,441,674	36,970,000,000
Saudi Middle East		Since 1960 <sup>[B]</sup>	36,408,820	2,149,690	9,733,479	267,190,000,000
United Arab Emirates	Middle East	Since 1967 <sup>[C]</sup>	9,441,130	83,600	3,393,506	113,000,000,000
Venezuela	South America	Since 1960 <sup>[B]</sup>	28,301,700	916,445	750,506	303,220,000,000
OPEC total			491,757,880	10,955,392	28,956,906	1,240,970,000,000
World total			7,951,150,000	510,072,000	81,803,545	1,564,441,000,000
OPEC percent			6.18%	2.14%	35.39%	79%

# >>> OPEC- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.
- It is a permanent, intergovernmental organization.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.
- Gabon terminated its membership in January 1995. However, it rejoined the Organization in July 2016
- Currently, the Organization has a total of 14 Member Countries.
- Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria,
   Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Angola, Ecuador, and Venezuela are

# >>> OPEC +

- The non-OPEC countries which export crude oil are termed as OPEC plus countries.
- OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia,
   Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

# >>> What are their goals?

- The Opec and non-Opec producers first allied a historic meeting in Algiers in 2016.
- The aim was to undertake production restrictions to help resuscitate a flailing market.

# >>> Why is OPEC+ more influential than OPEC?

- OPEC's 14 members control 35 percent of global oil supplies and 82 percent of proven reserves.
- With the addition of the 10 Non-OPEC nations, notable among them Russia, Mexico and Kazakhstan, those shares increase to 55 percent and 90 percent respectively.



# ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES

Secretariat

Vienna Austria

Lubia

Congo

in 1960 by Iran Venezuela Iraq Saudi Arabia Kuwait Conference prices, supply, and returns.

at the

Baghdad

### 1960s

Formation and initial growth, emphasis on sovereignty over natural resources.

# September 1960

Formation

### 1961

Qatar joined OPEC.

### 1962

Indonesia & Libya joined OPEC.

### 1967

UAE joined OPEC.

### 1969

Algeria joined OPEC.

### 1970s

Control of domestic petroleum industries, establishment of OPEC Fund for International Development (1976).

### 1971

Nigeria joined OPEC

### 1973

Ecuador joined OPEC.

### 1975

Gabon joined OPEC.



### 1980s

Market Crash Recovery, introduction of group production adjustment and Reference Basket for pricing.



The OPEC Fund for

Development (OFID),

established in 1976.

provides financial aid

International

to developing

countries for

infrastructure.

education, and

healthcare projects.

Joined in 1973, suspended in 1992. Rejained in 2007 withdrew in 2020

Ecuador

Established

Algeria

Venezuela

Nigeria

Secretariat (1961-1965)

Geneva, Switzerland

Equatorial Guinea

Gabon

Angola Joined in 2007.

Vithdrew in 2024.

OPMF IAS

# OPEC and the Environment

# Advocacy

- Promotes responsible environmental stewardship.
- Supports sustainable development alongside fossil fuel usage.



### Commitment

All Member Countries are signatories to the UNFCCC

# **OPEC Plus Members**

### OPEC Members

Algeria. Congo. Equatorial Guinea,

Iran, Iraq. Kuwait, Libya.

Nigeria, Saudi Arabia,

UAE. Venezuela

## Non-OPEC Members

Azerbaijan, Bahrain. Brunei. Kazakhstan. Gabon, + Malaysia, Mexico,

Oman. Russia.

South Sudan, Sudan

# Objective

Respond to falling oil prices due to increased U.S. shale oil output.

## Key Member

Russia (world's 3rd-largest oil producer in 2022 with 10.3 million b/d).



OPEC+ pumps around 40% of the world's crude oil.



Joined in 1961. Terminated membership in 2019.

To Coordinate and unify

Qatar

petroleum policies to secure

Saudi Arabia

- Indonesia Joined in 1962. Suspended in 2009 Reactivated membership in 2016, suspended in 2016.

OPEC Plus

# 1990s

Market volatility, Southeast Asian economic downturn, increased globalization and producer-consumer dialogue.

# 1992

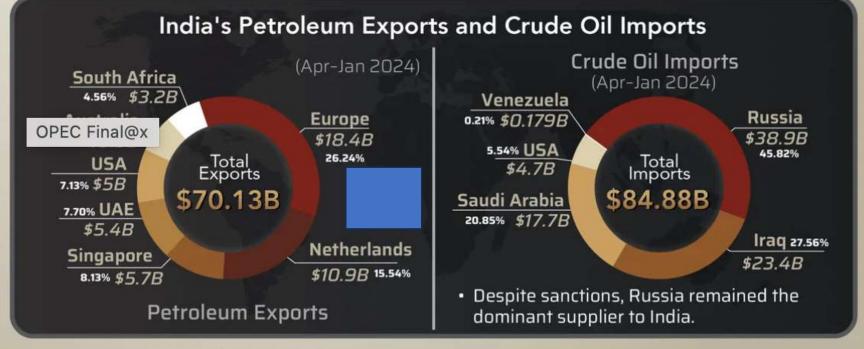
Ecuador suspended membership

# January 1995

Gabon terminated membership.

# 2000s

Market volatility, financial crisis response, adoption of long-term strategy (2005).



2018

Congo

joined

OPEC.

### Oct 2007 2009 Ecuador Indonesia rejoined suspended its OPEC. membership.

2010s

Market stability challenges, Paris Agreement participation, Declaration of Cooperation (2016).

July 2016 2017

Gabon Equatorial rejoined Guinea OPEC. ioined.

2019

Qatar terminated its membership

2020

2020 Historic production Ecuador adjustments to withdrew stabilize the market, membership. even in COVID-19.

- China has emerged as a key global oil price influencer, overtaking OPEC+ in price-setting impact.
- चीन OPEC+ को पीछे छोड़ते हुए वैश्विक तेल कीमतों का प्रमुख निर्धारक बनकर उभरा है।
- Oil prices are increasingly shaped by China's import, storage, and refining decisions.
- तेल कीमतें अब चीन के आयात, भंडारण और रिफाइनिंग निर्णयों से अधिक प्रभावित हो रही हैं।

# 2. Declining Price Control of OPEC+

- Traditionally, OPEC+ influenced oil prices through production cuts or increases.
- परंपरागत रूप से OPEC+ उत्पादन घटा-बढ़ाकर तेल कीमतों को नियंत्रित करता था।
- Production cuts by OPEC+ in recent years failed to sustain long-term price gains.
- हाल के वर्षों में OPEC+ के उत्पादन कटौती प्रयास लंबे समय तक कीमतें ऊँची नहीं रख पाए।
- OPEC+ decided to maintain output levels amid a looming oil glut.
- संभावित तेल अधिशेष के बीच OPEC+ ने उत्पादन स्थिर रखने का निर्णय लिया।

# 3. China's Oil Buying Strategy

- China bought more crude oil than required for domestic consumption in 2025.
- चीन ने २०२५ में घरेलू आवश्यकता से अधिक कच्चा तेल खरीदा।
- Excess crude was directed towards strategic and commercial storage.
- अतिरिक्त कच्चे तेल को रणनीतिक और वाणिज्यिक भंडार में डाला गया।
- · China increases purchases when prices fall and reduces buying when prices rise.
- कीमतें गिरने पर चीन खरीद बढ़ाता है और कीमतें बढ़ने पर खरीद घटाता है।

# 4. Data Highlights

- China's surplus crude reached nearly 9.8 lakh barrels per day at peak levels.
- चीन का अधिशेष कच्चा तेल लगभग ९.८ लाख बैरल प्रतिदिन तक पहुँच गया।
- Refinery processing stood lower than combined imports and domestic production.
- आयात और घरेलू उत्पादन की तुलना में रिफाइनरी प्रसंस्करण कम रहा।
- · China's surplus oil accumulation peaked around August-September period.
- चीन में अधिशेष तेल का संचय अगस्त-सितंबर के आसपास चरम पर था।

# 5. Oil Price Correlation

- There is a strong correlation between China's surplus crude and global oil prices.
- चीन के अधिशेष कच्चे तेल और वैश्विक तेल कीमतों के बीच मजबूत संबंध है।
- When China reduced buying, global oil prices declined sharply.
- जब चीन ने खरीद घटाई, तब वैश्विक तेल कीमतों में तेज गिरावट आई।
- Renewed Chinese buying helped stabilise oil prices.
- चीन द्वारा पुनः खरीद शुरू करने से तेल कीमतों को सहारा मिला।

# 6. Strategic Oil Reserves

- China is estimated to have between 1 to 1.4 billion barrels of crude in storage.
- चीन के पास अनुमानतः १ से १.४ अरब बैरल कच्चे तेल का भंडार है।
- · A significant portion of this is commercial inventory rather than strategic reserve.
- इसका एक बड़ा हिस्सा रणनीतिक भंडार के बजाय वाणिज्यिक भंडारण है।
- China may add another 500 million barrels to its strategic reserves.
- चीन अपने रणनीतिक भंडार में अतिरिक्त 500 मिलियन बैरल जोड़ सकता है।

# 7. Implications for Global Energy Markets

- China's demand behaviour now provides both price floor and price ceiling.
- चीन की मांग नीति अब तेल कीमतों के लिए न्यूनतम और अधिकतम सीमा तय करती है।
- Other oil market players are forced to adjust strategies based on China's actions.
- अन्य तेल उत्पादक देशों को चीन की रणनीति के अनुसार अपनी नीतियाँ बदलनी पड़ रही हैं।
- OPEC+ influence has weakened relative to consumer-driven price dynamics.
- उपभोक्ता-आधारित मूल्य निर्धारण के सामने OPEC+ का प्रभाव कमजोर पड़ा है।

# 8. Impact on India

- Oil price volatility driven by China affects India's import bill and inflation.
- चीन-प्रेरित तेल कीमतों की अस्थिरता भारत के आयात बिल और महंगाई को प्रभावित करती है।
- · India's energy security depends on diversification and strategic reserves.
- भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा विविधीकरण और रणनीतिक तेल भंडार पर निर्भर करती है।

- **Q.** Consider the following statements:
- 1. OPEC+ traditionally influenced oil prices through production control.
- 2. China's crude oil import and storage decisions now significantly influence global oil prices.
- 3. Strategic petroleum reserves are maintained only by oil-producing countries.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

SC PANEL BACKED FOREST SURVEY'S BENCHMARK TO PROTECT ARAVALLIS

# SC accepted govt's 100-m Aravalli rule, its own panel had opposed it

FSI's 3-degree definition covers lower hills of Aravallis that are excluded by the ministry's 100-metre yardstick

Jay Mazoomdaar

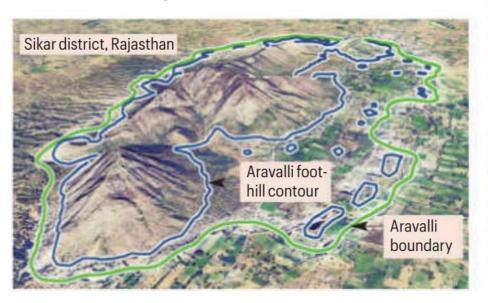
New Delhi, December 23

ON OCTOBER 13, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) proposed a new 100-metre definition for Aravallis to the Supreme Court. The very next day, the apex court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC) wrote to the amicus curiae assisting the

bench that they did not examine or approve the recommendation.

On November 20, the Supreme Court accepted the 100-metre recommendation of the ministry.

The CEC is a body set up by the SC in 2002 to monitor and ensure compliance of its orders related to environment and forests.  Amicus map to court: Zone between green and blue would lose protection under 100-m norm



In its October 14 letter reviewed by *The Indian Express*, the CEC underlined that the definition formulated by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) should be "adopted in order to ensure the protection and conservation of the ecology of the Aravalli Hills and its range."

The FSI had mapped 40,481 sq km as Aravallis in 15 districts of Rajasthan as areas above the minimum elevation with a slope of at least 3 degrees. By this definition, even the lower hills would be protected as Aravallis. The FSI undertook the exercise after it was engaged by

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- The Supreme Court accepted the government's 100-metre definition for identifying Aravalli hills.
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अरावली पहाड़ियों की पहचान के लिए सरकार की 100-मीटर परिभाषा स्वीकार की।
- The court did not examine or approve the recommendations of its own expert panel.
- न्यायालय ने अपने ही विशेषज्ञ पैनल की सिफारिशों की न जाँच की और न ही उन्हें स्वीकार किया।

# 2. What is the 100-Metre Rule

- The rule defines Aravalli hills based on a minimum elevation difference of 100 metres.
- यह नियम अरावली पहाड़ियों को न्यूनतम 100 मीटर ऊँचाई अंतर के आधार पर परिभाषित करता है।
- Hills below this threshold may not be recognised as part of the Aravalli range.
- इस सीमा से नीचे की पहाड़ियाँ अरावली श्रेणी में शामिल नहीं मानी जाएँगी।

# 3. Role of the Environment Ministry

- The Ministry of Environment proposed the 100-metre definition to the Supreme Court.
- पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के समक्ष 100-मीटर की परिभाषा प्रस्तावित की।
- The proposal aimed to create a uniform definition for regulating mining activities.
- प्रस्ताव का उद्देश्य खनन गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए एक समान परिभाषा बनाना था।

#### 4. Objections by SC's Own Panel

- The Central Empowered Committee opposed the 100-metre definition.
- केंद्रीय सशक्त समिति ने 100-मीटर की परिभाषा का विरोध किया।
- The panel warned that lower Aravalli hills would lose protection under this rule.
- समिति ने चेतावनी दी कि इस नियम से अरावली की निचली पहाड़ियाँ संरक्षण से बाहर हो जाएँगी।
- It stated that ecological integrity of the Aravallis would be compromised.
- समिति ने कहा कि इससे अरावली की पारिस्थितिक अखंडता प्रभावित होगी।

#### 5. Forest Survey of India Position

- The Forest Survey of India uses a 3-degree slope-based definition of Aravallis.
- भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण अरावली की पहचान के लिए 3-डिग्री ढाल आधारित परिभाषा अपनाता है।
- This definition includes lower hills that act as ecological buffers.
- यह परिभाषा उन निचली पहाड़ियों को भी शामिल करती है जो पारिस्थितिक अवरोध का कार्य करती हैं।
- The FSI definition covers a larger area of the Aravalli range.
- FSI की परिभाषा अरावली क्षेत्र के अधिक व्यापक हिस्से को कवर करती है।

#### 6. Environmental Concerns

- The 100-metre rule may open many hillocks to mining and construction.
- 100-मीटर नियम से कई पहाड़ियाँ खनन और निर्माण के लिए खुल सकती हैं।
- · It could accelerate desertification and ecological degradation.
- इससे मरुस्थलीकरण और पर्यावरणीय क्षरण तेज हो सकता है।
- · Aravallis act as a barrier against desert expansion and dust storms.
- अरावली मरुस्थल विस्तार और धूल भरी आँधियों के विरुद्ध प्राकृतिक अवरोध है।

#### 7. Legal and Governance Issues

- The court accepted the rule without detailed scrutiny of expert objections.
- न्यायालय ने विशेषज्ञ आपत्तियों की विस्तृत जाँच के बिना नियम स्वीकार किया।
- · This raises concerns over reliance on executive definitions in environmental protection.
- इससे पर्यावरण संरक्षण में कार्यपालिका पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता को लेकर चिंता उत्पन्न होती है।

#### 8. Data and Impact

- · A large proportion of Aravalli hillocks may fall outside protection under the 100-m rule.
- 100-मीटर नियम के तहत अरावली की बड़ी संख्या में पहाड़ियाँ संरक्षण से बाहर हो सकती हैं।
- · Mining is officially permitted in only a small fraction of the Aravalli region.
- आधिकारिक रूप से अरावली क्षेत्र के बहुत छोटे हिस्से में ही खनन की अनुमति है।

#### **Q.** Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Aravalli range acts as a natural barrier against desertification.
- 2. The 100-metre definition excludes lower hill formations from protection.
- 3. The Forest Survey of India uses only elevation criteria to define hills.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Indian Coast Guard – Pollution Control Vessel "Samudra Pratap" **Aspect** Details

**Policy Alignment** 

Vessel Name Samudra Pratap ढ्रक्क इल्प्रह

Organisation Indian Coast Guard क्रक्रफ़्ह्म ल्ड्घल्ड् 🛮 च

**Induction Year** 2025 2025

Type Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) ब्र्क्ट्र अरुगत्रद्र हिन्स्

First dedicated pollution control vessel of ICG ICG ड्व

हणज्ज द्रक्ष्म्ब्रल ब्र्ह्मर् श्रष्टगत्रद्र हिस्

Shipyard Goa Shipyard Limited एकाव श्री हा अवस्थि हा अवस्थि हा अवस्थि हा अवस्थि हा अवस्थि हा अवस्थि हा अवस्थि

Indigenous Content More than 60% 60% दूर ११११ इंट्रह्र द्रवरप्रह्ह

**Primary Role** 

**Pollution Control Ability** 

**Enforcement Role** 

**Combat Capability** 

**Secondary Weapons** 

**Technology** 

#### **Details**

Marine pollution response and control ढ्रक्कह इस्ह्

Oil spill containment and recovery व्ह्ना प्रप्रदेवज इस इस्हेल्व ञ्घ देवफ इंघल्व

30 mm CRN-91 gun 30%來來 CRN-91 褒美

Two 12.7 mm stabilised remote-controlled guns इस 12.7 श्रस्रक्ष श्रह्मक्र श्रह्मक्र

Advanced fire control and mission systems क्ष्रें । विग्रघ इत्रहमुझा ञ्घ श्राब्रट्र ह श्रद्ध करव

# Aspect Environmental Security

#### **Disaster Response**

#### **IOR Role**

#### **International Commitments**

#### **Details**

Strengthens India's marine environmental protection क्रक्रफ़ इह द्रक्क्रह हगक्रव्यप्रहार द्रक्रफ़्व इस राधाक्रह

Rapid response to oil spills and maritime accidents ल्ड्रा प्रप्रदेवज ञ्घ द्रक्षह क्ष्मः ब्रह्मं क्रिंड्न हुम्

Enhances India's role as first responder in Indian Ocean Regionश्रणत्रह खण्डाह्म ख़ूर् खळू क्रिक्ट्र अक्ट्र अक्ट्र क्रिक्ट्र ख़ूर्ट क्रिक्ट्र क्रिक्ट्र ख़ूर्ट ख़ूर्ट क्रिक्ट्र क्रिक्ट्र ख़ूर्ट क्रिक्ट्र क्

Supports global marine pollution conventions ज़्रुष्टिड् ढ्रक्क्ट्र ढ्ल्क्ट्रर् ढ्रऋह इंद्र ढ्र्यळ्ब्रष्ट

- With reference to the Indian Coast Guard's Pollution Control Vessel *Samudra Pratap*, consider the following statements:
- It is the first dedicated pollution control vessel inducted into the Indian Coast Guard.
- It has been built with significant indigenous content.
- Its role is limited only to environmental protection and excludes security functions.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

### Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

**Aspect** Details

Award Name Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar घ्रत्न भम्रह्मा श्रुप्ने हिन् हिन् सिन्न अप्रक्रिय

**Year** 2025 2025

**Purpose** 

**Edition** 

**Total Awards** 

Conferred By President of India क्रक्रफ़ इङ्ग्रह्म सहर्भः

Venue Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi घ्रत्न माहिक्क क्रिज्ञेष, ष्ट अहँह

ब्ह्याच्य्रेष इंव दं डेंवेल

Second edition of the awards ह्या अव्हार इंद्र इंद्र इंद्र इंद्र

Category Me	eaning/	Scope
-------------	---------	-------

Vigyan Ratna

Highest honour for lifetime contribution in science%प्रक्रिष्ठ खळू ष्ट्रिश्रण्ड ग्रह्माव्यष्ट झुंश्रप्रङ् ढ्ञापद ढुड्रुष्ठ्

Vigyan Shri

Distinguished contribution in a scientific domain ऋद्रह ऋक्रिं खळू श्राष्ट्र H ग्रह्मण्ड्रा

Vigyan Yuva

Young scientists with impactful research इन्नेज्ञट्न दुझ्ह इंग्रङ्ग अव्रद्ध अक्रिक्

Vigyan Team

Team-based scientific achievements ब्हरब्र ष्ट्रव्यक्रहरू ज्राक्रम्

#### **Domains Covered**

#### **Scientific Areas**

Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Medicine भौतिकी, रसायन, जैविक विज्ञान, चिकित्सा

Engineering, Agriculture, Atomic Energy, Space Science इंजीनियरिंग, कृषि, परमाणु ऊर्जा, अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान

Total of 13 scientific domains कुल 13 वैज्ञानिक क्षेत्र

#### Key Highlight – Vigyan Ratna 2025

- Vigyan Ratna was awarded posthumously to eminent physicist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar.
- विज्ञान रत्न प्रतिष्ठित भौतिक विज्ञानी जयंत विष्णु नार्लीकर को मरणोपरांत प्रदान किया गया।
- It recognises his lifelong contribution to cosmology and theoretical physics.
- यह ब्रह्मांड विज्ञान और सैद्धांतिक भौतिकी में उनके आजीवन योगदान को मान्यता देता है।

- With reference to Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, consider the following statements:
- Vigyan Ratna is the highest category of the award.
- The awards are modelled on the Padma Awards.
- Vigyan Yuva is meant for team-based scientific achievements.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Trump-class
Battleships – US
Navy (2025)

Aspect	Details
Announcement	Trump announced a new "Trump-class" of battleships for the US Navy. ब्रम्ग ह्र् श्रम्भाइह छाद्रहुष्ट्र इंश्वाइ "ब्रम्ग ह्-प्रव्रद्ध" अप्रहाह्माइम इह इम्राय् इहर
Year	2025 2025
Country	United States of America ढू त्र <b>ब्रह्म</b> घृद्द श्र <b>ब्रह्म</b>
Type of Ships	Keavily armed surface warships / battleship-like platforms क्रक्राह्म प्रक्रव्यवस्त्रक्षाः दूह् च्रह्र द्र लगह अक्ष्युह्मरू
Initial Plan	Construction of two ships with scope for expansion. इस्न न्प्रक्रह्मा झुःश्रन्पक्रवार इह यहम् एव, क्रश्कार राळ् श्राविका इह ढ्राक्रकाणवार
Displacement	Around 30,000–40,000 tonnes. च्राप्रक्रप् 30,000–40,000 ङ्ष्ट्र

Role

Missiles

**Future Weapons** 

**Nuclear Capability** 

**Firepower Claim** 

#### **Details**

Multi-role surface warfare and deterrence. 🛮 इन्-ब्रह्मग्रङ्घ ढूल्प्रह्म अप्तृ ञ्घ ब्रह्मा इं ल्यालब्रह

Advanced missiles including hypersonic weapons. ण्रास्ट्रियह्नुक्राह्न प्रक्राव्यह्म द्रुभग्रह क्षेट्र अव्यवस्य कुड

Directed-energy weapons such as lasers. কুর্ট্রার কুর্ট্র প্রুক্তরপ্রত্ব কর্মর সম্প্রক্রার

Potential to carry nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missiles. हघरक्राक्ष प्रक्राक्रकाहरू द्वाप्त क्रियं आक्राक्रकाहरू च्हा न्त्रपङ्ग इह त्रप्रत्वह

Described as among the most lethal surface ships ever built. १० लड् झुळू प्रक्रू त्वलड् ढ्रल्पह ब्रह्महम्म खळू श्रण्ड्र ज्वल्ड् इव व्यक्रह

**Naval Modernisation** 

**China Factor** 

**Deterrence** 

**Symbolic Aspect** 

#### **Details**

Seen as a response to China's growing naval power. द्हार इह प्रात्ह इंद्रहा इ

Strengthens US maritime and nuclear deterrence. श्रमुष्टाइह द्रश्नाह ज्ञा हारायाहा ब्रह्म श्राह्म इंग्लंब प्रह्र

Rare naming of warships after a sitting or recent leader. श्र्ह्र एक्राइन ग्रव प्रविश्वाग्रव प्रहेल इंड्र एक्राइन स्प्राह्म प्रहेल्ह इंड्र इंडर इंड्र इंड् इंड्र इंड्र

- With reference to the proposed "Trump-class" battleships, consider the following statements:
- They are designed as large surface warships with heavy firepower.
- They are expected to carry hypersonic weapons.
- Battleships have been the primary focus of US naval doctrine since the Cold War.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



Aspect	Details
Observed On	24 December 24ऋढ़्त्र□घ्र
Occasion	National Consumer Day घ्रत्रे । महस्य ६ ह ब्रह्मज्ज श्रृह्य इ
Purpose	To promote consumer rights and protection क्ष्ट्रब्रह्मज्ज श्रिः इंब्रह्म्म इंब्रह्म्म इंब्रह्म्म इंब्रह्म्म इंब्रह्म्म
Legal Significance	Marks Presidential assent to Consumer Protection Act, 1986 क्ष्मुक्का ढ्र त्रघलर् अक्ष्मुष्यया, 1986 इस घ्रमीसहभ्रू इह इह्झुक्क इह जड़ब्रप्तत्रभः
Relevance	Awareness, reforms and grievance redressal न्त्रण्डङ्क्र, द्ध्यत्रघ ञ्घ श्रू ङ्क्रगल श्रञ्जिप्र

**Details** 

Theme

Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice अम्अन्ब्य क्रिंग झ्रंग्नेस्र दूड् इस्ट्र च न्घ दुष्ट्राप्ट्र अप्रहल

**Focus Area** 

Technology-enabled consumer grievance redressal क्राइम्माइह ष्श्रक्रम्ह ६ इन्नाइम्ब्रिक्ट इन्नाइन् अन्नाइम्

**Objective** 

Faster, transparent and accessible justice हुप्रग्रह, हुव्रग्रह । इस्र द्वारा हैया इस्राक्त द्विमा

#### Significance in 2025

- · Emphasises digital platforms for consumer dispute resolution.
- उपभोक्ता विवाद निपटान के लिए डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म पर ज़ोर।
- Encourages citizen-centric and technology-driven governance.
- नागरिक-केंद्रित और तकनीक-आधारित शासन को बढ़ावा।
- · Highlights responsible consumer behaviour in digital markets.
- डिजिटल बाज़ार में जिम्मेदार उपभोक्ता व्यवहार को रेखांकित करता है।

#### Consumer Protection Framework in India

Aspect	Details
Consumer Protection Act, 1986	Laid foundation of consumer rights regime उपभोक्ता अधिकार व्यवस्था की नींव
Consumer Protection Act, 2019	Strengthened rights in e-commerce era ई-कॉमर्स युग में अधिकारों को सुदृढ़ किया
Key Rights	Right to safety, information, choice, redressal सुरक्षा, सूचना, चयन और निवारण का अधिकार
Adjudication Bodies	District, State and National Consumer Commissions जिला, राज्य और राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता आयोग

#### **Digital Justice Push – Key Elements**

- · Online filing and tracking of consumer complaints.
- उपभोक्ता शिकायतों की ऑनलाइन फाइलिंग और ट्रैकिंग।
- · Reduced time and cost of dispute resolution.
- विवाद निपटान में समय और लागत में कमी।
- · Improved transparency and accountability.
- पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही में वृद्धि।

#### **Historical Background**

- National Consumer Day commemorates a landmark moment in India's consumer movement.
- राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता दिवस भारत के उपभोक्ता आंदोलन की एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि को स्मरण करता है।
- The 1986 Act formally institutionalised consumer rights.
- 1986 के अधिनियम ने उपभोक्ता अधिकारों को औपचारिक रूप दिया।
- · Over time, focus shifted from awareness to enforcement and digital reforms.
- समय के साथ ध्यान जागरूकता से प्रवर्तन और डिजिटल सुधारों की ओर गया।

- Q. With reference to National Consumer Day, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is observed annually on 24 December in India.
- 2. It marks the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- 3. The 2025 theme emphasises digital justice in consumer grievance redressal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

# Current Affairs 2025—2026



By Bhunesh Sir

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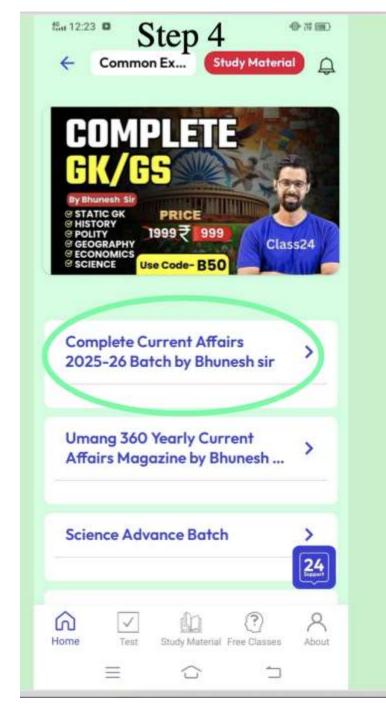
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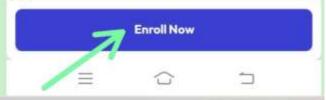






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## Word of the day

#### Jaunty:

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners; having a cheerful, lively, and self-confident air

Synonyms: chipper, debonair, dapper, dashing, rakish, snappy

Usage: She was wearing a jaunty red hat.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/jauntypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈð͡ʒɔːn.ti/

