

Daily Current Affairs

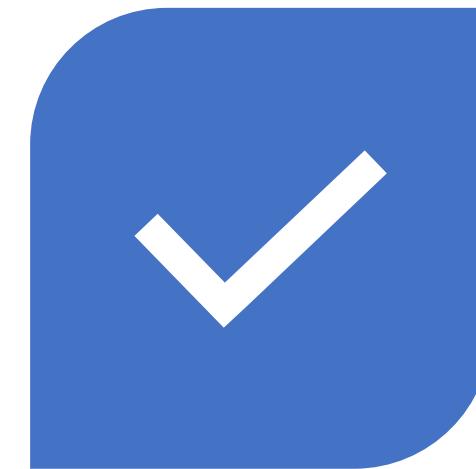




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worth your
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- Coverage of all major national and international events from **January 2025 to March 2026**
- **20 high-priority topics** explained in depth so you can handle both factual and analytical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

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6. Science & Tech
7. Environment & Ecology
8. Polity & Constitution Updates
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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
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20. Miscellaneous Must-Do

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

China puts military officials under probe over 'serious violation of discipline, law'

Reuters

BEIJING

China's Communist Party has decided to open an investigation into senior military officials Zhang Youxia and Liu Zhenli for suspected serious violations of discipline and law, China's Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

Mr. Zhang is a member of the elite Politburo of the ruling Communist Party and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), while Mr. Liu is chief of staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department.

Mr. Zhang, 75, a veteran moderniser, is widely seen as President Xi Jinping's closest military ally and one of just a few leading officers with combat experience. He is one of two vice-chairmen of the CMC, China's supreme armed forces command organisation.

The military was one of the main targets of a broad corruption crackdown ordered by Mr. Xi in 2012. That drive reached the upper echelons of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 2023 when the Rocket Force was targeted.

Eight top generals were expelled from the Communist Party on graft charges in October 2025, including the country's number two general, He Weidong. He had served under Mr. Xi and alongside Mr. Zhang



CMC Vice-Chairman Zhang Youxia (front), with his chief of staff Liu Zhenli (second from left) seen in this 2023 photo. REUTERS

on the Central Military Commission.

Two former Defence Ministers were also purged from the ruling party in recent years for corruption. The crackdown is slowing procurement of advanced weaponry and hitting the revenues of some of China's biggest defence firms.

Both Mr. Xi and Mr. Zhang are from the north-western province of Shaanxi and are the children of former senior officials who fought together in the 1940s civil war.

Mr. Zhang joined the army in 1968, rising through the ranks and joining the military commission in late 2012 as the PLA's modernisation drive gathered pace.

Foreign diplomats and security analysts are watching developments closely, given Mr. Zhang's closeness to Mr. Xi and the importance of the commission's work in terms of command as well as the PLA's ongoing military modernisation and posture.

While China has not fought a war in decades, it is taking an increasingly muscular line in the disputed East China Sea and South China Sea, as well as over the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which is claimed by China. Beijing staged the largest military exercises to date around Taiwan late last year.

Mr. Zhang's removal is the second of a sitting general on the Central Military Commission since the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. He has not been seen in public since November 20, when he held talks with Russia's Defence Minister in Moscow.

Earlier that month, Mr. Zhang vowed in an article to crack down on "fake loyalty" and "two-faced men" and called on the military to eliminate "poisonous influences and long-standing problems".

- **Investigation launched / जांच शुरू**
 - China's Communist Party opened a probe into senior military officials **Zhang Youxia** and **Liu Zhenli** for suspected "serious violations of discipline and law." / चीनी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी ने वरिष्ठ सैन्य अधिकारियों झांग योउश्या और लियू झेनली पर "अनुशासन व कानून के गंभीर उल्लंघन" के आरोपों में जांच शुरू की।
 - Announcement came via China's Defence Ministry. / यह जानकारी चीन के रक्षा मंत्रालय के बयान से आई।
- **Who are the officials? / ये अधिकारी कौन हैं?**
 - **Zhang Youxia:** Politburo member; **Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC).** / झांग योउश्या: पोलितब्यूरो सदस्य; केंद्रीय सैन्य आयोग (CMC) के उपाध्यक्ष।
 - **Liu Zhenli:** **Chief of Staff** of the CMC Joint Staff Department. / लियू झेनली: CMC जॉइंट स्टाफ डिपार्टमेंट के चीफ ऑफ स्टाफ।
- **Why it matters / महत्व**
 - Zhang (75) is seen as President **Xi Jinping's closest military ally** and a veteran moderniser; among few top officers with combat experience. / झांग (75) को शी जिनपिंग का करीबी सैन्य सहयोगी व अनुभवी आधुनिकीकरण समर्थक माना जाता है; शीर्ष नेतृत्व में सीमित लोगों के पास युद्ध अनुभव है।
 - He is **one of two CMC vice-chairmen** in China's top military command structure. / वह चीन की शीर्ष सैन्य कमान व्यवस्था में दो उपाध्यक्षों में से एक है।

- Broader anti-corruption drive / व्यापक भ्रष्टाचार-विरोधी अभियान
 - Xi's crackdown began in 2012; the PLA has been a major target. / शी का अभियान 2012 से; PLA प्रमुख लक्ष्य रहा है।
 - It reached upper levels in 2023, when the **Rocket Force** was targeted. / 2023 में अभियान ऊपरी स्तर तक पहुँचा, जब रॉकेट फोर्स को निशाना बनाया गया।
 - In Oct 2025, eight top **generals** were expelled on graft charges, including **He Weidong** (described as the country's No.2 general). / अक्टूबर 2025 में भ्रष्टाचार आरोपों में 8 शीर्ष जनरल पार्टी से निकाले गए, जिनमें हे वेइदोंग (देश का "नंबर 2 जनरल") शामिल बताया गया।
- Impact on defence sector / रक्षा-क्षेत्र पर असर
 - Two former Defence Ministers were also purged in recent years; crackdown is slowing advanced weapons procurement and hurting revenues of major defence firms. / हाल के वर्षों में दो पूर्व रक्षा मंत्रियों को भी हटाया गया; अभियान उन्नत हथियार खरीद को धीमा कर रहा है और बड़ी रक्षा कंपनियों की आय पर असर डाल रहा है।
- Political & personal linkages / राजनीतिक-सामाजिक संदर्भ
 - Xi and Zhang are from **Shaanxi**; both are children of former senior officials who fought together in the 1940s civil war. / शी और झांग शांकसी से; दोनों 1940s के गृहयुद्ध में साथ लड़ने वाले वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की संतान बताए गए।
 - Zhang joined the army in **1968** and joined the military commission in **late 2012** as modernisation accelerated. / झांग ने 1968 में सेना जॉड्न की; 2012 के अंत में आयोग में आए, जब आधुनिकीकरण तेज हुआ।
- Strategic context / राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण

- **Strategic context / रणनीतिक संदर्भ**
 - China is taking a more muscular posture in the **East China Sea, South China Sea**, and over **Taiwan**; it staged its largest drills around Taiwan late last year. / चीन पूर्वी चीन सागर, दक्षिण चीन सागर और ताइवान पर अधिक कठोर रुख; पिछले वर्ष के अंत में ताइवान के आसपास सबसे बड़े अभ्यास किए।
- **Signals around Zhang / झांग से जुड़े संकेत**
 - Report says Zhang's removal is the **second** of a sitting CMC general since the **1966–76 Cultural Revolution**; he hasn't been seen publicly since **Nov 20** (talks with Russia's Defence Minister in Moscow). / रिपोर्ट अनुसार सांस्कृतिक क्रांति (1966–76) के बाद यह CMC के कार्यरत जनरल को हटाने का दूसरा मामला; 20 नवम्बर के बाद सार्वजनिक रूप से नहीं दिखे (मॉस्को में रूस के रक्षा मंत्री से वार्ता)।
 - Earlier that month, he called for action against "fake loyalty" and "two-faced men" and to eliminate "poisonous influences." / उसी महीने पहले उन्होंने "झूठी वफादारी", "दोमुंहे लोगों" और "विषेले प्रभाव" हटाने की बात कही।

Topic / शब्द**Key facts (English + Hindi)****Exam angle / परीक्षा उपयोग**

Central Military Commission (CMC) / केंद्रीय सैन्य आयोग

China's top military command body; oversees PLA command & control / चीन की शीर्ष सैन्य कमान संस्था; PLA के कमांड-नियंत्रण की निगरानी

Power structure, civil-military relations

Politburo / पोलितब्यूरो

Core decision-making circle in CPC; membership signals political weight / CPC का शीर्ष निर्णय-समूह; सदस्यता = उच्च राजनीतिक प्रभाव

Chinese governance structure

“Discipline & law violations” phrase / “अनुशासन व कानून उल्लंघन”

Common CPC wording often used in corruption/party-discipline cases / पार्टी-शिस्त व भ्रष्टाचार मामलों में प्रचलित आधिकारिक शब्दावली

Governance + anti-corruption questions

PLA Rocket Force / PLA रॉकेट फोर्स

Strategic missile arm (conventional + nuclear delivery systems) / रणनीतिक मिसाइल बल (परंपरागत + परमाणु डिलीवरी)

Security, deterrence, IR current affairs

South China Sea / दक्षिण चीन सागर

High-stakes maritime disputes; sea lanes + EEZ/UNCLOS issues / समुद्री विवाद; व्यापार मार्ग, EEZ/UNCLOS पहलू

Map-based + UNCLOS/EEZ themes

East China Sea / पूर्वी चीन सागर

Dispute-prone region; impacts Japan-China tensions / विवाद-संभावित क्षेत्र; जापान-चीन तनाव से जुड़ा

Regional geopolitics

Taiwan issue / ताइवान मुद्दा

Self-ruled island claimed by China; major flashpoint / स्व-शासित द्वीप, चीन का दावा; बड़ा तनाव-बिंदु

One-China policy, Strait crisis

Cultural Revolution (1966–76) / सांस्कृतिक क्रांति

Major political upheaval; reference used as historical benchmark / बड़ा राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल काल; तुलना हेतु संदर्भ

History linkage in IR questions

Exam (Year)	Question (English + Hindi together)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims (GS) 2022	Which statement best describes UNCLOS relevance to maritime disputes like South China Sea? / UNCLOS का समुद्री विवाद (जैसे SCS) में महत्व क्या है?	UNCLOS provides framework for EEZ/continental shelf rights / EEZ व समुद्री अधिकारों का ढांचा
UPSC CSE Prelims (GS) 2021	Consider: Freedom of Navigation is often discussed in context of which region? / Freedom of Navigation किस क्षेत्र के संदर्भ में अधिक चर्चा में?	South China Sea / दक्षिण चीन सागर (and Indo-Pacific)
UPSC CSE Prelims (GS) 2020	“One China Policy” is most directly linked with which issue? / “One China Policy” सबसे सीधे किस मुद्दे से जुड़ी?	Taiwan / ताइवान
CDS (GK) 2023	PLA is the armed force of which country? / PLA किस देश की सशस्त्र सेना है?	China / चीन
AFCAT (GK) 2021	Taiwan Strait is located between which two landmasses? / ताइवान जलडमरुमध्य किन दो भूभागों के बीच?	Taiwan and China's mainland (Fujian coast) / ताइवान व चीन मुख्यभूमि
SSC CGL (GS) 2019	The Politburo is associated with which political party? / Politburo किस राजनीतिक दल से जुड़ा?	Communist Party of China / चीनी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी
IBPS PO (GA) 2020	South China Sea disputes are primarily among which set of countries? / SCS विवाद मुख्यतः किन देशों में?	China & multiple SE Asian littorals (e.g., Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei) / चीन व कई SEA तटीय देश
Railway NTPC (GS) 2021	Cultural Revolution is associated with which country and leader? / सांस्कृतिक क्रांति किस देश व नेता से जुड़ी?	China; Mao Zedong / चीन; माओ ज़ेदोंग

• Consider the following statements / निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- Zhang Youxia is a Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC). / झांग योउश्या CMC के उपाध्यक्ष हैं।
- Liu Zhenli is the Chief of Staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department. / लियू झेनली CMC जॉइंट स्टाफ डिपार्टमेंट के चीफ ऑफ स्टाफ हैं।
- The probe was announced by China's Defence Ministry for "serious violations of discipline and law." / जांच की जानकारी रक्षा मंत्रालय ने "अनुशासन व कानून के गंभीर उल्लंघन" के संदर्भ में दी।
- Which of the above are correct? / उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से सही हैं?
 - A) 1 and 2 only / केवल 1 और 2
 - B) 2 and 3 only / केवल 2 और 3
 - C) 1 and 3 only / केवल 1 और 3
 - D) 1, 2 and 3 / 1, 2 और 3

IN BRIEF



Engineer Rashid gets custody parole to attend Parliament

A Delhi court on Saturday granted custody parole to jailed Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid to attend the ongoing session of Parliament. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to his place of visit. After the court's order, the Lok Sabha had passed the order granting Mr. Rashid permission to attend the session that would begin on January 28. It is subject to conditions imposed earlier regarding travel costs. ■

Cong. MP's nephew killed wife intentionally: Gujarat police

Congress MP Shakti Singh Gohil's nephew Yashkumar Singh Gohil, 35, shot his wife intentionally but was taken into police custody as per *prima facie* evidence, police said on Saturday. Earlier, officials had said Yashkumar Singh shot his wife on January 16. The police said he had killed his wife after accidentally shooting dead his wife's son Rajeshwar, 30, at their residence in Ahmedabad on Wednesday night. But evidence suggested that he shot Rajeshwar for some unknown reason, stated the FIR lodged on Saturday at Vastrapur police station. ■
(Those in distress can contact Telco MANAS at 14415 to seek help.)

CBI court nixes order on Bagheli's discharge in video case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A special CBI court on Saturday reversed a magistrate court order that had ordered the release of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel from a case regarding the alleged circulation of a seditious purportedly depicting former Minister Rajesh Munda. The reversal by the special CBI court implies that Munda will have to face trial in the case unless he gets relief from a higher court.

The court also rejected the appeal filed by other accused against the trial court order on framing of charges, an official said.

22.8% of population in Kerala, 15.8% in T.N. to be above 60 years by 2036: RBI report

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

By 2036, Kerala will continue to be at the forefront of ageing States in India, with more than 22% of its population above 60 years, indicates a new Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report. By then, the report says, Kerala will also see a decline in its share of working age population.

Kerala has topped this list for State-wise share of population aged above 60 for some years now. ■
ISTOCK PHOTO/REPRESENTATIONAL



Kerala has topped this list for State-wise share of population aged above 60 for some years now. ■
ISTOCK PHOTO/REPRESENTATIONAL

Building a "new silver economy" and positioning Kerala as a destination for graceful ageing, as noted in Governor Rajendra Vishwanath's recent policy address to the State Legislative Assembly, may not be enough to save the State any more but an imperative.

By 2036, Kerala will continue to be at the forefront of ageing States in India, with more than 22% of its population above 60 years. From 16.5% of its population aged above 60 in 2021, Kerala will have moved in the category in 2026 and

2028 if the share of population aged 60 years and above is 15% or more, intermediate if it is 10% to below 15% and youthful if it is below 10%.

Over the next decade, Kerala's share will witness an average annual rate of 0.52% per year, which will shrink from 6.08% in 2031 and 5.93% in 2036. The share of the ageing, in this case, will go up from 64.8% in 2026 to 68.1% in 2031, before dropping to 64.9% in 2036.

Policy changes, the report says, should prioritise healthcare financing reforms, preventive health systems and public-private partnerships, while rationalising subsidies and incentives to spur the creation of fiscal space, the report suggests.

It also notes that health infrastructure could continue to boost labour supply by extending working lives and financing older workers' productivity.

A State is classified as meeting the ageing category if its population aged above 60 years is more than 15% of its total population over 60 years. ■
The *Demographic Transition in India: A Report on State Finances* released by the RBI.

Tamil Nadu is expected to move into the ageing category in 2026, with 15.8% of the State's population over 60 years. ■
The *Demographic Transition in India: A Report on State Finances* released by the RBI.

Shah pitches 'Modi-Yogi double-engine' to voters ahead of 2027 U.P. polls

Rise above caste, community considerations, reject dynastic politics, ensure BJP returns to power with overwhelming majority, says Union Home Minister at event to mark State's foundation day

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

Describing Uttar Pradesh as the "soul" of the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the State is poised to emerge as the engine of a developed India by 2047 and is well on its way to become the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) again in the 2027 elections.

Addressing a gathering at the State's foundation day event in Lucknow, Mr. Shah hit out at previous governments for "ruining U.P." and said it was the BJP that turned a "BIMARU" State into a "breakthrough State".

Making an appeal
The States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and U.P. were referred to by the acronym BIMARU in the 1980s because of their poor economic and demographic indicators. "The coming year is an election year, and today I have come to appeal to the people of U.P. to reject 'BIMARU' and win a resounding victory with an overwhelming majority for the BJP," said Mr. Shah, adding, "With Narendra Modi at the Centre and Yogi Adityanath in the State, every

possibility of development in the State has been unlocked, and sincere efforts have been made to give the best to the people."

"Prime Minister Modi has pledged to build a developed India and under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, our double-engine government will work pleyfully to build a developed Uttar Pradesh," he said.

He asked voters to rise above caste and community considerations and reject "unshwavidhi (dynastic) parties." "Parivarvadhi (family) parties, the SP or the BSP" cannot bring about sustainable schemes for the poor, he said.

Mr. Shah added,

"BIMARU" U.P. has been turned into a breakthrough State by the BJP, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday. SANDEEP SAXENA

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"BIMARU" U.P.

22.8% of population in Kerala, 15.8% in T.N. to be above 60 years by 2036: RBI report

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Building a “new silver economy” and positioning Kerala as a destination for graceful ageing, as noted in Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar’s recent policy address to the State Legislative Assembly, may not be optional for the State any more but an imperative.

By 2036, Kerala will continue to be at the forefront of ageing States in India, with more than 22% of its population aged above 60, indicates a new Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report. By then, says the report, Kerala will also see a decline in its share of working age population.

Kerala has topped this list for State-wise share of population aged above 60 for some years now. From 16.5% of its population aged above 60 in 2021, Kerala will have 18.7% in the category in 2026 and



Kerala has topped this list for State-wise share of population aged above 60 for some years now. ISTOCK PHOTO/REPRESENTATIONAL

22.8% by 2036, notes the report *State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2025-26: Demographic Transition in India – Implications for State Finances* released by the RBI.

Tamil Nadu is expected to enter the ageing category in 2026, with 15.8% of the State’s population over 60 years. “By 2036, more than half of the States are projected to transition into the ageing category, with Kerala at the forefront,

with more than 22% of its population as elderly, an indication of advanced ageing. In these regions, the demographic dividend is likely to close earlier than the national average, primarily on account of rapid and sustained decline in fertility levels. For these States, policy imperatives would gradually shift from employment generation towards old-age support systems,” the report says.

A State is classified as

ageing if the share of population aged 60 years and above is 15% or more, intermediate if it is 10% to below 15% and youthful if it is below 10%.

Over the next decade, Kerala’s share of working age population (15-64 years) will shrink from 62% to 60.8% in 2031 and 59.5% in 2036. The national average, in this case, will go up from 64.8% in 2026 to 65.1% in 2031, before dropping to 64.9% in 2036.

Policy changes

Ageing States should prioritise healthcare financing reforms, preventive health systems, and public-private partnerships, while rationalising subsidies and non-merit spending to create fiscal space, the report suggests.

It also notes that healthier ageing could continue to boost labour supply by extending working lives and enhancing older workers’ productivity.

- **Main finding / मुख्य निष्कर्ष**

- RBI report projects that by 2036, Kerala: 22.8% and Tamil Nadu: 15.8% population will be 60+ years. / RBI रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 2036 तक केरल: 22.8% और तमिलनाडु: 15.8% आबादी 60+ वर्ष होगी।
- Kerala will remain at the forefront among India's ageing States. / केरल भारत के "ageing States" में अग्रणी बना रहेगा।

- **Context: "Silver economy" / संदर्भ: "सिल्वर इकोनॉमी"**

- Kerala is discussing building a "new silver economy" and positioning the State for **graceful ageing** (mentioned in Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's policy address). / केरल में "नई सिल्वर इकोनॉमी" और गरिमामय वृद्धावस्था को लक्ष्य बनाकर नीति-फोकस की बात (राज्यपाल राजेंद्र विश्वनाथ अरलेकर के नीति-भाषण में)।

- **Kerala's ageing trajectory / केरल का वृद्धावस्था ट्रेंड**

- Share of 60+ in Kerala: 16.5% (2021) → 18.7% (2026) → 22.8% (2036). / केरल में 60+ हिस्सा: 16.5% (2021) → 18.7% (2026) → 22.8% (2036)।
- Report notes Kerala has topped the State-wise list of 60+ share for some years. / रिपोर्ट के अनुसार केरल कई वर्षों से 60+ हिस्सेदारी में शीर्ष पर रहा है।

- **Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु**

- Tamil Nadu is expected to enter the "ageing" category in 2026 with 15.8% population aged 60+. / तमिलनाडु 2026 में 15.8% (60+) के साथ "ageing" श्रेणी में आने की संभावना।

- Definition of ageing category / "Ageing" की परिभाषा (रिपोर्ट के अनुसार)
 - Ageing: $60+ \text{ share} \geq 15\%$ / एजिंग: $60+$ हिस्सा $\geq 15\%$
 - Intermediate: $10\% \text{ to } <15\%$ / इंटरमीडिएट: 10% से $<15\%$
 - Youthful: $<10\%$ / युवा: $<10\%$
- Working-age share change / कार्यशील आयु (15–64) हिस्सेदारी
 - Kerala's working-age share (15–64) to shrink: $62\% \rightarrow 60.8\% \text{ (2031)} \rightarrow 59.5\% \text{ (2036)}$. / केरल में 15–64 हिस्सेदारी घटेगी: $62\% \rightarrow 60.8\% \text{ (2031)} \rightarrow 59.5\% \text{ (2036)}$ ।
 - National average (15–64) in this case: $64.8\% \text{ (2026)} \rightarrow 65.1\% \text{ (2031)} \rightarrow 64.9\% \text{ (2036)}$. / राष्ट्रीय औसत: $64.8\% \text{ (2026)} \rightarrow 65.1\% \text{ (2031)} \rightarrow 64.9\% \text{ (2036)}$ ।
- Why faster ageing in these States / इन राज्यों में तेज ageing क्यों?
 - Demographic dividend likely to close earlier than national average due to **rapid, sustained fertility decline**. / तेजी व निरंतर प्रजनन दर में गिरावट के कारण demographic dividend राष्ट्रीय औसत से पहले खत्म होने की संभावना।

- **Policy direction / नीति संकेत**
- Policy focus may gradually shift from **employment generation** to **old-age support systems**. / नीति प्राथमिकता रोज़गार सृजन से धीरे-धीरे वृद्धावस्था सहारा-तंत्र की ओर शिफ्ट हो सकती है।
- Suggested changes: **healthcare financing reforms, preventive health systems, PPPs, and rationalising subsidies & non-merit spending** to create fiscal space. / सुझाव: हेल्थकेयर फाइनेंसिंग सुधार, प्रिवेटिव हेल्थ सिस्टम, PPP, और सब्सिडी/नॉन-मेरिट खर्च का युक्तिकरण।
- Healthier ageing can boost labour supply by **extending working lives** and **improving older workers' productivity**. / स्वस्थ ageing से कामकाजी जीवन बढ़ाकर और वरिष्ठ कर्मियों की उत्पादकता बढ़ाकर श्रम-आपूर्ति को सहारा मिल सकता है।

Concept / अवधारणा

Silver economy / सिल्वर इकोनॉमी

Old-age dependency ratio / वृद्ध निर्भरता अनुपात

Demographic dividend / जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश

Ageing thresholds (RBI in report) / एजिंग सीमा

Policy shift / नीति बदलाव

Healthy ageing / स्वस्थ वृद्धावस्था

Key points (English + Hindi together)

Economy linked to needs & spending of older persons (healthcare, assistive tech, senior housing, insurance, leisure) / बुजुर्गों की ज़रूरतों व खर्च से जुड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था

Older (commonly 60+/65+) per 100 working-age (15–64) / कार्यशील आयु पर वृद्धों का दबाव

Growth window when working-age share is high; closes as ageing rises / कामकाजी आबादी अधिक होने पर विकास अवसर; ageing से घटता

Ageing $\geq 15\%$, Intermediate 10– $<15\%$, Youthful $<10\%$ (60+ share) / 60+ हिस्सेदारी आधारित वर्गीकरण

From job creation focus \rightarrow old-age support + preventive healthcare + fiscal reprioritisation / रोजगार से वृद्ध-सहारा व स्वास्थ्य पर ज़ोर

Preventive care, NCD control, geriatric care, assistive devices / रोकथाम आधारित स्वास्थ्य, जेरियाट्रिक केयर

याद रखने योग्य

Ageing = new service/industry opportunities

Pension, healthcare, fiscal stress

Jobs + skilling are crucial to “capture” dividend

Direct statement-based MCQ material

“Social sector + fiscal reforms” theme

Reduces burden; supports productivity

Exam (Year)	Question (English + Hindi together)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims (2023)	Demographic dividend depends mainly on what factor(s)? / जनसंख्यकीय लाभांश मुख्यतः किस पर निर्भर?	Higher working-age share + productive employment/skills / अधिक कार्यशील आयु + रोजगार/कौशल
UPSC CSE Prelims (2021)	Dependency ratio is generally used to indicate what? / डिपेंडेंसी रेश्यो क्या दर्शाता है?	Burden of dependents on working-age population / कार्यशील आबादी पर आश्रितों का भार
UPSC CSE Prelims (2018)	Population ageing primarily increases pressure on which sectors? / जनसंख्या वृद्धि से किन क्षेत्रों पर दबाव बढ़ता है?	Healthcare + pensions/social security / स्वास्थ्य + पेंशन/सोशल सिक्योरिटी
SSC CGL (2020)	Working-age population is commonly defined as which age group? / कार्यशील आयु समूह सामान्यतः क्या?	15–64 years / 15–64 वर्ष
IBPS PO (2022)	“Silver economy” relates to which population segment? / “सिल्वर इकोनॉमी” किस वर्ग से संबंधित?	Elderly/senior citizens / वरिष्ठ नागरिक
CDS (2021)	Declining fertility over time generally leads to what demographic outcome? / समय के साथ प्रजनन दर घटने से क्या परिणाम?	Ageing + slower population growth / वृद्धि + धीमी जनसंख्या वृद्धि
Railway NTPC (2020)	Which one is a likely consequence of rising old-age dependency? / वृद्धि निर्भरता बढ़ने का संभावित परिणाम?	Higher fiscal burden on health & pensions / स्वास्थ्य-पेंशन पर राजकोषीय भार

• Consider the following statements / निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- As per the report's classification, a State is "ageing" if the share of population aged 60+ is **25% or more**. / रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 60+ हिस्सा **15% या अधिक** होने पर राज्य "ageing" है।
- Kerala's share of working-age (15–64) population is projected to fall to **59.5%** by **2036**. / केरल की 15–64 हिस्सेदारी **2036** तक **59.5%** होने का अनुमान है।
- Tamil Nadu is expected to enter the ageing category in **2026** with **15.8%** population aged above 60. / तमिलनाडु **2026** में **15.8% (60+)** के साथ ageing श्रेणी में आने की उम्मीद है।
- Which of the above are correct? / उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से सही हैं?
 - A) 1 and 2 only / केवल 1 और 2
 - B) 2 and 3 only / केवल 2 और 3
 - C) 1 and 3 only / केवल 1 और 3
 - D) 1, 2 and 3 / 1, 2 और 3

MONDAY
January 26, 2020
INTERNATIONAL
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India and EU showing another way to engage
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MAN WHO SAW IT ALL
Veteran journalist Mark Tully dies at 90

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DNA to be matched with that of suspects
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INSIDE

Minneapolis on edge as ICE kills another person

MINNEAPOLIS
U.S. immigration agents shot and killed a U.S. citizen in Minneapolis on Saturday, after a night of anti-police protests and condemnations from local leaders in the second such incident this month. » PAGE 24

EC is working on the BJP's behalf, Mamata alleges

KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday targeted the Election Commission (EC) and said that it was "working on an unprecedent manner" in the name of special intensive revision (SIR). » PAGE 5

Furniture shop fire in Hyderabad claims five lives

HYDERABAD
Over 20 hours after a fire broke out in a furniture castle, a furniture shop at Nampally in Hyderabad, the bodies of five people, including two children, were recovered from the first-level cellar of the shop. Sixty-four people were killed in an unprecedented massive fire breakout on Saturday afternoon. » PAGE 3

Fight to restore MGNREGA, says CPI(M)'s Karat

HYDERABAD
Brinda Karat, senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader, said on Sunday that the party would organise to intensify their struggle against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Swamyavik Sangh combine, calling it the biggest threat to the nation and particularly to women. » PAGE 8

Parties allege plot to exclude Assam voters

Six Opposition parties in a memo to the Chief Electoral Officer, say a large number of fake objections were filed during the special revision process

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Leaders of the Congress and five other Opposition parties in Assam on Sunday submitted a memorandum to the State's Chief Electoral Officer, saying that objections were being filed to remove voters from the voter list during the special revision (SIR) exercise.

They alleged widespread legal violations, political interference, and targeted harassment of genuine voters, which was "arbitrary, unfair, and unconstitutional". Illegal bulk objections were filed, they said, the claims and objections phase of the SIR which concluded on November 10, on grounds of death or permanent shifting of voters, they said.

They cited a public statement by Chief Minister Hemanta Kumar Sarma, demanding that the government "will do some *uptaa* [disturbance] within the system to the best of our ability". Bengali Muslims under pressure by issuing notices to the election officials to make a false excuse. Such an "arbitrary, malafide, and unconstitutional" statement "reveals

the Representation of the Peo-

ple Act, 1950; the Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960; the Electoral and Electronic Rules, 2000, and specific Election Commission of India (EC) directives issued on December 27, 2018.

Illegal bulk objections were filed from the voter list, while 4.78 lakh were marked dead from the previous list. The total number found shifted, and 53,619 multiple entries were deleted. The total number claimed 100% verification covering more than 61 lakh households.

The Congress, Rajoib Dal, Assam Jatiya Parishad, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), in their memorandum, accused election officials of making false levels of flouting statutory provisions under the Representation of the Peo-

ple Act, 1950.

On November 17, the election registration officers should have summarily rejected the pending objections, as it was "beyond belief" that so many voters had died or shifted residence within a short span. Yet, police were not using the grounds of objections issued to the targeted voters in violation of Rule 17 of the Representation of the People Rules, 1960.

The parties alleged that a large number of fake objections was filed without the knowledge of the listed objectors.

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The parties alleged that a large number of fake objections was filed without the knowledge of the listed objectors.

FULL REPORT ON PAGE 2

White valley

Snow trek: Boys walk through a snow-covered orchard after fresh snowfall in Budgam district of J&K on Sunday. INRAH NISSAR

Nation honours 131 personalities with Padma awards

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday announced Padma honours for 2026, with five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 133 Padma Shri awards.

The recipients include eight persons from Andhra Pradesh, 11 from Tamil Nadu, and 10 from Tamil States. A former Kerala Chief

Minister and Communist stalwart, the late Shibu Sooren, has been named for the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second highest civilian award. Former Supreme Court Judge K.T. Thomas and educationalist P. Narayana Iyer have been honoured with the 13 selected for the Padma Bhushan.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi congratulated all the awardees for their contribution to diverse fields.

"Congratulations to all their outstanding contributions to our nation. Their excellence, dedication, and service enrich the fabric of our society," he said in a post on X.

The Padma awards are given in disciplines such as social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, among others. While the Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan is for distinguished service, and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.

MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 4

Field of honour

The Padma honours for 2026 announced by the Centre include 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 133 Padma Shri awards, covering personalities from all corners of the country in over 100 unique fields.

BRINDAVARSHINI
Dharmendra Singh Deod
Art (Posthumous)

PADMA BHUSHAN
1. Alka Yagnik
2. Bhagat Singh Koshyari
3. K. R. Palaniswamy
4. Mammootty

8. Shashikiran R. Ganesh
9. Shibu Sooren
10. Uday Kotak

11. V. K. Malhotra
12. Wellington Neto
13. Vijay Amritraj

5. Nori Dattatreya
6. Piyush Pandey
7. S. K. M. Maelimandhan

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Nation honours 131 personalities with Padma awards

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday announced Padma honours for 2026, with five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards.

The recipients include eight personalities from Kerala, 11 from West Bengal, and 13 from Tamil Nadu, all poll-bound States. A former Kerala Chief

Minister and Communist stalwart, the late V.S. Achuthanandan, and the late actor Dharmendra have been posthumously named for the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second highest civilian award. Former Supreme Court judge K.T. Thomas and educationist P. Narayanan, both from Kerala, and tennis legend Vijay Amritraj are among the 13 selected for the Padma Bhushan.

Prime Minister Narendra

A former Jharkhand Chief Minister and tribal leader, the late Shibu Soren, has been named for the Padma Bhushan posthumously.

Diverse disciplines

Actor Mammootty, singer Alka Yagnik, banker Uday Kotak, and tennis legend Vijay Amritraj are among the 13 selected for the Padma Bhushan.

Modi congratulated all the awardees for their contribution to diverse fields.

"Congratulations to all the Padma Awardees for their outstanding contributions to our nation. Their excellence, dedication, and service enrich the fabric of our society," he said in a post on X.

The Padma awards are given in disciplines such as social work, public affairs, science and engineering,

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MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 4

Field of honour

The Padma honours for 2026 announced by the Centre include **5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards**, covering personalities from all corners of the country in over 100 unique fields

PADMA VIBHUSHAN



Dharmendra
Singh Deol
Art (Posthumous)



K.T. Thomas
Public Affairs



N. Rajam
Art



P. Narayanan
Literature and
Education



V.S. Achuthanandan
Public Affairs
(Posthumous)

PADMA BHUSHAN

1. Alka Yagnik	5. Nori Dattatreyyudu	8. Shatavadhani R. Ganesh	11. V. K. Malhotra
2. Bhagat Singh Koshyari	6. Piyush Pandey (posthumous)	9. Shibu Soren (Posthumous)	12. Vellappally Natesan
3. K.R. Palaniswamy	7. S.K.M. Maeilanandhan	10. Uday Kotak	
4. Mammootty			13. Vijay Amritraj

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(Posthumous)
10. Uday Kotak

11. V. K. Malhotra
(Posthumous)
12. Vellappally Natesan
13. Vijay Amritraj

Actor Madhavan, ex-UGC chief among 113 Padma Shri awardees

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday announced the names of 113 recipients of the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for 2026.

Among the awardees are M. Jagadesh Kumar, former Chairman of the UGC; R.V.S. Mani, former Under Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs; Shashi Shekhar Vempati, former CEO of Prasar Bharati; and archaeologist Budha Krishna Mani, who led excavations in Ayodhya and Sarnath.

Aerospace scientist Chandramouli Gaddamannugu, who directed the Akash missile system from development to deployment during Operation Sindoor, and ISRO scientist A.E. Muthunayagam, who led the cryogenic propulsion system, have also



R. Madhavan

been awarded the Padma Shri. Actors R. Madhavan, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Arvind Vaidya, Anil Kumar Rastogi, and Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad are also among the awardees.

Kumar.

K. Vijay Kumar, the former CRPF D-G and chief of the STF that killed poacher Veerappan; Ramamurthy Sreedher, the founder of community radio in India; and Satyanarayanan Nuwal, the founder of India's first licensed private defence company, have also been awarded the Padma Shri.

The award has also been given to Ashok Khade, a self-made entrepreneur from a Dalit cobbler family, who established a cutting-edge offshore fabrication company; Ashok Kumar Singh, an agriculture scientist who developed over 25 rice varieties; and Dalit author Asok Kumar Halder, who wrote inspiring literature while being a railway guard. Forty-five people were named under the "unsung heroes" category of the award.

31 Central Bureau of Investigation officials awarded medals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Thirty-one Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials have been awarded police medals on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day.

The President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service has been awarded to Chandrasekar Venupillai, Head of Zone (Delhi Zone); Superintendent of Police Amit Srivastava; Additional Superintendent of Police Mukesh Sharma; sub-inspector Pramod Kumar Yati; assistant sub-inspector Chaman Lal; and head constable Ramu Golala.

Among those awarded the Police Medal for Meritorious Service are Venkata Subba Reddy Chinnakondu, Head of Zone (Special

Crime Zone); Deputy Inspector-General Sadanand Shankarao Date; deputy legal adviser Manmohan Sharma; Additional SPs Baidyanath Samal and Kailash Sahu; Deputy SPs Rubi Choudhary, Manish Kumar Upadhyay, Anmol Sachan, Nishu Kushwaha, Arijit Sinha, Sharad Suresh Bhawar, Thahir Abbas P., and Dharmendra Kumar.

Inspector Dharmender; programmer Deepi Vashista; office superintendent Narikote Nandini; assistant sub-inspector Vinod Kumar; head constables Netram Chourasiya, Puran Mal Gujar, Bhola Roy, Babu Varghese, and Vikram Singh; and constables Sanjeev Kumar, Waikhom Rajesh Singh, and Rupendra Kumar have also been conferred the Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

Shubhanshu Shukla, who flew to space, gets Ashok Chakra

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

On the eve of Republic Day, President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday approved the conferment of Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards on personnel of the Indian Army, the Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force, recognising acts of exceptional courage in operations and sustained distinguished service across key operational and command appointments.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force has been honoured with the Ashok Chakra, the nation's highest peacetime gallantry award. The honour follows his ground-breaking mission to the International Space Station in June 2025.

In the Chakra series of gallantry awards, the President approved the confer-



Shubhanshu Shukla

ment of one Ashok Chakra, three Kirti Chakras, and 12 Shaurya Chakras, including one Shaurya Chakra (posthumous). The gallantry awards include one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry) and 44 Sena Medals (Gallantry), of which five are posthumous. Additionally, six Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) were awarded to Navy personnel and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) to Air Force personnel.

The President also approved a total of 301 mili-

tary decorations to Armed Forces and other personnel. These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 56 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, nine Yudh Seva Medals, two Bars to Sena Medals (Distinguished), 43 Sena Medals (Distinguished), eight Nao Sena Medals (Distinguished), and 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Distinguished).

Further, 135 Vishisht Seva Medals and 98 Mention-in-Despatches were approved for personnel involved in various operations, including Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Hifazat, Operation Orchid, and Operation Meghdoot, as well as rescue and casualty evacuation tasks. Of these, five mentions are posthumous, with 81 awards going to personnel of the Army.



Award

Padma Vibhushan

Name	Field / Achievement
Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Legendary Indian film actor with iconic contribution to Indian cinema. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
K T Thomas	Distinguished service in public affairs & judiciary. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
N Rajam	Eminent violinist, contribution to Indian classical music. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
P Narayanan	Literature & education, contributions to Indian intellectual heritage. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
V S Achuthanandhan (Posthumous)	Public affairs & social service. (Ministry of Home Affairs)

(The full Padma Shri list includes 113 awardees from many sectors such as literature, science, education, archaeology, etc.) ([translate.google.com](#))

Padma Bhushan

Alka Yagnik	Renowned playback singer with wide impact on Indian music. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public affairs, contributions in governance. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy	Medical contributions in Tamil Nadu. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Mammootty	Celebrated Malayalam cinema actor with national impact. (The Times of India)
Dr. Nori Dattatreyudu	Medical science & research (oncology). (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Piyush Pandey (<i>Posthumous</i>)	Art & social contributions. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
S K M Maeilanandhan	Social work and community service. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Shatavadhani R Ganesh	Art (literature & scholarship). (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Shibu Soren (<i>Posthumous</i>)	Public affairs (political leadership). (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Uday Kotak	Trade & industry, contribution to Indian banking & finance. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
V K Malhotra (<i>Posthumous</i>)	Public affairs & administration. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Vellappally Natesan	Public affairs & social service. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Vijay Amritraj	Sports (tennis) and global representation of India. (Ministry of Home Affairs)
Rohit Sharma	Sports – Cricket (India), major global achievements. (Navbharat Times)
Harmanpreet Kaur	Sports – Women's Cricket – leadership & performance. (Olympics)
Savita Punia	Sports – Hockey, national representation. (The Times of India)
R. Madhavan	Art – Cinema & societal influence. (The Times of India)
A E Muthunayagam	Science & Engineering contributions. (The Indian Express)
Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art – Theatre & performing arts. (The Indian Express)
Anke Gowda M.	Social work & community development. (The Indian Express)
Armida Fernandez	Medicine – service & healthcare initiatives. (The Indian Express)
Arvind Vaidya	Art & culture. (The Indian Express)
Ashok Khade	Trade & industry. (The Indian Express)

Padma Shri

Award	Name	Specific Contribution	Exam Value Point
Padma Vibhushan	N Rajam	Distinguished violinist , Carnatic music stalwart	Indian classical music legacy
Padma Bhushan	Alka Yagnik	Iconic playback singer , major influence on Indian film music	Cultural influence of cinema music
Padma Bhushan	Shatavadhani R Ganesh	Literature & scholarship , multi-disciplinary literary work	Indian language & literature
Padma Shri	R. Madhavan	Cinema & social influence	Contemporary cultural figures
Padma Shri	Anil Kumar Rastogi	Theatre & performing art	Regional art forms in national consciousness
Padma Shri	Arvind Vaidya	Art & culture	Contribution to traditional arts
Padma Shri	A E Muthunayagam	Science-art cross contribution	Scientific arts crossover

Award	Name	Field / Achievement	Exam Value Point
Padma Bhushan	Vijay Amritraj	Tennis legend, global ambassador	India's contribution to global sports
Padma Shri	Rohit Sharma	Cricket – exceptional batting performance	Cricket as India's major sport
Padma Shri	Harmanpreet Kaur	Women's Cricket – leadership & consistency	Growth of women's sport
Padma Shri	Savita Punia	Hockey – leading goalkeeper	Hockey revival & Olympic significance

Award	Name	Field / Achievement	Exam Value Point
Padma Bhushan	Dr. Nori Dattatreyudu	Oncology research & medical services	Public health & cancer treatment
Padma Shri	Armida Fernandez	Medicine & public health outreach	Healthcare systems & community service
Padma Shri	Anke Gowda M.	Social work, community health impact	Social determinants of health
Padma Shri	Ashok Khade	Science or trade & industry application	Interface of science and economy

Award	Name	Field / Achievement	Exam Link
Padma Vibhushan	K T Thomas	Judiciary & public service	Governance & rule of law
Padma Vibhushan	V S Achuthanandhan	Social service	People's movements & social change
Padma Bhushan	Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Governance & public affairs	Federal polity & public service
Padma Bhushan	S K M Maeilanandhan	Social service	Social entrepreneurship
Padma Bhushan	Shibu Soren (Posthumous)	Political leadership	Politics & public life
Padma Bhushan	V K Malhotra (Posthumous)	Administration	Bureaucratic service
Padma Bhushan	Vellappally Natesan	Social service	Community mobilization



Total Awardees (2026): 131 including 5 *Padma Vibhushan*, 13 *Padma Bhushan* and 113 *Padma Shri*.



Posthumous Awards: Several, recognising lifetime service.



Fields Covered: Art, Public Affairs, Medicine, Science & Engineering, Sports, Social Work, Literature & Education, Trade & Industry, Civil Service, etc.



Date Announced: On Republic Day eve 2026.



Awarded By: President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

IN BRIEF



Farmers launch foot march from Nashik to Mumbai

Thousands of farmers launched a foot march to Mumbai from Nashik on Sunday to press for their various demands, including land rights, irrigation facilities and uninterrupted power supply. Led by the Central Kisan Sabha, the protesters accused the government of not keeping its promises and threatened to gherao the State Secretariat in Mumbai if their demands are not met. CPI(M) Polit Bureau member and All India Kisan Sabha national president Ashok Bhawie, and CTU national vice president K. Karad are among those taking part in the march. ■

Three killed, two injured as clay mine collapses in M.P.

Three persons, including two girls, were killed and two others seriously injured when a clay mine collapsed while they were extracting clay in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in a village under the Kuanwan police station, about 70 kilometers from the state capital Bhopal, police said. Sub-Divisional Police Officer Gayatri Tiwari said that five persons, including two girls, had gone to extract "chul mitti" from a clay mine when it collapsed, burying them. ■

Police from 3 States search for missing demonetised cash

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Police has initiated probe and Goa searching for missing lorries linked to a ₹400 crore heist

The Bengaluru police of Karnataka on Sunday joined their Goa and Maharashtra counterparts probing the ₹400 crore heist of a ₹100 crore cash heist at Chorla Ghat located at the intersection of the two states. The Bengaluru police will be joining in the search for missing lorries containing high-value cash notes.

A special investigation team (SIT), constituted by Maharashtra's Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, had earlier arrested five sus-

pects, including an alleged hawala operator. The SIT is led by Aditya Mehta, Inspector General of Police. A memorandum of Police has been written to officers in Karnataka and Goa to coordinate their team members.

Belagavi Superintendent of Police, K. Ramadevan, on Sunday depatured a team of the Belagavi police who ar-

rived in Nashik on Sunday.

Meanwhile, speaking in Bengaluru, Home Minister G. Parameshwar said that the investigation had sought additional information on the heist to be able to help in the probe.

Container theft
This follows a case filed in the Nashik police station. Based on a complaint by a Maharashtra-based businessman, Sandip Dutta Patil, officers from the Nashik police on Sunday registered a case of the theft of two container lorries con-

taining notes.

However, Mr. Sethi suggested that Mr. Patil was probably the culprit, miscreants from Mumbai waylaid the truck and ordered its abduction, according to the complaint.

"I was kept in an isolated place for nearly two months and then released," he said in the complaint.

He also claimed that he was asked to keep the money in currency notes of smaller denominations.

Police sources in Belagavi said that they had confirmed reports that the money was meant to be remitted to the district headquarters in Maharashtra.

Press Trust of India
INDORE

Cong. links party worker's death in Indore to contaminated water

INDORE

The Congress on Sunday claimed that a 75-year-old woman passed away on Friday due to an outbreak of diarrhoea caused by contaminated water in Indore's Bhagirathpura area.

Health officials rejected the claim, asserting that the woman had suffered from chronic heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Her death had no connection to the diarrhoea outbreak.

"It is with great sadness

that I have to inform you that my Congress colleague and the party's ward president in Bhagirathpura, Rajaram Borasi, passed away due to contaminated drinking water in Indore," he wrote on X.

Graft and negligence
Mr. Patwari accused the State government of negligence in the supply of drinking water and claimed that 28 people have died in the water-related health crisis in Indore.

Will resolve issues in voter list, says Maharashtra CEO

Press Trust of India
NASHIK

Government employees taking part in a voter awareness rally on National Voters Day in Karad on Sunday. PTI

years, you are a voter. You are not a voter. You have to just inform them about the changes. We have to have to consider it as our target. Till the 2029 election, we have to make sure that there will be no problems, doubts about the poll process. The State Election Commission and the issues would be resolved.

Addressing the State-level voter awareness rally in Nashik, the top poll officer said there are plans to resolve the issue of doubt in the voter list will be resolved in 15 days after their registration is approved. He also said that the Election Officers will get new identification cards soon.

"From now on, we were required to get a voter ID. Now, anyone across the nation can get a Voter ID and in 15 days after approval. Election Commission of India (ECI) has given its approval for the same. And, in a week's time, the technical approval will be received," he added.

According to Mr. Chockalingam, inclusion was the most important issue. "A few days earlier, we said that if any person, we have to see if any person is not included," he said.

"After completing 18

years, Police Force (SRPF), and the police.

Speaking about the voters' roles, he said, "We have to ensure that voters will be registered in the voter list. We have to consider it as our target. Till the 2029 election, we have to make sure that there will be no problems, doubts about the poll process. The State Election Commission and the issues would be resolved.

"From now on, we were required to get a voter ID. Now, anyone across the nation can get a Voter ID and in 15 days after approval. Election Commission of India (ECI) has given its approval for the same. And, in a week's time, the technical approval will be received," he added.

Earlier, he said, the EVMs were provided with a three-tier security system, including the Central Chief Electoral Officer, State Central Sonar said.

After completing 18

Neolithic relics from Lakkundi excavation give a push to UNESCO Heritage Site inclusion bid

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Excavations which began on January 16 on the premises of the Kote Venkateswara temple in the Lakkundi village of Gadag district have yielded Neolithic artifacts, including a stone ax, a stone adze, and a stone mace.

It is said that the queen who lived in the 12th century, known as the "queen of hundred wells and temples" – are part of the legend. The queen is said to have restored the historical significance of Lakkundi.

It is believed that several arched stone wonders still remain covered by houses and other structures situated around the ground of the village.

While Jainism prospered in Lakkundi, it also gave shelter to 12th century scholars like Sri Jayadeva Alagnana and Sharana Muktaganya who propagated Basaveshwara's message.

Several of Lakkundi's architectural wonders no longer exist now and the

with the Budget announcement on creating UNESCO tag for Lakkundi.

The State has tied up with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to fine-tune the proposal.

"So far, two meetings have been held on the subject and they (INTACH) are in the process of finalising the proposal. The commissioner of Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority, Arunima Goperi, told *The Hindu*.

There are seven ASI protected monuments in Lakkundi and the State has declared 16 temple structures in the village as protected structures. The ASI has plans to add eight more to the list by the month-end.

The ASI has been directed to carry out a comprehensive study and survey on the site to include 20 more temples and other structures to the list, which is likely to happen in February.

There is also a proposal to shift the village to a safe distance of the ancient monuments, but any decision on the relocation will be taken only after the outcome of the excavation and other surveys of ancient structures being carried out simultaneously.

Neither 'evil force' nor 'corrupt force' should rule TN: TVK chief

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Veyi

Making clear his party's stand against the ruling DMK as well as the Opposition AIADMK ahead of the Tamil Nadu legislative election, Tamilaga Vettir Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay Vilay said on Sunday that neither the "evil force" nor the "corrupt force" should rule Tamil Nadu.

For the first time that the actor-politician spoke critically of the AIADMK, without mincing words, by referring to it as "the party that ruined Tamil Nadu earlier".

Mr. Vilay said that his party is a powerful force capable of winning in this election. "TVK is the only party that has allies or not. His party's strength lies in the fronts headed by the DMK and the AIADMK are working to strengthen their fronts.

Recalling contribution

He witnessed a photo exhibition put together by the Chennai Memorial Development Authority. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin and Ministers M. Udayanandha, Aravind Ramasamy, A.M.V. Prabhakara Raja and others paid floral tributes to the memorial of late activist S. Dharmambal. He took part in the Language Martyrs Day function on Sunday.

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Neolithic relics from Lakkundi excavation give a push to UNESCO Heritage Site inclusion bid

Girish Pattanashetti

HUBBALLI

Excavations which began on January 16 on the premises of the Kote Veerabhadreshwar temple in Lakkundi village of Gadag district have yielded relics dating back to the Neolithic period, giving a fillip to the push for its nomination for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.

The yield of Neolithic relics came close on the heels of a “treasure” being found by a family in the village while digging to lay the foundation for a house.

Hundred wells

The excavation here – about 12 kilometres from district headquarters Gadag and once known as ‘village of hundred wells and temples’ – are part of sustained efforts to restore the historical significance of Lakkundi.

It is believed that several architectural wonders still remain covered by houses and other structures or buried beneath the ground in the village.

Earlier known as Lokkundi, the village finds mention in inscriptions dating back to the 11th and 12th centuries, comparing it to Amaravati, the capital



Well from time: A stepwell in Lakkundi village in Gadag district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of Indra in terms of affluence.

Lakkundi was the “Karmabhoomi” of queen Attimabbe, an ardent follower of Jainism known for her philanthropic works.

It is said that the queen who lived in the 11th century, built many temples and Jain basadis and also sank wells for the benefit of people.

While Jainism prospered in Lakkundi, it also gave shelter to 12th century sharanas like Shivasharana Ajaganna and Sharane Muktayakka who propagated Basaveshwara’s message.

Several of Lakkundi’s architectural wonders no longer exist now and the

Mumbai State Gazetteer mentions only 13 temples having architectural style of Kalyana Chalukyas.

Pending project

Uncovering the buried temple structures and wells has been a long pending project, and under the initiative of H.K. Patil, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs and also Tourism, it has been revived.

As a prelude to the excavation, the Karnataka State Tourism Department Corporation (KSTDC) along with the Archaeology Museums and Heritage Department had launched an initiative in November, 2024, to collect historical

relics from the households in the village. Under this, 1,050 historical relics were received from the residents and 13 inscriptions identified.

Several of them now find a place in the open museum at Lakkundi for the establishment of which, the residents have joined hands with Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority by parting with their lands.

The Tourism Department is also giving a push to the proposal to include a group of monuments at Lakkundi along with temples from surrounding places in the UNESCO’s tentative list of World Heritage Sites. This is in line

with the Budget announcement on getting UNESCO tag for Lakkundi.

The State has tied up with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to fine-tune the proposal.

“So far, two meetings have been held in this regard and they (INTACH) are in the process of finalising the proposal,” Commissioner of Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority Shararu Gogeri told *The Hindu*.

There are seven ASI protected monuments in Lakkundi and the State has declared 16 temple structures in the village as protected monuments and plans to add eight more to the list by the month-end.

The authority has been directed to carry out a comprehensive study and submit a report on including 20 more temples and other structures to the list, which is likely to happen in February.

There is also a proposal to shift the village to facilitate restoration of the ancient monuments, but any decision on the relocation will be based on the outcome of the excavation and other surveys of ancient structures being carried out simultaneously.

Age / काल	Time Period (Approx.) / कालावधि	Key Features / प्रमुख विशेषताएँ	Tools & Technology / औज़ार	Lifestyle & Economy / जीवन-यापन	Important Sites (India) / प्रमुख स्थल
Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) / पुरापाषाण काल	2.6 million BP – 10,000 BCE	Earliest humans, hunter-gatherers, nomadic life / प्रारंभिक मानव, शिकारी-संग्रहकर्ता, घुमंतू जीवन	Rough stone tools (hand-axe, cleaver, chopper) / खरदरे पत्थर के औज़ार	Hunting, food gathering, use of fire (later phase) / शिकार व संग्रह, अग्नि का सीमित उपयोग	Bhimbetka, Soan Valley, Hunsgi
Lower Paleolithic / निम्न पुरापाषाण	2.6 million – 300,000 BP	Homo erectus, Acheulean culture / होमो इरेक्टस	Hand-axe, cleaver / हैंड-ऐक्स	Pure hunting & gathering / केवल शिकार-संग्रह	Attirampakkam
Middle Paleolithic / मध्य पुरापाषाण	300,000 – 40,000 BP	Flake tools, better tool making / फ्लेक तकनीक	Scrapers, borers / खुरचने वाले औज़ार	Improved hunting / उन्नत शिकार	Narmada Valley
Upper Paleolithic / उच्च पुरापाषाण	40,000 – 10,000 BCE	Cave art begins, Homo sapiens / गुफा चित्रकला	Blades, burins / ब्लेड औज़ार	Hunting + symbolic art / कला की शुरुआत	Bhimbetka

Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) / मध्यपाषाण काल	10,000 – 6,000 BCE	Transition phase, microliths / संक्रमण काल, सूक्ष्म औज़ार	Microliths (small sharp tools) / माइक्रोलिथ	Hunting, fishing, early domestication / शिकार-मछली, पालतूकरण की शुरुआत	Bagor, Adamgarh
Neolithic (New Stone Age) / नवपाषाण काल	6,000 – 1,000 BCE	Agriculture begins, settled life / कृषि की शुरुआत, स्थायी बसावट	Polished stone tools, sickles / घिसे औज़ार	Farming, animal domestication, pottery / खेती, पशुपालन	Mehrgarh, Burzahom
Chalcolithic (Copper-Stone Age) / ताम्रपाषाण काल	3,000 – 700 BCE	Use of copper + stone tools / तांबा + पत्थर	Copper tools, pottery (painted) / तांबे के औज़ार	Agriculture + trade / खेती व व्यापार	Ahar, Kayatha
Bronze Age / कांस्य युग	3,300 – 1,300 BCE	Bronze (Copper + Tin), urbanisation / कांस्य धातु, नगर सभ्यता	Bronze tools & weapons / कांस्य औज़ार	Cities, trade, writing / नगर, व्यापार, लिपि	Harappa, Mohenjo-daro
Iron Age / लौह युग	1,200 BCE onwards	Iron tools, stronger weapons / लौह के औज़ार	Iron plough, weapons / लौह हल	Expansion of agriculture & states / कृषि विस्तार, राज्य निर्माण	PGW sites

- Excavation at **Kote Veerabhadreshwar temple** परिसर, Lakkundi (Gadag district) started on January 16 and yielded **Neolithic-period relics**. / कोटे वीरभद्रेश्वर मंदिर परिसर, लक्कुंडी (गदग ज़िला) में 16 जनवरी से शुरू खुदाई में नवपाषाण (Neolithic) काल के अवशेष मिले।
- These finds give a boost to Lakkundi's **UNESCO World Heritage Site inclusion bid**. / ये खोज लक्कुंडी के यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल बनने की कोशिश को मजबूती देती है।

Why the discovery drew attention / खोज क्यों चर्चा में

- The Neolithic relics discovery came soon after news of a "treasure" being found by a local family while digging a house foundation. / नवपाषाण अवशेष मिलने की खबर, घर की नींव खोदते समय एक परिवार को "खजाना" मिलने की घटना के तुरंत बाद आई।

About Lakkundi / लक्कुंडी के बारे में

- Lakkundi is about **12 km from Gadag district headquarters** and was once known as the "**village of hundred wells and temples**." / लक्कुंडी गदग ज़िला मुख्यालय से ~12 किमी दूर है और इसे कभी "सौ कुओं और मंदिरों का गांव" कहा जाता था।
- Many architectural wonders are believed to be **still buried/covered under houses and other structures**. / माना जाता है कि कई स्थापत्य धरोहरें अब भी घरों/निर्माणों के नीचे दबी/ढकी हुई हैं।
- Earlier known as **Lokki-gundi**, it is mentioned in inscriptions of **11th–12th centuries**, comparing it to **Amaravati (Indra's capital) for affluence**. / पहले लोक्की-गुंडी नाम से जाना जाता था; 11वीं–12वीं सदी के शिलालेखों में उल्लेख मिलता है और समृद्धि की दृष्टि से इसे अमरावती (इंद्र की राजधानी) से तुलना की गई।

- Cultural-religious links / सांस्कृतिक-धार्मिक कड़ियाँ

- Lakkundi was described as the “**Karmabhoomi**” of Queen Attimabbe, a Jainism follower known for philanthropy; she (11th century) built temples, **Jain basadis**, and **sank wells** for public benefit. / लक्खुंडी को परोपकारी जैन अनुयायी रानी अत्तिमब्बे की “कर्मभूमि” बताया गया; (11वीं सदी) उन्होंने मंदिर, जैन बसदियाँ बनवाई और जनहित में कुएँ खुदवाए।
- It also sheltered 12th-century **Sharanas** like **Shivasharana Ajaganna** and **Sharane Muktayakka**, linked with Basaveshwara's message. / यहाँ 12वीं सदी के शरण जैसे शिवशरण अजयगन्ना और शरण मुक्तायक्का को भी आश्रय मिला (बसवेश्वर संदेश से जुड़ा संदर्भ)।
- Note: Only **13 temples** are mentioned in the Mumbai State Gazetteer as having **Kalyana Chalukya** architectural style (as per the report in the article). / मुंबई स्टेट गजेटियर में कल्याण चालुक्य स्थापत्य शैली वाले केवल **13 मंदिरों** का उल्लेख बताया गया।

- Project revival & community effort / परियोजना पुनर्जीवन व जनभागीदारी

- Uncovering buried temples and wells was long pending; it was revived under **H.K. Patil (Law & Parliamentary Affairs + Tourism Minister)**. / दबी संरचनाओं (मंदिर/कुएँ) को उजागर करने का काम लंबे समय से लंबित था; एच.के. पाटिल के तहत इसे फिर सक्रिय किया गया।
- **KSTDC + Archaeology Museums & Heritage Department** launched an initiative in **Nov 2024** to collect relics from households. / **KSTDC + पुरातत्व संग्रहालय एवं विरासत विभाग** ने नवंबर 2024 में घर-घर से ऐतिहासिक वस्तुएँ जुटाने की पहल शुरू की।

- 1,050 historical relics were collected and 13 inscriptions identified; several are placed in an **open museum** at Lakkundi, enabled by residents sharing land with the Heritage Area Development Authority. / 1,050 ऐतिहासिक अवशेष मिले और 13 शिलालेख चिन्हित हुए; कई अवशेष ओपन म्यूज़ियम में रखे गए—इसके लिए स्थानीय लोगों ने विरासत प्राधिकरण को भूमि देकर सहयोग किया।
- **UNESCO push & protection status / यूनेस्को प्रयास व संरक्षण स्थिति**
 - Tourism Department is pushing to include a **group of monuments at Lakkundi + nearby temples** in UNESCO's **tentative list**; aligned with a budget announcement for a UNESCO tag. / पर्यटन विभाग लक्कुंडी के स्मारक समूह + आसपास के मंदिरों को यूनेस्को की टेंटेटिव सूची में शामिल कराने को आगे बढ़ा रहा है; यह बजट घोषणा के अनुरूप बताया गया।
 - State tied up with **INTACH** to fine-tune the proposal; **two meetings** held and proposal is being finalised (as per Heritage Area Development Authority Commissioner **Sharanu Goger**). / राज्य ने प्रस्ताव सुधार हेतु INTACH से समन्वय किया; दो बैठकें हुईं और प्रस्ताव अंतिम रूप में है (आयुक्त शरणु गोगेरी के अनुसार)।
 - In Lakkundi: **7 ASI-protected monuments**; State declared **16 temple structures** as protected and plans to add **8 more** by month-end; a study is to include **20 more** temples/structures (likely by Feb). / लक्कुंडी में 7 ASI संरक्षित स्मारक; राज्य ने 16 मंदिर संरचनाएँ संरक्षित घोषित कीं और महीने के अंत तक 8 और जोड़ने की योजना; 20 और मंदिर/संरचनाएँ जोड़ने हेतु अध्ययन/रिपोर्ट (संभावित फरवरी)।
 - There is also a proposal to **shift the village** to facilitate restoration, but relocation depends on excavation outcomes and parallel surveys. / संरक्षण हेतु गांव स्थानांतरण का प्रस्ताव भी है, पर निर्णय खुदाई परिणाम व समानांतर सर्वे पर निर्भर होगा।



Topic / शब्द

Lakkundi location / लक्कुंडी स्थान

Neolithic / नवपाषाण

Tentative List / टैटेटिव सूची

ASI protection / ASI संरक्षण

INTACH / इंटैक

Kalyana Chalukya / कल्याण चालुक्य

Local heritage authority / विरासत प्राधिकरण

Numbers to remember / याद रखने योग्य

Key facts (English + Hindi together)

Village in **Gadag district, Karnataka**; noted for stepwells/temples / गदग, कर्नाटक; कुएँ/मंदिर व स्टेपवेल्स

Transition to settled life; tools, pottery, early agriculture in many regions / स्थायी बसावट, औज़ार, मृद्भांड, प्रारंभिक कृषि

First step before WHS nomination; countries propose sites to UNESCO / WHS से पहले की सूची; देश साइट प्रस्तावित करता

ASI protects monuments of national importance (India) / राष्ट्रीय महत्व के स्मारकों का संरक्षण

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage; works on conservation/advisory / संरक्षण में सहयोगी संस्था

Western Chalukya architectural phase; temple architecture in Karnataka region / कर्नाटक क्षेत्र का चालुक्य स्थापत्य

Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority coordinating protection & proposal / संरक्षण व प्रस्ताव समन्वय

1,050 relics, 13 inscriptions, 7 ASI, 16 protected temples, +8 planned, +20 study / उपरोक्त संख्याएँ

Exam angle / परीक्षा उपयोग

Map-based + heritage sites

Prehistory, archaeology

UNESCO process

Culture + governance

Institutions in culture

Art & culture (South India)

Heritage governance

Direct MCQ facts

Exam (Year)	Question (English + Hindi together)	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims (2020)	UNESCO World Heritage Sites are inscribed on the basis of what core idea? / यनेस्को WHS किस मूल आधार पर सूचीबद्ध होते हैं?	Outstanding Universal Value + criteria-based evaluation / OUV + मानदंड आधारित मूल्यांकन
UPSC CSE Prelims (2019)	“Tentative List” is used in which context? / “टेंटेटिव सूची” किस संदर्भ में?	UNESCO WHS nomination process / WHS नामांकन प्रक्रिया
UPSC CSE Prelims (2018)	ASI is under which Ministry? / ASI किस मंत्रालय के अधीन है?	Ministry of Culture / संस्कृति मंत्रालय
SSC CGL (2021)	Neolithic Age is associated with which key development? / नवपाषाण काल किस प्रमुख विकास से जुड़ा है?	Beginning of agriculture & settled life / कृषि व स्थायी जीवन
Railway NTPC (2020)	Stepwell is best described as what? / बावड़ी/स्टेपवेल क्या है?	Water-harvesting architecture with stepped access / सीढ़ीनुमा जल-संचयन संरचना
CDS (2022)	Jain “Basadi” refers to what? / जैन “बसदी” क्या है?	Jain temple/shrine (common in Karnataka) / जैन मंदिर/श्राइन
State PSC Prelims (2021)	Which body protects monuments of national importance in India? / भारत में राष्ट्रीय महत्व के स्मारक कौन संरक्षित करता है?	ASI / ASI

- . Consider the following statements / निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
 - Excavations at Kote Veerabhadreshwar temple premises in Lakkundi began on January 16 and yielded Neolithic relics. / लक्कुंडी के कोटे वीरभद्रेश्वर मंदिर परिसर में 16 जनवरी से खुदाई शुरू हुई और नवपाषाण अवशेष मिले।
 - Under the household-collection initiative, 1,050 historical relics were received and 13 inscriptions were identified. / घर-घर संग्रह पहल में 1,050 ऐतिहासिक अवशेष मिले और 13 शिलालेख चिन्हित हुए।
 - Lakkundi has 17 ASI-protected monuments; the State has protected 16 temple structures and planned to add 8 more, with a study to include 20 more structures. / लक्कुंडी में 7 ASI सुरक्षित स्मारक हैं; राज्य ने 16 मंदिर संरचनाएं सुरक्षित की, 8 और जोड़ने की योजना है तथा 20 और संरचनाओं हेतु अध्ययन प्रस्तावित है।
- Which of the above are correct? / उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से सही हैं?
 - A) 1 and 2 only / केवल 1 और 2
 - B) 2 and 3 only / केवल 2 और 3
 - C) 1 and 3 only / केवल 1 और 3
 - D) 1, 2 and 3 / 1, 2 और 3

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Candidates who have filed nominations for local body elections

20,718 As many as 20,718 candidates have filed nominations for the upcoming Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections. The elections in 12 Zilla Parishads and 122 Panchayat Samitis in the State will be held on February 5. PTI

Number of people dead in a fire in Karachi, Pakistan

72 The death toll in the fire at a shopping plaza in Karachi's Kariachi district rose to 72 with dozen people still reported missing a week after the tragic incident. The fire broke out in the basement of the Shopping Plaza and quickly spread to the rest of the building on January 17. PTI

Share of voters mapped with 2003 SIR list in Jharkhand

72 In per cent, Jharkhand Chief Election Officer Ravi Kumar said that out of voters mapped so far with the 2003 electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Review (SIR) exercise, Mr. Kumar urged electors to participate in building a comprehensive and error-free voter list. PTI

Protesters arrested on suspicion of aggravated trespass

86 Eighty-six people were arrested on suspicion of aggravated trespass after protesters breached the grounds of a London prison in support of a pro-independence group. The group were protesting in support of a Palestine Action prisoner on a hunger strike. AP

Drug offenders arrested in Delhi Police's crackdown

59 Ahead of Republic Day celebrated on January 26, the Delhi Police carried out a coordinated crackdown on narcotics smuggling, organised crime and other offences, conducting raids at 10 locations across the city and arresting 59 drug offenders. PTI

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The issues surrounding Governors' address

What do Articles 175 and 176 of the Constitution mandate? How are Governors acting against established constitutional practices when it comes to the yearly address to State legislatures, especially in Opposition-ruled States? What were the recommendations of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions?

EXPLAINER

Ranganjan, R

The story so far:

There have been a series of issues in Opposition-ruled States with respect to the address by the Governor to the State legislature at the commencement of the first session of the year. This has raised constitutional and political questions about the Governor's role in State legislature.

What is the history? Section 62 of the Government of India Act (1935) provided that the Governor may in his discretion address the provincial legislature. From April 1937, when provincial autonomy started under the Act, the annual address was prepared in consultation with the council of ministers in provinces that laid down the legislative procedure.

Similarly, in the Constituent Assembly, while adopting the Article dealing with Governor's address, it was understood that it would reflect the policy of the elected council of ministers and not the Governor's personal views.

What are Constitutional provisions? Article 175 of the Constitution specifies that the Governor may address the house(s) of the State legislature. This is not a mandatory address and may be made at any time during the session. Article 176, on the other hand, provides that the Governor shall address the house(s) of the State legislature on the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the opening of the first session of each year. This is a mandatory address to be prepared by the council of ministers and issued by the Governor outlining the government's achievements in the previous year and its roadmap for policies in the ensuing year. This address is also provided whenever a



No more protocols: Karnataka Governor Thaivendhan Gehlot at the joint session of the State legislature, at the Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru, on January 22. FILE PHOTO

council of ministers.

What are the current issues?

The current issues arise because governors in Opposition-ruled States act against established constitutional practices. In Tamil Nadu, the Governor has skipped some portions of the address prepared by the council of ministers in 2022 and 2023. Subsequently, since 2024, the Governor has failed to address the assembly. In Kerala, the Governor skipped a few portions of the policy address prepared by the council of ministers. In Karnataka, the Governor did not read the address prepared by the council of ministers but instead delivered his own two-line address before leaving the joint session of the legislature.

It is pertinent to note that the Governor takes the oath of office under

Article 159 that requires them to "uphold the Constitution and defend the Constitution and the law". Such actions go against constitutional principles and the law as settled by the highest court of the country. It is a source of friction between elected governments and nominated governors since the 1960s with respect to the formal yearly address to the State legislature.

However, current instances are more frequent with Governors altogether skipping the address.

What can be the way forward? Currently, the Governor is a representative of the State executive just like the President does for the Union executive. Further, the Governor is a representative of the Centre which may be required for maintaining the unity and integrity of the nation in critical times. Nevertheless, for a legislature to be a basic structure, our Constitution and the Governor's office should not undermine the powers of parliament. The underlying issue for the underlying issue for conflicts has been the politicisation of the Governor's post. Most colonies have had a post for abolition of the post in the past. But considering our quasi-federal constitution, demands for abolition are likely to remain only on paper. The reform that can be implemented is the recommendation of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commission. As per these recommendations, the Constitution may be amended to provide for the appointment of the Governor by the President. It will be consulted before the appointment of Governors. While this may not be a panacea, it can reduce conflicts between governors and elected governments, it could be a good starting point to minimise discord on the constitutional issue and avoid confrontation on customary practices like the annual address.

Pragrajit Singh, a former IAS officer and author of 'Courts and Policy Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers' IAS academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

Article 176 provides that the Governor shall address the house(s) of the legislature at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the commencement of each session of each year.

The current issues arise because Governors in Opposition-ruled States act against established constitutional practices.

The underlying issue for conflicts has been the politicisation of the Governor's post.

Article 176 provides that the Governor shall address the house(s) of the legislature at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the commencement of each session of each year.

The current issues arise because Governors in Opposition-ruled States act against established constitutional practices.

The underlying issue for conflicts has been the politicisation of the Governor's post.

When can courts interfere in an ongoing investigation?

Should the phrase 'coercive measures' be defined more concretely?

R.K. Vij

The story so far: The Supreme Court recently in *State of U.P. & Anr versus Mohd Arshad Khan & Anr* (December 2025) set aside a judgment of the Allahabad High Court and held that "directing a time-bound investigation must remain the exception rather than the rule". The Court held that Courts should intervene only "where delay itself begins to cause prejudice". The court also held that the only justification for granting protection from arrest (or coercive action) without freezing the relevant investigation was for quashing the First Information Report (FIR). Earlier in November 2025, the Delhi High Court in *State of Bihar & Ors versus State of Bihar & Ors* held that the phrase 'coercive measures' did not apply to freezing of bank accounts by the police during investigation. It said that the intent of the

phrase "coercive measures" was not to restrain further investigation by the police, but was used in the context of the petitioner's personal liberty.

When can courts interfere?

The Supreme Court in *Infrastructure Corp. of India Ltd. versus State of Maharashtra* (2024) discussed the scope of the High Court's power to issue interim orders or pass interim orders staying an investigation. The Supreme Court said that the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to investigate into a criminal offence should not thwart any investigation into such offences. It is only in cases where no coercive action, or offence, any kind, is disclosed to the FIR that the Court can stop an investigation. Thus, the power of quashing should be exercised sparingly with circumspection. Courts are

barred from usurping the jurisdiction of the police, since the two organs of the state operate in two specific spheres of activity and must not interfere in the other, save in exceptional cases where non-interference would result in a miscarriage of justice.

What about using the phrase 'coercive measure'? The Supreme Court in *Neherika Infrastructure Corp. versus State of Maharashtra* (2023) observed that the High Court had passed interim orders to stay investigations. The court held that "coercive steps [should] be taken against the accused" without assigning any reasons. The court held that the High Court is not justified in passing such orders either during the investigation or if the investigation is completed. It also dismissed the quashing of the FIR under Section 482 CrPC (Section 528 BNS) and Article 226 of the Constitution. Whenever an interim order is passed

THE GIST

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in *Meehorikar Infrastructure Corp. versus State of Maharashtra* (2023) discussed the scope of the High Court's power to stay an investigation or pass interim orders staying an investigation.

Whenever an interim order is passed by the High Court of "no coercive steps to be adopted", the High Court must state what it means by that phrase.

However, the Delhi High Court said that the expressions "coercive measure" and "coercive steps" derive their meaning, import and scope from the context and the nature of the proceedings.

The issues surrounding Governors' address

What do Articles 175 and 176 of the Constitution mandate? How are Governors acting against established constitutional practices when it comes to the yearly address to State legislatures, especially in Opposition-ruled States? What were the recommendations of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commission?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan, R

The story so far:

There have been a series of issues in Opposition-ruled States with respect to the address by the Governor to the State legislature at the commencement of the first session of the year. This has raised constitutional and political questions about the Governor's role in State legislature.

What is the history?

Section 63 of the Government of India Act, 1935 (GOI Act) provided that the Governor may in his discretion address the provincial legislature. From April 1937, when provincial autonomy started under the GOI act, the Governor's speech was prepared in consultation with the council of ministers in provinces that laid down the legislative agenda.

Similarly, in the Constituent Assembly, while adopting the Article dealing with Governors' address to State legislature, it was understood that it would reflect the policy of the elected council of ministers and not the Governor's personal views.

What are Constitutional provisions? Article 175 of the Constitution specifies that the Governor may address the house(s) of the State legislature. This is not a mandatory address and may be rarely used by a ruling government. Article 176, on the other hand, provides that the Governor shall address the house(s) of the State legislature at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year. This is a mandatory address to be prepared by the council of ministers, and delivered by the Governor, outlining the government's achievements in the previous year and its roadmap for policies in the ensuing year. This address is also provided whenever a



No more protocol: Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at the joint session of the State legislature, at the Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru, on January 22. FILE PHOTO

new assembly is constituted to enable a newly sworn-in council of ministers to outline their policies to the elected representatives and through them to the citizens at large. Article 176 further directs that the rules of procedure of the house(s) shall have provisions for allotment of time for discussion of matters referred in such address. This is the 'Motion of thanks on Governor's address' where the ruling and opposition legislators debate on policy matters announced in the address before voting on the same.

The Supreme Court in *Shamsher Singh versus State of Punjab* (1974) had held that the Governor is only a constitutional head who acts on the advice of the council of ministers. In *Nabam Rebia versus Deputy Speaker* (2016), the Supreme Court reiterated that the address under Article 175 or 176 is to be performed by the Governor on the aid and advice of the

council of ministers.

What are the current issues?

The current issues arise because Governors in Opposition-ruled States act against established constitutional practices. In Tamil Nadu, the Governor had skipped some portions of the address prepared by the council of ministers in 2022 and 2023. Subsequently, since 2024, the Governor has failed to address the assembly as required under Article 176. In Kerala, the Governor skipped a few portions of the policy address prepared by the State's cabinet. In Karnataka, the Governor did not read out the address prepared by the council of ministers but instead delivered his own two-line address before leaving the joint session of the legislature.

It is pertinent to note that the Governors take the oath of office under

Article 159 that requires them to 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law.' Such actions go against constitutional principles and the law as settled by the highest court of the country. There have been instances of friction between elected governments and nominated governors since the 1960s with respect to the formal yearly address to the State legislature.

However, current instances are more frequent with Governors altogether skipping the address.

What can be the way forward?

Governors act as the nominal head of the State executive just like the President does for the Union executive. Further, the Governor acts as an appointee of the Centre which may be required for maintaining the unity and integrity of the nation in critical times. Nevertheless, federalism is also a basic feature of our Constitution and the Governor's office should not undermine the powers of popularly elected governments. The underlying issue for conflicts has been the politicisation of the Governor's post. Many political leaders have called for abolition of the post in the past. But considering our quasi-federal constitutional scheme, such demands for abolition are likely to remain only on paper. The reform that can be implemented is the recommendation of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commission. As per these recommendations, the Constitution may be amended to provide that the Chief Ministers of States shall be consulted before the appointment of Governors. While this may not be a panacea for all issues between Governors and elected governments, it could be a good starting point to minimise discord on important legislative issues and avoid confrontation on customary practices like the annual address.

Rangarajan, R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified.' He currently trains at Officers IAS academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

Article 176 provides that the Governor shall address the house(s) of the State legislature at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year.

The current issues arise because Governors in Opposition-ruled States act against established constitutional practices.

The underlying issue for conflicts has been the politicisation of the Governor's post.

- **Background / पृष्ठभूमि**
 - Opposition-ruled States में Governors के **yearly address / वार्षिक अभिभाषण** को लेकर लगातार विवाद हुए हैं, जिससे Governor की भूमिका पर संविधानिक + राजनीतिक प्रश्न उठे। / There has been a series of issues in Opposition-ruled States regarding Governors' address to State legislatures, raising constitutional and political questions.
- **History / इतिहास**
 - **GOI Act, 1935 (Section 63):** Governor अपने विवेक से provincial legislature को संबोधित कर सकता था; 1937 (provincial autonomy) के बाद भाषण **Council of Ministers** से परामर्श कर तैयार होता था। / Under Section 63 of the Government of India Act, 1935, Governor could address the legislature; after 1937, the speech was prepared in consultation with the council of ministers.
 - संविधान में Governors' address को अपनाते समय यह समझ थी कि अभिभाषण **elected Council of Ministers** की **policy** को दर्शाएगा, Governor की personal view नहीं। / The address was understood to reflect the policy of the elected council of ministers, not the Governor's personal views.

- Constitutional provisions / संवैधानिक प्रावधान

- Article 175: Governor may address the House(s); **mandatory** नहीं। / Governor "may" address; not mandatory.
- Article 176: Governor **shall address** House(s) at
 1. general election के बाद first session की शुरुआत में, और
 2. हर वर्ष first session की शुरुआत में। / Mandatory annual + post-election address.
- Article 176 वाला address **Council of Ministers** द्वारा तैयार होता है; इसमें पिछली उपलब्धियाँ + आगे की नीतियाँ/ कार्यक्रम होते हैं। / Prepared by the council of ministers; outlines achievements and policy roadmap.
- Rules of procedure में address पर चर्चा हेतु समय और "Motion of Thanks / धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव" की व्यवस्था होती है—ruling+opposition debate के बाद vote। / Discussion time and "Motion of Thanks" mechanism exists.

- Supreme Court position / सुप्रीम कोर्ट का दृष्टिकोण
 - **Shamsher Singh v State of Punjab (1974)**: Governor केवल **constitutional head** है; सामान्यतः **aid & advice of ministers** पर कार्य करता है। / Governor acts as a constitutional head on ministers' aid and advice.
 - **Nabam Rebia v Deputy Speaker (2016)**: Articles 175/176 के तहत Governor का कार्य **aid & advice** के अनुसार होना चाहिए—यह सिद्धांत दोहराया। / Reiterated that Governor's functions under these Articles are to be performed on aid and advice.

- **Current issues / वर्तमान विवाद**

- विवाद इसलिए बढ़े क्योंकि कुछ Governors **established constitutional practices** के खिलाफ व्यवहार कर रहे हैं (विशेषकर Opposition-ruled States में)। / Issues arise as Governors in Opposition-ruled States are acting against established practices.
- उदाहरण (article में):
 - **Tamil Nadu**: 2022–23 में CoM द्वारा तैयार address के कुछ हिस्से skip; 2024 से Article 176 के अनुसार session के commencement पर address न करना। / Skipped portions in 2022–23; later failed to address as required under Article 176 since 2024.
 - **Kerala**: cabinet-prepared policy address के कुछ हिस्से skip। / Skipped portions of the cabinet-prepared address.
 - **Karnataka**: CoM का address read नहीं किया; joint session में अपना **two-line address** देकर निकल गए। / Did not read CoM's address; delivered a two-line address and left.

- **Constitutional concern / संवैधानिक चिंता**

- Governors का oath (Article 159) उन्हें "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law" के लिए बाध्य करता है; address skipping जैसी कार्रवाइयाँ **SC-settled principles** के विरुद्ध मानी जा रही हैं। / Article 159 oath and SC-settled principles make such actions constitutionally questionable.
- 1960s से elected govt बनाम nominated Governors friction रहा है, पर अब annual address को लेकर घटनाएँ ज्यादा frequent बताई गईं। / Friction exists since the 1960s, but current instances are more frequent.

- **Way forward / आगे का रास्ता**

- Governor nominal head है; Centre का appointee होने के बावजूद उसे **popularly elected govt** की powers undermine नहीं करनी चाहिए। / Should not undermine elected governments.
- Root cause: Governor's post की **politicisation**। / Underlying issue is politicisation of the Governor's post.
- Reform path: **Sarkaria & Punchhi Commission** recommendations—विशेषकर Governor appointment से पहले **Chief Minister consultation** को मजबूत करना/constitutional basis देना। / Implement recommendations; provide for CM consultation before appointment to reduce discord (not a complete panacea).

Topic / शब्द

Article 175 vs 176

Governor's address nature

Motion of Thanks

Aid & advice principle

Article 159 oath

Sarkaria & Punchhi

Key facts (English + Hindi together)

Art 175 “may address” (discretionary); Art 176 “shall address” (mandatory at first session each year + post-election) / 175 वैकल्पिक, 176 अनिवार्य

Cabinet-prepared policy statement; Governor reads, not personal views / मंत्रिपरिषद की नीति, Governor की निजी राय नहीं

Legislature debates address via “Motion of Thanks”; amendment/vote possible / धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव पर बहस व मतदान

Governor generally bound by CoM (Art 163 principle; reinforced by SC cases) / सामान्यतः मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह बाध्यकारी

Preserve, protect & defend Constitution and law / संविधान व कानून की रक्षा का शपथ

Centre-State relations; Governor appointment/process reforms / केंद्र-राज्य संबंध; राज्यपाल की नियुक्ति सुधार

Exam angle / परीक्षा उपयोग

Direct article-based MCQ

Convention + responsibility

Procedure-based questions

Polity core concept

Ethics + polity linkage

Commission-based PYQ theme

- Consider the following statements / निम्न कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
 - Article 175 makes it mandatory for the Governor to address the State Legislature every year. / अनुच्छेद 175 के तहत राज्यपाल का हर वर्ष अभिभाषण देना अनिवार्य है।
 - Article 176 provides that the Governor shall address the House(s) at the commencement of the first session of each year and after a general election. / अनुच्छेद 176 के तहत राज्यपाल प्रत्येक वर्ष के प्रथम सत्र तथा आम चुनाव के बाद प्रथम सत्र की शुरुआत में अभिभाषण देता है।
 - As per Supreme Court's consistent position, the Governor generally acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in such constitutional functions. / संप्रीति कोर्ट के अनुसार ऐसे संवैधानिक कार्यों में राज्यपाल सामान्यतः मंत्रिपरिषद की सहायता व सलाह पर कायें करता है।
- Which of the above are correct? / कौन-से सही हैं?
 - A) 1 and 2 only / केवल 1 और 2
 - B) 2 and 3 only / केवल 2 और 3
 - C) 1 and 3 only / केवल 1 और 3
 - D) 1, 2 and 3 / 1, 2 और 3

THE HINDU e-Paper

Edition: International Main Edition Jan 27, 2026

The Hindu ePaper - Important Alert

Dear Reader,

Kindly be informed that the following editions of The Hindu are not available today, January 27, 2026 (Tuesday), on account of yesterday's national holiday.

Unavailable Editions - Cuttack, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mumbai, North India, Patna, Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata

Best regards,
ePaper Team
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Vol. 4 • No. 22

FAILED ATTEMPT
NSS decides against SNDP ties in Kerala
SOUTH » PAGE 3

REGULATIONS

Three police officers get death penalty in Dhaka
WORLD » PAGE 14

replacing MGNREGA
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

HIL CHAMPION
Kalinga Lancers pip Royals, clinch title
SPORT » PAGE 16

Fighting formation

India, EU close in on FTA as negotiations conclude

Both sides set to announce conclusion of talks as PM Modi and EU leaders, including chief von der Leyen, hold summit today; deal approved by both sides, final text to be ready after 'legal scrubbing'

Suhasini Haider
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

trapati Bhawan by President Droupadi Murmu.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (left) and European Council President Antonio Costa during the 77th Republic Day Parade, in New Delhi. Talks for a proposed FTA with the EU have ended successfully, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday. The deal is likely to be announced today ■ REPORTS ON PAGE 2 & 8

PTI

GRAND BARGAIN

3.8%

Average EU tariffs for Indian goods, higher (~10%) for textiles

~8%

Weighted average Indian tariffs; higher duties (up to 110%) on auto, auto parts (35.5%), plastics (10.4%), and pharma (10%)

India-EU trade

In goods (\$ bn, FY25)

76

61

Exports from India

Imports

In services (\$ bn, 2024)

43

34

Exports

Imports

■ Zero tariff for key Indian exports like garments, pharma, leather, petro products; lower duties on scores of other items

■ Leg-up to assorted Indian services, especially IT, movement of professionals may ease

■ India to cut auto tariffs to 40% for 200K cars above €15,000; EU eyes India's vast govt-procurement market

■ Dairy sector out of the pact, among food products; EU wines and India's marine products included

AREAS OF CONCERN

■ EU non-tariff barriers, services restrictions may stay

■ Carbon tax, other environmental rules, quality norms to prevail over FTA

■ India's 9th bilateral trade deal in 4 years; negotiations began 18 years ago; 'Mother of All Deals' with largest trading partner bucks the trend of rising protectionism

Dark Matter Mapping by James
Webb Space Telescope



Aspect	Key Exam-Relevant Content
News Context	Scientists have created the sharpest and most detailed dark matter map so far using observations from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) .
Why in News	The map offers unprecedented insight into invisible cosmic structures that govern galaxy formation and large-scale structure of the universe.
What is Dark Matter	A non-luminous, non-baryonic matter that does not emit, absorb, or reflect light but exerts gravitational influence .
Share in Universe	Ordinary (baryonic) matter $\approx 15\%$; Dark Matter $\approx 85\%$ of total matter in the universe.
Detection Method	Indirect detection through gravitational effects (cannot be directly observed).
Technique Used	Weak Gravitational Lensing – distortion of light from distant galaxies by massive foreground structures.

Why Weak Lensing Important

Allows **mapping of total mass distribution**, including invisible dark matter.

What JWST Adds

Higher **infrared sensitivity + resolution** → sharper mapping of faint and distant galaxies.

Cosmic Epoch Studied

A **critical phase of cosmic history** when galaxies were forming and evolving rapidly.

Scientific Significance

Helps test **Λ CDM (Lambda Cold Dark Matter) model** and understand structure formation.

Practical Outcome

Reveals how **dark matter scaffolding** guides galaxy clustering and evolution.

Topic

Dark Matter Candidates

Not Dark Matter

Cold Dark Matter

JWST Orbit

JWST Spectral Range

India Link

Important Facts

WIMPs, Axions, Sterile Neutrinos

Black holes, planets, stars (these are baryonic)

Moves slowly compared to speed of light (favours structure formation)

L2 (Lagrange Point-2), ~1.5 million km from Earth

Infrared (0.6–28 micrometers)

India participates in global dark matter research via **IUCAA & TIFR**

UPI Launch in Japan



Aspect	Exam-Relevant Content
News in Brief	India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is set to debut in Japan , marking a major step in India's digital payments diplomacy.
Implementing Agency	National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
Partner Institution	Japan's NTT Data
Rollout Nature	Trial rollout in FY 2026
Initial Users	Indian tourists travelling to Japan
Mode of Payment	Payments via Indian UPI apps
Settlement	Direct debit from Indian bank accounts
Cards/Wallets	Not required
Strategic Significance	Expansion of India's real-time payment infrastructure globally

Akshita Dhankar &
Republic Day

Aspect

News in Brief

Occasion

Significance

Historic Element

State Representation

Parent Force

Rank

Core Theme

Exam-Relevant Content

Akshita Dhankar, a Flight Lieutenant in the **Indian Air Force**, unfurled the National Flag alongside the **Droupadi Murmu** on Republic Day.

77th Republic Day celebrations, New Delhi

Symbol of **women's growing role in armed forces** and inclusive military leadership

Rare ceremonial honour for a **young serving woman officer**

Born in Kasni village, **Haryana**

Indian Air Force

Flight Lieutenant

Gender inclusion, merit-based recognition, military professionalism

Area	Important Facts
Permanent Commission	Granted to women officers (SC ruling)
Entry Routes	NDA, CDS, NCC Special Entry
Combat Roles	Women inducted in fighter streams & naval aviation
Policy Direction	Gender-neutral command and leadership

Abhishek Sharma Fastest
T20I Fifty

Aspect

News in Brief

Match Format

Venue

Series Context

Match Situation

Key Achievement

Series Outcome

Partner

Opponent Team

Significance

Exam-Relevant Content

Abhishek Sharma scored the **fastest half-century in Men's T20 Internationals** against **New Zealand**.

Men's T20 International (T20I)

Guwahati, Assam

Third T20I of the India–New Zealand series

India chasing **154 runs**

Fastest team fifty in T20I history

India sealed **3-0 series lead**

Ishan Kishan (53-run partnership)

New Zealand

Landmark record in **international cricket statistics**



Novak Djokovic – 400 Grand Slam
Wins

Aspect	Exam-Relevant Content
News in Brief	Novak Djokovic became the first player in men's tennis history to register 400 singles match wins at Grand Slam tournaments.
Tournament	Australian Open
Match Details	Third round victory in straight sets
Opponent	Botic van de Zandschulp
Venue	Melbourne Park, Australia
Nature of Record	Highest number of Grand Slam singles match wins (Men)
Nationality	Serbia
Broader Significance	Symbol of longevity, consistency, and peak performance

Record Area	Details
Grand Slam Titles	24 (Men's singles – highest)
Australian Open Wins	10 titles
Australian Open Match Wins	102 (joint highest)
Career Span	Over two decades at elite level
UPSC Utility	Sports records & milestones

FEATURE

DETAILS

First Held

1905

Host Country

Australia

City

Melbourne

Month

January

Nickname

Happy Slam

Player

Grand Slam Match Wins
(Men)

Novak Djokovic

400 (Record)

Roger Federer

~369

Rafael Nadal

~314

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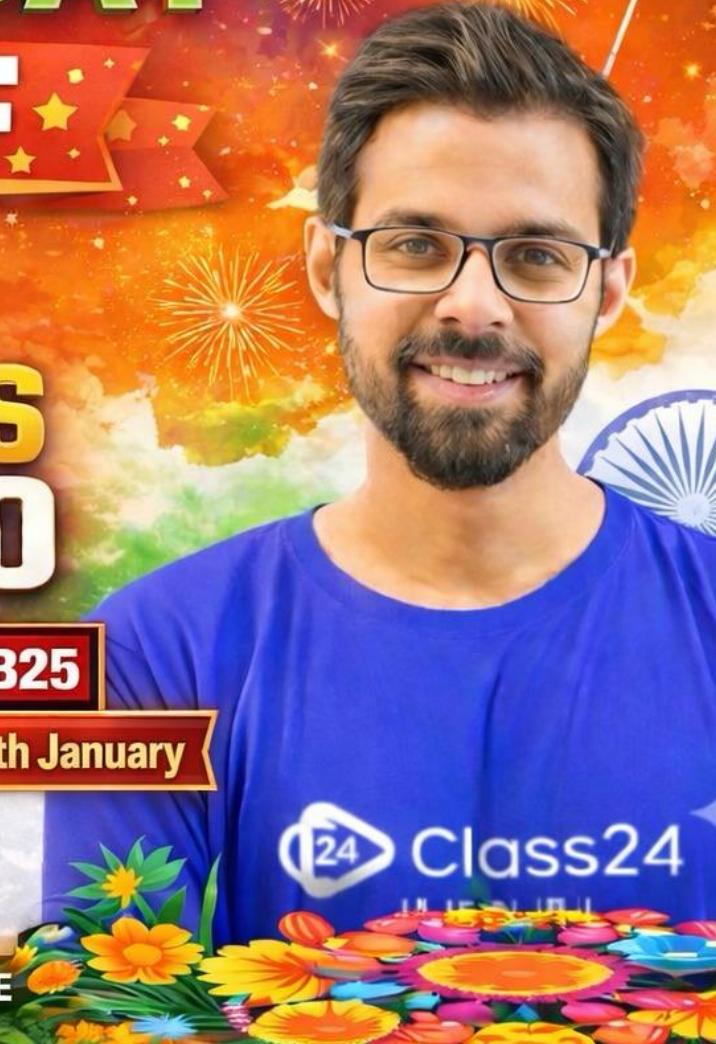
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Word of the day

Anodyne:

unlikely to offend anyone or cause them to disagree

Synonyms: bland, neutral, harmless

Usage: *The minister issued an anodyne statement after the controversy.*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/anodynepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ænədain/

Word of the day

Schmooze:

an informal conversation; talk idly or casually and in a friendly way

Synonyms: chat, confabulation

Usage: *We had a wonderful schmooze about the old days.*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/schmoozepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʃmu:z/



Thank you ☺

