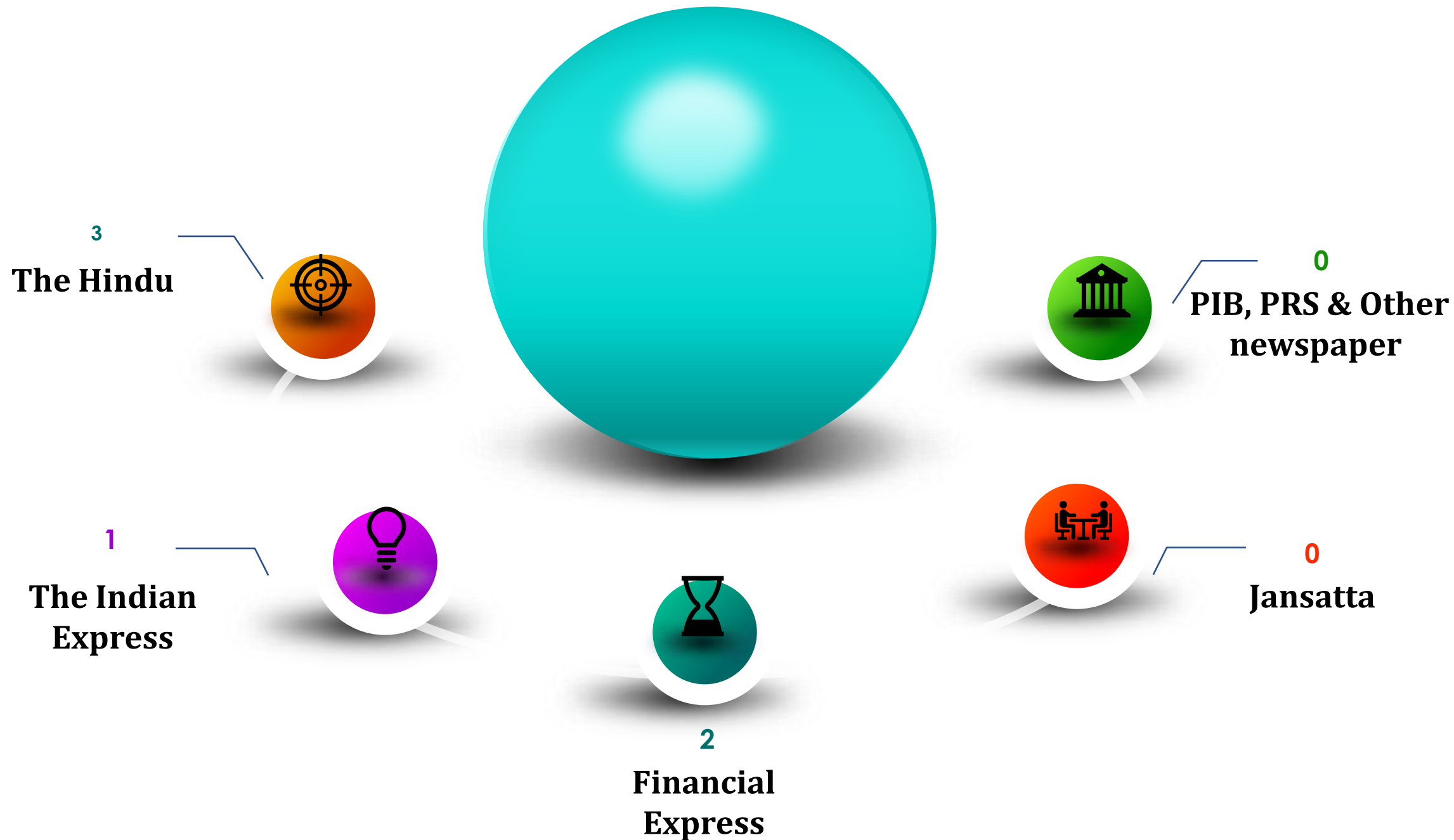


Daily Current Affairs





A fit body, a calm mind, a house full of love. These things cannot be bought - they must be earned.

with students. Instead, he will get around officials to get the police behind fully-late charges against them.

Kasturiba Panada Dal (KJP) leader said in a statement that the KJP will be protesting of students, the Chief Minister had harassed the students and the KJP will try to convey students' issues to the government. KJP camps will also be organized to convey students' grievances on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

On August 18, the Bihar government banned the KJP from teaching points to be filled by the students.

The students in the state are also demanding that the government should stop regarding filling up vacant posts for Assistant Professors, Professors, and 100% domicile-based recruitment in government colleges and universities, and job security, and pension, and job security.

Professors. They are also protesting for dates for a meeting with the government.

— PAGE 8 —

India, China push for border delimitation

Both countries stress peace in border areas at the 25th Special Representatives' talks

Ties 'returning to normalcy', says Doval; both nations should learn from history, says Wang

Doval says PM Modi and Chinese President Xi are giving 'clear and positive direction' to ties

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

India and China on Tuesday said they had discussed advancing talks on delimiting parts of the disputed border, as National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met in Beijing.

A statement from the Indian Embassy here said both sides had "discussed ways to further expand bilateral cooperation, maintain stability, and ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, and make progress on boundary delimitation, while sustaining the ongoing work on transboundary cooperation."

China's Foreign Ministry highlighted progress on border delimitation in a statement issued after the 25th round of talks between the two Special Representatives (SR) on the

boundary question, saying both sides "held in-depth discussions on advancing border delimitation negotiations, strengthening border management and control, improving mechanism building and promoting cross-border cooperation." But neither side provided details on which parts of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were being explored for possible delimitation. At last year's SR talks, both sides agreed to set up a working group to explore "early harvest" border delimitation in some areas along the LAC.

On broader bilateral ties, Mr. Doval said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping had given "a clear and positive direction" to the relationship which has been "steadily returning to normalcy". He noted that this round of SR talks was "very important particularly in the wake of the



National Security Adviser Ajit Doval holds talks with Chinese Minister Wang Yi in Beijing. ANANTH KRISHNAN

BRICS Summit to happen shortly."

Xi likely to visit Delhi

Mr. Xi is expected to attend the September 12 meet in New Delhi, on his first visit to India in seven years.

The Chinese statement quoted Mr. Wang as saying "China and India should draw lessons from history, place the boundary ques-

tion appropriately in bilateral relations, and keep moving forward without stagnating, backtracking or veering off course."

The Chinese Foreign Minister said that besides resuming the SR talks last year, institutional mechanisms between the two countries were resuming and both sides have been "working hard to maintain

peace and tranquility in the border areas."

At last year's talks, he noted both sides "reached a set of common understandings on delimitation, on border management, mechanism building and cross border cooperation." "Over the past year, our two sides have worked to deliver them on the ground and have made

good progress," he said. The Chinese statement said the two sides "reaffirmed their commitment to the 2005 Political Guiding Principles, and, in a spirit of mutual respect and mutual understanding, will leverage the Special Representatives' mechanism to pursue a fair, reasonable and mutually-acceptable package solution to the boundary question."

Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Doval called on Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng.

Both sides were positive in their descriptions of the on-going normalisation of relations. "I am happy over the past year our relationship has been steadily returning to normalcy," Mr. Doval said. "The normalcy we have witnessed in our relationship has been a direct result of both sides maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas."

According to the Chinese statement, Mr. Wang called for "gradually building a positive narrative on China-India boundary affairs, making dialogue, peace, consultation and cooperation the mainstream and injecting positive factors into the sound and stable development of bilateral relations".

"China stands ready to work with India to guide bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, deepen mutual understanding, resolve differences, overcome obstacles, become good-neighbourly friends and mutually-beneficial partners, and achieve the 'Dragon-Elephant Dance,'" he said, adding that the "China India relationship has gone beyond the bilateral scope and taken on global significance."

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY
» PAGE 14



India-China Border (Western Sector)







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- On 25 August 2026, India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi co-chaired the 25th Meeting of the Special Representatives on the India–China Boundary Question in Beijing. — 25 अगस्त 2026 को भारत के राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल और चीन के विदेश मंत्री वांग यी ने बीजिंग में भारत–चीन सीमा प्रश्न पर विशेष प्रतिनिधियों की 25वीं बैठक की सह-अध्यक्षता की।
 - Both sides discussed advancing boundary delimitation, strengthening border management and maintaining peace in border areas. — दोनों पक्षों ने सीमा परिसीमन को आगे बढ़ाने, सीमा प्रबंधन मजबूत करने तथा सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में शांति बनाए रखने पर चर्चा की।
 - However, no details were disclosed about the specific sections of the LAC being considered for delimitation. — हालाँकि, यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया गया कि LAC के किन विशेष हिस्सों को परिसीमन के लिए विचाराधीन रखा गया है।



Both countries agreed to continue dialogue for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement.

They agreed to advance boundary-delimitation negotiations.

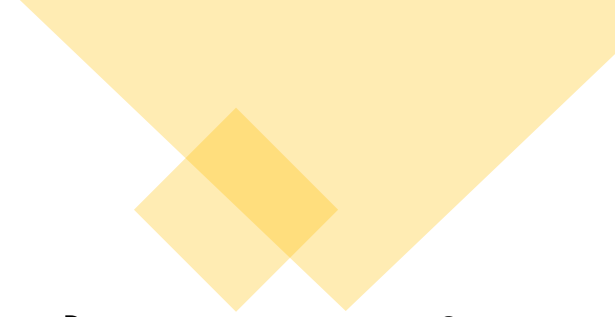
Border management and control mechanisms will be strengthened.

Existing institutional mechanisms will be improved.

Cross-border cooperation will be promoted.

Peace and tranquillity will remain essential for normal bilateral relations.

The 26th Special Representatives' Meeting will be held in India in 2027.



दोनों देशों ने निष्पक्ष, व्यावहारिक और परस्पर स्वीकार्य समाधान के लिए संवाद जारी रखने पर सहमति जताई।

दोनों पक्ष सीमा परिसीमन वार्ता को आगे बढ़ाने पर सहमत हुए।

सीमा प्रबंधन एवं नियंत्रण तंत्रों को मजबूत किया जाएगा।

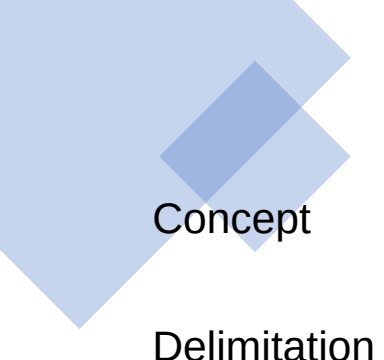
मौजूदा संस्थागत व्यवस्थाओं को बेहतर बनाया जाएगा।

सीमापार सहयोग को प्रोत्साहित किया जाएगा।

सामान्य द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के लिए सीमा पर शांति एवं स्थिरता को आवश्यक माना गया।

विशेष प्रतिनिधियों की 26वीं बैठक 2027 में भारत में आयोजित की जाएगी।





Concept

Delimitation — परिसीमन

Demarcation — सीमांकन

Line of Actual Control — वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा

Disengagement — सैनिक पृथक्करण

De-escalation — तनाव में कमी

Bilingual Explanation

Determining the direction of a boundary through maps and legal agreements. — मानचित्रों और कानूनी समझौतों के माध्यम से सीमा की दिशा निर्धारित करना।

Physically marking the agreed boundary on the ground through pillars, fences or other markers. — सहमत सीमा को जमीन पर स्तंभों, बाड़ या अन्य चिह्नों द्वारा निर्धारित करना।

The line separating areas under the actual control of India and China; it is not a mutually agreed international boundary. — भारत और चीन के वास्तविक नियंत्रण वाले क्षेत्रों को अलग करने वाली रेखा; यह परस्पर स्वीकृत अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा नहीं है।

Withdrawal of troops from close-contact or confrontation points. — आमने-सामने की तैनाती अथवा टकराव वाले क्षेत्रों से सैनिकों को पीछे हटाना।

Reduction in the overall number of troops, weapons and military infrastructure near the border. — सीमा के निकट सैनिकों, हथियारों और सैन्य संसाधनों की कुल तैनाती कम करना।



INDIA-CHINA BORDER ISSUE

3,488 km LAC • No mutually agreed boundary



Simplified schematic – not to scale

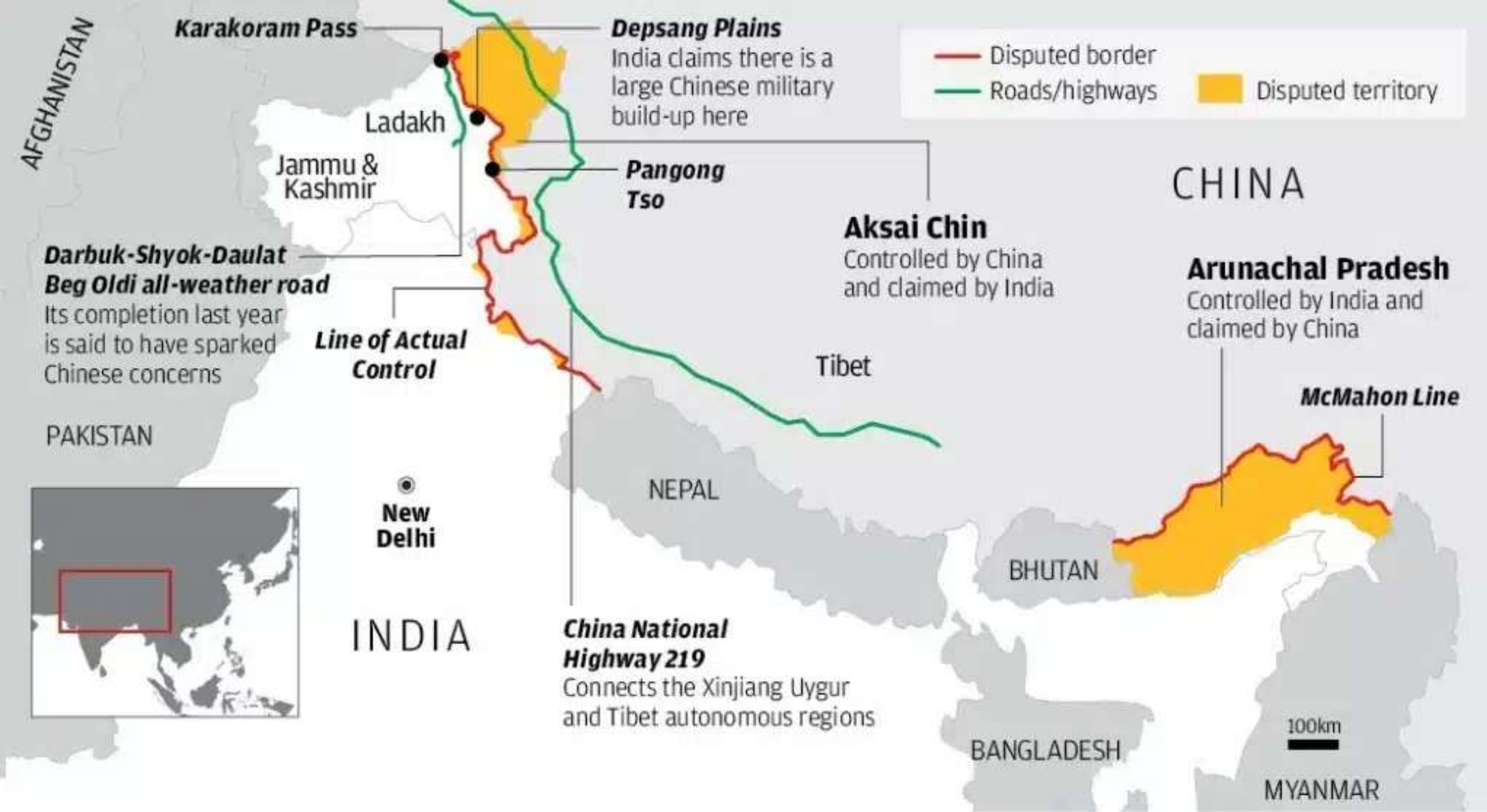


TIMELINE



KEY TERMS

- **LAC:** Line of Actual Control
- **McMahon Line:** eastern-sector boundary alignment
- **Johnson Line / Macartney-MacDonald Line:** historical western-sector proposals



Wearing hijab not established as 'essential religious practice' for women in Islam, says HC

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court recently held that wearing a headscarf could not be established as an "essential religious practice" of Islam. The observation was made on a Muslim student's petition for permission to wear hijab along with her school uniform.

A Division Bench of Justices J.J. Munir and Indrajeet Shukla, in an order of August 21, dismissed the petition filed by a Class 11 student of Tagore Public School in Prayagraj.

In her plea, the student argued that wearing the scarf was an essential religious practice protected by her fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. She had previously worn a headscarf at the same school from Class 6 without objection, she said.

The fact that the student



The court said the dispute was principally about compliance with institutional dress code.

had worn the scarf for several years did not create an enforceable right to compel the school to relax or alter its uniform policy, the High Court said.

"We have perused the photographs from various classes relating to the petitioner. Except for her, no other girl student is donning the headscarf, even those belonging to the same religious community as the petitioner. Wherever this issue has arisen, the

High Courts have been unanimous in opinion that wearing a headscarf is not essential part of the Islamic faith, in the absence of which faith would be jeopardized," the court said.

No factual foundation had been laid nor material placed on record to establish that donning headscarf was an essential part of religion for a Muslim female, the High Court further said. The court relied on the judgments of the Bombay and Karnataka High Courts concerning hijab.

It held that the dispute was principally about compliance with an institutional dress code rather than interference with the student's freedom of faith.

"The school in this case does not seek to curtail the petitioner's freedom of faith at all. All that they require is conformity to institutional discipline, of which a uniform is an essential part," it said.

- The Allahabad High Court dismissed a petition filed by a Class 11 Muslim student seeking permission to wear a hijab/headscarf along with the prescribed school uniform. — इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने कक्षा 11 की एक मुस्लिम छात्रा द्वारा निर्धारित स्कूल यूनिफॉर्म के साथ हिजाब/हेडस्कार्फ पहनने की अनुमति माँगने वाली याचिका खारिज कर दी।
- The judgment was delivered on 21 August 2026 by a Division Bench comprising Justices J.J. Munir and Indrajeet Shukla. — यह निर्णय 21 अगस्त 2026 को न्यायमूर्ति जे.जे. मुनीर और न्यायमूर्ति इंद्रजीत शुक्ला की खंडपीठ ने दिया।
- The case was titled *Sukaina Rizvi v. State of Uttar Pradesh and Others*. — इस मामले का नाम *सुकैना रिजवी बनाम उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य एवं अन्य* था।
- The Court held that the petitioner had failed to establish through sufficient factual, legal or religious material that wearing a headscarf was an Essential Religious Practice of Islam. — न्यायालय ने कहा कि याचिकाकर्ता पर्याप्त तथ्यात्मक, कानूनी या धार्मिक सामग्री के माध्यम से यह सिद्ध नहीं कर सकी कि हेडस्कार्फ पहनना इस्लाम की आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा है।

Background of the Case — मामले की पृष्ठभूमि

- The petitioner was a student of Tagore Public School, Prayagraj, a private unaided school affiliated with the CBSE. — याचिकाकर्ता प्रयागराज के टैगोर पब्लिक स्कूल की छात्रा थी, जो CBSE से संबद्ध एक निजी गैर-सहायता प्राप्त विद्यालय है।
- She claimed that she had been wearing a headscarf in the same school from Class 6 to Class 10 without any objection. — छात्रा का दावा था कि वह कक्षा 6 से कक्षा 10 तक उसी विद्यालय में बिना किसी आपत्ति के हेडस्कार्फ पहनती रही थी।
- After completing Class 10, she sought admission to Class 11 and requested permission to continue wearing the headscarf with the school uniform. — कक्षा 10 पूरी करने के बाद उसने कक्षा 11 में प्रवेश लिया और स्कूल यूनिफॉर्म के साथ हेडस्कार्फ पहनना जारी रखने की अनुमति माँगी।
- The school refused the request and required her to comply with the common uniform prescribed for all students. — विद्यालय ने यह अनुरोध अस्वीकार करते हुए उसे सभी विद्यार्थियों के लिए निर्धारित समान यूनिफॉर्म का पालन करने को कहा।
- The student argued that wearing the headscarf was part of her religious faith and that the restriction violated her fundamental rights. — छात्रा ने तर्क दिया कि हेडस्कार्फ पहनना उसकी धार्मिक आस्था का हिस्सा है और इस पर प्रतिबंध उसके मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन है।

Constitutional Rights Invoked — उठाए गए संवैधानिक अधिकार

- Article 14 guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws. — अनुच्छेद 14 कानून के समक्ष समानता और कानूनों के समान संरक्षण की गारंटी देता है।
- Article 19(1)(a) protects freedom of speech and expression, which may also include expression through dress and appearance. — अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a) वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा करता है, जिसमें पहनावे और बाहरी स्वरूप के माध्यम से अभिव्यक्ति भी शामिल हो सकती है।
- Article 21 protects life, personal liberty, dignity, privacy and individual autonomy. — अनुच्छेद 21 जीवन, व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता, गरिमा, निजता और व्यक्तिगत स्वायत्तता की रक्षा करता है।
- Article 25 guarantees freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality, health and other Fundamental Rights. — अनुच्छेद 25 अंतःकरण की स्वतंत्रता तथा धर्म को मानने, आचरण करने और प्रचार करने का अधिकार देता है, जो सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था, नैतिकता, स्वास्थ्य और अन्य मौलिक अधिकारों के अधीन है।
- Article 25 protects religious freedom, but it does not make every activity associated with religion completely immune from reasonable regulation. — अनुच्छेद 25 धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा करता है, लेकिन धर्म से जुड़ी प्रत्येक गतिविधि को उचित विनियमन से पूर्णतः मुक्त नहीं करता।

Essential Religious Practices Doctrine — आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा सिद्धांत

- An Essential Religious Practice is a practice considered fundamental or integral to a religion, without which the religion's basic character may be altered. — आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा वह प्रथा है जिसे किसी धर्म का मूल अथवा अभिन्न हिस्सा माना जाता है और जिसके अभाव में उस धर्म का मौलिक स्वरूप बदल सकता है।
- The doctrine originated from the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments, Madras v. Sri Lakshmindra Thirtha Swamiar of Shirur Mutt*. — इस सिद्धांत की उत्पत्ति सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के 1954 के *शिरूर मठ मामले* से मानी जाती है।
- Courts generally examine religious texts, doctrines, historical practices and evidence placed before them to determine whether a practice is essential. — न्यायालय सामान्यतः धार्मिक ग्रंथों, सिद्धांतों, ऐतिहासिक प्रथाओं और प्रस्तुत साक्ष्यों की जाँच करके तय करते हैं कि कोई प्रथा आवश्यक है या नहीं।
- A personal assertion that a practice is religious may not by itself be sufficient to establish it as an Essential Religious Practice. — केवल व्यक्तिगत दावा कि कोई प्रथा धार्मिक है, उसे आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा सिद्ध करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं हो सकता।

Allahabad High Court's Findings — इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय के निष्कर्ष

- The Court described the student's claim that the headscarf was an Essential Religious Practice as a "bare assertion" unsupported by sufficient authoritative material. — न्यायालय ने हेडस्कार्फ को आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा बताने वाले छात्रा के दावे को पर्याप्त प्रामाणिक सामग्री से रहित "मात्र दावा" माना।
- No material was presented to establish that wearing a scarf inside the classroom was obligatory for the petitioner's faith. — यह सिद्ध करने के लिए कोई सामग्री प्रस्तुत नहीं की गई कि कक्षा के अंदर स्कार्फ पहनना याचिकाकर्ता की आस्था के लिए अनिवार्य था।
- The petitioner also failed to establish that not wearing the scarf would alter the fundamental character of her faith. — याचिकाकर्ता यह भी सिद्ध नहीं कर सकी कि स्कार्फ न पहनने से उसकी आस्था का मौलिक स्वरूप बदल जाएगा।
- Photographs placed before the Court showed that no other girl student, including students belonging to the same religious community, was wearing a headscarf in class. — न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत तस्वीरों में कोई अन्य छात्रा, यहाँ तक कि उसी धार्मिक समुदाय की छात्राएँ भी, कक्षा में हेडस्कार्फ पहने हुए नहीं दिखीं।
- The Court held that the dispute was primarily about compliance with an institutional dress code rather than direct interference with the student's religious faith. — न्यायालय ने माना कि विवाद मुख्यतः छात्रा की धार्मिक आस्था में सीधे हस्तक्षेप के बजाय संस्थागत ड्रेस कोड के पालन से संबंधित था।
- The Court said that a uniform, bona fide and non-discriminatory dress code intended to maintain discipline and institutional identity normally falls within the school's authority. — न्यायालय ने कहा कि अनुशासन और संस्थागत पहचान बनाए रखने के लिए बनाया गया समान, सद्भावनापूर्ण और गैर-भेदभावपूर्ण ड्रेस कोड सामान्यतः विद्यालय के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आता है।

Important Previous Judgments — महत्त्वपूर्ण पूर्व निर्णय

- In *Resham v. State of Karnataka* (2022), the Karnataka High Court held that wearing hijab was not established as an Essential Religious Practice in Islam and upheld the prescribed uniform. — *रेशम बनाम कर्नाटक राज्य* (2022) में कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय ने हिजाब को इस्लाम की आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा के रूप में स्थापित नहीं माना और निर्धारित यूनिफॉर्म को वैध ठहराया।
- The Karnataka High Court ruling was challenged before the Supreme Court in *Aishat Shifa v. State of Karnataka*. — कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय को *आयशात शिफा बनाम कर्नाटक राज्य* मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में चुनौती दी गई।
- In October 2022, a two-judge Supreme Court Bench delivered a split verdict: Justice Hemant Gupta upheld the restrictions, while Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia favoured the students' choice. — अक्टूबर 2022 में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की दो-न्यायाधीशों वाली पीठ ने विभाजित निर्णय दिया: न्यायमूर्ति हेमंत गुप्ता ने प्रतिबंध को सही माना, जबकि न्यायमूर्ति सुधांशु धूलिया ने छात्राओं की पसंद का समर्थन किया।
- Therefore, there is still no final authoritative Supreme Court judgment conclusively settling the nationwide hijab-in-school question. — इसलिए स्कूलों में हिजाब के प्रश्न को पूरे देश के लिए निर्णायक रूप से तय करने वाला अंतिम प्रामाणिक सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का निर्णय अभी उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- The Allahabad High Court treated the Karnataka High Court judgment as a highly persuasive authority, not as binding Supreme Court precedent. — इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय को अत्यधिक प्रेरक न्यायिक दृष्टांत माना, न कि बाध्यकारी सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की नज़ीर।

Consider the following statements regarding the Essential Religious Practices doctrine: — आवश्यक धार्मिक प्रथा सिद्धांत के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. It is expressly defined in Article 25 of the Constitution. — इसे संविधान के अनुच्छेद 25 में स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित किया गया है।
2. It was judicially developed by the Supreme Court. — इसे सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने न्यायिक रूप से विकसित किया है।
3. Article 25 is subject to public order, morality and health. — अनुच्छेद 25 सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था, नैतिकता और स्वास्थ्य के अधीन है।
4. Every activity claimed to be religious automatically receives constitutional protection. — धार्मिक बताई गई प्रत्येक गतिविधि को स्वतः संवैधानिक संरक्षण प्राप्त होता है।

One-third of India in severe rain deficit as monsoon enters last leg

Anjali Marar

Bengaluru, August 25

NEARLY 35 per cent of the country's geographical area remains in a significant rain deficit even as the southwest monsoon approaches its final leg.

The rainfall data maintained by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the country-wide rainfall for the season (since June 1) was 554.2mm — 13 per cent short of expected levels for this time of the year.

Notably, the cumulative rainfall departure from normal has consistently remained negative throughout this season.

That said, rainfall activity over the central region, between Odisha and Gujarat, has remained prominent during the July-August period, in part due to the recurrent development of low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal and their subsequent landward movement.

"The spatial distribution of rainfall has been largely skewed, especially at district levels," said O P Sreejith, senior meteorologist at IMD.

About 412 districts across 14 states and Union territories in the south peninsula, northeast, and some parts of eastern and northwest India have recorded a deficit in rain — amounting to the aforementioned 35 per cent.

What is worrying is that even states that receive either extremely high or extremely

• Rainfall across India during June 1 - Aug 24

State / UT	rainfall*
Meghalaya	-58%
Bihar and Manipur	-42%
Arunachal Pradesh	-40%
Andhra Pradesh	-39%
Goa and Punjab	-33%
Puducherry	-32%
Lakshadweep	-27%
Assam	-24%
Kerala	-23%
Rajasthan & Karnataka	-22%
Mizoram	-21%

*Seasonal rainfall departure; Source: IMD

low rainfall are experiencing below-average season rainfall this year.

For instance, Goa's normal rainfall till the third week of August is 2,562mm. However, this season (till August 24), it has recorded only 1,713.2mm — a deficit of 33 per cent.

Similarly, in Kerala, where normal rainfall for the same period is 1,671.4mm, only 1,283.3mm of rainfall has been recorded this season — a 23 per cent deficit; and in Punjab (normal rainfall is 338.2mm), 226.9mm — a 33 per cent deficit in the season so far.

Rajasthan's normal rainfall (till August 24) is 345mm. The desert state, where the monsoon arrives last and exits first,

has received 268.3mm — a 22 per cent deficit.

Recently, Assam faced one of its worst floods, and yet, 19 of the state's 35 districts report a rain deficit.

In Meghalaya (-58 per cent below normal), the southwest Khasi Hills district has recorded excess rainfall, while all the other 10 districts are either in rainfall deficit or 'large' deficit category (rainfall -60 to -99 per cent below normal).

Elsewhere, in Bihar, just three — Khagaria, Lakhisarai and Siwan — of the 35 districts have received normal rainfall. The others are experiencing a rain deficit this season.

Meanwhile, in Andhra, all the districts, including regions of Yanam and Rayalaseema, remain in a rain deficit. A contrasting picture prevails in the neighbouring Odisha, where all 30 districts have received normal or above rainfall this season.

The prevailing low pressure system over Jharkhand will keep the monsoon active over west Uttar Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh till August 29, as the IMD has forecast the system to move further north-west in the coming days. Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada in Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, coastal Andhra Pradesh and the Gujarat region will experience widespread heavy spells till the end of this month, the IMD has forecast.

Aspect	Explanation
Why in news? — चर्चा में क्यों?	By 24 August 2026, nearly 35% of India's geographical area was experiencing a significant monsoon rainfall deficit. — 24 अगस्त 2026 तक भारत के लगभग 35% भौगोलिक क्षेत्र में मानसूनी वर्षा की उल्लेखनीय कमी दर्ज की गई।
All-India rainfall — अखिल भारतीय वर्षा	India received about 554.2 mm rainfall from 1 June to 24 August, approximately 13% below the normal level. — भारत में 1 जून से 24 अगस्त तक लगभग 554.2 मिमी वर्षा हुई, जो सामान्य स्तर से लगभग 13% कम थी।
District-level situation — जिला-स्तरीय स्थिति	Around 412 districts across 14 States and Union Territories recorded deficient rainfall. — 14 राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लगभग 412 जिलों में वर्षा की कमी दर्ज की गई।
Regional imbalance — क्षेत्रीय असमानता	Some areas experienced floods or heavy rainfall, while large neighbouring areas remained deficient, showing highly uneven spatial distribution. — कुछ क्षेत्रों में बाढ़ अथवा भारी वर्षा हुई, जबकि आसपास के बड़े क्षेत्र वर्षा की कमी से प्रभावित रहे, जो अत्यधिक असमान स्थानिक वितरण को दर्शाता है।
Monsoon stage — मानसून की अवस्था	The southwest monsoon was entering its final phase, making recovery from the accumulated deficit increasingly difficult. — दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून अपने अंतिम चरण में प्रवेश कर रहा था, जिससे संचित वर्षा-कमी की भरपाई कठिन होती जा रही थी।

State/UT — राज्य/केंद्रशासित प्रदेश

Seasonal departure from normal — सामान्य से मौसमी
अंतर

Meghalaya — मेघालय

-58%

Bihar and Manipur — बिहार और मणिपुर

-42%

Arunachal Pradesh — अरुणाचल प्रदेश

-40%

Andhra Pradesh — आंध्र प्रदेश

-39%

Goa and Punjab — गोवा और पंजाब

-33%

Puducherry — पुदुचेरी

-32%

Lakshadweep — लक्षद्वीप

-27%

Assam — असम

-24%

Kerala — केरल

-23%

Rajasthan and Karnataka — राजस्थान और कर्नाटक

-22%

Mizoram — मिजोरम

-21%

State	Rainfall Position
Goa — गोवा	Normal rainfall was about 2,562 mm, but only 1,713.2 mm was received, producing a deficit of about 33%. — सामान्य वर्षा लगभग 2,562 मिमी थी, लेकिन केवल 1,713.2 मिमी वर्षा हुई, जिससे लगभग 33% की कमी दर्ज हुई।
Kerala — केरल	Against the normal rainfall of about 1,671.4 mm, Kerala received approximately 1,283.3 mm, a deficit of around 23%. — लगभग 1,671.4 मिमी सामान्य वर्षा के मुकाबले केरल में लगभग 1,283.3 मिमी वर्षा हुई, जिससे करीब 23% की कमी रही।
Punjab — पंजाब	Punjab received approximately 226.9 mm against the normal 338.8 mm, resulting in a deficit of about 33%. — पंजाब में सामान्य 338.8 मिमी के मुकाबले लगभग 226.9 मिमी वर्षा हुई, जिससे करीब 33% की कमी दर्ज हुई।
Rajasthan — राजस्थान	Rajasthan received about 268.3 mm against the normal rainfall of approximately 345 mm, recording a deficit of about 22%. — राजस्थान में लगभग 345 मिमी सामान्य वर्षा के मुकाबले करीब 268.3 मिमी वर्षा हुई, जिससे लगभग 22% की कमी दर्ज हुई।
Assam — असम	Assam faced serious floods in some locations, yet 19 of its 35 districts reported rainfall deficit, illustrating uneven distribution. — असम के कुछ क्षेत्रों में गंभीर बाढ़ आई, फिर भी उसके 35 में से 19 जिलों में वर्षा की कमी रही, जो असमान वितरण को दर्शाती है।
Bihar — बिहार	Only three districts—Khagaria, Lakhisarai and Siwan—received normal rainfall; most others remained deficient. — केवल तीन जिलों—खगड़िया, लखीसराय और सिवान—में सामान्य वर्षा हुई; अधिकांश अन्य जिले वर्षा की कमी से प्रभावित रहे।
Andhra Pradesh — आंध्र प्रदेश	All districts, including major rain-fed agricultural areas, remained rain-deficient, while neighbouring Odisha received normal or above-normal rainfall. — वर्षा-आधारित कृषि वाले प्रमुख क्षेत्रों सहित सभी जिले वर्षा की कमी से प्रभावित रहे, जबकि पड़ोसी ओडिशा में सामान्य अथवा सामान्य से अधिक वर्षा हुई।
Meghalaya — मेघालय	The State average was 58% below normal; however, one district recorded excess rainfall while most others were deficient or largely deficient. — राज्य का औसत सामान्य से 58% कम रहा; फिर भी एक जिले में अधिक वर्षा हुई, जबकि अधिकांश जिले कमी अथवा अत्यधिक कमी से प्रभावित रहे।

Category

Departure from Long-Period Average

Large Excess — अत्यधिक अधिक वर्षा

+60% or more — +60% या अधिक

Excess — अधिक वर्षा

+20% to +59% — +20% से +59%

Normal — सामान्य वर्षा

-19% to +19% — -19% से +19%

Deficient — वर्षा की कमी

-20% to -59% — -20% से -59%

Large Deficient — अत्यधिक वर्षा-कमी

-60% to -99% — -60% से -99%

No Rain — वर्षा नहीं

-100% — -100%

Reasons for Rainfall Deficit | वर्षा की कमी के कारण



Reason	Explanation
El Niño conditions — एल नीनो परिस्थितियाँ	Warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific generally weakens the Indian southwest monsoon, although the relationship is not automatic every year. — मध्य और पूर्वी भूमध्यरेखीय प्रशांत महासागर का गर्म होना सामान्यतः भारतीय दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून को कमजोर करता है, हालाँकि प्रत्येक वर्ष इसका प्रभाव समान नहीं होता।
Fewer low-pressure systems — कम निम्न-दाब प्रणालियाँ	Reduced frequency or unfavourable movement of low-pressure systems from the Bay of Bengal lowers rainfall over interior regions. — बंगाल की खाड़ी से बनने वाली निम्न-दाब प्रणालियों की कम संख्या अथवा प्रतिकूल दिशा आंतरिक क्षेत्रों में वर्षा घटाती है।
Break monsoon conditions — ब्रेक मानसून की स्थिति	During a monsoon break, the monsoon trough shifts northward and rainfall decreases over central and peninsular India. — मानसून ब्रेक के दौरान मानसून द्रोणी उत्तर की ओर खिसक जाती है और मध्य तथा प्रायद्वीपीय भारत में वर्षा कम हो जाती है।
Weak monsoon circulation — कमजोर मानसूनी परिसंचरण	Weak cross-equatorial winds reduce moisture transport from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. — कमजोर भूमध्यरेखा-पार हवाएँ अरब सागर और बंगाल की खाड़ी से नमी के परिवहन को घटाती हैं।
Climate change — जलवायु परिवर्तन	Climate change is increasing rainfall variability, with longer dry spells interrupted by short episodes of very heavy rain. — जलवायु परिवर्तन वर्षा की परिवर्तनशीलता बढ़ा रहा है, जिसमें लंबी शुष्क अवधि के बीच कम समय की अत्यधिक वर्षा होती है।

Sector	Impact
Kharif agriculture — खरीफ कृषि	Deficit rainfall can reduce yields of rice, pulses, maize, soybean, cotton and oilseeds. — वर्षा की कमी धान, दलहन, मक्का, सोयाबीन, कपास और तिलहन की उपज घटा सकती है।
Rabi agriculture — रबी कृषि	Low monsoon rainfall reduces soil moisture and reservoir storage required for wheat, mustard and other winter crops. — कम मानसूनी वर्षा गेहूँ, सरसों और अन्य शीतकालीन फसलों के लिए आवश्यक मिट्टी की नमी और जलाशय भंडारण को घटाती है।
Food inflation — खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति	Lower agricultural output can increase prices of vegetables, cereals, pulses and edible oils. — कृषि उत्पादन घटने से सब्जियों, अनाज, दलहन और खाद्य तेलों की कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं।
Rural income — ग्रामीण आय	Crop loss reduces farmers' earnings and agricultural employment. — फसल नुकसान किसानों की आय और कृषि रोजगार को कम करता है।
Drinking water — पेयजल	Reduced reservoir and groundwater recharge can create drinking-water shortages during the following summer. — जलाशयों और भूजल का कम पुनर्भरण अगले ग्रीष्मकाल में पेयजल संकट उत्पन्न कर सकता है।
Hydropower — जलविद्युत	Lower reservoir levels may reduce hydropower generation. — जलाशयों का स्तर कम होने से जलविद्युत उत्पादन घट सकता है।
Ecosystems — पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र	Wetlands, forests and wildlife may face increased water stress and fire risk. — आर्द्रभूमि, वन और वन्यजीव अधिक जल-संकट तथा आग के जोखिम का सामना कर सकते हैं।
Economy — अर्थव्यवस्था	A weak monsoon can lower rural demand and affect industries linked to agriculture. — कमजोर मानसून ग्रामीण माँग को घटाकर कृषि से जुड़े उद्योगों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

CACHE



A costly shortcut: In destructive scanning, a book's binding is cut off and its pages are rapidly scanned. These books cannot be easily rebound and are usually sent for disposal or to recycle.

How AI firms are destroying physical books to train their models

Amazon and Anthropic are facing the ire of booksellers and book lovers over reports that they destroyed books in order to scan them for AI development. The actions have sparked outrage and criticism, prompting a look into their legality.

Rishabh Venkatesh

The story so far
An investigation published this week by the tech outlet 404 Media tracked a shipment of rare books to an Amazon facility in Las Vegas. Instead of packing and mailing them out to eager readers, Amazon employees destroyed the books by cutting off their bindings to scan them. Numerous other books have met the same fate, according to the report that ignited global outrage and criticism.

Why are AI companies sourcing physical books?
AI companies are trying to access more words of writing in order to further develop their AI models and train them on high-quality datasets rich with original material. As more of the internet grows saturated with AI-generated patterns of language, rare and/or out-of-print books are becoming an attractive option for tech companies looking to scrape data.

According to 404 Media, Amazon did not directly address its destructive scanning practices but confirmed that it bought books to improve its "products and services".

But the e-commerce giant is not the only company accused of destroying books. Anthropic, the Google and Amazon-backed maker of the Claude

family of models, had its own secret "Project Pantheon", which it described as "our effort to destructively scan all the books in the world."

What's more, a focus on rare books also means that the company that sources the content first can destroy the original and ensure that an AI rival cannot easily train its models on the same text.

Is it necessary for AI companies to destroy books?

If you have ever tried to photocopy a thick or old book, you know that getting a high-quality print is often complicated by the book's spine. You can press down hard to flatten it in the book, but this is not safe for rare or delicate volumes.

Archivists, librarians, and researchers use a range of advanced scanners that are designed to digitise physical books without damaging them. Some robotic devices can even lift or flip the pages without human help. Naturally, these solutions are expensive and can be hard to scale.

In destructive scanning, however, the book's binding is cut off and the pages are rapidly scanned. These books cannot be easily rebound and are usually sent for disposal.

Destroying the print book can also work in a company's favour. This way, it is harder for authors to accuse the company of promoting piracy. After all, a buyer is

legally allowed to destroy the rare book they have bought, even if others would consider this a cultural crime.

By contrast, an AI company can be sued if authors find evidence of it downloading pirated e-books without paying for them. This July, Anthropic received approval to pay \$4.5 billion to settle a class action lawsuit where authors claimed that the Claude maker illegally used their copyrighted works for its AI products.

In a court order from last June, U.S. district judge William Alsup had noted that Anthropic bought millions of print copies, and "destroyed" each print copy while replacing it with a digital one that it did not share outside the company.

This print-to-digital format change was ruled as fair use.

What has been the reaction to destructive scanning?
Numerous booksellers, authors, creatives, collectors, readers, and academics have naturally reacted with anger and disgust to news reports of AI companies destroying books.

At the same time, there are some who are not overly concerned by destructive scanning, but oppose companies being allowed to destroy rare books to create a digital copy that the public cannot access.

For context, consider that media preservation platforms such as the

Internet Archive) as well as shadow libraries (piracy platforms like Anna's Archive) have been sued for doing the exact opposite: making digital versions of rare print books available to the public at no cost.

Meanwhile, global booksellers face a dilemma. They stand to profit (at least temporarily) by supplying rare or out-of-print books for destruction. The *Guardian* reported that sellers in Australia, for example, are more carefully scrutinising bulk orders from buyers or reviewing unusual requests for rare books, in case they are being bought for destructive scanning.

Elon Musk, where AI company is developing the GPT family of models and tools, was quick to refute potential accusations of his company destroying rare books.

"I've asked the OpenAI team to preserve any rare books in a library and scan them the hard way vs. just cutting off the spine and scanning," he posted in July on his social media platform X, in response to a user expressing distress over the destructive scanning process.

Even so, the process of building AI models lacks transparency. By design, as AI firms transition from downloading popular books to shredding rare ones, readers and booksellers none the less the world is rapidly losing undiscovered works of literature.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

R. Upendran

What is the meaning of "neck to neck"? (Shakul K. Rajan, New Delhi)
First of all, it's not "neck to neck", but "neck and neck". Although there is a tendency to say "neck to neck" within India, it is wrong to do so.

When you say that a particular race is neck and neck, what you are implying is that it was very even or very close; either of the two participants could have won it. The survey shows that the two political parties are running neck and neck.

At the two-mile mark, Mohan and Shyam were running neck and neck. "Neck and neck" comes from the world of horse racing.

What is the meaning of "You scared the daylight out of me"? (Oliva Premak Viewanatha, Hyderabad)

This is an expression which is mostly used in informal contexts. When you "scare the daylight out of someone", you succeed in frightening the person quite badly. Remember the James Bond movie, *Living Daylights*? Well, it is also possible to say, "scare the living daylight out of someone". Here are a few examples.

The little boy scared the daylight out of his mother.

The boarding of the World Trade Center has scared the living daylight out of most Americans.

Vijay's Halloween mask scared the daylight out of Sadhana.

Other expressions which mean more or less the same thing are "frighten the daylight out of someone", "scare the wits out of someone", and "scare someone out of his wits".

Which sentence is correct? "The driver of the bus was expired in the accident" or "The driver of the bus expired in the accident"? (V. Murad Krishna Rao, Bhimavaram)

It is grammatically incorrect to say, "was expired". The first sentence is therefore definitely wrong. As far as the second sentence is concerned, well, usually in an accident, people "die", they do not "expire". Therefore, it's better to say, "The driver died in the accident".

The word "expire" carries with it the sense that things came to an end gradually along expected lines. In an accident, things do not happen gradually; they happen suddenly, unexpectedly.

Is it wrong to say, "Protest against something"? (Smita Chandra, Lucknow)

No, it isn't. It is possible for one to "protest against" or "protest about" something. Here are a few examples.

We protested against the increase in student fees.

Prabhu is always protesting about something.

The workers decided not to protest against the downsizing of the company.

Most of us were planning to protest about the increased workload.

In American English it is possible to "protest" something. For example:

We protested the increase in working hours.

The students protested the indiscriminate firing by the police. The unions were protesting the war.

Published in The Hindu on October 2, 2001

Word of the day

Mollify:

cause to be more favourably inclined

Synonyms: assuage, appease, placate

Usage: The leader met the protesters in an attempt to mollify them.

Pronunciation: mollify/mollify

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mɒləfaɪ/

CORRECTION: In the article "Did Premji's relaxation help attract more FDI?" published in these columns on August 26, the FDI received by India over the last few months should read as \$4,605 crore and not \$4,895. The error is regretted.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The U.S. Open begins on the Sunday immediately preceding the last Monday of August. Here is a quiz on the tournament

Shishu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
In which year was it held for the first time?

QUESTION 2
Out of the four, how many grand slam tournaments were not affected by cancellation due to World War I and World War II, nor interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020?

QUESTION 3
The U.S. Open became the first Grand Slam tournament to award equal prize money to men and

women, with that year's singles champions. In which year did this happen?

QUESTION 4
In 2006, the U.S. Open introduced instant replay reviews of line calls, using the Hawk-Eye computer system. It was the first Grand Slam tournament to use the system. The Open felt the need to implement the system because of the controversial tie-breaker match at the 2004 U.S. Open between which players?

QUESTION 5
Who are the current men's singles and women's singles champions?



Visual question: Identify this U.S. Open record holder. What record has she held? (correct answers)

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Before acting, a young Sean Connery had represented Scotland in a bodybuilding contest. Name the contest. **Ans: Mr. Universe.** 2. This 1962 film introduced Sean Connery as James Bond to the world. **Ans: Dr. No.** 3. Connery won his only competitive Oscar for playing a tough Chicago cop in this 1987 film. **Ans: The Untouchables.** 4. Which cause did Connery campaign for consistently from the 1990s revolution vote through the 2014 referendum? **Ans: Scottish independence.** 5. The Man Who Would Be King (1975), starring Connery and Michael Caine, opens in British India and features an Indian actor in its cast. Name the Indian actor featured in the film. **Ans: Saeed Jaffrey.** Visual: A still from Connery's final live-action acting. Name the 2003 film and identify the actioned Indian actor on the left. **Ans: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen; Naseeruddin Shah.** Early birds: Erfaanly Dasgupta; Haridas Pal; Dadi Jayaditya; Arun Kumar Singh; A.C. Vinodh Kumar.

Please send in your answers to delinquents@thehindu.co.in



A costly shortcut: In destructive scanning, a book's binding is cut off and its pages are rapidly scanned. These books cannot be easily rebound and are usually sent for disposal. GETTY IMAGES

How AI firms are destroying physical books to train their models

Amazon and Anthropic are facing the ire of booksellers and book lovers over reports that they destroyed books in order to scan them for AI development. The actions have sparked outrage and criticism, prompting a look into their legality

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far

An investigation published this week by the tech outlet *404 Media* tracked a shipment of rare books to an Amazon facility in Las Vegas. Instead of packing and mailing them out to eager readers, Amazon employees destroyed the books by cutting off their bindings to scan them. Numerous other books have met the same fate, according to the report that ignited global outrage and criticism.

Why are AI companies sourcing physical books?

AI companies are trying to access more works of writing in order to further develop their AI models and train them on high-quality datasets rich with original material. As more of the internet grows saturated with AI-generated patterns of language, rare and/or out-of-print books are becoming an attractive option for tech companies looking to scrape data.

According to *404 Media*, Amazon did not directly address its destructive scanning practices but confirmed that it bought books to improve its “products and services”.

But the e-commerce giant is not the only company accused of destroying books. Anthropic, the Google and Amazon-backed maker of the Claude

family of models, had its own secret ‘Project Panama,’ which it described as “our effort to destructively scan all the books in the world.”

What’s more, a focus on rare books also means that the company that sources the content first can destroy the original and ensure that an AI rival cannot easily train its models on the same text.

Is it necessary for AI companies to destroy books?

If you have ever tried to photocopy a thick or old book, you know that getting a high-quality print is often complicated by the book’s spine. You can press down hard to flatten the book, but this is not safe for rare or delicate volumes.

Archivists, librarians, and researchers use a range of advanced scanners that are designed to digitise physical books without damaging them. Some robotic devices can even lift or flip the pages without human help. Naturally, these solutions are expensive and can be hard to scale.

In destructive scanning, however, the book’s binding is cut off and the pages are rapidly scanned. These books cannot be easily rebound and are usually sent for disposal.

Destroying the print book can also work in a company’s favour. This way, it is harder for authors to accuse the company of promoting piracy. After all, a buyer is

legally allowed to destroy the rare book they have bought, even if others would consider this a cultural crime.

By contrast, an AI company can be sued if authors find evidence of it downloading pirated e-books without paying for them. This July, Anthropic received approval to pay \$1.5 billion to settle a class action lawsuit where authors claimed that the Claude-maker illegally used their copyrighted works for its AI products.

In a court order from last June, U.S. district judge William Alsup had noted that Anthropic bought millions of print copies, and “destroyed” each print copy while replacing it with a digital one that it did not share outside the company.

This print-to-digital format change was ruled as fair use.

What has been the reaction to destructive scanning?

Numerous booksellers, authors, creatives, collectors, readers, and academics have naturally reacted with anger and disgust to news reports of AI companies destroying books.

At the same time, there are some who are not overly concerned by destructive scanning, but oppose companies being allowed to destroy rare books to create a digital copy that the public cannot access.

For context, consider that media preservation platforms (such as the

Internet Archive) as well as shadow libraries/piracy platforms (like Anna’s Archive) have been sued for doing the exact opposite: making digital versions of rare print books available to the public at no cost.

Meanwhile, global booksellers face a dilemma. They stand to profit (at least temporarily) by supplying rare or out-of-print books for destruction. *The Guardian* reported that sellers in Australia, for example, are more carefully scrutinising bulk orders from buyers or reviewing unusual requests for rarer books, in case they are being bought for destructive scanning.

Elon Musk, whose AI company is developing the Grok family of models and tools, was quick to refute potential accusations of his company destroying rare books.

“I’ve asked the SpaceXAI team to preserve any rare books in a library and scan them the hard way vs. just cutting off the spine and scanning,” he posted in July on his social media platform X, in response to a user expressing distress over the destructive scanning process.

Even so, the process of building AI models lacks transparency – by design. As AI firms transition from downloading popular books to shredding rare ones, readers and booksellers now fear the world is rapidly losing undiscovered works of literature.

An investigation by technology publication *404 Media* reportedly traced a shipment of rare books to an Amazon facility in Las Vegas, where workers allegedly removed the bindings, scanned the pages and destroyed the physical copies. — तकनीकी प्रकाशन *404 Media* की एक जाँच में कथित रूप से दुर्लभ पुस्तकों की एक खेप को लास वेगास स्थित अमेज़न केंद्र तक ट्रैक किया गया, जहाँ कर्मचारियों ने उनकी जिल्द काटकर पृष्ठों को स्कैन किया और भौतिक प्रतियों को नष्ट कर दिया।

Amazon confirmed that it purchases books through commercial channels to improve its products and services, but it did not directly provide detailed answers about its destructive-scanning practices. — अमेज़न ने पुष्टि की कि वह अपने उत्पादों और सेवाओं में सुधार के लिए व्यावसायिक माध्यमों से पुस्तकें खरीदता है, लेकिन उसने विनाशकारी स्कैनिंग की प्रक्रिया पर विस्तृत उत्तर नहीं दिया।

The controversy has raised questions concerning copyright, fair use, authors' rights, cultural preservation, corporate transparency and the environmental cost of AI development. — इस विवाद ने कॉपीराइट, उचित उपयोग, लेखकों के अधिकार, सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण, कॉर्पोरेट पारदर्शिता और AI विकास की पर्यावरणीय लागत से जुड़े प्रश्न खड़े कर दिए हैं।

What is Destructive Scanning? — विनाशकारी स्कैनिंग क्या है?

Destructive scanning is a digitisation method in which the spine or binding of a physical book is cut off so that its loose pages can be rapidly fed into high-speed scanners. — विनाशकारी स्कैनिंग डिजिटलीकरण की वह विधि है जिसमें भौतिक पुस्तक की रीढ़ अथवा जिल्द काट दी जाती है, ताकि उसके खुले पृष्ठों को तीव्र गति वाले स्कैनर में डाला जा सके।

The scanned images are generally processed through Optical Character Recognition or OCR, which converts printed pages into machine-readable digital text. — स्कैन किए गए चित्रों को सामान्यतः Optical Character Recognition अर्थात् OCR से संसाधित किया जाता है, जो मुद्रित पृष्ठों को मशीन-पठनीय डिजिटल पाठ में परिवर्तित करता है।

The resulting text can be cleaned, classified and added to datasets used for training Large Language Models. — प्राप्त डिजिटल पाठ को साफ, वर्गीकृत और Large Language Models के प्रशिक्षण में उपयोग होने वाले डेटासेट में शामिल किया जा सकता है।

Once the binding is removed, the original book usually cannot be restored easily and may be recycled, pulped or discarded. — एक बार जिल्द काट दिए जाने के बाद मूल पुस्तक को आसानी से पुनर्स्थापित नहीं किया जा सकता और सामान्यतः उसे पुनर्चक्रित, लुगदी में परिवर्तित अथवा फेंक दिया जाता है।

Amazon Investigation — अमेज़न से संबंधित जाँच

According to *404 Media*, a tracking device was placed inside a large shipment of rare or difficult-to-find books. — *404 Media* के अनुसार, दुर्लभ अथवा कठिनाई से मिलने वाली पुस्तकों की एक बड़ी खेप में एक ट्रैकिंग उपकरण रखा गया था।

The shipment was traced to an Amazon facility in Las Vegas reportedly associated with scanning physical books. — इस खेप को लास वेगास स्थित अमेज़न केंद्र तक ट्रैक किया गया, जिसे कथित रूप से भौतिक पुस्तकों की स्कैनिंग से जोड़ा गया है।

Workers reportedly cut off book bindings, separated the pages and scanned them at high speed. — कर्मचारियों ने कथित रूप से पुस्तकों की जिल्द काटी, पृष्ठों को अलग किया और उन्हें तीव्र गति से स्कैन किया।

Amazon stated that it purchases books through commercial channels to develop and improve products and services used by customers. — अमेज़न ने कहा कि वह ग्राहकों द्वारा उपयोग किए जाने वाले उत्पादों और सेवाओं के विकास एवं सुधार के लिए व्यावसायिक माध्यमों से पुस्तकें खरीदता है।

The investigation links the activity to AI training, but Amazon's brief response did not publicly explain the exact models, datasets or safeguards involved. — जाँच इस गतिविधि को AI प्रशिक्षण से जोड़ती है, लेकिन अमेज़न की संक्षिप्त प्रतिक्रिया ने संबंधित मॉडल, डेटासेट अथवा सुरक्षा उपायों की सार्वजनिक रूप से विस्तृत जानकारी नहीं दी। [404 Media investigation](#) ↗

Youth vote and its electoral impact

Electoral trends

Young voters are a dynamic part of India’s electoral landscape. Participation varies sharply across States, while party preferences differ between States as well as age groups. Voting patterns can also change considerably from one election to the next.

Table 1: Youth voter turnout across States and age groups

State	Average Turnout	18-21 years	22-25 years
Lok Sabha election 2024	66.1	60	68
Assembly Elections			
Bihar (2025)	67.3	41	62
M.P. (2023)	75.6	89	70
Punjab (2022)	72.2	77	70
U.P. (2022)	61.1	51	62
Uttarakhand (2022)	65.4	49	56
Gujarat (2022)	64.8	78	65
Himachal (2022)	75.8	59	62
West Bengal (2026)	93.7	93	95
Tamil Nadu (2026)	86	90	88
Kerala (2026)	79.5	83	86
Assam (2026)	86.8	76	95

Note: All figures are in %. The State turnout is for the latest Assembly poll in that specific State.

Table 4: Party preferences of young voters in Uttarakhand, 2017 and 2022

Age Group	2022		2017	
	Cong.	BJP	Cong.	BJP
18 to 21 years	48	33	42	39
22 to 25 years	36	41	28	53
26 to 28 years	42	38	29	48
29 years and above	37	46	35	46



Table 2: Party preferences of young voters in West Bengal, 2021 and 2026

Age Group	2026		2021	
	AITC+	BJP	AITC+	NDA
18 to 21 years	33	51	49	38
22 to 25 years	43	46	49	42
26 to 28 years	45	48	45	42
29 years and above	41	46	49	37



Table 3: Party preferences of young voters in Uttar Pradesh, 2017 and 2022

Age Group	2022			2017		
	BJP+	SP+	BSP	NDA	SP+	BSP
18 to 21 years	44	38	11	42	30	20
22 to 25 years	44	39	11	42	27	24
26 to 28 years	47	36	12	43	29	20
29 years and above	44	36	13	41	28	22

Note: All figures are in %. Others voted for different parties.

Table 5: Party preferences of young voters in Bihar, 2025 and 2020

Age Group	2025		2020	
	NDA	MGB	NDA	MGB
18 to 21 years	50	40	24	39
22 to 25 years	49	38	39	38
26 to 28 years	41	36	39	39
29 years and above	47	38	38	37

Table 6: Party preferences of young voters in Punjab, 2022 and 2017

Age Group	2022			2017		
	Cong.	BJP+	AAP	Cong.	BJP+	AAP
18 to 21	24	6	47	38	23	34
22 to 25	16	2	52	33	31	27
26 to 28	15	11	50	37	27	30
29 years & above	24	8	40	40	32	21

Table 8: Party preferences of young voters in Delhi, 2020 and 2015

Age Group	2020			2015		
	Cong.	BJP+	AAP	Cong.	BJP+	AAP
18 to 21	4	32	58	8	26	64
22 to 25	4	33	59	11	34	52
26 to 28	3	39	57	6	34	58
29 years & above	5	42	52	10	33	53

Table 7: Party preferences of young voters in Tamil Nadu, 2026 and 2021

Age Group	2026			2021	
	DMK Alliance	AIADMK Alliance	TVK	DMK+	AIADMK+
18 to 21	16	6	69	38	38
22 to 25	18	12	61	44	32
26 to 28	25	18	50	38	38
29 years & above	36	33	26	47	41



Word of the day

Mollify:

cause to be more favourably inclined

Synonyms: assuage, appease, placate

Usage: *The leader met the protesters in an attempt to mollify them.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/mollify

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈmɒlɪfaɪ/





Thank you ☺

