Daily Current Affairs

3 The Hindu

2 PIB, PRS & Other newspaper

1 The Indian Express

1 Financial Express

0 Jansatta

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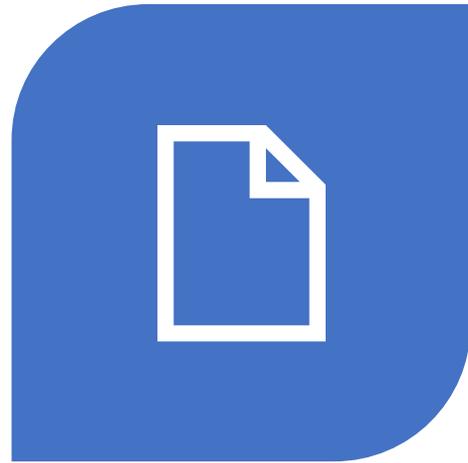
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10 MCQ QUIZ

"Knowledge is the only wealth that no one can steal."

THURSDAY
February 26, 2026
INTERNATIONAL EDITION
18 Pages

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India 'stands firmly' with Israel, Modi says in address to Knesset

Prime Minister addresses Israeli parliament as he begins a visit to the West Asian country: Modi says he supports the Gaza Peace Initiative and adds that India has uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standards

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the Knesset on Wednesday, extended a firm hand of friendship to Israel and condemned the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 as a "barbaric terrorist attack".

Speaking at the Israeli parliament, the Prime Minister supported the Gaza Peace Initiative saying it was necessary to "sustain" the process of peace building in the region. "The Gaza Peace Initiative that was endorsed by the UN Security Council offers a pathway. India has expressed its firm support... We believe that it holds the promise of a just and durable peace for all the people of the region, including by addressing the Palestine issue," he said.

Mr. Modi said India and Israel were working to enhance bilateral relations across sectors such as water management, agriculture, and talent partnership, adding that he had discussed "key developments" in the region with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I also carry with me the deepest condolences of the people of India for every life lost and for every family whose world was shattered in the barbaric terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7," said Mr. Modi, adding that India stands with Israel "firmly, with full conviction".

Mr. Modi reminded the members of the Knesset about India's own struggle against terrorism and cited the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai that killed citizens of India as well as multiple other countries, including Israel. "Like you, we have a consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standard," he said.

Mr. Modi said India had supported Israel's attempts to build friendly ties with the countries in West Asia and North Africa and said Israeli moves to build relationships with Arab countries under the Abraham Accords showed "courage and vision".

"Since then, the situation has changed significantly. The path is even more challenging. Yet it is important to sustain that hope," he said.

Mr. Modi referred to India's ties with the Jewish community as rooted in ancient trade and movement of people, and said there is "great admiration of Israel's resolve, courage and achievements" in India.

He also talked about the absence of discrimination against the Jewish community in India and specifically referred to the Jewish communities in Kerala, Kolkata and Mumbai.

Mr. Modi said India is committed to expanding trade with Israel and informed that both sides are working on it through "cross-border financial linkages" using "Digital Public Infrastructure". He said the two sides are also working on an ambitious Free Trade Agreement.

Earlier, Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Modi "did not flinch" and that under his leadership, India provided support to Israel in the challenging times over the recent past. "You stood for Israel. You stood for the Jews. Thank you," said Mr. Netanyahu.

RAHUL TARGETS PM'S TRIP
» PAGE 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, at the Knesset in Jerusalem on Wednesday. ANI

Bengal court cases stall with officers busy handling SIR

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Judicial work in the district and metropolitan courts across West Bengal has been severely affected after hundreds of judicial officers were deployed to process nearly 50 lakh claims and objections under the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ahead of the February 28 deadline.

Except for urgent matters and bail hearings, trials and regular proceedings – including in special courts such as those dealing with Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases – have been affected as judges undertake verification work.

Committees have been formed at the Calcutta High Court and district levels to reassign urgent cases to alternative courts, but litigants and judicial officers remain uncertain about when normal functioning will resume. Now that it has fallen to the judiciary to examine claims and objections, judicial officers have reached out to administrative complexes for the verification work.

These judicial officers are provided log-in credentials to study the claims and objects.

A District Judge asked how judges could participate in SIR work unless they are made electoral returning officers.

Several important cases where the trial process has been or is likely to be affected include the South Calcutta Law College case (June 2025), the sexual assault of a medical student at Durgapur Medical College (October 2025), and the sexual assault and murder of a 13-year-old in Rampurhat in Birbhum (September 2025).

'May be out of depth'
Retired IAS officer and former Rajya Sabha member Jawhar Sircar said that involving judicial officers in the SIR was not a "well thought-out process".

Judicial crunch
SC has directed judiciary to verify about 50 lakh claims and objections in West Bengal
■ Calcutta HC has deployed 394 judicial officers for verifications
■ Trials as well as other hearings before district courts and metropolitan courts in the State have stalled following the deployment

The former bureaucrat who has served as the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, said that under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the District Magistrates or the District Electoral Officer are the ones with whom real authority lies as far as election processes are concerned. When administrative jobs are thrust upon judicial officers, they "may be out of depth" because judges are used to functioning in a particular format, and issuing judicial and quasi-judicial orders over pending disputes, he said.

He argued that had the judicial officers been engaged in the process about a month ago, the solution may have worked, but now only two or three days were left to meet the February 28 deadline. The Supreme Court has directed the EC to publish the final voter rolls in West Bengal on February 28. However, the supplementary lists would be published on a continuous basis till the date of nomination of candidates for the upcoming Assembly polls, the Supreme Court said.

The Supreme Court on February 20 highlighted a trust deficit between the West Bengal government and the EC and directed that judicial officials of the State would look into claims and objections.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 5

Colours and cheers

Vibrant hues: Revellers at the Lathmar Holi celebrations at Barsana, Uttar Pradesh, on Wednesday. As part of the celebrations, women playfully hit men daubed in colours with bamboo sticks. Elaborate security arrangements were made for the festival. REUTERS

NCERT issues apology for 'unsuitable material'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Supreme Court registered a suo motu case on Wednesday over the inclusion of a section on "corruption" in the judiciary in the National Council for Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) newest Social Science textbook for Class 8, the NCERT issued a statement apologising for the "inappropriate sexual material". Officials said directions had been issued to keep the distribution of this book on "strict hold until further orders".

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 4

U.S. 'winning so much', says Trump in longest State of the Union speech

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump declared during a marathon State of the Union on Tuesday that "we're winning so much" – insisting he'd sparked an economic boom at home and imposed a new world order abroad in hopes it can counter his sliding approval ratings.

Mr. Trump's main objective was convincing increasingly wary Americans that the economy is stronger than many before the midterm elections, saying that they should vote for more of the same by backing Republicans during November's midterm elections. In all, Mr. Trump spoke for a record 108 minutes, breaking – by eight minutes – the previous time mark from his address before a joint session of Congress last year.

The President largely avoided his usual bombast, only occasionally veering off-script – mostly to slam Democrats. As he did during such addresses in his first term, Mr. Trump relied on a series of surprise special guests to dramatically punctuate his message. They included U.S. military heroes and a former political prisoner released after U.S. forces toppled Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Mr. Trump championed his immigration crackdowns and his push to preserve widespread tariffs that the Supreme Court just struck down. He drew applause only from Democrats while describing the high court's decision, which he called "an unfortunate ruling".

Mr. Trump vowed to plough ahead, using "alternative" laws to impose the taxes on imports and telling lawmakers, "Congressional action will not be necessary." Mr. Trump argued that the tariffs are paid by foreign countries, despite evidence that the costs are borne by American consumers and businesses. "It's saving our country," he said.

The only Supreme Court Justices attending were Chief Justice John Roberts, as well as Justices Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett and Elena Kagan. Mr. Trump greeted them personally before the speech, despite last week slamming Coney Barrett – the only one he appointed to the high court in his first term

Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address during a Joint Session of Congress at U.S. Capitol, in Washington on Tuesday. AFP

– for siding with the majority against his tariffs.

Mr. Trump struck a darker tone in large swaths of his speech to warn about the dangers posed by immigrants. He invited lawmakers from both parties to "protest American citizens, not illegal aliens" and championed proposals to limit mail-in ballots and tighten voter identification rules.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump also blamed his predecessor, former President Joe Biden, saying they were responsible for rising prices and health care costs.

"You caused that problem," Mr. Trump said of affordability concerns. He added a moment later, "They knew their statements were a dirty, rotten lie."

Mr. Trump also said he'd press tech companies involved in artificial intelligence to pay higher electricity rates in areas where their data centers are located. Such data centres tend to use large volumes of electricity, potentially increasing the cost of power to other consumers in the area.

'Will never allow'
Mr. Trump's address came as two U.S. aircraft carriers have been dispatched to the West Asia amid tensions with Iran. Mr. Trump said, "My preference is to solve this problem through diplomacy."

"But one thing is certain, I will never allow the world's number one sponsor of terror – which they are, by far – to have a nuclear weapon," he added.

EDITORIAL
» PAGE 8

India 'stands firmly' with Israel, Modi says in address to Knesset

Prime Minister addresses Israeli parliament as he begins a visit to the West Asian country; Modi says he supports the Gaza Peace Initiative and adds that India has uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standards

Kallol Bhattacherjee
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, at the Knesset in Jerusalem on Wednesday. ANI

Mr. Modi said India and Israel were working to enhance bilateral relations across sectors such as water management, agriculture, and talent partnership, adding that he had discussed "key developments" in the region with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

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Mr. Modi reminded the members of the Knesset about India's own struggle against terrorism and cited the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai that killed citizens of India as well as multiple other countries, including Israel. "Like you, we have a consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standard," he said.

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PALESTINE

1946

ISRAEL

PALESTINE

UN PLAN 1947

ISRAEL

PALESTINE

1949 - 1967

ISRAEL

2012

1949 Armistice Lines

Jordanian occupied · Egyptian occupied · Armistice lines

LEBANON

SYRIA

WEST BANK

Jerusalem

GAZA

ISRAEL

JORDAN

EGYPT

SAUDI ARABIA

BBC

Palestinian loss of land 1946 to 2000

Palestinian and Jewish land 1946

- Jewish land
- Palestinian land

PALESTINE

UN Partition plan 1947

- Jewish land
- Palestinian land

1949 - 1967

- Israeli land
- Palestinian land

ISRAEL

2000

- Israeli land
- Palestinian land

ISRAEL

3️⃣ Gaza Peace Initiative & Palestine Issue

• India supported the Gaza Peace Initiative and emphasized a sustainable peace process.

• भारत ने गाजा शांति पहल का समर्थन किया और स्थायी शांति प्रक्रिया पर जोर दिया।

• India reiterated commitment to a just and durable solution including the Palestinian issue (Two-State Solution principle).

• भारत ने फिलिस्तीन मुद्दे सहित न्यायसंगत और स्थायी समाधान (दो-राष्ट्र सिद्धांत) का समर्थन दोहराया।

4️⃣ India–Israel Bilateral Relations

• Cooperation areas: Water management, agriculture, innovation, defence, digital public infrastructure, fintech linkages.

• सहयोग क्षेत्र: जल प्रबंधन, कृषि, नवाचार, रक्षा, डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर, फिनटेक।

• Both sides working toward a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

• दोनों देश मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) पर कार्य कर रहे हैं।

5️⃣ Jewish Community in India

- PM highlighted absence of discrimination against Jews in India (Kerala, Kolkata, Mumbai communities).
- प्रधानमंत्री ने भारत में यहूदी समुदाय के विरुद्ध भेदभाव के अभाव को रेखांकित किया (केरल, कोलकाता, मुंबई)।

- Ancient trade links between India and West Asia emphasized.
- भारत और पश्चिम एशिया के प्राचीन व्यापारिक संबंधों पर जोर दिया गया।

🌍 Extra Historical, Political, Economic & Geographical Facts

Historical Background

- India recognized Israel in 1950 but full diplomatic relations established in 1992.
- भारत ने 1950 में इज़राइल को मान्यता दी, परंतु पूर्ण राजनयिक संबंध 1992 में स्थापित हुए।

- First Indian PM to visit Israel – Narendra Modi (2017).
- इज़राइल की यात्रा करने वाले पहले भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री – नरेंद्र मोदी (2017)।

- Abraham Accords (2020) normalized Israel's relations with UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan.
- अब्राहम समझौते (2020) से इज़राइल के UAE, बहरीन, मोरक्को, सूडान से संबंध सामान्य हुए।

Political Dimension

- India follows a de-hyphenation policy: independent relations with Israel and Palestine
- भारत डी-हाइफनेशन नीति अपनाता है: इज़राइल और फिलिस्तीन से अलग-अलग संबंध।

- Supports Two-State Solution based on UN resolutions.
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रस्तावों पर आधारित दो-राष्ट्र समाधान का समर्थन।

Economic Dimension

- Bilateral trade crossed approx. $10 billion (including defence).
- द्विपक्षीय व्यापार लगभग 10 अरब डॉलर से अधिक।

- Israel is a major defence supplier to India (drones, missiles, radar systems).
- इज़राइल भारत को ड्रोन, मिसाइल, रडार आदि रक्षा उपकरणों का प्रमुख आपूर्तिकर्ता है।

- India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) announced in G20 2023.
- G20 2023 में भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप आर्थिक कॉरिडोर (IMEC) की घोषणा हुई।

Consider the following statements:

1. India established full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992.

2. India supports a Two-State Solution to resolve the Israel–Palestine conflict.

3. Israel is located in South-East Asia.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Walking a tightrope

The data were sourced from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Lok Sabha

CHART 2A: India's top five exports to Israel and each commodity's share in total exports

Commodity	Share
Refined products made from crude oil	43.7
Diamonds	21.9
Rice	1.5
Parts of communication equipment	1.4
Parts of arms and accessories	1.4

Figues based on cumulative values from 2019 to 2025 (in %)
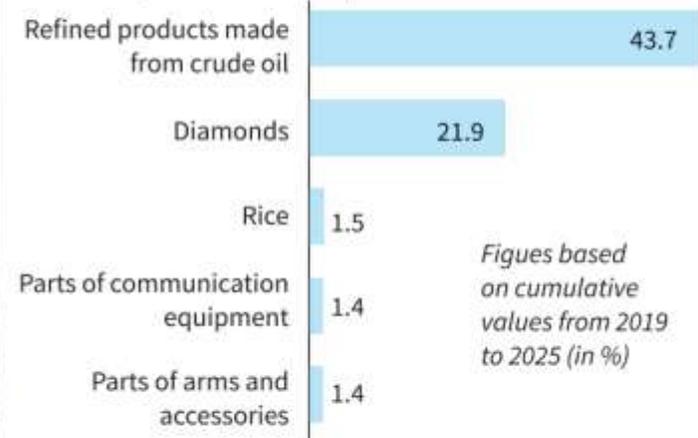
CHART 1: Trends in India-Israel bilateral trade from 2015-16 to 2024-25 (in $ billion)

Year	Value
2015-16	4.9
	5
2017-18	5.4
	5.6
2019-20	4.9
	4.6
2021-22	7.8
	10.7
	6.5
2024-25	3.6
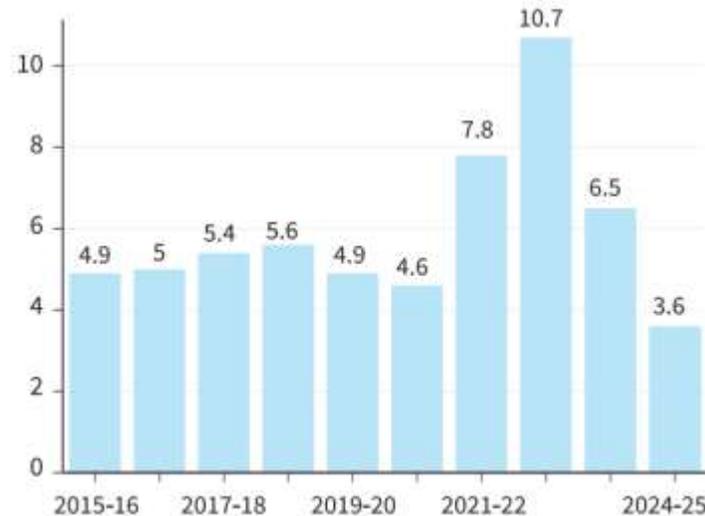
CHART 2B: India's top five imports from Israel and each commodity's share in total imports

Commodity	Share
Diamonds	33.1
Mineral or chemical fertilizers (potassic)	8.1
Integrated circuits and microassemblies	5.5
Radio navigation and remote control	4.8
Apparatus for transmission devices	3.7

Figues based on cumulative values from 2019 to 2025 (in %)
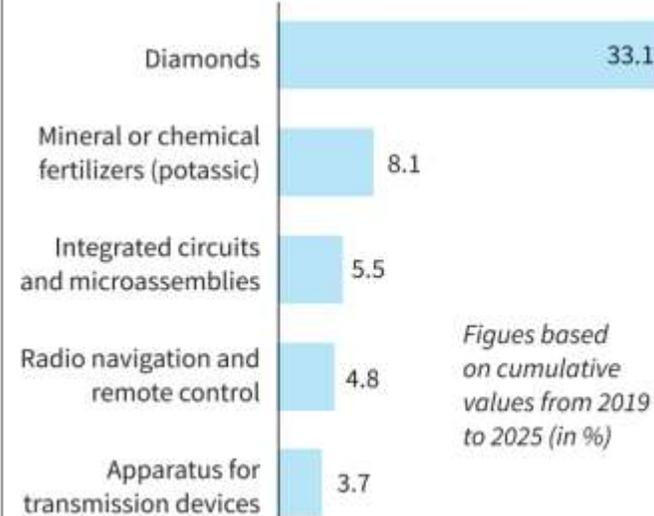
CHART 3: India's share in Israel's arms exports from 1997 to 2024 in %. India has emerged as one of the largest importers of Israel's arms and ammunitions
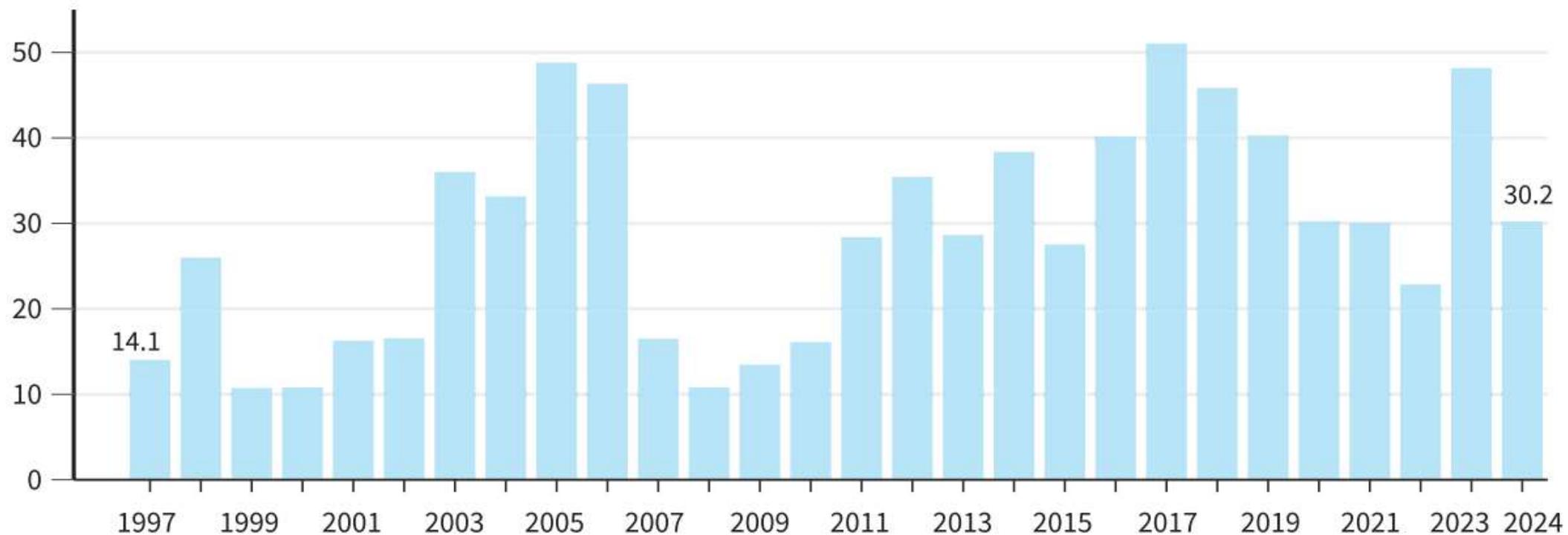
Rank	Country	Jewish Population (Approx.)
1	IL Israel	7.2 million
2	US United States	6.3 million
3	FR France	440,000
4	CA Canada	400,000
5	GB United Kingdom	290,000
6	AR Argentina	175,000
7	RU Russia	150,000
8	DE Germany	120,000
9	AU Australia	120,000
10	BR Brazil	95,000

Officials to keep track of census data collection real time

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The field operations during the upcoming first-ever digital Population Census 2027 will be monitored real time on a portal by senior officials to "oversee progress, identify gaps or delays, and ensure timely completion of activities in accordance with prescribed timelines," the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) has informed the States. Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, RG&CCI, said that around 32 lakh field functionaries will be deployed to carry out the "task of national importance, covering the entire country within a prescribed time frame."

To effectively manage and monitor the various census-related activities, a dedicated web-based portal – the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) – has been developed, he said.

The first phase of the Census – houselisting operations (HLO), during which 33 questions regarding housing conditions, amenities etc. will be asked – is scheduled from April 1 to September 30 in all States and Union Territories.

The second phase is population enumeration, when the demographic, socio-economic, cultural, and caste details are to be collected. It will be conducted in February 2027.

The communication to the States said that the ensuing Census 2027 will make extensive use of digital technology to enhance the quality, efficiency, and timeliness of data collection and dissemination.

For the first time in Census operations, "working maps" shall be generated with the latest available satellite imagery to enable clear identification of habitations and settlements on the ground.

SC takes *suo motu* case over NCERT corruption remark

The court decides to register the suo motu case despite reports that the controversial portion in the textbook had been withdrawn; the CJI calls it a calculated attempt to denigrate the judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday registered a *suo motu* case over a "selective reference" in a Class 8 textbook, published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), about "corruption" in the judiciary.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi is scheduled to hear the case titled "In Re : Social Science Textbook for Grade-8 (Part 2) published by NCERT and ancillary issues" at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday.

The Supreme Court decided to go ahead and register a *suo motu* case even as media reports flashed that the portion in question in the textbook had

The NCERT is tasked with developing curriculum frameworks, publishing textbooks and conducting research. FILE PHOTO

been withdrawn.

Chief Justice Kant was livid as he referred to the textual content as a "tentatively calculated, deep-rooted attempt" to denigrate the judicial institution. "I will not let anything like this to happen," he emphasised when senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi brought up the issue in open court.

Mr. Sibal said that the reference to "corruption", particularly in relation to the judiciary, seemed deliberate.

"It is as if there is no corruption in other organs of governance – Ministers, bureaucrats, the police, politicians," Mr. Sibal and Mr. Singhvi said.

'Calculated move'

Chief Justice Kant said he had received many calls from the Bar and from the High Courts about the content in the textbook.

"I will not allow anybody to defame the institution. Law will take its course. As the head of the institution, I have done my duty and I have taken cognisance. This seems to be a calculated move... I will not say much," Chief Justice said.

Justice Bagchi indicated that the mention in the school book affected Constitutional integrity and impacted the principle of separation of powers, a fundamental part of the Basic Structure Doctrine.

The chapter "The Role of the judiciary in Our Society" in a Class 8 Social Science book prescribed by NCERT mentions that corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and a lack of adequate number of judges were among the "challenges" faced by the judicial system.

NCERT apologises for 'inappropriate textual material'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Supreme Court of India registered a *suo motu* case on Wednesday over the inclusion of a section on "corruption" in the judiciary in its newest social science textbook for Class 8, the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) issued a statement apologising for the "inappropriate textual material" and "error in judgement" that had "inadvertently crept" into the chapter in question.

Officials said directions had been issued on Tuesday to keep the distribution of this book on the night hold until further orders".

On Wednesday morning, the Supreme Court registered the *suo motu* case calling the section "a selective reference", even as the NCERT apologised in its statement later in the night saying "it regrets this error of judgement".

"NCERT holds the judiciary in highest esteem and considers it to be the upholder of the Indian Constitution and protector of Fundamental Rights. The aforesaid error is purely unintentional and NCERT regrets the inclusion of inappropriate material in the said chapter," the NCERT said in a statement.

The NCERT said that the objective of the new textbook is to "strengthen constitutional literacy, institutional respect, and informed understanding of democratic participation amongst students", adding that "there is no intent to question or diminish the authority of any constitutional body".

It said that since NCERT remains "open to constructive feedback" as "part of its continuous review process", the material in question "shall be re-written, with consultation of the appropriate authority".

CBI arrests 3 persons in 'digital arrest' fraud case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday arrested three accused persons following searches in six States in connection with a high-value "digital arrest" fraud case involving about ₹1.86 crore.

The arrested persons have been identified as Blessin Jacob Abraham, Mohammad Mushtaque, and Mohammad Junaid. The agency said the case pertains to the defrauding of a senior citizen from Kottayam in Kerala.

The CBI launched the operation targeting two critical components of the cyber fraud ecosystem – mule bank account networks, and fraudulently procured SIM cards. Searches were carried out in Goa, Bengaluru, Palakkad, Nagpur, Hyderabad, and Delhi, leading to the seizure of digital devices, debit cards, and bank account documents.

Mr. Abraham was arrested from a Goa hotel. Mr. Mushtaque, was picked up from Nagpur. Mr. Junaid was arrested in Bengaluru, according to the CBI.

HC confirms acquittal of Veerappan's 'aides' in Rajkumar's abduction case

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday dismissed a State appeal preferred in 2019 against the 2018 acquittal of nine individuals, suspected of being members of forest brigand Veerappan's gang, which abducted Kannada actor Rajkumar on July 30, 2000 and held him hostage for 108 days.

A Division Bench of Justices P. Velmurugan and M. Jothiraman confirmed the order of acquittal passed by the third Additional District and Sessions Court at Gobichettipalayam in Erode district on September 28, 2018 and held that it did not find any reason to interfere with the well reasoned trial court verdict.

In his verdict, the sessions judge K. Mani had pointed out that the FIR regarding the abduction was registered about 24 hours after the incident, and that too on the basis of a complaint lodged by Village Administrative Officer (VAO) Gopal, who was not an eye-

Forest brigand Veerappan with Kannada actor Rajkumar. FILE PHOTO

witness to the incident.

The VAO had claimed to have gained knowledge about the incident only through the general public, though according to the prosecution, Rajkumar and three others were abducted from his ancestral farm house at Gajanur village in Thalavady Taluk of Erode district in the presence of many others.

Further, the date in the FIR had been corrected from July 30, 2000 to July 31, 2000, and it had no mention of any criminal conspiracy having been hatched by the accused to abduct the actor. The VAO had also not spoken about any conspiracy in his testimony before the court, the trial court had said.

Highlighting other inconsistencies in the prosecution case, the sessions judge said the judge had claimed that Veerappan had handed over an audio cassette to Rajkumar's wife Parvathamma and instructed her to hand over the cassette containing a list of demands, to the Karnataka Chief Minister before approaching the police. However, one of the accused C. Rasivanna, in his reported confession to the police, pursuant to his arrest in October 2001, had contradicted the prosecution case by claiming that actor Rajkumar was abducted for ransom since Veerappan was desperately in need of money, the trial court had pointed out.

Govt. to procure business jets for defence dignitaries and chiefs of armed forces

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to procure long-range business jets for senior defence dignitaries and chiefs of the armed forces.

A senior Ministry official said the government plans to replace the existing fleet of business jets with the Indian Air Force (IAF) that has been in service for 20 years. The replacement is planned in a phased manner and is expected to take time.

The decision to get a new fleet comes against the backdrop of the crash of a VSR Ventures-owned aircraft on January 28 that claimed the lives of Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, and four others.

Sources said the RFI sought inputs from Indian and foreign vendors for the jets along with associated equipment for the IAF. The first part of the RFI outlines the broad operational characteristics and key

Four Embraer jets were inducted into the Indian Air Force in 2005 for VIP use and communication duties. FILE PHOTO

technical parameters the aircraft must meet. The second part specifies the methodology for vendor response submission, including compliance requirements and prescribed formats.

The government will assess options in domestic and global markets before proceeding with the acquisition.

On September 21, 2008, four Embraer Legacy 600 business jets were inducted into the Air Headquarters Communication Squadron of the IAF, with three

aircraft delivered initially and the fourth arriving a few months later. The aircraft were named Meghdoot, Vayudoot, Nabhdoot, and Gagandoot, and have since been used for VIP and communication duties.

The existing Embraer fleet requires a take-off distance of 1,800 metres and a landing distance of 1,400 metres, allowing operations from most airfields in India and abroad. The jets are equipped with self-protection suites to guard against missile threats.

SC denies plea against film title *Yadav Ji Ki Love Story*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to entertain a plea challenging the title of the film *Yadav Ji Ki Love Story*, observing that the name neither had any negative connotation nor portrayed the Yadav community in a bad light.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan rejected the petition filed by Awdesh Kumar Yadav, who argued that the title sounded derogatory for the Yadav community. Mr. Yadav invoked the court's February 19 order in a plea filed against the name of another film, *Dhaakhar Pandat*. In that case, the filmmaker had to withdraw the film's name.

Distinguishing the two cases, the court said the expression "*Dhaakhar*" meant corruption and could be read as picturing the Pandit community in a negative light. However, in the present case, the court said the name of the film did not contain any adjective or word that portrayed the Yadav community negatively.

Courts now justify environment degradation: former SC judge

The Hindu Bureau
NIMLI

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Deepak Gupta on Wednesday said that courts now justify environmental degradation and attacked the judiciary over different decisions, ranging from giving a clean chit to Vantara to allowing the Great Nicobar project.

"The Supreme Court and the High Courts were very active. They took a proactive role in protecting the environment. Unfortunately, that is not the case any more," he said at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2025, organised by the Centre for Science and Environment, at Nimli in Rajasthan.

"Now, there are certain phrases which the court uses to justify environmental degradation. Procedure has become more important than the environ-

Justice Deepak Gupta

ment," he said, adding that courts mostly check only if procedure is followed.

"I'm sorry, that is not where the court's role finishes. The procedure may have been followed, but if the end result is an environmental disaster, the court is required to step in," Justice Gupta added.

"I want to give two (examples). The Nicobar case is one in which the NGT (said) procedure was followed. The procedure may be followed. I have read a

court order that you cut trees in the Andamans, for palm oil plantations, which is the most damaging for the ecology. And the compensatory trees will be planted in Haryana and Rajasthan. What nonsense are we talking? Compensatory afforestation has become a joke," he said.

Justice Gupta cited the second example in Vantara (the Reliance-owned animal rehabilitation centre in Gujarat. "I can't understand how the Supreme Court went (about the case). It seems the Vantara people got the writ petition filed. The Supreme Court says if a Chief Minister makes some remarks that are unpalatable, then go to the High Court. But in Vantara, the top court granted a commission, which gave a report in one week and they said everything is hunky-dory," he said.

Panel discussion for students, professionals on new career options

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), in collaboration with *The Hindu*, will organise a hybrid panel discussion series titled "Future Career Conversations" to support students and working professionals in making informed academic and career decisions.

The first webinar titled "The Innovation Bridge: Universities as India's New R&D Powerhouses" will be held at 11.30 a.m. on February 28. It will examine how universities are strengthening translational research and industry-led R&D to bridge the research-to-market gap and convert intellectual property to real-world impact.

The panel comprises

FUTURE CAREER CONVERSATIONS

Shantanu Patil, director, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, SRMIST; N. Venkata Rastry, director-Career Centre, SRMIST; Krishnan Nagamuthan, innovation consultant and founder, Think Horizon Consulting LLP; and Mahesh Ramachandran, founder, CIGS Tech Innovations and Partner, Pontaq Cross Border Innovation Fund. The session will be moderated by journalist Soma Basu. Registration is at newsth.live/THSRMTII

Art, cinema cannot be used to vilify communities, says SC judge

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court has held the mirror to divisive forces within society that have weaponised visual arts, speeches, memes, and cartoons to "vilify and denigrate" entire communities.

"It is constitutionally impermissible for anybody, be it the state or non-state actors, through any medium, such as, speeches, memes, cartoons, visual arts, etc., to vilify and denigrate any community. It will be violative of the Constitution to target any particular community on the basis of religion, language, caste or region by whomsoever he or she may be," Justice Bhuyan wrote in a February 19 judicial order published on Wednesday.

Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

The judge said the spirit of fraternity had to be kept alive especially by public figures holding high constitutional offices. They had, after all, the judge reminded, taken the "solemn oath" to uphold the Constitution.

Justice Bhuyan referred to the use of threat of violence and intimidation to stop exhibition of Censor Board-certified films, saying these actions, if not checked, would lead to anarchy and cripple the

right to freedom of speech and expression.

The order was pronounced by a Bench of Justice B.V. Nagarathna and he in a petition filed by Atul Mishra, National Organisation Secretary of the Brahman Samaj of India, seeking directions to stay the release of the movie *Dhaakhar Pandat* on Netflix.

The petitioners had found the title offensive. The filmmaker had capitulated, withdrawing the name.

The court had commented about the fragility of sensibilities nowadays.

The judge said the right of a moviemaker to offer send a message across to the society at large or make a film for pure entertainment was traceable to Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech) of the Constitution.

SC takes *suo motu* case over NCERT corruption remark

The court decides to register the *suo motu* case despite reports that the controversial portion in the textbook had been withdrawn; the CJI calls it a calculated attempt to denigrate the judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday registered a *suo motu* case over a "selective reference" in a Class 8 textbook, published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), about "corruption" in the judiciary.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi is scheduled to hear the case titled "In Re : Social Science Textbook for Grade-8 (Part 2) published by NCERT and ancillary issues" at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday.

The Supreme Court decided to go ahead and register a *suo motu* case even as media reports flashed that the portion in question in the textbook had

The NCERT is tasked with developing curriculum frameworks, publishing textbooks and conducting research. FILE PHOTO

been withdrawn.

Chief Justice Kant was livid as he referred to the textual content as a "tentatively calculated, deep-rooted attempt" to denigrate the judicial institution. "I will not let anything like that to happen," he emphasised when senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi brought up the issue in open court.

Mr. Sibal said that the reference to "corruption", particularly in relation to the judiciary, seemed deliberate.

"It is as if there is no corruption in other organs of governance – Ministers, bureaucrats, the police, politicians," Mr. Sibal and Mr. Singhvi said.

'Calculated move'

Chief Justice Kant said he had received many calls from the Bar and from the High Courts about the content in the textbook.

"I will not allow anybody to defame the institution. Law will take its course. As the head of the institution, I have done my duty and I have taken cognisance. This seems to be a calculated move... I will not say much," Chief Justice said.

Justice Bagchi indicated that the mention in the school book affected Constitutional integrity and impacted the principle of separation of powers, a fundamental part of the Basic Structure Doctrine.

The chapter 'The Role of the Judiciary in Our Society' in a Class 8 Social Science book prescribed by NCERT mentions that corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and a lack of adequate number of judges were among the "challenges" faced by the judicial system.

Subject	Class & Year	Topics Previously Present	New Topics Added	Topics Removed or Controversial
History	Class 9 (2021–22)	Harappan Civilization, Medieval India (Broad)	More inclusive sections on tribal histories	Some perception of "Eurocentric" narratives de-emphasised
History	Class 10 (2022–23)	Nationalism, Freedom Struggle	Additional case studies on lesser historians	Removed certain dated quotations debated for bias
Civics / Political Science	Class 8 (2023–24)	Role of Judiciary, Legislature	Expanded Constitutional morality & rights	**Removed reference implying "judicial corruption"** after controversy
Civics / Political Science	Class 10 (2024–25)	Government Structure & Functions	More on digital governance, e-governance tools	Old examples of political events removed for recency
Economics	Class 11 (2022–23)	Microeconomic Concepts	Introduction of digital economy basics	Reworked certain dated poverty statistics

Economics	Class 12 (2023–24)	National Income Accounting	GST impacts & renewable energy economics	Obsolete graphical examples removed
Geography	Class 7 (2022–23)	Water Resources	GIS, Remote Sensing basics added	Old case studies on dams swapped to balanced ones
Geography	Class 12 (2024–25)	Agriculture patterns	Climate change impacts on agriculture	Removed repetitive chapters; added updated stats
Science / Biology	Class 10 (2021–23)	Human Health & Diseases	Vaccine development & pandemic preparedness	Some outdated disease prevalence figures removed
Science / Physics	Class 11 (2023–24)	Electricity	Digital electronics, semiconductors added	Outdated circuit examples updated

1️⃣ What happened? / क्या हुआ?

• The Supreme Court registered a *suo motu* case over a Class 8 NCERT textbook reference to "corruption" in the judiciary.

• सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कक्षा 8 की NCERT पुस्तक में न्यायपालिका में "भ्रष्टाचार" के उल्लेख पर स्वतः संज्ञान (सुओ मोटू) मामला दर्ज किया।

• The CJI termed it a "calculated attempt" to denigrate the judiciary.

• मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने इसे न्यायपालिका को बदनाम करने का "सुनियोजित प्रयास" बताया।

2️⃣ Bench & Case Details / पीठ एवं मामला

• A three-judge Bench led by the Chief Justice of India heard the matter.

• मुख्य न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता में तीन न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने मामले की सुनवाई की।

• Case title: "In Re: Social Science Textbook for Grade-8 (Part-2) published by NCERT".

• मामला शीर्षक: "इन रे: कक्षा-8 सामाजिक विज्ञान पाठ्यपुस्तक (भाग-2) NCERT द्वारा प्रकाशित"।

3️⃣ Key Constitutional Concerns / प्रमुख संवैधानिक मुद्दे

• Court said such remarks may affect the institutional integrity of the judiciary.

• न्यायालय ने कहा कि ऐसे उल्लेख से न्यायपालिका की संस्थागत गरिमा प्रभावित हो सकती है।

• It impacts the principle of Separation of Powers — part of the Basic Structure Doctrine.

• यह शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत को प्रभावित करता है — जो मूल संरचना सिद्धांत का हिस्सा है।

4️⃣ NCERT Context / NCERT का संदर्भ

• NCERT develops curriculum frameworks and publishes textbooks under the Ministry of Education.

• NCERT शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत पाठ्यक्रम रूपरेखा बनाता और पुस्तकें प्रकाशित करता है।

• The controversial portion reportedly mentioned corruption, backlog of cases and shortage of judges as challenges.

• विवादित अंश में भ्रष्टाचार, लंबित मामलों की संख्या और न्यायाधीशों की कमी को चुनौतियों के रूप में बताया गया था।

📚 Important Legal & Constitutional Concepts

🔷 Suo Motu Power

• "Suo motu" means taking cognizance on its own without a formal petition.

• "सुओ मोटू" का अर्थ है बिना औपचारिक याचिका के स्वयं संज्ञान लेना।

• Derived from Articles 32 and 142 of the Constitution (judicial powers).

• यह संविधान के अनुच्छेद 32 और 142 से संबंधित न्यायिक शक्तियों से जुड़ा है।

🔷 Separation of Powers

• Divides power among Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

• शक्तियों का विभाजन विधायिका, कार्यपालिका और न्यायपालिका में करता है।

• Ensures checks and balances in governance.

• शासन में नियंत्रण और संतुलन सुनिश्चित करता है।

◆ Basic Structure Doctrine

- Evolved in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973).
- केशवानंद भारती मामला (1973) में विकसित हुआ।

- Parliament cannot alter the basic structure of the Constitution.
- संसद संविधान की मूल संरचना को परिवर्तित नहीं कर सकती।

- Judicial independence is part of the basic structure.
- न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता मूल संरचना का हिस्सा है।

🌍 Historical & Political Background

- Judiciary has faced criticism over pendency of cases (over 4 crore cases pending in India).
- भारत में लंबित मामलों की संख्या 4 करोड़ से अधिक है।

- Collegium system governs appointment of judges (SC & HC).
- कोलेजियम प्रणाली सर्वोच्च व उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति करती है।

- NJAC Act (2014) was struck down by SC in 2015 to protect judicial independence.
- NJAC अधिनियम (2014) को 2015 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा हेतु निरस्त किया।

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते

एन सी ई आर टी
NCERT

Motto	Sanskrit: विद्यया अमृतमश्नुते *Life eternal through learning*
Type	Autonomous body
Established	1 September 1961; 64 years ago
Founder	Government of India (Ministry of Education)
Budget	₹510 crore (US$60 million) (FY2022–23 est.)[1]
President	Minister of Education, Government of India
Director	Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani[2]
Location	Sri Aurobindo Marg, Delhi, India
Campus	Urban
Acronym	NCERT

🎯 Statement-Based MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court can take suo motu cognizance without a formal petition.

2. Judicial independence forms part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

3. Separation of Powers is explicitly mentioned word-for-word in the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Text&Context

THE HINDU

How are Indian firms training LLMs?

Why is training a Large Language Model on Indian soil with Indian capital a challenge? How has the IndiaAI Mission subsidised efforts to conduct training in India? Why is a Mixture of Experts (MoE) architecture inexpensive than other comparable models?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

At the AI Impact Summit, the Bengaluru-based startup Sarvam AI released two Large Language Models (LLMs), which are the foundation for AI systems that power services like Google's Gemini and OpenAI's ChatGPT. The two models were trained on 24 billion and 103 billion parameters respectively, and were less power- and compute-intensive than comparable models, while demonstrating improvements over other models in Indian languages, Pratyush Kumar, a Sarvam co-founder said.

How are LLMs trained?

LLMs are trained and operated on clusters of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs). The combined cost of the GPUs and the electricity needed to run them long enough to train a model, run into millions of dollars. The grist for this mill is data, largely scraped from the Internet, where English, European languages and East Asian languages like Korean and Japanese are more richly represented than Indian languages.

This creates a twofold challenge for training an LLM on Indian soil with Indian capital. For one thing, with scarce data sources, many LLMs either perform worse when operating on Indian languages, or burn more "tokens" on inference to translate sentences into English (and translating responses back) to perform better. Since machine translation has improved dramatically for Indian languages, this remains the gold standard for many LLMs. Secondly, since capital is also scarce, efforts to train an LLM by Indian firms targeting Indian users can be challenging, especially if there is no immediate business use case for doing so.

Using translations as a fulcrum can be a challenge for developers who want to leverage local LLMs — like Sarvam's 24 billion parameter model, which was shown off in a demo during the summit's research symposium working on a feature phone — where suboptimal performance in Indian languages can impact adoption and quality of performance.

Has there been government support?

The IndiaAI Mission has subsidised efforts to conduct training in India, by commissioning over 36,000 GPUs in data centres operated by Indian firms like Yotta, and allowing researchers and startups to run training and inference workloads at a relatively nominal fee. The government gave Sarvam access to 4,096 GPUs from its common compute cluster, and the subsidy so far is estimated at almost ₹100 crore. The "bill of materials" for this cluster is ₹246 crore, though these GPUs can probably be continued to be used by others.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has encouraged domestic LLM development for many reasons. The main one is a belief that foreign-developed LLMs can't possibly find the capabilities or the business case to develop the capacity to work well with Indian languages. Additionally, encouraging talent that can train LLMs has been seen as important to foster the Indian AI ecosystem.

As such, Sarvam's announcement of its two models is a significant development in India's own quest to develop a powerful and relatively inexpensive LLM. When China's Deepseek developed its R1 LLM, the entire AI industry quickly adopted its techniques, as it saved on cost for training and inference without compromising output quality. The government has sought to spark a similar cost advantage.

Mr. Kumar of Sarvam said that the LLM was trained "from scratch," and that the model would be made open source. However, while it has been made available on an app named Indus, it is not available on platforms like Hugging Face, making it difficult for outside experts to scrutinise the claims the firm has made.

What is the MoE architecture?

A key breakthrough for AI models seeking to function locally was the Mixture of Experts (MoE) architecture. When the first LLMs trained on hundreds of billions or even over a trillion parameters were launched, inference was typically run by "activating" all parameters, making queries expensive. But an MoE model only activates a fraction of the overall parameters of a model, making it run faster and also consume a lower level of computing resources.

Even 103 billion parameters, Sarvam acknowledges, "is significantly smaller than the frontier models powering global consumer chat applications today," and the firm says it is "intentionally focused on accuracy, usefulness, efficiency, and alignment for the Indian context before training bigger foundational models".

As such, the answers are not as in-depth as a response from paid versions of Gemini or ChatGPT. That part will come later, Sarvam says, when it has the necessary investments to put money into a larger training run.

Another LLM developed and trained on the common compute cluster was by BharatGen, the IIT Bombay-incubated firm that was able to train a "multilingual" 17 billion parameter model. That model, the firm says, is for use in sectors like education and healthcare. Gnani.ai, another firm, launched a small text-to-speech model.

THE GIST

▼ LLMs are trained and operated on clusters of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs). The combined cost of the GPUs and the electricity needed to run them long enough to train a model, run into millions of dollars.

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What are carbon capture and utilisation technologies?

How can such technologies reduce carbon dioxide emissions? What is the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Circular Economy Action Plan? How can India scale-up CCU technology?

Shambhavi Naik

The story so far:

Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) refers to a set of technologies that capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources or directly from the air and convert them into useful products. This process removes carbon from the atmosphere and puts it into the economy as inputs for fuels, chemicals, building materials, or polymers. Unlike carbon capture and storage, where captured CO_2 is permanently stored underground rather than reused, CCU uses up the captured carbon.

Why does India need CCU?

India has consistently been the world's third-largest emitter of CO_2, with emissions driven largely by power generation, cement, steel, and chemicals.

While renewable energy may reduce future emissions, many industrial processes are inherently carbon-intensive and difficult to decarbonise. CCU offers a pathway to reduce emissions from these "hard-to-abate" sectors while simultaneously creating new industrial value chains. It also aligns with India's net-zero target for 2070 and its push to build a circular, low-carbon economy.

Where does India stand today?

India has begun supporting CCU through research funding from the Department of Science and Technology which has created a specific research and development roadmap for these technologies. The draft 2030 roadmap for Carbon Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) presented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas has identified projects that can be used for CCUS purposes. In the private sector, Ambuja Cements

(Adani Group) is working on an Indo-Swedish CCU pilot with IIT Bombay to convert captured CO_2 into fuels and materials. JK Cement is collaborating on a CCU testbed to capture CO_2 for applications such as lightweight concrete blocks and olefins. Beyond cement, Organic Recycling Systems Limited (ORSL) is leading India's first pilot-scale Bio-CCU platform, valorising CO_2 from biogas streams into bio-alcohols and specialty chemicals.

What are other countries doing?

The EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Circular Economy Action Plan explicitly supports CCU as a way to turn CO_2 into feedstocks for chemicals, fuels, and materials, linking it to circularity and sustainability targets. ArcelorMittal and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. are working with a climate tech company, D-CRBN, to trial a new technology to convert CO_2 captured at ArcelorMittal's plant in Gent, Belgium into carbon monoxide which can be used in steel and chemical production. The U.S. uses a combination of tax credits and funding to scale CCUs, particularly for CO_2-derived fuels and chemicals. The UAE's Al Reyadah project and planned CO_2-to-chemicals hubs leverage CCU with green hydrogen.

What are the risks ahead?

The foremost risk in scaling CCU in India is cost competitiveness. Capturing, purifying, and converting CO_2 is energy-intensive and expensive. Without policy incentives, CCU-derived products will struggle to compete with cheaper, fossil-based alternatives. A second risk lies in infrastructure readiness. CCU requires co-located industrial clusters, reliable transport of CO_2, and integration with downstream manufacturing, all of which are unevenly developed across Indian industrial regions. Finally, the absence of clear standards, certification, and market signals create uncertainty for investors and limits demand for CO_2-derived products.

India has taken positive steps through the development of roadmaps to achieving CCU, and their appropriate implementation will be necessary for achieving India's goals.
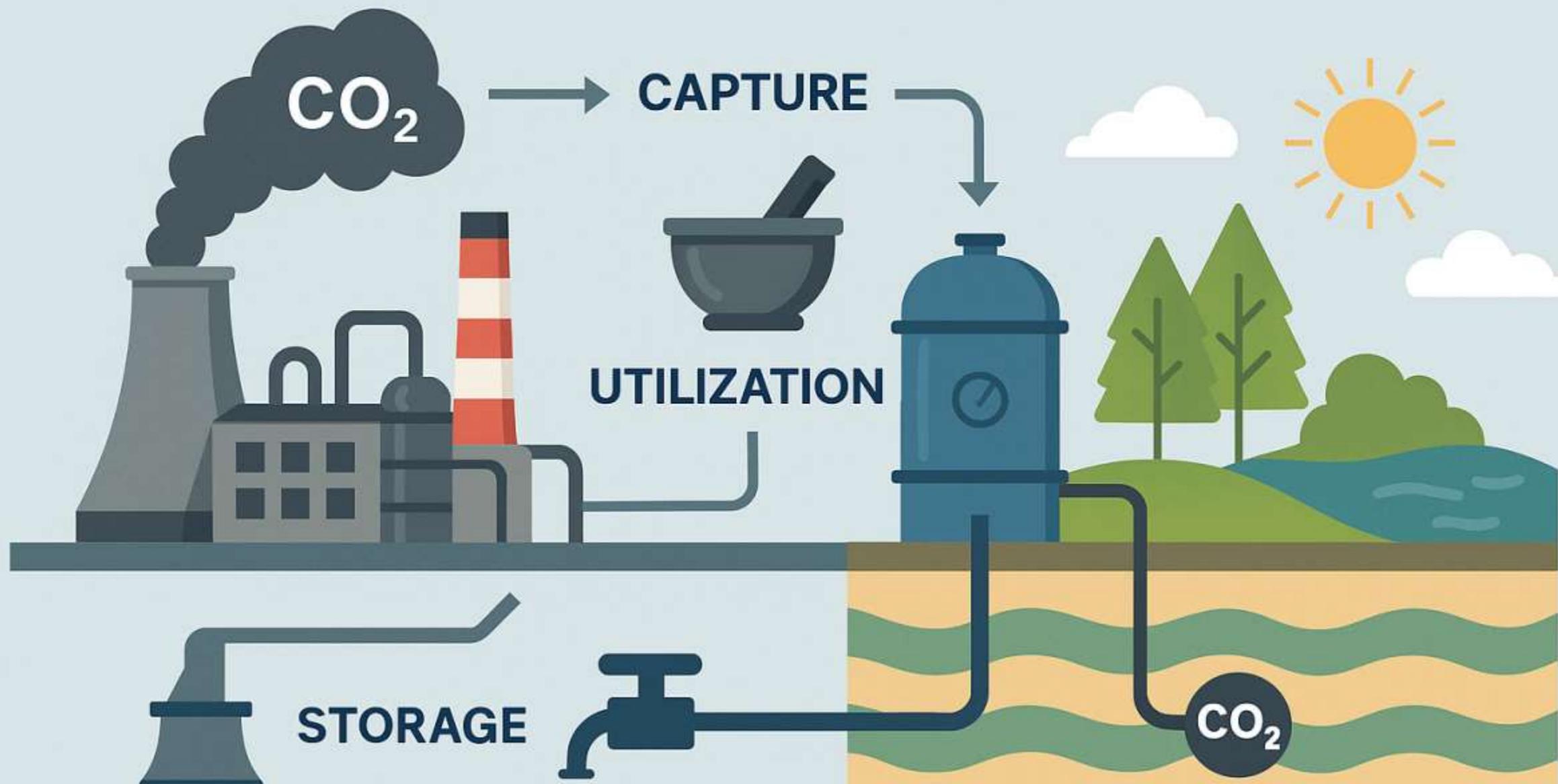
Shambhavi Naik is chairperson, Takshashila Institution's Health & Life Sciences Policy.

THE GIST

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New Innovation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Sarvam co-founder Pratyush Kumar at the AI Impact Summit, at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi on February 19. PTI

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Shambhavi Naik is chairperson, Takshashila Institution's Health & Life Sciences Policy,

CARBON CAPTURE

SOURCES

CAPTURE

COMPRESSION

CO2

TRANSPORTATION

UTILIZATION
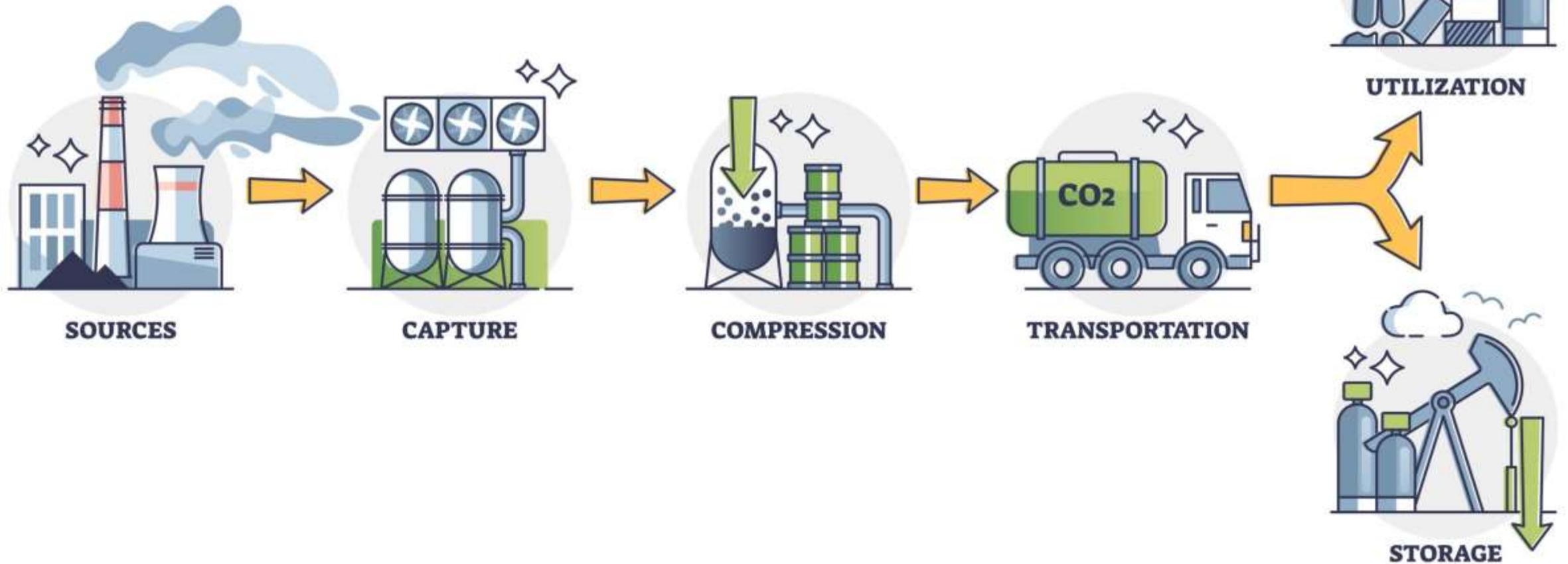
STORAGE

CCUS

CARBON CAPTURE, UTILIZATION AND STORAGE

CO_2 → CAPTURE

UTILIZATION

STORAGE

CO_2

1️⃣ What is CCU? / CCU क्या है?

• Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) captures CO_2 from industrial sources or directly from air and converts it into useful products.

• कार्बन कैप्चर एंड यूटिलाइजेशन (CCU) औद्योगिक स्रोतों या वायु से CO_2 पकड़कर उसे उपयोगी उत्पादों में बदलता है।

• Unlike Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), CCU reuses captured carbon instead of storing it underground.

• CCS के विपरीत, CCU पकड़े गए कार्बन को भूमिगत संग्रहित करने के बजाय पुनः उपयोग करता है।

• CO_2 can be converted into fuels, chemicals, polymers, building materials, and synthetic products.

• CO_2 को ईंधन, रसायन, पॉलिमर, निर्माण सामग्री और सिंथेटिक उत्पादों में बदला जा सकता है।

2️⃣ Why is CCU Important for India? / भारत के लिए CCU क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

• India is the world's third-largest CO_2 emitter.

• भारत विश्व का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा CO_2 उत्सर्जक है।

• Hard-to-abate sectors like cement, steel, chemicals, and power need CCU for decarbonisation.

• सीमेंट, इस्पात, रसायन और ऊर्जा जैसे कठिन-उत्सर्जन क्षेत्रों के लिए CCU आवश्यक है।

• Aligns with India's Net Zero target of 2070 and circular economy goals.

• यह भारत के 2070 नेट-जीरो लक्ष्य और सर्कुलर अर्थव्यवस्था लक्ष्यों से मेल खाता है।

3 Where Does India Stand? / भारत की स्थिति

- Department of Science & Technology (DST) has developed a CCU R&D roadmap.
- विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (DST) ने CCU के लिए अनुसंधान रोडमैप बनाया है।

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas released a draft 2030 CCUS roadmap.
- पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने 2030 CCUS रोडमैप जारी किया।

- Indian companies like Ambuja Cements, JK Cement, ORSL are piloting CCU projects.
- अंबुजा सीमेंट, जेके सीमेंट और ORSL जैसी कंपनियाँ पायलट परियोजनाएँ चला रही हैं।

4 What Are Other Countries Doing? / अन्य देश क्या कर रहे हैं?

- EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Circular Economy Action Plan support CO_2-to-products industries.
- यूरोपीय संघ की बायोइकोनॉमी रणनीति और सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी एक्शन प्लान CO_2-आधारित उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

- US provides tax credits (e.g., 45Q) to scale carbon capture.
- अमेरिका 45Q जैसे टैक्स क्रेडिट देकर कार्बन कैप्चर को प्रोत्साहन देता है।

- UAE's Al Reyadah project integrates CCU with green hydrogen.
- UAE का अल रियादाह प्रोजेक्ट ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन के साथ CCU को जोड़ता है।

🔷 Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS)

- CO_2 captured and permanently stored underground.
- CO_2 को पकड़कर स्थायी रूप से भूमिगत संग्रहित किया जाता है।

🔷 Circular Economy

- Minimises waste and reuses resources for sustainability.
- अपशिष्ट कम कर संसाधनों का पुनः उपयोग।

🔷 Bioeconomy

- Economy based on renewable biological resources.
- नवीकरणीय जैव संसाधनों पर आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था।

⚠️ Risks & Challenges

- High cost and energy-intensive process.
- उच्च लागत और ऊर्जा-गहन प्रक्रिया।

- Lack of infrastructure and CO_2 transport systems.
- CO_2 परिवहन एवं बुनियादी ढाँचे की कमी।

- Absence of carbon pricing and strong policy incentives.
- कार्बन मूल्य निर्धारण और नीतिगत प्रोत्साहनों का अभाव।

🌍 Global Climate Context

· Paris Agreement (2015) aims to limit global warming below 2°C.
· पेरिस समझौता (2015) का लक्ष्य तापमान वृद्धि 2°C से कम रखना है।

· IPCC recommends CCUS for limiting warming to 1.5°C.
· IPCC ने 1.5°C लक्ष्य हेतु CCUS को महत्वपूर्ण बताया है।

💰 Economic Dimension

· Carbon markets (EU ETS) provide pricing incentives.
· EU ETS कार्बन मूल्य निर्धारण का तंत्र प्रदान करता है।

· CCU can create green jobs and new industrial value chains.
· CCU हरित रोजगार और नई औद्योगिक शृंखलाएँ बना सकता है।

🌏 Geographical Relevance

· Industrial clusters (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu) suitable for CCU hubs.
· गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र, तमिलनाडु जैसे औद्योगिक क्लस्टर CCU हब के लिए उपयुक्त हैं।

Consider the following statements:

1. Carbon Capture and Utilisation converts captured CO_2 into useful products.

2. Carbon Capture and Storage permanently stores CO_2 underground.

3. CCU directly increases fossil fuel consumption.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

INBRIEF

Yes Bank reports ₹2.55 crore unauthorised transactions

Yes Bank on Wednesday said fraudsters had conducted unauthorised transactions worth $0.28 million (₹2.55 crore) using Multi-Currency Prepaid Forex Cards of 5,000 customers. These cards were issued in partnership with BookMyForex.com. Yes Bank said the transactions came to light after the private sector lender's fraud monitoring system declined an unusual increase in transactions conducted overnight at a Latin American country.

Facebook Overseas buys 30% stake in RIL firm for ₹257 cr.

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) said Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd (REIL), its step-down wholly owned subsidiary, allotted 85,31,75,000 equity shares of face value of ₹10 each, at par to Reliance Intelligence Ltd. (Reliance Intelligence), its wholly owned subsidiary and Facebook Overseas, Inc. (Facebook), a wholly owned unit of Meta Platforms, Inc. It said 25,69,82,500 equity shares aggregating ₹256.6 crore were allotted to Facebook Overseas Inc.

'Govt. mandates sale of E20 petrol with minimum RON 95'

The Centre has mandated the sale of petrol with up to 20% ethanol and a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 9 from April 1. The Oil Ministry, in a February 17 notification, said, "the Central government hereby directs oil companies to sell ethanol-blended motor spirit (petrol) with percentage of ethanol up to 20% as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications and having minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95, in States and the Union Territories". PTI

U.S. slaps 126% levy on Indian solar imports

Tariffs were slapped on India, Indonesia and Laos following an ongoing probe; in FY23, India exported $1 billion worth photovoltaics to the U.S.

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Trump administration slapped 126% levy on solar cell imports from India following a 'preliminary' determination that subsidised exports from Indian firms were hurting the competitiveness of U.S. solar firms and contravened World Trade Organization agreements on subsidies.

The tariffs were collectively imposed on February 24 on India, Indonesia and Laos following a probe by the U.S. Department of Commerce on a complaint by the Alliance for American Solar Manufacturing and Trade, a coalition of leading U.S. solar firms.

Indian firms under the U.S. Commerce Ministry radar included Mundra Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd. and Mundra Solar PV Ltd. – both part of Adani Group – Premier Energies Photovoltaic Private Ltd., Waaree Energies Ltd. and Waaree Solar Americas. The department set initial rates of 86%-143% for Indonesia and 81% for Laos.

Framework deal

This levy comes after New Delhi and Washington agreed on a framework for the India-U.S. trade deal to cut tariffs on India's exports to 18% from 50% earlier. After this, the U.S. Supreme Court quashed Trump tariffs, calling them unconstitutional. Presi-

Dark days: Staff inspecting solar panels on assembly lines at an Adani Group factory in Gujarat's port city of Mundra. AFP FILE

dent Trump then came up with a new 18% baseline duty on several imports.

On February 24, per a notice on the U.S. Commerce Ministry site, it was Adani firms that were specifically named with a duty rates of 126.87% though these rates, as of now, apply to all Indian exporters.

May be impacted

The Hindu didn't receive comments from the firms as of press time. However, given the U.S. is the biggest export destination for solar parts, Indian exports could likely be 'impacted.' The implications of the order were still being studied, a spokesperson for Solex Energy Ltd., a Surat-based solar firm told *The Hindu.* "There will be an impact as the U.S. is a major export destination. How much... still needs to be determined. Some months see a surge in exports and less in others, so

it could well be, we won't see an impact beyond the immediate quarter," the person explained.

Currently duties of up to 40% are imposed on such export of solar cells.

These duties are additional to existing tariffs. The final determination in the CVD investigations are now scheduled to be issued on July 6, 2026. The U.S. Commerce Department is conducting concurrent anti-dumping duty probe of solar cells from India, Indonesia and Laos.

According to data cited by U.S. authorities, Indian firms in 2022 exported 232 mega watts (MW) worth of solar cells which rose to 2049 MW in 2023 and 2397 MW in 2024.

In 2022-23 $1,000 million worth photovoltaics were exported and that rose to $1,939.92 million in 2023-24. Exports stood at $954 million in April-December 2024.

PMO meets on CAFE-3 norms

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) held a meeting on Wednesday to review the proposed carbon emission norms for passenger vehicles slated to take effect from 2027, though no final decision was reached.

A senior government official who was part of the high-level meeting said that there was "no final decision yet", on the contentious issue of draft Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)-3 norms which have divided small and big carmakers.

Officials of the Ministry of Power, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, and Ministry of Heavy Industries were part of the meeting.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a FICCI event, Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy said about the proposal, "We already had a meeting with stakeholders and Power Ministry. The Power Ministry, according to my information, sent the proposal to the PMO."

On contents of the proposal, he said, "whatever best way we have to encourage for electric mobility, we are going to take."

Revised draft

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency recently circulated a revised draft of the CAFE III norms to the industry after the earlier version released in September last year triggered divisions among automakers with larger vehicle manufacturers opposing certain relaxations extended to small-

No final decision was taken on CAFE-3 norms.

car makers.

The latest proposal, shared with car manufacturers but not yet made public, has removed the 3 g CO2/km waiver for cars weighing up to 909 kg and with engine capacity not exceeding 1200 cc. It has also made the emission slope flatter. Against the initial 0.002 value for all five years, the new proposal is 0.00193 in year one, followed by an annual reduction so as to reach 0.00128 in the fifth year. This means permissible emissions for heavier vehicles are lower than before, while small cars get some relief.

Addressing the third FICCI National Conference on Electric Vehicles, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "electric mobility today is not merely a climate initiative, it is an industrial strategy, a manufacturing opportunity, supply-chain recalibration and a technological leap." Citing the progress of the ₹10,900 crore PM E-DRIVE scheme, he said as of February, over 28 lakh EVs have been sold under the scheme.

Zendesk sets up innovation hub

Zendesk said it set up an Innovation Hub for Research and Development in Pune thus growing its footprint in India. The hub team of almost 300 is set to grow by 19% before the end of 2026, the company said.

'SECL, Chhattisgarh eyeing floating solar, coal gasification JVs'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) is exploring joint-ventures with the State government of Chhattisgarh for floating solar and surface coal gasification projects, Chairman and CMD Harish Duhan told *The Hindu.*

The miner aspires to institute 626 megawatt (MW) of solar energy capacity by FY2027-28. Further, the joint venture on gasifica-

Harish Duhan

tion is part of the design to pursue the method in a revenue sharing mode. Elaborating on the ongoing discussions about

floating solar, Mr. Duhan stated, "We have had discussions with the Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Ltd. to pursue floating solar projects considering the State is blessed with large reservoirs," adding, "At present, a guiding larger policy on the front is to be formulated (within the State), and discussions are ongoing."

Mr. Duhan stated SECL would also be looking to tap into closed mines to es-

tablish solar power projects alongside contributing to parent Coal India's ongoing projects in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Gasification push

Mr. Duhan held discussions about a coal gasification JV with Chhattisgarh government and it is at the "conceptual stages".

"At present, the Chhattisgarh government is looking to incentivise coal gasi-

fication projects," he said, adding, "Positive discussions have been held (towards instituting one). Then, we shall proceed further and make it formal." He underlined gasification as a process entailed establishing a dedicated set-up converting extracted coal into gas. "This is an additional cost," he said.

Responding to a question about a substantial increase in renewable power installations and coal conti-

nuing to command a dominant position in power generation, Mr. Duhan said coal is a "cheaper source, abundantly available and offers stability of power".

"Now, solar and wind-based electricity lacks consistency. Stability of power is imperative in a growing economy like ours, thus, coal would continue to essay an important role," he added. SECL is likely to spend ₹4,000 crore in capital expenditure this year.

'DRL semaglutide may make March debut'

Reuters
MUMBAI

Indian drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) is likely to launch its generic semaglutide injection in the country in March under the brand name Olerda, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Patent protection for semaglutide expires in India

in March 2026, triggering a rush among Indian drugmakers to prepare lower-cost versions.

Dr. Reddy's plans to sell about 12 million injectable semaglutide pens in the first year and intends to price it competitively, potentially up to 60% below the branded product, co-Chairman and MD G.V. Prasad told *Reuters* last week.

Get going: Staffers have to get their hands dirty and build solutions using AI tools, says K. Krithivasan. REUTERS

"TCS ok with revenue cannibalisation via AI"

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is "not afraid" of artificial intelligence, and is not worried about potential "cannibalisation" that AI deployment would entail, said K. Krithivasan, MD and CEO of the country's largest IT company.

The top boss of TCS said senior level staff are slower in building AI-based solutions compared with the "proficient" younger staff.

"We encourage our associates to go out (to customers and use AI)... even if it means cannibalising our revenue," he said.

TCS was "insisting" that each of its more than six lakh staffers update themselves with AI, Mr. Krithivasan said, adding it had no fears of the company taking away livelihood.

AI motivation

Mr. Krithivasan said their motivation to foster new AI skills but as they approached higher designations, they tend to read a lot but not do anything.

It is not about just giving a few prompts to a generational AI platform such a ChatGPT, the junior staffers have to get their hands dirty and build solutions using the AI tools.

'Cut costs, fix mis-selling for affordable insurance'

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The insurance industry must rein in customer acquisition costs and overall management expenses to improve profitability and make products more affordable, a senior IRDAI official said on Wednesday.

Addressing the "Insurend" organised by CII here, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) member (Non-Life) Deepak Sood said high distribution and administrative costs have locked the sector into a "low-penetration, high-cost" cycle, limiting its ability to expand coverage.

"The high cost of acquisition and high expenses of management (EoM) need immediate focus from all players. That is critical to improve profitability and deliver affordability and value to customers," Mr. Sood said.

He urged the insurers to evaluate the value delivered across products, channels and business lines.

Private sector net profit rose 5.2% in Q3FY26: RBI data

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The net profit of private non-financial companies increased 5.2% to ₹1.8 lakh crore in the third quarter of fiscal 2026, as against ₹1.66 lakh crore in the year earlier period, as per data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The improvement in profit after tax (PAT) came on the top of a 6.9% rise in sales revenue coming in at ₹10.4 lakh crore of the over 3,100 companies of which RBI analysed the data.

Sales revenue increased at the quickest pace in eight quarters, the RBI said in its statement. In the year earlier period, revenue from operations increased 8% to ₹16.7 lakh crore. Increase in revenue from operations came from improved sales of manufacturing companies.

The cohort of over 1,700 manufacturers increased 11.4% in the reporting quarter, as against 8.5% in the year ago period. The raw material cost and staffing

Cohort of 1,700 manufacturers increased 11.4%.

cost increased in the reporting quarter for manufacturers improving 12.5% and 9.2% as against 6.2% and 7.8% in the year ago period.

Fuel costs reduced for the third consecutive quarter falling 6.4% in Q3 FY26, which may have also partly offset the increase in staff and material cost.

The data becomes crucial at a time when tepid corporate earnings and subdued private capital expenditure are cited as reasons for foreign institutional investor exodus from Indian stocks.

On Mar. 2, RBI to conduct ₹25,000 cr switch auction

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it will conduct a switch auction of government securities worth ₹25,000 crore on March 2.

The auction will take place between 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM.

The result of the auction will be announced on the same day, and settlement will take place on March 4, RBI said in a release.

This is the third switch auction announced by the RBI this month. This operation is expected to reduce the redemption pressure in FY27, when government bonds worth ₹8.47 lakh crore are due to mature.

In a switch auction, the government replaces bonds maturing in the near term with long-term instruments.

In the latest exercise, all securities, with maturities in FY27, are being replaced with bonds maturing after FY33, a per RBI data. Prior to this, the RBI conducted two switch auctions.

Carbon credits for Maruti railway siding

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (Maruti Suzuki) said its Gujarat in-plant railway siding has been registered as the world's first modal shift transportation project under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) programme of Verra, a global carbon credit registry.

The project is expected to achieve approximately 1.7 lakh carbon credits over a 10-year crediting period from FY24 to FY33, by shifting vehicle dispatches from road to rail, the company said in a statement.

Emission reduction

The emission reduction has been quantified under the AMO090 methodology prescribed under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC).

Following independent verification of carbon emission saving, Verra will issue 1.7 lakh carbon credits to Maruti Suzuki under its VCS program, it added.

Hisashi Takeuchi, ma-

The railway siding eased road congestion, cut fossil-fuel use.

naging director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. said in a statement, "By transitioning vehicle movement from road to rail, the project demonstrates how scale, operational efficiency and environmental responsibility can seamlessly go hand in hand."

'Cut carbon footprint'

"Leveraging the inherent efficiency of rail transport, the Gujarat in-plant railway siding has significantly reduced the carbon footprint of our logistics operations, while also easing road congestion and lowering our fossil fuel consumption," he said.

U.S. slaps 126% levy on Indian solar imports

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Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

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Framework deal

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May be impacted

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In 2022-23 $1,000 million worth photovoltaics were exported and that rose to $1,939.92 million in 2023-24. Exports stood at $954 million in April-December 2025.

Dark days: Staff inspecting solar panels on assembly lines at an Adani Group factory in Gujarat's port city of Mundra. AFP FILE

- The U.S. imposed a **126% countervailing duty (CVD)** on solar cell imports from India.
- अमेरिका ने भारत से आयातित सोलर सेल पर **126% प्रतिकर शुल्क (CVD)** लगाया।

- The action followed a U.S. Commerce Department probe into alleged subsidised exports.
- यह कदम अमेरिकी वाणिज्य विभाग की सब्सिडी जांच के बाद उठाया गया।

- India, Indonesia and Laos were targeted in this investigation.
- इस जांच में भारत, इंडोनेशिया और लाओस को निशाना बनाया गया।

2️⃣ Why was the duty imposed? / शुल्क क्यों लगाया गया?

- U.S. firms alleged Indian companies received unfair subsidies harming American manufacturers.
- अमेरिकी कंपनियों ने आरोप लगाया कि भारतीय कंपनियों को अनुचित सब्सिडी मिली जिससे अमेरिकी उद्योग प्रभावित हुआ।

- The probe was initiated after a complaint by the Alliance for American Solar Manufacturing and Trade.
- जांच की शुरुआत अमेरिकी सोलर निर्माण गठबंधन की शिकायत पर हुई।

- The move is linked to WTO subsidy rules and anti-dumping norms.
- यह कदम WTO के सब्सिडी और एंटी-डंपिंग नियमों से जुड़ा है।

3️⃣ Trade & Export Data / व्यापार व निर्यात आँकड़े

- In FY23, India exported about **$1 billion worth of photovoltaics** to the U.S.
- वित्त वर्ष 2023 में भारत ने लगभग **1 अरब डॉलर** के फोटोवोल्टिक उत्पाद अमेरिका को निर्यात किए।

- In 2022–23 exports rose to $1.93 billion.
- 2022–23 में निर्यात बढ़कर 1.93 अरब डॉलर हुआ।

- The U.S. is a major export destination for Indian solar manufacturers.
- अमेरिका भारतीय सोलर निर्यात का प्रमुख गंतव्य है।

4️⃣ Additional Tariffs Context / अतिरिक्त शुल्क संदर्भ

- Earlier, Trump administration proposed a 15% baseline duty on several imports.
- पहले ट्रंप प्रशासन ने कई आयातों पर 15% आधार शुल्क प्रस्तावित किया था।

- Current duties of up to 40% already exist on some solar imports.
- कुछ सोलर आयातों पर पहले से 40% तक शुल्क लागू है।

- Final determination in investigation expected in 2026.
- जांच का अंतिम निर्णय 2026 में अपेक्षित है।

Consider the following statements:

1. Countervailing duty is imposed to neutralise subsidies provided by exporting countries.

2. Anti-dumping duty and countervailing duty are identical in purpose.

3. National Solar Mission is a part of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 3 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme 2026

Topic	English	श्रमिक
Scheme Name	Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme, 2026	
Launching Authority	Tourism Department, Government of Rajasthan	
Objective	Promote tourism, rural income, women entrepreneurship and self-employment	
Background Context	Rajasthan saw 9.74% rise in tourist arrivals in 2025	
Tourist Data	Over 25.44 crore tourists visited Rajasthan in 2025	
Rural Economy Impact	Encourages rural households to convert part of homes into tourist stays	
Women & MSME Focus	Enables women entrepreneurs & small investors to participate	

Licensing Reform	Single-window digital approval system introduced	
Previous Rule	Earlier multiple departmental clearances required	
Room Limit	Increased from 5 rooms to 8 rooms per unit	
Bed Capacity	Maximum 24 beds allowed per homestay	
Residency Condition	Earlier owner had to reside; now removed	
Operator Flexibility	Owner / Lessee / Designated caretaker can operate	
Registration Authority	Local Tourism Offices & Tourist Reception Centres (TRCs)	
Safety Norms	Attached bathrooms, sanitation, fire safety, guest register for 7 years	
Foreign Tourist Reporting	Mandatory reporting of foreign guests to authorities	

Scheme	English	श्रम्न्हि
Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020	Focused on investment, heritage conservation & PPP model	श्रऋष्टी श्रघद्ल द्धर्र इऋहहहह रख्ंच्र ह्घ ड्ऋाल
Rajasthan Rural Tourism Scheme	Promoted village tourism & handicrafts	इरख्र् ह्ग्ष इऋणbश्ट्र ह् इ्न ॑प्रऋ
Paying Guest Scheme (Earlier Version)	Limited rooms (5), mandatory owner stay	इ इरघ्ह्द्धरख॒रख्ध्र इ्व श्ऋख् श्रष्ऋख्ग
Heritage Hotel Scheme	Conversion of palaces & havelis into hotels	रख्ऋद्धऋइ्ऋणघ्श्रध्ग्ह्ऋइ्ड णघ्ख्ं पख्च्र रख्ं ह्ष्घ्ऋख्र् इ्घ्ष्व
Rajiv Gandhi Tourism Development Mission	Infrastructure & destination development	श अद्घद्ष्व इऋह्ग्ख्ं f द्ऋड्व श्ड्व्द्ध
Mukhyamantri Tourism Development Scheme	Financial support for tourism infrastructure	ह्ग्ख्ं श अद्घद्ष्व णख्श्ऋख्ढ्ग द्णक्ग्ल्व

Fact	English	श्रामह
Tourism Rank	Rajasthan is among top tourist-receiving states in India	घ्रक् f व्रष कक्रघ्र ड्ड ब्ररष्क ह्ग्क्रष घ्ह्रष्कडड्ड
Major Tourist Circuits	Desert Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Wildlife Circuit	म्क् ब्र द्श्ड्रब प्ष्भक् द्श्ड्रब ओन्ह्त्र द्श्ड्रब
Key Attractions	Jaipur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Ranthambore	न्ग्र्ह्मा ह्च्ग्र्ह्मा न्ह्द्द च्रक्ष्र न्ड्रश् ह्म्भ घ्र् व्म्क्ष्र
UNESCO Sites	Jaipur City, Jantar Mantar, Keoladeo National Park, Hill Forts	न्ग्र्ह्मा ट्रणघ् न्त्ल्घ्घ्रक्घ् ड्ड्ञ्च्रक्ड्ञ घ्त्भ्क्ष्र ह्व्रष ह्ण्क्रह श्क् च्ह्
Major Festivals	Desert Festival, Pushkar Fair, Jaipur Literature Festival	म्क् ब्र ड्क्ष ञ्च्र ह्म्fघ् रक्ष्व न्ग्र्ह्मा श्ब्घ्क्ष्घ् ड्क्ष ञ्च्र

Feature	2026 Scheme	Earlier Scheme
Rooms Allowed	8	5
Bed Capacity	24	Lower limit
Owner Stay	Not mandatory	Mandatory
Licensing	Single-window digital	Multiple approvals
Operational Flexibility	Owner/Lessee/Caretaker	Only Owner

- With reference to Rajasthan Homestay Scheme 2026, consider the following statements:
- Maximum 8 rooms are allowed per homestay unit.
- Owner residency on premises is mandatory.
- Maximum bed capacity allowed is 24.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

International Energy Agency (IEA) – India's Full Membership

Topic	English	श्रास्ह
Organisation Name	International Energy Agency (IEA)	शत्ल्घर्मा शिक्ष र न्क्राइन्ल्ट्छ जIEA)
Established	1974	1974
Established By	17 OECD countries	17 OECD ड्ट्क्सोव्घ्र
Background	Formed after 1973–74 Arab Oil Embargo during Yom Kippur War	इश्पट–ण्ठ१घे त्ल्य ब्भ्ल् रि जाह्रव्श्चि व्ख्सुझिड्ड् व्त एभ्ण
Headquarters	Paris, France	ह्ुघट्ठ भ्क्ष्ह
Parent Framework	Operates within OECD framework	OECD र्क्ष्ट्ुड्ड शत्ल्फ्ल इव्ग्ष्ल्
Original Objective	Ensure stable oil supplies & manage energy emergencies	सि्घ त्ल्य ष ह्क्ष्रा घ न्क्ष ह्वल्सिश्ल इव ह्ःि ण
Strategic Reserve Rule	Members must hold oil reserves for 90 days of net imports	ढ ़च pझ्क्ड्ज थ्ज्क्ष ड्ड् द्स्क्ष ण ग्ख्ल ड्ड् ़घ्घिघ त्ल्य कन्ख्व्घ घ्ट् प्र १श्ष्ः्न्व्ग्ह
India's Importance	India is 3rd largest energy consumer; fastest demand growth expected	क्क्ष्ल् ल्ह्द्ध्घ्र्ट्ढ ़ि ड्ड् िन्व र न्क्ष्ह क्र्ह्ल्ढ ़ि ड्ट् ड्स्ड् रख्ग़ जक्ष ड्क्क्क्ष्ज्क्ग्म

Current Focus	Renewables, climate change, decarbonisation, critical minerals	ऽऋॸड़घर्हय र न्क्ला न चऋऋऋऋॸघत़तऋ म्ह्ड्व॒॒ऽॸस्न्ड्र ॺ ॱॸॺॱ णुॱ हऌॱ ढ्रॺन
Full Members	32 full members (Colombia becoming 33rd)	ट्ऽ ह्ऋॸढ़ॱ p ज०ॺ॓च॓ऋा ॸॺ टट्ऋऋऻ ऽ ॹॖड़ह ब़ॱ ॸॺ रॻ
Associate Membership	Introduced in 2015 for non-OECD countries	ऋॹॖॺ रॻॺॱॱॱOECD ॶॖॹॵॺॱॱॱॱॺप़ह ढ़ॱ p ल्ल
Associate Members Rights	Participate in discussions but no decision-making rights	द़ॖद्क़ॺॹॵॺऋहॢॱॱ़ॱ ॸॱ घ्ऋ ॹॺ रहॢॸॺ च़ॖॹॖॱॸ ॱॱ ड्ऋघ ॺण्ऋॻ
India's Status	Associate Member since 2017	ऋॹॖॺॱ॓ॶॖॹॵॺॱॱॱॱॺॸप़ह ढ़ॱ p
Membership Restriction	Full membership restricted to OECD countries	ह्ऋॸढ़ॱ p ल्ल OECD ॶॖॹ़ॸॺड़ ढ़॓ल्ॸॺ
India's Challenge	Would require OECD alignment, which India is reluctant to join	OECD ढ़ॱ p ल्लॺ ऋ$ ड़ॱ ॺ ॶॖॹॸॺ न्ॹॸॺ ड्घॹॖॹॖहॢ रॻॺण्ॻ
Global Significance	IEA accounts for ~80% of global energy demand (incl. associates)	IEA ऋ॓Cड़ र न्क़ॺॸॸॺ ड्ॹ च़णॸॸ तॸप़ ड्व ऋॸॱॱॱॱॺॹॖॖ ड्घ्ल्ॺ फ़ा

Feature	Full Member	Associate Member
OECD Membership Required	Yes	No
Voting Rights	Yes	No
Strategic Oil Reserve Obligation	Mandatory (90 days)	Not compulsory at same level
Policy Decision Role	Full participation	Limited participation
Example	USA, Japan, Germany	India, China, Brazil

Publication	English	श्राीमह
World Energy Outlook (WEO)	Annual future energy projections	जऊरछड र न्काटयघर«$ प्रृड्डि
World Energy Investment Report	Global energy investment trends	जऊCड र न्कांत्रार्ड्डि प्रृड्डि
Global Energy Review	Annual energy data analysis	जऊरछड र न्कांड्डिव्र श्रांEडुर

ORGANISATION	ESTABLISHED	HQ	FOCUS AREA
OPEC	1960	Vienna	Oil-producing countries cartel
OPEC+	2016	Vienna	OPEC + Russia coordination
IRENA	2009	Abu Dhabi	Renewable energy promotion
IAEA	1957	Vienna	Nuclear energy regulation
GECF	2001	Doha	Gas-exporting countries forum

Concept	English	श्रम्ह
Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)	India maintains SPR at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru & Padur	क्रक्रि श्रम्ट्रढ़व्रह ष्ण्रर्खा रखा क्षे ऱ्रि ह्व्शिा रख्ट SPR घ्ह् ल्व प्म्
India Energy Mix	Coal dominant (~55% electricity generation)	ड्रगच्व ब्रक्षि ष्ह्र ज्ड्डप श्म् न् च्ह क्ष्र्क्र छ्र
Net Zero Target	India targets Net Zero by 2070	क्रक्रि ड्व च्ह् अग्ज्ल्ड् ष्ड् घ्ल्क्ष्
Panchamrit Commitments	Announced at COP26 (Glasgow)	COP26 (स्व्ह् ष्क्रक्रढ़र्ह्)

Consider the following statements regarding the International Energy Agency (IEA):

1. The IEA was formed in response to the 1973 Arab Oil Embargo.

2. Only OECD countries can become full members of the IEA.

3. Associate members of IEA have full voting rights in policy decisions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

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9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

10. Penalty for wrong answers :

10. What is the full form of SIR introduced by the Election Commission of India?

(a) Special Inclusive Review

(b) Selective Intensive Revision

(c) Special Intensive Revision

(d) Specific Internal Review

29. Which one of the following government schemes in India promotes organic farming?

(a) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

(b) PM Kisan Yojana

(c) PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana

(d) Krishi Bhagya Yojana

31. Consider the following pairs :

I. U-WIN : Digitizing vaccination records for pregnant women and children up to 14 years

II. E-Sanjeevani : World's largest tele-medicine implementation in primary health care

III. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission : Provides for compulsory participation of private hospitals in the scheme

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) One

(b) Two

(c) All three

(d) None

33. A bank generated savings credit of ₹1,600 crore in the first round from a savings deposit of ₹2,000 crore. What is the Cash Reserve Ratio fixed by the Central Bank?

(a) 5%

(b) 10%

(c) 20%

(d) 25%

34. In the context of economy, the term 'capital goods' refers to

(a) any asset

(b) any durable good that is owned for consumption of households

(c) any asset that helps increase the income of households

(d) durable assets which are used to produce goods and services

35. With reference to distribution of employment in India for the year 2024–2025, consider the following statements :

I. Self-employment is a major source of employment for men in rural areas.

II. Casual wage work is a major source of employment for women.

III. Proportion of women engaged in self-employment in rural areas is more than that in urban areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I only

(b) I and III only

(c) II and III only

(d) I, II and III

36. Consider the following statements about the SANKALP Scheme :

I. It is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with loan assistance from the World Bank.

II. Quality assurance of skill development programmes is one of the result areas of this scheme.

III. Inclusion of the marginalized population is not an objective of this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I only

(b) I and II

(c) II only

(d) I and III

38. Consider the following statements regarding the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY–NRLM) :

I. It aims to reduce poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities.

II. It assures that at least two members from each rural poor household would be brought under the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) network.

III. The programme leverages community resources to build institutions and promote livelihoods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I only

(b) I and II

(c) II and III

(d) I and III

37. According to the World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief (October 2025), 46% of India's poor lived in which of the following States?

(a) Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh

(b) Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

(c) Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra

(d) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra

39. With reference to the Human Development Report (2023–2024), consider the following countries :

I. Sri Lanka

II. Myanmar

III. Nepal

How many of the above countries are performing better in terms of human development than India?

(a) One

(b) Two

(c) All three

(d) None

78. The 22nd India-ASEAN Summit was held in October 2025 in

(a) Vientiane

(b) Kuala Lumpur

(c) Singapore

(d) Bangkok

80. Consider the following countries :

    I.   Ethiopia

    II. Nigeria

    III. Egypt

    IV. UAE

How many of the above are full-time members of BRICS?

(a) One

(b) Two

(c) Three

(d) All four

82. Which one of the following countries is the newest member of NATO?

(a) Finland

(b) Sweden

(c) North Macedonia

(d) Montenegro

83. India's installed solar capacity in 2025 is close to

(a) 70 GW

(b) 90 GW

(c) 130 GW

(d) 200 GW

Word of the day

Actuated:

moved to action

Synonyms: motivated

Usage: *He is a man actuated by unworthy desires.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/ actuatedpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈæktʃu.eɪt/, /ˈæktju.eɪt/

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