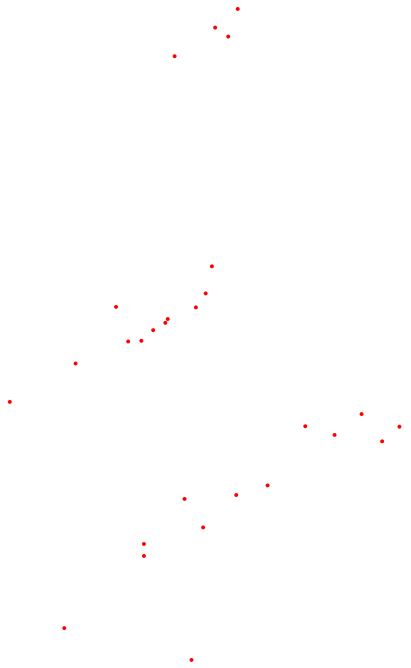


Daily Current Affairs





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10 MCQ QUIZ

- खामोशी में किया गया सुधार, शोर मचाने वाली उपलब्धियों से ज़्यादा गहरा असर छोड़ता है।”

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Class24

Assam proposes jail term, heavy fines for polygamy

Bill, tabled in Assembly, seeks to 'protect women, streamline society'; it covers residents entering such marriages outside State, but doesn't apply to Scheduled Tribes and Sixth Schedule areas

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

An anti-polygamy Bill tabled by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in the State Assembly on Tuesday prescribes imprisonment and heavy fines for people entering into, or hiding, a second marriage while the first continues to be valid.

The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, makes polygamy a criminal offence, punishable with up to seven years in jail and a fine, and up to 10 years in jail if a person enters into a marriage while concealing an existing one. The punishment will be doubled for repeat offenders, it says. Barring the Sixth Schedule areas, the draft law will be applicable across the State and will not cover members of the Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution. Customary laws of some tribes in Assam allow

Banning polygamy

Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** on Tuesday tabled the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 in the State Assembly. It prescribes imprisonment and heavy fines for people entering into or hiding a second marriage while the first continues to be valid

Here is a timeline of the new Bill:

- **August 21:** Assam government seeks public opinion by August 30, through email or by post, on a law to end polygamy in the State
- **November 9:** The Assam Cabinet approves a new legislation to outlaw polygamy
- **November 25:** The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, is tabled in the 126-member Assembly



multiple marriages.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Bill seeks to "prohibit and eliminate practices of polygamy", protect women from hardship and "streamline the society".

Other offenders

It brings village heads, qazis (Muslim clerics who solemnise marriages), parents, and legal guardians of people indulging in poly-

gamy under its scope. Anyone who "wilfully hides, neglects or unreasonably delays" information to the police about such marriages may be punished as the main offenders and jailed for up to two years and fined up to ₹1 lakh.

The fine may extend to ₹1.5 lakh for any priest or qazi who solemnises a marriage contrary to the provisions of the law knowingly and willingly.

A provision covers any resident of Assam who willingly and knowingly enters into a polygamous marriage outside the State, as well as people who live outside Assam but own immovable property in the State or receive State-funded benefits, subsidies, or welfare support.

The Bill seeks to make people convicted under the law ineligible for government-funded or aided jobs and benefits under any government scheme, and bar them from contesting any election.

The draft law also provides a mechanism for compensation to women affected by polygamous marriages.

Polygamous marriages contracted before it comes into force will not be affected, as long as they follow existing personal or customary laws and have valid proof. It also gives police officers the power to intervene before a prohibited marriage takes place.

1. What Has Happened?

1.1 Assam Government Tables New Bill

- Name: **Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025**
 - Introduced by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.
 - Polygamy made a **criminal offence** in Assam.
-

2. Key Provisions of the Bill

2.1 Imprisonment

- Up to **7 years jail + fine** if a person enters into a second marriage while first is still valid.
- Up to **10 years imprisonment** if the second marriage is concealed.
- **Repeat offenders:** Punishment doubled.

2.2 Applicability

- Applicable **across Assam**
- Does **NOT** apply to:
 - **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**
 - **Sixth Schedule areas** (autonomous district councils under Article 244(2))

2.3 Who Can Be Punished?

Includes penalties on:

- Village heads
- Qazis (Muslim clerics who solemnise marriage)
- Parents & guardians encouraging polygamy
- Anyone "wilfully hides, neglects, or unreasonably delays" reporting polygamy
- Anyone solemnising such a marriage knowingly → up to **2 years jail + ₹1 lakh fine**

2.4 Special Provision for Priests

- Priests/Qazis who solemnise invalid marriages → **₹1.5 lakh fine**
-

3. Territorial & Extra-State Applicability

Covers:

- Assam residents knowingly entering polygamous marriages **outside the State**
- Non-residents who:
 - Own immovable property in Assam
 - Receive State benefits/subsidies

4. Exemptions

- Polygamous marriages **contracted before** this law comes into force **are valid**
 - Customary law for **Scheduled Tribes** remains protected (5th & 6th Schedule protections)
-

5. Impact on Public Employment & Rights

- Convicted individuals become **ineligible** for:
 - Govt jobs
 - State-funded benefits
 - Aided institutions
 - Convicted persons **barred from contesting elections**
-

6. Protection Mechanism for Women

6.1 Compensation

- Bill provides mechanism for compensation to women affected by polygamous marriages.

6.2 Police Intervention

- Police have power to **intervene before polygamous marriage takes place** if informed.

7.1 Freedom of Religion vs Social Reform

- Personal laws can be overridden under:
 - **Article 25(2)(b)** → Social welfare & reform
- States have power under **Concurrent List (Entry 5)** → marriage, divorce, family law.

7.2 Sixth Schedule

- Autonomous districts of Assam (e.g., Khasi, Garo, Karbi Anglong) governed under:
 - **Articles 244(2) & 275(1)**
 - Hence exempt from state law in many personal law matters.

7.3 Precedent

- Similar to **Uttar Pradesh's anti-conversion & marriage laws** expanding policing powers into personal domain.
-

Q. Consider the following statements about the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025:

1. The Bill excludes Scheduled Tribes and Sixth Schedule areas from its applicability.
2. The Bill makes individuals convicted under it ineligible for government-funded benefits and government jobs.
3. Priests or Qazis who solemnise a polygamous marriage knowingly can be fined up to ₹1.5 lakh.
4. The Bill applies only to residents of Assam and cannot penalise people entering such marriages outside the State.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Toxic air is a year-round blight in 60% of Indian districts: study

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

People in 60% of India's districts are exposed to polluted air all through the year, not just in winter, according to an analysis by a research body published on Tuesday. This means that 447 of 749 districts recorded concentrations of particulate matter (PM2.5) – toxic chemical and organic particles – that exceed the annual safe values prescribed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

Not a single district in the country reported concentrations within the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (microgram per cubic metre), which is about eight times more stringent than India's standards ($40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air analysis. The study underlines the fact that exposure to significant air pollution is not restricted to winter alone as is commonly believed.

The maximum number



Left breathless: Delhi and Assam with 11 districts each accounted for nearly half of the top 50 most polluted districts. FILE PHOTO

of polluted districts are concentrated in a few States. Delhi (11 districts) and Assam (11 districts)

alone accounted for nearly half of the top 50 most polluted districts, followed by Bihar (7) and Haryana (7).

Other States with significant numbers include Uttar Pradesh (4), Tripura (3), Rajasthan (2), West Bengal (2).

Cleaner States

On the other hand, the majority of districts in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Sikkim, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have population-exposure numbers within the NAAQS-prescribed limits. "These patterns highlight the continued dominance of northern and eastern States in India's PM2.5 pol-

lution hotspots, while southern and coastal regions remain relatively cleaner," the authors Manojkumar N. and Monish Raj say in their analysis, which is not a peer-reviewed paper. Population-exposure numbers can differ from ambient concentration numbers.

The winter months of December, January, and February are still the most polluted. About 82% (616 of 749 districts) of districts recorded values breaching the national standard during this season.

1. Key Finding

1.1 60% of Indian districts suffer from year-round polluted air

- 447 out of 749 districts exceed annual safe limits of PM2.5 prescribed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- Exposure to toxic air is **not limited to winter months**.

1.2 No district meets WHO standards

- WHO PM2.5 guideline = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annually.
 - India's standard = 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ → 8 times higher than WHO.
 - **Not a single district** recorded values within WHO safe limits.
-

2. Study Details

2.1 Conducted By

- Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

2.2 Nature of Study

- Based on population-weighted PM2.5 exposure.
- Not a peer-reviewed paper.
- Population-exposure values may differ from ambient air quality readings.

3. Most Polluted States (District-Wise Count)

3.1 Top Contributors (11 districts each)

- Delhi
- Assam

3.2 Other Polluted States

- Bihar (7 districts)
 - Haryana (7)
 - Uttar Pradesh (4)
 - Tripura (3)
 - Rajasthan (2)
 - West Bengal (2)
-

4. Cleaner States

Most districts in the following states recorded PM2.5 levels within NAAQS limits:

- Andhra Pradesh
- Telangana
- Kerala
- Sikkim
- Goa
- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu

4.1 Geographic Explanation

- Cleaner air in:
 - Coastal regions
 - Southern India
 - High-rainfall states
 - Worst air in:
 - North India due to winter inversion, stubble burning, industrial belt.
-

5. Seasonal Trend

5.1 Winter still worst

- **82% (616 of 749 districts)** breach NAAQS in Winter (Dec–Feb).
 - Due to:
 - Temperature inversion
 - Low wind speed
 - Stubble burning
 - Increased heating/fuel use
-

6.1 What is PM2.5?

- Fine particulate matter $\leq$ **2.5 micrometers**.
- Can penetrate lungs, enter bloodstream → causes:
 - COPD
 - Asthma
 - Heart disease
 - Strokes

6.2 NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards)

- Set by **CPCB** under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- Annual PM2.5 permissible limit: **40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** .

6.3 India's Clean Air Policies

- **NCAP (2019)**: Cut PM levels by 40% by 2026.
- **GRAP (Delhi-NCR)**: Emergency graded response.
- **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act 2021** → statutory body.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the study, more than half of India's districts recorded PM_{2.5} levels above the NAAQS annual safe limit.
2. India's PM_{2.5} standard is eight times more stringent than the WHO's annual guideline.
3. No district in India met the WHO's PM_{2.5} safe limit of 5 µg/m³.
4. Southern and coastal states generally show population-exposure numbers within NAAQS limits.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

SC upholds dismissal of Christian officer from Indian Army

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the dismissal of a Christian Army officer who refused to enter the *sanctum sanctorum* of his regiment's temple to perform pooja, saying that he had used his "personal understanding" of what his religion permits to break military discipline and, in the process, insulted his troops.

"Leaders have to lead by example. You insulted your troops. When a pastor, a leader of your faith, counselled you that it was alright, you should have left it at that. You were cantankerous... You cannot have your private understanding of what your religion permits. That too, in uniform," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, accompanied by Justice Joymalya Bagchi on the Bench, remarked.

The Chief Justice described the refusal of Samuel Kamalesan, the petitioner, to participate in the regimental religious activity as the "grossest kind of indiscipline". "You may be outstanding in 100 things, but the Indian Army is known for its secular approach... You have failed to

respect the sentiments of your own soldiers," the Chief Justice said.

Fundamental rights

Justice Bagchi asked senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who appeared for Mr. Kamalesan, to point out which Christian religious text barred a follower from entering a temple.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan argued that the fundamental right of his client to practise a religion under Article 25 of the Constitution cannot be taken away merely because he had joined the Armed Forces.

"Article 25 protects essential religious features, not every sentiment," Justice Bagchi responded.

The Army, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, submitted that Mr. Kamalesan had not attended mandatory regimental parades despite several attempts by officers to advise him. His conduct had weakened unit cohesion, he said.

The Delhi High Court had upheld the Army's action in a judgment in May, which held that Mr. Kamalesan "kept his religion above a lawful command from his superior. This clearly is an act of indiscipline".

1. What Happened?

1.1 Supreme Court Verdict

- The **Supreme Court** upheld the dismissal of **Samuel Kamalesan**, a Christian Army officer.
- Reason: He **refused to enter the *sanctum sanctorum*** of his regiment's temple to perform **pooja**, which is part of regimental tradition.

1.2 Court's View

- His refusal was seen as:
 - **Breach of military discipline**
 - **Insult to his troops**
 - **Gross indiscipline**
-

2. Court's Observations

2.1 Chief Justice Surya Kant's Remarks

- "You cannot have your **private understanding** of religion in uniform."
- "The Army is known for its **secular approach**."
- "You failed to respect sentiments of your own soldiers."
- Leaders must lead by example; his conduct was "**cantankerous**."

2.2 Basis of Dismissal

- Regimental religious activities are part of:
 - **Unit cohesion**
 - **Military tradition**
 - **Morale building**
 - His refusal weakened **unit cohesion**.
-

3. Arguments Presented

3.1 Petitioner (Kamalesan)

- Argued through senior advocate:
 - He has a **fundamental right to practice religion** under **Article 25**.
 - Dismissal violates his **freedom of religion**.

3.2 Supreme Court's Counter

- Article 25 protects **essential religious practices**, not **personal interpretations**.
- Article 25 is **subject to public order, morality, health and other laws** — including military discipline.

3.3 Army's Argument

- Presented by Additional Solicitor-General:
 - Kamalesan disobeyed a **lawful command**.
 - Repeatedly missed mandatory regimental parades.
 - His conduct weakened the regiment's morale and cohesion.

4.1 Article 25 – Freedom of Religion

- Subject to:
 - Public order
 - Morality
 - Health
 - Other provisions of Part III
- Does NOT override:
 - **Armed Forces (Discipline and Behaviour) Rules**
 - **Army Act, 1950**

4.2 Armed Forces and Fundamental Rights

- Rights can be **restricted** for:
 - Discipline
 - Unit cohesion
 - Security
- Supported by:
 - **Article 33** → Parliament can modify fundamental rights for Armed Forces.

4.3 Essential Religious Practices (ERP) Doctrine

- Only practices **fundamental to a religion** get protection.
- Court asked: "Which Christian text bars entry into a temple?"
- No evidence provided → Not an ERP.

Decoding personality rights in the age of AI

Recently, actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan filed a lawsuit against Google and YouTube in the Delhi High Court. They alleged that AI-generated videos portraying them in fictitious and often explicit scenarios misuse their personality rights, resulting in reputational and financial damage. They sought compensation, but also safeguards to prevent such content from being used to train future AI models.

This case highlights how AI blurs the lines between authenticity and deception, prompting us to reassess the legal and ethical frameworks governing personality rights. Personality rights, which include the right to control one's name, image, likeness, voice, and other identifiers of identity, have long been a bulwark against unauthorised exploitation. Rooted in concepts of privacy, dignity, and economic autonomy, these rights evolved from common law principles to address commercial exploitation. However, the emergence of AI, particularly in the form of generative technologies such as deepfakes, has amplified these vulnerabilities. Deepfakes, AI-generated content that swap faces or voices, propagate misinformation, enable extortion, and erode trust. While AI fosters innovation, its unchecked use risks commodifying human identity, demanding legal safeguards.

The legal mosaic
Globally, personality rights differ: Europe adopts a dignity-based model, the U.S. a property-based one, and India a hybrid approach. In India, these rights lack codification and are governed by Article 21 of the Constitution, affirmed in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017). Courts have cited privacy or intellectual property breaches. Landmark cases include *Abhishek Bachchan v. Rajni Nigam*



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in the U.S., personality rights are often referred to as the "right of publicity", a transferable property interest that varies by state. *Haelin Laboratories v. Topps Chewing Gum* (1983) recognised this right as distinct from privacy, allowing celebrities to monetise their identity. AI-related reforms include Tennessee's ELVIS Act, 2024, banning unauthorised AI use of voices or likenesses in response to deepfakes. Lawsuits against Character.AI alleged that bots encouraged self-harm, leading to teen suicides. In 2024 Florida case claims the bot posed as a therapist, fostering detachment from reality. A Federal Judge dismissed Character.AI's First Amendment defence.

In the EU, personality rights follow a dignity-based model under the General Data Protection Regulation, 2016, which requires consent for processing personal data. The EU AI Act, 2024, designates deepfake technologies as high-risk, mandating transparency and labelling. In China, a 2024 Beijing Internet Court ruling held that synthetic voices must not deceive consumers, indicating strict regulation. In a related case, a voice actor won damages after an AI replica was sold without consent, affirming voice as part of

personality rights. This fragmented global framework exposes how AI's transnational nature surpasses national laws. In AI Ethics and Creators' Feelings: Extended Personality Rights as (Over)protective Rights to Object, published in the *Social Science Research Network* (2025), Guido Westkamp et al. advocate expanding rights to encompass style and persona, appropriations to protect creators from AI's exploitative data use.

The human-AI nexus
Acadically, discussions on personality rights in AI centre on ethics, dignity, and autonomy. UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, 2021, provides a rights-based framework. Its principles stress that AI must not exploit individuals. In "Safeguarding Identity: A comprehensive survey of anonymization strategies for behavioural data," Abhishek, S.T., and Smith, K.R. (2024) critique India's fragmented laws, calling for statutory AI definitions and high-risk classifications for deepfakes used in disinformation. They raise ethical issues such as AI recreation of deceased artists, noting that Indian courts deem personality rights non-heritable. Broader scholarly issues, including "The Ethics and Challenge of Legal Personhood for AI" (Forrest, K. R. (2023)), in the *Yale Law Journal*, warn that granting AI legal status may erode human rights. AI's ability is clear: technologies like ChatGPT expand creativity but also enable harm. However, excessive regulation could stifle innovation.

These controversies expose systemic gaps. India needs legislation that explicitly defines personality rights and enforces AI watermarking, platform liability, and global collaboration. The government's 2024 deepfake advisory is a preliminary step, but stronger measures are essential. International harmonisation through UNESCO principles could avert ethical deterioration.

A farm crisis lost in political cacophony

Farmers in Karnataka need a long-term solution to their woes

STATE OF PLAY
Uttar Pattanaiah
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It has been over 10 days since farmers of Gadag district in north Karnataka have been agitating against the government demanding Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹1,000 per quintal for maize. Farmers in the neighbouring districts are also up in arms against the Central and State governments over the plummeting price of maize.

While the Centre has fixed an MSP of ₹2,400 per quintal for maize, the prevailing price in Karnataka is ₹1,600 to ₹1,800 per quintal. The prices, which began declining in September, have dropped suddenly over the last fortnight. The plight of the farmers in Karnataka, which is among the top maize-producing States in the country, seems to have been buried under the cacophony over the "power-sharing formula" between the Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, and the Deputy Chief Minister, U.S. Shivamurthy.

The protest by maize farmers came at a time when the State government is yet to recover from the floods that destroyed crops. That was followed by series of protests by sugarcane farmers seeking a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of ₹3,300 per tonne. The Opposition BJP has also demanded that the State government should enforce MSP for sugarcane. The State government recently managed to convince the farmers to agree to an FRP of ₹3,300 per tonne.

The Opposition BJP has also taken this opportunity to portray the ruling dispensation as "anti-farmer". Amid the political blame game, one of the basic issues that have gone unaddressed is the rapid expansion of maize cultivation in Karnataka.

KARNATAKA

In resolving both maize and sugarcane issues, it has needed the opposition BJP of Karnataka for not having the gumption to raise the issue with their own party leaders at the Centre.

Last week, Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention in the procurement of maize and also green gram, which has seen a price drop as well. He said that Mr. Modi should direct the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), the Food Corporation of India, and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) to begin MSP procurement immediately under the Price Support Scheme or another suitable mechanism. Mr. Siddaramaiah criticised that increased imports has also added to the crisis.

The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pradip Joshi, responded by lobbying the ball back to the State's court, insisting that the authority on implementing the MSP or FRP rests with the State government. He also rebuffed Mr. Siddaramaiah's claims on imports, stating that it is only 0.8 lakh metric tonnes this fiscal.

Amid the political blame game, one of the basic issues that have gone unaddressed is the rapid expansion of maize cultivation in Karnataka.

Maize in Karnataka has replaced rain-fed crops such as potato, cotton, groundnut, ragi, and sorghum. In 2023, the cultivated area under maize in the State was 10.3 lakh hectares. For the current year, up to July 8, it was 13.08 lakh hectares, up from 12.30 lakh hectares a last year in the same period.

According to market experts, this year, multiple factors including supply-demand disparity, reduced exports due to downward trend in global cereal prices, and related factors caused the price drop. Blended blending results in the production of large quantities of Dantila's Dantila Cereals with subsidies, a substitute for conventional feed grains, which is cited as another factor reducing the demand for maize in the livestock sector. Also, while Karnataka has produced over 55 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of maize during March 2025, it has a marketable surplus of 22 lakh tonnes, which far exceeds the absorptive capacity of local industries. Addressing the problem is the existing additional stock with the distilleries from the previous year's procurement.

A positive development amid the crisis is Mr. Siddaramaiah's promise about starting procurement under MSP by the State. However, this is yet to translate into a government order. He has also written to the distilleries in the State to sign up with NAFED and NCCF for the production of ethanol using maize.

Farmers who cultivate maize in Karnataka, mostly in the central and northern districts, have demanded action both by the State and the Centre to come up with a long-term solution. This demand currently seems lost on both ruling and Opposition party leaders.

Over 80% nations got loans from China in the last two decades

Chinese banks have lent about \$200 billion to U.S. projects and initiatives, which makes the U.S. the biggest beneficiary

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

China lent more than \$2 trillion in loans and grants to over 80% of countries and regions in the world between 2000 and 2023. The U.S. was the biggest beneficiary, according to data released by AidData, a research institute at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Over the years, Chinese state-owned entities have lent about \$200 billion for nearly 2,500 projects and initiatives — more than 9% of the total amount lent by China — to American companies. Over 98% of this amount was lent by Chinese state-owned banks, enterprises, and the central bank, while the rest was lent by non-state players.

Map 1 shows the amounts lent by China to various countries between 2000 and 2023. Across the world, during that period, 179 out of 237 countries and territories received at least one loan from a Chinese state-owned creditor. China was the world's largest creditor and debt collector in 2023, lending \$145 billion to various countries.

Entities in Russia and Australia were the second and the third biggest beneficiaries in the last two decades, receiving \$172 billion and \$130 billion, respectively, in the period. Firms in the 27 member states of the European Union received \$101 billion for 1,000 projects and activities.

Chart 2 shows the 20 countries that received the highest loan commitments between 2000 and 2023, along with the income bracket under which they fall. Of the countries shown in the chart, six are considered "high-income" countries, which together received more than 20% of the total amount lent by China in the period. About \$943 billion was lent to high-income countries overall.

Beijing is moving away from its

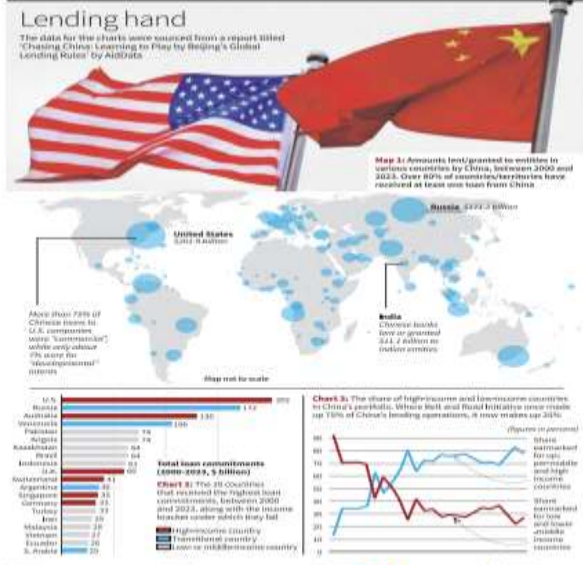
role as an aid provider to relatively poorer nations, as its focus has shifted towards commercial lending for developed countries. For instance, more than 78% of Chinese loan transactions with U.S. companies were "commercial" in nature, while only about 7% were for "developmental" intents, as per the data. China had lent about \$320 million to the U.S. in 2000; this surged to about \$19 billion in 2023, which hints at the "consumer club" turn the investments took.

China's initial focus was on infrastructural development projects in economically disadvantaged nations. Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, which helped develop energy, infrastructure, and connectivity projects in Europe and Asia. The AidData report details how China has scaled back on its lending to such projects, where BRI once made up 78% of China's lending operations. It now makes up about 28%.

Chart 3 shows the share of high-income and low-income countries in China's portfolio. The report finds that in a typical year, China spent about \$5.7 billion on what can be classified as aid for official development assistance. However, in 2023, China's global official development assistance commitments fell to \$1.9 billion.

According to the report, China has an 80% success rate for getting aid from foreign capital inflows approved. This is because of the relatively weak screening mechanisms for foreign capital inflows in most countries that China invested in. The report also alleges that China managed this by channeling funds through off-shore shell companies and international bank syndicates.

As of 2023, Indian entities have borrowed or were granted \$11.1 billion from China, with a large amount of this dedicated to the energy sector and banking and financial services. Most of the funds were borrowed with a rate of commercial and developmental interest.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 26, 1975

Heavy rain for third day in Madras 5,000 homeless

Madras, Nov. 26: The cyclonic storm in the Bay has intensified and lay centred at 2 a.m. (Nov. 26) at 17°N south-east of Madras. It is likely to intensify further, move to the north-westward direction and cross the North Tamil Nadu coast near Madras on Wednesday morning.

Regular weather and gales, with wind-speed reaching 120 to 140 km per hour, have been forecast for Madras and environs, Chingleput and South Arcot districts and Pondicherry during the next 24 hours.

The storm has brought in its wake widespread rain in the State. Sripattanam (Chingleput district) recorded the highest rainfall of 21 cm for the 24 hours ending 8:30 a.m. today. For the third day to date heavy rain lashed Madras and suburbs, damaging over 1,000 huts and rendering about 8,000 people homeless. Three persons were injured in a house collapse. The Nungambakkam Observatory recorded seven centimetres of rain and Meerambakkam 46 cm till 8:30 a.m. today. During the 12 hours ending 8:30 p.m., there was a rainfall of 15 cm at Changanassalam. At Meerambakkam the rainfall recorded from 8:30 a.m. (Thursday) to 1:00 a.m. (Wednesday) was nearly 10 cm. The total rainfall during the almost continuous four-day spell was about 23 cm at Nungambakkam and 25 cm at Meerambakkam. Many educational institutions remained closed to-day. Judges of the Madras High Court rose at 2:30 p.m. and the Court's office was closed at 2:30 p.m.

Work at the harbour continued to be paralysed to-day on account of the rain.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 26, 1925

Witnessing football match from the air

New York, Nov. 26: Unable to obtain tickets to the annual football match between Army and Navy Cadets, except at high prices demanded by speculators, an enthusiastic New Yorker chartered a transport plane to accommodate 14 persons for the purpose of circling overhead and viewing the game from the air. The officials of the Aeroplane Company said the average cost per passenger was not much in excess of the speculators' prices high range from 25 to 35 dollars per seat.

1.1 Scale of China's Global Lending

- Between **2000 and 2023**, China provided **over \$2 trillion** in:
 - Loans
 - Grants
- Benefited **over 80%** of countries/regions worldwide.

1.2 Data Source

- Report by **AidData**, research institute at the **College of William & Mary**, Virginia (USA).
-

2. Key Beneficiaries

2.1 Top Recipient – United States (!)

- U.S. received **~9%** of the total Chinese lending ($\approx$ \$180 billion).
- Mostly **commercial loans** to U.S. companies.

2.2 Russia and Australia

- Russia: **\$172 billion**
- Australia: **\$130 billion**

2.3 European Union

- EU member firms = **\$161 billion** across 1,800 projects.

3. Nature of Chinese Lending

3.1 State-Owned Dominance

- **>95%** of loans given by:
 - Chinese state-owned banks
 - Government entities
 - Chinese central bank

3.2 Commercial vs Development Loans

- **>75%** of loans to U.S. entities = **commercial**.
- Only **~7%** were "developmental".

3.3 The Commercial Turn

- In 2000: China lent **\$320 million** to U.S.
 - By 2023: expanded to **\$19 billion** → reflects shift to **commercial profit-oriented lending**.
-

4. Number of Countries Borrowing

4.1 Scale

- Out of 217 countries & territories, **179 borrowed** from Chinese state-owned creditors.
 - China became the **world's largest creditor and debt collector** in **2023**, with:
 - **\$140 billion** lent globally.
-

5. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Evolution

5.1 Initial Focus (2013–2018)

- Heavy on:
 - Infrastructure
 - Energy
 - Connectivity projects
- BRI accounted for **75%** of China's overseas lending earlier.

5.2 Current Trend

- BRI-related lending is now **only ~25%** of China's lending portfolio.
- China scaling back due to:
 - Debt distress in many partner countries
 - Domestic financial concerns

6. High-Income Countries & China

6.1 China Lending to Rich Nations

- China lent **\$943 billion** to high-income countries.
 - Six high-income nations featured in the **top 20 borrowers**.
-

7. China's Declining Role as a Development Donor

7.1 Decline in Aid

- China spent **\$5.7 billion/year** historically on development aid.
- In **2023**, this dropped to **\$1.9 billion**.

7.2 Increasing Focus on Commercial Lending

- Aid down; commercial loans up.
- China is shifting away from "poor nation aid provider" role.

8. Mergers & Acquisitions Strategy

8.1 80% Success Rate

- China reportedly has:
 - **80% approval rate** for overseas corporate acquisitions.
 - Due to:
 - Weak screening in partner countries
 - Use of **offshore shell companies**
 - International bank syndicates
-

9. India's Borrowing from China

9.1 Total Borrowed

- Indian firms borrowed/received **\$11.1 billion** (as of 2023).

9.2 Sectors

- Energy sector
- Banking & financial services

9.3 Nature of Funds

- Mix of **commercial** and **developmental** intent.



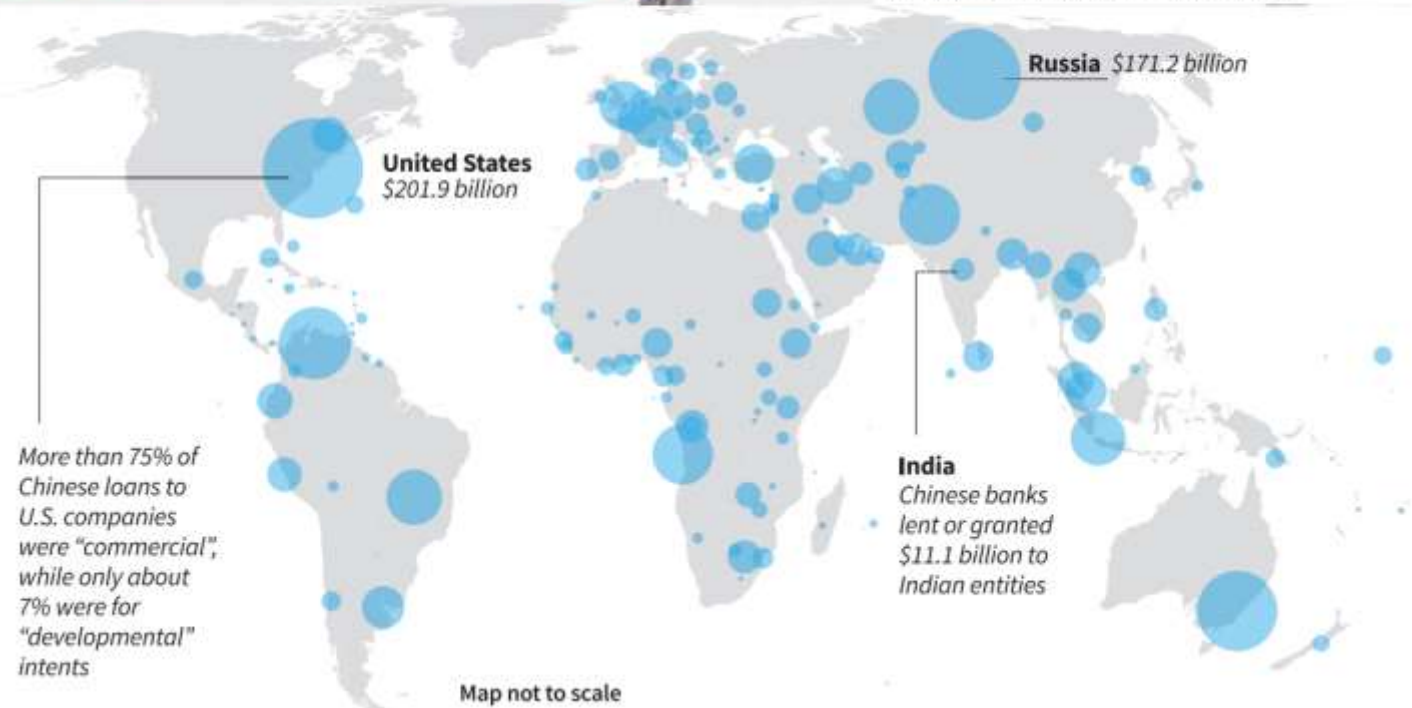
- **Geopolitical Implications**
- China is now the **largest lender to the Global South**, surpassing:
 - World Bank
 - IMF
- Leads to:
 - Dependency
 - Renegotiations
 - Default fears (Zambia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan)

Lending hand

The data for the charts were sourced from a report titled 'Chasing China: Learning to Play by Beijing's Global Lending Rules' by AidData



Map 1: Amounts lent/granted to entities in various countries by China, between 2000 and 2023. Over 80% of countries/territories have received at least one loan from China



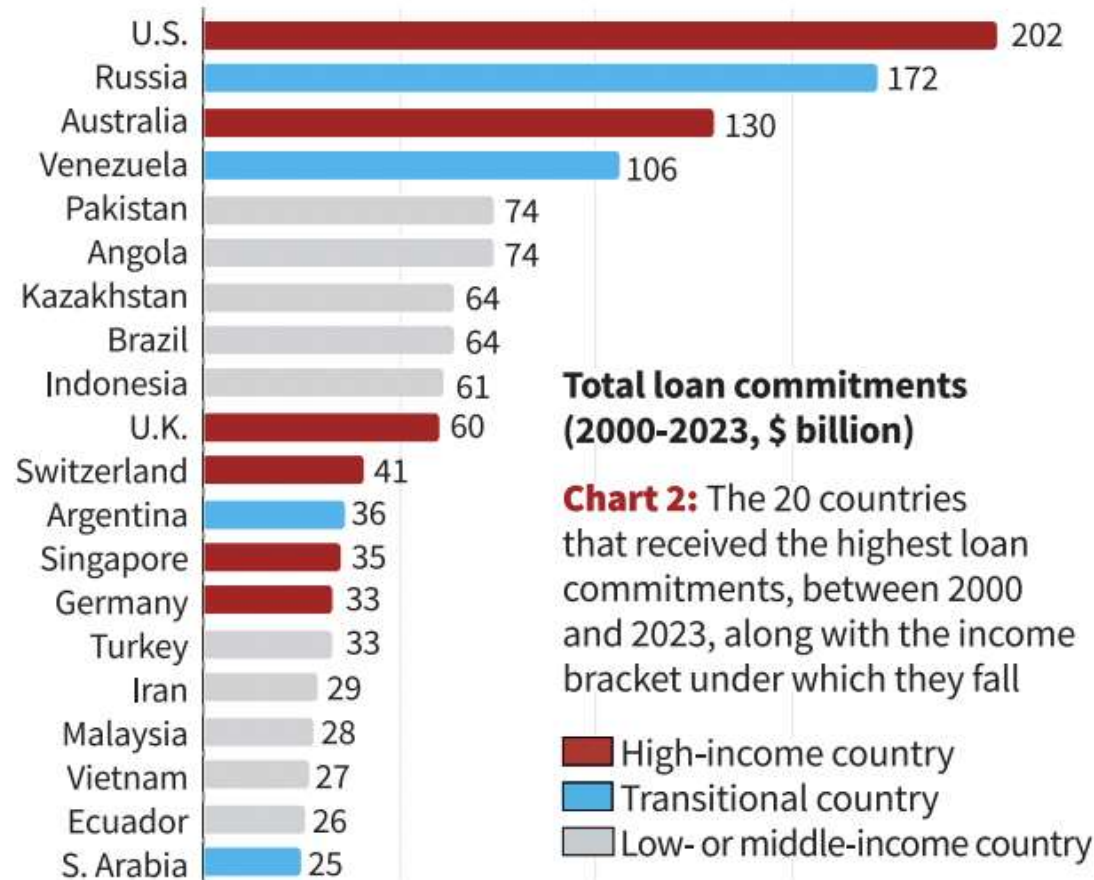
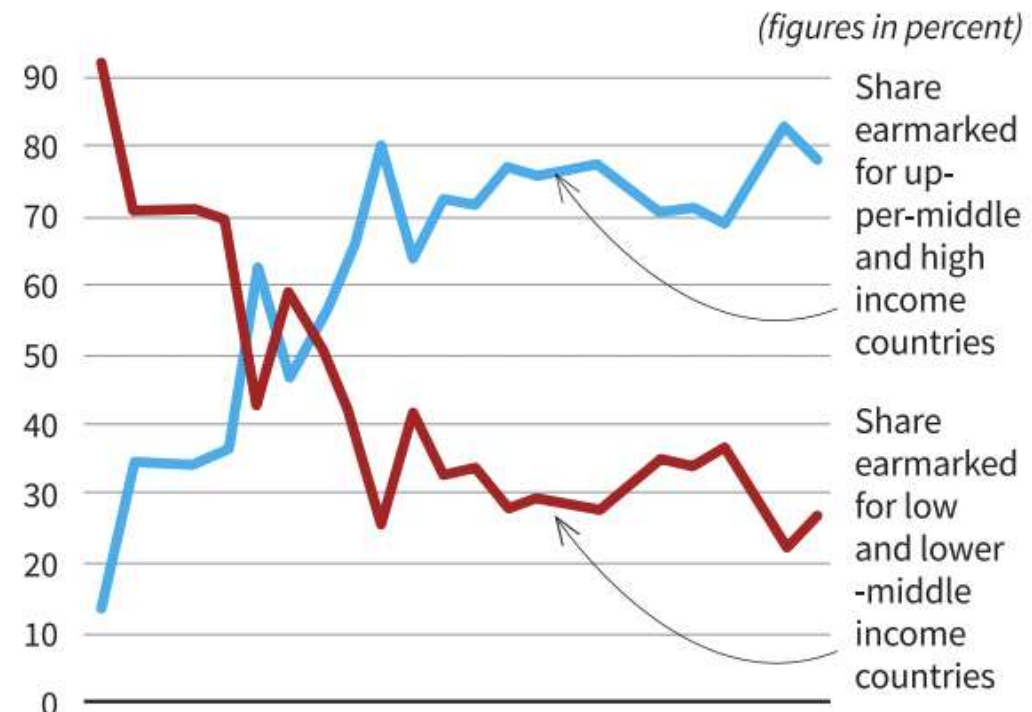


Chart 3: The share of high-income and low-income countries in China's portfolio. Where Belt and Road Initiative once made up 75% of China's lending operations, it now makes up 25%



IN BRIEF

Tata Motors PV launches all-new Sierra at ₹11.49 lakh

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (TMPV) has announced the launch of the all-new Tata Sierra SUV at an aggressive introductory price of ₹11.49 lakh. The Sierra has been introduced in three powertrains - two petrol and one diesel engine. Sierra EVs will be launched in the next financial year. "This is the first car with 5G connectivity in the EV world. It has three seven infotainment and level 2 plus ADAS," said Shailesh Chandra, MD & CEO, TMPV.

Mahindra to set up 1,000 charging points by 2027

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has announced plans to set up 250 electric vehicle charging stations with over 1,000 charging points by the end of 2027. Mahindra's Charge IN network will exclusively feature 180 kW dual gun chargers designed to deliver faster, consistent, and reliable charging for electric four-wheelers. The Charge IN stations will be positioned along major highway corridors and are located with nearby amenities such as restaurants, M&M said.

IndoSpace Core acquires 6 logistics parks worth ₹3,000 cr.

IndoSpace Core on Tuesday announced the acquisition of six industrial and logistics parks valued at ₹3,000 crore (471 million Canadian dollars). The six parks, located across key logistics markets, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune, collectively span 360 acres with a leasable area of around 9 million sq ft, the company said. IndoSpace Core is co-owned by IndoSpace and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPIP Investments).

The Hindu Best Places to Work Awards 2026

The Hindu Business
BENGALURU

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been reshaping and transforming Indian businesses by impacting back office operations, streamlining strategies, as per WorkL, an employee engagement platform that surveys and tracks employee well-being across enterprises.

It further said, recent employee surveys indicate that both employees and employers were largely positive about AI's effects on performance and working conditions, especially in manufacturing and finance sectors.

The Hindu Best Places to Work Awards are open for enterprises across India. Businesses enrolling in

it will not only understand their own Flight Risk (attrition) score, but also be able to gauge overall employee engagement score, their Confidence in Management indicator, NPS (net promoter score), six steps to workplace engagement scores and will also have data benchmarked against global industry scores.

The deadline for entry is February 28, 2026 and survey results will be in early 2026.

Scan QR code to register to attend a 45-minute webinar on November 26 at 3 pm IST, conducted by the Chairman (Head of Commercial, WorkL, for Business) and Aiyasha Anand (MD, Marketing).



'GST cut, monsoon, better reservoir levels to boost farm gear demand'

Mini Tolajewi
BENGALURU

The overall market outlook for farm equipment and agriculture machinery in the second part of FY26 seems very positive, said Antonio Chaves, CEO, VST Tillers Tractors Ltd. "A favourable monsoon, improved reservoir levels and the recent GST reduction on farm machinery are expected to significantly increase rural consumption of farm equipment and boost mechanisation in the country's agriculture sector," he told *The Hindu*. He said the farm seg-



VST has seen an uptick in orders in the last two months.

ment was doing well this year, helped by supportive policies of farm equipment and affordability of farm machinery for small and marginal farmers. The growth momentum was continuing in

'Rupee is Asia's worst performing currency'

The domestic currency may slide to 90 against the USD if the trade deal with the U.S. does not happen in the near future, caution analysts

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

A sharp depreciation of 4.3% against the U.S. Dollar (USD) in this calendar year (January-December 2025), the Indian Rupee (INR) has become the worst performing currency in Asia, finance analysts said. It may further slide to 90 against the USD if the trade deal with the U.S. does not happen in the near future, they cautioned.

Stating that the INR's performance has been weaker compared with peers like the Chinese Yuan and the Indonesian Rupiah, Akshat Garg, AVP, Choice Wealth, said, "It is still faring better than structurally weak currencies like the Japanese Yen and Korean Won, which continue to face domestic policy challenges."

"Overall, the rupee's trajectory, now hinges on global dollar strength more than domestic fundamentals," he added.

According to Tanay Dalal, Senior S&P, Business & Economic Research, Axis Bank, the INR has been facing depreciation pressure for many months, not so much because of the current account which has been benign, but because of capital outflows. In a recent report, the firm said, "The INR has weakened against Asia FX (Foreign Exchange), but mostly against current account surplus countries. The INR



Currency crash: The rupee's trajectory now hinges on global dollar strength more than domestic fundamentals, his firm

has weakened 4% CNY (Calendar Year-to-Date), as against 2.9% in INR (Indian Rupee) and 1.3% in PHP (Philippine Peso)," Mr. Dalal said.

Apart from this, the cost of the Asian currency basket, has appreciated largely driven by the CNY (Chinese Yuan) where the PBOC (People's Bank of China) has continued to implement a tight monetary policy. First and foremost, the Trump administration imposed 10% tariff on India hurting the export. This led to a record \$41.7 billion trade deficit in October triggering a rupee slide," said V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geop Investments Ltd. "Recently, the sharp spike in gold price this year has triggered huge investment in gold and gold ETFs leading to 200% increase in price for gold in October causing the gold import bill to rise to \$14.72 billion in October," Mr. Vijayakumar added.

The data show that gross FDI coming into India stood at \$6.4 billion in September 2025, about 4.3% higher than in September last year. In fact, this amount was 0.6% higher than it was in August.

However, these relatively strong inflows were offset by the outflows, particularly when it came to foreign investments done by Indian companies. So, while the repatriation of profits by foreign

Wide exit

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■ This amount was 0.6% higher than it was in August

■ Strong inflows were offset by the outflows, particularly when it came to foreign investments done by Indian companies

■ The amount received abroad by Indian companies grew 64.4% to \$1.8 billion in Sept. 2025

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FDI

Net FDI negative for second straight month in September

T.C.A. Bharadwaj
NEW DELHI

More investment left the country than entered it for the second month in a row in September, with latest data from the Reserve Bank of India showing net foreign direct investment (FDI) stood at -\$2.4 billion.

In other words, the sum of money repatriated out of the country by foreign companies here, and invested abroad by Indian companies, was \$2.4 billion more than the foreign investment entering India in September 2025, an analysis of the data by *The Hindu* showed.

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However, these relatively strong inflows were offset by the outflows, particularly when it came to foreign investments done by Indian companies. So, while the repatriation of profits by foreign

companies doing business in India shrank by 0.2% in September 2025 to \$5.2 billion, the amount invested abroad by Indian companies grew 64.4% to \$1.8 billion during the same period.

Taken together, this meant that a total of \$9 billion of direct investment left the country in September 2025, compared with the \$6.5 billion that entered it that month. The difference between these two figures, the net FDI amount, therefore stood at a negative \$2.4 billion. The net FDI figure was negative in August 2025 as well, at -\$0.6 billion. It is important to note that these figures refer to direct investment, which constitutes investment into assets, rather than portfolio investment, which has to do with shares in a company.

However, the analysis also shows that the FDI picture looks better when looked at over a longer period. For example, gross FDI was 15.4% higher in the July-September 2025 quarter than in the same quarter of the previous year.

MARKET'S

MARKET WATCH

Stocks: Nifty 50 24,945.00 (+0.24%)
Sensex 84,247.00 (+0.12%)
US Dollar 82.00 (-0.05%)
Euro 1.0800 (-0.10%)
INR vs USD 82.00 (-0.05%)

NIFTY 50

Stock	Price	Change
Asian Paints	3,140.00	+0.10%
Infosys	2,450.00	+0.15%
Wipro	2,350.00	+0.10%
Reliance	2,850.00	+0.10%
ICICI Bank	2,150.00	+0.10%
Axis Bank	2,050.00	+0.10%
HDFC Bank	1,950.00	+0.10%
State Bank of India	1,850.00	+0.10%
Maruti Suzuki	1,750.00	+0.10%
Adani Enterprises	1,650.00	+0.10%
Coal India	1,550.00	+0.10%
Oil India	1,450.00	+0.10%
ONGC	1,350.00	+0.10%
Power Grid	1,250.00	+0.10%
NTPC	1,150.00	+0.10%
Steel India	1,050.00	+0.10%
JSW Steel	950.00	+0.10%
Tata Steel	850.00	+0.10%
JSW Energy	750.00	+0.10%
JSW Cement	650.00	+0.10%
JSW Shipyard	550.00	+0.10%
JSW Shipyard	450.00	+0.10%
JSW Shipyard	350.00	+0.10%
JSW Shipyard	250.00	+0.10%
JSW Shipyard	150.00	+0.10%
JSW Shipyard	50.00	+0.10%

IOB to get tax refund of ₹83.35 cr.

Indian Overseas Bank has informed the RBI that it will receive an income tax refund of ₹83.35 crore for the assessment year 2025-26. The refund amount includes interest payable under section 24A.

Slash tariff on aluminium, ASMA appeals to Centre

The Hindu Business
HYDRABAD

The Aluminium Secondary Manufacturers Association (ASMA), a body of downstream manufacturers and MSMEs, has appealed to the Centre to reduce the import duty on primary aluminium.

Primary aluminium, which accounts for 80% of production cost for the downstream sector, is a 7.5% import duty. The consequential increase in selling price makes it difficult for aluminium downstream product makers to compete globally.

"The downstream sector is currently reeling under significant challenges that threaten its viability to compete since we are

Primary aluminium, accounting for 80% of output cost, for makers attracts 7.5% import duty.

losing market access both domestically and internationally," Association patron Anil Agarwal said.

In a representation to Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, ASMA cited how free trade agreements such as the ASIA-Eurasia pact allowed finished goods to enter India at a duty-free, undercutting local makers who buy raw material at 25% duty-inclusive price. Such distortion places downstream makers at a distinct cost disadvantage.

As trade deficit with Japan tops \$12 bn, India to discuss non-tariff measures

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India's ongoing effort to address the staggering \$12.6 billion trade deficit in FY25 with Japan underscores a larger problem with other FTA partner countries.

The issue, that has been flagged in the case of Japan, non-tariff measures and quality controls - are the same that inhibit penetration of Indian goods in other markets as well. Sources said the Commerce Department is seeking industry inputs and

New Delhi has been insisting on a review of the UPCA as it had been disproportionately benefited Japan

will discuss these issues at the next joint committee meeting of the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) soon. Experts said these issues need to be thrashed out in the case of Japan, as well as ASEAN, South Korea and the UAE. The Post signing FTAs with all

Labour codes: Gig firms may pass on costs to customers

The Hindu Business
MUMBAI

Gig platforms such as Swiggy and Zomato may transfer the increase in cost on implementation of new labour codes to customers via higher platform fee, according to a note from KPMG Institutional Research. "Assuming companies have to absorb a 10% incremental 5% of annual payment to workers, the food delivery business could see an impact to the tune of ₹3.3 an order, while gig businesses could see an impact of ₹2.4 an order."

'Rupee is Asia's worst performing currency'

The domestic currency may slide to 90 against the USD if the trade deal with the U.S. does not happen in the near future, caution analysts

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

At a sharp depreciation of 4.3% against the U.S. Dollar (USD) in this calendar year (January-December 2025), the Indian Rupee (INR) has become the worst performing currency in Asia, forex analysts said. It may further slide to 90 against the USD if the trade deal with the U.S. does not happen in near future, they cautioned.

Stating that the INR's performance has been weaker compared with peers like the Chinese Yuan and the Indonesian Rupiah, Akshat Garg, AVP, Choice Wealth said, "It is still faring better than structurally weak currencies like the Japanese Yen and Korean Won, which continue to battle domestic policy challenges."

"Overall, the rupee's trajectory now hinges on global dollar strength more than domestic fundamentals," he added.

According to Tanay Dalal, Senior V-P, Business & Economic Research, Axis Bank, the INR has been facing depreciation pressure for many months, not so much because of the current account which has been benign, but because of capital outflows.

"INR has weakened against Asia FX [foreign Exchange], but mostly against current account surplus countries. The INR



Currency cauldron: The rupee's trajectory now hinges on global dollar strength more than domestic fundamentals. REUTERS

has weakened 4% CYTD [Calendar Year-to-Date], as against 2.9% in IDR [Indonesian Rupiah] and 1.3% in PHP [Philippine Peso]," Mr. Dalal said.

Apart from this, the rest of the Asian currency complex has appreciated, largely driven by the CNY [Chinese Yuan] where the PBOC/SAFE [Currency Exchange policy of China's central bank] have been driving this through repeated intervention and signalling, he added.

The INR touched a new low vs the USD on November 21, 2025, as it went past the 88.8 levels (that the RBI had been defending in recent weeks) and touched 89.66 levels in the spot market. Since then, it has recouped some of its losses and was on Tuesday trading at 89.22 levels against the USD.

Sankar Chakraborti, MD & CEO, Acuité Ratings and Research said, "The 3.6% appreciation of the USD over the last two months has put pressure on most cur-

rencies, including the INR. India is facing twin external shocks: U.S. tariffs and high precious metal prices. The combination of adverse geo-economic and geopolitical environments is weighing upon India's merchandise trade deficit."

Trump tariff impact

"The sharp depreciation of the INR is the consequence of the cumulative impact of several factors. First and foremost, the Trump administration imposed 50% tariff on India hurting her exports. This led to a record \$41.7 billion trade deficit in October triggering a rupee slide," said V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd. "Secondly, the sharp spike in gold price this year has triggered huge investment in gold and Gold ETFs leading to 200% increase in demand for gold in October causing the gold import bill to spike to \$14.72 billion in October," Mr. Vijayakumar added.

2. Factors Behind Rupee Weakness

2.1 Strong US Dollar

- Global dollar strength due to:
 - Fed's tighter monetary stance
 - US economy outperforming other economies
- Rupee's weakness is driven **more by global dollar strength** than domestic fundamentals.

2.2 Comparison With Asian Peers

- INR weaker relative to:
 - Chinese Yuan
 - Indonesian Rupiah
 - Philippine Peso
- Still doing **better** than:
 - Japanese Yen
 - Korean Won

(both suffering from domestic policy challenges)

2.3 INR CYTD Performance

- Declined **4% CYTD**.
- Compare:
 - IDR: -2.9%
 - PHP: -1.3%

4. External Shocks Affecting INR

4.1 U.S. Tariffs on India

- Part of U.S. trade war.
- Heavy tariffs led to:
 - **Record \$41.7 billion trade deficit (Oct 2025)**
 - Pressure on INR
 - Decline in export competitiveness

4.2 High Gold Prices

- Surge in global gold prices → Higher Indian imports.
- In October 2025, gold import bill jumped to:
 - **\$14.72 billion**
- ETFs and speculative flows boosted gold demand.

- **Domestic vs External Drivers**
- **6.1 Domestic Fundamentals Stable**
- Current account deficit manageable.
- Forex reserves stable.
- Inflation under control relative to peers.
- **6.2 External Pressures Dominate**
- U.S. tariffs
- Strong USD
- High gold prices
- Weak capital flows
- Geo-economic uncertainty



Why does a currency depreciate?

1. Capital outflows
2. High imports (e.g., gold, oil)
3. Trade deficit
4. Global risk aversion
5. Strengthening USD Index (DXY)
6. Central bank policy divergence

Implications of a weak Rupee

- Costlier imports: oil, gold, electronics
- Leads to imported inflation
- Worsens CAD
- Boosts exports marginally (but India's export elasticity is low)
- Increases cost of foreign debt servicing

Indian Context

- India is a **net commodity importer** → weak rupee hurts
- RBI intervenes to manage volatility, not valuation
- U.S. trade tensions add pressure

IT MATTERS

South Africa spinners are adept at bowling on good wickets: Jadeja



Wearing a lining the bats is part of the game. But there is an effect on the game when you are bowling on the first time, when nothing is happening off the pitch, you will see the spinners as ordinary. But when you are 300 runs ahead, then every bowler will seem big — Ravindra Jadeja.

ADAPTABLE

South Africa spinners are adept at bowling on good wickets: Conrad



Back home, our spinners are forced to bowl with a little bit more guile and a little more guile. But here, they are not. They are playing with our lines and lengths a bit more. It has suited us in good stead scoring here on a good cricket like this — South Africa coach Conrad Rabie.

SOLID SUPPORT

India's home Test failures not coach's fault: Raina backs Gambhir



Support Raina backed India coach Gautam Gambhir, saying the team's recent poor run and the only player to feature in all nine editions of the support staff. "Gambhir has worked really hard and he is not at fault at all. The players have to work really hard and play well. Under him we have been doing well in the white-ball format," said Raina.

RECOGNITION

Rohit named Brand Ambassador for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup



Rohit Sharma, part of India's Men's T20 World Cup wins in 2007 and 2024 and the only player to feature in all nine editions, was unveiled as the Brand Ambassador for the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, becoming the first active international cricketer to hold such an ICC role.

Clinical Proteas on the cusp of glory

Eight Indian wickets stand between Ravuma's men and a 2-0 series sweep. Stubbs' stellar 94 helps the visitors declare at 260 for five, setting the hosts a humongous target of 549, the home team loses Jaswal and Rahul in the second innings as it ends the penultimate day at 27 for two.

SA IN INDIA

S. Dinak Ranay
GUWAHATI

South Africa held all the cards coming in to day four of the second and final Test as it sought to press for its first series victory on Indian soil in 28 years.

Tenisha Ravuma's men were 314 runs in the first and had two full days to march towards victory.

The Proteas could dictate the pace at which they wanted to score in their second innings, set an improbable target and leave enough overs late in the day to have a crack at the Indian batting line-up.

By starting on the penultimate day at the ACA Stadium on Tuesday, the reigning World Test champion did just that.

It was the kind of day that a team often dreams of, and South Africa is now eight wickets away from completing a 2-0 sweep.

After losing for two sessions and a bit more, the visitors, riding on Tristan Stubbs' patient 24 (160b, 9x4, 1x6), declared at 260 for five to set a humongous target of 549. India, in its second essay, lost openers Yashvir Jaswal and K.L. Rahul early. It was staring at a second series defeat on home soil in little more than twelve months after ending the day at 27 for two.

Earlier, all South Africa needed to do was to see off



Filing it in: Stubbs took the wind out of India's sails, into his weapon.

the first hour and ensure the home team couldn't get a foot inside the door. And that control was provided by spinners Ryan Rickelton and Aiden Markram with their third 50-plus partnership in the series. But Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar gave India a glimmer of hope. Rickelton perished to Jadeja, miscuing one to Mohammed Siraj at short extra-cover.

The left-arm spinner made full use of the hard new ball and early moisture to extract grip and turn. One such delivery had Markram beaten all stock up, with the ball drifting

into the off-stump. Three overs later, Washington returned. Ravuma, who played an off-break to leg-side as South Africa slumped to 77 for three.

Though the touring party had a healthy lead in that point, it was the kind of situation where one or two more wickets would have given the opposition a window of opportunity.

However, Tony de Zorzi shifted the pressure back, lobbing the off-spinner over long-on. He then employed the sweep effectively against spinners, and came

up with a flurry of boundaries to stabilise things. Stubbs followed a similar strategy and even threw in a few reverse sweeps as the duo added 101 for the fourth wicket.

At a time when there is a clamour to play exciting cricket to keep interest in the format alive, South Africa had no qualms in opting for a more subtle but practical approach.

The team batted for 40 minutes after lunch and brought the innings to a close only when Stubbs fell six short of his ton.

It looked a perfect day for the Proteas enough time for a small, short burst from their strike bowlers. Marco Jansen and Simon Harmer delivered the early blows by removing Jaswal and Rahul respectively.

It bookended a perfect day for the Proteas. Greater joys await on Wednesday.

the Indian team that lost the 2023 ODI World Cup final to Australia at the same venue. He did not elaborate, but the packed stadium sensed the lingering sting of that defeat.

Harmarpreet Kaur, who recently guided India to its maiden Women's ODI World Cup title, immediately agreed. "Australia is the only team we all want to beat. That game always stays with you. And it was the final I'd want to watch," she said.

Rohit Sharma hoped the team focuses on staying composed regardless of the opposition. "Whoever comes, the

team should remain relaxed and calm. They should win without pressure. World Cups are rare. Just enjoy the moment. Rohit said, laughing that he sounded "like a mental coach".

The 2026 Men's T20 World Cup will be held from February 7 to March 8, across eight venues five in India (Chennai, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad) and three in Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka, Colombo, Pinnangala, Colombo, Pinnangala). Rohit Sharma was appointed as the brand ambassador for the tournament. He is the first active international cricketer to hold such an ICC role.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

SOUTH AFRICA — 2ND INNINGS

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS

FALL OF WICKETS

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Conrad sparks controversy with 'grovel' remark

S. Dinak Ranay
GUWAHATI

South Africa coach Shukri Conrad sparked controversy on Tuesday by saying that he wanted to make India "grovel" on the field.

The response came when he was asked about the team's decision to bat across the entirety of day four, resulting in a delayed declaration.

"We wanted India to spend as much time on their feet out in the field. We wanted them to really grovel, to steal a phrase, but then completely out of the game and then say to them, 'come and survive on the last day and an hour before the evening,'" said Conrad.

While Conrad's words did not appear to come from a place of malice, the term 'grovel' was once part of a raging racism controversy back in 1976, when the then England captain Tony Greig said he wanted to make the West Indies team "grovel".

It lit a spark among the Windies, for it came from a white English skipper who grew up in apartheid South Africa.

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Defending champion India begins campaign against USA

T20 WORLD CUP

Anil Kulkarni
MUMBAI

Suryakumar Yadav, who will lead India's T20 World Cup test defence in less than three months, made no attempt to hide the opponent he hopes to meet in the 2026 final.

"Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Australia," he said with a smile when asked about India's potential final opponent after the tournament schedule was unveiled on Tuesday.

Suryakumar was part of the Indian team that lost the 2023 ODI World Cup final to Australia at the same venue. He did not elaborate, but the packed stadium sensed the lingering sting of that defeat.

Harmarpreet Kaur, who recently guided India to its maiden Women's ODI World Cup title, immediately agreed. "Australia is the only team we all want to beat. That game always stays with you. And it was the final I'd want to watch," she said.

Rohit Sharma hoped the team focuses on staying composed regardless of the opposition. "Whoever comes, the

team should remain relaxed and calm. They should win without pressure. World Cups are rare. Just enjoy the moment. Rohit said, laughing that he sounded "like a mental coach".

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ICC T20 World Cup 2026 GROUPS AND FIXTURES



GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
India (1), UAE, Netherlands, Bangladesh, Pakistan (12)	Australia (1), New Zealand (1), Zimbabwe, Ireland, Oman	England (1), West Indies (1), South Africa (1), Afghanistan (1)	South Africa (1), Afghanistan (1)

DATE	TIME	VENUE	SCORE
Feb 7	19:00	Chennai (ODI)	11.0.0
Feb 7	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 8	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 8	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 9	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 9	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 10	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 10	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 11	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 11	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
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Feb 13	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
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Feb 19	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 20	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 20	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 21	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 21	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
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Feb 26	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 26	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 27	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 27	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 28	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 28	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 29	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 29	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 30	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
Feb 30	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0

DATE	TIME	VENUE	SCORE
Feb 7	19:00	Chennai (ODI)	11.0.0
Feb 7	19:00	Mumbai	11.0.0
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RECOGNITION

Rohit named Brand Ambassador for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup



FILE PHOTO

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Skyroot Multi-Launch Vehicle Facility

Topic	Details (from article)	Extra Facts for Exams
Event	PM Modi will inaugurate Skyroot Aerospace's Multi-Launch Vehicle Facility on 27 Nov 2025	India pushing private space sector after IN-SPACe (2020) & Space Policy 2023 enabled private launches
Location	Infinity Campus, Hyderabad	Telangana becoming India's private space hub: T-Hub, T-Works, Aditya-L1 ground systems support at ISTRAC , etc.
Purpose of Facility	To accelerate India's capability to build, test & deploy multiple launch vehicles	India aims to raise its global share of the \$500+ billion space economy to 8–10% by 2030
Campus Size	2 lakh square feet	Comparable to major global private space campuses (e.g., Rocket Lab, Firefly)
Functions	End-to-end processes for orbital-class rockets , including design, integration, testing	India's first fully integrated private rocket campus—earlier only ISRO had full-stack manufacturing
Production Capacity	Target to produce one orbital rocket every month	India's PSLV launch frequency historically: 4–6 per year → this boosts cadence significantly
Impact on India	Strengthens India's commercial launch ecosystem & global competitiveness	India is already a favored low-cost launch destination with PSLV prices 3–4x cheaper than global peers



Unveiling of Vikram-I

PM will unveil **Vikram-I**, Skyroot's first orbital rocket for launching satellites

Vikram-I Specs: **payload ~300 kg, 3-stage solid propulsion, Q1 2026 first orbital mission (expected)**

Skyroot's Earlier Achievement

Successfully launched **Vikram-S**, India's first privately-built sub-orbital rocket

Vikram-S was launched from **Sriharikota** on 18 Nov 2022 under ISRO's **IN-SPACE** support

Founders

Founded by **Pawan Chandana & Bharath Daka** (IIT alumni, ex-ISRO engineers)

Skyroot became India's first private space tech startup to raise **\$100M+ funding**

Significance for Private Sector

Marks a major boost for India's **private space manufacturing**

Other private players: **Agnikul Cosmos, Bellatrix, Pixxel, Dhruva Space**

Government Support

PM inaugurating highlights priority to **Make in India – Space**

Budget 2024 allocated > **₹12,000 crore** to the Dept. of Space

Commercial Importance

Supports India in capturing small-satellite launch market

Global small-sat launch market expected to reach **\$62 billion by 2030**





Rocket	Type	Payload	Status
Vikram-S	Sub-orbital	~80 kg	Launched 2022
Vikram-I	Orbital	~300 kg	To be unveiled 2025
Vikram-II/III	Advanced orbital	500–700 kg	Under development



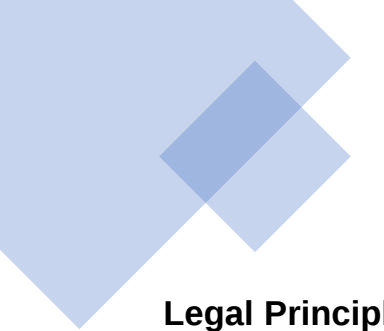
Policy / Institution	Year	Purpose
IN-SPACe	2020	Regulates private sector access to ISRO facilities
NSIL	2019	Commercial arm of ISRO
Indian Space Policy	2023	Opened entire space economy to private sector
Gaganyaan	Ongoing	India's first human space flight (2025–26)

- **Consider the following statements regarding Skyroot Aerospace:**
- Skyroot developed India's first privately-built sub-orbital rocket.
- Vikram-I is capable of launching payloads into Low Earth Orbit.
- Skyroot's Infinity Campus is located in Bengaluru.
- **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**



EU Court Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage

Topic	Key Points from Article	Extra Facts for Exams
Institution Involved	EU's highest court: Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)	CJEU ensures uniform interpretation of EU law → headquartered in Luxembourg
Ruling	Same-sex marriages legally performed in any EU member state must be recognised across the entire EU bloc	Similar concept in EU treaties: Freedom of Movement, Mutual Recognition Principle
Triggering Case	Polish same-sex couple married in Berlin (Germany) in 2018 ; Poland refused to register the marriage	Germany legalized same-sex marriage in 2017 ; Poland does not permit same-sex marriages
Violation Identified	Poland's refusal infringed EU principles: freedom of movement, right to private & family life	These rights come from the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000) → Article 7 (Private life), Article 21 (Non-discrimination), Article 45 (Free movement)
Background	The couple returned to Poland → authorities denied registration → matter referred to EU Court	EU Free Movement Law: Citizens can live with their legally recognized spouse anywhere in EU
Impact of Ruling	All 27 EU countries must respect same-sex marriages performed in any member state	Countries like Poland, Romania, Hungary must recognise foreign same-sex marriages even if domestic law bans it



Legal Principle Established

Recognition is mandatory across EU for residence, family reunification, healthcare, taxation, inheritance

Similar rulings earlier: **Coman Case (2018)** → non-EU same-sex spouse gets residency rights

Countries Involved in Dispute

Poland (refused) & **Germany** (where marriage performed)

Poland is classified as part of the **EU's conservative bloc**; Germany as **liberal bloc**

Rights Upheld

Right to maintain **family life**, right to **return home** without losing marital status

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) also protects family life (Article 8)

Reason for Poland's Ban

Polish national law does not allow same-sex marriage → conflict with EU freedom of movement rules

Poland has been criticised earlier for **judicial independence**, **LGBTQ+ zones**, etc.

Global Comparisons

EU ruling similar to **US Supreme Court (Obergefell v. Hodges, 2015)** legalising same-sex marriage nationwide

Over **35+ countries** have legalized same-sex marriage (as of 2025)

Geopolitical Significance

Reflects tension between **EU liberal values** vs **Eastern Europe's conservative traditions**

Part of wider EU issues: rule of law, sanctions, funding cuts for Poland/Hungary



1. Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)

- Highest judicial authority in EU law
- Ensures uniform legal interpretation
- Located: **Luxembourg City**
- Two courts:
 - **Court of Justice**
 - **General Court**

2. Same-Sex Marriage Recognition in Europe

- Western Europe: Mostly legal (Germany, France, Spain, Netherlands)
- Eastern Europe: Mostly illegal (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria)

3. Relevant EU Laws

- **Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)** → free movement
- **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000)**
- **ECHR Article 8** → Right to family life

Consider the following statements regarding the CJEU ruling on same-sex marriages:

- 1.The ruling mandates that all EU countries must recognise same-sex marriages performed in any EU member state.
- 2.The ruling is based on violations of the right to free movement and the right to private and family life.
- 3.The ruling applies only to countries where same-sex marriage is already legal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Antarctic Ozone Hole Shrinks

Topic	Key Points from Article	Extra Facts for UPSC / SSC / State PCS
Event (2025)	Antarctic ozone hole shrinks significantly, becoming 5th smallest since 1992	Ozone hole size fluctuates seasonally (Sept–Oct peak) due to polar vortex + sunlight
Main Cause of Improvement	Success of the Montreal Protocol , reducing ozone-depleting chemicals	Montreal Protocol (1987) = UN treaty banning CFCs, HCFCs; considered most successful environmental treaty
Agencies Reporting It	NASA & NOAA scientists observed major improvement	NASA uses OMI & TROPOMI satellites; NOAA uses ground-based Dobson spectrophotometers
Average Size (2025)	18.71 million sq km (Sept–Mid Oct)	Compared to the peak in early 2000s: 25–28 million sq km (UPSC-important)
Largest Single-Day Extent (2025)	Recorded on 9 Sept 2025 → 22.86 million sq km	The size is ≈30% smaller than record 2006 value
Historical Peak	2006 had one of the largest ozone holes	2006 size = 29.6 million sq km (one of the largest ever recorded)

Long-term Measurement	Satellite data since 1979	First ozone hole detection by British Antarctic Survey (1985)
Global Environmental Action	Concentrations of ozone-depleting substances down by 1/3 since 2000	CFC-11, CFC-12 have multi-decade lifetimes → recovery expected by 2060–2070
Current Status (2025)	Ozone hole is one of the smallest in four decades	UNEP & WMO predict full recovery of Antarctic ozone layer by ~2066
Key Pollutants Reduced	CFCs, HCFCs, Halons phased out	CFCs cause catalytic destruction of ozone via chlorine radicals (Cl•)
Why Hole Shrinks Faster Now	Decline in ODS + unusual atmospheric conditions (weaker polar vortex)	Volcanic eruptions/pyroCb events can temporarily worsen ozone hole
Geographical Area	Located above Antarctica	Extremely cold temperatures form polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) enabling rapid ozone destruction
Importance of Ozone	Protects from harmful UV-B radiation	Ozone depletion → skin cancer, cataracts, crop loss, phytoplankton damage
India's Role	India banned CFCs under Montreal Protocol + ODS Rules, 2000	India operates ozone monitoring stations : Pune, Bangalore, Port Blair
Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP)	Declining ODP shows chemical recovery	CFC-11 ODP = 1 (highest), HCFC-22 = 0.055

Montreal Protocol (1987)

- Adopted: 1987
 - Entered into force: 1989
 - All **198 UN member states** are parties → only treaty with **universal ratification**
 - Phased out: **CFCs, HCFCs, Halons, Carbon tetrachloride, Methyl chloroform**
 - Amendment: **Kigali Amendment (2016)** → phase-down of **HFCs** (not ozone-depleting but potent greenhouse gases)
-

Why the Ozone Hole Is Over Antarctica (Geography Logic)

1. Extremely cold winters create **polar stratospheric clouds**
 2. Sunlight returns in spring → chlorine activation → ozone destruction
 3. Strong **polar vortex** traps chemicals → concentrated ozone loss
-

Environmental Science Notes

- Ozone occurs mostly in the **stratosphere (10–50 km)**
- Maximum concentration around **20–30 km altitude**
- Measured in **Dobson Units (DU)** → 300 DU = normal level
- Antarctic ozone hole often reaches **100 DU or lower**

With reference to the 2025 Antarctic ozone hole observations, consider the following statements:

- 1.The 2025 Antarctic ozone hole was the smallest recorded since 1979.
- 2.Scientists attribute the improvement primarily to the Montreal Protocol.
- 3.Ozone depletion over Antarctica is highest during the southern spring.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Ahmedabad – 2030 Commonwealth Games

Topic	Key Points from Article	Extra Facts for UPSC & Other Exams 
Main Update (2025)	India is close to securing the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG) hosting rights	India previously hosted CWG only once – Delhi 2010
Host City	Ahmedabad , Gujarat	Ahmedabad = India's first UNESCO World Heritage City (2017)
Approval Authority	Final approval expected at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow	Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) HQ = London, UK
Reason for Ahmedabad's Selection	Strong infrastructure, governance, technical standards, athlete experience	Ahmedabad houses Narendra Modi Stadium – world's largest cricket stadium (capacity: 132,000+)
Competing Cities	Ahmedabad chosen over Abuja, Nigeria	Abuja now encouraged to bid for 2034 CWG
India's Long-term Sports Plan	Aim to expand global sporting footprint; bringing major event back after two decades	India aims to become a multi-sport hosting hub like Australia & UK

Recommendation Status	Commonwealth Sports Board has already recommended India's bid	CGF evaluates cities on: transport, environment, governance, financial guarantees
Evaluation Criteria	Technical delivery, governance standards, athlete experience, alignment with sport values	CWG places strong emphasis on sustainability & cost-reduction since 2018 reforms
Presentation at Assembly	India will present roadmap for successful hosting	Will include venue plan, financial model, sustainability, inclusivity
Time Gap Since Last Indian Hosting	CWG was last hosted by India in 2010 → return after 20 years if 2030 bid succeeds	Delhi 2010 CWG cost: ₹70,000+ crore (UPSC fact)
India's Recent Sports Investments	Heavy investment in Gujarat International Sports City (proposed)	India bidding for 2036 Olympics (under discussion)
Global Sports Diplomacy Angle	Hosting CWG enhances India's soft power & diplomacy within Commonwealth	Commonwealth = 56 countries; mostly former British colonies
India's Medal Performance	India consistently ranks in top 5 in CWG medal tally	Best performance: Delhi 2010 → 101 medals
Economic Benefits	Sports tourism, job creation, infrastructure development	CWG 2022 added £1 billion+ to UK economy
Organisations Involved in India	Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports Authority of India (SAI), IOA	IOA (Indian Olympic Association) coordinates multi-sport events

Commonwealth Games Facts

- Started: **1930, Hamilton (Canada)**
- Frequency: Every **4 years**
- Motto: **Humanity – Equality – Destiny**
- 2022 Host: **Birmingham, UK**
- 2026 Host: *Cancelled* (Victoria, Australia withdrew)
- CGF President (2025): **Dame Louise Martin**

India at CWG

- First participated: **1934**
- Total medals till 2022: **500+**
- Dominant sports: Shooting, Wrestling, Weightlifting



Why Ahmedabad Is Strong Candidate (UPSC Angle)

1. World-class stadium infrastructure
2. Government-backed financial guarantees
3. Gujarat's investment in **Sports City** plan
4. Improved transport – metro, international airport
5. Past success with major events (e.g., G20 Summit 2023 events, Cricket World Cup 2023 matches)

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Word of the day

Effulgence:

the quality of being bright and sending out rays of light

Synonyms: radiance, refulgence, shine

Usage: *The new singer's effulgence shone through the crowd.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/effulgencepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ɪˈfʌl.ɪdʒəns/



Thank you 😊

