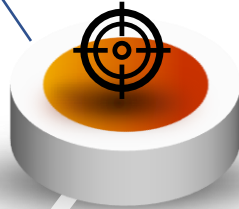


Daily Current Affairs





6
The Hindu



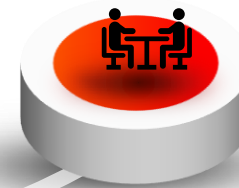
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**PIB, PRS & Other
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**The Indian
Express**

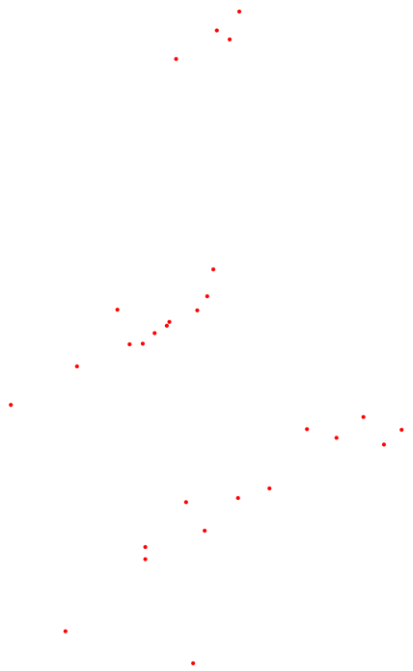


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Jansatta



1
**Financial
Express**

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PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

**"The two most
powerful warriors are
patience and time."**

— LEO TOLSTOY



5,534
Volunteers



671
Contributors



1,231
Kids



24
States



is hiring

Content Writer

Jaipur office

3–4 people

At least 1–2
Mains writer



Send your CV to:
bhunesh@class24.study

750 pilgrims, 2 routes
The MEA announced that both routes – via Lipulekh pass through Dharchula in Uttarakhand, and via Nathu La Pass through Gangtok in Sikkim – will be reopened for the pilgrims or 'vatis' between June



Meghalaya to host Strawberry Festival on May 2 and 3

The State of Meghalaya will host a two-day Strawberry festival on May 2 and 3, aimed at promoting agro-tourism and rural livelihoods through a range of cultural and recreational activities. The festival will take place simultaneously across three locations – Syntung in East Khasi Hills, Sohliya in Ri-Bhoi district, and Darechigre in West Garo Hills – areas where strawberry cultivation has seen significant growth in recent years. “Visitors will be provided with the opportunity to pick fresh strawberries straight from the fields and an immersive experience to connect with the rural way of life,” an official said.



Main Attractions of the Festival

- **Strawberry Picking Experience:** Tourists are allowed to pick fresh strawberries directly from farms.
- **Exhibitions & Stalls:** Local products like jams, jellies, wines, pickles, and handicrafts.
- **Cultural Performances:** Traditional Khasi dance and music, showcasing local culture.
- **Agri Workshops:** Guidance on strawberry cultivation techniques, use of drip irrigation, and organic farming methods.
- **Interaction with Farmers:** Knowledge sharing about strawberry farming challenges and success stories.



Economic & Social Importance

- **Boosts Farmer Income:** Direct sale opportunities during the festival.
 - **Promotes Women Empowerment:** Many women participate in farming and processing strawberries.
 - **Tourism Promotion:** Helps attract tourists to Meghalaya beyond the usual scenic spots like Shillong and Cherrapunjee.
 - **Supports Rural Economy:** Encourages youth participation in horticulture as a sustainable livelihood.
-

Government Involvement

- Organised under the umbrella of the **Meghalaya Horticulture Mission**.
- Support from the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**, Meghalaya.
- Integration with the "**Mission Organic Meghalaya**" to promote organic farming.

State/Region	Place	Highlights
Maharashtra	Mahabaleshwar	Largest strawberry-producing region in India; famous for <i>Mahabaleshwar Strawberry Festival</i> (Jan–Feb)
Meghalaya	Sohliya, Ri-Bhoi	Known as the Strawberry Festival of Meghalaya , supported by the State Horticulture Department
Uttarakhand	Nainital, Ramgarh	Local strawberry fairs to promote horticulture and tourism
Himachal Pradesh	Solan, Sirmaur	Strawberry farming events and local fruit exhibitions

Food as Medicines



- 🍓 Potassium in strawberries dilates blood vessels
- 🍓 Strawberries decrease total and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol
- 🍓 Increase vascular relaxation and tone
- 🍓 Decrease inflammation and oxidative stress
- 🍓 Decrease insulin resistance and blood sugar
- 🍓 Polyphenols in strawberries can modulate brain inflammation and improve cognitive outcomes.



Image: Freepik

Top 5 Strawberry Producing States in India

Rank	State	Major Growing Areas	Highlights
1	Maharashtra	Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Wai	Contributes 85% of India's production ; Mahabaleshwar strawberry has GI Tag
2	Meghalaya	Sohliya (Ri-Bhoi district)	Known for organic strawberry farming ; famous Strawberry Festival
3	Uttarakhand	Nainital, Ramgarh, Mukteshwar	Suitable climate for high-quality strawberries
4	Himachal Pradesh	Solan, Sirmaur, Kullu	Expansion under horticulture programs
5	West Bengal / Sikkim	Kalimpong, Darjeeling (emerging areas)	Strawberry farming promoted under cold climate horticulture

INBRIEF

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BJP MLA booked for hurting religious sentiments in Jaipur

In the wake of the terrorist attack in J&K's Pahalgarh, the Jaipur police on Saturday registered a criminal case against BJP MLA Bahmukund Acharya on charges of hurting religious sentiments by leading a sloganeering crowd that assembled outside the Jama Masjid. Mr. Acharya and his supporters allegedly raised offensive slogans and put up posters on the mosque premises late on Friday night. This angered the people who had gathered to offer Friday prayers, and a large number of them gathered to protest against the MLA. Congress MLA Rafiq Khan and Aamir Kogel as well as Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph reached the spot and contained the situation.

Need to rebuild Meitei, Thadou ties in Manipur: TIM

The Thadou Inpi Manipur (TIM), an apex body of the Thadou tribal community, has emphasised the need to rebuild and strengthen confidence and understanding between the Meitei and Thadou communities in the State, which is trying to recover from the scars inflicted by two years of ethnic conflict. The organisation said the gradual return to normalcy and peace in Manipur has paved the way for mending the Meitei-Thadou ties and rebuilding trust among all other communities in the multifaceted State. It condemned the "widespread human rights violations and persecution by Kukri terrorists and supremacist groups".

NCW looks into harassment claims by Mathura teachers

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken cognisance of complaints over the alleged harassment and issuance of termination notices to several women teachers in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district. Acting upon reports published in local newspapers, the Commission issued a formal notice to the District Magistrate of Mathura, directing a detailed inquiry and the submission of a report within seven days. In its notice, the NCW expressed strong disapproval over the alleged misconduct by a Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA). It termed the actions of the BSA as "misuse of official position" and "violation of women's rights".

SUDOKU

2			5	3	1
4	6	9			
	7		1		
	2		4	9	
6	7				5
	5	6			1
			8		5
				3	1
1	3	6			8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	5	3	1	6	9	2	7	4
6	7	9	4	2	5	1	8	3
1	9	4	2	5	1	8	3	6
7	2	8	3	5	4	1	9	6
3	6	7	9	4	2	5	1	8
2	8	5	7	1	6	4	9	3
9	4	2	5	1	8	3	6	7
5	1	6	9	2	7	4	8	3
4	3	6	7	9	4	2	5	1

India raises continental-shelf claim in Arabian Sea region

Documents suggest it added 10,000 square km to its original claim in the central Arabian Sea; this helps India skirt the maritime border dispute with Pakistan, which led to the rejection of the entirety of its 2009 claim in the same region

INBRIEF
NEW DELHI

India has increased its claim in the central Arabian Sea, as part of its "extended continental shelf" by nearly 10,000 square km and also modified an earlier claim to avoid a long-standing dispute with Pakistan over the maritime boundary between the two countries, suggest documents submitted earlier this month with the United Nations.

Coastal countries have an exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which gives exclusive mining and fishing rights, up to 200 nautical miles from their coastlines. In addition to this, such States can make claims for more area in the ocean provided they can scientifically establish to a UN body, called the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), that this claimed area extends unbroken from their land-mass all the way to the seabed.

All of this oceanic area is considered part of a country's extended continental shelf. This gives them rights to commercially mine for valuable metals like oil, polymetallic nodules and oil reserves. India al-

ready has 12 nautical miles of territorial sea and 200 nautical miles of the EEZ measured from the baselines. With the anticipated addition of approximately 1.2 million square km of extended continental shelf from the two submissions to the 2 million sq. km of EEZ, India's seabed and sub-seabed area would be almost equal to its land area of 3.274 million sq. km, according to the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.

India made its first claim in 2009 in vast stretches of sea spanning the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. Due to geology, the continental shelf of a country can frequently overlap with another, and the process of scrutinising and deciding upon the claims of countries can run into years. While India's claims are still being weighed upon, Pakistan in 2021 objected to portions of India's claimed territory in the western offshore regions on the grounds that nearly 100 nautical miles overlapped with a maritime border that was under "dispute". Specifically, this referred to a dispute between the countries over the Sir Creek, a strip of water in the marshes of the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. The creek roughly separates the Kutch region in India and Pakistan's Sindh province. While India countered these objections, the net result was that the CLCS, in March 2023, rejected the entirety of India's claim in the Arabian Sea region. However, the commission gives leeway to countries to submit "modified claims". It's in response to this that on April 3, India split its original claim (in the western Arabian Sea) into two "partial ones". Doing so, said an official in the

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), is to ensure that India's claim in the central Arabian Sea region is not affected.

"Countries can submit a number of partial claims. Overall we have increased our claim by an additional 10,000 sq. km based on additional data gathered," M. Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES, told *The Hindu*. "The remaining part can be discussed bilaterally. This strategy is part of our approach to ensure that at least the (region) without dispute, and which is very valuable, is awarded to us". Institutions of the MoES, such as the NCPOR, have played a key role in the technical aspects of determining India's continental shelf.

According to parts of India's continental shelf claims in the Arabian Sea overlap with that of Oman. However, the two countries have an agreement in place since 2010 that while the continental shelf between them is yet to be delimited, it is "not under dispute".

India has claimed about 300,000 square km in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean, though these have faced contests by Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

DGCA puts out advisory over airspace restrictions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday issued an advisory to airlines on providing proper communication and in-flight catering services to passengers as international flights were having longer flying time due to the Pakistan airspace closure.

Pakistan has closed its airspace for Indian airlines, resulting in longer flying hours for their international flights, especially those flying out from north Indian cities, including Delhi.

The DGCA's advisory focuses on five main areas: pre-flight passenger communication, in-flight catering and comfort, medical preparedness and alternative aerodromes, customer service and support readiness, and intra-departmental coordination.

Airlines have to ensure that all passengers are proactively informed about the change in routing and revised total expected travel time. Also, the possibility of a technical stop at an alternate airport should be informed to the passengers. According to DGCA, airlines must ensure that catering uplift is revised based on actual expected block time.

Two years on, SMILE barely reduces beggary, rescues only 970 persons

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Two years after the Union Social Justice Ministry started identifying, surveying, and profiling people engaged in begging under the SMILE scheme, the programme has so far identified only 9,558 such individuals across 81 cities and towns where it is being implemented. In comparison, the 2011 Census had recorded 3.72 lakh beggars across the country.

As per records available with the Ministry, which runs the Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood (SMILE) scheme, of the 9,558 persons identified, nearly 970 have been rehabilitated, as of December 2024. Of those rehabilitated, 352 were children.

The SMILE scheme was



The scheme identified fewer than 10,000 people engaged in begging across 81 towns and cities. K. RAJESH

launched in 2022. One of its components was the sub-scheme to identify, profile, and rehabilitate individuals engaged in the worst of begging, with consent. The idea was to "make identified urban spaces, mainly religious sites, tourist places, and historical cities, free from beggary". The other component is the empower-

ment of transgender persons.

Phase 1 of the scheme was started across 30 cities, including Ayodhya, Varanasi, Bikaner, Gandhinagar, Gomti Nagar, Sonmat, Girdih, New Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Gaya, Lucknow, Madurai, Kochi, Jammu, and Bhopal. Under Phase 2, 50 more cities were added to this list.

The Socio-Economic and Caste Census of 2011, which the Social Justice Ministry continues to refer to in its 2024 Handbook on Begging, had estimated that over 6.62 lakh households in rural India rely on begging or alms.

According to the scheme guidelines, the target of the scheme was to rehabilitate at least 8,000 people in the three years between FY 2023-24 and FY 2025-26.

The latest guidelines for the sub-scheme said an allocation of ₹100 crore had been made for it, to be utilised from 2023-24 to 2025-26. According to the Social Justice Ministry's annual Report for 2024-25, as of December 31, 2024, the government had spent ₹14.71 crore on this scheme.

Plea in SC challenges exclusion of divorced men from surrogacy

Krishnakant Ralagani
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought the response of the Centre on a petition filed by a 45-year-old divorced and single man claiming his right to be a biological parent through surrogacy.

A Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna issued notice to the Union government on the plea by Bengaluru resident, Maheshwara M.V., who said it was un-

constitutional to exclude single, divorced men from availing surrogacy under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which restricts eligibility solely to legally married couples and widowed or divorced women, thereby violating the fundamental rights of the petitioner under Articles 14

(right to equality) and 21 (right to a dignified life) of the Constitution.

The petitioner, represented by advocate Mohini Priya, urged the court for a judicial declaration of his right to exercise his constitutionally protected right to reproductive autonomy and become a biological parent through gestational surrogacy using his own gametes and donor eggs, as facilitated under the Surrogacy Act.

The plea said the legitimate aspiration of single divorced men to avail surrogacy was unjustly, irrationally and arbitrarily denied solely on the grounds of gender and marital status, despite the very same Act expressly permitting divorced women aged 35-45 to access surrogacy.

NCERT compresses three subjects into one book for Class 7

Malini Porecha
NEW DELHI

The new social science textbook for Class 7 published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has shrunk what were earlier three separate books for history, geography, and social and political life. Students in Classes 4 and 7 are getting new textbooks for the academic year 2025-26.

Class 7 students will get a single social science text, titled *Exploring Society: India and Beyond*. The new book replaces three earlier books: *Our Past: If for History, Social and Political Life* (a new subject, earlier taught in middle school), which replaces civics, and *Our Environment for Geography*. A senior official involved with formulation of new textbooks told *The Hindu* the NCERT was likely to re-

lease the second part of the book, titled *Exploring Society: India and Beyond* (Part 2), for Class 7 in upcoming months. "Part 1 only covers six months" of the social science study for Class 7, and Part 2 is being envisioned for the next six months.

The new book is structured around five themes: "India and the world; land and the people"; "Tapestry of the past"; "Our cultural heritage and knowledge"; "Governance and democracy"; and "Economic life around us".

While the previous Class 7 history textbook started its account at the 7th century AD, Part 1 of the new text-book covers the earlier period from 1900 BCE to 300 BCE and culminates with the period between the 6th and 9th century AD. The text also features many Sanskrit terms along with



The new book is titled *Exploring Society: India and Beyond* (Part 2), second part is likely to be released soon. K. RAJESH

diacritics, the marks used over letters to encourage the correct pronunciation of Sanskrit words. While the old textbook mentions Persian chronicles, the new one includes the reign of Emperor Babur, and the text also mentions the use of the terms "Hindustan" and "Hind", the new textbook mentions the origins of Bharat, and India. Some of these changes follow from the revisions made to Class 6 textbooks last year. The old Class 6 history textbook had covered the kingdoms of ancient India in detail, but this content was left out of the new Class 6 textbook and has now been included in the Class 7 text-book. The new textbook's history content deals in detail with ancient India and ends with the fall of the Gupta Empire between the 5th and 6th century AD. The old Class 7 textbook only had one

chapter dedicated to select Indian dynasties, between the 7th and 12th century AD and did not have as much in-depth content on the Mauryan, Gupta and other regional Indian empires as the new text does.

No sultans, Mughals

The older Class 7 textbook also covered the rise of the Delhi Sultanate between the 12th and 15th centuries, as the Rajput dynasty gave way to the onslaught of "Turkish rulers, the Khiljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodis, and later in the 16th century, to the Mughals."

Because Part 1 of the new textbook ends at the Gupta Empire, students are not introduced to the rise of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals at least in the first half of Class 7. It remains to be seen whether these chapters of the consequent historical timeline will be in-

cluded in Part 2 of the new Class 7 textbook.

Ancient kingdoms

The new consolidated book's second theme on the "Tapestry of the past" has four chapters dedicated to history. The fourth chapter, "New beginnings: cities and states", begins with a quote from Kautilya's *Arthashastra* and a picture of the Rajgir ruins from the Mauryan empire. It introduces the concept of the Janapadas and the Mahajanapadas, including Gandhara, Kuru, Matsya, Avanti, Chedi, Kosala, Magadha and so on, dating back to the end of the 2nd millennium BCE. There is also a mention of the Varanasi system that emerged from Vedic texts.

The fifth chapter, "The rise of empires", mentions Pataliputra, the rise of Magadha, the Mauryas, the Greek invasion, and the reign of Ashoka.

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The fifth chapter, “The rise of empires”, mentions Pataliputra, the rise of Magadha, the Mauryas, the Greek Invasion, and the reign of Ashoka.

Textbook Implementation Timeline



New Textbook Name

The textbook is named 'Exploring Society – India and Beyond (Part 1)'.

History, Geography, and Civics are integrated into one book.

Subjects Combined



Applicable for Class 7

The textbook is designed for Class 7 students in 2025–26.

Similar changes have already been implemented for Class 6.

Similar Changes for Class 6



Divided into Two Parts

The textbook is divided into two parts for the academic year.

Part 1 of the textbook covers the first six months of the academic year.

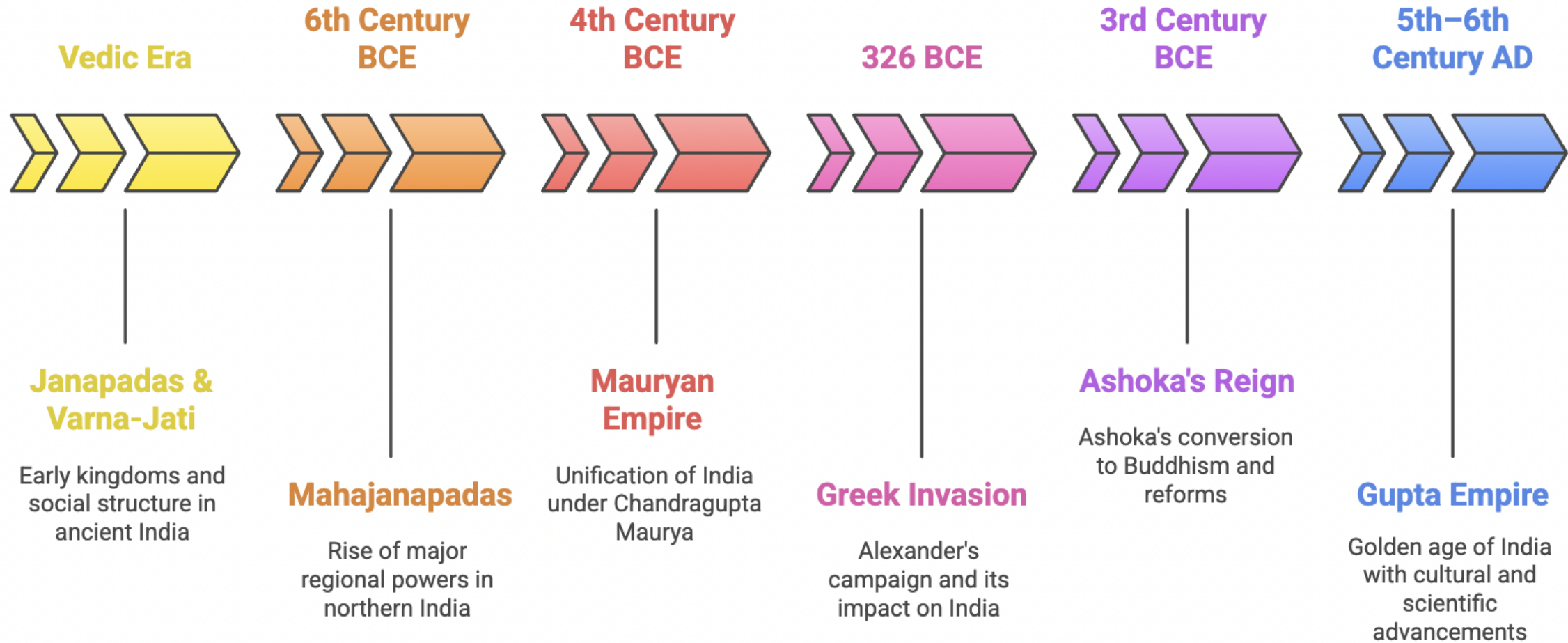
Part 1 Covers First 6 Months



Part 2 Planned for Next 6 Months

Part 2 is planned for the subsequent six months of the academic year.

Historical Coverage of PEB Part 1





4. Major Changes Compared to Previous Books:

Old Textbooks

Replaced by New Book

Our Pasts-II (History)

Merged into *Exploring Society*

Social and Political Life-II (Civics)

Merged into *Exploring Society*

Our Environment (Geography)

Merged into *Exploring Society*

- The older textbook used terms like “**Hindustan**” and “**Hind**”.
- The new book focuses on the **origins of Bharat and India**.



Recent Controversial Changes in NCERT (2023–2024) – Short Summary

Subject	Key Changes	Reason Given by NCERT
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Removed Periodic Table & Darwin's Evolution from Class 10.- Shifted to higher classes.	Reduce content load; overlap with higher classes.
Political Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Omitted details on Babri Masjid, Ayodhya issue, and Gujarat riots.	Post-judgment updates; avoid sensitive narratives.
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mughal court chapters removed from Class 12.- Reduced content on Partition violence.	Focus on broader historical themes.
Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Deleted chapters like <i>Democracy and Diversity</i>, <i>Challenges to Democracy</i> (Class 10).	Streamlining syllabus.

Economics	- Reduced content on agriculture's economic contribution.	Update economic data focus.
Mathematics	- Dropped Pythagorean Theorem from Class 10.	Avoid repetition; covered in higher classes.
Environmental Studies	- Cut topics on climate change, pollution (Classes 6–10).	Age-appropriate content rationalization.
Literature	- Removed works by Dalit writers (Omprakash Valmiki).	No clear official reason provided.

IN BRIEF



M&M to acquire 59% stake in SML Isuzu for ₹555 crore

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) said it had entered into an agreement to acquire 59.36% stake in SML Isuzu Ltd. (SML) at ₹60 per share, which is an outlay of ₹555 crore. The Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday. He was speaking at the unveiling of the guidelines for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Aurobindo's biosimilar for breast cancer gets panel nod

Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary CuraTqo Biologics' biosimilar for breast cancer has been recommended for marketing authorisation by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) "for the treatment of HER2-positive metastatic and early breast cancers," Aurobindo Pharma said in a press release. Upon European Commission's approval expected in July, it will be available across EU member states.

Alembic Pharma commissions ₹205 cr. formulations plant

Alembic Pharmaceuticals said it has commissioned a new facility in Pithampur Madhya Pradesh for manufacturing formulations. The facility has been set up with an investment of around ₹205 crore, which the company raised through internal accruals/borrowings. On the existing capacity and utilisation, the company said in a filing on Saturday it had multiple manufacturing facilities for formulations and their capacities were being optimally utilised.

GAIL, CONCOR ink pact for LNG use for logistics fleet

GAIL (India) and Container Corporation of India have signed an MoU for the feasibility of using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as fuel for CONCOR's logistics fleet. The collaboration seeks to harness LNG's advantages as a cleaner and more cost-effective alternative to diesel, which could result in reduced emissions and lower operational costs. GAIL said post signing of the MoU in the presence of Director (Marketing) Sanjay Kumar and CONCOR CMD Sanjay Swarup.

Indian CCTV firms likely to benefit from U.S.-China direct trade war

Lalitendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The trade war between the United States and China is expected to create business opportunities for Indian CCTV makers to export to the U.S., which is perhaps the biggest market for the device in terms of value. Though the U.S. had banned Chinese made CCTV cameras in government procurement due to allegations of cybersecurity violations, the private sector sourced them. But this might decline due to steep tariffs.

"With this trade war going on between China and U.S., it brings in a huge opportunity for domestic manufacturers like us who export to U.S.," said Sanjeev Sehgal, Founder & Managing Director, Sparsh CCTV, among top three players in the segment. "We are working hard toward how we can get maximum benefit out of it," Mr. Sehgal told *The Hindu*. "Because there is no clarity now, we need to see once all the things settle down and take a decision. So, we are seeing a good number of inquiries coming from U.S.," he said. "To start with, the firm would export to the U.S. and depending on the op-



Third eye: Chinese firms used to control 75% of India's estimated ₹12,000 cr. CCTV market, which is growing at 20% CAGR. FILE PHOTO

portunity, it may set up a manufacturing unit there. Sparsh CCTV has already set up a subsidiary in the United Arab Emirates and is establishing a joint venture in Saudi Arabia to expand into those key markets. Expected surge The company, which started focusing on exports since January this year, is expecting its exports volume to surge from 1-2% of the turnover now to about 20% this fiscal year.

'Sarvam AI, first firm to get govt. aid to build AI model'

Bengaluru-based firm to get access to a pool of graphics processing units acquired under the government's IndiaAI Mission; company says its model will be fluent in Indian languages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI will be the first company to receive government support to build an indigenous AI large language model (LLM). Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday. He was speaking at the unveiling of the guidelines for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Sarvam AI, founded in mid-2023, will have access to a pool of graphics processing units (GPUs) acquired under the govern-



Way forward: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiling the ECMS Guidelines and Portal, in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

ment's IndiaAI Mission. GPUs are essential parts of developing and deploying AI. Sarvam will have access to 400 of the over 14,000 GPUs in that cluster

for a period of six months. An LLM is a computational intensive undertaking, and modern ones have billions of parameters, trained on trillions of

Chola Investment posts Q4 consolidated PAT at ₹1,259.54 crore

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. said it had reported consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the January-March 2025 quarter at ₹1,259.54 crore. The financial services arm of the Murugappa Group, had registered a PAT of ₹1,065.23 crore dur-

ing the corresponding quarter of last financial year. For the financial year ended March 31, 2025, PAT surged to ₹4,262.70 crore, from ₹3,420.06 crore registered in the year-ago period. Consolidated total income for the January-March 2025 quarter soared to ₹7,136.91 crore, compared with ₹5,499.16 crore registered in the year ago,

for a period of six months. An LLM is a computational intensive undertaking, and modern ones have billions of parameters, trained on trillions of

India Cements turns ₹14.68 cr. profit in Q4; revenue declines 3.11%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The India Cements Ltd. on Saturday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹14.68 crore for the quarter ended in March 2025. It had reported a net loss of ₹60.55 crore in the January-March 2024 quarter. The financial year ended March 31, 2025, it had reported a net profit of ₹1,259.54 crore, compared with ₹5,499.16 crore registered in the year ago,

South zone leads

The south zone accounted for 65,914 of the total 107,293 units sold for the 9MFY25 period while west, north, east and central zones contributed 16,812, 10,471, 7,230 and 6,318 units respectively. The firm has 266 dealerships while its peers have 700-800, indicating significant headroom for growth.

Tarun Mehta, EP & CEO, Ather Energy told *The Hindu*. "This affords our company a variety of potential markets to expand our distribution network. With our entry into the conve-

Lalitendu Mishra
MUMBAI

IPO bound Ather Energy Ltd plans to deepen its electric two-wheeler distribution in South India and expand its network in the west, north and eastern regions.

The company leads the market in South India, except Telangana, as per data from the Vahan portal at the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The firm sold 46,230 units from October 2024 to March 2025, which is 22% of the e2w market share for the six months accounted for about 33% of total e2w sales, while 48% of Ather's experience centres, or dealership is located there, which contributed 68% sales in FY24.

The firm has 266 dealerships while its peers have 700-800, indicating significant headroom for growth. Tarun Mehta, EP & CEO, Ather Energy told *The Hindu*. "This affords our company a variety of potential markets to expand our distribution network. With our entry into the conve-



Revenue from operations grew by 329% between FY22 and FY24. FILE PHOTO

ience scooter segment through the launch of the Ather Rikta, we are able to address a larger portion of the scooter market."

Third party retailers

"We aim to partner with third-party retailers to expand our network of experience and service centres, especially in less penetrated regions, to grow our customer base," he added. Ather's revenue from operations grew by 329% between FY22 and FY24, and by 28% in 9MFY25, as per Axis Capital report. The 9MFY25 losses narrowed by nearly 35% on a year-on-year basis to ₹577 crore from ₹776 crore. The firm will continue its focus on unit economics, as per the report. Axis Capital said Ather's vehicle sales grew 45% to 1,07,983 units in 9MFY25 from 74,311 in 9MFY24. The adjusted gross margins more than doubled to 19% in 9MFY25 from 9%.

RBI slaps penalties on Indian Bank, IOB

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of more than ₹1.6 crore on Indian Bank and ₹63.60 lakh on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on interest rate on advances, Kisan Credit Card Scheme; and lending to the MSME sector.

It has taken necessary preventive actions to avoid recurrence. IOB said in a filing that the penalty of ₹63.60 lakh imposed by RBI was for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on interest rate on advances, Kisan Credit Card Scheme; and lending to the MSME sector.

CPCL FY25 net slumps to ₹174 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) reported standalone net profit slumped to ₹174 crore for FY25 from ₹2.71 crore in the year-ago period. Credit refining margin (CRM) slid sharply amid softening of global crude prices.

The GRM was \$4.22 a barrel as against \$8.64/bbl in the previous financial year. The lower net profit came on a more than 10% decline in revenue from operations at ₹71,050 crore (₹79,272 crore).

CPCL's crude druput of the Indian Oil Corporation group company during FY25 was also lower at 10.454 million tonnes (11.642 MT).

CPCL has declared a dividend of ₹5 per equity share (face value of ₹10 each) for FY25. The Board of Directors recommended preference dividend of 6.65% on outstanding preference shares amounting to ₹33.25 crore for the fiscal.

Business as usual



Men and machines: An SEB Group factory employee works on an assembly line for reconditioned household appliances at the group's Andhra Pradesh unit in Srisaheb, near Rajamahendravaram. The unit does not deal with the repair of faulty products as it is a business as usual. The unit has already approved 200 small workshops for this purpose. AFP

March air passenger traffic surges 9%

Robit Veluri
NEW DELHI

Rising demand for air travel thanks to the country's expanding aviation network accelerated. India's domestic passenger traffic by 8.79% in March on a year-on-year basis. According to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data, scheduled domestic operators ferried over 1.45 crore passengers last month, up from 1.33 crore in March

2024. On a sequential basis, the passenger traffic had grown by 11.04% from February. Passengers carried by domestic airlines during March were 1.45 crore, as against 1.33 crore during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 10.35% and a monthly growth of 8.79%. The DGCA said in its monthly passenger traffic report on Saturday, IndiGo achieved the

highest market share among all domestic airlines during the month under review. The airline increased its market share to 64% in March ferrying 93.10 lakh passengers up from 63.7% in February (89.40 lakh passengers). Similarly, Akasa Air improved its market share from 8.7% in February to 9% in March, flying 7.20 crore passengers. SpiceJet saw a modest increase in market share,

rising from 3.2% in February to 3.3% in March, carrying 4.80 lakh passengers. In contrast, Air India Group's (Air India and Air India Express) market share declined to 26.7% in March despite carrying more passengers - 38.80 lakh compared with 38.40 lakh in February (27.3% share). Alliance Air's share dipped slightly to 0.5% in March from 0.6% the previous month, carrying 0.80 lakh passengers.

‘Sarvam AI, first firm to get govt. aid to build AI model’

Bengaluru-based firm to get access to a pool of graphics processing units acquired under the government’s IndiaAI Mission; company says its model will be fluent in Indian languages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI will be the first company to receive government support to build an indigenous AI large language model (LLM), Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday. He was speaking at the unveiling of the guidelines for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Sarvam AI, founded in mid-2023, will have access to a pool of graphics processing units (GPUs) acquired under the govern-



Way forward: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiling the ECMS Guidelines and Portal, in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

ment’s IndiaAI Mission.

GPUs are essential parts of developing and deploying AI. Sarvam will have access to 400 of the over 14,000 GPUs in that cluster

for a period of six months.

An LLM is a computationally intensive undertaking, and modern ones have billions of parameters, trained on trillions of

“tokens,” a process where GPUs are key. “The model will be fluent in Indian languages, designed for voice, capable of reasoning, and ready for secure, population-scale deployment,” Sarvam said.

“350 datasets have been uploaded in AI Kosh,” a portal the government has set up to host structured data that may be useful for AI developers in India, Mr. Vaishnaw said. “The tools and technologies we had requested from the IITs and other institutes to prepare under the India AI Safety Institute [initiative] are also almost completed.”



1. Key Highlights:

- **Company Name:** Sarvam AI (Bengaluru-based).
- **Founded:** Mid-2023.
- **Mission:** To develop an **indigenous Large Language Model (LLM)** under the **IndiaAI Mission**.
- **Government Support:** Through access to **GPUs (Graphics Processing Units)** acquired by the government.

💡 2. IndiaAI Mission Components:

Facility	Purpose
AI Kosh	Repository for structured datasets (350 datasets uploaded).
IndiaAI Compute Cluster	Over 14,000 GPUs , Sarvam AI to access 400 GPUs for 6 months.
ECMS (Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme)	Aids in electronics manufacturing, including AI hardware components.

3. Importance of GPUs in AI Development:

- GPUs are crucial for **training LLMs**.
 - Help in processing billions of **parameters and tokens**.
 - Essential for **reasoning, voice-based models, Indian language fluency, and population-scale deployment**.
-

4. Features of Sarvam AI's Planned LLM:

- Fluent in **multiple Indian languages**.
- Designed for **voice-based applications**.
- Capable of **reasoning and secure deployment**.



"DEADLY ACT"
Karni Sena attacks
convoy of SP MP
NEWS • PAGE 4



SUSPECT KILLED
11 killed in
Canada as man
drives car into
festival crowd
WORLD • PAGE 14



OUTREACH DRIVE
Simultaneous polls JPC
to meet with celebrities
NEWS • PAGE 4



DATA POINT
Trump's
crackdown on
U.S. universities
The action hints
at a broader motive
OPINION • PAGE 9



ON A HIGH
Kohli, Krunal power
RCB to the top spot
SPORT • PAGE 16

INSIDE



**'Congress worked
against interests
of Telangana'**

HYDERABAD
The Congress is the victim number one of Telangana as its government had forcibly merged Telangana (Pradesh State) with Andhra Pradesh in 1956 against the opposition of the people, founder-president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, K. Chandrababhan Rao, said on Sunday. » PAGE 3

Farmer leader threatens to boycott talks

CHANDIGARH
Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dhillon on Sunday said the farmers will be forced to boycott the May 4 talks with the Centre, which was received earlier this week, if they invite the representatives from the Punjab government, which earlier removed the agitators camping at two of its border points. » PAGE 4

Philippines and U.S. conduct joint defence drills

PHILIPPINES
Missiles fired off the coast of the northern Philippines on Sunday as the U.S. and Filipino forces conducted their first joint defence drills, after China seized control of a reef claimed by Manila. The Philippines and China have been engaged in confrontations over the South China Sea. » PAGE 14

At least 51 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip, death toll crosses 52,000

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Hospitals in the Gaza Strip received the remains of 51 Palestinians killed in Israeli air strikes in the past 24 hours, the local Health Ministry said on Sunday, bringing the Palestinian death toll from the 18-month-old Israel-Hamas war to 52,242. Israel ended its ceasefire with Hamas by launching a surprise bombardment on March 18, and has been carrying out daily waves of strikes since then. Ground forces have expanded a buffer zone and encircled the southern city of Rafah, and now control around 50% of the territory. Israel has also sealed off the territory's two million Palestinians from all imports, including food and medicine, for nearly 60 days. Aid groups say the piles will soon run out and that thousands of children are malnourished. The overall death toll in



High stakes: A Palestinian girl walks across the rubble of a destroyed building at the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza on Sunday. AP

cludes nearly 700 bodies for which the documentation process was recently completed. The daily toll includes bodies retrieved from the rubble after earlier strikes.

Strike in Khan Younis
Israeli strikes killed another 12 people after the ministry's update. Flight of Hamas fighters, including children and two women, were killed in a strike on a tent in the southern city of Khan Younis. A strike in

Two T.N. Ministers quit on strong court remarks

SC has made it clear that Senthilbalaji had to make a choice between the Minister's post and his freedom. Ponnuddy ran into trouble after Madras HC took up a petition over a derogatory speech; Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recommends the induction of former Minister Mano Thangaraj into the Cabinet; swearing-in will be held at the Raj Bhavan today

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Forest Minister K. Ponnuddy and Electricity Minister V. Senthilbalaji resigned on Sunday night. A Raj Bhavan release said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has recommended the induction of former Minister Mano Thangaraj into the Cabinet. The swearing-in will be held at the Raj Bhavan on Monday.

In the wake of their resignations, Mr. Ponnuddy's department has been allotted to Milk and Dairy Development Minister R.S. Rajakannappan. Transport Minister S.S. Sivasankar will hold the portfolio of Electricity, while Housing and Urban Development Minister S. Marudhamoorthy will hold Prohibition and Excise departments.

The continuation of Mr. Ponnuddy and Mr. Senthilbalaji in the Cabinet became contentious after the courts made strong remarks against them. In the case of Mr. Senthilbalaji, the SC had made it clear that he had to make a choice between the Minister's post and his freedom.

Second resignation
This is the second time Mr. Senthilbalaji is stepping down as a Minister.

Under criticism

The continuation of the Ministers became contentious after the courts made strong remarks against them.

Former Minister K. Ponnuddy ran into trouble after the Madras High Court directed him to take up a derogatory speech by him.

Legal turmoil: V. Senthilbalaji after getting bail from the Supreme Court on September 26, 2024. AP/ILS/CHENNAI

July 29, 2024: The Directorate of Enforcement registers an application for the arrest of money laundering and issues summons to Mr. Senthilbalaji.

June 14, 2024: ED arrests the Minister.

February 12, 2024: Mr. Senthilbalaji resigns from his post after continuing as Minister without portfolio following his arrest.

Though he continued as a Minister without portfolio after his arrest in June 2023 by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, he resigned from



the Cabinet on February 12, 2024. He was reinstated after the SC granted him bail in the case on September 26, 2024. But a SC Bench took objection to his induction into the Cabinet and Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan on April 23 said Mr. Senthilbalaji's continuation as a Minister placed him in a

position of influence with regard to witnesses, and he could derail the trial.

Justice Oka remarked that the Bench would even record in its order that it had been a "mistake" to grant him bail and observed that he had been given bail because the court stood up for the fundamental right to personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Mr. Ponnuddy ran into trouble after the Madras High Court directed its Registry to take up a suo motu writ petition with respect to a derogatory speech by him against Sabites, Vaidyanavites, and women in general.

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh issued the direction after observing that the Minister had *prima facie* misused the liberty granted to him by the SC.

Subsequently, the first Bench of the Madras HC granted time till June 5 for the Tamil Nadu government as well as Mr. Ponnuddy, in his individual capacity, to respond to a public interest litigation petition filed by an advocate to disqualify the Minister from holding any constitutional post due to his recent derogatory speech.

Chief Justice K.R. Shri Ram and Justice Muhammed Shaifullah directed State Government Pleader to take notice on behalf of the Home Secretary and ordered notice to Mr. Ponnuddy too seeking their response to the case by June 5.

Pahalgam culprits will be served with the harshest response: Prime Minister

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The perpetrators and conspirators of the Pahalgam terror attack will be served with the harshest response, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his monthly radio address, *Mann Ki Baat*, on Sunday.

Expressing deep anguish, he said the killings had hurt every citizen of the country. "Every Indian holds deep sympathies for the affected families. No matter which State one belongs to, no matter which language one speaks, one is feeling the pain of those who have lost their loved ones in this attack. I can feel that the blood of every Indian is on the soil after seeing the pictures of the terrorist attack," he said.

He said the attack showed the desperation of the patrons of terrorism and displayed their cowardice. He said it took place at a time when peace was returning to Kashmir.

"There was a vibrancy in schools and colleges; construction work had gained unprecedented pace; democracy was getting stronger; the number of tourists was increasing at a record rate; people's income was increasing; new opportunities were being created for the youth... The enemies of the country, the enemies of Jammu and Kashmir, did not like that," Mr. Modi said.

He said the terrorists and the masterminds of the attack had been destroyed again, and the nation was free of a big conspiracy.

'Only is strength'
"In this war against terrorism, the solidarity of 140 crore Indians, in our big and strong, This unity is the basis of our decisive



Offering sympathies: BJP supporters paying tribute to the victims of Pahalgam attack, as they listen to Mann Ki Baat on Sunday. AP

Pakistan initiates unprovoked firing

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Ceasefire violations continued along the LoC for the third night in a row on Sunday, while the Indian Navy and Air Force

held exercises on Sunday as tensions run high after the Pahalgam attack. Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked firing.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 5

fight against terrorism. We have to strengthen our resolve to face this challenge that has surfaced before the country. We have to demonstrate strong willpower as a nation," he said.

The anger that we the people of India feel, that anger is there in the whole world. After this terrorist attack, condolences are continuously pouring in from all over the world.

Global leaders have called for peace and urged the use of all well-written letters and sent messages too. Everyone has strongly condemned this heinous terrorist attack. "They have expressed condolences to the families of the deceased. The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in the fight against terrorism. I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be done," he said.

Two T.N. Ministers quit on strong court remarks

SC has made it clear that Senthilbalaji had to make a choice between the Minister's post and his freedom; Ponmudy ran into trouble after Madras HC took up a petition over a derogatory speech; Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recommends the induction of former Minister Mano Thangaraj into the Cabinet; swearing-in will be held at the Raj Bhavan today

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Forest Minister K. Ponmudy and Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Minister V. Senthilbalaji resigned on Sunday night. A Raj Bhavan release said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has recommended Governor R.N. Ravi to accept their resignation. The Chief Minister also recommended the induction of former Minister Mano Thangaraj into the Cabinet.

The swearing-in will be held at the Raj Bhavan on Monday. In the wake of their resignations, Mr. Ponmudy's department has been allotted to Milk and Dairy Deve-

lopment Minister R.S. Rajakannappan. Transport Minister S.S. Sivasankar will hold the portfolio of Electricity, while Housing and Urban Development Minister S. Muthusamy will hold Prohibition and Excise departments. The continuation of Mr. Ponmudy and Mr. Senthilbalaji in the Cabinet became untenable after courts made strong remarks against them. In the case of Mr. Senthilbalaji, the SC had made it clear that he had to make a choice between the Minister's post and his freedom. **Second resignation** This is the second time Mr. Senthilbalaji is stepping down as a Minister.

Under criticism

The continuation of the Ministers became untenable after courts made strong remarks against them

Forest Minister K. Ponmudy ran into trouble after the Madras High Court directed its Registry to take up a suo-motu writ petition with respect to a derogatory speech by him





Legal turmoil: V. Senthilbalaji after getting bail from the Supreme Court on September 26, 2024. AKHILA EASWARAN

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June 14, 2023: ED arrests the Minister

February 12, 2024: Mr. Senthilbalaji resigns from his post after continuing as Minister without portfolio following his arrest

September 26, 2024: Supreme Court grants him bail

September 29, 2024: Mr. Senthilbalaji sworn in as Cabinet Minister again

April 23, 2025: Supreme Court asks Mr. Senthilbalaji to choose between his post and freedom

Though he continued as a Minister without portfolio after his arrest in June 2023 by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, he resigned from the Cabinet on February 12, 2024. He was reinstated after the SC granted him bail in the case on September 26, 2024. But a SC Bench took objection to his induction into the Cabinet and Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan on April 23 said Mr. Senthilbalaji's continuation as a Minister placed him in a

position of influence with regard to witnesses, and he could derail the trial. Justice Oka remarked that the Bench would even record in its order that it had been a "mistake" to grant him bail and observed that he had been given bail because the court stood up for the fundamental right to personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. Mr. Ponmudy ran into trouble after the Madras High Court directed its Registry to take up a suo motu writ petition with respect to a derogatory speech by him against Saivites, Vaishnavites, and women in general. Justice N. Anand Venkatesh issued the direction after observing that the Minister had *prima facie* misused the liberty granted to him by the SC. Subsequently, the first Bench of the Madras HC granted time till June 5 for the Tamil Nadu government as well as Mr. Ponmudy, in his individual capacity, to respond to a public interest litigation petition filed by an advocate to disqualify the Minister from holding any constitutional post due to his recent derogatory speech. Chief Justice K.R. Shriram and Justice Mohammed Shaffiq directed State Government Pleader to take notice on behalf of the Home Secretary and ordered notice to Mr. Ponmudy too seeking their response to the case by June 5.



1. Key Highlights of the Resignation Case:

- **Resigned Ministers:**
 - **K. Ponmudy:** Tamil Nadu Forest Minister (earlier held Electricity, Prohibition, and Excise).
 - **V. Senthilbalaji:** Prohibition and Excise Minister.
- **Reason for Resignation:**
 - Strong judicial remarks from the **Supreme Court** and **Madras High Court** against their continuation in the Cabinet.
 - SC emphasized that Senthilbalaji had to **choose between ministerial position and freedom** after bail in money laundering case.

2. Legal Timeline and Charges on V. Senthilbalaji:

Date	Event
July 29, 2021	ED files Enforcement Case Information Report against Senthilbalaji.
June 14, 2023	Senthilbalaji arrested by the ED.
February 12, 2024	Resigns as Minister without portfolio after arrest.
September 26, 2024	Supreme Court grants bail.
September 29, 2024	Sworn in again as Cabinet Minister.
April 23, 2025	SC asks him to choose between the post and his freedom.

Reincarnation decision may come in July, says Sikyong

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

The Dalai Lama might make a decision on his successor or reincarnation during his 90th birthday celebrations in July, says the leader of the Dharamshala-based Central Tibetan Administration (CTA).

Sikyong Penpa Tsering of the CTA said an Indian government representative was expected at the events. Mr. Tsering said the events, which would go on for a year from July 6, would be preceded by prayers and a religious meeting of the heads of all Tibetan Buddhist schools in Dharamshala, when the Dalai Lama is expected to consult them on the reincarnation question.



**FULL
INTERVIEW
ON**

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The Dalai Lama's Historical Journey

14th century



**Title
Established**

The Dalai Lama title
becomes the
spiritual leader of
Tibetan Buddhism

1959



Exile in India

Tenzin Gyatso flees
to India after Tibetan
uprising

14th Dalai Lama's 90th Birthday and Successor Decision

July 6, 2025



90th Birthday

Dalai Lama turns 90 years old

July 2025–July 2026



Year-long Celebrations

Year-long birthday celebrations and successor decision

July 2026



Successor Announced

Dalai Lama expected to announce successor or reincarnation

Key Events in the Dalai Lama Succession Dispute

1954



Panchsheel Agreement

India recognizes Tibet as part of China diplomatically

2011



Dalai Lama's Statement

Dalai Lama asserts reincarnation process must respect Tibetan traditions

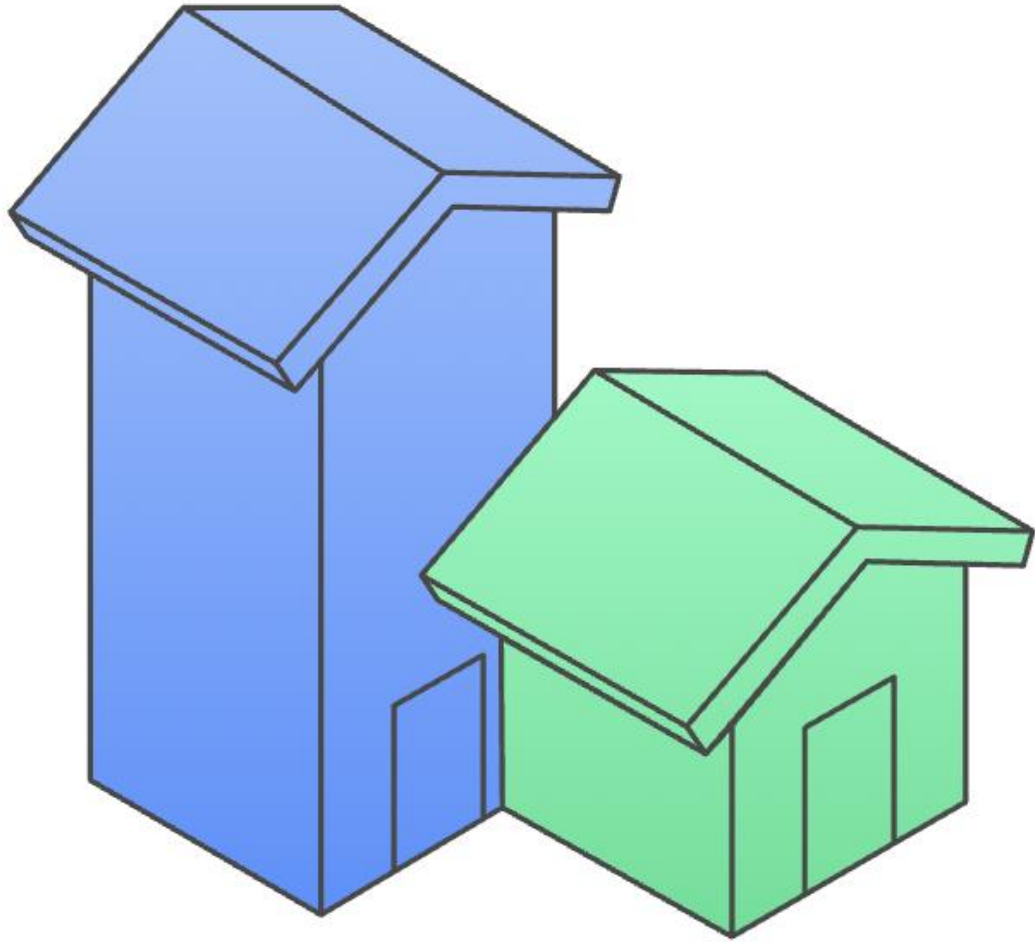
2025



Current Issue

China claims right to recognize next Dalai Lama, escalating dispute

Tibetan related locations



1

CTA Headquarters

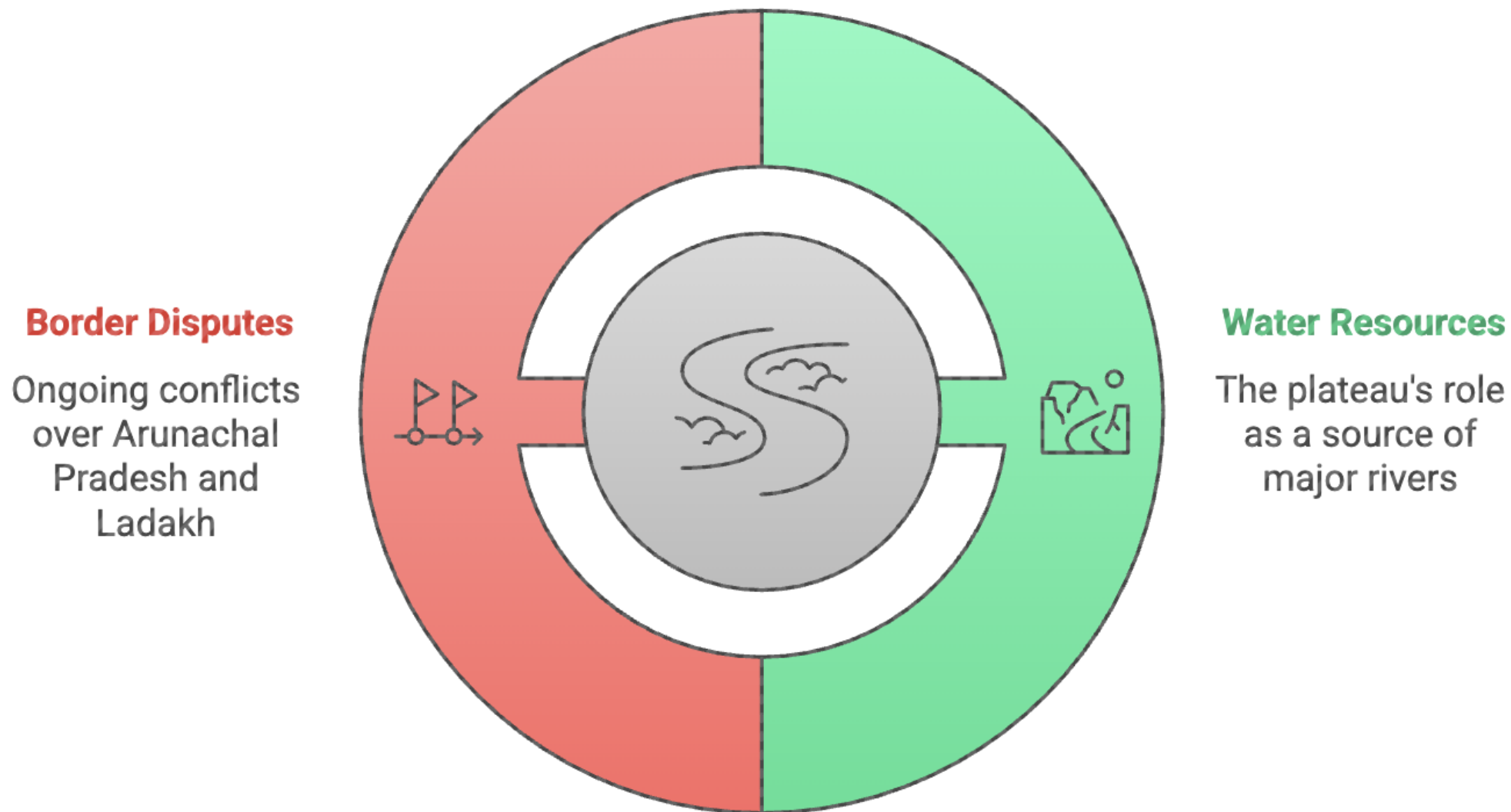
Location of the Tibetan
government

2

Spiritual Homeland

Region for Tibetan
Buddhists

Strategic Importance of the Tibetan Plateau



IN BRIEF



Cheetah gives birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park

Cheetah Nirva has given birth to five cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, said Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday. With the new litter, the number of cheetahs and cubs will increase to 29 at the Kuno park, located in the State's Sheopur district. Earlier this month, two cheetahs from the protected forest were shifted to the Gandhi Sagar sanctuary. The total number of cheetahs, including cubs, in the country now stands at 28. In a post on X on Sunday night, Mr. Yadav said, "It is a great pleasure that the population of cheetahs at the Kuno National Park is constantly growing... The arrival of these little cubs is a symbol of the success of the Cheetah Project and the rich biodiversity of India."

Man kills daughter for marrying against his will

A 24-year-old woman died after her father, a retired Sub-Inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), shot her dead for marrying against his wishes, the police said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday night in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Chopda, in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district. Kiran Mangle's daughter, Tripti, married Avinash Wagh two years ago, and the couple lived in Pune district. On the night of April 26, Mr. Mangle opened fire on his daughter and son-in-law when visiting Chopda to attend a relative's wedding. Tripti died on the spot, Mr. Wagh was critically injured. A case was registered late on Saturday night, the police said.

Smoking is a major risk factor for rheumatoid arthritis, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Emphasising that delayed diagnosis of arthritis can lead to permanent joint damage and deformation in individuals, senior rheumatologists on Sunday urged people to seek early intervention as it helps slow down its progress.

Speaking at a webinar on "Understanding Arthritis", they pointed out that smoking is a strong risk factor for rheumatoid arthritis and advocated lifestyle changes, exercises, yoga, and a healthy diet that is low on carbohydrate and sugar but rich in fibre and protein.

The webinar was held as part of the ongoing "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative of Narani Hospitals, Vellore, in association with *The Hindu*. Sunday's edition was the



ninth in the series on the treatment of rheumatology, Narani Hospitals, Vellore, spoke on the importance of correct diagnosis of symptoms and timely treatment. He said arthritis was a grossly misunderstood clinical sign. "It does not denote a disease but is an inflammation of joints, including the knee, hip, wrist, shoulder, ankle, elbow and manifests as pain or swelling and stiffness

that limits movements and affects daily activities," he explained, adding that the systemic condition could lead to eye inflammation, spinal fusion, and chronic deformities.

Throwing light on different types of arthritis — rheumatoid, psoriatic, osteoarthritis and gout — Dr. Raja said though often associated with ageing, it could affect any age group and, therefore, it was important to avoid delay in treatment.

M.M. Kavitha, senior rheumatology consultant, Kauvery Hospital, Radial Road, Chennai, said awareness of arthritis was critical.

Dr. Kavitha said there was no single test to diagnose arthritis. A combination of clinical history, physical examination, blood investigations, and imaging such as X-ray, MRI,

PET and bone scan help in confirming the diagnosis and monitoring disease progression.

S. Sharm from Kauvery Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted a short duration hot test of the semicryogenic engine at its facility in the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri.

This ignition test, conducted on April 24, is the first successful hot test on March 28, which was a major breakthrough in the semicryogenic engine test programme.

In this test, the Engine Power Head Test Article, encompassing all engine systems except the thrust chamber, was subjected to a hot test for a duration of 3.5 seconds that validated the engine start-up sequence. During the test, the engine was successfully ignited and operated up

INTERVIEW
Penpa TseringSubhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Preparations are in full swing for the celebration of the 90th birthday of the Dalai Lama in July. Penpa Tsering, the Sikyong (elected leader) of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), told *The Hindu*. All eyes are on a possible announcement by the Dalai Lama on his reincarnation or successor.

In a statement in September 2011, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, who has handed over his political authority to the CTA, had said that he would take a decision on the subject of his spiritual successor when he was "about 90", after consulting other Tibetan Buddhist leaders and the Tibetan public.

The Dalai Lama's next steps will be watched closely by Beijing, which has introduced a law mandating that any successor must be approved by the Chinese government. Edited excerpts:

This is an important year for the Tibetan community everywhere, as the Dalai Lama turns 90. Will he reveal his plans for a reincarnation, and how will the process go forward?

We intend to celebrate the whole year from July 6, 2025 (it 2026 as the Year of Compassion).

According to the Tibetan calendar, his birthday is on June 30, and there will be a special prayer that day.

From July 2-4, we will have the meeting of all the religious heads of all Buddhist traditions — Nyingma, Sakya, Gelug and the leaders will be there except the Karmapa Lama (head of the Karma Kagyu sect, who lives in the U.S.). It is likely that His Holiness (Dalai Lama) will address the conference, and I am not sure whether he will make a statement on reincarnation... but the statement he made in 2011, is the only one we have to go by, that at the age of 90 he will consult other high lamas and take a decision.

The Dalai Lama assures us, however, that he will live to at least 102 years.



How do you see China's reaction to any such statement — will there be a confrontation?

No doubt, the biggest concern of the Chinese government is to find the 15th Dalai Lama in Tibet after the 14th Dalai Lama (passed), which they believe is alive. Nothing the Chinese government can do.

The Tibetan administration (Dharmashala-based CTA) is working on preparing a rule book on what we should do, what are the procedures we should follow. Beijing will search for a reincarnation inside Tibet or in China... the way they found the Panchen Lama. But he has not been

recognised by the Tibetan people, and the successor to the Dalai Lama has to be accepted by the people.

What is your hope from the Indian government for the Tibetan community settled here?

The Government of India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee convention, so these are executive decisions and I would say every Indian government starting from Pandit Nehru has been very, very kind to the Tibetan community. Politically, we would appreciate the government being more vocal but India has to attend to its national inter-

est first. The interest of Tibet is always there, and that is why we look at the Government of India as our saviour — if it wasn't for India, we wouldn't exist. I always say, if the next Dalai Lama is reincarnated in India, then he will be an Indian citizen, and so the government must consider what that will mean as well.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did invite the earlier Sikyong to his swearing-in ceremony in 2014, but did not repeat the invitation subsequently in 2019 or 2024. In 2018, an official order said no government official should attend the Tibetan community's political events. Do you disagree about this?

Not at all. On all issues we remain in touch and are advised by the wishes of the Tibetan government. We look forward to the celebrations of the Dalai Lama's birthday. We hope to have an Indian government that will be working towards restoring aid and grants.

Full interview is at [news.thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/dalai-lama-90th-birthday)

Karmapa Lama will not attend. He has not returned to India since 2017, and has taken up citizenship of Dominica and settled in the U.S. What is holding up his visit?

Well, there are lots of issues over which document the Karmapa will come to India on, and whether he would have the freedom to travel around India. Discussions are on between Karmapa Lama and the government, and CTA would be happy to help in any way. But I have received a message that he will not be able to attend the celebrations this year.

Have the cuts in USAID and other funding cuts by the Donald Trump administration affected Tibetan community projects?

The overall cut in U.S. foreign aid is not only for Tibetans, but around the world. I am planning to travel to the U.S. at the end of this month and we will be working towards restoring aid and grants.

ISRO's second short hot test of semicryogenic engine a success

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted a short duration hot test of the semicryogenic engine at its facility in the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri.

This ignition test, conducted on April 24, is the first successful hot test on March 28, which was a major breakthrough in the semicryogenic engine test programme.

In this test, the Engine Power Head Test Article, encompassing all engine systems except the thrust chamber, was subjected to a hot test for a duration of 3.5 seconds that validated the engine start-up sequence. During the test, the engine was successfully ignited and operated up



Significant feat: This is the second milestone after the first successful hot test conducted on March 28, official announcement

to 60% of its rated power level, demonstrating stable and controlled performance.

"These tests are part of a planned series of evaluations designed to validate the design integrity and performance of critical subsystems, including the low-pressure and high-pressure turbo pumps, pre-burner and associated

Meanwhile, the launch campaign activities for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite onboard the GSLV-F16 have already commenced at Sriharikota, the ISRO said.

Second Stage (GS2) of the ISRO's GSLV launch vehicle was flagged off by Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, ISRO, on March 24, from the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, to the launch complex at Sriharikota.

The Director of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) also participated in the flag-off ceremony. This liquid stage is earmarked for the upcoming mission of GSLV (GSLV-F16), that will launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, ISRO said.

THU CROSSWORD 14470

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site, at <https://www.thehindu.com/crossword>



(Start by Hyppatia)



- Across**
- Criticism, essentially ruining ancient grammarian (5)
 - Middle with curved line, can you find it? (4,2,2)
 - Ring lish and become happier (8,2)
 - Basically got richer, expanding wider (4)
 - More painful cut by mark on bird's old hat (8)
 - Section of ulcer is extremely red (6)

- Love eggs initially hatched by nimble, small birds (7)
 - Sequence of pilot welcoming union easily left out (7)
 - Musart of Madras almost succeeding British creator (6)
 - School observatory? (8)
 - Originally, Japanese app, visualised AI programming language (4)
 - Boy at peril shot in volatile zone getting top award (3,5)
 - Calculated vet-off with auditor's reports (8)
 - Places from the East, like Buddhist shrines (4)
- Down**
- Father jogs taking Indian country fans (6)
 - Carol or wrong girl (4)
 - Integrity of content involving rectitude regularly (6)
 - Bureaucracy would have this in desert? (7)
 - Start to crack Hyppatia puzzles - not hard and liberal, unlike others (5)
 - Non-alcoholic beverage given by reveler telling sponsor (5,4)
 - Intimate dogs (6)
 - Say spot communist leader's identification signs (10)
 - Seriously earn in Kolkata, can you find it? (6)
 - Audacity of chup swimming around shack close to Ritz (8)
 - Dance by the French eating bodum nuts (7)
 - Zoomed wasting seconds in front of room and screamed (6)
 - Exec pt when American concealed sensual plays (6)
 - Track featuring ordinary beat (4)

SUDOKU

7								6
	1			8	5			
6	5		4				1	
		6	7	3				
1		8	6		9	4		3
					1	4	6	
	9				6		2	5
		3	5				8	4
5								

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★



FAITH

God will only show the way

Sastras classify human activities into good and evil. Helping others and talking gently without hurting are some examples of good deeds. Telling lies and causing harm to others are examples of evil deeds. Sastras also help us perform good deeds. Lord Krishna says shastras are the ultimate authority (*Iti matam satatam pramanam*) — Bhagavad Gita Chapter 16 Verse 24. Saint poet Thiruvalluvar suggests to hasten to do good and virtuous deeds before the tongue fails and the last hiccup comes (*Nachervu vilakubal* — *kural* 335).

Thammar Palli Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that God is pleased with our good deeds and becomes displeased if we commit evil deeds. God will only create a congenial and conducive atmosphere, and it is up to the people to utilise and exploit the opportunity. To enrich ourselves with self-realisation, we should approach good Acharyas and noblemen. We can't remain idle without trying to say that everything will be as per God's resolve. It will be like a mother who helps her child to walk from crawling, and only the child has to take steps.

The Vedas say those who aspire to liberation should surrender at the feet of God. The Ramayana explains the same concept. All the celestials surrendered to Lord Vishnu to protect them from Ravana's atrocities. Lakshmana surrendered to accompany Sri Rama to the forest. Bharata surrendered to get Sri Rama's divine sandals. Sugreeva surrendered to slay his brother Vasuki. Kakasura surrendered to excuse and spare him. Of all the surrenders, the surrender of Vibhishana is considered significant because he surrendered praying for absolute liberation.

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Significant feat: This is the second milestone after the first successful hot test conducted on March 28. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to 60% of its rated power level, demonstrating stable and controlled performance.

"These tests are part of a planned series of evaluations designed to validate the design integrity and performance of critical subsystems, including the low-pressure and high-pressure turbo pumps, pre-burner and associated

control systems. The results provided crucial data to finalise the operational sequencing of the full semicryogenic engine," the ISRO said.

Further qualification tests are scheduled to comprehensively validate the engine system, ultimately paving the way for its induction into ISRO's launch vehicles.

Meanwhile, the launch campaign activities for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite onboard the GSLV-F16 have already commenced in Sriharikota, the ISRO said.

The Second Stage (GS2) of the ISRO's GSLV launch vehicle was flagged off by V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, ISRO, on March 24, from the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, to the launch complex at Sriharikota.

"The Directors of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) also participated in the flag-off ceremony. This liquid stage is earmarked for the upcoming mission of GSLV (GSLV-F16), that will launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite," ISRO said.

1. Historical and Scientific Context:

- **Semicryogenic Technology:**

Uses **liquid oxygen (LOX)** as the oxidizer and **kerosene (RP-1)** as the fuel.

Positioned between cryogenic (liquid oxygen + liquid hydrogen) and hypergolic engines (self-igniting propellants).

- Part of India's long-term vision to enhance **self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat)** in space propulsion technology.
- Earlier, India depended on **Russian Kerosene-based engines (RD-series)** for certain launches.

2. Test Details:

- Conducted at **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.**
- Date of Second Hot Test: **April 24, 2025** (first test on March 28, 2025).
- Duration: **3.5 seconds**, validating the engine start-up sequence.
- Operated successfully at **60% of rated power level**, demonstrating **stable thrust and control.**
- Focused on:
 - Thrust chamber ignition.
 - Low-pressure and high-pressure turbo pumps.
 - Pre-burner systems.
 - Power control systems.

3. Future Goals:

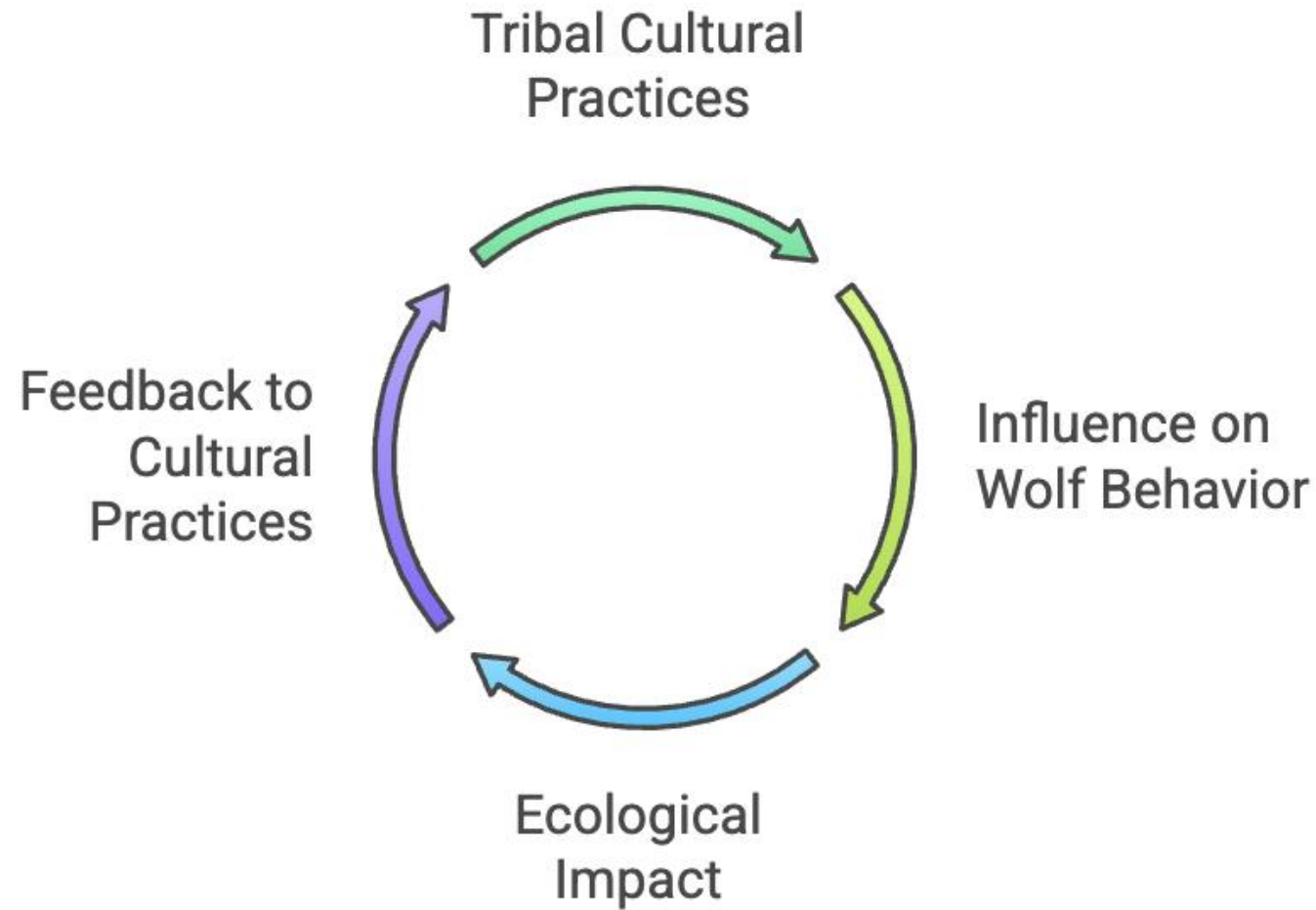
- To finalize **full sequencing** of the **semicryogenic engine**.
- Intended for **second stage use** in **GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle)** missions.
- Will be used in upcoming missions like **GSLV-F16** (NASA-ISRO NISAR mission).
- Critical for **India's human spaceflight (Gaganyaan)** and **heavy-lift launchers** development.

4. Economic and Strategic Importance:

- Reduces **foreign dependency** for engine technology.
- Cost-effective compared to full cryogenic engines, with higher thrust-to-weight ratio.
- Adds to India's strategic leverage in **commercial satellite launch services (Antrix and NSIL markets)**.
- Supports **ISRO's future deep-space missions** and satellite constellations.

**India's first wolf
sanctuary : Mahuadanr**

Cultural Practices and Wolf Denning Cycle, Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, Jharkhand



Betla Wolf Sanctuary Overview

Characteristic	Description
Location and Establishment	Jharkhand, established in 1976
Primary Conservation Goal	Conserving the Indian gray wolf
Key Figure	S.P. Shahi
Habitat	Rugged grasslands, dense forests, and hills
Wildlife	Leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, deer, birds
Unique Status	India's only dedicated area

World Bank: India's Extreme Poverty
Drops to 2.3%

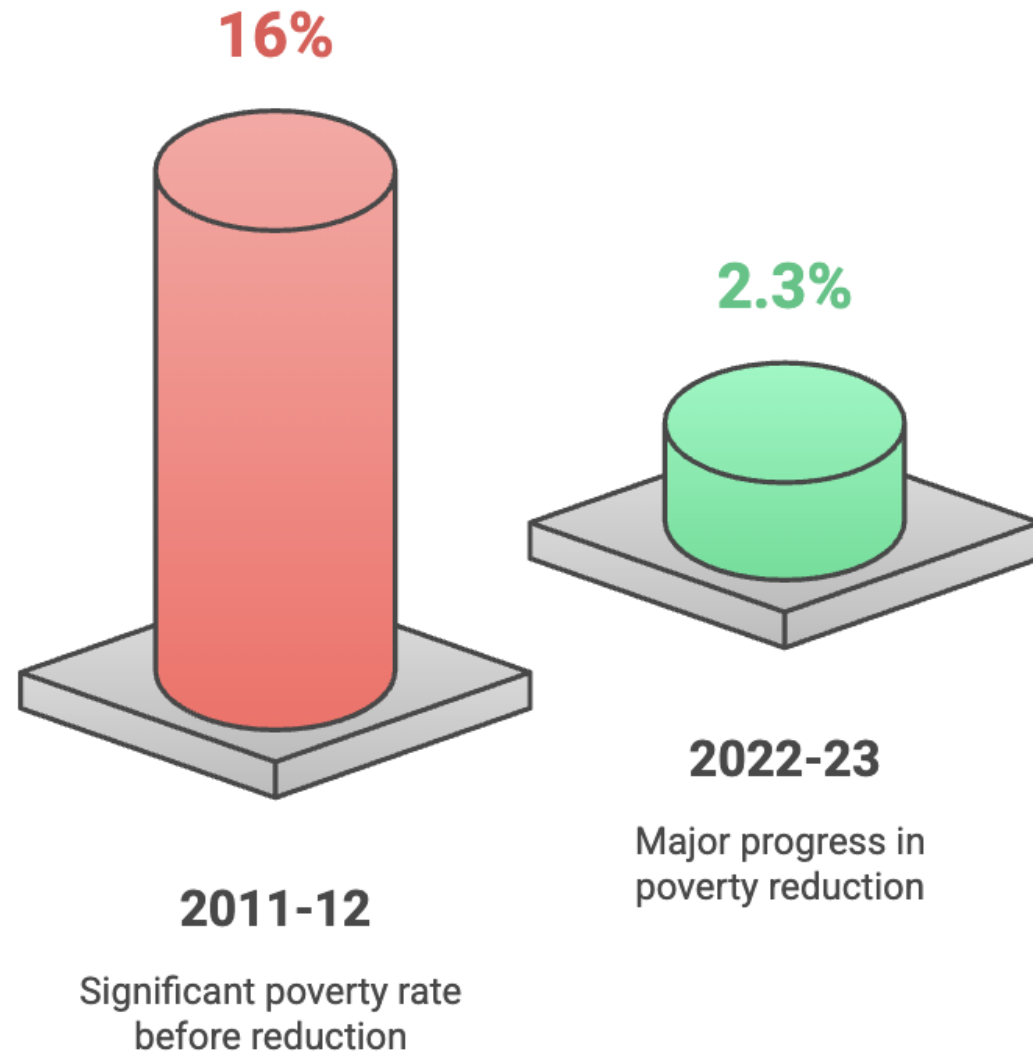
MEASURING STANDARDS

Poverty at different lines 2022-23
poverty rate (%)

International poverty line (\$2.15/day)	2.3
Lower middle-income class poverty line (\$3.65/day)	28.1
Multidimensional poverty measure	15.5

Source: World Bank

India's Extreme Poverty Reduction (2011-2023)



World Bank Poverty and Equity Briefs Process



World Bank and IMF Meetings

Biannual meetings where global economic issues are discussed

Reports are published to highlight poverty trends

Release of Poverty and Equity Briefs



Overview of Poverty Trends

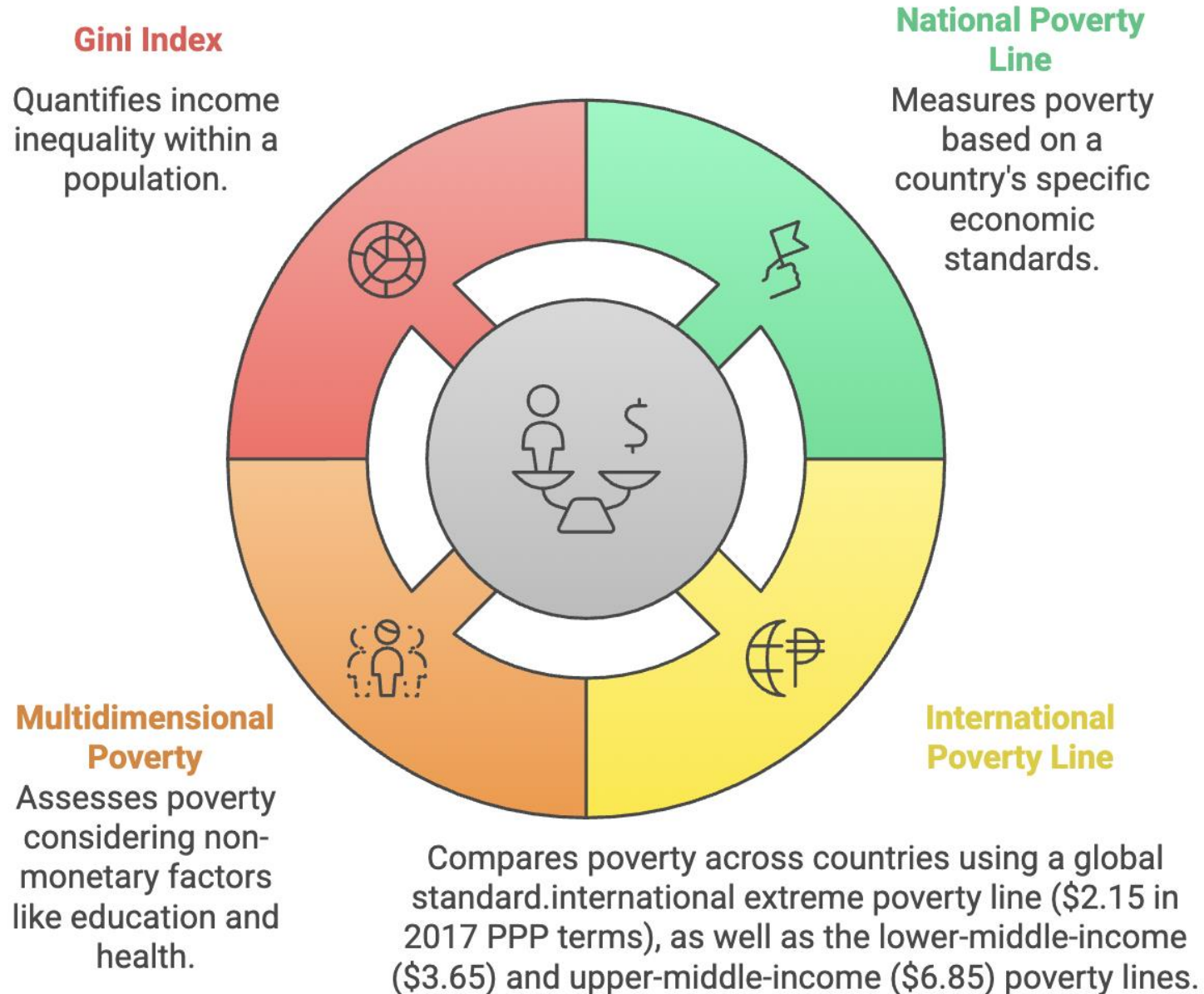
Briefs provide insights into poverty and inequality

Briefs aim to keep poverty reduction a global priority

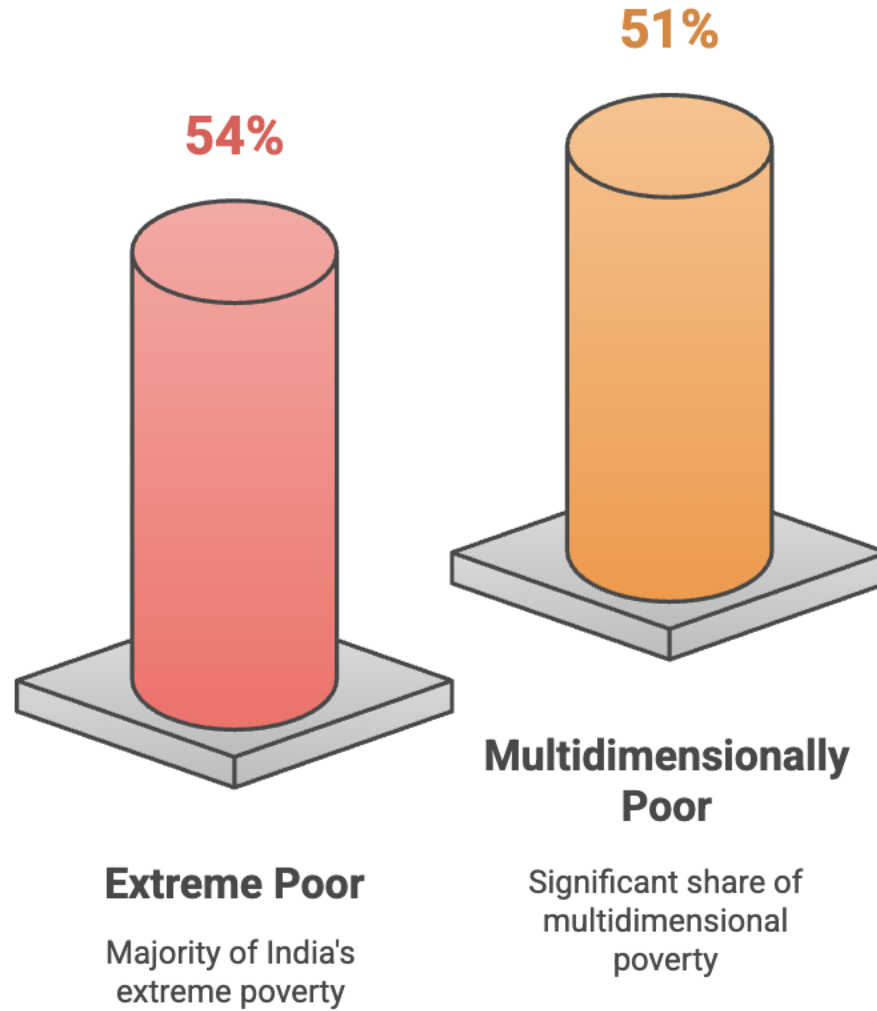
Focus on Poverty Reduction



Poverty Measurement Approaches



Poverty Distribution in India's Most Populous
States, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar,
West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh



Q. With reference to the Strawberry Festival in India, consider the following statements:

- 1.The Mahabaleshwar Strawberry Festival is the only strawberry festival organized in India.
- 2.Mahabaleshwar strawberry has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- 3.The Strawberry Festival helps promote agri-tourism and horticulture awareness.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following statements regarding the Meghalaya Strawberry Festival:

1. Sohliya village in Ri-Bhoi district is known for organizing the Strawberry Festival.
2. The festival promotes agri-tourism and provides direct market access to farmers.
3. Strawberry farming in Meghalaya is fully dependent on chemical fertilizers for higher yield.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the new NCERT textbook for Class 7 (2025–26):

- 1.The new textbook merges history, geography, and social and political life into a single book titled *Exploring Society – India and Beyond*.
- 2.Part 1 of the textbook covers medieval history up to the rise of the Mughal Empire.
- 3.The new textbook mentions the origins of Bharat and India but removes references to Hindustan and Hind.
- 4.The rise of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals is covered in Part 1 of the new textbook.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Consider the following statements regarding India's initiative to support AI model development:

1. Sarvam AI is the first Indian firm to receive government aid for developing an indigenous large language model (LLM).
2. Under IndiaAI Mission, Sarvam AI will have access to over 1,000 GPUs for a period of one year.
3. The IndiaAI Mission includes initiatives like AI Kosh, which is a portal for hosting structured datasets.
4. The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) is unrelated to AI development in India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Consider the following statements regarding the recent developments on the Dalai Lama succession issue:

- 1.The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) functions as the government-in-exile and is based in Nepal.
- 2.China officially claims the right to approve the next Dalai Lama's reincarnation process.
- 3.The 14th Dalai Lama has indicated that his successor could be chosen outside of Tibet and not under Chinese control.
- 4.The 14th Dalai Lama's upcoming 90th birthday celebrations may include the announcement regarding his spiritual successor.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Consider the following statements regarding ISRO's semicryogenic engine development:

- 1.Semicryogenic engines use liquid oxygen and kerosene as propellants.
- 2.The semicryogenic engine development will only be used for India's crewed Gaganyaan mission.
- 3.The recent test conducted at ISRO Propulsion Complex achieved ignition and operation at 100% of its rated power level.
- 4.Semicryogenic engines are costlier but more efficient than cryogenic engines.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



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At least 1–2
Mains writer



Send your CV to:
bhunesh@class24.study



5,534

Volunteers



671

Contributors



1,231

Kids



24

States

Word of the day

Tetchy:

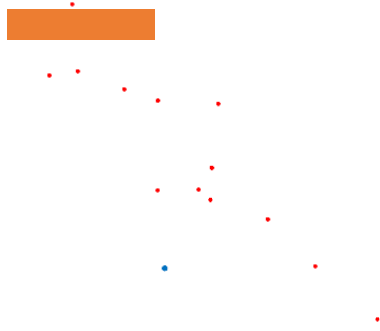
easily irritated or annoyed

Synonyms: cranky, irritable, peckish, peevish, petulant, scratchy, testy

Usage: *He seemed tired and tetchy when we spoke on the phone.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/tetchypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtɛtʃi/



Thank you
guys.

