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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



4
The Hindu



0
PIB, PRS & Other newspaper



2
The Indian Express



0
Jansatta



2
Financial Express



Effort never shouts, but one day
its results speak for everyone to
hear.

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SIDDARAMIAH GETS RAJYA SABHA OFFER
Siddaramiah gets Rajya Sabha offer
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Panic buying amid price hike hits fuel stocks
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FOUR KUKI MEN HELD OVER ABDUCTION IN MANIPUR
4 Kuki men held over abduction in Manipur
NEWS 3 PAGE 4



INDIA'S ENERGY STRATEGY NEEDS PRICE CORRECTION
India's energy strategy needs price correction
A one-time price hike can help rid uncertainty
EDITORIAL 3 PAGE 8

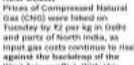


ROYAL CHALLENGERS' CRUISE INTO THE FINAL
Royal Challengers' cruise into the final
SPORT 3 PAGE 10

INSIDE



CNG RATES HIKED AGAIN IN DELHI AND NORTH INDIA
NEW DELHI
Private Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) was hiked on Tuesday by ₹2 per kg in Delhi and parts of North India, as input gas costs continue to rise against the backdrop of the West Asia conflict. With the CNG on the National Capital Territory of Delhi now costs ₹82.09 per kg. 6 PAGE 8



GIVE 'IMMUNITY' TO GUARDS FACING SAND SMUGGLERS
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court directed Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan governments on Tuesday to consider immunity from prosecution for forest guards serving on the frontline in the battle to prevent the Chhatisgarh region against illegal sand mining. 6 PAGE 8



ASSAM POLICE KILL ROBBER INJURE TWO EXTORTIONISTS
GUWAHATI
A man accused in a lethal robbery case in Assam's Nagaon district was killed in an exchange of fire with police on Monday, hours after two men allegedly involved in a kidnapping extortion money for a broad extremist outfit were injured in a similar incident. 6 PAGE 8

India, U.S. draw up deal on rare earth elements

Framework follows growing concerns over China's export controls of strategic metals; Australia, Japan join fellow Quad members in separate framework among the grouping on critical minerals

Kaifaj Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI
In the sidelines of the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), India and the United States on Tuesday framed up an important framework for cooperation in ensuring steady supplies of critical minerals, in a move that follows growing concerns over China's export controls of rare earth minerals and strategic metals vital for technology supply chains.

Rare deal
The framework comes amid shortfalls of critical metals in global markets after China imposed export curbs on rare earth elements.

Quad members
The European Union, U.S., Japan and South Korea also agreed to a similar framework for critical minerals.

Investment
The framework also includes provisions for investment in mining, processing, recycling and related infrastructure.

The Framework aims to deepen India-U.S. cooperation across the critical minerals and rare earths supply chain, including mining, processing, recycling and related infrastructure. It seeks to strengthen resilient and diversified supply chains, while promoting collaboration in financing and effective management of critical minerals and rare earths sectors.

The understanding between India and the U.S. has been under consideration at least since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in February 2020, when a rare earths supply chain for critical minerals were considered a "shared strategic priority", said a official press note.

The separate framework on critical minerals was also signed among the four Quad members - Australia, India, Japan, and the United States - which aims at mobilising unprecedented resources to secure critical supply chains, supporting projects with more than \$30 billion in terms of investment, loans and other support in partnership with the private sector.

A statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi said the U.S. and Quad-level frameworks are expected to allow for greater investment in the production of domestic raw materials and regulations to facilitate easier access to the supply chain. These agreements are also expected to partner countries to tighten controls to deal with national security requirements.

U.S. claims 'self-defence' as Iran says truce breached with fresh strikes

Aggravates France-Prussia Tehran

Iran accused the U.S. of breaching their ceasefire on Tuesday and warned it was ready to retaliate after overnight U.S. strikes targeting Iranian missile sites and missile-launching boats threatened a deal to end the war.

Iranian state media reported overnight strikes in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, in the Strait of Hormuz, and the country's Revolutionary Guards Corps said it had downed a U.S. drone entering its airspace and had fired an F-22 fighter jet. According to the mission-safety monitor USCENTCOM, a blast damaged a tanker on the waterline off Oman - although the crew and vessel were reportedly safe - and what was described as an "external explosion".

The U.S. vetoed in army, containing its illegal and unprovoked actions since the start of the war, in the past 48 hours, constituted a gross violation of the ceasefire.

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Quad announces maritime plans amid Hormuz crisis

Responding to the challenges emanating from the current Covid-19 and the tensions in the South China Sea, the Quad grouping in Tuesday pledged to enhance cooperation in the maritime and energy domains.

Freedom of navigation
The second, he said, is the expansion of the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness initiative which can provide near real-time commercial maritime domain awareness data to countries throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Maritime commerce
Mr. Jaishankar also hinted at concerns over the continuing chokehold in the Strait of Hormuz and expressed the need for "safe and uninterrupted maritime commerce".

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Panel set up to study 'demographic change' due to illegal immigration

Yashraj Singh

The Centre has constituted a high-level committee to study demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other alien-related issues.

The committee will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the demographic changes occurring across India due to illegal immigration.

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30 CRITICAL ELEMENTS/ SUBGROUPS IN PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS

Brighter elements are ones chosen by India.
Periodic table: American Chemical Society

PERIOD	GROUP 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	H 1																	He 2
2	Li 3	Be 4											B 5	C 6	N 7	O 8	F 9	Ne 10
3	Na 11	Mg 12											Al 13	Si 14	P 15	S 16	Cl 17	Ar 18
4	K 19	Ca 20	Sc 21	Ti 22	V 23	Cr 24	Mn 25	Fe 26	Co 27	Ni 28	Cu 29	Zn 30	Ga 31	Ge 32	As 33	Se 34	Br 35	Kr 36
5	Rb 37	Sr 38	Y 39	Zr 40	Nb 41	Mo 42	Tc 43	Ru 44	Rh 45	Pd 46	Ag 47	Cd 48	In 49	Sn 50	Sb 51	Te 52	I 53	Xe 54
6	Cs 55	Ba 56	57-71	Hf 72	Ta 73	W 74	Re 75	Os 76	Ir 77	Pt 78	Au 79	Hg 80	Tl 81	Pb 82	Bi 83	Po 84	At 85	Rn 86
7	Fr 87	Ra 88	89-103	Rf 104	Db 105	Sg 106	Bh 107	Hs 108	Mt 109	Ds 110	Rg 111	Cn 112	Nh 113	Fl 114	Mc 115	Lv 116	Ts 117	Og 118

- Alkali Metals
- Alkaline Earth Metals
- Transition Metals
- Other Metals
- Metalloids
- Non-metals
- Halogens
- Noble Gases
- Lanthanides
- Actinides

La 57	Ce 58	Pr 59	Nd 60	Pm 61	Sm 62	Eu 63	Gd 64	Tb 65	Dy 66	Ho 67	Er 68	Tm 69	Yb 70	Lu 71
Ac 89	Th 90	Pa 91	U 92	Np 93	Pu 94	Am 95	Cm 96	Bk 97	Cf 98	Es 99	Fm 100	Md 101	No 102	Lr 103

Pt	Symbol
78	Atomic Number

- I Graphite is the mineral form of the element Carbon
- II PGE or Platinum Group Elements include six elements: Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Ruthenium, Iridium, and Osmium
- III Potash refers to a group of Potassium-bearing minerals and chemicals
- IV REE or Rare Earth Elements are 17 in number: the 15 Lanthanides with atomic numbers 57-71 (Lanthanum, Cerium, Praseodymium, Neodymium, Promethium, Samarium, Europium, Gadolinium, Terbium, Dysprosium, Holmium, Erbium, Thulium, and Lutetium), Scandium, and Yttrium

CRITICAL MINERALS

OUR GROWING DEPENDENCE ON CRITICAL MINERALS

WHAT ARE CRITICAL MINERALS?

Minerals deemed critical vary by country. The United States classifies **35 minerals** as critical because they are:

- essential to economic and national security,
- from vulnerable supply chains, or
- a key part of the manufacturing of a product. ¹

TOP INDUSTRIES THAT RELY ON CRITICAL MINERALS

- 1 Telecommunications and electronics
- 2 Energy
- 3 Defence
- 4 Aerospace
- 5 Transportation

2

CRITICAL MINERALS ARE EVERYWHERE



Lithium is used to create batteries.



Helium is used in MRIs.



Uranium is used in radiation therapy.



Potash is used in fertilizer.



Indium is used to make LCD screens.



Strontium is used in fireworks.

3

India's Position on Critical Minerals

India requires a critical minerals strategy comprising measures aimed at making the country **AatmaNirbhar (self-reliant)** in critical minerals

Presently country is 100% import dependent for some key elements

Sl. No.	Critical Mineral	Percentage (2020)	Major Import Sources (2020)
1.	Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
2.	Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
3.	Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
4.	Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
5.	Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
6.	Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
7.	Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
8.	Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
9.	Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
10.	Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
11.	Zirconium(zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
12.	Graphite(natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
13.	Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
14.	Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
15.	Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands



- Antimony
- Beryllium
- Bismuth
- Cadmium
- Cobalt
- Copper
- Galium
- Germanium
- Graphite
- Hafnium
- Indium
- Lithium
- Molybdenum
- Niobium
- Nickel
- Phosphorus
- Platinum Group Elements (PGE)
- Potash
- Rare Earth Elements (REE)
- Rhenium
- Selenium
- Silicon
- Strontium
- Tantalum
- Tellurium
- Tin
- Titanium
- Tungsten
- Vanadium
- Zirconium

Actions by Govt



Table.1 The net import reliance for critical minerals of India (2020) (Source: A report on 'Unlocking Australia India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential' by Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021)

Rare deal

The framework comes amid shortfall of critical metals in global markets after China imposed export curbs on rare earth elements



Mining strategy: The agreement follows continued India-U.S. engagements, including India becoming a signatory to the U.S.-led Pax Silica initiative. REUTERS

Framework seeks to:

- **Deepen India-U.S. cooperation** across the critical minerals and rare earths supply chain, including mining, processing, recycling and related investments
- Implement **effective management** of critical minerals and rare earths scrap
- Strengthen resilient and **diversified supply chains**
- Promote **collaboration in financing**

India, U.S. draw up deal on rare earth elements

Framework follows growing concerns over China's export controls of strategic metals; Australia, Japan join fellow Quad members in separate framework among the grouping on critical minerals

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

In the sidelines of the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), India and the United States on Tuesday firmed up an important framework for cooperation in ensuring steady supplies of critical minerals, in a move that follows growing concerns over China's export controls of rare earth minerals and strategic metals vital for technology supply chains.

"The Framework aims to deepen India-U.S. cooperation across the critical minerals and rare earths supply chain, including mining, processing, recycling and related investments. It seeks to strengthen resilient and diversified supply chains, while promoting collaboration in financing and effective management of critical minerals and rare earths scrap," said an announcement on the "Framework" titled "Securing of supply in the mining and processing of critical minerals and rare earths".

The understanding between India and the U.S. has been under consideration at least since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in February 2025, when secure supply routes for critical minerals were considered a "shared strategic priority", said a official press note.

A separate framework on critical minerals was al-

Rare deal

The framework comes amid shortfall of critical metals in global markets after China imposed export curbs on rare earth elements



Mining strategy: The agreement follows continued India-U.S. engagements, including India becoming a signatory to the U.S.-led Pax Silica initiative. REUTERS

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- Implement effective management of critical minerals and rare earths scrap
- Strengthen resilient and diversified supply chains
- Promote collaboration in financing

so signed among the four Quad nations – Australia, India, Japan, and the United States – which aims at mobilising around \$20 billion in government and private-sector support to establish stable supply chains for critical minerals.

The initiatives aim at dealing with the shortfall of critical metals in global markets that intensified after China imposed export controls on rare earth elements in 2025, after the U.S.'s imposition of tariffs on a large number of partner countries.

'\$30-billion projects'

The India-U.S. deal was built upon continued engagements between the two countries, including India becoming a signatory to the U.S.-led Pax Silica initiative on February 20, 2026.

A statement issued by the U.S. Embassy said the United States is "mobilising unprecedented resources to secure critical supply chains, supporting projects with more than \$30 billion in letters of interest, investments, loans and other support in partnership with the private sector".

"These coordinated efforts span domestic and international projects, strengthening U.S. national security and economic competitiveness," the statement said.

The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework will help in nurturing projects on critical minerals that are located in 'Quad partner countries' and are 'operated by companies headquartered in Quad partner countries', thereby plugging supply chain

gaps in critical minerals.

Both the India-U.S. and Quad-level frameworks are expected to allow for greater alignment and harmonisation of domestic laws and regulations to facilitate easier access to the supply chain. These agreements are also expected to help partner countries to tighten controls to deal with national security requirements.

"Quad partners intend to work together to improve the recovery and use of critical minerals from e-waste and other scrap materials to enhance the supply chain and promote recycling of contained critical minerals within Quad partner and like-minded countries," said a statement.

Topic	Key Points for Exam
India–U.S. Rare Earth Deal	India and the U.S. finalized a framework on cooperation in rare earth elements and critical minerals.
समझौते का उद्देश्य	भारत और अमेरिका ने रेयर अर्थ तत्वों एवं क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स पर सहयोग का ढांचा तैयार किया।
Background	The move comes due to global concerns over China's export controls on rare earth minerals and strategic metals.
पृष्ठभूमि	यह कदम चीन द्वारा रेयर अर्थ खनिजों और रणनीतिक धातुओं के निर्यात नियंत्रण के कारण उठाया गया।
Where Announced	Announced during the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM).
घोषणा कहाँ हुई	इसकी घोषणा 11वीं क्वाड विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक में हुई।
Quad Members	India, United States, Japan, Australia.
क्वाड सदस्य	भारत, अमेरिका, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया।
Main Aim	To ensure steady supply of critical minerals for technology and industrial supply chains.
मुख्य उद्देश्य	तकनीकी एवं औद्योगिक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं के लिए क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स की स्थिर आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करना।
Important Minerals	Rare earths, lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, strategic metals.
महत्वपूर्ण खनिज	रेयर अर्थ, लिथियम, कोबाल्ट, निकेल, ग्रेफाइट एवं रणनीतिक धातुएँ।

Key Areas of Cooperation	Mining, processing, recycling, financing, investment, and supply chain diversification.
सहयोग के प्रमुख क्षेत्र	खनन, प्रोसेसिंग, रीसाइक्लिंग, वित्तपोषण, निवेश एवं सप्लाई चेन विविधीकरण।
Supply Chain Goal	To create resilient and diversified supply chains outside Chinese dominance.
सप्लाई चेन लक्ष्य	चीन पर निर्भरता कम कर मजबूत एवं विविध आपूर्ति शृंखला बनाना।
Additional Objective	Effective management and recycling of rare earth scrap.
अतिरिक्त उद्देश्य	रेयर अर्थ स्कैप का प्रभावी प्रबंधन एवं पुनर्चक्रण।
Financing Aspect	Promotion of collaboration in financing critical mineral projects.
वित्तीय पहलू	क्रिटिकल मिनरल परियोजनाओं में वित्तीय सहयोग को बढ़ावा।
Related Initiative	India joined the U.S.-led "Pax Silica Initiative" on February 20, 2026.
संबंधित पहल	भारत 20 फरवरी 2026 को अमेरिका-नेतृत्व वाली "Pax Silica Initiative" में शामिल हुआ।
Quad Critical Minerals Initiative	Separate Quad framework to mobilize supply chain support for critical minerals.
क्वाड क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स पहल	क्रिटिकल मिनरल सप्लाई चेन के लिए अलग क्वाड ढांचा।
Funding Support	Around \$20 billion government and private-sector support planned under Quad initiative.

Strategic Importance	Critical minerals are essential for semiconductors, EV batteries, defense, AI, clean energy, and electronics.
रणनीतिक महत्व	क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स सेमीकंडक्टर, EV बैटरी, रक्षा, AI, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
National Security Link	Agreements will help countries tighten controls for national security needs.
राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संबंध	यह समझौते राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा आवश्यकताओं हेतु नियंत्रण मजबूत करेंगे।
Recycling Focus	Quad countries will improve recovery and reuse of minerals from e-waste and scrap materials.
रीसाइक्लिंग फोकस	क्वाड देश ई-वेस्ट एवं स्कैप से खनिज पुनर्प्राप्ति बढ़ाएँगे।
India's Benefit	Reduces import dependency and strengthens manufacturing under Make in India.
भारत को लाभ	आयात निर्भरता कम होगी और Make in India को मजबूती मिलेगी।
Global Significance	Seen as a strategic counterbalance to China's dominance in rare earth supply chains.
वैश्विक महत्व	इसे चीन के वर्चस्व के विरुद्ध रणनीतिक संतुलन के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

CRITICAL MINERALS: INDIA'S NET IMPORT RELIANCE (2020)

Critical Mineral	%age	Major import sources
Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
Zirconium (zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Graphite (natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

Source: 'Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential', Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021

The New Oil: India's Strategy for Critical Minerals



Boosting Domestic Exploration

Allowing private sector participation to accelerate the discovery of new mineral deposits.

Acquiring Global Assets

Securing overseas mines.



Lithium blocks in Argentina via KABIL initiative.



Powering India's National Ambitions

Achieving Net-Zero by 2070



Minerals are essential for EV batteries, wind turbines, and solar panels.



Ensuring Strategic Autonomy

Reducing dependency on single nations to avoid "supply chain blackmail."

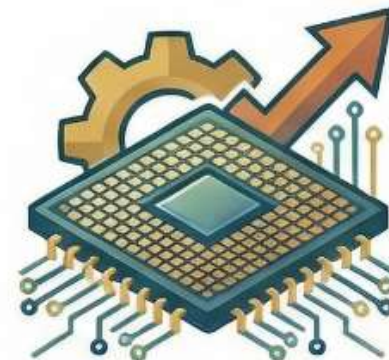
Championing Urban Mining

Aiming to meet 15-20% of demand by 2035 through recycling e-waste and used batteries.



15-20%

2035



Fueling the "Make in India" Initiative

Building a domestic supply chain for high-tech manufacturing like semiconductors.

CHART 1: Major causes for deaths in India over reporting periods from 2015-2017 onwards

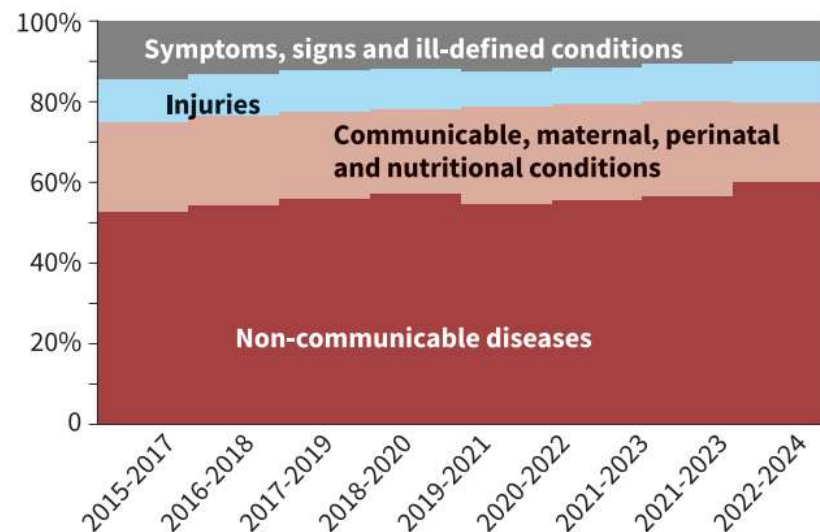


CHART 2: Share of deaths due to NCDs between rural and urban areas and men and women

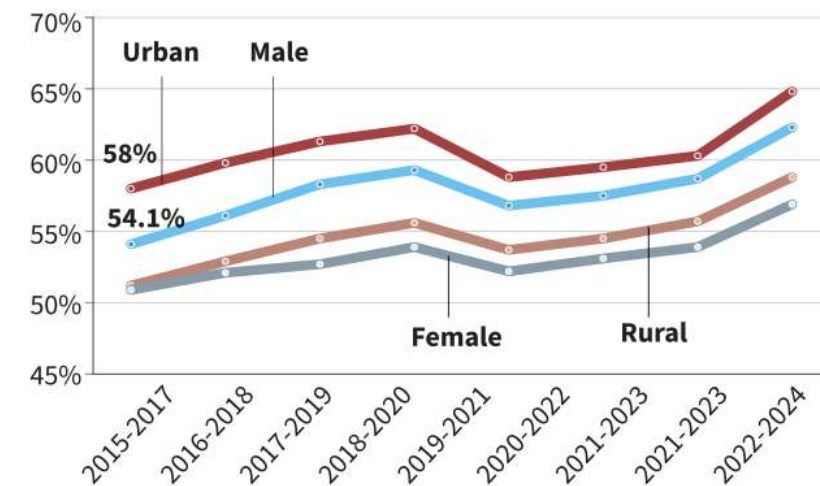
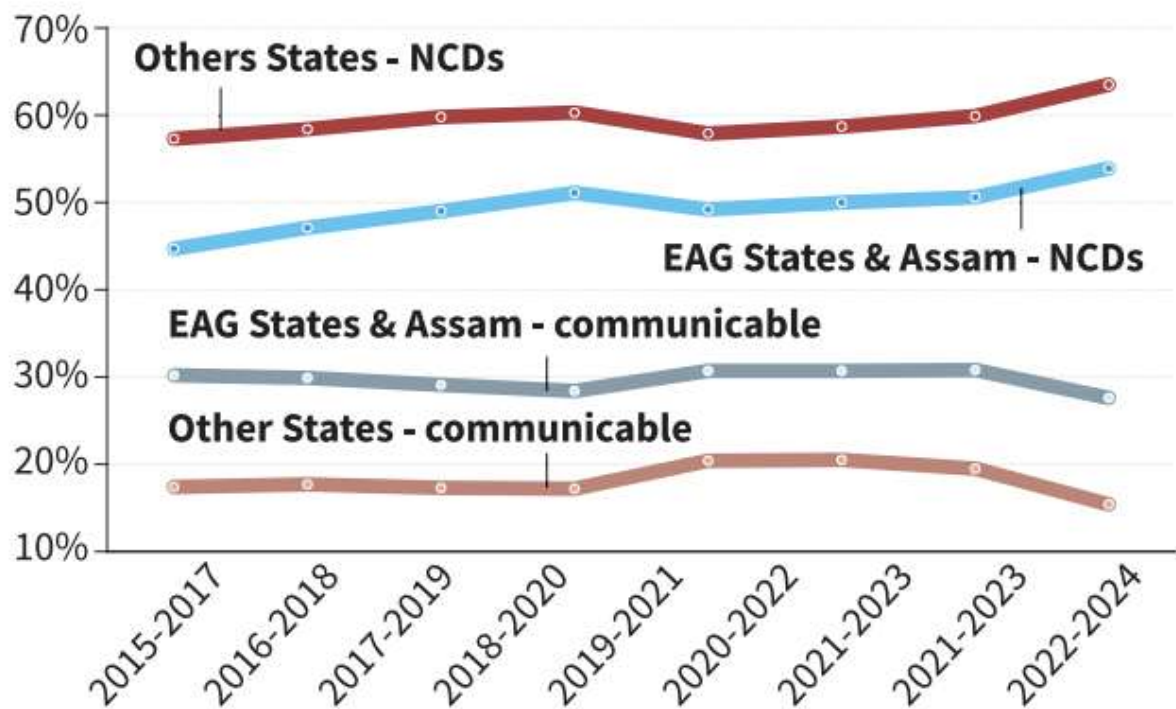


CHART 3: Share of deaths due to NCDs and communicable diseases between EAG States and Assam versus other States

TABLE 1: Top 10 causes of deaths among all age groups, and in the 15-29 and 30-69 age groups in India

Cause	All ages (%)	Age 15-29 (%)	Age 30-69 (%)
Cardiovascular diseases	32.1	10.8	37.3
Cancer	7	4.2	10.3
Digestive diseases	5.9	7.5	8.9
Respiratory diseases	6	-	5.1
Respiratory infections	5.7	-	-
Diabetes mellitus	3.6	-	3.9
Genito-urinary diseases	3.4	-	4.7
Fever of unknown origin	4.1	3.3	-
Road accidents	-	17.7	4.2
Other unintentional injuries	4.1	8.6	3.9
Suicide	-	19	3.4
Tuberculosis	-	3.1	3.5
Neuro-psychiatric conditions	-	3	-
Ill-defined / other symptoms	9.7	3.2	-

CHART 3: Share of deaths due to NCDs and communicable diseases between EAG States and Assam versus other States



conditions			
Ill-defined / other symptoms	9.7	3.2	-

The table above shows the top 10 causes of deaths among age categories. The blanks indicate that these causes were not among the top 10 causes for the corresponding age group

As shown in the table above, road accidents and suicides disproportionately affect younger people. Deaths caused by motor vehicle accidents increased from 2.9% to 3.2%, while suicides rose from 2.5% to 2.8% in the latest report

In Chart 1, the increase in deaths due to communicable diseases during 2019-2021 and 2020-2022 was due to COVID-19

Big Tobacco out on top after U.S. Food and Drug Administration shake-up

Trump pushed agency to quickly change tack on vaping; shift will allow new vapes, nicotine pouches to be sold without a licence; tobacco industry had lobbied for change; critics warn of public health risks; some experts say adults need alternatives; up to 200 products could immediately benefit

FOCUS

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. FDA's new, looser regulation of new vapes and nicotine pouches will potentially unleash hundreds more such products on the market in the coming weeks and months, according to three current and former Trump administration officials.

The Food and Drug Administration said earlier this month it will use 'enforcement discretion' to look the other way when manufacturers sell unauthorised vaping products as long as their licence applications meet certain standards. It had for years required a pre-marketing authorisation for the products, partly to limit youth vape access.

Risks to health

The Trump Administration's swift policy change - announced days before FDA Commissioner Marty Makary resigned - circumvented months of public comment typical for such sweeping changes, two former FDA tobacco chiefs said, and raised questions about the risk to public health and consumers.

Tobacco executives have aggressively lobbied President Donald Trump for change, including in a



Real issue: Some 1.4 million U.S. teens, or about 5%, acknowledged vaping last year. COMPANY WEBSITE

meeting earlier this month where they argued that the FDA's previous policy allowed a vast illegal market of mostly Chinese vapes, according to one of the officials briefed on the meeting.

Around 100 to 200 products could immediately benefit from the new policy, the official said. A source briefed on the FDA's process said around 1,000 applications are currently at the scientific review stage, indicating they have already presented enough data to be considered for the new policy.

The number of products in position to benefit has not been reported elsewhere.

The FDA change mirrors "a longstanding ask by industry," said Brian King,



Tobacco executives have aggressively lobbied Trump for change, including in a meeting where they argued FDA's previous policy allowed a vast illegal market of mostly Chinese vapes

who ran the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products and is now at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Children at risk

The group said the new guidance puts children at risk by allowing the legal sale of more flavoured vapes, which can be enticing to them.

Some 1.4 million U.S. teens, or around 5%, ack-

nounced vaping last year, according to FDA data, down from a peak of over 6 million in 2019.

"Clearly, we want to keep nicotine out of the hands of young people, but for adults who smoke, we need alternatives," said Vaughan Rees of Harvard University's School of Public Health, who said he does not receive industry funds. Health and Human Services spokesman Andrew Nixon said the new guidance strengthens enforcement against the flood of illegal and unauthorised nicotine products and supports a more orderly transition to a regulated marketplace.

"President Trump consistently pledged to expand access to vapes and nicotine pouches in light of

an abundance of evidence finding that these products are beneficial for Americans trying to quit smoking," White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement. "The only guiding factor behind the Trump administration's health policymaking is Gold Standard Science."

Tobacco companies and market research firm Euronitor say at least 70% of U.S. vape sales are illegal, with one estimate valuing them at \$8 billion in 2024.

Trump, flavoured vapes

Trump's interest in flavoured vapes dates back to his first term, and he still believes vapes are critical to maintaining support among young men, according to three officials. His first FDA commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, proposed banning most flavoured cartridge-based e-cigarettes after vape brand Juul turbo-charged youth use.

Trump initially allowed the policy to move forward, but reversed course after Gottlieb left and blasted then-Health Secretary Alex Azar for banning fruit-flavoured vapes, fearing it would hurt him in the 2020 presidential election, according to an ex-official.

Since 2024, tobacco companies and other industry groups have worked to curry favour with Trump via donations to his campaign, inauguration

and ballroom, official records show, as well as via influential connections in Washington.

Chinese vapes

In his second term, the Trump administration has killed a plan to ban menthol cigarettes, launched efforts to fast-track FDA reviews and cracked down on unauthorised Chinese vapes.

In the days before the May meeting, Reynolds American, a unit of British American Tobacco, donated \$5 million to Trump-aligned super PAC Maga Inc, campaign finance filings show. After the meeting with tobacco executives, Trump called Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who directed FDA and HHS staff to make the change, one official said.

Reynolds did not respond to requests for comment on its lobbying.

Barclays analyst Pallav Mittal said the shift will catalyse sales for the industry. Barclays expects Philip Morris International to sell up to an additional 12 million of its best-selling Zyn nicotine pouches this year since it will likely launch a new version, he said.

Reynolds may look to launch flavoured versions of its vape brand Vuse, analysts said. Reynolds said it was reviewing the change, while Philip Morris did not comment on plans for its not-yet-licensed products.

Topic	Key Points for Exam
FDA Tobacco Policy Change	U.S. FDA relaxed regulations on vaping products and nicotine pouches.
FDA नीति परिवर्तन	अमेरिकी FDA ने वेपिंग उत्पादों एवं निकोटीन पाउच पर नियमों को नरम किया।
Main Change	New vapes and nicotine pouches may be sold without immediate licence approval under enforcement discretion.
मुख्य बदलाव	नए वेप एवं निकोटीन पाउच बिना तत्काल लाइसेंस स्वीकृति के बेचे जा सकेंगे।
Why in News	Trump administration pushed FDA to rapidly change vaping policy.
चर्चा का कारण	ट्रंप प्रशासन ने FDA पर वेपिंग नीति तेजी से बदलने का दबाव बनाया।
Beneficiaries	Big Tobacco companies and vape manufacturers.
लाभार्थी	बड़ी तंबाकू कंपनियाँ एवं वेप निर्माता।
Products Mentioned	Vapes, nicotine pouches, e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes.
उल्लेखित उत्पाद	वेप, निकोटीन पाउच, ई-सिगरेट, मेंथॉल सिगरेट।
FDA's Earlier Policy	Earlier strict pre-market authorization was required for vaping products.
FDA की पुरानी नीति	पहले वेपिंग उत्पादों के लिए कठोर प्री-मार्केट अनुमति आवश्यक थी।
Immediate Impact	Around 100–200 products could immediately enter the market.

Main Concern	Critics warn the move may increase youth nicotine addiction and public health risks.
मुख्य चिंता	आलोचकों के अनुसार इससे युवाओं में निकोटीन लत और स्वास्थ्य जोखिम बढ़ सकते हैं।
Teen Vaping Data	About 1.4 million U.S. teens (~5%) admitted vaping last year.
किशोर वेपिंग आँकड़ा	लगभग 14 लाख अमेरिकी किशोर (~5%) ने पिछले वर्ष वेपिंग स्वीकार की।
Peak Teen Usage	Teen vaping peaked at over 6 million in 2019.
उच्चतम उपयोग	2019 में किशोर वेपिंग 60 लाख से अधिक थी।
Public Health Debate	Some experts support regulated alternatives for adult smokers trying to quit cigarettes.
सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य बहस	कुछ विशेषज्ञ धूम्रपान छोड़ने वाले वयस्कों के लिए नियंत्रित विकल्पों का समर्थन करते हैं।
Illegal Vape Market	Around 70% of U.S. vape sales are estimated to be illegal.
अवैध वेप बाजार	अनुमानतः अमेरिका में 70% वेप बिक्री अवैध है।
Illegal Market Value	Illegal vape market valued around \$8 billion in 2024.
अवैध बाजार मूल्य	2024 में अवैध वेप बाजार का मूल्य लगभग 8 अरब डॉलर।
China Connection	Many illegal vapes in the U.S. are reportedly Chinese-made products.

Trump's Earlier Stance	Trump earlier supported flavored vapes but later partially reversed stance before 2020 election.
ट्रंप का पूर्व रुख	ट्रंप ने पहले फ्लेवर्ड वेप का समर्थन किया, बाद में 2020 चुनाव से पहले आंशिक बदलाव किया।
Menthol Cigarette Ban	Trump administration reportedly stopped a proposed ban on menthol cigarettes.
मेंथॉल सिगरेट प्रतिबंध	ट्रंप प्रशासन ने मेंथॉल सिगरेट पर प्रस्तावित प्रतिबंध रोक दिया।
FDA Commissioner Mentioned	Marty Makary (FDA Commissioner).
उल्लेखित FDA आयुक्त	मार्टी माकरी।
Tobacco Lobbying	Tobacco executives reportedly lobbied Trump administration for policy changes.
तंबाकू लॉबिंग	तंबाकू कंपनियों ने नीति बदलाव हेतु लॉबिंग की।
Political Funding Angle	Reynolds American reportedly donated \$5 million to pro-Trump PAC MAGA Inc.
राजनीतिक फंडिंग	रेनॉल्ड्स अमेरिकन ने ट्रंप समर्थक PAC MAGA Inc. को 5 मिलियन डॉलर दान दिए।
Companies Mentioned	Philip Morris, Reynolds American, Juul Labs, Velo, Vuse.
उल्लेखित कंपनियाँ	फिलिप मॉरिस, रेनॉल्ड्स अमेरिकन, जूल लैब्स, वेलो, व्यूज़।

Book on India's first Olympic gold released

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

A book commemorating India's first-ever Olympic gold by hockey historian K. Arumugam was released here on Tuesday by Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha.

Titled *India's First Olympic Gold*, the book traces the Indian hockey team's journey in 1928 from selection issues, financial struggles and internal tussles within the hockey fraternity at that time to the final triumph against the host on May 26 in Amsterdam. Filled with rare pictures, newspaper snippets from back then and historical data, the book also talks about how the game gave a then-colonised India an identity separate from its British rulers and its first-ever international sporting hero, Dhyhan Chand.

AI president Dilip Tirkey, present on the occasion, hoped more such work would be done to preserve India's hockey history and encourage future generations.

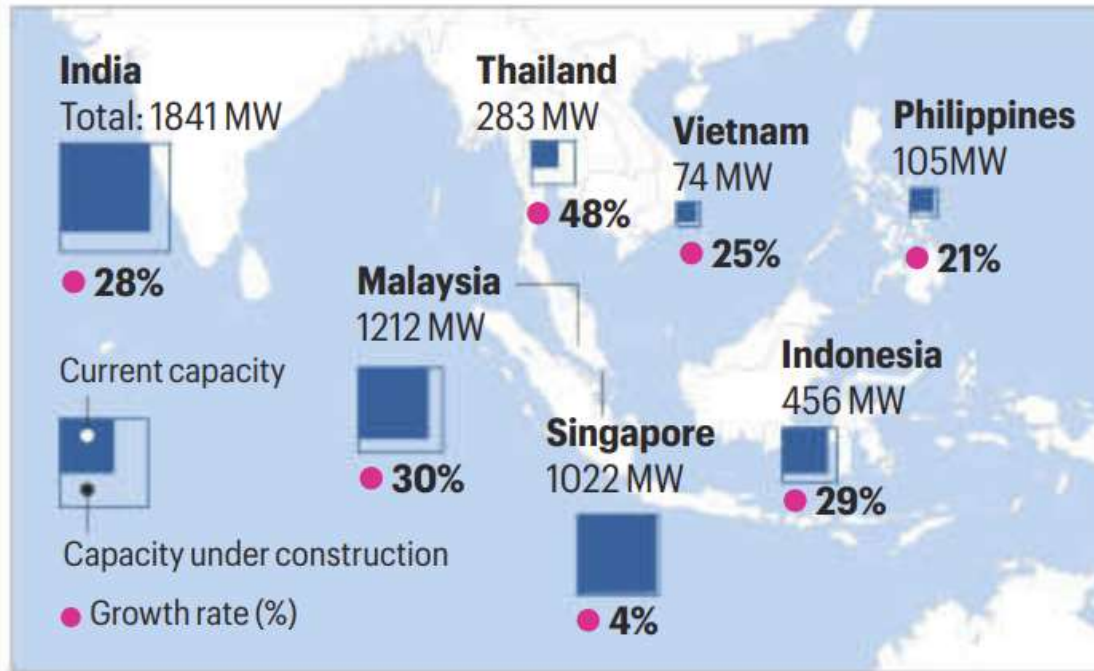
● INDIA'S DATA CENTRE BOOM

● India and Singapore are the largest data centre markets in South and Southeast Asia, a region which accounts for over 3.5 GW of data centre operational capacity.

● Moody's Ratings expects the region's capacity to grow at a compound annual growth rate

(CAGR) of 24% over the next four to five years, subject to power and permitting constraints.

● Growth is shifting to India and Indonesia to serve rapidly expanding domestic demand, and to Malaysia, which also benefits from spillover demand from Singapore.



(1) 'Total' represents current and under-construction capacity. (2) Growth rate reflects CAGR for 2025-30. Sources: Cushman and Wakefield, Moody's Ratings estimate

TAIWAN GETS PAST INDIA IN M-CAP


TAIWAN OVERTOOK INDIA in stock market value to become the world's fifth largest, powered mainly by a breakneck rally in TSMC, the world's largest chipmaker which now accounts for about 42% of the benchmark index, reports **Bloomberg**. The chipmaker's shares have rallied 46% this year and the TaieX Index remains among the world's best performers, having risen more than 50% this year. India's gauge, on the other hand, is down 8%, heading for its first annual drop after a decade of gains as the country grapples with surging energy cost, slowing corporate earnings growth and the lack of companies directly linked to the AI build-out. Global funds have sold nearly \$24 billion of Indian equities so far this year as they chased the AI boom in Taiwan and South Korea.

Market valuation (\$ trillion)



Our market diversified unlike theirs: Sebi chief

India is a very, very diversified market. In Taiwan, there are concentrated stocks...TSMC and others which are very, very critical to the electronic supply chain are...leading to their higher valuations



Tuhin Kanta Pandey

An aerial photograph of the Kopro Reservoir, a large body of water surrounded by dense, lush green forest. The reservoir is nestled in a valley, with a small island in the center. In the background, the sea is visible, dotted with several small islands under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "Kopro Reservoir" is overlaid in white on the water.

Kopro Reservoir



RAJASTHAN

Lucknow
लखनऊ

BIHAR

achi
کر

Bang

GUJARAT

Ahmedabad
અમદાવાદ

MADHYA
PRADESH

India

JHARKHAND

WEST BENGAL

kopra dam
कोपरा दम

Surat
સુરત

Nagpur
नागपूर

ODISHA

MAHARASHTRA

Pune
पुणे

TELANGANA

Kopra Reservoir	A major ecological wetland ecosystem in Chhattisgarh.
कोपरा जलाशय	छत्तीसगढ़ का एक प्रमुख पारिस्थितिक आर्द्रभूमि तंत्र।
State	Chhattisgarh
राज्य	छत्तीसगढ़
District	Bilaspur district
जिला	बिलासपुर जिला
Why in News	Emerged as a national biodiversity model linked with 2026 International Day for Biological Diversity theme.
चर्चा का कारण	2026 जैव विविधता अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस की थीम से जुड़ा राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता मॉडल बना।
Theme Mentioned	"Local Action, Global Impact"
उल्लेखित थीम	"स्थानीय कार्रवाई, वैश्विक प्रभाव"
International Recognition	Chhattisgarh's inaugural Ramsar Site of International Importance.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय मान्यता	छत्तीसगढ़ का पहला अंतरराष्ट्रीय महत्व का रामसर स्थल।
Type of Ecosystem	Wetland ecosystem
पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का प्रकार	आर्द्रभूमि पारितंत्र

Ramsar Convention	International treaty for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
रामसर कन्वेंशन	आर्द्रभूमियों के संरक्षण एवं सतत उपयोग हेतु अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि।
Ecological Role	Provides habitat to migratory birds, aquatic species, and wetland flora.
पारिस्थितिक भूमिका	प्रवासी पक्षियों, जलीय जीवों एवं आर्द्रभूमि वनस्पतियों को आवास प्रदान करता है।
Conservation Significance	Demonstrates community-based biodiversity protection.
संरक्षण महत्व	सामुदायिक आधारित जैव विविधता संरक्षण का उदाहरण।
Wetland Benefits	Flood control, groundwater recharge, carbon storage, and climate regulation.
आर्द्रभूमि के लाभ	बाढ़ नियंत्रण, भूजल पुनर्भरण, कार्बन भंडारण एवं जलवायु संतुलन।
Biodiversity Importance	Wetlands are among the world's most productive ecosystems.
जैव विविधता महत्व	आर्द्रभूमियाँ विश्व के सबसे उत्पादक पारितंत्रों में शामिल हैं।
Mapping Importance	Important location for Geography and Environment mapping questions.
मानचित्रण महत्व	भूगोल एवं पर्यावरण के मानचित्र आधारित प्रश्नों हेतु महत्वपूर्ण।

Fact

Details

Ramsar Convention Signed

1971

रामसर संधि का अंगीकरण

1971

Place of Signing

Ramsar, Iran

अंगीकरण स्थान

रामसर, ईरान

India Joined Ramsar Convention

1982

भारत का अंगीकरण

1982

Nodal Ministry in India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

मुख्य मंत्रालय

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय



Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana



Scheme Name	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)
योजना का नाम	प्रधानमंत्री अनुसूचित जाति अभ्युदय योजना (PM-AJAY)
Ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
संबंधित मंत्रालय	सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
Recent Development	Launch of centralized PM-AJAY Portal and AJAY Mobile Application
हाल की पहल	केंद्रीकृत PM-AJAY पोर्टल एवं AJAY मोबाइल एप का शुभारंभ
Nature of Scheme	100% Centrally Sponsored flagship umbrella welfare scheme
योजना का स्वरूप	100% केंद्र प्रायोजित प्रमुख अम्ब्रेला कल्याणकारी योजना
Main Objective	Socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs)
मुख्य उद्देश्य	अनुसूचित जातियों (SC) का सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक उत्थान
Why Created	To remove administrative fragmentation and improve resource utilization
योजना क्यों बनाई गई	प्रशासनिक विखंडन समाप्त करने एवं संसाधनों के बेहतर उपयोग हेतु

Type of Scheme	Umbrella scheme formed by merging earlier schemes
योजना का प्रकार	पूर्व योजनाओं को मिलाकर बनाई गई अम्ब्रेला योजना
Beneficiaries	Scheduled Caste communities
लाभार्थी	अनुसूचित जाति समुदाय
Key Focus Areas	Village development, livelihood generation, skill development, hostels and infrastructure
प्रमुख फोकस क्षेत्र	ग्राम विकास, आजीविका, कौशल विकास, छात्रावास एवं आधारभूत संरचना
Digital Initiative	PM-AJAY Portal for monitoring and implementation
डिजिटल पहल	निगरानी एवं क्रियान्वयन हेतु PM-AJAY पोर्टल
Mobile App	AJAY Mobile Application
मोबाइल ऐप	AJAY मोबाइल एप्लीकेशन

Earlier Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana
(PMAGY)

बि.श.प्र.क.प.ह.उ. व. ट.ब.इ.व.ग.ह.प्र.ज. (PMAGY)

Special Central Assistance to SC Sub Plan
(SCA to SCSP)

श.प्र.उ.उ. इ.उ.ह.ग. ट.प.व.ग.ल.व. SC & ह.ग.ह.प्र. ज.

Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana
(BJRCHY)

प्र.प्र.न. उ. न.ह.अ.उ. घ.प्र. व. व.ट.व.अ.ट. ग.ह.प्र. ज.

Purpose

Development of SC-majority villages

SC प्र.इ.य. ए.क.ह.अ.इ.व. श.प्र.इ.व.ट.

Economic empowerment and livelihood support

उ.श.प्र.उ.उ. ट.ट.स.उ. इ.घ.र. इ.अ.उ. न.ह.श.प्र.इ.व. ट.प.व.ग.ल.व.

Hostel facilities for SC students

SC व.व.ट.अ.प.स.व.ट.व.अ.ट. ट.अ.श.व.

Word of the day

Jovial:

full of or showing high-spirited merriment

Synonyms: gay, jocund, jolly, merry

Usage: *The usually stern professor was surprisingly jovial at the farewell function.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/nNMmiE/jovial

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈdʒəʊ.vi.əl/

UMANG 360



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 Class24

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