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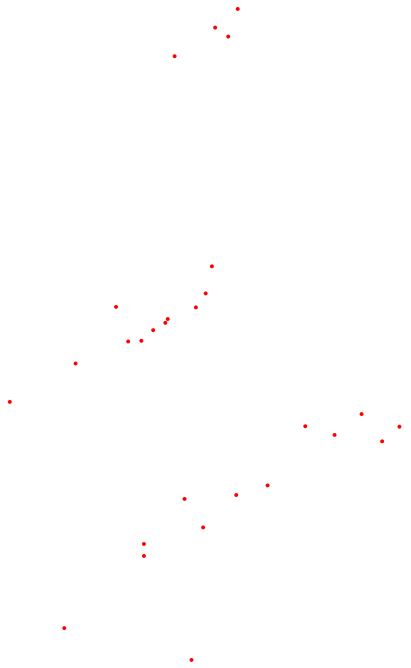


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10 MCQ QUIZ

- *“Only those reach their destination whose steps may get tired... but never stop.”*

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INSIDE



U.S. envoy 'to visit Moscow for talks on Ukraine war'

KYIV A senior Kremlin official confirmed on Wednesday that U.S. special envoy Steve Winkler is set to visit Moscow next week as efforts to find a consensus on ending the nearly four-year war between Russia and Ukraine pick up speed. **» PAGE 14**

India rejects Pak. remarks on flag raising at temple

NEW DELHI A day after Pakistan's foreign office expressed "deep sadness" over the raising of a religious flag at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the External Affairs Ministry rejected Islamabad's remarks and said Pakistan should look into its own record of "fagotry" and "repression". **» PAGE 4**

798,000 crore data centre to be built in A.P.

VISAKHAPATNAM/NEW DELHI The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced the setting up of a 1.1 Giga-watt (GW) data centre by Digital India, a joint venture of Reliance Industries, Brookfield and Digital Realty, in Visakhapatnam at an investment of Rs.798,000 crore by 2030. **» PAGE 13**

Kerala holds off on implementing new labour codes

BANGALORE Trade unions in Kerala have told the State government not to frame rules for the implementation of the four labour codes notified by the Centre, Elamaram Kanneen, State general secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, said. **» PAGE 8**

No hitch in Kerala SIR, 99% forms issued: EC

EC says it is coordinating with the State's poll panel, and denies a human resources crunch

Kerala had moved the SC saying conduct of SIR along with local polls will be 'near impossible'

The CPI had moved court, aiming not only to defer but also to quash the revision process

Richhadas Rameshwar
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) expressed confidence that it can conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) of poll rolls in Kerala in the midst of local body elections, telling the Supreme Court on Wednesday that there is "no problem" whatsoever, and adding that enumeration forms have been distributed to 99% of voters in the State.

"EC and the Kerala State Election Commission are collaborating, coordinating and have held meetings with officials and District Collectors in Kerala. There is no problem. The State Election Commission has said its work is not hampered. In any case, it is almost over, 99% voters have been distributed [enumeration forms], more than 90% have been digitised," said the EC, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

Obstacle course

The Kerala government and political parties have filed separate petitions in the SC submitting that the "cumbersome" SIR process would create an "administrative impediment" during elections.



State Election Commission officials are seen at a meeting in Kerala, Tuesday.

The Kerala State Election Commission has decided to conduct the local body elections on December 4. The Kerala State Election Commission had decided to conduct the local body elections on December 9 and 11.

The State government, in a petition filed through advocate C.K. Radh, had said that the simultaneous conduct of the SIR and the local body elections would be a "near impossibility". "SIR is a huge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi-governmental services for election-related duties, and a further 68,000 police and other security personnel. SIR is also a comprehensive process with a cumbersome procedure," it had submitted.

India (CPI), a partner in the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, had separately moved the SC, seeking not only the deferment of the SIR but also a judicial direction to quash the revision process, which had spread to 12 districts and Union Territories after Bihar.

Tamil Nadu argued that the EC had given "unrealistic timelines" to complete the SIR process in the State, noting that the forecast of a cyclone could also hinder the exercise.

One of the petitioners submitted that the EC had only digitised 50% enumeration forms in the past 22 days in Tamil Nadu, with the remaining forms to be completed in the eight days left before the end of the enumeration stage on December 4.

Mr. Dwivedi assuaged fears by noting that once the enumerations were signed and submitted by citizens, it would be processed on time by the EC.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal - leading the petitioner side, which includes political parties, leaders, and State governments from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Kerala - said what was happening "was the ground was very different from what was presented in court."

Mr. Bhushan submitted that the process in Assam followed earlier revisions in which there was no requirement for voters to submit enumeration forms or any documents.

Mr. Dwivedi countered that such an allegation was not part of any record filed by Mr. Bhushan's client, the Assam Sahitya Akademi, and urged the court to remove the restriction.

Mr. Bhushan submitted that the process in Assam followed earlier revisions in which there was no requirement for voters to submit enumeration forms or any documents.

Towering Inferno



A fire engulfed several apartment blocks at the Wang Fui Court residential estate in Hong Kong's Tai Po district on Wednesday, killing at least 30 people and leaving more than 200 unaccounted for in the city's worst blaze in decades, air police say.

CJI says court will consider plea seeking to revive NJAC, end the Collegium system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday orally said the court would consider a plea seeking to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission and bring an end to the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the constitutional courts.

History revisited

1993: Collegium system of judicial appointments came into existence by virtue of a Constitution Bench judgment.

2015: The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill and the Constitution (101st Amendment) Bill, 2015 came into existence to substitute the Collegium system.

2015: A Bench delivered the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act, 2015, bringing the Collegium system.

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ment of judges to constitutional courts, was struck down by the court in 2015 as unconstitutional. The plea urged the 2015 judgment to be rendered void ab initio as it revived the Collegium system, which was a "synonym for nepotism and favouritism."

"Since the Collegium came into existence, appointments to higher judiciary have been a 'riddle wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma' to borrow an expression from Winston Churchill. The Parliament, which represents the will of the people, had enacted the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act. However, the NJAC Act, 2015, was 'quashed and set aside' by this court, reducing the equal role along with the judiciary in the appointment of judges to constitutional courts, was struck down by the court in 2015 as unconstitutional.

Faridabad man held for harbouring Delhi blast accused

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a Faridabad resident for allegedly harbouring a "terrorist" Umar-ul-Nabi, who was at the wheel of the car that exploded near the Red Fort here on November 10.



An accused in the car bomb blast near Red Fort being brought to the Patila House Court.

The accused has been identified as Syarif of Bihar in Faridabad, Haryana. This is the seventh arrest in the case so far. The Patila House Court in Delhi on Wednesday remanded Mr. Syarif to 10 days of NIA custody.

NIA continues to pursue leads in connection with the case, and has been conducting searches

Involved in the gruesome attack," the NIA said. Dr. Muzammil Shafeeq Gani of Puhana in J&K; Dr. Ashraf Ahmad Rather of Anantnag in J&K; Dr. Mahamudul Karim of Lachar in J&K; and Mufi Irfan Ahmad Wazir of Shopian (J&K) were held by the J&K Police for allegedly being part of a "terror" group.

Constitution a document of national pride: Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday described the Constitution as a "document of national pride and a guiding text for taking the country forward with a nationalist mindset."

Speaking at the Constitution Day event at the Central Hall of the Old Parliament Building, now called Samvithan Sadan, Mr. Murmu said the Indian Constitution, which expresses the public aspirations, served as an example for many democracies around the world.

Meanwhile, in an open letter on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged all citizens to prioritise duties to the nation, uphold democracy through voting, and encourage educational institutions to celebrate Constitution Day by honouring first-time voters turning 18.

India adopted its Constitution on November 26, 1949.

CJI says court will consider plea seeking to revive NJAC, end the Collegium system

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday orally said the court would consider a plea seeking to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission and bring an end to the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the constitutional courts.

The plea, which arraigns the Chief Justice of India and even the Supreme Court Collegium as respondents along with the Union government and a clutch of parties, submitted that the striking down of the NJAC by the court was a “great wrong because it meant substitution of the will of the people by the opinion of the four judges”.

The oral mentioning of the application was made

History revisited

1993: Collegium system of judicial appointments **came into existence** by virtue of a Constitution Bench judgment

2014: The National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 and the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014 came into existence **to substitute** the Collegium system

2015: A Bench declared the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act unconstitutional, **reviving the Collegium system**



by advocate Mathews J. Neddumpara, who has sought permission to argue the case in-person.

The NJAC, which briefly gave the government an equal role along with the judiciary in the appoint-

ment of judges to constitutional courts, was struck down by the court in 2015 as unconstitutional.

The plea urged the 2015 judgment to be rendered *void ab initio* as it revived the Collegium system, which was a “synonym for nepotism and favouritism.”

“Since the Collegium came into existence, appointments to higher judiciary have been a ‘riddle wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma’ to borrow an expression from Winston Churchill... The Parliament, which represents the will of the people, had enacted the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act. However, the enactments were “quashed and set aside” by this court, reducing the Parliament to an inferior tribunal,” it said.

1. What Happened?

1.1 Supreme Court Remarks

- Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant** said the Supreme Court would **consider** a plea that:
 - Seeks to **revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)**
 - And **end the Collegium system** of appointing judges to constitutional courts.

1.2 Plea Filed By

- Advocate **Mathews J. Nedumpara**, who wants to argue in person.
-

2. Arguments in the Plea

2.1 Plea's Main Claims

- The 2015 judgment striking down NJAC was a **"great wrong"**.
- It replaced the **will of the people** (Parliament + States) with the **"opinion of four judges."**
- Collegium is a:
 - "Synonym for nepotism"
 - "Favouritism"
 - Opaque system ("riddle wrapped in mystery, inside an enigma")

2.2 Nature of Challenge

- Requests the Court to declare the **2015 judgment void ab initio**.
- Also challenges the **Chief Justice of India & the Collegium** as respondents.



- **What Was NJAC?**
- **3.1 Constitutional Basis**
- Created through:
 - **99th Constitutional Amendment (2014)**
 - **National Judicial Appointments Commission Act (2014)**
- **3.2 Composition**
- CJI
- Two senior-most judges of SC
- Union Law Minister
- Two “eminent persons”
- **3.3 Purpose**
- Replace the **Collegium** with a **broad-based, transparent commission** for judicial appointments.

- 
- **Why NJAC Was Struck Down?**
 - **4.1 2015 SC Judgment (4:1 majority)**
 - Held NJAC **unconstitutional**.
 - Key grounds:
 - Violated **Judicial Independence** (part of **Basic Structure**).
 - Allowed excessive **Executive interference**.
 - Justice Chelameswar dissented (favored NJAC).
 - **4.2 Aftermath**
 - Collegium revived automatically.
 - SC promised reforms → Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) still unresolved.



- **Collegium System: Historical Context**
- **5.1 Evolution Through Judgments**
- **First Judges Case (1981):** Executive primacy.
- **Second Judges Case (1993):** Collegium created → judicial primacy.
- **Third Judges Case (1998):** Collegium expanded to 5 judges.
- **5.2 Criticisms**
- Opaqueness
- No criteria for selection
- No accountability
- Perception of nepotism
- Delays in appointment
- **5.3 Strengths**
- Shields judiciary from political capture.
- Ensures judicial independence.

Articles Involved

- **Article 124:** Appointment of SC Judges
- **Article 217:** Appointment of HC Judges
- **Article 368:** Constitutional Amendment process
- **Basic Structure Doctrine** (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973)

Why NJAC is a big debate?

- Judiciary fears **executive capture**.
- Parliament wants **transparency + accountability**.
- Public debate revolves around:
 - Separation of powers
 - Checks & balances
 - Judicial independence

Can SC overturn a past judgment?

- Yes, under **review** or **curative** petition or reconsideration by **larger bench**.



- **Consider the following statements about NJAC and the Collegium system:**
- The NJAC was created through a Constitutional Amendment as well as a Parliamentary Act.
- The Supreme Court struck down the NJAC in 2015 for violating the Basic Structure doctrine.
- The Collegium system is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution under Articles 124 and 217.
- The NJAC gave the executive a greater role in judicial appointments compared to the Collegium.
- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**
- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

IN BRIEF

Toll in fire accident at store in Hyderabad rises to two

The death toll from the Shalibanda fire rose to two after the shop owner Shiba Kumar Banal, who sustained 80% burn injuries, died during treatment late on Tuesday night. A major fire broke out on Monday night in an electronics showroom in Hyderabad neighbourhood. Hyderabad and engulfed the two-floor building promoting a major emergency response from fire and police officials that lasted for four hours. One person died at the spot, while eight were injured.

Remand prisoner found dead in Kerala jail, foul play alleged

A remand prisoner was found dead under suspicious circumstances at the Kasaragod sub-jail in Kerala on Wednesday, following which his family alleged that he was murdered. A police investigation has been initiated into the incident. The deceased, identified as Mubashir of Delhi, was reportedly found unconscious and shifted to a hospital, where he died during treatment. He was arrested on November 8 by the Vidyanagar police in connection with a 2018 POCSO case.

Man booked after minor delivers baby at govt. hostel

A 19-year-old class 10 student residing at the Sri D. Devraj Urs Pre-Matric Hostel in Koppal, Karnataka, delivered a baby boy inside the hostel washroom early on Wednesday. The incident has prompted the police to register a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, against a 23-year-old man, his officers, including hostel staff, teachers, and health workers, have been booked for alleged negligence and failure to protect the minor.

Karnataka HC slams 'hurried' removal of govt. pleader

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has restored appointment of an advocate to the post of "additional district government pleader" by setting aside the state order withdrawing his appointment within 24 hours solely for the reason that a Minister had ordered for appointing another advocate based on the recommendation of an MLA.

The appointment made after the process, was extinguished the very next day, not for administrative expediency or legal infirmity, but solely on account of a sudden change of mind, resting on a rippled surface, from the Minister.

'Arbitrary action'

"If such caprice is permitted judicial shelter, then the doctrine of pleasure would transmute into an instrument of unbridled executive whim, reducing the Constitutional safeguards to a rhetoric," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagappaswami passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Sund from Aftab in Belagavi district, who was removed from the post of "additional district government pleader". XI Additional District and Sessions Court, Belagavi.

The petitioner was appointed on October 28 and removed from the post the very next day based on a note put up by the Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, who issued an instruction to appoint one P.K. Thakkanavar to the post based on the recommendation made by the MLA of Aftab constituency.

Murugha Math seer cleared in one of two POCSO cases

Two others were also acquitted in the case, registered in 2022, after two minors from an institution associated with the math accused Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana of sexual harassment, exploitation

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMURTHY

The District and Sessions Court in Chitradurga, Karnataka, has acquitted Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana, head of Murugha Math in Chitradurga, and two others, accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The seer was among the accused in two POCSE cases filed on allegations of sexually exploiting minor girls. The case was registered in August 2022, after two minor girls from an institution associated with



Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana

the math alleged sexual harassment and exploitation. The acquittal is now in one of the cases. Second Additional District and Sessions Judge

Gangadhara Channabasappa Hadappa pronounced the judgment on Wednesday acquitting the accused.

The other two acquitted are Radhika, warden of the hostel, and Paramashivatahal, a manager in the math. All the three were present when the verdict was pronounced.

High-profile case
The case was filed at the Kasarbad Police Station in Mysuru on August 26, 2022, and was transferred to Chitradurga Rural Police Station the next day.

The seer was arrested on September 1 that year. The Chitradurga police

filed a charge sheet in the first case on October 27, 2022.

The case had attracted State-wide attention, leading to multiple rounds of investigation, arrest of the seer, and parallel allegations involving individuals connected to the math's administration.

The Chitradurga district administration had deployed police around the court on Wednesday after many devotees gathered on the premises. Later, the seer left for Davangere.

Speaking to the media in Davangere, he said he would not react to the judgment at the moment.

Trade unions in Kerala urge govt. not to frame rules to implement labour codes

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Trade unions in Kerala have unanimously told the state government not to frame rules for the implementation of the four labour codes recently notified by the Centre, Kerala State General Secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), has said.

Addressing the media, state secretary of CITU, who had acted under pressure from the government to open up to the Income Tax authorities for workers for their rights a hard task.

codes on Wednesday, he said that options would be explored against implementing the new laws.

His comments come against the backdrop of news reports revealing that the Left Democratic Front-led government had prepared a draft of the rules since time ago. The CITU leader claimed it was done by a section of officials in the Labour Department who had acted under pressure from the government to open up to the Income Tax authorities for workers for their rights a hard task.

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Addressing the media, state secretary of CITU, who had acted under pressure from the government to open up to the Income Tax authorities for workers for their rights a hard task.

reference on Wednesday, V. Sivasankar clarified that the draft rules were not yet finalised. He said that states were not to frame rules for the four Codes in 2020. Following this, the draft rules were prepared and notified, and opinions of various stakeholders sought, since Kerala was not ready to implement them unilaterally.

He said that states were not to frame rules for the four Codes in 2020. Following this, the draft rules were prepared and notified, and opinions of various stakeholders sought, since Kerala was not ready to implement them unilaterally.

BLO's death triggers outrage in U.P.; told to axe OBC voters: kin

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Upward erupted in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, a day after a Booth Level Officer (BLO) engaged in work related to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was found dead.

Vipin Yadav, from Mahanadi Khata in Jhansi district and posted as an assistant teacher at Lalpur Mahila Primary School in Nawabganj, was serving as a BLO in Kherpur gram panchayat in Gonda district, his family said.

Vipin's kin alleged that he was under extreme work pressure and attempted to take his life on Tuesday morning. Fellow BLOs rushed him to a private hospital in Gonda and he was referred to a medical college in Lucknow, where he was declared dead, the family said.

"The Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Block Development Officer threatened him and ordered the removal of names of OBC (Other Backward Classes) voters. He told me over phone that officers were pressuring him and threatening to suspend him," a relative said in a video that went viral.

The Gonda district administration issued a statement denying the charges. It stated that every person involved in the SIR exercise is executing tasks as per the rules and standards. The instructions being given to remove the names of people belonging to a particular community are "completely false", it added that



This is a direct appeal to the EC to give compensation of ₹1 crore to those losing their lives due to mental and physical distress during the SIR

AKSHAY KARYA
Kherpur, Gonda district

a panel has been formed to probe the BLO's death. "The Election Commission (EC) and the BJP government together are ruining the country. A young man who works hard to earn a job is killed under pressure to cut votes," said State Congress leader Anil Yadav.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhlesh Yadav in a post on X claimed that several people involved in the SIR exercise were facing extreme pressure, which had led to tragic incidents. "This is a direct appeal to the EC to give compensation of ₹1 crore to those losing their lives due to mental and physical distress during the SIR. We (SP), too, commit to providing ₹1 lakh to the dependents of every deceased," he said.

(Those in distress can contact Tele MANAS at 14240 to seek help.)

Multilingual campaigning



In full throttle: Left Democratic Front supporters in Vattavada, Mubbi, near the Kerala-Tamil Nadu boundary, paste Tamil posters of candidates ahead of Kerala's local body polls next month. **SPEECH**, **MANAGEMENT**

Madanapalle district proposal has political and bureaucratic circles in Rayalaseema talking

K. Umashankar
MADANAPALLE

Another Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's green signal to create Madanapalle district, carved out of parts of Anaimadu and Chittoor, has generated a sudden heat in the political and administrative circles of Rayalaseema. Though the move has been officially projected as an initiative to improve governance, it is broadly viewed as a strategic reshaping of power equations in the region.

With six Punganur mandals set to be realigned into the new district, it is observed among a cross-section of the public and political circles that the move could directly crush senior YSRCP leader Peddibetla Hanasudra Reddy's influence over the region, where he has long remained a formidable force.

On the other hand, the announcement has long suppressed aspirations among the local politicians, particularly farmers. According to a horticulture officer, the district status could finally push the state to invest in cold-storage

networks, transport connectivity, and agro-processing facilities. Madanapalle's handloom and silk-weaving industries are also expected to receive a fresh lease of life once the district status comes into force.

However, there is also scepticism that, since the state's earlier district-formation exercise was marred by hasty execution, poor office infrastructure, and delayed staff deployment, as per a TDP leader, Madanapalle could become another "district on paper".

Kerala mulling review plea on SC ruling on setting up primary schools: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is considering filing a review petition to the Supreme Court in connection with the latter's directives to the State government on establishing primary schools in areas where none function, Minister for General Education V. Sivasankar said.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, the Minister said the government respected the court's ruling in the case related to a petition seeking to set up a school at Elanvira in Manjeri municipality in Malappuram district and was examining the practical aspects of the judgment.



V. Sivasankar

though a copy of the order was awaited. He pointed out that Kerala was much ahead of northern States when it came to educational facilities. Government and aided schools (including within a 1.2 km radius in majority of the populated areas) were almost zero and when it came to literacy

rates, the national average is much lower than that in Kerala. This showed that no student was denied education just because of lack of schools.

The matter of the school at Elanvira would be specially considered since the local body had informed that free land and building would be made available for it. The government, the Minister said, was committed to implementing the Right to Education Act, but it should be done scientifically and in a practical manner.

The State's policy was to lift existing schools to international standards, rather than increase the number of schools, the Minister said.

3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars to be christened after geologist M.S. Krishnan

Tobi Babel
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars will henceforth be known after M.S. Krishnan, the pioneering Indian geologist. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved it and several other names for Martian landforms proposed by two Kerala-based researchers.

Apart from "Krishnan", the IAU has also accepted several names for smaller landforms associated with the crater. These are "Vahana", "Thanda", "Rekha", "Varaha", and "Periyar". The naming proposal was jointly submitted by Asst Prof Kakkassery, formerly research scholar at

Science, IIST.

Born in Thanjavur in what was then Madras Presidency in 1908, Dr. Krishnan was the first Indian to be director of the Geological Society of India. As for the other names, it is the first time that place names from Kerala are being adopted for Martian features, the team said.

"The plain inside Krishnan Crater has been officially named Krishnan Plains, and a channel cutting across it has been named Periyar Vallis," Dr. Rajesh said. The findings have been published in the journal *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*.



3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars to be christened after geologist M.S. Krishnan

Tiki Rajwi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars will henceforth be known after M.S. Krishnan, the pioneering Indian geologist. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved it and several other names for Martian landforms proposed by two Kerala-based researchers.

Apart from 'Krishnan,' the IAU has also accepted several Kerala-based names for smaller landforms associated with the crater. These are 'Valiamala,' 'Thumba,' 'Bekal,' 'Varkala' and 'Periyar' for smaller craters and a vallis



Smaller craters and vallis in Mars are set to get names — 'Valiamala,' 'Thumba,' 'Bekal,' 'Varkala' and 'Periyar'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(valley). Which means, these places in Kerala now have counterparts on Mars.

The naming proposal was jointly submitted by Asif Iqbal Kakkassery, formerly research scholar at

the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) here and who is now Assistant Professor in Geology at Government College, Kasaragod, and Rajesh V.J. of the Department of Earth and Space

Sciences, IIST.

Born in Thanjavur in what was then Madras Presidency in 1898, Dr. Krishnan was the first Indian to be director of the Geological Society of India. As for the other names, it is the first time that place names from Kerala are being adopted for Martian features, the team said.

"The plain inside Krishnan Crater has been officially named Krishnan Palus, and a channel cutting across it has been named Periyar Vallis," Dr. Rajesh said.

The findings have been published in the journal *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*.

1.1 International Astronomical Union (IAU) Approval

- A **3.5-billion-year-old Martian crater** has been officially named "**Krishnan Crater**".
- Named after **M.S. Krishnan**, pioneering Indian geologist and former Director of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

1.2 First-of-its-kind recognition

- Marks **first time place names from Kerala** have been adopted for Martian features.
-

2. Who Was M.S. Krishnan?

2.1 Biography

- Born: **1898**, Thanjavur, Madras Presidency.
- First Indian **Director of the Geological Survey of India**.
- Renowned for work in:
 - Indian geology
 - Precambrian studies
 - Structural geology

2.2 Legacy

- Crater named to honour his contributions to Earth and planetary sciences.



- . **Kerala-Based Names Approved for Mars**
- IAU also approved **several Kerala place-names** for smaller landforms associated with the crater.
- **3.1 Names of Smaller Craters**
- **Valiamala**
- **Thumba**
- **Bekal**
- **Varkala**
- **3.2 Name of the Valley (Vallis)**
- **Periyar Vallis**
- **3.3 Internal Plain**
- Named **Krishnan Palus** (palus = marshy plain).

- IAU Naming Rules
- 5.1 IAU (International Astronomical Union)
- Sole authority for naming celestial bodies & planetary features.
- 5.2 Criteria for Martian Features



- Craters <60 km → named after **villages/towns on Earth** (<100,000 population).
- Large craters → named after **deceased scientists, authors, explorers** who contributed to planetary science.
- Valles → named after **river systems**.
- ◇ *Hence:*
- Krishnan Crater (large) → after a scientist.
- Periyar Vallis → after a river.
- Thumba/Valiamala → small craters → named after small Earth places.

India's Growing Presence in Planetary Science

First time multiple Indian place-names appear on Mars.

Boosts India's standing in:

- Planetary research
- Astrobiology
- Geological mapping of Mars
- Space diplomacy

6.2 Strengthens Kerela's Contribution to Space Science

Valiamala & Thumba are critical locations for ISRO

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
- Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS)

- **Consider the following statements regarding the naming of Martian landforms after M.S. Krishnan:**

- The crater named after M.S. Krishnan is one of the largest Martian craters and is about 3.5 billion years old.
- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) approved several Kerala-based names such as Thumba and Bekal for smaller Martian craters.
- According to IAU rules, small Martian craters can be named after towns or villages on Earth with a population under one lakh.
- Periyar Vallis refers to a river-like valley cutting across the Krishnan Crater.
- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**
 - A. 1, 2 and 3 only
 - B. 2 and 4 only
 - C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - D. 1 and 3 only

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi sparked a controversy when she said that a Chinese assault on Taiwan could be deemed a “survival-threatening situation” – a legal justification allowing Tokyo to exercise collective self-defence. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, a position Taipei firmly rejects.

Ms. Takaichi’s refusal to retract the statement caused bilateral ties to unravel at an alarming speed. The dispute has become the region’s biggest crisis in recent years, characterised by Chinese military sorties, economic coercion against seafood imports, and a blanket freeze on cultural exchange. Having failed to force a retraction, Beijing has escalated the issue to the United Nations, framing Japan’s stance as a threat to the post-war international order.

Japan’s post-war Constitution forbids it from using force as a means of settling international disputes but a 2015 law, passed when Ms. Takaichi’s mentor, Shinzo Abe, was Prime Minister, permits it to exercise collective self-defence in certain situations, even if it is not directly under attack.

The brouhaha over Ms. Takaichi’s remarks comes just as Japan faces significant domestic headwinds. The world’s fourth-largest economy is facing a slow economic growth (**Chart 1**) and persistent inflation. The Prime Minister is attempting to solve these issues with new stimulus measures. Further compounding these challenges is a long-term fertility crisis, with the country’s population growth turning negative since 2011.

Against this backdrop, a prolonged rift with China could be problematic, given that Beijing is Japan’s largest trading partner. China accounted for 20% of Ja-

pan’s imports and exports each, between 2018 and 2024 (**Chart 2**). Bloomberg notes that Japanese manufacturers rely heavily on Chinese critical materials. Reuters reports that China provides 60% of Japan’s rare earths – key components for cars and electronics. The power of this monopoly was demonstrated recently when China used its rare earth dominance to successfully pressure the U.S. into lowering tariffs. China has told tourists not to visit Japan, stopped approvals of new Japanese firms, and restricted Japanese seafood.

Ms. Takaichi’s suggestion that Japan might intervene in a Taiwan Strait conflict underscores the importance of this maritime route to Tokyo. **Chart 3** illustrates the total trade volume by country passing through the Strait in 2022 (excluding China). Japan stands out significantly, with over \$440 billion in trade relying on this waterway.

Much of the trade between the two neighbours would be disrupted if tensions in the Strait rise. Taiwan is a vital trading partner for Japan, particularly for critical technology. In 2025 (till September), Japan sourced 60% of its integrated circuits and over 50% of its semiconductors from Taiwan, along with significant volumes of electrical machinery (**Chart 4**).

Tensions are also mounting over the military implications of Ms. Takaichi’s remarks. In 2025, Japan’s defence spending hit a 70-year high of 1.8% of GDP, a level not seen since the 1950s (**Chart 5**). On Wednesday, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said that his government is going to propose \$40 billion in additional defence spending in the coming years.

In 2024, Japan’s forces ‘scrambled’ over 700 times in response to Chinese and Russian aircraft violations (**Chart 6**). A ‘scramble’ refers to the emergency dispatch of aircraft by the country’s Air Self-Defence Force when an unidentified aircraft is suspected of violating Japanese airspace.

1. What Triggered the Crisis?

1.1 PM Sanae Takaichi's Controversial Statement

- She stated a **Chinese assault on Taiwan** could constitute a **"survival-threatening situation."**
- Under Japan's 2015 Security Law, this classification allows **collective self-defence**, even if Japan is **not** directly attacked.
- China claims Taiwan as its territory; Taipei rejects this.

1.2 Japan Refuses to Retract the Statement

- Led to rapid deterioration of **Japan–China ties**.
 - China escalated diplomatically & economically, raising the issue at the **United Nations**.
-

2. Why Is This Serious for the Region?

2.1 Post-War Japanese Constitution

- Article 9 forbids use of force.
- But 2015 law (Shinzo Abe era) expanded scope:
 - Japan may use force for **collective self-defence** to protect close allies or partners.

3. China's Counter-Measures

3.1 Coercive Economic Tools

- Blanket freeze on **cultural exchanges**.
- Harsh restrictions on **Japanese seafood imports**.
- Tourists discouraged from visiting Japan.
- Pressure on approvals for Japanese firms in China.

3.2 China's Leverage Over Japan

- China = **Japan's largest trading partner**.
- **20%** of Japan's imports & exports tied to China (2018–24).
- China supplies **60% of Japan's rare earths**, critical for:
 - Cars
 - Electronics
 - Batteries
 - Electric vehicles
- China recently used rare-earth dominance to coerce the U.S. → shows its power.

4. Why the Taiwan Strait Matters for Japan?

4.1 A Vital Maritime Artery

- In 2022, **\$440+ billion** of Japan's trade passed through the Taiwan Strait (excluding China).
- Makes Japan extremely vulnerable to a conflict or blockade.

4.2 Taiwan Is Crucial for Japan's Technology Sector

- In 2025 (till Sept), Japan sourced:
 - **60% of integrated circuits**
 - **>50% of semiconductors**
 - Large volumes of electrical machinery
 - **from Taiwan** (Chart 4).

5. Domestic Challenges in Japan

5.1 Economic Problems

- Slow/negative growth (Chart 1).
- Persistent inflation.
- Low stimulus impact.

5.2 Demographic Crisis

- Fertility collapse → population declining since **2011**.

5.3 Trade Dependence Risk

- Prolonged conflict with China is dangerous due to:
 - High trade dependence
 - Reliance on Chinese rare earths
 - Weak export outlook

Japan's Security Shift (GS-2)

- Moving from "Pacifist Constitution" → "Proactive Pacifism."
- Strengthening:
 - QUAD
 - US alliance
 - Indo-Pacific security frameworks

China's Economic Coercion Tools

- Rare earths dominance
- Tourism bans
- Import restrictions
- Pressure via approvals for foreign firms
- Cultural freeze (soft coercion)

Taiwan Strait's Geopolitical Importance

- 40% of world trade
 - 70% of global semiconductors produced in Taiwan
 - Strategic chokepoint between Indo-Pacific and East Asia
-

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the recent Japan–China dispute:

1. Japan's 2015 security legislation allows it to engage in collective self-defence even if Japan itself is not directly attacked.
2. Over 60% of Japan's rare-earth imports, essential for electronics, come from China.
3. More than \$400 billion of Japan's trade passes through the Taiwan Strait annually.
4. Japan's defence spending in 2025 remained below 1% of its GDP due to constitutional restrictions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

 Correct Answer: A and C only

Souring relations

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Bank, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), UNCOMTRADE, SIPRI, Defense of Japan 2025, and e-Stat: a portal site for Japanese Government Statistics.



CHART 1: Japan's annual GDP growth (in %)

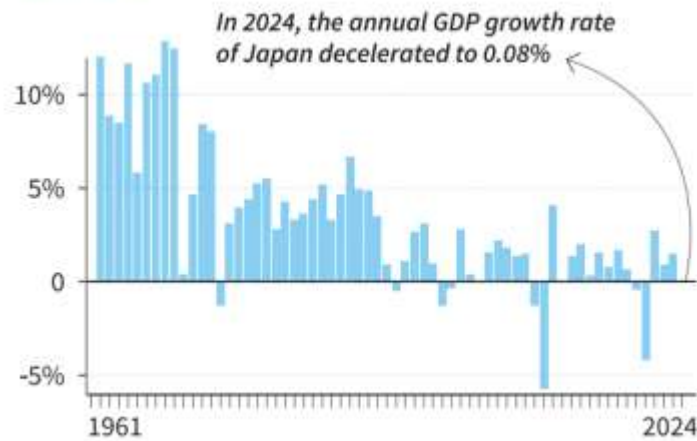


CHART 2: Japan's major import and export markets in the 2018-2024 period. (Figures are % of total export/import)



CHART 3: Value of trade transited via the Taiwan Strait in 2022 for select countries. (Figures in \$ billions)

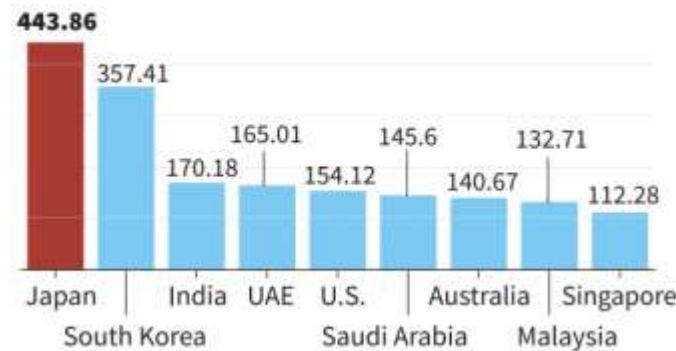


CHART 4: Taiwan's share in Japan's imports till September this year. Only top imports from Taiwan were considered.

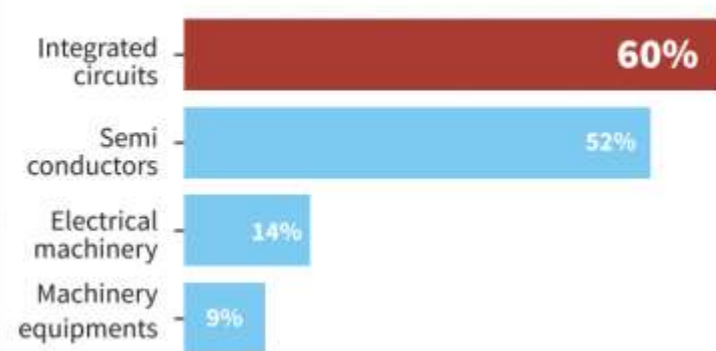


CHART 5: Japan's military expenditure as a share of its gross domestic product. Figures in %

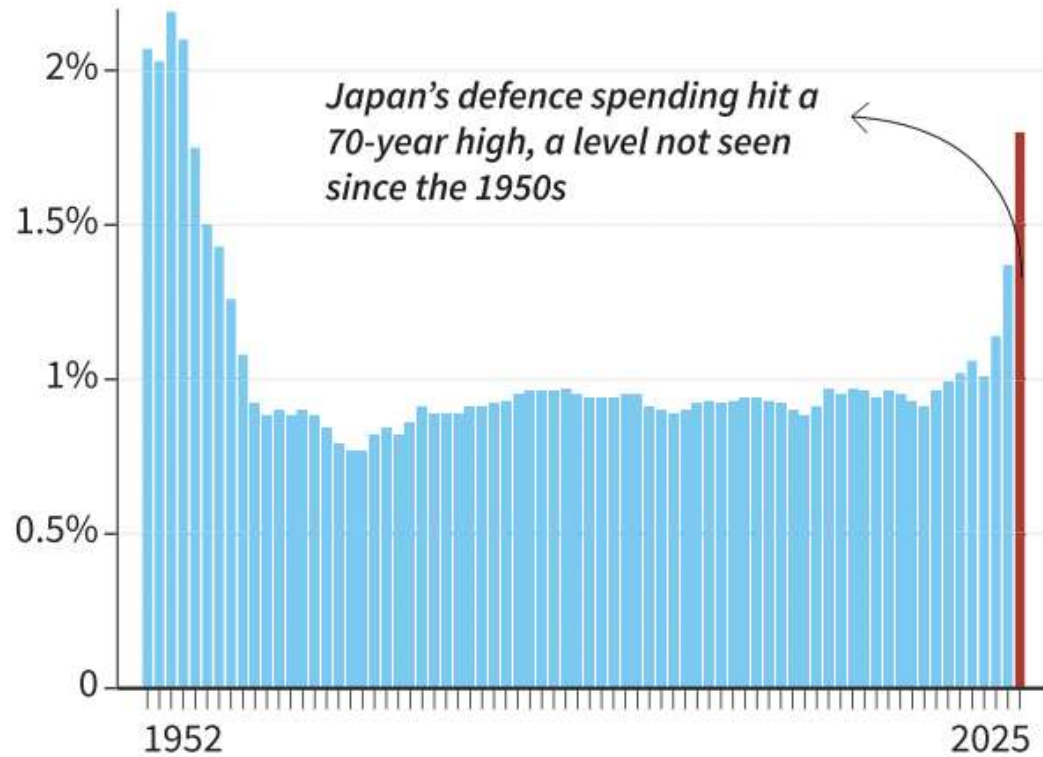
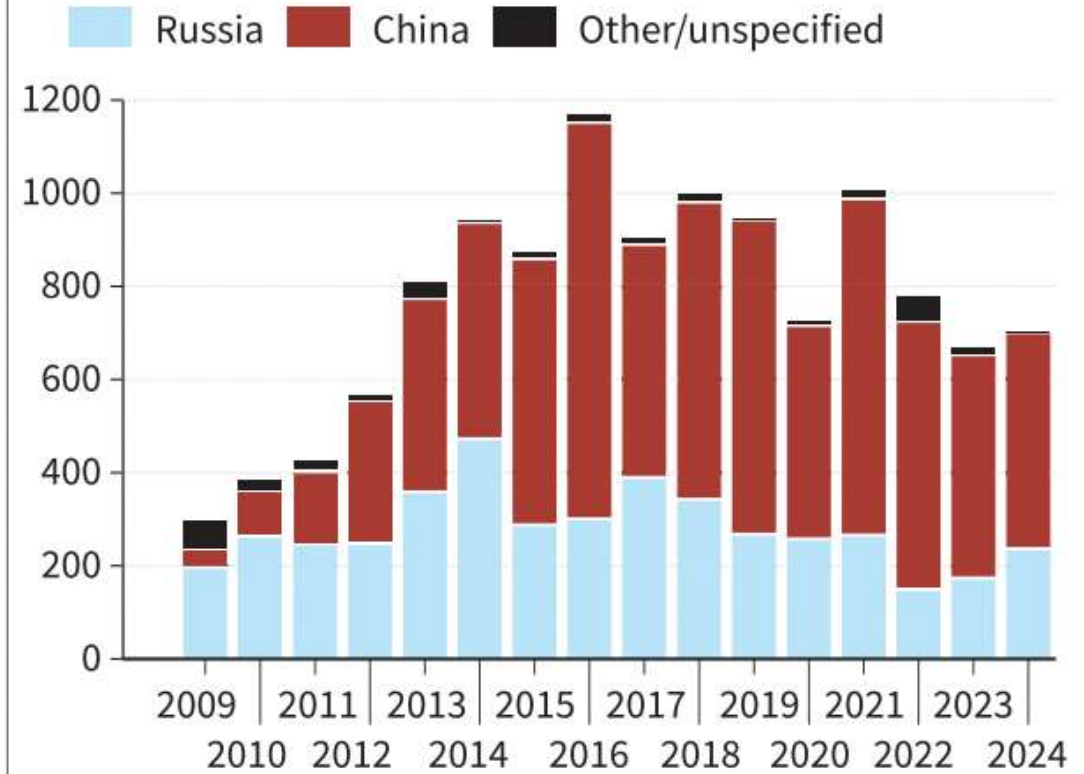


CHART 6: Total number of scrambles by Japan across years, broken down by the country involved



MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	REUTERS	CHANGING
BSESEN	8,045.00	1.00
NSESEN	8,045.00	1.00
NIFTY	8,045.00	1.00

BSEY.SS

	REUTERS	CHANGING
Axis Bank	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Finance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Life	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Insurance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Capital	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Real Estate	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Finance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Life	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Insurance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Capital	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Real Estate	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Finance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Life	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Insurance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Capital	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Real Estate	1,015.00	1.00

	REUTERS	CHANGING
Axis Bank	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Finance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Life	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Insurance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Capital	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Real Estate	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Finance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Life	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Insurance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Capital	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Real Estate	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Finance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Life	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Insurance	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Capital	1,015.00	1.00
Axis Real Estate	1,015.00	1.00

M&M sells \$8,000 cr. worth EVs in FY26
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) said it had achieved electric vehicle sales in India in terms of half year revenue generated from electric vehicle sales.

Reliance JV to set up 1 GW data centre in Visakhapatnam at ₹98,000 crore

V. Raghavendra
ANANDI DESAI
VIZAGAPATNAM, NEW DELHI

The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced the setting up of a 1 GW data centre by Digital Corporation, a joint venture of Reliance Industries, Brookfield and Digital Realty, in Visakhapatnam at an investment of ₹98,000 crore by 2030. The deal for the project has been signed with the AP Economic Development Board (APEDB) on Wednesday, according to an official release.

The proposed complex would be built to global standards and high-density AI-ready racks, dedicated power substations, redundant power feeds, and robust connectivity to support hyperscalers, enterprises, cloud services, and future AI workloads. The state government would extend full support for the project's seamless execution, which includes facilitating the allocation of 400 acres of land, expediting regulatory and environmental clearances, ensuring uninterrupted power supply, connectivity, and other essential infrastructure.

The investment by Reliance and its global partners strengthens A's long-term vision of transforming the State into a national hub for AI, cloud infrastructure, and technology-driven growth. It reinforces the government's commitment to building a future-ready digital economy that empowers investors, industries, and the

Cabinet approves ₹7,280 cr. scheme for rare earth magnets

The first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 MTPA of integrated rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing in India, govt. says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In yet another push to secure India's supply of rare earth magnets, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a new "first-of-its-kind" scheme, with a budgeted outlay of ₹7,280 crore, to manufacture Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs) in India.

The approval of this scheme, named the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Smeltered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets', comes two days after Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal specifically noted that one of the areas in which India and Canada have "tremendous potential" to cooperate on was in critical minerals.

This was in the context of the two countries' ongoing talks on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. "This first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India, thereby enhancing self-reliance and positioning India as a key player in the global REPM market," the government said in a release.

REPMs are vital components that have applications in energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence sectors.



Shipping gear: The auto industry, in particular, has performed the decision, saying it is a pivotal step towards self-reliance.

According to the government, the scheme will support the creation of integrated REPM manufacturing facilities involving the conversion of rare earth oxides to magnets, materials to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs.

The total final outlay of the scheme of ₹7,280 crore, will comprise a sub-linked incentive of ₹6,450 crore on REPMs for five years and a capital subsidy of ₹780 crore for the setting up of an aggregate of 6,000 MTPA of REPM manufacturing facilities.

The plan is to allocate the total capacity of 6,000 MTPA to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process with each beneficiary being allotted up to 1,200 MTPA. The total duration of the scheme is to be seven years from the date of award, including a 2-year gestation period for setting up an integrated REPM manufac-

PM Modi opens Safran's MRO for LEAP engines in Hyderabad

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually inaugurated the largest maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility for LEAP engines in Hyderabad. Mr. Modi urged the firm to explore possibilities of aircraft engine and component design in India.

LEAP engine is a modern, fuel-efficient engine that powers several narrow-body aircraft. Stating that the country is keen on promoting the design in India on a large scale across every sector, the Prime Minister said India's vast talent, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) network, and its young talent pool will provide significant support for such efforts.

Safran Aerospace, which works extensively in aerospace propulsion systems, should also leverage India's talent and opportunities for propulsion development, he said, participating through video conferencing in the function, which was attended by Telangana's Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Union Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu, and the top leadership of Safran among others. India is "dreaming big, doing bigger and delivering best" on the back of its talent, the highest reform the country has un-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the virtual inauguration of the facility.

der taken since independence to attract global investment and industries, Mr. Modi said.

Today in most sectors, 100% foreign direct investment is possible through automatic routes. Even in sectors like defence, where earlier the private sector had no space, 74% FDI has now been opened through automatic routes. (Like-wised) A major approach has also been adopted in the space sector, Mr. Modi said, adding such steps have sent a clear message to the world that India welcomes investments and innovation.

The government's production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes have attracted global manufacturers towards 'Make in India', he added. With the opening of the 45,000 sq m REPM facility, set up with an initial investment of ₹1,000 crore, at the GMF Aerospace and Industrial Park in Hyderabad, India's largest reform the country has un-

IN BRIEF

Nifty jumps 1.24%, its fastest pace since June this year

Benchmark NSE Nifty 50 jumped 1.24% to 26,205.30 points on Wednesday, recording the highest single day increase since June 2025. While the BSE Sensex increased 1.21% to 85,605.51 points. "The rally was driven by growing confidence in potential rate cuts from both U.S. Federal Reserve and the RBI in its upcoming MPC meeting," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research, Wealth Management, at Mital Goyal Financial Services Ltd.

Bajaj Auto enters e-rickshaw segment with two variants

Bajaj Auto on Wednesday announced its entry into the e-rickshaw category with the unveiling of Bajaj Rik. The company is introducing two models: Rik P4000 passenger variant, priced at ₹1,30,000 (ex-showroom), and the Rik C4000 cargo model at ₹2,00,000 (ex-showroom). The P4000 features a 5.4 kWh battery offering a certified range of 149 km, while the cargo variant provides 103 km range, the company said.

Tesla Centre at Gurugram to open on Thursday

Tesla announced its first Tesla Center in Gurugram will open on Thursday. The outlet will provide services such as retail, after-sales, delivery and charging at one location. Since its first launch in July, Tesla India has set up Experience Centers in Mumbai and Delhi, and three charging sites in these locations. With the upcoming commissioning at One Horizon in Gurugram, Tesla will operate four charging stations across India, equipped with 16 superchargers and 10 destination chargers.

IRDAI concerned over rising customer complaints: Chairman

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Expressing concern over rising customer complaints, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) chairman Ajay Seth on Wednesday underscored the need for the insurance companies to significantly improve the quality and timeliness of resolutions.

The insurers were urged to adopt a more proactive, policyholder-centric approach and strengthen their internal systems to ensure strict compliance with prescribed timelines. IRDAI said after Mr. Seth chaired a meeting with the Chief Compliance Officers and Grievance Redressal

The insurers were urged to strengthen their internal systems to ensure strict compliance with timelines.

Officers of all insurers. Insurers were advised to develop a clear and standardised operating procedure for classifying consumer references into complaints and service requests. Mr. Seth emphasised the centrality of trust in insurance and the critical role played by compliance and grievance redressal functions in upholding the trust. The Insurance regulator said in a release.

Dark discount



'Shoppers' shopping: Customers use flashlights of their mobile phones while visiting a Myntra clothing shop during Black Friday sale, as power is cut off, in Hyderabad, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. (AP)

NBFC borrowings to reach \$750 billion by FY27: Study

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a structural shift in the funding mix of India's Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), borrowings of this segment is expected to rise at a 17% CAGR, reaching \$750 billion by FY27, according to a study by Avenue Capital, an investment bank.

This is driven by a move away from bank deposits towards capital market instruments like Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs), External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Commercial Paper (CPs), the study said. By FY27, market-based instruments are expected

Market-based instruments are expected to make up 64% of total NBFC borrowings by FY27.

to make up 64% of total NBFC borrowings, compared to 42% in FY24, reflecting a gradual reduction in bank credit, which currently stands at 42%, it said. Of this, ECB borrowings are projected to grow at 16% CAGR, from the \$120 billion, while NCD borrowings are set to expand at around 18% CAGR, exceeding \$330 billion by FY27, it added. According to the study, upper-layer NBFCs (NBFC-

ULs) are increasingly tapping global debt markets backed by strong credit ratings, with nine out of 17 NBFC-ULs expanding their ECB share between FY22 and FY24.

In contrast, middle-layer NBFCs (NBFC-Ms) are turning to NCDs, given their higher yields and flexibility, as a result of the re-entry of the important acid-reducing medication since the U.S. market after a two-year absence. The U.S. FDA approved VCT Pharma's reformulated Ranitidine tablets in August 2024, and the company is entering a new phase of maturity, with most players reverting their funding playbook.

SMS Pharma gains 18% as reformulated drug gets nod

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

SMS Pharmaceuticals shares gained nearly 18% on the back of U.S. FDA approving associate company VCT Pharma's reformulated Ranitidine. While minimising the forecast errors is equally important, there is no systematic bias in the forecast. It is not that the RBI's forecast is biased in any particular direction. For an investor, growth is concerned, again use a variety of approaches to estimate the growth rate, said while speaking at an event organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

'No bias in RBI's inflation forecast'

Ashokamithran J.
MUMBAI

There is no systematic bias in the central bank's inflation forecast, Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta clarified, adding that reducing forecasting errors was important. While minimising the forecast errors is equally important, there is no systematic bias in the forecast. It is not that the RBI's forecast is biased in any particular direction. For an investor, growth is concerned, again use a variety of approaches to estimate the growth rate, said while speaking at an event organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

(MoSPI) to explain the changes in the new CPI base revision, here on Wednesday. The Deputy Governor's comments came in the backdrop of economists criticising the RBI for having an overstated CPI inflation rate and hence a hawkish "bias" in monetary policy, and that a rate cut was warranted. Prices increased at a rate of 0.25% in October 2025, making it the slowest pace ever. MoSPI also spoke about initiatives brought in by the RBI to disseminate data and insights. "Governor said that the balance of payments (BoP) data is soon expected to be released on a monthly basis,

Cabinet approves ₹7,280 cr. scheme for rare earth magnets

The first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 MTPA of integrated rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing in India, govt. says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In yet another push to secure India's supplies of rare earth magnets, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a new "first-of-its-kind" scheme, with a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore, to manufacture Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) in India.

The approval of this scheme, named the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets', comes two days after Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal specifically noted that one of the areas in which India and Canada have "tremendous potential" to cooperate on was in critical minerals.

This was in the context of the two countries restarting talks on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

"This first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of Integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India, thereby enhancing self-reliance and positioning India as a key player in the global REPM market," the government said in a release.

REPMs are vital components that have applications in EVs, renewable energy, electronics, aeros-



Shifting gear: The auto industry, in particular, has welcomed the decision, saying it is a pivotal step towards self reliance. REUTERS

pace, and defence sectors. According to the government, the scheme will support the creation of integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, involving the conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs.

The total financial outlay of the scheme of ₹7,280 crore, will comprise a sales-linked incentives of ₹6,450 crore on REPMs for five years and a capital subsidy of ₹750 crore for the setting up of an aggregate of 6,000 MTPA of REPM manufacturing facilities.

The plan is to allocate the total capacity of 6,000 MTPA to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process with each beneficiary being allotted up to 1,200 MTPA.

The total duration of the scheme is to be seven years from the date of award, including a 2-year gestation period for setting up an integrated REPM manufac-

turing facility, and 5 years for incentive disbursement on the sale of REPM.

The auto industry, in particular, has welcomed the decision, saying it is a pivotal step towards self reliance.

"This initiative is a significant step toward building a resilient and stable supply chain, particularly for components and sub-assemblies essential for the production of electrified vehicles," Shailesh Chandra, President of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said.

"This initiative will not only reduce import dependence but also provide long-term resilience to the automotive supply chain, encourage investments in advanced materials, and position India strongly in global value chains for EVs and clean energy," Vikram-pati Singhania, President of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) said.

What Has Happened?

1.1 Government Launches First-of-its-Kind Scheme

Union Cabinet approved a **₹7,280 crore** scheme to manufacture **Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)** in India.

Objective: Build **6000 MTPA** (metric tonnes per annum) of **integrated** REPM manufacturing capacity.

1.2 Scheme Name

Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs).

- **Why REPMs Are Important? (*concept booster*)**
 - **2.1 Key Components in High-Tech Sectors**
 - REPMs are crucial for:
-

- **Electric vehicles (EVs)**
- Renewable energy (wind turbines)
- Electronics
- Aerospace
- Defence systems
- Medical devices
- **2.2 India's Strategic Need**
- Currently dependent on foreign suppliers → **China dominates 90%** of global REPM supply.
- India aims to reduce import dependence and build a **secure critical minerals supply chain**.

3. Structure of the Scheme

3.1 Total Outlay

- ₹7,280 crore for 7 years.

3.2 Components

1. Sales-linked incentives:

- ₹6,450 crore for 5 years to support REPM sales.

2. Capital subsidy:

- ₹750 crore for building manufacturing facilities.

3. Capacity creation:

- 6,000 MTPA of REPM capacity allotted to **5 beneficiaries** through global competitive bidding.
- Each will get up to **1,200 MTPA**.

3.3 Implementation Duration

- **7 years total**
 - Includes **2-year gestation** for setting up integrated facilities
 - **5 years** of incentive disbursement.

4. What Are Integrated REPM Manufacturing Facilities?

They convert:

1. Rare earth oxides →
2. Metals →
3. Alloys →
4. Final sintered REPMs

This solves India's current bottleneck where:

- India mines rare earths
 - But does **not** have capacity to:
 - refine
 - process
 - alloy
 - manufacture final magnets
-

5.1 Position India in Global Supply Chains

- Helps India become a **key player** in the global rare earths market.
- Particularly important due to:
 - EVs
 - Wind energy
 - Electronics supply chains

5.2 Critical Minerals Diplomacy

- Recent India–Canada talks mentioned potential cooperation in rare earths.
- Fits into India's broader **Critical Minerals Security Strategy**, including:
 - Lithium imports from Australia & Argentina
 - Coal-to-rare-earth extraction (CSIR)
 - KABIL JV for overseas mineral acquisition

5.3 Geopolitical Angle

- China currently weaponises rare earths through:
 - Export restrictions
 - Price manipulation
 - Supply bottlenecks
- India creating REPM capacity reduces geo-economic vulnerability.

Topic	Key Points
Why rare earths matter?	17 critical elements used in fighter jets, missiles, EV motors, MRIs, smartphones, satellites, radars, wind turbines.
China's dominance	Controls ~70% of global mining and ~90% of rare earth refining/processing .
Historical context	U.S. was once leader (1980s-90s); later offshored processing to China → China built monopoly.
Current leverage	China uses export restrictions & supply strikes as geopolitical pressure (especially on U.S. & Japan).
Recent example	China restricted export of gallium & germanium (2023), and rare earths earlier to Japan (2010).
Why the U.S. is vulnerable	Defence sector + clean energy + electronics rely heavily on rare earth imports from China.

5. Why Alternatives to China Will Take Years?

Reason	Explanation	
High entry barriers	Rare earth refining is complex, toxic, capital-intensive.	
Environmental norms	Western countries face stricter regulations → higher costs.	
China's integrated ecosystem	Mines → Refining → Magnets → End-use industries in one pipeline.	
Patents & technology	China holds major patents in separation & magnet manufacturing.	
Cost advantage	Cheaper processing due to economies of scale & lax norms.	

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the new ₹7,280 crore Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) Scheme:

1. The scheme aims to establish 6,000 MTPA of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity in India.
2. China currently dominates the global REPM supply chain, producing nearly 90% of the world's magnets.
3. The scheme includes both sales-linked incentives and capital subsidies.
4. The scheme will select beneficiaries exclusively from Indian government PSUs through nomination, not competitive bidding.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

VISAKHAPATNAM CAMPUS LIKELY TO BE READY BY 2030

Reliance JV set to build \$11-bn AI data centre

ENS Economic Bureau

New Delhi, November 26

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL), together with Brookfield and US-based Digital Realty, will invest \$11 billion (about Rs 98,000 crore) to build a 1 gigawatt AI-native data centre campus in Andhra Pradesh through their joint venture, Digital Connexion.

Billed as one of the country's largest digital infrastructure projects, the facility will come up across 400 acres in Visakhapatnam and is targeted for completion by 2030. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the investment was signed with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board on Wednesday, signalling a major scale-up

in the state's digital capabilities.

Digital Connexion said the upcoming data centre park will be designed for high-density AI computing workloads, equipped with advanced power infrastructure, secure and redundant power feeds, and low-latency, carrier-neutral connectivity for hyperscalers and enterprises.

The company expects the Visakhapatnam campus to play a crucial role in expanding data and compute ecosystem as demand intensifies from cloud transformation, generative AI and advanced analytics. The JV already operates a data centre campus in Chennai and is developing another in Mumbai's Chandivali technology district, both positioned to support high-volume digital

● 1 GIGAWATT PROJECT

● Digital Connexion is a joint venture between Reliance Industries, Brookfield and US-based Digital Realty

● Billed as one of the country's largest digital infrastructure projects, the facility will come up across 400 acres in Visakhapatnam and is targeted for completion by 2030

growth. Visakhapatnam is now being positioned as the next anchor location in Digital Connexion's India roadmap.

The Andhra Pradesh government has assured full support for the Digital Connexion project, including assistance

with land allotment, power infrastructure, connectivity, and timely clearances. State officials said the investment is expected to generate large-scale employment during both construction and operations, while boosting allied sectors and technology-led entrepreneurship.

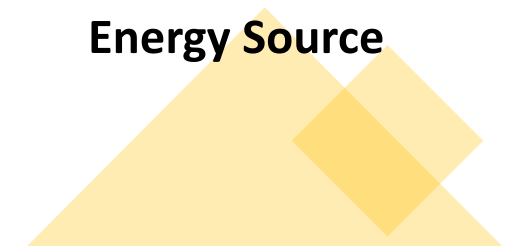
The mega announcement comes against the backdrop of another data centre commitment by RIL in the state. On November 14, the group signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to set up its own standalone 1 GW AI data centre in Visakhapatnam.

Finalised during the CII Partnership Summit 2025 in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, this data centre will operate as a

twin to RIL's gigawatt-scale AI infrastructure in Jamnagar, creating one of Asia's most powerful paired AI compute networks. The facility will adopt a modular, future-ready architecture capable of deploying high-performance GPUs and tensor processing units. To power the centre sustainably, Reliance will also build a 6-GWp solar power project in the state, which, according to officials, will more than double Andhra Pradesh's current ground-mounted solar capacity and contribute over 30 per cent of its renewable energy output.

Earlier, Google also announced a \$15-billion AI hub in the state in partnership with the Adani Group and Bharti Airtel.

FE



Aspect	Details
Project	1 gigawatt AI-native data centre campus
Investment Value	\$11 billion (₹98,000 crore)
JV Name	Digital Connexion
JV Partners	Reliance Industries + Brookfield + US-based Digital Realty
Location	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Land Area	~400 acres
Completion Target	By 2030
MoU Signed With	Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board
Purpose	AI workloads, high-density computing, large-scale data processing, analytics
Energy Source	Reliance to build 6 GW solar project in Andhra to power the data centre



Feature

Detail

AI-Native Infrastructure

Designed for high-density AI computing, GPUs, tensor processing units

Power Redundancy

Secure & redundant power feeds, low latency

Carrier-Neutral Connectivity

Suitable for hyperscalers, enterprises

Sustainability

6 GW solar power → more than doubling Andhra's solar capacity

Architecture

Modular, future-ready; supports high-performance compute clusters

Twin Facility



Acts as a “twin” to Reliance's AI infrastructure in Jamnagar

Context

Other Major AI Projects in AP

Reliance's Digital Roadmap

India's AI Push

Details

Google + Adani Group + Bharti Airtel planning a \$15-billion AI hub

Active data centres in Chennai & upcoming in Mumbai's Chandivali

Aligns with National AI strategy, semiconductor mission, cloud mission

- **Consider the following statements regarding India's upcoming AI data centre ecosystem:**

- Reliance's new Visakhapatnam data centre will be powered partly by a 6 GW solar project in Andhra Pradesh.
- Digital Connexion is a joint venture between Reliance, Brookfield, and NVIDIA.
- The Visakhapatnam project is expected to be one of the largest AI-native data centres in India.
- Google has also announced an AI hub in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**
- A. 1, 3, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

How November 26 came to be celebrated as India's 'Constitution Day'

ON NOVEMBER 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect on January 26, 1950. While January 26 is celebrated as Republic Day, since 2015, November 26 has been observed as the Constitution Day of India, or Samvidhan Divas.

In May 2015, the Union Cabinet an-

{ HISTORY }

nounced that November 26 would be observed as Constitution Day to promote "constitutional values amongst citizens". That year also marked the 125th birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.

"This year, the country is celebrating 125th birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The 'Constitution Day' will be a part of these year-long nationwide celebrations. This will be a tribute to Dr. Ambedkar, who played a seminal role in the framing of the Indian Constitution as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Constituent Assembly," a Press Information Bureau release said in 2015.

The move was formally notified on November 19, 2015. Before that, November 26 was observed as National Law Day. Ambedkar was also the first Law Minister of India.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE



The Constitution Day celebration at Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI



Aspect

Details

Date Observed

26 November (every year)

First Observed As

National Law Day (earlier)

Now Known As

Constitution Day / Samvidhan Divas

Adoption of Constitution

26 November 1949

Enforcement Date

26 January 1950 (now celebrated as Republic Day)

Reason

Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 Nov 1949

125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 2015

Promote Constitutional Values

Explanation

Provides constitutional significance

Cabinet wanted to honour Ambedkar's contribution as Chairperson of Drafting Committee

Aim was to spread awareness about citizens' duties and constitutional spirit

Year

Event

Pre-2015

26 Nov celebrated as National Law Day

May 2015

Union Cabinet approved decision to observe Constitution Day on Nov 26

Nov 19, 2015

Official notification issued by Government of India

2015-16

Part of year-long celebrations marking Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary

Historical Background:

- **1934:** Demand for the Constituent Assembly was made by M.N. Roy.
- **1940:** Demand was accepted by the British government.
- **1946:** 9th December, CA conducted the first session on Draft Constitution.
- **1949:** 26th November, CA finally adopted the Constitution of India.
- **1950:** 26th January, the Constitution of India came into force.

Key Facts about Constituent Assembly

- Took **2 years, 11 months & 17 days** for drafting the Constitution of India.
- **Dr Sachchidananda Sinha** was appointed as **1st President of CA**.
- Dr Rajendra Prasad was the **chairman of the Constituent Assembly**.
- Jawaharlal Nehru (PM) made the '**Objectives Resolution**' on 13th December 1946, later adopted as **Preamble on 22nd Jan 1947**.
- **The constituent assembly** acted as the **temporary legislature** until a new one was to be constituted.

Brief About Constitution Of India

- **The longest written constitution** of the World (25 Parts & 12 Schedules)
- The Constitution of India **wasn't typed or printed** and is handwritten & stored in a Helium **filled case**.
- It was handcrafted by the artists of **Shantiniketan** under the **guidance of Acharya Nandalal Bose**.
- The major portion borrowed from the **GOI Act, 1935**.
- **Salient Features:** Define India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic assuring its citizen's justice, equality, and liberty.
 - Parliamentary form, Federalism, Single Citizenship, Separation of Powers.
- **Key Amendments:**
 - **1st CAA:** Added Ninth Schedule laws that cannot be challenged in courts.
 - **42nd CAA:** Inserted Article 51-A (10 FDs), Socialist, Secular and Integrity added to the Preamble, & new DPSPs added (Article 39, 39A, 43 A, 48A)

Dr. Verghese Kurien

Syllabus: GS3/ Economy

In News

- **26th November** commemorates the birth anniversary of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**.

About Dr. Verghese Kurien (1921-2012)

- He was the **architect of India's White Revolution** and is celebrated as the "**Father of the White Revolution**."
- Born in Kozhikode, Kerala, he spearheaded **Operation Flood in 1970**, which transformed India from a milk-deficient country into the world's largest milk producer.
- He was instrumental in establishing the **Anand cooperative model, exemplified by Amul**, which became a blueprint for dairy development across India.
- His efforts also led to the creation of institutions such as the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** and the **Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)**.
- Dr. Kurien revolutionized the edible oil industry by launching the **brand 'Dhara' in 1979**.
- Dr. Kurien's contributions earned him national and international recognition, including the **Padma Vibhushan, Ramon Magsaysay Award, and the World Food Prize**.

Source: TH

- **Consider the following statements about Constitution Day in India:**

- Constitution Day marks the day the Constitution of India came into force.
- The day was notified officially as Constitution Day in 2015.
- Before 2015, November 26 was observed as National Law Day.
- Constitution Day was introduced as part of celebrations of the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

- **Which of the statements is/are correct?**

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



G20 Summit 2025





Theme	Key Points
Spirit of Ubuntu & Multilateralism	Emphasised African philosophy of <i>Ubuntu</i> → shared global responsibility & interconnectedness; stronger multilateral cooperation .
UNSC Reform	Strong call to transform UNSC ; expand representation for Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific → reflects India's long-standing demand.
Condemnation of Terrorism	Unequivocal condemnation of all forms & manifestations of terrorism.
Climate Action	Agreed to scale global climate finance → “ billions-to-trillions ” shift; equitable transition under Paris Agreement .
Women Empowerment	Removing barriers; ensuring equal decision-making ; recognising women as agents of peace .

2. Debt Crisis & Global Financial Reform

Issue	Key Points
Cost of Capital Commission	Launched to reform global credit rating practices & reduce African risk premium .
Debt Burden	Africa's total debt = USD 1.8 trillion ; over 50% of population in countries spending more on debt interest than public services.

3. Mission 300 (World Bank + African Development Bank)

Feature	Details
Objective	Deliver electricity access to 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.
Led By	World Bank & African Development Bank.

What is the Spirit of Ubuntu?

- **About:** The spirit of Ubuntu is an African philosophy of shared humanity, captured in the idea “**I am because you are.**” It stresses collective responsibility, compassion, and mutual support, reminding us that individual progress depends on community well-being.
 - Nelson Mandela embodied **Ubuntu in the way he led South Africa’s peaceful transition after apartheid** by choosing reconciliation over revenge and emphasising unity over division.
- **Ubuntu and Its Relevance to Global Goals:**
 - **Sustainability:** Supports development that protects the environment and preserves natural resources.
 - **Equitable Growth:** Calls for fair access to technology, skills, and opportunities, especially for Global South nations.
 - **Global Security:** Encourages collective action against transnational threats such as the drug-terror nexus.
 - **Knowledge Preservation:** Promotes safeguarding traditional knowledge and cultural heritage for future generations.

G-20 (The Group of Twenty)



About

- In 1999, following the **Asian Financial Crisis** of the **1990s**, **G20** was established as a Forum for **Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors**.
- Raised to the **Summit level in 2008** to address the global financial and economic crisis of 2008.

Aims

- Secure global financial stability by involving world's largest advanced and emerging economies.

Structure and Functioning of G20

- The **G20 Presidency** rotates annually
- No permanent **Secretariat** or **Headquarters**
- **19 countries** are divided into **5 groups**
- The presidency rotates between each group

Troika

- It is a working association between the **current presidency**, **past presidency** and **next presidency**.

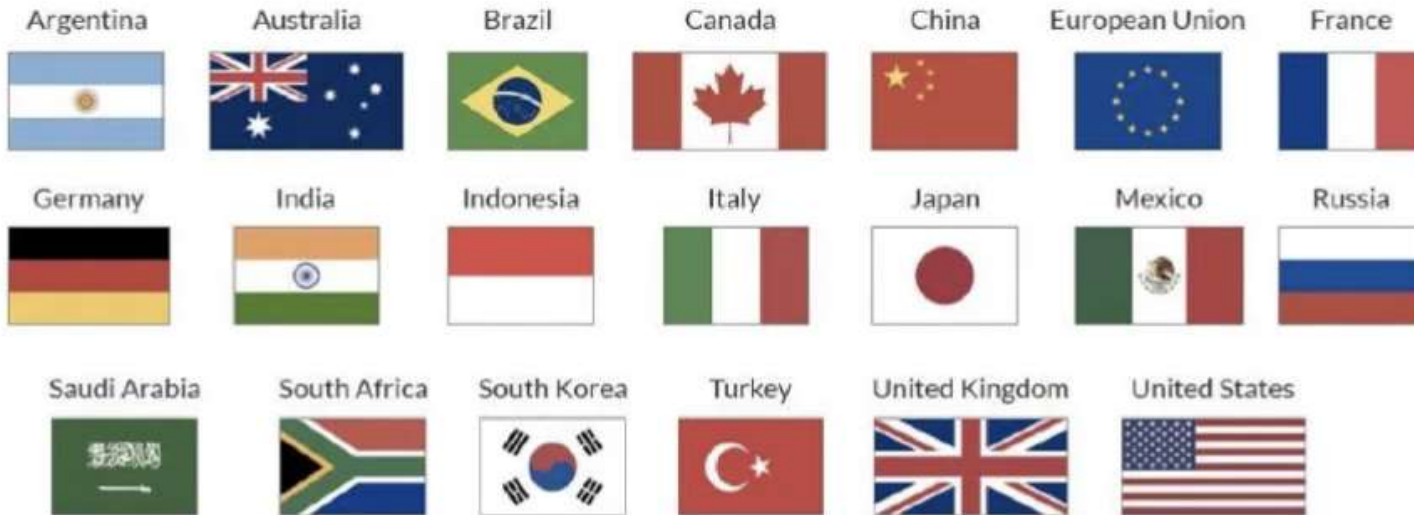
Challenges

- No Enforcement mechanism
- No legal binding
- Polarization of Interests:
 - Russia Ukraine Conflict
 - China's strategic rise
 - NATO's expansion

G20 India 2023

- India assumed the **18th G20 Presidency from December 1, 2022** for a **one-year period**.
- **Theme:**
 - **“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”** a Sanskrit word which Stands for **“One Earth · One Family. One Future”**.
 - This is taken from the ancient Sanskrit text of the **‘Maha Upanishad’**.

G20 COUNTRIES



Q. Consider the following statements regarding the G20 Summit 2025 (Johannesburg):

- 1.** The Summit Declaration endorsed the African philosophy of Ubuntu to promote shared global responsibility.
- 2.** A Cost of Capital Commission was launched to reform global credit rating practices.
- 3.** The Mission 300 initiative aims to provide electricity to 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.
- 4.** The declaration rejected reforms to the United Nations Security Council.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Elimination of Violence Against

Source: PIB | Date: 25 November | Theme 2025:

“UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls”

✓ 1. Why in News?

- **25 November** is observed as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, designated by the **UN**.
 - Focus: Increase global awareness on **gender-based violence (GBV)**.
 - 2025 UN Theme: **UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls**.
-

✓ 2. Background & Evolution (Important for Prelims)

a. CEDAW (1979)

- UN adopted the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** in 1979.
- India ratified in **1993** (with some reservations).
- Still **gender-based violence remains widespread** globally.

b. Key UN Resolutions

1. 1993 – UNGA Resolution 48/104

- Established **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women**.
- First global recognition of VAW as violation of human rights.

2. 2000 – UN formally designated 25 November

- As the **International Day for Elimination of VAW**.

3. UNiTE Campaign (2008) by UN Secretary-General

- 16 Days of Activism (25 Nov – 10 Dec).

✓ 3. What is Violence Against Women (UN Definition)?

Includes:

- **Physical, sexual, psychological** violence
 - Domestic violence, marital rape
 - Trafficking, forced prostitution
 - Harmful practices: **FGM**, child marriage
 - Workplace harassment
 - **Digital violence** (cyberbullying, doxxing, deepfakes, online stalking)
-

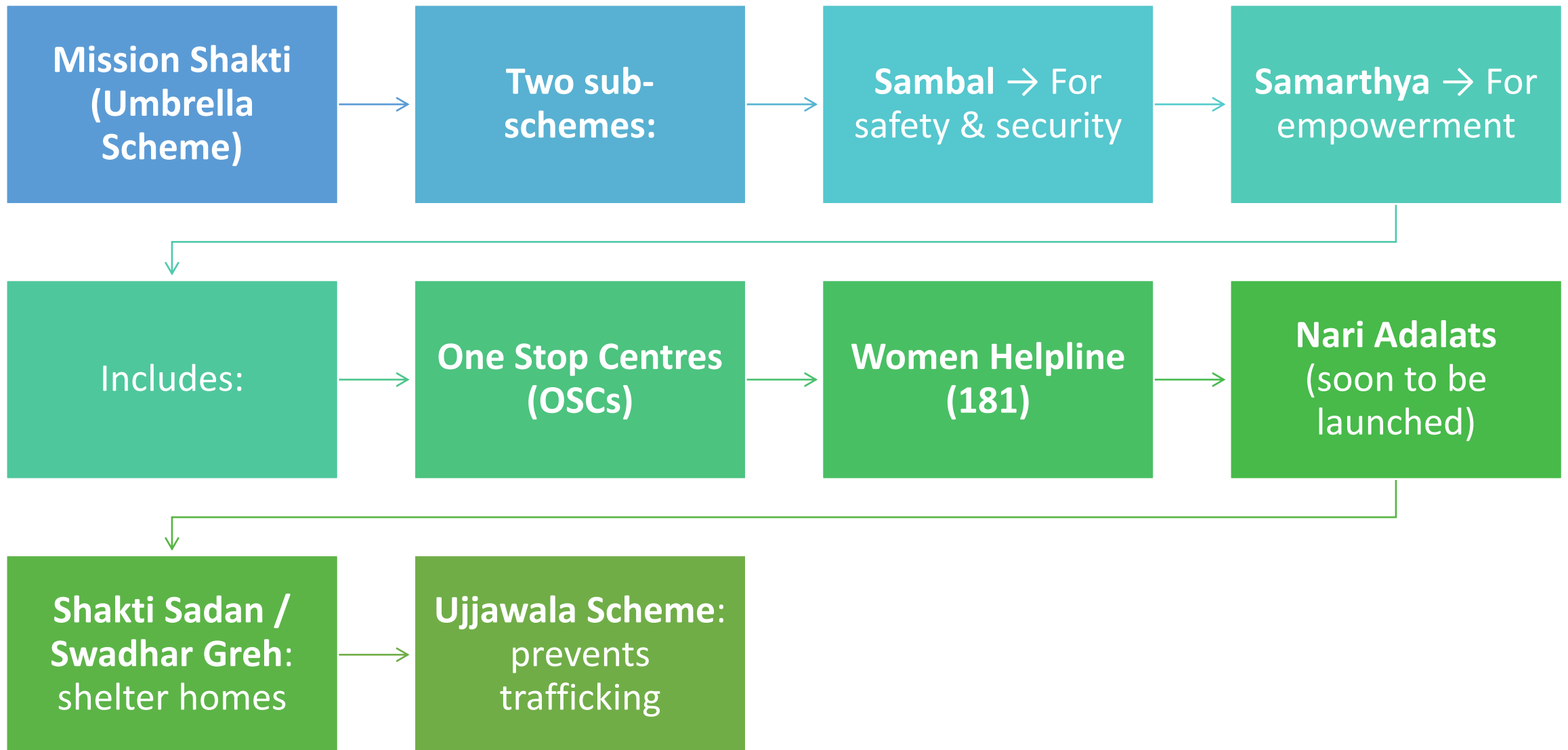
✓ 4. Status: Global & Indian Scenario

Global

- 1 in 3 women experience violence (WHO).
- Only 40% of victims seek help.

India

- NFHS-5 (2019–21):
 - **29.3%** of ever-married women faced domestic violence.
- NCRB (2023):
 - Crimes against women increased by **4%**.
 - **Cruelty by husband/in-laws** is the largest category.



- 
- **Legal & Institutional Framework (GS-2 Mains)**
 - **Constitutional Provisions**
 - **Article 14** – Equality
 - **Article 15(3)** – Special provisions for women
 - **Article 21** – Right to life with dignity (includes protection from violence)
 - **Statutory Framework**
 - **Domestic Violence Act, 2005**
 - **Criminal Law Amendments (2013 & 2018)**
 - **POSH Act, 2013**
 - **POCSO Act, 2012**
 - **IT Rules 2021** → to counter online abuse
 - **Judicial Recognition**
 - Vishaka Guidelines (1997)
 - Joseph Shine case (2018) – Decriminalised adultery; emphasised dignity
 - Nirbhaya Act reforms (2013)

7. Challenges

a. Social & Cultural

- Patriarchy
- Normalisation of domestic violence
- Victim blaming & stigma

b. Institutional Weakness

- Low conviction rates
- Lack of trained police personnel
- Poor cyber forensic capability

c. Digital Age Challenges

- Deepfake pornography
- Revenge porn
- Online stalking & impersonation
- AI-generated violence content

- **Consider the following statements regarding the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:**

- The day is observed every year on 25th November as designated by the UN General Assembly.
- The 1993 UNGA Resolution 48/104 established the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- India has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- The 2025 theme focuses on eliminating digital violence against women and girls.
- **Which of the statements are correct?**
 - A. 1, 2 and 4 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Class24

Word of the day

Esoteric:

confined to and understandable by only an enlightened inner circle

Usage: *This is a compilation of esoteric philosophical theories.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/esotericpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /iː.səʊ'tɛɪ.ɪk/



Thank you 😊

