

Daily Current Affairs





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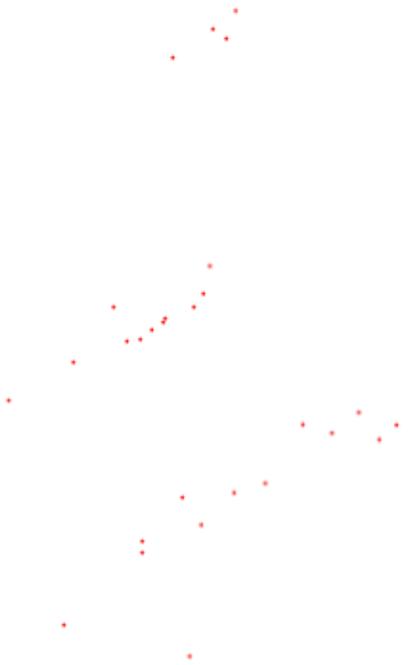
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10 MCQ QUIZ

“Success doesn’t come from comfort — it comes from consistency.”





MOVIE ROW
HC clears 'The Kerala Story 2' for release
NEWS » PAGE 4



MARITIME BOOST
Indian Navy commissions INS Anjadip
NEWS » PAGE 5



TRINAMOLU'S APPREHENSION
Judicial officers will remain on objective: SC
NEWS » PAGE 5



A TROUBLED STRETCH
A double murder in 'Mini Russia'
The killings reopen questions over foreigners' deaths in Goa
GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7



STUNNING WIN
Jacks, Rehan pull off a heist for England
SPORTS » PAGE 14

INSIDE



NCERT to recover sold copies of Class 8 textbook

NEW DELHI
A day after the Supreme Court banned a Class 8 Social Science textbook over a section on "corruption" in the judiciary, the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) on Friday asked people to return the book. » PAGE 3



Ladki Bahin may strain funds, but will continue

MUMBAI
The budget for Maharashtra government's Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana that provides monthly financial aid of ₹1,500 to eligible women is exerting pressure on funds for other departments, but it will not be stopped, State Minister Ganesh Naik said. » PAGE 2

Greens win key U.K. bypoll in blow to Starmer

LONDON
Britain's ruling Labour party on Friday made a third-place finish as it lost the Greater Manchester parliamentary seat of Gorton and Denton to the Green Party. The result further eroded Prime Minister Keir Starmer's ability to stay in position until the next general election. » PAGE 12

Kejriwal, 22 others cleared in excise policy case

Special court in Delhi orders inquiry against investigating officer for framing the accused

Jahita Mishra
NEW DELHI
In a major victory for the Aam Aadmi Party, a special court on Friday discharged party chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia, and 21 others in the politically charged liquor policy case.
Mr. Kejriwal hailed the order and hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for orchestrating what he called the "biggest political conspiracy in independent India".
Closing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)'s lawsuit, Special Judge (SDJ) in the Siras Road Avenue Court observed that the case relied on hearsay evidence, local major procedural lapses, and violated constitutional principles.

Kejriwal had spent five months in jail, Sisodia was incarcerated for 17 months in the case



Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia address the media after a court discharged them in a case in New Delhi on Friday. (I)

In its 598-page order, the court also directed a departmental inquiry against the "erring investigating officer" who framed charges against the accused in the absence of material evidence.
Former Bharat Rashtira Samithi MP K. Kavitha was also among those discharged by the court.
"Choreographed probe" The court termed the probe a "premeditated and choreographed exercise", wherein roles appear to have been retrospectively assigned to suit a preconceived narrative.
"What is particularly disturbing is the complete disregard shown by the investigating officer to the fact that public servants, who were discharging their official duties on a day-to-day basis for the effective implementation of a governmental policy, have been subjected to criminal prosecution solely on the basis of inadmissible hearsay attributed to an approver, despite the investigation yielding no material against them," the court said.
The CBI has decided to appeal the judgment in the High Court immediately,

'Court order exposes misuse of probe agencies'

NEW DELHI
Several Opposition leaders on Friday said the discharge of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in the Delhi excise policy case has exposed "the misuse of investigative agencies for political ends" by the BJP government. » PAGE 4

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"The court has now said that the probe was not honest and the Aam Aadmi Party is staunchly honest," said Mr. Kejriwal, breaking into tears of relief.
Throwing a challenge to the BJP, he added that he

'Open war': Afghan Taliban seeks 'dialogue' as Pakistan bombs Kabul, other cities



Taliban fighters sit beside an anti-aircraft gun while keeping watch for Pakistan's fighter jets in Ghosht province, Afghanistan, on Friday.

Pakistan bombed major cities in Afghanistan including the capital Kabul on Friday, with Islamabad's Defence Minister declaring the neighbours at "open war" following months of tit-for-tat clashes.
The overnight operation was Pakistan's most widespread bombardment of the Afghan capital and its first air strikes on the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand since they returned to power in 2021.
"Children, women, and old people were running," Gunter Khan, a 65-year-old man, told AFP in front of rows of tents at the Omari camp.

Pakistan's latest operation came after Afghan forces attacked Pakistani border troops on Thursday night in retaliation for earlier air strikes by Islamabad.
The Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the Taliban killed 55 Pakistani soldiers and captured several others while Pakistan's death toll among Afghan troops stood at 103.

The head of the Pakistani military's publicity bureau, Lt Gen. General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, told reporters: "274 Taliban fighters were killed and terrorists" had been killed, including the loss of 12 Pakistani troops.

The sharp surge in hostilities drew international concern, with China, Brazil, India, and the United States Committee of the Red Cross (CRC) calling for an immediate ceasefire and return to dialogue.

The overnight strikes would quit politics if the party won even 10 seats in fresh elections are conducted in Delhi.
"Evidence tampering" Chief Minister Reeha Gupta said that the people of Delhi's had already given their verdict in February 2025 by voting Mr. Kejriwal out of power.
"This decision of the lower court was taken due to the lack of evidence. We all know how evidence was tampered with in the liquor policy case, how over 150 phones were destroyed," she said.
Mr. Kejriwal had spent five months in jail while Mr. Sisodia was incarcerated for 17 months in the case.
They were granted bail by the Supreme Court in September 2024, months before the Delhi Assembly election, in which the AAP lost its majority in the cap-

ital for the first time in 60 years.
The case stems from a complaint lodged by Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, who alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of Delhi's excise policy in 2020.
The initial FIR was lodged by the CBI. In the chargesheet, which runs into thousands of pages, the agency alleged that irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy, undue favours were extended to licence holders, licence fees were waived or reduced, and the I-L licence was extended without the competent authority's approval.
The beneficiaries of the alleged scam diverted their "illegal" gains to the accused officials and made false entries in their books of accounts to evade detection, it said.

Jumbo on the move



Hitting the road: A wild elephant strolls along a road as people gather in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Friday. (I)

New GDP series upgrades FY26 growth to 7.6%

T.G.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's economic growth is expected to touch 7.6% in the current financial year 2025-26, showed the second advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) based on the new and updated series released by the government on Friday. This is faster than the 7.4% predicted in the first advance estimates for 2025-26 released in January, which was based on the older series.
The new series of data, released by Statistics Secretary Saurabh Garg and Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, has incorporated several improvements, including an updated base year of 2022-23 from the earlier 2011-12.
The new series has revised downward the growth for 2023-24 to 7.2% from the 9.2% estimated in the old series and has revised the growth for 2024-25 to 7.1% from the earlier

estimate of 6.5%. According to the data, India's nominal GDP has been revised downward for the three years spanning 2023-26, which will have a negative impact on several fiscal ratios pegged to these numbers, such as the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio and the debt-to-GDP ratio.
The government also released the GDP growth data for the third quarter of 2025-26 based on the new series, which stood at 7.8% as compared to 8.4% in the second quarter and 6.7% in the older series.

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growth in the manufacturing sector, which is expected to grow at 9.5%, up from 7.3% in 2024-25. This growth is to be largely driven by the manufacturing sector, which is expected to grow at 12.5% in 2025-26 as compared to 8.3% in the previous year. The construction sector is set to grow at

6.9%, down from 7.1% over the same period.
Notably, the primary sector is expected to see a significant slowdown, with growth expected to be 2.8% in 2025-26 as compared to 5% in the previous year. This is due to growth in the agriculture sector expected to slow to 2.5% in 2025-26 from 4.3% in 2024-25, and in the mining and quarrying sector, which is expected to grow from 11.2% over the same period to 10.5% in 2025-26.
The tertiary sector, comprising the services

advance estimates based on the old series.
Further, the size of the economy in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 has been revised downward by 3.8% each. According to economists, this would not only revise upward the government's fiscal deficit ratio over the past few years but would also make its planned debt reduction path a significantly steeper one.

"On a constant-price basis, nominal magnitudes for 2023-24 to 2025-26 are lower than those under the old series," D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor at IY India, said. "This also means the overall size of the economy now appears smaller."
According to Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, the new data implies that the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio would be expected to be ₹345.47 lakh crore in 2025-26, which is about 3.3% smaller than what was predicted in the first

sectors, is expected to see growth to quicken to 8.9% in FY26, up from 8.3% in the previous year. This is a result of "double-digit growth in the trade, hotels, IT, and professional services grouping (10%)".
The data in the new series shows that the size of the GDP would be expected to be ₹345.47 lakh crore in 2025-26, which is about 3.3% smaller than what was predicted in the first

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mark a "significant and dangerous escalation from earlier clashes", South Asia expert Michael Kugelman said on X.
"Pakistan appears to have expanded its targeting beyond TTP to the Taliban regime itself," he said.
Several rounds of negotiations between Islamabad and Kabul followed an initial ceasefire brokered by Qatar and Turkey, but the efforts have failed to produce a lasting agreement.
After repeated breaches of the initial truce, Saudi Arabia intervened this month, mediating the release of three Pakistani soldiers captured by Afghanistan in October.
Iran, which shares border with Afghanistan and Pakistan, offered on Friday to help "facilitate dialogue", while the Saudi Foreign Minister spoke with his Pakistani counterpart and said it was "working with" both countries while calling for calm.
CIBC President Mirjana Spoljaric said the organisation was preparing to respond with humanitarian assistance but stressed that political will to respect the rules of war and prioritise de-escalation".

Kejriwal, 22 others cleared in excise policy case

Special court in Delhi orders inquiry against investigating officer for framing the accused

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CBI to appeal in HC, says several aspects of probe ignored or not considered adequately

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

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Mr. Kejriwal hailed the order and hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for orchestrating what he called the “biggest political conspiracy in Independent India”.

Closing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)’s lawsuit, Special Judge Jitendra Singh of the Rouse Avenue Court observed that the case relied on hearsay evidence, had major procedural lapses, and violated constitutional principles.

In its 598-page order, the court also directed a departmental inquiry against the “erring investigating officer” who framed charges against the accused in the absence of material evidence.

Former Bharat Rashtira Samithi MP K. Kavitha was also among those discharged by the court.

‘Choreographed probe’

The court termed the probe a “premeditated and choreographed exercise”, wherein roles appear to have been retrospectively assigned to suit a preconceived narrative.

“What is particularly disturbing is the complete disregard shown by the investigating officer to the fact that public servants, who were discharging their official duties on a day-to-day basis for the effective implementation of



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a governmental policy, have been subjected to criminal prosecution solely on the basis of inadmissible hearsay attributed to an approver, despite the investigation yielding no material against them,” the court said.

The CBI has decided to appeal the judgment in the High Court immediately,

saying that several aspects of its investigation have either been ignored or not considered adequately.

‘Staunchly honest’

Hailing the verdict, Mr. Kejriwal said that “truth has triumphed”. Hitting out at the PM and BJP, he said that for the first time in the history of independent In-

‘Court order exposes misuse of probe agencies’

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would quit politics if the party won even 10 seats if fresh elections are conducted in Delhi.

‘Evidence tampering’

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the people of Delhi’s had already given their verdict in February 2025 by voting Mr. Kejriwal out of power.

“This decision of the lower court was taken due to the lack of evidence. We all know how evidence was tampered with [in the liquor policy case], how over 150 phones were destroyed,” she said.

Mr. Kejriwal had spent five months in jail while Mr Sisodia was incarcerated for 17 months in the case.

They were granted bail by the Supreme Court in September 2024, months before the Delhi Assembly election, in which the AAP lost its majority in the cap-

ital for the first time in 10 years.

The case stems from a complaint lodged by Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, who alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of Delhi’s excise policy in 2020.

The initial FIR was lodged by the CBI. In the chargesheet, which runs into thousands of pages, the agency alleged that irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy, undue favours were extended to licence holders, licence fees were waived or reduced, and the L-1 licence was extended without the competent authority’s approval.

The beneficiaries of the alleged scam diverted their “illegal” gains to the accused officials and made false entries in their books of accounts to evade detection, it said.

Topic	Details (English)	विवरण (हिंदी)
Constitutional Provision	Excise on alcoholic liquor for human consumption falls under State List – Entry 51 (List II), Seventh Schedule	मानव उपभोग हेतु मदिरा पर आबकारी कर राज्य सूची – प्रविष्टि 51 (सूची II), सातवीं अनुसूची में आता है
State Power	States levy excise duty on production & sale of alcohol	राज्य शराब के उत्पादन व बिक्री पर आबकारी कर लगाते हैं
Centre's Role	Centre levies excise on narcotics & medicinal preparations (Entry 84, Union List – limited scope after GST)	केंद्र मादक द्रव्य व औषधीय तैयारी पर आबकारी (प्रविष्टि 84, संघ सूची – GST के बाद सीमित)
Key Law	State Excise Acts (varies by state)	राज्य आबकारी अधिनियम (राज्य अनुसार भिन्न)
Investigating Agencies	CBI/ED can investigate corruption, money laundering aspects	भ्रष्टाचार/मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग मामलों में CBI/ED जांच कर सकती हैं

2 What is Excise Duty?

Concept	Explanation (English)	व्याख्या (हिंदी)
Excise Duty	Indirect tax on manufacture of goods within a country	देश के भीतर वस्तुओं के उत्पादन पर लगाया गया अप्रत्यक्ष कर
State Excise	Primarily on alcohol for human consumption	मुख्यतः मानव उपभोग हेतु शराब पर
Not under GST	Alcohol for human consumption kept outside GST	मानव उपभोग हेतु शराब GST से बाहर है

3 Objectives of Excise Policy

Objective	English	हिंदी
Revenue Generation	Major source of state revenue	राज्य सरकारों की प्रमुख आय का स्रोत
Regulation	Control sale & distribution of liquor	शराब की बिक्री व वितरण का नियंत्रण
Public Health	Reduce harmful consumption	हानिकारक सेवन को नियंत्रित करना
Prevent Illegal Trade	Stop smuggling & illicit liquor	अवैध शराब व तस्करी रोकना

4 Components of a Typical Excise Policy

Component	English	हिंदी
Licensing System	Grant of retail/wholesale licenses	खुदरा/थोक लाइसेंस जारी करना
Fee Structure	License fee, excise duty, VAT	लाइसेंस शुल्क, आबकारी कर, वैट
Zoning Rules	Allocation of liquor vends by zones	क्षेत्रवार दुकान आवंटन
Quality Control	Check adulteration & safety	मिलावट व गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण
Monitoring	Digital tracking & enforcement	डिजिटल निगरानी व प्रवर्तन

5 Economic Importance

Aspect	English	हिंदी
Revenue Share	15–25% of many states' own tax revenue	कई राज्यों की कर आय का 15–25%
Price Elasticity	Alcohol demand relatively inelastic	शराब की मांग अपेक्षाकृत अल्प लोचदार
Employment	Jobs in production, retail, hospitality	उत्पादन, खुदरा व आतिथ्य क्षेत्र में रोजगार

6 Common Issues in Excise Policy

Issue	English	हिंदी
Policy Manipulation	Alleged favoritism in license allocation	लाइसेंस आवंटन में पक्षपात के आरोप
Revenue Leakage	Under-reporting & corruption	कम रिपोर्टिंग व भ्रष्टाचार
Social Impact	Addiction & public health burden	नशाखोरी व स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव
Interstate Smuggling	Price differences across states	राज्यों के बीच मूल्य अंतर से तस्करी

7 Important Constitutional & Legal Points for Exam

Topic	English	हिंदी
Article 47	State shall endeavor to prohibit intoxicating drinks	अनुच्छेद 47 – राज्य मादक पेय के निषेध का प्रयास करेगा
State List Entry 8	Intoxicating liquors – production, manufacture, possession, transport	प्रविष्टि 8 – मादक पेय का उत्पादन, निर्माण, परिवहन
State List Entry 51	Duties of excise on alcoholic liquor	प्रविष्टि 51 – शराब पर आबकारी शुल्क
GST Exception	Alcohol excluded from GST	शराब GST से बाहर

1 What Happened? / क्या हुआ?

- A Delhi special court discharged Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and 21 others in the Delhi Excise Policy case.
दिल्ली की विशेष अदालत ने अरविंद केजरीवाल, मनीष सिसोदिया सहित 21 अन्य को आबकारी नीति मामले में बरी किया।
 - The court found lack of material evidence and procedural lapses in the investigation.
अदालत ने ठोस साक्ष्य के अभाव और जांच में प्रक्रियात्मक त्रुटियाँ पाईं।
 - A departmental inquiry was ordered against the investigating officer for allegedly framing charges.
जांच अधिकारी के विरुद्ध विभागीय जांच के आदेश दिए गए।
-

2 Background of the Case / मामले की पृष्ठभूमि

- Case related to Delhi's 2020–21 Excise Policy reform.
मामला 2020–21 की दिल्ली आबकारी नीति से जुड़ा था।
 - Allegations: Irregularities in policy design, undue benefits to licence holders, fee waivers, and alleged kickbacks.
आरोप: नीति निर्माण में अनियमितता, लाइसेंसधारकों को लाभ, शुल्क माफी, कथित रिश्वत।
 - FIR registered by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
प्राथमिकी केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (CBI) द्वारा दर्ज।
-

3 Court Observations / अदालत की टिप्पणियाँ

- Probe termed "premeditated and choreographed".
जांच को "पूर्व नियोजित और सुनियोजित" बताया।
 - Charges framed largely on hearsay evidence.
आरोप मुख्यतः सुनी-सुनाई बातों पर आधारित।
 - Constitutional principles and procedural safeguards highlighted.
संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों व प्रक्रिया सुरक्षा पर बल।
-

4 Political Dimension / राजनीतिक आयाम

- AAP called it a political conspiracy.
आम आदमी पार्टी ने इसे राजनीतिक साजिश बताया।
- Opposition leaders claimed misuse of probe agencies.
विपक्ष ने जांच एजेंसियों के दुरुपयोग का आरोप लगाया।
- CBI decided to appeal in High Court.
CBI ने उच्च न्यायालय में अपील करने का निर्णय लिया।

5 Constitutional & Legal Angle / संवैधानिक व कानूनी पहलू

- Presumption of innocence is fundamental to criminal law.
निर्दोषता की धारणा आपराधिक कानून का मूल सिद्धांत।
 - Importance of due process under Article 21 (Right to Life & Personal Liberty).
अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत विधि द्वारा स्थापित प्रक्रिया का महत्व।
 - Judicial oversight ensures accountability of investigative agencies.
न्यायिक निगरानी से जांच एजेंसियों की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित।
-

6 Timeline Snapshot / समयरेखा

- 2020 – New Excise Policy introduced.
2020 – नई आबकारी नीति लागू।
- 2022 – FIR and arrests begin.
2022 – प्राथमिकी और गिरफ्तारी।
- 2024 – Supreme Court grants bail.
2024 – सर्वोच्च न्यायालय से जमानत।
- 2025 – Special court discharges accused.
2025 – विशेष अदालत द्वारा बरी।

CBI functions under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

CBI, दिल्ली विशेष पुलिस स्थापना अधिनियम 1946 के तहत कार्य करती है।

Excise is a State subject under State List (Entry 51, List II).

आबकारी, राज्य सूची (सूची-II, प्रविष्टि 51) का विषय है।

Judicial review is part of Basic Structure doctrine.

न्यायिक समीक्षा, मूल संरचना सिद्धांत का हिस्सा है।

Consider the following statements:

1. Excise duty on alcoholic liquor for human consumption is a State subject under the Constitution of India.
2. The Central Bureau of Investigation functions under a constitutional provision directly mentioned in the Constitution.
3. Presumption of innocence is a principle of criminal jurisprudence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

DEMAND COMPOSITION SHIFT

Comparison of old and new series (At constant prices; % chg, y-o-y)



- Old series
- New series
- ↑ Difference in growth rate (%)

Consumption & investment

For FY25; At constant prices; % chg, y-o-y

Old series (light blue) New series (red)



Source: MoSPI

New GDP series upgrades FY26 growth to 7.6%

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The new series has revised downward the growth for 2023-24 to 7.2% from the 9.2% estimated in the old series and has revised the growth for 2024-25 to 7.1% from the earlier

estimate of 6.5%. According to the data, India's nominal GDP has been revised downward for the three years spanning 2023-26, which will have a negative impact on several fiscal ratios pegged to these numbers, such as the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio and the debt-to-GDP ratio.

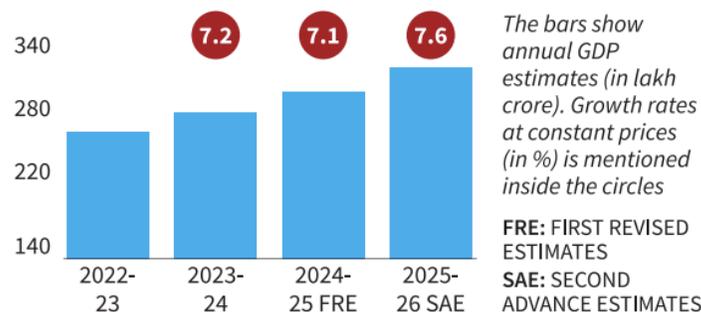
The government also released the GDP growth data for the third quarter of 2025-26 based on the new series, which stood at 7.8% as compared to 8.4% in the second quarter and 6.7% in the first quarter.

Growth in current year

According to the second advance estimates for 2025-26, the secondary sector is expected to grow at 9.5%, up from 7.3% in 2024-25. This growth is to largely be driven by the manufacturing sector, which is estimated to grow 12.5% in 2025-26 as compared to 8.3% in the previous year. The construction sector is set to grow at

Stronger outlook

The second advance estimates peg India's economic growth at 7.6% in FY26, higher than the first estimates made in January



6.9%, down from 7.1% over the same period.

Notably, the primary sector is expected to see a significant slowdown, with growth expected to be 2.8% in 2025-26 as compared to 5% in the previous year. This is due to growth in the agriculture sector expected to slow to 2.5% in 2025-26 from 4.3% in 2024-25, and in the mining and quarrying sector to 5% from 11.2% over the same period.

The tertiary sector, comprising the services

sectors, is expected to see growth to quicken to 8.9% in FY26, up from 8.3% in the previous year. This is a result of double-digit growth in the trade, hotels, transport and communication grouping (10.3%), and the financial, real estate, IT, and professional services grouping (10%).

The data in the new series shows that the size of the economy is expected to be ₹345.47 lakh crore in 2025-26, which is about 3.3% smaller than what was predicted in the first

advance estimates based on the old series.

Further, the size of the economy in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 has been revised downward by 3.8% each. According to economists, this would not only revise upwards the government's fiscal deficit ratios over the past few years but would also make its planned debt reduction path a significantly steeper one.

"On a current-price basis, nominal magnitudes for 2023-24 to 2025-26 are lower than those under the old series," D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor at EY India, said. "This also means the overall size of the economy now appears smaller."

According to Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, the new data implies that the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio would be around 15-20 bps higher on an average during the previous year as compared to the earlier estimates.

1 What is the Update? / क्या नया है?

- India's GDP growth for FY2025–26 projected at **7.6%** (Second Advance Estimates).
वित्त वर्ष 2025–26 के लिए भारत की जीडीपी वृद्धि दर **7.6%** आंकी गई।
 - Earlier first advance estimate was 7.4%.
पहले अनुमान में 7.4% थी।
 - Based on new updated GDP series with base year **2022–23** (earlier 2011–12).
नई जीडीपी श्रृंखला में आधार वर्ष **2022–23** (पहले 2011–12)।
-

2 Institutional Context / संस्थागत संदर्भ

- Data released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
आंकड़े सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) द्वारा जारी।
- Compiled by National Statistical Office (NSO).
राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) द्वारा संकलित।

3 Sector-wise Growth Trends / क्षेत्रवार वृद्धि

Secondary Sector (Industry)

- Expected to grow at 9.5% in FY26 (up from 7.3%).
द्वितीयक क्षेत्र 9.5% की वृद्धि (पहले 7.3%)।
 - Manufacturing estimated at 12.5%.
विनिर्माण क्षेत्र 12.5% अनुमानित।
-

Primary Sector

- Slowing down to 2.8% (from 5%).
प्राथमिक क्षेत्र 2.8% (पहले 5%)।
 - Agriculture growth moderating.
कृषि वृद्धि में कमी।
-

Tertiary Sector (Services)

- Expected growth at 8.9% (up from 8.3%).
सेवा क्षेत्र 8.9% (पहले 8.3%)।
- Boost from trade, hotels, transport, communication, financial & IT services.
व्यापार, होटल, परिवहन, संचार, वित्तीय व आईटी सेवाओं से बढ़ावा।

4 Size of the Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था का आकार

- FY26 nominal GDP estimated at ₹345.47 lakh crore.
FY26 में नाममात्र जीडीपी ₹345.47 लाख करोड़ अनुमानित।
 - However, revised size for FY24–FY25 is 3.8% lower under new series.
नई श्रृंखला के तहत FY24–FY25 का आकार 3.8% कम संशोधित।
-

5 Fiscal Implications / राजकोषीय प्रभाव

- Lower nominal GDP → Higher fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio.
कम नाममात्र जीडीपी → अधिक राजकोषीय घाटा अनुपात।
- Debt-to-GDP ratio likely to appear higher.
ऋण-से-जीडीपी अनुपात अधिक दिखाई देगा।
- Planned debt reduction path may become steeper.
ऋण घटाने की योजना कठिन हो सकती है।

Why Base Year Revision Matters? / आधार वर्ष संशोधन क्यों महत्वपूर्ण?

Reflects structural changes in economy (digitalisation, services expansion).
अर्थव्यवस्था में संरचनात्मक बदलाव (डिजिटलीकरण, सेवा विस्तार) दर्शाता है।

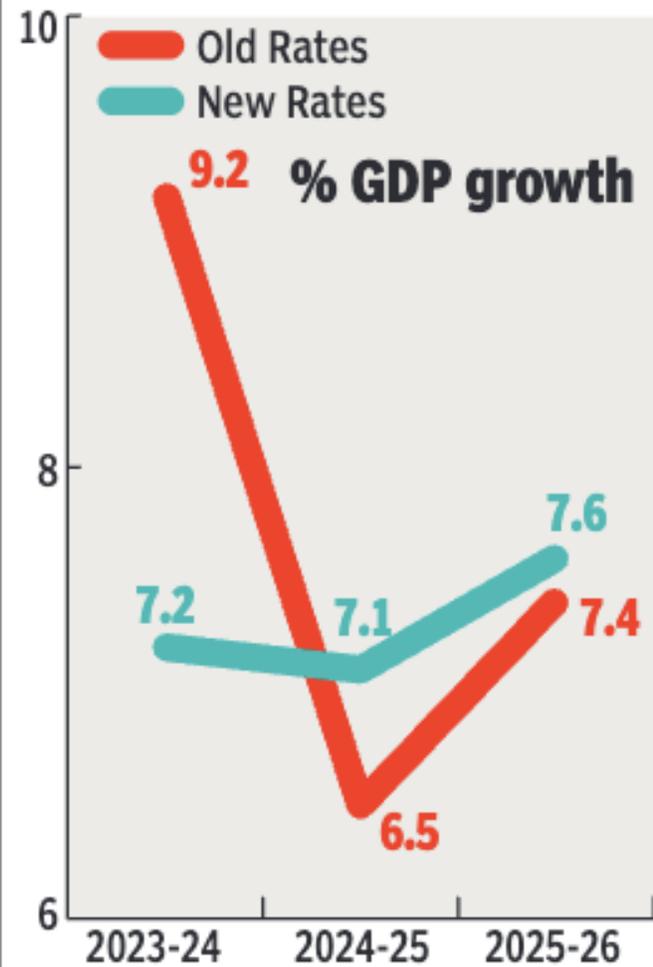
Improves data coverage and methodology alignment with global standards (SNA 2008).
वैश्विक मानकों (SNA 2008) के अनुरूप बेहतर पद्धति।

Affects macro indicators like fiscal deficit, debt ratio, tax-to-GDP ratio.
राजकोषीय घाटा, ऋण अनुपात, कर-से-जीडीपी जैसे संकेतकों पर प्रभाव।



- Consider the following statements:
- A revision in GDP base year may affect fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio.
- Nominal GDP is calculated at constant prices.
- The services sector forms part of the tertiary sector.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 3 only

HOW RATES HAVE CHANGED



WHY THE SWITCH



➤ Surveys replaced proxy estimates for the unorganised sector



➤ More sources of data, such as better sectoral numbers for cos captured via MCA filings



➤ Digital activities & govt spends captured better



➤ Changes due to electrification, more self-owned housing units, lower logistical costs

WASHINGTON

'AI firm cannot in good conscience accede to Pentagon's demands'



Antronic CEO Dario Amodei said on Thursday the artificial intelligence company "cannot in good conscience accede" to the Pentagon's demands to allow unrestricted use of its technology, deepening the unusually public clash with the Trump administration that is threatening to pull its contract by Friday. AP

BAGHDAD

Iraqi armed group tells fighters to prepare for long Iran-U.S. war



Kata'ib Hezbollah, a powerful Iran-backed Iraqi armed group, told its fighters on Thursday to prepare for the scenario of a long war in Iran should the U.S. launch strikes. It also warned the U.S. of "immense losses" were it to start a war in the region, while a commander said his group was "highly likely" to intervene. AP

WASHINGTON

'U.S. military used laser to take down Border Protection drone'



The U.S. military used a laser on Thursday to shoot down a "seemingly threatening" drone flying near the U.S.-Mexico border. It turned out the drone belonged to Customs and Border Protection, lawmakers said. It was the second time in two weeks that a laser was fired in the area. AP

ANKARA

Jailed PKK leader Ocalan says laws needed in Turkish peace process



Jailed militant leader Abdullah Ocalan said on Friday that peace-related laws were needed for a transition to democratic integration in Turkey, in a statement read out a year after he called on his Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to end its decades-old insurgency and disband. AP

Greens win U.K. bypoll, in blow to Starmer

Green Party's Hannah Spencer won the Gorton and Denton seat with 40.7% votes. Reform UK came in second with 28.7%, while Labour finished third with 25.4%. Prime Minister Starmer called the result 'very disappointing', but said he would fight against extremes both on the right and left

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

It was a bad night for U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his Labour Party after the Green Party won the Greater Manchester parliamentary seat of Gorton and Denton from Labour. The nativist far-right party Reform UK came in second and Labour in third place in an election that could further erode Mr. Starmer's ability to stay in position until the next general election.

"This byelection has shown that there is no longer any such thing as a safe seat and there is no part of the country where the Green Party cannot win," said 36-year-old plumber Hannah Spencer, who won

the election with around 40.7% of the vote. "I think this election will transform the face of British politics," said Greens chief Zack Polanski, during a joint press conference with Ms. Spencer in Manchester. "We have torn the roof of British politics, and that's because people now recognise there is an alternative," Mr. Polanski said, adding Labour's "stranglehold" was over as people realised there was an alternative. Labour won 25.4% of the vote, behind Reform UK's 28.7%. The Conservatives got a mere 1.9% of the vote and the Liberal Democrats 1.8%.

The results meant that the country would be halved relative to its 2024 general election performance. Mr. Starmer, who won



Green Party's candidate Hannah Spencer being congratulated after her victory in the byelection, in Manchester on Friday. REUTERS

There were divisions within the party on the choice for the byelection with a faction preferring the charismatic Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, over the incumbent Angeliki Stogia, who was chosen. Earlier this month, Mr. Starmer and Labour's governing body found themselves at the centre of criticism for denying Mr. Burnham permission to the charismatic Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, over the incumbent Angeliki Stogia, who was chosen. Earlier this month, Mr. Starmer and Labour's

were in Urdu asking voters to "punish" Labour for its position on Gaza. Muslims have traditionally aligned with the Labour Party.

"I think people are allowed to communicate with different communities... about those things those communities care about," Mr. Polanski said on Friday in an interview with the BBC. Mr. Polanski, who is Jewish, said it was wrong to assume that only Muslims cared about the genocide in Gaza.

Mr. Starmer called the result "very disappointing". While he acknowledged voters' frustration, he said incumbent governments face such results not working for us," and he would fight against extremes in politics both on the right and left.

Some campaign leaflets

Some campaign leaflets

Some campaign leaflets

U.S. advises embassy staff in Israel to leave now if they desire

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

The U.S. Embassy in Israel on Friday told its staff that it could leave the country and urged anyone considering departure to do so immediately, as the threat of an American strike on Iran looms.

U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee told embassy employees in an email that discussions with officials in Washington had led to a decision authorising departures for those who wished to leave.

"Those wishing to take AD should do so TODAY," Mr. Huckabee wrote, using an acronym for "authorised departure."

Mr. Huckabee said that there was no need for panic, but for those desiring to



Mike Huckabee

leave, it was important to make plans soon.

Meanwhile, China told its citizens to evacuate from Iran "as soon as possible", and those in Israel to strengthen preparedness, citing a significant rise in security in the West Asia.

Beijing's Foreign Ministry also told its citizens to avoid travelling to Iran for the time being.

Epstein files: Bill Clinton says he 'did nothing wrong'

Agence France-Presse
CHAMPAGNA

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton denied wrongdoing at a Congressional panel on Friday on his well-documented links to Jeffrey Epstein, as Democrats seek to shift focus toward Donald Trump's own ties to the convicted sex offender.

Mr. Clinton features prominently throughout the Epstein files, but he insists that he broke ties well before the disgraced billionaire's 2008 conviction for sex offences.

"I saw nothing, and I did nothing wrong," Mr. Clinton said in his opening statement, shared on so-



Bill Clinton

cial media. The Republican chair of the House committee probing Epstein, James Comer, said ahead of Bill Clinton's deposition he looked forward to "asking lots of questions."

But Democrats on the committee reiterated their

call for Mr. Trump to be quizzed. "Let's be real, we are talking to the wrong President," said Democrat committee member Sohas Subramanyam.

Mr. Clinton did not name Mr. Trump directly but said "no person is above the law, even Presidents," especially Presidents.

Being mentioned in the files released by the U.S. Department of Justice does not imply wrongdoing, and Mr. Clinton has not been accused of a crime or formally investigated.

The depositions are being held behind closed doors, with Bill Clinton likening the proceedings to a "kangaroo court".

Grim scene



Emergency services work at the scene following a deadly train derailment in Milan, Italy, on Friday. Two persons were killed and around 40 were injured when the train came off the tracks and crashed into the window of a shop. REUTERS

'At least 55 Ghanaians killed fighting for Russia'

Associated Press
ACCRA

At least 55 Ghanaians have died fighting for Russia in Ukraine, Ghana's Foreign Minister said on Friday, one of the highest death tolls from among several African countries whose citizens are fighting in the war.

Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa said 272 Ghanaians have been lured into the battle since 2022.

Ghana adds to a growing list of African nations who have expressed concern about their citizens fighting in the war.

How Pakistan and Afghan Taliban, former allies, drifted into an 'open war'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stany lobay

"Our patience has run out," Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif wrote in a social media post on Friday. "Now it is open war between us and you." Mr. Asif's remarks came after Pakistan carried out air strikes on Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan's two largest cities, and Pakista, a border province. The strikes, which launched hours after Afghan troops attacked Pakistani border posts, those attacks, in turn, followed earlier Pakistani strikes this week, which Islamabad claimed were carried out in retaliation for the terror attacks inside its territory.

These incidents, along with the allegations and

counter-allegations, underscore the increasingly combustible nature of relations between Islamabad and Kabul. Until a few years ago, Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban were close allies. The Taliban's top leadership was based in Pakistan's Quetta while it fought U.S. troops and the previous Afghan government after Pakistan carried out air strikes on Kabul and established its Islamic Emirate, the former ally has become bitter adversaries. The strikes, which launched hours after Afghan troops attacked Pakistani border posts, those attacks, in turn, followed earlier Pakistani strikes this week, which Islamabad claimed were carried out in retaliation for the terror attacks inside its territory.

When the Taliban were an insurgent movement, they relied on Pakistan's support. Pakistan's role in the fight against U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Pakistan, was a key ally, as a vehicle for extending its influence in

the neighbourhood. Pakistan believed the Taliban's return to power would restore its "strategic depth" in South-Central Asia. But the Taliban's rise reshaped regional dynamics, defying Pakistan's calculations. Islamabad-Rawalpindi now faces a deep, longstanding dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan, too, have refused to recognise the boundary drawn by Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat, and Abdur Rahman Khan,

the Emir of Afghanistan. The border dispute was not an issue between the Taliban and Pakistan when the former was an insurgency. But when the Taliban became the state, the long-standing inter-state dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan moved to the centre of bilateral relations. If Pakistan expected the Taliban to behave as a



Vehicles at a crossing along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Balochistan, on Friday. AP

client partner, it miscalculated to assert their autonomy, leading to growing tensions.

The other Taliban The second is the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as the Pakistani Taliban. The TTP and the Afghan Taliban have organisationally different but

ideologically aligned. The Afghan Taliban wanted to return to power to the Islamic Republic's security forces, and turn the country into an Islamic Emirate. They achieved their objectives in August 2021. The TTP, in its part, aims to replicate the Afghan Taliban's success, at least in Pakistan's tribal regions.

While the Pakistani military supported the Afghan Taliban, it has long viewed the TTP as a serious security threat. The Afghan Taliban's return to power in 2021 inevitably strengthened the TTP. Initially, the Afghan Taliban brokered a ceasefire between the Pakistani military and the TTP, but the ceasefire collapsed in 2022 and ties resumed. In the years since, the security situation in Pakistan's border regions has deteriorated

sharply, with attacks occurring almost daily. According to the Pak Institute for Peace Studies, at least 400 people, most of them security personnel, were killed in TTP attacks across Pakistan last year. Pakistan accuses the Afghan Taliban of harboring and supporting the TTP. Islamabad says it will carry out strikes inside Afghanistan targeting TTP camps. But Kabul says such attacks violate Afghanistan's sovereignty and has warned of retaliation, perpetuating a cycle of violence.

The India factor The third challenge Pakistan faces is the Taliban's warming ties with India. New Delhi had highly strained ties with the Taliban when the group was in power in the late 1990s. But the Taliban 2.0 have shown greater flexibility in

improving ties with India and New Delhi has reciprocated.

Last year, India hosted the Taliban Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi. Last month, the Taliban appointed an envoy to lead their diplomatic mission in Delhi. Though India has not formally recognised the Taliban, it is clear that engagement between Delhi and Kabul is deepening.

This, too, has complicated Pakistan's strategic calculations. On Friday, Mr. Asif, Pakistan's Defence Minister, said the Taliban had become a "proxy for India". Pakistan supported the Taliban in the hope of securing strategic depth. Instead, it now finds itself dealing with a Taliban which it thinks poses security, cross-border and geopolitical challenges to Islamabad.

How Pakistan and Afghan Taliban, former allies, drifted into an 'open war'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

“Our patience has run out”, Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif wrote in a social media post on Friday. “Now it is open war between us and you.” Mr. Asif’s remarks came after Pakistan carried out air strikes on Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan’s two largest cities, and Paktia, a border province. The strikes were launched hours after Afghan troops attacked Pakistani border posts. Those attacks, in turn, followed earlier Pakistani strikes this week, which Islamabad claimed were carried out in retaliation for recent terror attacks inside its territory.

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counter-allegations, underscore the increasingly combustible nature of relations between Islamabad and Kabul. Until a few years ago, Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban were close allies. The Taliban’s top leadership was based in Pakistan’s Quetta while it fought U.S. troops and the previous Afghan government. But four years after the Taliban captured Kabul and established its Islamic Emirate, the former allies have become bitter adversaries. What went wrong between the two?

When the Taliban were an insurgent movement, they relied on Pakistan’s support to sustain their fight against U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Pakistan, wary of India’s growing influence in Afghanistan, viewed the Taliban, a long-time ally, as a vehicle for extending its influence in

the neighbourhood. Pakistan believed the Taliban’s return to power would restore its “strategic depth” in South-Central Asia. But the Taliban’s rise reshaped regional dynamics, defying Pakistan’s calculations. Islamabad-Rawalpindi soon found itself confronting three distinct challenges.

Border clashes

The first is the Durand Line, the 2,640-km border established between British India and Afghanistan in 1893 and inherited by Pakistan.

No Afghan government since the collapse of the monarchy in 1973 has accepted the line, which cuts through the tribal heartland of the region. The Taliban, too, have refused to recognise the boundary drawn by Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat, and Abdur Rahman Khan,



Vehicles at a crossing along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Balochistan, on Friday. REUTERS

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The border dispute was not an issue between the Taliban and Pakistan when the former was an insurgency. But when the Taliban became the state, the long-standing inter-state dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan moved to the centre of bilateral relations. If Pakistan expected the Taliban to behave as a

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Pakistan supported the Taliban in the hope of securing strategic depth. Instead, it now finds itself dealing with a Taliban which it thinks poses security, cross-border and geopolitical challenges to Islamabad.

HOW PAKISTAN AND TALIBAN AFGHAN MILITARIES STACK UP?

On paper, there is a wide mismatch between the military capabilities of the two sides. Pakistan's armed forces benefit from good recruitment and retention, bolstered by equipment from its main defence partner China. The capability of the Afghan Taliban's armed forces, meanwhile, is declining

AIRSTIKES IN MAJOR AFGHAN CITIES

A F G H A N I S T A N

P A K I S T A N



NO. OF ACTIVE PERSONNEL

Pakistan



5,60,000 in the army



Afghan Taliban



1,72,000



FIGHTING VEHICLES AND ARTILLERY

6,000 Pak's armoured fighting vehicles



4,600 Pak's pieces of artillery



Afghan forces possess armoured fighting vehicles, including Soviet-era main battle tanks, armoured personnel carriers and autonomous underwater vehicles, but their exact number is unknown. The precise number of artillery they possess, which is of at least three different types, is similarly not known

AIR FORCE

465 Pak's fleet of combat aircraft



260 Helicopters that include multi-role, attack and transport choppers



Afghanistan has no fighter jets and no real air force to speak of. It is known to possess at least six aircraft - some of them dating back again to the Soviet era - and 23 helicopters, although it is not possible to assess how many are in flying condition

NUCLEAR ARSENAL | While Pakistan is a nuclear-armed country and has 170 warheads, Afghanistan does not have a nuclear arsenal

Source: Reuters

22 DEF TARGETS HIT IN 3 AF PROVINCES

“Our patience has run out... Now it will be ‘dama dam mast qalandar’. Pak army didn’t come from across the seas. We are your neighbours; we know your ins and outs

—Khawaja Asif
PAK DEF MINISTER



A Taliban soldier loads a rocket launcher near Torkham border

“Our hand can reach their collar. Any malicious act by Pak will be answered in Islamabad —Taliban govt

➤ Pak forces hit 22 defence targets in Kabul, Kandahar, and Paktia provinces

➤ Islamabad says it is responding to militant attacks from Af territory. Taliban denies its soil is being used against Pak

➤ Pak says 274 Taliban regime members and 12 Pak soldiers killed, while Taliban claim 55 Pak soldiers and 13 of its own forces dead

1 Background: From Allies to Adversaries / पृष्ठभूमि: सहयोगी से विरोधी

- Pakistan historically supported the Afghan Taliban during the U.S. war in Afghanistan (2001–2021).
पाकिस्तान ने 2001–2021 के अफगान युद्ध के दौरान अफगान तालिबान का समर्थन किया।
 - Taliban leadership operated from Pakistan's Quetta and tribal regions.
तालिबान नेतृत्व पाकिस्तान के क्वेटा और कबायली क्षेत्रों से संचालित होता था।
 - After the Taliban's return to power in Kabul (2021), relations began deteriorating.
2021 में काबुल में तालिबान की वापसी के बाद संबंध बिगड़ने लगे।
-

2 Immediate Trigger / तात्कालिक कारण

- Pakistan conducted airstrikes in Afghan cities like Kabul and Kandahar targeting alleged militants.
पाकिस्तान ने काबुल और कंधार में कथित आतंकियों पर हवाई हमले किए।
 - Afghan forces retaliated with attacks along the border.
अफगान बलों ने सीमा पर जवाबी हमले किए।
 - Pakistan claims strikes were retaliation for terror attacks by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).
पाकिस्तान का दावा है कि हमले TTP की आतंकी गतिविधियों के जवाब में थे।
-

3 Key Structural Issues / प्रमुख संरचनात्मक मुद्दे

(A) Durand Line Dispute

- The 2,640-km border known as the Durand Line Agreement separates Pakistan and Afghanistan.
2,640 किमी लंबी ड्यूरंड रेखा समझौता (1893) पाकिस्तान और अफगानिस्तान को अलग करती है।
 - No Afghan government has formally accepted it as an international border.
किसी भी अफगान सरकार ने इसे औपचारिक रूप से अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा नहीं माना।
 - Taliban also refuse to recognise the border fully.
तालिबान भी इसे पूर्णतः स्वीकार नहीं करते।
-

(B) Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

- TTP operates in Pakistan's tribal areas and seeks to overthrow the Pakistani state.
TTP पाकिस्तान के कबायली क्षेत्रों में सक्रिय है और पाकिस्तानी राज्य को चुनौती देता है।
- Pakistan accuses Afghan Taliban of sheltering TTP militants.
पाकिस्तान का आरोप है कि अफगान तालिबान TTP को शरण देते हैं।
- Afghan Taliban deny the allegation and warn against violation of sovereignty.
अफगान तालिबान आरोपों से इनकार करते हैं और संप्रभुता उल्लंघन की चेतावनी देते हैं।

(C) Strategic Depth Miscalculation

- Pakistan expected a friendly regime in Kabul for “strategic depth”.
पाकिस्तान को काबुल में 'रणनीतिक गहराई' हेतु मित्र सरकार की अपेक्षा थी।
 - Taliban prioritised autonomy and independent foreign policy.
तालिबान ने स्वायत्तता और स्वतंत्र विदेश नीति को प्राथमिकता दी।
-

4 Security Dynamics / सुरक्षा परिदृश्य

- Border clashes increasing in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regions.
बलूचिस्तान और खैबर पख्तूनख्वा में सीमा झड़पें बढ़ीं।
 - Pakistan reports hundreds of security personnel killed in TTP attacks.
पाकिस्तान के अनुसार सैकड़ों सुरक्षाकर्मी TTP हमलों में मारे गए।
 - Risk of escalation into prolonged low-intensity conflict.
दीर्घकालिक निम्न-तीव्रता संघर्ष का खतरा।
-

5 The India Factor / भारत कारक

- Taliban warming ties with India, including diplomatic engagement in Delhi.
तालिबान भारत के साथ कूटनीतिक संपर्क बढ़ा रहे हैं।
- Pakistan views this as strategic concern.
पाकिस्तान इसे रणनीतिक चिंता के रूप में देखता है।
- India has not formally recognised Taliban but maintains engagement.
भारत ने औपचारिक मान्यता नहीं दी, पर संपर्क बनाए रखे हैं।

6 Geopolitical Implications / भू-राजनीतिक प्रभाव

- Instability in Af-Pak region impacts Central Asia connectivity projects.
अफ-पाक अस्थिरता मध्य एशिया कनेक्टिविटी परियोजनाओं को प्रभावित करती है।
 - China (CPEC) and U.S. security interests affected.
चीन (CPEC) और अमेरिका के सुरक्षा हित प्रभावित।
 - Spillover risk for South Asia security architecture.
दक्षिण एशिया की सुरक्षा संरचना पर प्रभाव।
-

7 Exam-Oriented Analysis / परीक्षा उन्मुख विश्लेषण

- Example of state vs non-state actor dynamics evolving into inter-state tension.
गैर-राज्य अभिनेता से अंतर-राज्य तनाव में परिवर्तन का उदाहरण।
 - Shows limits of proxy warfare strategy.
प्रॉक्सी युद्ध रणनीति की सीमाएँ।
 - Highlights importance of sovereignty and border legitimacy.
संप्रभुता व सीमा वैधता का महत्व।
-

Consider the following statements:

1. The Durand Line was established in 1893 between British India and Afghanistan.
2. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) aims to overthrow the Afghan government.
3. No Afghan government has formally recognised the Durand Line as an international border.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

U.S., Israel launch strikes on Iran; Tehran retaliates

Tehran retaliates with drone attacks on Israel, U.S. air bases in West Asia; Strait of Hormuz shut, says IRGC

Many signs indicating Khamenei 'is no longer', says Israeli PM Netanyahu after 'strikes near his offices'

Trump urges Iranian citizens to seize control during the escalation, says 'your only chance for generations'

Associated Press
Reuters
DUBAI

The U.S. and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on Saturday, and U.S. President Donald Trump called upon the Iranian public to "seize control of your destiny" by rising up against the Islamic leadership that has ruled the West Asian nation since 1979.

Iran retaliated by firing missiles and drones toward Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

Some of the first strikes on Iran appeared to hit areas around the offices of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Smoke could be seen rising from the capital as part of strikes that Iranian media said occurred nationwide.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said

that there were many signs indicating Mr. Khamenei "is no longer", without explicitly confirming his death.

Iran's Defence Minister Amir Nasirzadeh and Revolutionary Guards commander Mohammed Pakpour were killed in Israeli attacks, three sources told *Reuters*.

In a video announcing the "major combat operations", Mr. Trump told Iranians that "when we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations".

Mr. Netanyahu echoed that goal, saying, "Our joint operation will create the conditions for the brave Iranian people to take their fate into their own hands".

Iran responded to the strikes by launching missiles and drones targeting Israel and strikes targeting



Smoke billows from a site during air strikes by Israel and the U.S., in Tehran on Saturday. ANI

U.S. military installations in Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

'Defend the homeland'
"The time has come to defend the homeland and confront the enemy's military assault," Iran's Foreign Ministry said on X.

The Iranian Red Crescent reported on Saturday evening that at least 201 people were killed and 747 wounded in strikes by the U.S. and Israel against Iran.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards radioed ships to say the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway, was

shut, according to the EU's naval mission.

The strikes during Ramadan opened a stunning new chapter in U.S. intervention in Iran and marked the second time in eight months that the Trump administration has used military force against the Is-

Flights cancelled or rerouted

NEW DELHI
Large swathes of airspace over West Asia became a no-go zone forcing global and Indian airlines to cancel flights to the region and reroute several others on Saturday. India's aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an urgent safety advisory valid until March 2 for all airlines to avoid 11 countries, including Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon. » [PAGE 4](#)

lamic Republic. The targets included members of Iran's leadership, according to a U.S. official and another person briefed on the attacks who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing operation.

Democrats decried that

Mr. Trump had taken action without congressional authorisation. Rep. Ha-keem Jeffries, the top House Democrat, said that though Iran is a "bad actor," the President must nonetheless "seek authorisation for the pre-emptive use of military force that constitutes an act of war."

School attacked

At least 85 people were reportedly killed at a girls' school in southern Iran in the Israeli-U.S. strikes, and dozens of others were wounded, according to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency.

In an indication of the scope of the conflict, flights across West Asia were disrupted and air defence fire thudded over Dubai, the commercial capital of the United Arab Emirates. Shrapnel from an Iranian missile attack on the capital of the UAE killed one

person, state media said. The U.S. military has for weeks amassed forces in the region, even as U.S. and Iranian envoys held talks in Switzerland and Oman aimed at finding a diplomatic solution. Israel said the operation has been planned for months with the U.S.

Mr. Trump's statement listed grievances beyond the nuclear programme, stretching back to the beginning of the Islamic Republic following a revolution in 1979 that turned Iran from an American ally in West Asia into a fierce foe.

The U.S. President said he was aiming to "annihilate" the Iranian Navy and destroy regional proxies supported by Tehran.

'WAR OF SURVIVAL'
» [PAGE 11](#)
RELATED REPORTS ON
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The strike and retaliation

The United States and Israel carried out a joint attack on Iran. Tehran responded with retaliatory strikes on U.S. assets and bases in neighbouring countries*



1. Immediate Trigger / तात्कालिक कारण

- U.S. and Israel launched coordinated air strikes on major Iranian targets including areas near Tehran.
अमेरिका और इज़राइल ने तेहरान के पास सहित ईरान के प्रमुख ठिकानों पर संयुक्त हवाई हमले किए।
 - Iran retaliated with drones and missiles targeting Israel and U.S. bases in West Asia.
ईरान ने ड्रोन व मिसाइलों से इज़राइल और पश्चिम एशिया में अमेरिकी ठिकानों पर जवाबी हमला किया।
 - Iranian Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) claimed closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
ईरानी रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड्स (IRGC) ने होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को बंद करने का दावा किया।
-

2. Key Developments / प्रमुख घटनाक्रम

(A) Political Statements / राजनीतिक बयान

- U.S. President urged Iranian citizens to “seize control,” criticizing the Islamic leadership.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने ईरानी जनता से “नियंत्रण अपने हाथ में लेने” का आह्वान किया और इस्लामी नेतृत्व की आलोचना की।
 - Israeli PM stated signs indicate weakening of Iran’s Supreme Leader’s authority.
इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता की सत्ता कमजोर पड़ने के संकेत हैं।
-

(B) Military Escalation / सैन्य तनाव

- Iranian Defence Minister and senior IRGC commanders reportedly killed in strikes.
हमलों में ईरान के रक्षा मंत्री व IRGC के वरिष्ठ कमांडरों की मौत की खबर।
 - Iran targeted U.S. military installations in Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.
ईरान ने बहरीन, कुवैत और कतर में अमेरिकी सैन्य ठिकानों को निशाना बनाया।
-

(C) Civilian Impact / नागरिक प्रभाव

- 200+ casualties reported in Iran.
ईरान में 200 से अधिक लोगों के हताहत होने की खबर।
 - School attacked in southern Iran; several civilians killed.
दक्षिणी ईरान में एक स्कूल पर हमला, कई नागरिकों की मौत।
-

(D) Aviation & Global Impact / विमानन व वैश्विक प्रभाव

- Airspace across West Asia restricted; flights cancelled or rerouted.
पश्चिम एशिया में हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंधित; उड़ानें रद्द या मार्ग बदले गए।
- India's DGCA issued advisory for airlines.
भारत के DGCA ने एयरलाइनों के लिए परामर्श जारी किया।

1979 Iranian Revolution

- Overthrow of Shah; establishment of Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini.
1979 में शाह का पतन; अयातुल्ला खुमैनी के नेतृत्व में इस्लामी गणराज्य की स्थापना।
 - Beginning of U.S.–Iran hostility.
यहीं से अमेरिका–ईरान शत्रुता की शुरुआत।
-

Iran–Israel Proxy Conflict

- Iran supports Hezbollah (Lebanon), Hamas (Gaza), Houthis (Yemen).
ईरान हिज़्बुल्लाह, हमास और हूती विद्रोहियों का समर्थन करता है।
 - Israel conducts periodic strikes on Iranian assets in Syria.
इज़राइल सीरिया में ईरानी ठिकानों पर समय-समय पर हमला करता है।
-

4. Geographical Importance / भौगोलिक महत्व

Strait of Hormuz

- Connects Persian Gulf to Arabian Sea.
फारस की खाड़ी को अरब सागर से जोड़ता है।
- Around 20% of global oil trade passes through it.
विश्व के लगभग 20% तेल व्यापार का मार्ग यही है।
- Closure can spike global oil prices.
बंद होने पर वैश्विक तेल कीमतों में तेज वृद्धि संभव।

5. Economic Impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Surge in crude oil prices likely.
कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में उछाल संभावित।
 - Stock market volatility in Asia and Europe.
एशिया व यूरोप के शेयर बाजारों में अस्थिरता।
 - Shipping insurance and freight costs increase.
समुद्री बीमा और मालभाड़ा लागत में वृद्धि।
-

6. Political & Diplomatic Angle / राजनीतिक व कूटनीतिक पहलू

- U.S. action without explicit Congressional approval raises constitutional debate.
अमेरिकी कार्रवाई बिना स्पष्ट संसदीय अनुमति के, संवैधानिक बहस।
 - UN Security Council emergency consultations possible.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की आपात बैठक संभावित।
 - Regional actors like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey affected.
सऊदी अरब, UAE, तुर्की जैसे क्षेत्रीय देश प्रभावित।
-

7. Strategic Analysis for Exams / परीक्षा हेतु विश्लेषण

- Example of direct state-to-state escalation, not just proxy warfare.
यह केवल प्रॉक्सी युद्ध नहीं, बल्कि प्रत्यक्ष राष्ट्र-से-राष्ट्र टकराव का उदाहरण।
- Implications for global energy security.
वैश्विक ऊर्जा सुरक्षा पर गंभीर प्रभाव।
- Test case for international law on pre-emptive strikes.
पूर्व-आक्रमण (Pre-emptive strike) के अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून की परीक्षा।

3. Nuclear Dimension / परमाणु आयाम

- 2015: Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) signed between Iran and P5+1.
2015 में ईरान और P5+1 के बीच JCPOA समझौता।
 - 2018: U.S. withdrew from the deal under Donald Trump.
2018 में अमेरिका ने समझौते से बाहर निकलने की घोषणा की।
 - Iran gradually enriched uranium beyond permitted limits.
ईरान ने अनुमत सीमा से अधिक यूरेनियम संवर्धन शुरू किया।
-

4. Geostrategic Importance / भू-रणनीतिक महत्व

- Strait of Hormuz: Critical oil chokepoint (~20% global oil passes).
होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य: विश्व तेल व्यापार का ~20% मार्ग।
- Levant region (Syria, Lebanon) acts as key proxy battlefield.
लेवांत क्षेत्र (सीरिया, लेबनान) मुख्य प्रॉक्सी युद्ध क्षेत्र।
- Gulf monarchies (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar) caught in balance.
खाड़ी देश (सऊदी अरब, UAE, कतर) संतुलन साधने की स्थिति में।

5. Timeline Highlights / समयरेखा मुख्य बिंदु

- 1979: Iranian Revolution.
1979: ईरानी क्रांति।
 - 2006: Israel–Hezbollah War in Lebanon.
2006: लेबनान में इज़राइल–हिज़्बुल्लाह युद्ध।
 - 2011 onward: Syrian civil war intensifies proxy involvement.
2011 के बाद: सीरियाई गृहयुद्ध में प्रॉक्सी हस्तक्षेप बढ़ा।
 - 2015: JCPOA signed.
2015: परमाणु समझौता।
 - 2018: U.S. exit from JCPOA.
2018: अमेरिका समझौते से बाहर।
 - 2023–25: Direct missile exchanges and regional escalation.
2023–25: प्रत्यक्ष मिसाइल हमले व क्षेत्रीय युद्ध विस्तार।
-

Statement-Based MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Around one-fifth of global oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz.
3. The 1979 Iranian Revolution led to the establishment of an Islamic Republic.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

IN BRIEF



Education is not the final stage of life: V-P at DU convocation

In a major boost to India's cheetah reintroduction programme, nine cheetahs, translocated from Botswana, were released into their enclosures at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav.

With the release of the six females and three males, the total cheetah population in India has gone up to 48. Of them, 28 are Indian-born cubs and 20 are adults translocated from African nations as part of the Union government's Project Cheetah.

Mr. Yadav said that this was the third batch of cheetahs to arrive from an African nation. The first batch of eight big cats came from Namibia in September 2022, and another 12 from South Africa in February 2023. "We have had many challenges in helping them adapt to the local habitat. But our forest officials, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), our veterinarians and scientists here [at Kuno] and especially locals from nearby

One killed, 5 injured after fall from building in Mumbai

A 55-year-old labourer was killed, and five were injured on Saturday after they fell from an under-construction building in the Subhash Nagar area of suburban Chembur, a Fire Brigade official said. The deceased has been identified as Ramnath, and the injured individuals as Gunadhar Raj, 22, who is critical, Unai, 30, Ramesh Raj, 25, Vijay 35, and Sandip, 27. They have been admitted to the civic-run Rajawadi Hospital, the official added.

Arms, ₹46 lakh in cash seized by Chhattisgarh police

A Maoist dump of arms, ammunition and ₹46 lakh in cash was seized by the police in Chhattisgarh's Garlaband on Saturday. It was found in the hilly areas of Sampasati, under the Mainpur police station in Garlaband. It used to be a Maoist hideout which was identified by surrendered Maoists. "After conducting a thorough search in the area, the police recovered cash of ₹46,31,500, a cache of arms and ammunition, a huge quantity of Nasalite material and literature from different places dumped by the Maoists in the hills," the officer told *The Hindu*. Among the weapons purportedly recovered were a muzzle loading gun, RGL shells, INSAS rounds and non-electronic detonators.

'Hidden camera' found in TISS girls' hostel bathroom

A probe was initiated after a 'hidden camera' was found in a bathroom of the girls' hostel of the Guwahati centre of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). "We have begun investigating how the camera was installed and find those responsible," an officer of the police station concerned said on Saturday. The TISS authorities said the incident was a "serious privacy violation, and is entirely unacceptable and condemnable". They said a police complaint was filed immediately after the hidden camera-like object was discovered. "We are reviewing internal security protocols to ensure this does not happen again. We are also providing support services for the affected students and are cooperating with the police," a TISS spokesperson said.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Nine Botswana cheetahs released into Kuno park

India's total cheetah population touches 48; this is the third batch of big cats to be brought from Africa as part of a reintroduction programme; 21 of these animals had died at the national park

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL



Neeraj Sheela: Cheetahs from Botswana being released in the presence of Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav and forest officials at the Kuno National Park in Sheopur on Saturday. @preravivara

areas around Kuno by becoming 'cheetah mitra' worked to preserve cheetah habitat and encourage tourism Minister said.

The nine cheetahs had been officially donated to India during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Botswana in November last year and had been in quarantine at the African nation's Mokoldi nature reserve. They were airlifted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to the Gwalior Air Base, and were further flown to the KNP on two IAF helicopters.

Kuno field director and Project Cheetah director Uttam Kumar Sharma told *The Hindu* that the cheetahs will undergo a mandatory 30-day quarantine in a mumm one month in Sheopur before being released into their enclosures at the KNP.

Continuous monitoring

"Tracking collars have been put around their necks. We have formed special teams consisting of two veterinarians and other staff members who will visit the big cats twice a day to monitor their health and how they are adapting to local conditions," Mr. Sharma said.

Since the beginning of the ambitious programme, 21 cheetahs — nine translocated adults and 12 Indian-born cubs — had died at Kuno from various causes.

Asked about any changes to the staff's approach now, Mr. Sharma said, "We have learnt a lot of things in the past three-and-a-half years. Our staff have done this in the past and know the whole procedure. We are an experienced team."

Apart from the 45 cheetahs at Kuno, three translocated adults are at the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla and Neemuch districts.

Centre suspends rice fortification scheme; activists back move

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Union Food Ministry decided to temporarily discontinue the process of rice fortification "until a more effective mechanism for delivery of nutrients to beneficiaries is identified", activists who had challenged the scheme in the Supreme Court have welcomed the move, and said fortification is not a scientific method to curb anaemia.

On Friday, the government announced that it had reviewed the implementation of rice fortification under the Pradhan Mantri Garb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other schemes until a more effective mechanism for delivery of nutrients to beneficiaries is identified," the Food Ministry said, citing a study by the IIT Kharagpur to assess the shelf life of fortified rice kernels and fortified rice under actual storage conditions in diverse agro climatic zones in the country.

"The report concludes that factors such as moisture content, storage conditions, temperature, relative humidity, and packaging material critical-

Activists say rice fortification is not a scientific method to curb anaemia. REUTERS

ly influence their stability and shelf life. They are susceptible to micronutrient reduction and shortening of shelf life during prolonged storage and routine handling. This reduction is rendering the effective shelf life shorter than expected and, in turn, limiting the intended nutritional outcomes," the release added.

The government maintained that the decision does not entail any reduction in foodgrain entitlements and will not affect operations under the public distribution system.

Social activist Kavitha Kurugant said rice fortification is an expensive and ineffective intervention, which is unsafe and toxic. "While the government is citing a study to stop this large-scale fortification, we had shown them evidence that not all anaemia is linked to iron deficiency, nor is fortification an effective solution," she said.

Bihar police roll out extensive security plan ahead of Holi

Amritha Bhatnagar
PATNA

Ahead of Holi, the Bihar police has implemented a comprehensive security plan to prevent any upward incidents during the festival. Additional forces have been deployed in all major cities, sensitive locations, religious sites and Naxal violence-affected districts, with special focus on Patna and other hotspots.

The police said that strict action would be taken against troublemakers, particularly motorcycle gangs, those involved in racing, or anyone attempting to disrupt peace during the celebrations.

Asserting that hooliganism would not be tolerated, Director-General of Police (DGP) Vinay Kumar on Saturday asked all Superintendents of Police (SPs) to take strict measures to maintain law and order during the festival. He instructed all police stations to identify sensitive areas and maintain extra vigilance.

Control rooms have been set up in every district, and officials instructed to submit situation reports every two hours. Mr. Kumar said, adding that any incident must be immediately reported to the DGP control room. An order issued by the police headquarters said that all incidents should be treated lightly, and special attention should be given to conflicts between different communities.

Array of festivals to celebrate tribal arts, music, culture and commerce

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Cultural ensemble: The event aims at positioning tribal heritage at the centre of India's inclusive growth narrative. G. N. RAO

The Tribal Affairs Ministry on Saturday announced a slate of events to be held in March in the national capital to celebrate tribal culture and commerce. They include a Tribal Arts Fest, the Living Roots Music Festival, and the Bharat Tribes Fest, 2026.

By bringing together art, music, enterprise development, and strategic collaboration within one coordinated framework, the Ministry seeks to ensure that tribal communities are empowered participants in India's cultural and economic transformation.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jai Oram said at a press conference.

He underscored the logos for the festivals, noting that

shops, participatory sessions, and panel discussions," a statement said.

The Living Roots Music Festival is scheduled to be held over two days in New Delhi from March 13 to 15, and will have daytime sessions at the Bikaner House and evening programmes at Kartavya Path.

This will be followed by the Bharat Tribes Fest 2026, a rebranded version of the Ministry's earlier Adi Mahotsav tribal product showcase, which will be held this year at Sunder Nursery from March 18 to 30.

"The fest will feature a Tribal Business Conclave which has been 'structured to promote tribal entrepreneurship and integrate tribal enterprises into domestic and global value chains'."

Delhi from March 2 to 13, the Minister said, adding that it would bring together over 700 tribal artists and showcase over 1,000 artworks from 30 distinct tribal art forms across the country. This event will include "curated walk-throughs, live painting demonstrations, illustrated Palace art gallery in New

On this Rare Diseases Day, unspent budget and untreated patients remain a concern

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Nayan was diagnosed with MPS 2, a rare genetic disorder, in 2016. His growth became stunted, and despite his best efforts to stay active and fit, the disease does not let him live a normal life. "We had requested ₹1.25 crore from the government but got only ₹50 lakh from the Prime Minister's Office. That is less than half the amount we need to help Nayan live a normal life," says Jagdish Pappai, his father.

Alishba Khan, also from Delhi, is in a similar circumstance. Her father, Magsood Alam, says the seven-year-old with Gaucher disease had begun to stabilise with treatment, thanks to the financial aid of ₹50 lakh given through



According to an RTI reply, the NPKPD utilised only ₹30.79 crore of the ₹299 crore allocated for rare disease treatment. @TNYRANKS2

the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD). When the funding ceiling was ₹299 crore in August 2024, Alishba's treatment stopped; since then, her condition has deteriorated, and even breathing has become difficult, he said.

On Rare Diseases Day, there is a strange sort of crisis in India. A notified Rare Diseases Day is in place, there are Centres of Excellence (CoEs) established across the country, and a robust budget to assist those who have deteriorated, and even breathing has become difficult, he said.

However, about ₹71 crore allocated for rare disease patients remains unused, and many of the chil-

dren are quietly but steadily losing their quality of life and hope.

A few children have already died waiting for a resolution. "With the Supreme Court hearing scheduled for March, patients are caught in limbo. We are witnessing the real-time reality of 'untreated interruptions. Every delay in restarting and sustaining therapy has life-threatening consequences. We are unable to provide the care," says Saurabh Singh, founder of the Rare Disease India Foundation.

The Centre for Community, which has gained a voice over the years, points out that the government is completely untenable, particularly because case patients remain un-

J&K's Ranji Trophy win: CM pledges ₹2 cr. reward

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

As the cricket team of Jammu and Kashmir lifted its maiden Ranji Trophy title, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday announced a ₹2 crore cash reward for the players and support staff. Mr. Abdullah, accompanied by advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Zaidial Tamir Sadig, MLA, were present at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium in Hubbali, Karamnaga, to watch the final match between Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka. J&K scored 633 runs to defeat Karnataka by 100 runs.

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said he was "grateful for the Union Territory's sporting revolution ignited under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership post 2019".

Nine Botswana cheetahs released into Kuno park

India's total cheetah population touches 48; this is the third batch of big cats to be brought from Africa as part of a reintroduction programme; 21 of these animals had died at the national park

Mehul Malpani

BHOPAL

In a major boost to India's cheetah reintroduction programme, nine cheetahs, translocated from Botswana, were released into their enclosures at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.

With the release of the six females and three males, the total cheetah population in India has gone up to 48. Of them, 28 are Indian-born cubs and 20 are adults translocated from African nations as part of the Union government's Project Cheetah.

Mr. Yadav said that this was the third batch of cheetahs to arrive from an African nation after the first batch of eight big cats from Namibia in September 2022, and another 12 from South Africa in February 2023. "We have had many challenges in this project such as their immunity and survival and helping them adapt to the local habitat. But our forest officials, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), our veterinarians and scientists here [at Kuno] and especially locals from nearby



New abode: Cheetahs from Botswana being released in the presence of Union Minister Bhupender Yadav and forest officials at the Kuno National Park in Sheopur on Saturday. @BYADAVBJP X

areas around Kuno by becoming 'cheetah mitra' worked to preserve cheetahs in this region," the Union Minister said.

The nine cheetahs had been officially donated to India during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Botswana in November last year and had been in quarantine at the African nation's Mokolodi nature reserve. They were airlifted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to the Gwalior Air Base, and were further flown to the KNP on two IAF helicopters.

Kuno field director and Project Cheetah director

Uttam Kumar Sharma told *The Hindu* that the cheetahs will undergo a mandatory quarantine for minimum one month in quarantine bomas or special enclosures at the KNP.

Continuous monitoring

"Tracking collars have been put around their necks. We have formed special teams consisting of two veterinarians and other staff members who will visit the big cats twice a day to monitor their health and how they are adapting to local conditions," Mr. Sharma said.

Since the beginning of

the ambitious programme, 21 cheetahs – nine translocated adults and 12 Indian-born cubs – had died at Kuno from various causes.

Asked about any changes to the staff's approach now, Mr. Sharma said, "We have learnt a lot of things in the past three-and-a-half years. Our staff have done this in the past and know the whole procedure. We are an experienced team."

Apart from the 45 cheetahs at Kuno, three translocated adults are at the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh's Mandasaur and Neemuch districts.



**DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO**

TANZANIA

*INDIAN
OCEAN*

ANGOLA

MALAWI

ZAMBIA

MOZAMBIQUE

ZIMBABWE

MADAGASCAR

NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

GABORONE



ESWATINI

LESOTHO

**SOUTH
AFRICA**

*ATLANTIC
OCEAN*

1. Current Development / वर्तमान घटनाक्रम

- Nine cheetahs (6 females, 3 males) from Botswana released into enclosures at Kuno National Park under Project Cheetah.
बोत्सवाना से लाए गए 9 चीते (6 मादा, 3 नर) प्रोजेक्ट चीता के तहत कुनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, मध्य प्रदेश में छोड़े गए।
 - India's total cheetah population now reaches 48.
भारत में कुल चीता संख्या 48 हो गई है।
 - Of these: 28 Indian-born cubs; 20 translocated adults from African nations.
इनमें 28 भारत में जन्मे शावक हैं; 20 वयस्क अफ्रीकी देशों से लाए गए।
 - This is the third batch after arrivals from Namibia (2022) and South Africa (2023).
यह तीसरा बैच है; पहला नामीबिया (2022) और दूसरा दक्षिण अफ्रीका (2023) से आया था।
 - 21 cheetahs have died since the start of the programme.
परियोजना की शुरुआत से अब तक 21 चीतों की मृत्यु हो चुकी है।
-

2. About Project Cheetah / प्रोजेक्ट चीता के बारे में

- Launched in 2022 to reintroduce cheetahs in India after extinction in 1952.
1952 में विलुप्त होने के बाद भारत में चीता पुनर्स्थापन हेतु 2022 में शुरू।
- World's first intercontinental translocation of a large carnivore.
किसी बड़े मांसाहारी का पहला अंतरमहाद्वीपीय स्थानांतरण।
- Implemented by MoEFCC, NTCA & Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
पर्यावरण मंत्रालय, NTCA और वाइल्डलाइफ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा क्रियान्वित।

3. Historical Background / ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) once widespread in India.
एशियाई चीता भारत में व्यापक रूप से पाया जाता था।
 - Declared extinct in India in 1952 due to hunting & habitat loss.
शिकार और आवास हानि के कारण 1952 में भारत में विलुप्त घोषित।
 - Only small population survives in Iran today.
वर्तमान में केवल ईरान में थोड़ी संख्या में शेष।
-

4. Geographical Significance of Kuno / कुनो का भौगोलिक महत्व

- Located in Sheopur district, Madhya Pradesh.
मध्य प्रदेश के श्योपुर जिले में स्थित।
 - Originally prepared for Asiatic lion relocation from Gir.
मूलतः गिर से एशियाई शेर स्थानांतरण के लिए तैयार किया गया था।
 - Dry deciduous forest ecosystem suitable for cheetahs.
शुष्क पर्णपाती वन पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र, चीतों के लिए उपयुक्त।
-

6. Ecological & Economic Impact / पारिस्थितिक व आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Restoration of grassland ecosystem.
घासभूमि पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का पुनर्स्थापन।
 - Boost to eco-tourism in Madhya Pradesh.
मध्य प्रदेश में ईको-टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा।
 - Potential livelihood generation for local communities.
स्थानीय समुदायों के लिए आजीविका अवसर।
-

7. Important Exam Facts / परीक्षा हेतु महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- Fastest land animal (~110–120 km/h).
सबसे तेज़ स्थलीय प्राणी (~110–120 किमी/घंटा)।
- IUCN Status:
African Cheetah – Vulnerable
Asiatic Cheetah – Critically Endangered
- Appendix I of CITES.
CITES परिशिष्ट-I में सूचीबद्ध।

Consider the following statements:

1. Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952.
2. Kuno National Park was originally prepared for Asiatic lion relocation.
3. The Asiatic cheetah is currently widespread in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

On this Rare Diseases Day, unspent budget and untreated patients remain a concern

Ramya Kannan

CHENNAI

Nayan was diagnosed with MPS 2, a rare genetic disorder, in 2016. His growth became stunted, and despite his best efforts to stay active and exercise, the disease does not let him live a normal life. “We had requested ₹1.25 crore from the government but got only ₹50 lakh from the Prime Minister’s Office. That is less than half the amount we need to help Nayan live a normal life,” says Jagdish Papnai, his father.

Alishba Khan, also from Delhi, is in a similar circumstance. Her father, Maqsood Alam, says the seven-year-old with Gaucher disease had begun to stabilise with treatment, thanks to the financial aid of ₹50 lakh given through



According to an RTI reply, the NPRD utilised only ₹30.79 crore of the ₹299 crore allocated for rare disease treatment. GETTY IMAGES

the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD). When the funding ceiling was crossed in August 2024, Alishba’s treatment stopped; since then, her condition has deteriorated, and even breathing has become difficult, he said.

On Rare Diseases Day, there is a strange sort of

crisis in India. A notified policy for rare diseases is in place, there are Centres of Excellence (CoEs) established across the country, and a robust budget to assist with treatment.

However, about ₹271 crore allocated for rare disease patients remains unused, and many of the chil-

dren are quietly but steadily losing their quality of life and hope.

A few children have already died waiting for a resolution. “With the Supreme Court hearing scheduled for March, patients are caught in limbo. We are witnessing the devastating reality of treatment interruptions. Every delay in restarting and sustaining therapy has life-altering consequences. We need immediate intervention to ensure continuity of care,” says Saurabh Singh, founder of the Rare Disease India Foundation.

The rare diseases community, which has gained a voice over the years, points out that the current situation is completely untenable, particularly because the money actually exists. For the year 2025-26, ₹299

crore was allocated for rare disease treatment, but as per a reply to an RTI application by Manjit Singh, president of the Lysosomal Storage Disorders Society, only ₹30.79 crore has been utilised by the NPRD so far.

Care halted

“Nearly 2,000 rare disease patients across India are currently awaiting treatment, including around 450 eligible patients with life-threatening Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSD). Alarmingly, approximately 100 children who had begun treatment have already exhausted the ₹50-lakh funding cap and now face a complete halt in life-saving care, pushing them back to square one. Eight patients have already died while waiting for treatment support,” Mr. Singh explained.

1. Core Issue / मुख्य मुद्दा

- Despite allocation under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), a large portion of funds remains unspent.

राष्ट्रीय दुर्लभ रोग नीति (2021) के तहत बजट आवंटन के बावजूद बड़ी राशि खर्च नहीं हुई।

- For 2025–26, ₹299 crore allocated; only ₹30.79 crore utilised so far (RTI data).

2025–26 में ₹299 करोड़ आवंटित; अभी तक केवल ₹30.79 करोड़ खर्च (RTI के अनुसार)।

- Nearly 2,000 patients awaiting treatment; ~450 eligible patients with life-threatening Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSD).

लगभग 2000 मरीज उपचार की प्रतीक्षा में; लगभग 450 जीवन-घातक लाइसोसोमल स्टोरेज डिसऑर्डर (LSD) से पीड़ित।

2. Case Examples / उदाहरण

- Children with MPS-2 and Gaucher disease facing treatment interruption due to funding cap of ₹50 lakh per patient.

MPS-2 और गौचर रोग से पीड़ित बच्चों का इलाज ₹50 लाख की सीमा के कारण रुक रहा है।

- Some patients reportedly died awaiting therapy support.

कुछ मरीज उपचार सहायता की प्रतीक्षा में मृत्यु को प्राप्त।

3. About Rare Diseases / दुर्लभ रोग क्या हैं?

- Diseases affecting small percentage of population (WHO: <1 in 1000 in some definitions).
ऐसे रोग जो जनसंख्या के बहुत छोटे हिस्से को प्रभावित करते हैं।
 - Often genetic, chronic, life-threatening.
प्रायः आनुवंशिक, दीर्घकालिक व जीवन-घातक।
 - Examples: MPS-2 (Hunter Syndrome), Gaucher Disease, Thalassemia (in some contexts), Hemophilia.
उदाहरण: MPS-2, गौचर रोग, थैलेसीमिया, हीमोफीलिया।
-

4. Policy & Institutional Framework / नीतिगत ढांचा

- **NPRD 2021** provides financial assistance up to ₹50 lakh per patient for certain categories.
NPRD 2021 के तहत कुछ श्रेणियों में प्रति मरीज ₹50 लाख तक सहायता।
 - Establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across India.
देशभर में उत्कृष्टता केंद्र स्थापित।
 - Role of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय की प्रमुख भूमिका।
-

5. Economic Dimension / आर्थिक पहलू

- Treatment (Enzyme Replacement Therapy – ERT) extremely costly; annual cost may exceed ₹1 crore.
एंजाइम रिप्लेसमेंट थेरेपी अत्यंत महंगी; वार्षिक खर्च ₹1 करोड़ से अधिक।
 - Budget under-utilisation reflects bureaucratic & procedural delays.
बजट का कम उपयोग प्रशासनिक व प्रक्रियात्मक देरी को दर्शाता है।
 - High fiscal burden vs low patient base creates policy dilemma.
सीमित मरीज लेकिन भारी वित्तीय बोझ — नीति-निर्माण की दुविधा।
-

6. Social & Ethical Concerns / सामाजिक व नैतिक मुद्दे

- Right to Health linked with Article 21 (Right to Life).
अनुच्छेद 21 (जीवन का अधिकार) से स्वास्थ्य का अधिकार जुड़ा।
- Treatment interruption leads to irreversible damage.
इलाज रुकने से अपरिवर्तनीय क्षति।
- Equity in healthcare access remains a challenge.
स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में समानता अभी भी चुनौती।

Rare Disease Day observed on last day of February globally.

विश्वभर में फरवरी के अंतिम दिन मनाया जाता है।

USA: Orphan Drug Act (1983) incentivises drug development.

अमेरिका का Orphan Drug Act (1983) दुर्लभ रोग दवाओं को प्रोत्साहन देता है।

EU: Strong orphan drug regulatory framework.

यूरोपीय संघ में मजबूत नियामकीय ढांचा।

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Policy for Rare Diseases (2021) provides financial assistance up to ₹50 lakh per patient.
2. Rare Disease Day is observed every year on 28 February only.
3. Lysosomal Storage Disorders are often genetic in origin.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

IN ELITE CLUB Nabi is third speedster to take 60 or more wickets in a Ranji season



Aaqib Nabi became only the third pacer to take 60 or more wickets in a single Ranji Trophy season. Nabi's 60 scalps (from 17 innings at an average of 22.56) is only two behind former Karnataka fast bowler Doodla Ganesh's tally from 1998-99 and seven fewer than Saurashtra speedster Jaydev Unadkat's from 2019-20.

NOT THIS TIME We did not step up in the final: Karnataka skipper Padikkal



We understood that the toss will play a big role, but at the end of the day, it is a final. The pressure of a final will be there regardless of what you do. It was up to us to really step up. Unfortunately, we were not able to do that. — Karnataka captain Venkatesh Padikkal after his team fell at the final hurdle.

HIGH PRAISE Title win highlights J & K's growing sporting passion and talent: Modi



Congratulations to the J & K team for their first-ever Ranji Trophy win. This historic triumph reflects remarkable grit, discipline and passion of the team. It is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it highlights the growing sporting passion and talent there — PM Narendra Modi on J & K going all the way.

RICHLY DESERVED Abdullah announces ₹2 crore reward for J & K players, staff



Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced a cash reward of ₹2 crore for the players and support staff of the Ranji Trophy-winning contingent. He added that the players would be entitled to government appointments. "They've done it," said Abdullah, who was in Hubbali when J & K scripted history.

J & K lords it over Karnataka, wins historic title

Qamran and Sahil hit unbeaten tons as the northern side bats out the final day without losing a wicket to clinch its maiden crown; southern outfit loses its second consecutive summit clash at home



Winning feelings! Skipper Dogra was at the forefront of J & K's memorable and triumphant campaign. K. MURALI KUMAR

RANJI TROPHY FINAL

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

In a baking, early-morning session after-noon at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on Saturday, Jammu & Kashmir steamrolled Karnataka to win its maiden Ranji Trophy title.

As J & K went into day five a massive 477 runs in hand, the green and with six second-innings wickets still intact, the result was seldom in question.

Solid effort
Yet, the visitors refused to move, even by an inch, the foot they had had on Karnataka neck since the start of the contest.

Parvez Rasool, who had scored 56 runs and did not lose a wicket. Karnataka's down-

fall was slow and painful, with little heed to its reputation as an eight-time champion. Death by thousand cuts it truly was.

It was fitting that the men in the middle, when drawn were called at 2:10 p.m. and J & K declared the champion, were Qamran Iqbal (60 n.o., 31lb, 16x4, 3x5) and Sahil Lotra (101 n.o., 226b, 8x4, 3x6).

Both were last-minute injury replacements for experienced opener Shubham Khajuria and young all-rounder Varunaj Sharm. Qamran's was his second First Class ton and Sahil's his first. J & K had an assembly line of heroes.

Chastening experience
For Karnataka, it will be a chastening experience, for even a star-studded team couldn't stop the State from losing a second straight home final, albeit 16 years apart.

In the time since Karnataka won its last title in 2014-15, Vidarbha has won thrice, Saurashtra twice, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh once each.

With J & K now joining the list, the democratisation of Indian cricket is all but complete. Kaniyakumari to Kashmir.

The scores: Jammu & Kashmir — 1st innings: 584.

Karnataka — 1st innings: 293.
Jammu & Kashmir — 2nd innings: Qamran Iqbal (not out) 160, Yaseer Hassan b Prasad 1, Shubham Punekar c sub (Srinath) b Vyshak 4, Paras Dogra b Prasad 16, Abdul Samad c Vyshak b Shreyas 22, Sahil Lotra (not out) 101, Extras (b-17, lb-9, w-2) 28; Total (for four wickets, dead in 113 overs) 342.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-11, 3-72, 4-145.
Karnataka bowling: Vyshak 21-30-2, Prasad 12-6-42-2, Vidyadhar 13-0-51-0, Shikhar 31-10-50-6, Shreyas 36-13-84-1, Karun 7-2-21-0, Rahul 2-0-15-0, Mayank 2-0-23-0.

Dogra — from a journeyman to a champion at 41



We've done it! Dogra finally achieved glory. K. MURALI KUMAR

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

Life came full circle for Paras Dogra on Saturday. It was at this very ground in 2013 that he made his debut for India-A in a star-studded team that also had Gautam Gambhir, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virinder Sehwag and Zaheer Khan — against West Indies-A. Little would he have imagined that he would lift his maiden Ranji Trophy title at the same venue, in the second season as captain of his adopted home Jammu & Kashmir, in the third decade of his domestic career.

"I still remember... but never thought we are going to be champions in this ground," Dogra said. "I just can't, can't, can't explain to be honest, it has been a very long journey. But I got hope last year when we reached the quarter-finals. So I have always been

pushing every player and myself. And it worked." The 41-year-old admitted that he had nearly quit playing cricket a few years ago. "Performances weren't there and I was thinking of giving up. But my family pushed me, my friends pushed me. Then Mithun (Manhas) bhai called. And everything just happened."

Captain Ajay Sharma, with whom Dogra joined hands before the 2024-25 campaign, said that the painful exit from last season's Ranji Trophy after conceding a one-run first-innings lead to Kerala in the third decade of his domestic career. "We thought that result will haunt us for a long time," Ajay stated. "So we worked on it. Last year, we didn't cross the hurdle. This time, we reached the semifinals for the first time, and then created history. You can't take us lightly now. We are a force to reckon with."

How J & K moved from the periphery to the centre

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

For long, Jammu & Kashmir was merely a distant outpost on India's cricketing map. On Saturday, it moved to the front and centre with its maiden Ranji Trophy triumph after overcoming eight-time titlist Karnataka.

J & K is the 19th different team to have won Indian domestic cricket's biggest prize. Coming as it does in a decade where hitherto unfancied sides like Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh have established themselves as champion contenders, it signals the growing footprint of the game.

India had reached the quarter-finals three before in 2013-14, 2019-20 and 2024-25. Last season's run had ended in heartbreak as Kerala had bagged the semifinal berth by securing a one-run first-innings lead. Saturday was a sweet redemption. Dogra scored 637 runs, with centuries against heavyweights Mumbai, Delhi, the Delhi knock-in,

reliable pacer Aaqib Nabi, who destroyed the famed Karnataka batting order with a sensational burst (five for 54), as he finished with a table-topping 60 scalps. It comes on the back of the 29-year-old's 44 wickets in the previous Ranji edition, heightening the clamour for National-team selection.

The immensely talented Abdul Samad, who has often failed to live up to his promise, came of age, scoring 748 runs to emerge the highest run-getter for his team.

The title run also boozes skipper Paras Dogra's incredible domestic red-ball career. The 41-year-old warhorse, a veteran of 183 K had clinched the final is a great thing. Winning and losing are part of the game. But playing the final is important. A lot of people follow us now and the atmosphere is getting more and more conducive for cricket."

Now, with the ultimate success, it is sure to skyrocket.

fact, led his side to a famous seven-wicket victory, the first of three outright wins away from home. The other two victories came in the quarterfinal against Madhya Pradesh in Indore (56 runs) and in the semifinal versus Bengal in Kolkata (six wickets).

Ahead of the summit clash, Parvez Rasool, the first J & K cricketer to play for India and the captain when it featured in the quarterfinals in 2013-14 and 2019-20, had told *Hindu* that a mere appearance in the final would do wonders for the sport back home.

"There was a time when not many knew of J & K cricket," Rasool had said. "So, playing the final is a great thing. Winning and losing are part of the game. But playing the final is important. A lot of people follow us now and the atmosphere is getting more and more conducive for cricket."

Now, with the ultimate success, it is sure to skyrocket.



Dance of delight: The J & K players break into a jig after their remarkable journey. K. MURALI KUMAR

This win will inspire generations to come, says a proud Rasool

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

Jammu & Kashmir cricket may have hit the fast lane towards success in the last two seasons, but long before that, Samiullah Beigh and Parvez Rasool were often believers of the region's cricketers. And for them, Saturday's maiden Ranji title was an emphatic vindication.

"We have had the belief that we are good enough to compete," said Beigh, a former captain with 61 First Class caps. "We always had talent. We didn't have the infrastructure to back it."

"A decade ago, when I spoke about how J&K's fortunes would change if our infrastructure was upgraded, people thought I was bragging. But now, we came from what we saw daily, watching thousands of aspiring cricketers play. Rasool, a veteran of 95 First Class matches and the first cricketer from Jammu & Kashmir to play for India, stated that it was a proud and emotional moment.

Only big issue is not having enough grounds: Manhas

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

Following Jammu & Kashmir's historic Ranji Trophy triumph here on Saturday, BCCI President Mithun Manhas said that the next big upgrade the region needed was the establishment of stadiums. Before moving to India's National cricket governing body last September, Manhas was a part of the BCCI sub-committee that was helming the affairs of the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

"The only big challenge left is the grounds," Manhas said here. "Everything else has been taken care of. The contract system is there, women cricketers are getting opportunities."

"I'm very thankful to the BCCI for the state-of-the-art academy in Jammu, with indoor facilities, swimming pool and gymnasium. We will be doing the same in Kashmir. We want stadiums to come up not only in Jammu and Kashmir for that matter, but in Rajouri, Poonch, Chenab as well."

"They didn't need outside talent because they had plenty in their backyard. What they probably needed was technical expertise, mentorship and the guidance to channelise the hunger," Ajay Sharma has done a tremendous job while Paras Dogra has brought in his vast experience."



BCCI President Manhas with J & K coach Ajay Sharma after the final. K. MURALI KUMAR

J & K lords it over Karnataka, wins historic title

Qamran and Sahil hit unbeaten tons as the northern side bats out the final day without losing a wicket to clinch its maiden crown; southern outfit loses its second consecutive summit clash at home



Winning feeling! Skipper Dogra was at the forefront of J & K's memorable and triumphant campaign. K. MURALI KUMAR

RANJI TROPHY FINAL

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

On a baking, early-summer afternoon at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on Saturday, Jammu & Kashmir steamrolled Karnataka to win its maiden Ranji Trophy title.

As J & K went into day five a massive 477 runs in the green and with six second-innings wickets still intact, the result was seldom in question.

Solid effort

Yet, the visitors refused to move, even by an inch, the foot they had had on Karnataka's neck since the start of the contest.

Paras Dogra & Co. batted for 56 overs, added 156 runs and did not lose a wicket. Karnataka's down-

fall was slow and painful, with little heed to its reputation as an eight-time champion. Death by thousand cuts it truly was.

It was fitting that the men in the middle, when draw was called at 2:10 p.m. and J & K declared the champion, were Qamran Iqbal (160 n.o., 311b, 16x4, 3x6) and Sahil Lotra (101 n.o., 226b, 8x4, 3x6).

Both were last-minute injury replacements for experienced opener Shubham Khajuria and young all-rounder Vanshaj Sharma. Qamran's was his second First Class ton and Sahil's his first. J & K had an assembly line of heroes.

Chastening experience

For Karnataka, it will be a chastening experience, for even a star-studded team couldn't stop the State from losing a second straight home final, albeit 16 years apart.

In the time since Karnataka won its last title in 2014-15, Vidarbha has won thrice, Saurashtra twice, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh once each.

With J & K now joining the list, the democratisation of Indian cricket is all but complete - Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

The scores: Jammu & Kashmir — 1st innings: 584.

Karnataka — 1st innings: 293.

Jammu & Kashmir — 2nd innings: Qamran Iqbal (not out) 160, Yawer Hassan b Prasad 1, Shubham Pundir c sub (Shrijith) b Vyshak 4, Paras Dogra b Prasad 16, Abdul Samad c Vyshak b Shreyas 32, Sahil Lotra (not out) 101; Extras (b-17, lb-9, w-2): 28; Total (for four wkts. decl. in 113 overs): 342.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-11, 3-72, 4-145.

Karnataka bowling: Vyshak 10-1-30-1, Prasad 12-0-42-2, Vidyadhar 13-0-51-0, Shikhar 31-10-50-0, Shreyas 36-13-84-1, Karun 7-2-21-0, Rahul 2-0-15-0, Mayank 2-0-23-0.



Administrator	Board of Control for Cricket in India
Format	First-class cricket
First edition	1934–35
Tournament format	Round-robin , then knockout
Number of teams	38 (2025-26)
Current champion	Jammu and Kashmir (1st title)
Most successful	Mumbai (42 titles) ^[1]
Qualification	Irani Cup
Most runs	Wasim Jaffer (12,038)
Most wickets	Rajinder Goel (640)
TV	JioHotstar
Website	www.bcci.tv ↗
Longest continuous champion	Mumbai (15 titles)

Economy / GDP & Statistics

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	With reference to National Accounts, which of the following is a component of Gross Value Added (GVA)?	Output – Intermediate Consumption
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	Consider the following statements: (i) Base year revision impacts GDP estimates. (ii) Nominal GDP uses current prices. Which are correct?	Both (i) & (ii)
RBI Grade B 2025	2025	GDP deflator is used to measure:	Inflation in GDP terms

Polity & Governance

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	Consider the following Articles: 14, 19 & 21. Which of the statements is/are correct with respect to Right to Equality and Right to Life?	14 & 21 only
SSC CGL 2025	2025	Which among the following is NOT a Fundamental Right?	Right to Property
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	Which of the following bodies can issue ordinances?	President & Governor (Both)

Geography / Environment

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	With reference to Global Climate Indices, what does El Niño denote?	Warmer sea surface temperatures in Pacific
SSC CGL 2025	2025	The largest Producer of Copper in India is?	Rajasthan
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	Consider – Indian Ocean Dipole & La Niña. Both are related to?	Pacific Ocean / Indian Ocean climatic variation

International Relations / Security

Exam	Year	Question	Answer	
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	Which of the following countries is NOT part of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?	Iran (<i>Iran is SCO Dialogue Partner — but not full member in some questions' framing</i>)	
UPSC CSE Prelims	2025	The Strait of Hormuz connects?	Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman	
CDS 2025	2025	The Durand Line demarcates border between?	Pakistan & Afghanistan	

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