Daily Current Affairs



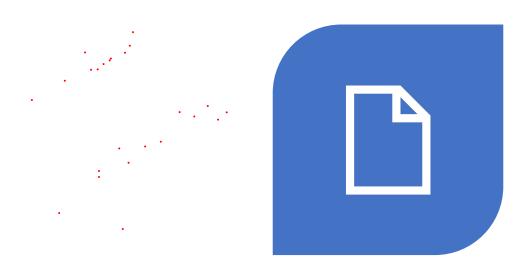








Download class24





PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ

Current Affairs 2025—2026



By Bhunesh Sir

Relevant For Exams By

UPSC Prelims, PSC, SSC, Banking, Railway, Defence, EPFO, IB Among Others

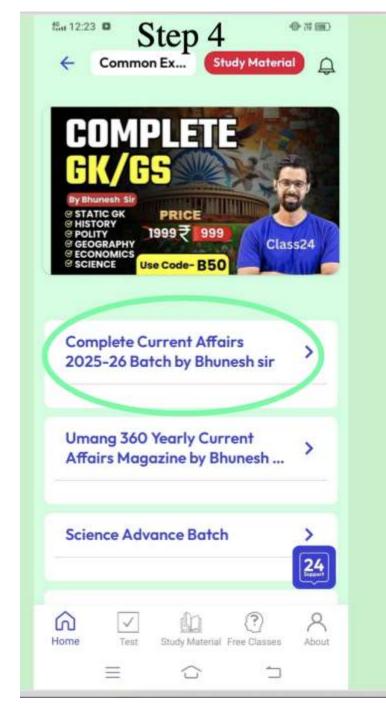
What you'll get

- **⊘** From January 2025 to March 2026

Price - 999/- 1





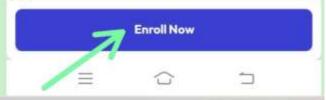


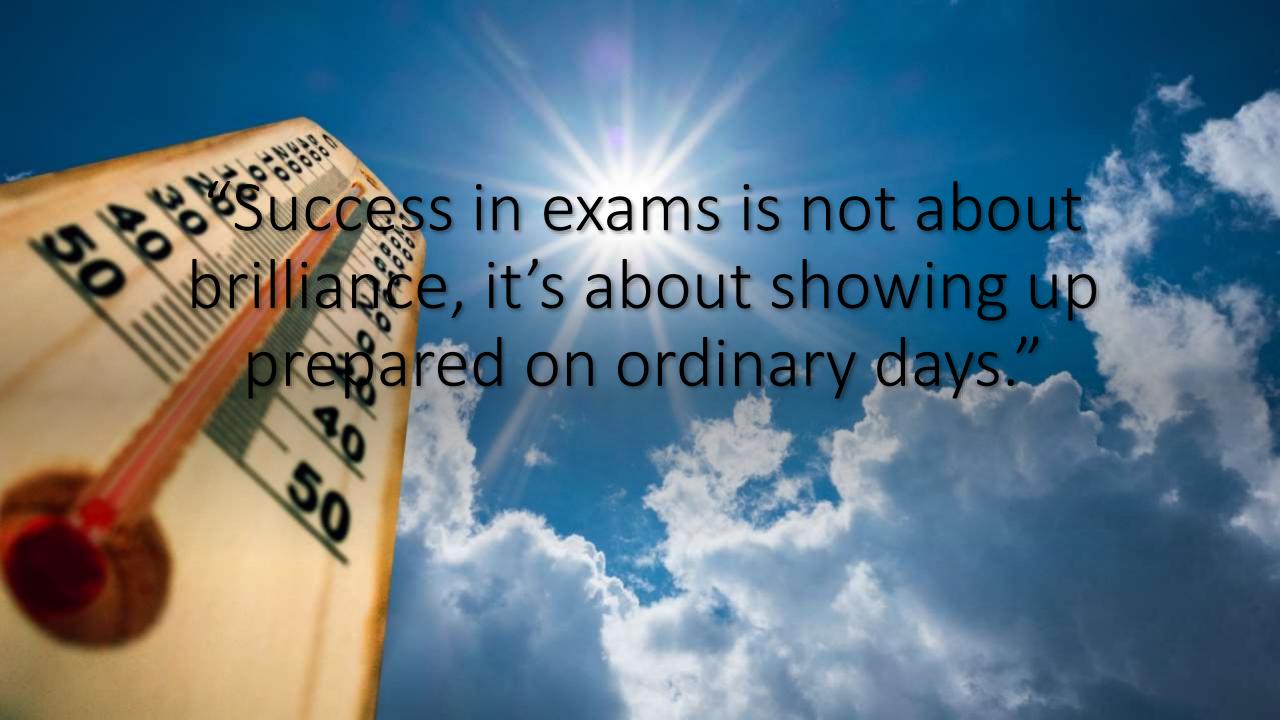




Complete Current Affairs 2025–2026 by Bhunesh Sir

This batch is designed for learners preparing for exams conducted by UPSC Prelims, PSCs, SSC, Banking, Railway, Defence, EPFO, IB like SSC CGL, CHSL, GD, RRB NTPC, RAS, PCS, CET. The focus is to help you build a steady grip on current affairs that matter across













INSTINE



Unnao survivor seeks FIR against ex-probe officer

NEW DECKER rape case, in which former 31.8 MLA Rundeep Singh Sengar wa convicted, has approached the KBI morking the registration of an FIR agency the then investigating officer for being "hand in glave" with the former legislator, is Page 8

Digvijaya points to organisational weakness at CWC

NKW DELHI Creating a flutter within the party at the Congress Working Committee (EWE) meeting on featuring, service Congress lander Digotjaya Singh flagged gaps in the organisational structure, criticisms what he cited as "overcentralisation" withen the Congress, a Page 8

Allu Arjun named in chargesheet in stampede case

HYDERABAD. Actor Alliu Agun fras been named among the 23 accused in a chargesheet filed in connection with a damped. during the premiere of Postuother 4, 2024. is Fage 2

Railways misses 'Kavach' deadline again on key line

New BREAM
The Hallways remined the
second deadline of December
2026 for installing Revoch on
routes connecting Delte with
Murrish and Howard. If is non
hopeful of operationalising the system in 2026. is Page 6



back at Pinarayi's 'bulldozer raj' jab

BENGALUBU Karmiaha Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shearburar in Saturaby stammed Karda Chie Minister Finerayi Mjayan für erstizising the demointon drive in Kouliu Leynot in Bengahans, terming the remarks "unscessory interference" made without truderstanding the facils. o Page 8

10.56 lakh names cut on draft rolls in Assam

'Special revision' was held to ensure 'accurate, transparent' electoral roll, says Assam CEO

"The Eduction Commis-sion of India has conclud-ed the House-to-House OLED verification phase of the Special Revision (SD 2026 in Assam. This exer-cise aimed to sissury an in-dusive, accurate, and tran-sparent electoral roll for the state; said a safatement from the Chler falectoral Of-ficer (CEO) of Assam.

includes more than 93,000 °D volers", whose cases are pending before Foreigners Tribunals and whe are not permitted to vote in elections until their citizenship is upheld by a

citizenatup is uphold by a court. The 60,03,003 hou-sehold visits across that State covered the 2,51,09,782 voters exclud-ing the "D voters", the CB-O's office said. Claims and

Household visits The total number of elec-ture in Assam, according to the CEO's office, is 2,52,02,775. However, this Hearings begin in West Bengal for 32 lakh voters marked as 'unmapped' following SIR

Roll in numbers

be filed till January 22. New change of residence in the be filed till Jamuary 22. New electors can apply for a claim to be included in the rell by filling Form 6, the CRO's niatement said, ad-ding that electors can sub-mit Form 7 to object to the

electoral records.

The final electoral roll will be published on February 10. The State is scheduled to hold Assembly elections in 2026. mit Form 7 to object to the proposed inclusion of a name or apply to delete a name on the existing rolls. People who have shifted away from their earther re-gistered address must use 1 form 8 to apply for a 3,244 hearing desk were 3,244 hearing desk were Kerala rolls

THIRDVANANTHAPURAM THIRIVARANTHAPURAM
After cases or names of family
prembers being scattered
within a polling stations or
scross meetiglic stations
cross meetiglic stations
of the deal description of
the deal description of
the deal description rule in
foreign, the State's CEO has
said that corrector measures
will be taken to page 2

set up across the State where such 'unmapped' voters with no recorded links to the 2002 voters' list queued up to get their identification recorded and verified. A high-rankand verified. A high-rank-ing official at the CRO's of-fice told The Hindu that ov-er 25,000 out of the expected 32,000 electors artended hearings across West Rengal on Saturday. In the draft electoral

Final voter list for both poll-bound States to be published in February next year

mile published after the first phase of the SR is Wast Berggal on December 16, the names of 58, 20, 899 voters were struck off the 17 the State selections to 7,08 eruse. These 58 laki the State's electrosis to 6,00 eruse. These 58 laki unmapped electors. The final voter list for the State will be published on February 14.

'No to micro-observers' The mure-observers are Union government officers recently appointed by the RC to scrutinise hearings and partake in the docu-ment verification process in West Bengal. Trinamool in west burgal. Trimamood Congress general secretary Abbishek Banerjee ques-tioned the need for this, gi-ven that West Bengal had the leant namber of votes deletions among States un-

er 45 years of age who re-velved notices for bearings.

Reports have also

ported at the hearing centre at Asansol, where supporters of the Bharsitya Jamata Party and the Trica mool Congruss clushed ver-bally. Electors over the age of

emerged of hearing notices being sent to the family members of Trinamood MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha. "The claim is mideading. The enumeration form clearly shows that there is no linkage. So they are called for bearing

Birds of passage

nost 4.79 lakh are dead, our 5.23 lakh have shifted, nd 53,619 were found to

ov duplicate eptrica on

The RC has completed a

SIR) of electoral rolls to Bi-

OHR) of electoral rolls to Ri-har, and the SIR is under way in 12 States and Union Territories. Unlike these Status, however, Assum is undergoing a "special revi-sion" listead of an SIR.



Thailand and Cambodia sign new truce deal to end border fighting

Assurtated Press

Thailand and Cambodia Training and Cambodas signed a coasifire agree-ment on Saturday to end weeks of fighting along their border over compet-ing territorial claims. The agreement took of-fect at noon and calls for a

and airspace violation for military particies. Only Thailand has car-ried out air strikes, bitting siles in Cambrolla as re-cently as Saturday morn-ing, assisting to the Cam-bodian Defision of the Cam-the Geal also call for Thailand, after the Cente-

ability when he stepped on an anti-personnel land mine it charged had been laid by Cambodian forces.

Peace takes to bothe, but, not that approximately a collected for the countries of the coun

Congress plans national agitation against new rural jobs Act from January 5

The Hindu Bureau

The Congress will launch the MCNREGA Bachao An-dolan, a nationwide agita-tion against the new Viksit from againer the new Vitest fiburat G-RAM-G legislation that replaced the UPA-era rural simployment guaran-tee programme, on Janu-ary 8.

The announcement

The amouncement came after a meeting of the Compele Working Committee (UWC) in New Delhi on Saturday, where membersion of the Compele "without taking anyone in-to confidence, neither the dinister concerned nor the Cabinet".

the Gastner."

Hight for work

Congress president Mailikarjam Khargo, who

karjam Khargo, who

the party would do everything to save the

MGNRIGA at "all conter",

but a constitutional right to

work for the rural puor,

M. Charge said.

My Congress Parlamen
ary Party Chairperson So
ria Gartifili, who had

beauted the Statemen Any.

only to a centralised con-centration of power but of

Addressing a press con-forence at the conclusion of the CWC meat, Mr. Kharge questioned the go-vernment's decision to scrap the MGNREGA, when seen the NTT Aayon had concluded that it finances as well.
He said the decision was directly taken by the PMO without taking the Minister could help create durable assets and productive schemes. He criticised the concerned or the Cabinet

provisions under the new legislation, saying these would increase the State altow," he remarked. As many other decisions, this was almost to benefit a few corportate friends of the government's liability un-der the new whome.

The CWC mormbest took an earth, pledging to collectively struggle to secure the right to dignity, employment, and hir and timely compensation that to hearth to the compensation of the took of the compensation of the complexing the 20-year-old MCNRRCA, was passed in Farliament during the recently concluded Winner Session.

'One-man show' One-man show!
Mr. Gandhi emphasised
that the MGNREGA was
not just a scheme laut a
rights-based cornept. The
law was widely lauded
across the globe, he said,
accusing the Ribl-ded government of attacking this
rights-based framework,
undermining the federal
structure of the recurry,

sory Council which drafted the MCNREGA in the Con-gress-led UPA's first term. Addressing a press con-

Prime Minister, he said-The CWC members took

■ 「№ 資本基本 車 車を乗り



Zepto files IPO papers with SEBI to raise '₹11,000 crore'

Quick commerce unicorn Zepto filed preliminary pepers with markets regulator SEBI to raise III,000 crow birough is initial public affering (PO) using a confidential route, people familiar cities and a confidential route, people familiar attack market filting consettine near year, a move that could make it one of the youngest startups to elbut on inflan seckanges. If it goes through, Zepto will join its rivals Zomato and Swiggy, both which is a steady letted on the exchanges.

NCLAT rejects insolvency plea against Jumbo Finvest

Appellate tributed NCLAT rejected Equitor Small Pixance Bank's appeal to truitate tradevoicy proceedings against Junton Pixers, spholding a National Company Law Tributed occle in the matter, Rather, the Jaiput Bench of NCLI rejected an insolvency pies against fambo Pinvest, observing it is a Financial Service Provider within the meaning of 3071 of Insolvency & Bankrupicy Cade and not a corporate preson against whom a Section 7 application can be initiated. an insolvency plea against Jumbo Pinvest

Aurobindo arm terminates BioFactura biosimilar pact

Aurobindo Pharma aubsidiary CaraTis (2 Biologica and U.S. firm BioFactura terminated agreement redsing to Bir 751, a proposed biosimilar to Janusen Biotoch's Stelara (Ustekinumah). The decision is aligned with CiraTe (2) strategic per fluito prioritiaation and not expected to have a material impact on the firm's overall biosimilars strategy, Aucobindo Pharma said. Ustekimamb is used for treating Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, plaque proriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

How India has managed to weave 'RCEP minus China'

Once the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with New Zealand comes into force, India would have trade deals with all RCEP countries except China: New Delhi had refused to join the RCEP in 2019

T.C.A. Sharad Bagbayan

little more than six A pears after India stepped away from joining the Regional Com-prehensive Economic Part-nerabile (RCRP), India is in premisence Continue, sur-premisence Continue, sur-premisence Continue, and a a position to recognise would expose a continue of the track-india and New Zealand on December 22 an exposing time of the track-india and New Zealand on December 22 an exposing time of the exposition of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) reflect, insilia would have such PTAs with all the countries in the RCIP ex-perts say this strategy has given insila market uccess given insila market uccess control to China.

Control to China.
The RCEP conserves are the 10 ASEAN members the 10 ASEAN members (Brunel, Cambodia, Indo-nesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sin-gapore, Thailand, Viet-nam), Australia, China, Ja-pun, South Korea and New Zealand.

Backing out of BCRP to November 2019, just as the soon-to-be members of BCRP were about to finalise an agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi amounced India would not be a part of the group-ing in its carrent form.

The present form of

Pres run: RCEF would have enabled indirect entry of Chinese ing principles of RCEP," Mr. Modi had said at the time. "It also does not adson not to sign RCEP was only China. Chinese manu-facturing is far superior

and competitive. I don't think it's possible to de-anything except accept the first we cannot have China in the picture when it comes to the trade deals." dress satisfactorily India's substanding house and concerns. In such a situation, it is not possible for India to join the RCRP agreement." While Mr. Modi did not While Mr. Modi did nost expressiby say it, govern-ment officials and trade ex-pression of the same of the property of the same of the grouping was because of the apprehensions related to entering into an FTA with China. The fear was this wested provide China virtually duty free access

**RCEP minus China* While India alcously had FTAs with several RCEP mombers at the time, a about concluding negotiations with the remaining members, Mr. Chadab explained. "This RCEP minus China susteems was part of the government's strateto the Indian market, "We could not have had an FTA with China," Pankaj Chadha, chairman of the

Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research trittative and a former Director General of Foreign Trade, said that this 'RCEP minus China' strategy is a far superior one to joining RCEP Reeff. "India's decision to stay out of RCEP reflects smart

"India's decision to stay out of RCID reflects athart could be reflected athart stay bilance of Fig. 19 reflects and the 18 RCIP members and the 18 RCIP members and the 18 RCIP members are represented by the 19 reflect of the 19 reflected at 19 reflected

chide sensitive sectors and pace liberalisation. On the other hand, RCEP's inte-

other hand, ECEP's inte-grated structure would have diluted sufeguards and enable bedieser entry commenters, he said.

"The surrent entrategy delivers access without syn-ernic vulnerability—and in far superior to a China-com-ference vulnerability—and in far superior to a China-com-ference vulnerability—and in far superior to a China-com-ference vulnerability—and in Most of India's trade deals with the ECEP mem-tions to the Commenter of the Com-ton of the Commenter of the Commenter of the Com-ton of the Commenter of the Commenter of the Commenter of the Com-ton of the Commenter of the Commenter of the Commenter of the Com-ton of the Commenter of the Commenter

"Tespetter, storage and green hydrogen will help shift reviewables from be-ing perceived as variable to becoming a base load after-native, enabling round-the-clock clean power. This came to power in 2014. Ho-wever, a few key once have been finalised since then.

Energy storage. green hydrogen to reshape RE sector'

Lalatendu Mishra

in the next five years, technologies like energy stor-age and green hydrogen would fundamentally resh-

would fundamentally resh-ings India's reniewable energy ecosystem, a top "Storage will be a game changer in addressing in-renitiones, enabling re-tiferance, enabling re-dispatchable power. We dispatchable power, We four or more hours of relia-ble supply, which is critical a industrial and commer-four or more hours of relia-ble supply, which is critical industrial and commer-our more power of the counter and chartperson, sustainability. ReNew Bourge in minerview.

Transformative role

"Green hydrogen will play an equally transformative role, particularly in decar-

role, particularly in decar-borating basel to select sec-tors such as steel, coment, and the second sectors and sec-port, she said.

With the National Green Hydrogen Mission terger-duction by 2030, support-ed by dedicated renewable she will be selected by the second she role in the second s



will significantly enhance

capacity by 2030 would re-quire investment of around t30 lakh crore, she said it would be mobilised through green bonds, blended finance struc-tures, and multilateral participation, alongside grow-ing interest from global investors seeking longinvestors seeking long

Financing solutions
"We are also seeing in-creasing momentum around financing solutions for hybrid and storage tor bybrid and storage bucked projects, which re-ture risk and impresse ban-kability, sepecially for in-distrial and commercial off-takers looking for round-the-clock clean power, who said.

"From a grid integration."

perspective, investments in green energy corridors,

As many as 30 PLI textile, apparel units start production

The Hindu Bureau

As many as 30 testile and apparel units set up under the Production Linked Incentive (PLD scheme have commenced production

According the Union Mi-nistry of Textiles, of the 74 applications selected for the scheme that was not the scheme that was not-hed on September 24, 2021, 40 have started in-vesting, 22 have achieved the prescribed threshold level and 30 units have started production.

The scheme, which has

The scheme, which has an outlay of 710,683 crore, sins at premoting produc-tion of MMF apparet and fabrics and technical tes-



insertive of the core

tile products. Yotal prothe products. Total pro-posed investment by the 74 units is £28,711 store and the projected turnover is £2,16,760 crore, generating £2.16,760 crore, generating jobs for 2.59 takin people. The Ministry disbursed a provisional incentive of

spirit and the agreed gold Holiday mood



IRDAI levies ₹1 crore penalty on Reliance General Insurance

and Development Authori-ty of India ditiAD has im-posed a penalty of El crore on Reliance General Insu-rance Company for viola-tion of vertain regulations, including those related to

including those related to outsomering of activities and payment of commis-sion, besides corporate go-vernance guidelines, pertain to enquaging aforts pertain to enquaging an in-dividual agent of another insurer for advertising and publishing services.

"These was no transpa-rency or clear lational re-garding how the agent was

selected for this role... the bissirer failed to justify their decision to engage the agent and make substantial payments," the in-surance regulator said.

Disguised programmes in its decision on four charges, IRDAI said the payments made by the insurer were essentially over-riding commissions and disguised so market awareness programmes, adver-tising activities and cus-tomer awareness initiatives to circumvent regulations. A remote inspection of the insurer by IRDAI in 2021 showed some viola-tions of provisions of the Insurance Act, 1908.

How India's crude oil import basket | Strong fundamentals, big-ticket has undergone change over years

Saptoparno Choch

Historically, energy securiby for the world's third-largest oil consumer India has been about navigating the prevailing geomolitics

been about navigating the prevailing geopolitics whilst ensuring a positive economics for purchase of ende oil purchases. From Saudi Arabia ac-counting for two-thirds of our oil imports, to funda our oil imports, to funda emerging as the major sup-plet, New Delhir crude oil backet has seen multiple gesley shifts over the years.



Tehran challenge to June 2010, The U.N. Se-curity Council anctioned fran to stop them from ac-quiring wappons. In May 2011, then Mini-ter of Sian for Petroleom and Natural Gos R.J.N. Singh informed Parliament India had out down on in tention purchases. Subse-terior mechanics. Subsefrantan purchases. Subse-quently, its share in India's crude basket dropped to



6.2% in 2015-66. Sanctions on fran were lifted in 2016. In the later years Tehran's share in India's oll imports fell to a little over 10%.

Ukraine, starting February 2022, mired them in multiple sanctions from the Ru repean Union and the U.S. China and India, among the biggest oil consumers globally, between, count

Engineering Exports Pro-motion Council of India told The Hindu, "The rea-

mued to purchase Russian oil, which was now availa-ble at a discount.

bit at a discount.
While Resolt accounted for less than 2% of India's crude oil imports in 2021-2022 and a compared to 21.6% in 2022-24 and 25.5% in 3024-28.

Selection of the compared to 21.6% in 3024-28.

Messaws accounts for one.

investments to boost FDI in 2026

FDI inflows into India are expected to register refusi growth in 2026, supported growth in 2026, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, big-ticket investment announce-ments, marained efforts to improve the case of doug-business, and a new gener-ation of investment-linked trade pact.

ation of lovestment-linked trade pact.

To ensure that India re-mains an attractive and in-vestor-friendly destina-tion, the government-reviews the FOI Goreign Direct Investment) policy on an ongoing basis and make changes from time Museow accounts for one third of the overall crude in makes changes from time to time after holding extensive consultations with



stakeholders.
The Department for In November, Com-Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has the Plytish Goyal also held this year held a series of meetings with stakehol-ders on ways to promote by making processes fas-

sefficient.

Investor friendly byvestor-friendly policies and regulatory practices, strong return on invest-ments, a calented work

burdens, decriminalising minnt industry-volated of tennes, and streamlined approvale and key mas early forcing freign investors focused on included despite global challenges.

By 2024-25, total forcing dieses freestment (PDI) bs 2024-25, total foreign dense investments (PDI) have crossed \$60.5 billion amid global uncertainties. Gross overseas invest-ments during January-Oc-tober 2028 have crossed \$60 billion.

How India has managed to weave 'RCEP minus China'

Once the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with New Zealand comes into force, India would have trade deals with all RCEP countries except China; New Delhi had refused to join the RCEP in 2019

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan NEW DELHI

little more than six years after India stepped away from joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), India is in a position to reap the benefits such a grouping would have provided it, without exposing itself to the risks.

India and New Zealand on December 22 announced the conclusion of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Once the FTA comes into effect, India would have such FTAs with all the countries in the RCEP except for China. Trade experts say this strategy has given India market access without surrendering tariff control to China.

The RCEP countries are the 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

Backing out of RCEP

In November 2019, just as the soon-to-be members of RCEP were about to finalise an agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India would not be a part of the grouping in its current form.

"The present form of the RCEP agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guid-



Free run: RCEP would have enabled indirect entry of Chinese goods via other members, says Srivastava. GETTY MAGES/ISTOCK.

ing principles of RCEP,"
Mr. Modi had said at the
time. "It also does not address satisfactorily India's
outstanding issues and
concerns. In such a situation, it is not possible for
India to join the RCEP
agreement."

While Mr. Modi did not expressly say it, government officials and trade experts were clear the reason India did not join the grouping was because of the apprehensions related to entering into an FTA with China. The fear was this would provide China virtually duty-free access to the Indian market.

"We could not have had an FTA with China," Pankaj Chadha, chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India told The Hindu. "The reason not to sign RCEP was only China. Chinese manufacturing is far superior and competitive. I don't think it's possible to do anything except accept the fact we cannot have China in the picture when it comes to the trade deals."

'RCEP minus China'

While India already had FTAs with several RCEP members at the time, it then strategically went about concluding negotiations with the remaining members, Mr. Chadha explained. "This RCEP minus China outcome was part of the government's strategy," he said.

Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative and a former Director General of Foreign Trade, said that this 'RCEP minus China' strategy is a far superior one to joining RCEP itself.

"India's decision to stay out of RCEP reflects smart risk management: by signing bilateral FTAs with 14 of the 15 RCEP members and keeping China limited to a narrow APTA framework, India secures market access without surrendering tariff control."

India and China are currently signatories to the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), which is a preferential trade pact that provides lower tariffs on a few items rather than an FTA, which typically lowers most tariffs to zero.

In fact, Mr. Srivastava added, joining RCEP would have even been worse for India than signing a direct FTA with China because a bilateral deal with China would allow India to exclude sensitive sectors and pace liberalisation. On the other hand, RCEP's integrated structure would have diluted safeguards and enable indirect entry of Chinese goods via other members, he said.

"The current strategy delivers access without systemic vulnerability – and is far superior to a China-centric multilateral pact," Mr. Srivastava said.

Most of India's trade deals with the RCEP members came into effect before the Modi government came to power in 2014. However, a few key ones have been finalised since then.

1. Background of the Issue

- India decided not to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in 2019.
- भारत ने 2019 में क्षेत्रीय व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी में शामिल न होने का निर्णय लिया।
- · RCEP is a mega regional trade agreement involving ASEAN and its FTA partners.
- RCEP एक विशाल क्षेत्रीय व्यापार समझौता है जिसमें ASEAN और उसके FTA साझेदार शामिल हैं।

2. What is RCEP?

- RCEP includes 10 ASEAN countries along with Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.
- RCEP में 10 ASEAN देश तथा ऑस्ट्रेलिया, चीन, जापान, दक्षिण कोरिया और न्यूज़ीलैंड शामिल हैं।
- It is the world's largest trade bloc in terms of population coverage.
- यह जनसंख्या कवरेज के आधार पर विश्व का सबसे बड़ा व्यापार समूह है।

3. India's Exit from RCEP (2019)

- India withdrew from RCEP negotiations just before the agreement was finalised.
- भारत ने समझौते के अंतिम रूप से ठीक पहले RCEP वार्ताओं से बाहर होने का फैसला किया।
- The decision was announced due to unresolved concerns affecting national interest.
- यह निर्णय राष्ट्रीय हित से जुड़े अनसुलझे मुद्दों के कारण लिया गया।

4. Key Reasons for Staying Out of RCEP

- · Fear of indirect entry of Chinese goods into India through other RCEP countries.
- अन्य RCEP देशों के माध्यम से चीनी वस्तुओं के भारत में अप्रत्यक्ष प्रवेश का डर।
- · Chinese manufacturing competitiveness posed a threat to Indian industry.
- चीनी विनिर्माण की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता भारतीय उद्योग के लिए खतरा थी।
- · Insufficient safeguard mechanisms against sudden import surges.
- अचानक आयात वृद्धि से बचाव हेतु पर्याप्त सुरक्षा उपायों की कमी।

5. Concept of "RCEP Minus China"

- · India followed a strategy of engaging with RCEP countries through bilateral FTAs instead of joining RCEP.
- भारत ने RCEP में शामिल होने के बजाय द्विपक्षीय मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों के माध्यम से भागीदारी की रणनीति अपनाई।
- India has trade agreements with 14 out of 15 RCEP members.
- भारत के पास RCEP के 15 में से 14 देशों के साथ व्यापार समझौते हैं।
- · China is the only RCEP country excluded from India's FTA network.
- चीन एकमात्र RCEP देश है जिसे भारत के FTA नेटवर्क से बाहर रखा गया है।

6. Role of India-New Zealand FTA

- After the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement comes into force, India will have FTAs with all RCEP members except China.
- भारत-न्यूज़ीलैंड मुक्त व्यापार समझौता लागू होने के बाद भारत के पास चीन को छोड़कर सभी RCEP देशों के साथ FTA होंगे।
- · This completes India's "RCEP Minus China" trade architecture.
- इससे भारत की "RCEP माइनस चीन" व्यापार संरचना पूर्ण होत. 🗸

7. Advantages of This Strategy

- India gains market access without surrendering tariff control.
- भारत टैरिफ नियंत्रण छोड़े बिना बाजार पहुँच प्राप्त करता है।
- Bilateral FTAs allow selective liberalisation of trade.
- द्विपक्षीय FTA व्यापार के चयनात्मक उदारीकरण की अनुमति देते हैं।
- Sensitive sectors such as agriculture and dairy remain protected.
- कृषि और डेयरी जैसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्र सुरक्षित रहते हैं।

8. Comparison with Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

- India and China are both members of APTA.
- भारत और चीन दोनों एशिया-प्रशांत व्यापार समझौते के सदस्य हैं।
- APTA provides limited tariff concessions compared to full FTAs.
- APTA पूर्ण FTA की तुलना में सीमित टैरिफ रियायतें प्रदान करता है।
- This restricts China's trade advantage over India.
- इससे भारत पर चीन का व्यापारिक लाभ सीमित हो जाता है।

9. Strategic and Economic Significance

- The strategy reflects smart risk management in global trade.
- यह रणनीति वैश्विक व्यापार में स्मार्ट जोखिम प्रबंधन को दर्शाती है।
- · India avoids dependency on China-centric supply chains.
- भारत चीन-केंद्रित आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं पर निर्भरता से बचता है।
- India balances trade liberalisation with strategic autonomy.
- भारत व्यापार उदारीकरण और रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता के बीच संतुलन बनाता है।

Question:

With reference to India's trade policy, consider the following statements:

- 1. India is a member of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.
- 2. India has signed bilateral FTAs with most RCEP members except China.
- 3. Joining RCEP would have reduced India's tariff autonomy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



- Gujarat has been formally recognised again as a tiger-bearing state after more than 30 years.
- गुजरात को 30 से अधिक वर्षों बाद पुनः बाघ-उपस्थिति वाले राज्य के रूप में औपचारिक मान्यता मिली है।
- Gujarat was removed earlier due to the absence of confirmed tiger population.
- पहले पुष्टि-शुदा बाघ आबादी न होने के कारण गुजरात को सूची से बाहर किया गया था।

Confirmation of Tiger Presence

- A tiger has been confirmed in Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary.
- गुजरात के दाहोद ज़िले स्थित रतनमहल स्लॉथ बियर अभयारण्य में बाघ की पुष्टि हुई है।
- Photographic and camera-trap evidence established continuous presence.
- फोटोग्राफिक और कैमरा-ट्रैप साक्ष्यों से निरंतर उपस्थिति सिद्ध हुई।
- The tiger is estimated to be nearly four years old.
- बाघ की आयु लगभग चार वर्ष आँकी गई है।

Movement and Habitat Establishment

- The tiger initially moved along the Gujarat–Madhya Pradesh border.
- बाघ ने प्रारंभ में गुजरात-मध्य प्रदेश सीमा क्षेत्र में विचरण किया।
- It has now established a stable territorial range within the sanctuary.
- अब इसने अभयारण्य के भीतर स्थायी क्षेत्र स्थापित कर लिया है।
- Authorities ruled out a transient visit due to long-term habitat use.
- दीर्घकालिक निवास के कारण इसे अस्थायी आगमन नहीं माना गया।

Inclusion in National Tiger Estimation

- Gujarat will be included in the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026.
- गुजरात को अखिल भारतीय बाघ अनुमान २०२६ में शामिल किया जाएगा।
- This marks a major milestone in Gujarat's wildlife conservation history.
- यह गुजरात के वन्यजीव संरक्षण इतिहास में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है।

Administrative and Conservation Measures

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority issued formal directives.
- राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण ने औपचारिक निर्देश जारी किए।
- Enhanced monitoring and protection measures have been advised.
- निगरानी और संरक्षण उपायों को मजबूत करने की सलाह दी गई है।
- State forest departments are coordinating for long-term conservation.
- दीर्घकालिक संरक्षण के लिए राज्य वन विभाग समन्वय कर रहे हैं।

Ecological and Conservation Significance

- Indicates revival of suitable forest habitat and prey base.
- उपयुक्त वन आवास और शिकार आधार की पुनर्बहाली को दर्शाता है।
- Strengthens India's overall tiger conservation success.
- भारत की समग्र बाघ संरक्षण सफलता को सुदृढ़ करता है।
- Reflects effectiveness of corridor-based wildlife movement.
- वन्यजीव गलियारों की प्रभावशीलता को दर्शाता है।

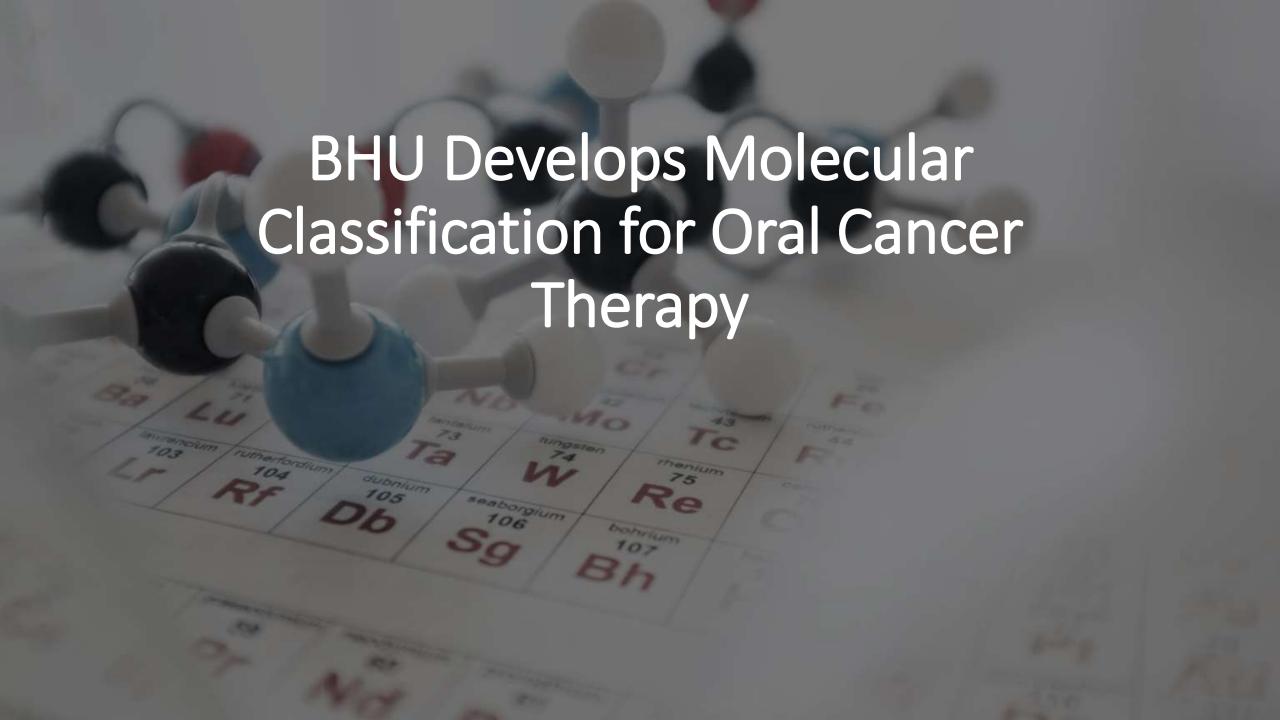
Question:

With reference to recent wildlife developments in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Gujarat has been included in the All-India Tiger Estimation 2026.
- 2. The confirmed tiger presence in Gujarat is based only on indirect evidence.
- 3. Ratanmahal Sanctuary is located near the Gujarat-Madhya Pradesh border.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



1. Background of the Development

- Researchers at **Banaras Hindu University** have developed the world's first systematic molecular classification of oral cancer.
- Banaras Hindu University के शोधकर्ताओं ने ओरल कैंसर का विश्व का पहला व्यवस्थित आणविक वर्गीकरण विकसित किया है।
- The study was published in December 2025 in a reputed international journal.
- यह अध्ययन दिसंबर २०२५ में एक प्रतिष्ठित अंतरराष्ट्रीय पत्रिका में प्रकाशित हुआ।

2. Need for Molecular Classification

- Conventional oral cancer diagnosis is largely based on morphology.
- पारंपरिक ओरल कैंसर निदान मुख्यतः आकृति-विज्ञान पर आधारित है।
- Morphology-based diagnosis does not capture genetic diversity of tumours.
- आकृति आधारित निदान ट्यूमर की आनुवंशिक विविधता को नहीं दर्शाता।
- Molecular classification enables personalised and targeted therapy.
- आणविक वर्गीकरण व्यक्तिगत एवं लक्षित उपचार को संभव बनाता है।

3. Key Features of the BHU Research

- The classification is based on genomic and molecular evidence.
- यह वर्गीकरण जीनोमिक और आणविक साक्ष्यों पर आधारित है।
- Researchers analysed data from more than 8,000 scientific studies.
- शोधकर्ताओं ने ८,००० से अधिक वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों के आँकड़ों का विश्लेषण किया।
- · The study moves beyond traditional diagnostic approaches.
- यह अध्ययन पारंपरिक निदान पद्धतियों से आगे बढ़ता है।

4. Five Molecular Pathways Identified

- The research identified five distinct molecular pathways in oral cancer.
- शोध में ओरल कैंसर की पाँच विशिष्ट आणविक पथिकाएँ पहचानी गईं।
- These pathways explain variations in tumour behaviour and response to therapy.
- ये पथिकाएँ ट्यूमर के व्यवहार और उपचार प्रतिक्रिया में अंतर को स्पष्ट करती हैं।
- Pathway-based classification helps in therapy selection.
- पथिका आधारित वर्गीकरण उपचार चयन में सहायक है।

5. Institutional and Programmatic Support

- The study was led by the Department of Surgical Oncology, BHU.
- अध्ययन का नेतृत्व BHU के सर्जिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी विभाग ने किया।
- Support was provided by HTAIn (Health Technology Assessment in India).
- HTAIn (हेल्थ टेक्नोलॉजी असेसमेंट इन इंडिया) द्वारा सहयोग प्रदान किया गया।
- The DHR-ICMR DIAMONDS programme also supported the research.
- DHR-ICMR की DIAMoNDS योजना ने भी इस शोध का समर्थन किया।

6. Significance for India and Southeast Asia

- Oral cancer burden is high in India and Southeast Asia.
- भारत और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में ओरल कैंसर का बोझ अधिक है।
- The classification can improve early diagnosis and treatment outcomes.
- यह वर्गीकरण शीघ्र निदान और उपचार परिणामों को बेहतर बना सकता है।
- It may reduce mortality through precision medicine.
- यह सटीक चिकित्सा के माध्यम से मृत्यु दर घटाने में सहायक हो सकता है।

- With reference to recent developments in cancer research in India, consider the following statements:
- BHU developed the world's first systematic molecular classification of oral cancer.
- The classification is based only on morphological features of tumours.
- The research was supported by programmes linked to ICMR.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3





A recent study by One Health has brought renewed attention to rabies in India, highlighting that the country alone accounts for nearly one-third of global rabies deaths, despite the disease being entirely preventable.



India accounts for nearly one-third of global rabies deaths, mainly due to dog bites, affecting children and poor communities, despite the disease being fully preventable.



Deaths persist due to systemic gaps such as delayed treatment, incomplete vaccination, RIG shortages, and weak dog population control, even with national programmes and a One Health approach in place.

- What are the Key Findings of the Study on Rabies in India?
- **Highest Global Burden**: About **20,000 of the 59,000 rabies deaths worldwide each year** occur in India, the highest for any single country. **It is endemic to India.**
 - Free-roaming dogs are the main reservoir, with India recording around 20 million dog bites annually.
- Rabies as Disease of Poverty: The majority of victims are poor, marginalised populations living in areas with large numbers of free-roaming dogs and limited access to healthcare.
 - Deaths occur not due to lack of medical knowledge, but because of delayed treatment, incomplete vaccination, and non-availability of rabies immunoglobulin (RIG).
 - Over 20% of dog-bite victims receive no anti-rabies vaccine (ARV). Nearly half do not complete the full vaccination course, sharply increasing fatality risk.

- Scarce of RIG: RIG is life-saving but scarce, and expensive (Rs 5,000–Rs 20,000), and often unavailable in public hospitals.
- Children are Disproportionately Affected: Around 40% of rabies cases are in children under 15, reflecting exposure and delayed care.
- **Dog Population Control Measures**: Current **Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Release** strategies have limited impact due to **high annual dog population turnover (~40%)**.
 - In 2025, the **Supreme Court of India** directed States to remove stray dogs from public institutions, triggering debate over feasibility and animal welfare.
- Elimination is Feasible but Unmet: The study concludes that human rabies deaths are entirely preventable, and continued mortality reflects systemic failures in public health delivery, not scientific limitations

What are the Key Facts About Rabies?

- About: Rabies is caused by the rabies virus, a neurotropic virus belonging to the Lyssavirus genus of the Rhabdoviridae family, which infects the central nervous system.
- Global burden: Rabies is causing about 59,000 deaths annually. Around 40% of victims are children under
 15.
- Nature of the disease: Rabies is a viral, zoonotic, neglected tropical disease (NTD).
 - It is 100% fatal once clinical symptoms appear.
- Main source of infection: Dogs cause about 99% of human rabies cases through bites and scratches. Other
 mammals can carry rabies, but human cases from wildlife are rare in most regions.
- Transmission: Spread through saliva via bites, scratches, or contact with broken skin or mucosa. Human-to-human transmission has never been confirmed.
- Prevention and Treatment: Rabies deaths are completely preventable with timely post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).
 - PEP includes:
 - Immediate wound washing with soap and water (15 minutes)
 - · A full course of rabies vaccine
 - Rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) or monoclonal antibodies for severe exposures

NEWS II PAGE 4



No compromise in core principles: Kharge NEWS II PAGE II





a submarine sortie

India and Iran. a strategic partnership Revitalised ties will ensure regional stability



Smriti, Shafali sizzle in India's fourth win SPORT IS PAGE 16

WHEAREN'

Was told 'to hide' during Operation Sindoor: Zardari

LAWORE Pokistan President Asif Ali Zardari has revealed that h was advised to "hide in a launker" when trafia launch Operation Undoor, He was speaking at an event on the Allth year of the assaultable Benazir Blutto, o PAGE 14

CPI(M) stokes roy over Bengaluru demolition drive

THURUYANANTHAPURAN (Marxist) in Karala has sough to drive an identingical equivalence between the Congress and the Sangh Parivar over the Karnataba apveroment's demotition det angeting indigent Muslim Bengaluru. a PAGE 8

Anger over bail for rape convict at rally in Delhi

NEW BELLIE

PREW BILLIE
Protests against grant of bail to
formed \$9.8" MLA and Unnac
rape rase convolve Middeep
Singh Senger continued in
Delhi an Saunday. A healed
assituage broke sail between
the demonstrators and a
susman who had enrived to
aspross support for bengar,
hear the protest alls, a PAGE 4

Minister orges Sonia to return Nebru's letters

NEW DELIN

Union Minister of Culture and Fourism Gasendra bingh Shekhawat on Sunday urgod former Congress president. Sonia Gandhi to return the correspondence and documents of the first from the Priese Ministers' Manager and Library, is PAGE 8.

EC relaxes order 'summoning' Bengal voters

Those 'unmapped' but whose names or ancestral

Trinamool accuses EC of 'torturing' the elderly by calling them to hearings far from their homes

According to the ACEO, the 2002 electoral roll can be sent to DEOs concerned for verification

Shiy Sahay Singh

The Election Commission of India (EC), in a fresh set of instructions, has asked district election officials (DECs) in West Bengal not to summon for hearings those voters identified as "unmapped" but whose names or ancestral con-nections were present on the 2002 voter list.

The move came amid a torrent of criticism against the poll body in the State tensive revision (SH) of electoral rolls.

Heartner mosteria

Hearing notices
A setter dated December 27
by the Additional Chief
Electoral Officer (ACEO),
West Bengal, to all DEOs
said though bearing noticms may have been generaled from the system for

Hidden monument



should not be called for

Meanwhile, the Trips. "This is porthing above of "This is nothing short of torturs. The fit sends poli-ing personnel to the rea-dences of elderly persons iduring electional dus to mobility issues. Why could they not follow the same procedure this time? Tri-namool MP Pariha Bhow-Meanwhite, the Trita-mool Congress on Standay criticised the EC, accusing it of asking elderly and all ing citizens, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to attend hearings at campe far away from their residence.

Matua one of the most affected groups in Bengal' ROLEATA.

An analysis of about 18 Malue dominated Assembly constituencies in West Bongal by a Robata-based institute unters across these segments stands at 21.55%. These 15 constituencies are located in North 24 Parganas and Nadia districts, is PAGE 8

mile said at a press mis. said at a press conference. Hearings for unmapped voters started in the State on Soturday, and around 32 lakh have been telenti-fied as "unmapped" after the first phase of hearing. The letter by the ACEO

elector and the same may be uploaded. In cases where discrepancies are detected later on with the

hard copy of 2002 Electoral Roll by RRO/ARRO or on rai Roll by KRO/Arma.

complaints, the concerned
electors may be called for
hearing after servicing not
bear," the communication

states that the extract of the 2002 electural roll may strendance at 81K hearteness to the 1002 on the tional general secretary Abbishek Banerjee alleged that over 80 lives have been lost "to panie, arode-ty, exhaustion and fear en-

O, eshaustion and foar engineered by a voter-chans-ing operation designed for the second game. Meanwhile, was being Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manol Agarwal has been provided y plue cate the control of the cate industrial becarry Force (CDP).

India refutes Bangladesh's charges on Hadi's killers

Kallof Bhattacherie

Indian official sources on aundary derived the allegadien of the Barghdeshi pedkee that the suspects in the
stilling of identities youth
sufficiently your
had crossed over from liandadesh to Meghalaya,
even as Dhaka rejected
concerns casted by New
Delhi over the treatment of
bouring country.

The Indian denial came
soon after Additional Come.

toon after Additional Com-missioner of Dhaka Metrosolitan Police S.N. Nagrul islam said that two sus-pects in the December 12 shooting of Radi - Paisal Kartin Masud and Alamgir Sheikh – had crossed into Meghalaya with the help of the local people and that two of the local assistants



The killing of Haift had briggered law and order issues and heightened inter-permunity tension in Bangladesh, ras promi

communication with in-dian authorities through both formal and informal channels to ensure their ar-rest and extradition." Mr. Islam said. However, diplo-matic sources as well as senior officials in Meghalaya Police told The Hindu that the information shared by Mr. Islam was inaccurate

'Inaccurate parrative' Meanwhile, the spokesper-son for Bangladesh's Fo-

reign Ministry, S.M. Mah-bubul Alam, called India's bubul Alam, called India's concerns over minorities, including Hindus, Chris-tians, and Buddhism, "in-accurate, exaggerated, or motivated tearnitive" that does not reflect the fasts, India's Minietry of Enter-hal Affairs had, on Priskay,

said the "unrem

Myanmar begins first election | Cong. leaders speak in different voices on Digvijaya since takeover by the military

Associated Press

The initial phase of Myanmar's first general election in five years was held on sunday under the superv sion of its military govern-ment even as civil war rag es in most parts of the

Pinal results will not be Final results will not be known until after two more rounds of voting are completed later in jumary. It is widely expected that senior General Min Aung Haing, who has governed Myanmar since an Army

CM (MINIST



parties in the fray.

ion Solidarity and Develop-ment Party is by far consi-dered to be the strongest

contender among the 57

Parties excluded
The junta has presented
the vote as a return to democracy, but its but for legitamery in our marved by the
absence of formerly popular opposition parties and
reports that soldiers used
threats to force voters' participation.

takeover in 2021, will as-The military-backed Un-

Meanwhile, Manickson Tagore, Congress MP from Tamil Nadu, said that the The (Congress) organisation should be

within the Congress on Sunday after senior leader Digujaya Singh lauded the organizational power of the Rushtriya Swayamse.

the Rushfriya Swayamse-vak Sangh (RSS) shead of the Congress Worlding Committee meeting held on Ramrday, with some supporting the view that the party's organisational strength had to be bol-stored, and others dismin-

attered, and three sing it.

"The [Congress's] orgardation should be
strengthened, there is no
dealst," Thiruvananthepu

strengthened, there is no doubt SHASHI THARDOR The RSS is an organisation which is based on hate, breeds hate, and propagates hate, you cannot com-

pare 1the Congress) with such an MANICKANI TAGORE

ram MP Shashi Tharoor, who was seated nest to Mr. Singh during a ceremony to mark the party's 140th foundation day on Sunday, later said, adding, "But Digstjaya Singh can speak for himself."

on late, breeds thate and propagates hate, you can-not compare [the Con-gress] with such an organi-sation," he said.

love, relationships, justice, inclusive organisation, and party's organisation, "based on love", could not be compared with that of others. "The RSS is an ortherefore there is no com-parison," Mr. Tagore said. ganization which is based on bate, breeds bate and

Former Union Minister Salman Khurshid said that there were many things that others needed to learn from the Cougress. "We certainly don't need to learn from the BSS as we one that ideology," he

"Haxed on hate"

"The Al Canda is also an organisation, and is based on force, organisations may exist but the structures they are based on are different who need to understand the first page of the structure of the structure of the structures they are based on are different to the first page of the structure o

Tamil Nadu needs to think beyond the metro

denying metro rall projects to Coimbatore and Madural. This and also sparked a wave of urban development and modernity. The absence of metros feels like a dight; their approval, a stamp of

ban arrivat. But we need to step back and ask a crucial question: do citie like Madurat and Coimbatore the Madural and Colmbatore, actually need metro rail systems? Or has the metro become an elite-driven appiration that is fundamentally misaligned with how Indian cities move and live?

Metro: not a mobility solution metero not a meaning solution india's obsession with metros is refeatively may be powerful. Over the point if years, metros have consumed userly 40% of all urban development hands, becoming the single largest item in the urban budget. And yet, their contribution to mobility remains surprisingly limited. In most metro cities, only 8-12% of daily trips are made on the metro. The overwhelming majority of people still walk, cycle, or take buses and

seem of mining magerity of people scholars of the mining magerians modes.

This gap acines from the mining magerians of the mi

new visual language of development: gleaming airports.



Tikender Singh Panwar

eed. Globally, cities comparable o Madural or Colmbatore medium-density, mixed-use, and compact – do not rely on metro systems. The successful examples are buses, surface level rapid transit, cycling highways,

pedestrian-first planning, and integrated feeder systems. Singapore and Dubai, the singapore and Dubai, the frequently cited models, are not comparable in scale, governance, land control, or economic structure. Their metros work

articutive. Their metros work because their entire urban systems are shaped artinard them. Indian size shaped artinard them. Indian such models.

Metros are also extremely expensive. A metro coate 2500 depending on whether it is elevated or underground, and of the such depending on whether it is elevated or underground. Altinuit to Indian metro recovery its contact through farres. Massive public unbadios keep them alload. Medural, metro systems would hadura, metro systems would Madural, metro systems would mean decades of financial strain diverting scarce funds away from schools, water supply, local roads, housing, public health, and basic neighbourhood infrastructure. To neighbourhood infrastructure. To interpress the lack of meiro allocation as a lack of development is to roles the real opportunity: freedom from a financially draining model. Medure's radial street system and Colimbature's industrial

loops. Imposing metro system onto such cities disrupts their organic form. What they sees instead is a high-frequency electri buses, dedicated bus lares on major corridors, shaded pedestrian networks, protected cycle tracks, better-integrated autos and share mobility, and neighbourhood-level last-mile systems. These are quick to build, cheaper, and beneficial. Gities that resistanced surban mobility in the last 30 years— Carlitha, Dogotá, Copenhagen, Freilmag, Medollin — did not rely on metros alone. Many, in fact, did not build metros at all. They meeted in Rus Rapid Transit that moves more people per rupee than any metro; cycling superhighways; walkable neighbourboods; full connectivity via repeways, multimodal integration rather than a single grand system. Modern mobility should not be defined by the scale of infrastructure, but by according affordability, and last mile connectivity and quality. India's own mobility patterns mirror these best practices far more than the metro-dominated model.

Tamil Nadu's opportunity Tamin Nadus a sopportunity Mr. Stalins disappointment at being denied metro projects for Mashursi and Claimbaine is understandable from a political point of view. But it also inadvertently gives Tamil Nadu a an opportunity to reimagine Combatore with a grid of fast, Possion dectric bases, connects. frequent electric bines, connected to industrial clusters; Madural with pedestrian first temple ctrcuits, cycle highways, and acantessly integrated shared autos, and cities where seighbourboods are built as 18-minute communities, where work, achoot, healthcare, and markets lie within short walking or markers be writen short watering c cycling distance. These constitute modern, climate-semsitive, affordable, and avoidly inclusive infrastructure. They match how people actually move. And most important, they won't bankrupt

ramil Nadu must resist the pressure of equating development and modernity with metros. Instead, it should craft mobility systems that reflect the realities of its workers, the densities of its neighbourhoods, and the constraints of its municipal finances. If famil Nadu dares to think beyond the metro, it could set a new template for the rest of

Bihar's unrealised potential

lts infrastructure story and women's empowerment narrative are under strain

STATE OF PLAY

M.H. Sharan Munish Sharan

mar returned as Chief Minister of Bibar after Minister of Ribar artes the National remocratic Al-liance sweeps the Assembly elections. Two explanations have featured prosumently in-much of the commentary by anolysis, the State's improvements in the commentary symmetry in Section 1, 1987, and 1987, and

increased from negligible le-vels in 2011 to nearly 30% of households and over 60% of households and over 80% of villages by 2003. There were aircular hosps in drainings and villages have been in drainings and reason of the source of the control of the control of the mulhibyas, who the control of the mulhibyas, who the control of the mulhibyas, who the control of the control

centralisation was so remarka-ble, its panchayans are large— an average Gram Parachayat covera approximately 12,000 people, areund fiser times the national average. Haturically, whatever powers were de-volved were concentrated in the mukhiya. In 2016, Illiar made a radical departure



from this model: the response from this model the respons-bility for implementing the Nal-jul (piped water) and Nas-li-Gali (drains and lanea) seltemes was handed over to

ward mertales and faring ward mertales. Each ward with a population of reaghty with a population of reaghty representative — received about (20 lakh to implement work). The production of the product of stituents. A direct conse-quence of this devolution was a change in where people a change in where people these is contest electricies between the 2016 and 2021, ward candidates nearly dou-bled, while competition for the making near declined by about 20%. This decentralised model

This decentralised model was abruptly dismanifed in May 2023, when a rule charge stripped ward members of all the manifest of the stripped ward members of all the manifest of the stripped ward in the stripped ward in polarical wards and implementation of tap-water projects were banded to the Public Health Engineering Department, whose undestried affisials have no local presence in Gram Panchayats. Thousands of ward bank accounts now lie dormant, and ward members

are fruitrated. These moves have direct piped water connections has stalled. Even mukhiyas, who now have the final word on drain constructions, complain of reduced autonomy under tighter bureaucratic control. This pattern extends to other public goods and services such as waste collection, solar and street lighting.

If the infrastructure story is fragile, so too is the women's empowerment narrative. Bi-har was neither the pioneer har was neither the phonen nor is it unders in subopting 85% reservation in pan-chayats for women. Research suggests that many women re-presentatives still operate as proxice for their husbands. More, important, substantive empowerment requires strengthening the more than \$1,000 winton ward mem-bers who form the backlome of local governance—precise by the actors whose financial

Jeevika, Bihar's self-help proup movement, remains a success. But entrepreneur ship cannot be catalysed through one-time transfers such as the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgor Vojana. The scheme cost roughly \$18,600 crore - resources unavailable for health, education, or the for health, education, or the physical infrastructure Bihar needs. Also, an over-reliance on direct instafers weakers on direct instafers weakers that we will be tween efficient and their elected representatives. When higher tiers of the State bypase directly or Chitaran, local democracy is hollewed out. Bihar's greatest resource is a unrealised potential, Much ground say, the inheliant ground say.

M.B. Jihunan to Account Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, Marchit Sharrow bank GRAMA, a powery mittantive becaut our of framia

Venezuela's resource curse

Despite having the worlds most proven oil resources, the country has a strained economy

Sambayi Porthogarathy.

for announcing a naval blockade and setting two oil tankers, the Donald Trump administration has now re-dered U.S. military forces to focus on enforcing a 'quarantine' of Ve-nezuelan oil for at least the next wo months, amping up economic ressure on Caracas. The impact pressure on Caracas. The impact of this imperialist step could wor-sen the already weak Venszuelan economy. But how did a petrostate with the most proven resources end up with a strained economy in the first place?

Venezuela has the largest pro-

Veneziasla has the largest pro-ven reserves of scule oil in the world at 303 billion barrels (2022). Yes, it ranks much lower in the Most of its resources are extra-bea-vy crude oil, whose estraction and processing require specialised technology and refineries. However, or, internal tessee and internation, and capital required for this. al sanctions have said capital required for this.

While the state-run oil company Venezuela, S.A.

Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A (PDVSA) owns and operates five re fineries in Venezuela, it also suff-ers from years of under layest management, and a lack of technical expertise. Specifically, following a failed coup attempt in April 2002 and the subsequent general strike/oil lockour in De-

general sirthe/all lockout in De-cember 2002-February 2003, the then President, Itago Chieves, was the President, Itago Chieves, was norm. Critics say this led in a lin-terator-attaction of the company. In 2004, the country produced 5,21,000 barrels of crude oil per duction in the 1900s. In the 1970s, Venesaela benefited when oil pric-se soured due to the Yorn Kippur War, and its pre-capita income the Transport of the 1970s. If was then a largely unequal coun-try. However, the figure has only dwindled since 2014 following

is not defined by infrastructur scale, but by

access.

quality

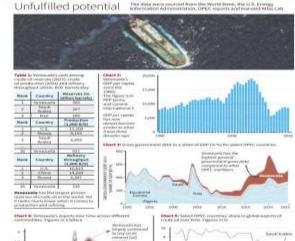
sanctions and the oil downturn (Chart 2). Venezuela's CDP per control of the control of the control of the almost similar to what it was three decades ago. No other country's companies of the country's companies of the Cogarisa-tion of the vessels on Especial tion of the vessels of the country of the thighest general government group debt compared to other the tighest series through the con-trol of the companies of the country of the control of the country of orters have steered through global oil price crushes, the country con-tinues to reel under economic pressure. This points to the fact

prosesure. This points to the fact that the economic srisis in Vene-auela carnint be attributed to glo-bal crude factors alone. U.S. saintions have played a ma-jor role in curbing the petroleum sector in Venezuela. The first Trump administration impused Trump administration impused sanctions in August 2017, prohibiting Caraons from accessing U.S. b. narcial markets. It their imposed more sanctions in 2019, on PIVNA, preventing it from being paid for exports to the U.S. The sanctions also from PIVNAAC U.S. asserts and The U.S. The sanctions also from PIVNAAC U.S. asserts and There was arranged paid for the U.S. The sanctions also from PIVNAAC U.S. asserts and There was arranged paid to 2023 in the PIVNAAC U.S. asserts and There was arranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. The U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There was a ranged to 2023 in the U.S. There There was some easing in 2023 un-der the Joe Biden regime, but sanctions were reinstated later, before the naval blockade imposed by the

cond Trump regime. The shamp regime.

The shamp can also partly be explained by the country's lack of diversification. While many other OPEC countries have diversified to

OPEC constitues have diversified to mon-oil exports. Venezuela has failed in de so. As seen in Chart 4. Venezuela has failed in de so. As seen in Chart 4. Venezuela has laught or minuel in Despite Venezuela seporting mostly only oil, the country's share in global experts of oil fell and external factors. (Chart 5 shows the share of select countries' share in global exports of formed over 4% of the global oil exports in the 1990s, second only to Sanah Arabita's share. However, this shad Arabita's share, However, this shad Arabita's share, However, the sanah Arabita's share a seen of the sanah arabita's share a s



FROM THE ARCHIVES The Mindn.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 29, 1975

Time to encourage Indian literature in English

Madurai, Dec. 28: The three-day 26th All-India

Madural, Dec. 28: The three-day 20th Al-India Inglish Tracters Conference operated here to day with a call for recognition of and encouragement or India Revenue and the India Revenue and India

and power and necessite had sown actains from theoreming Western relities for their remarke harmling of English and for their imaginative smoleting of benuma opportence. "The time has respectable place in our undergraduate and prespectable place in our undergraduate and prespectable place in our undergraduate and prespectable place in our undergraduate and interactions without the place in our undergraduate and descriptions of least time of efficiency of different control of the present section of the section of the control of the present section of the present sectio

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. DECEMBER 28, 1925. Labour in coal mines

London, Dec. 20: Commenting on the 1924 report of the Chief Inspector of Indian Mines with apecial reference to the employment of woman and the number of refal accidents which woman and the number of refal accidents which the part of colliery managements, the Asrochester Gusulans says reports such as this about apur on the efforts of western nations office to rates Labour standards in the new industrial countries in the east to a more decent served. The paper refers to India's efforts to strends coal experts and says their in little countries in the says of coal producing country. London, Dec. 29- Commenting on the 1924

Unfulfilled potential

The data were sourced from the World Bank, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, OPEC reports and Harvard Atlas Lab



Table 1: Venezuela's rank among crude oil reserves (2023), crude oil production (2024) and refinery throughput (2024). B/D: barrels/day

Rank	Country	Reserves (in billion barrels)
1	Venezuela	303
2	Saudi Arabia	267
3	Iran	209
Rank	Country	Production (1,000 B/D)
1	U.S.	13,208
2	Russia	9,193
3	Saudi Arabia	8,955
16	Venezuela	921
Rank	Country	Refinery throughput (1,000 B/D)
1	U.S.	16,623
2	China	14,250
3	Russia	5,347
100		
35	Venezuela	335

Venezuela has the largest proven reserves of crude oil in the world. Yet it ranks much lower when it comes to production and refining

Chart 2: 20,000 Venezuela's GDP per capita since the 15,000 1980s. The figure is in PPP terms and current 10,000 international \$ GDP per capita 5,000 has now almost become similar to what it was three decades ago 2006 2026 1980

Chart 3: Gross government debt as a share of GDP (in %) for select OPEC countries

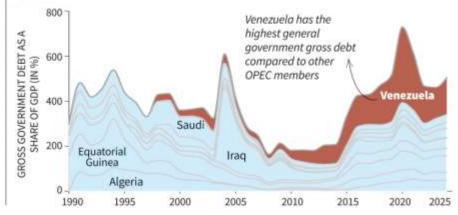


Chart 4: Venezuela's exports over time across different commodities. Figures in \$ billion

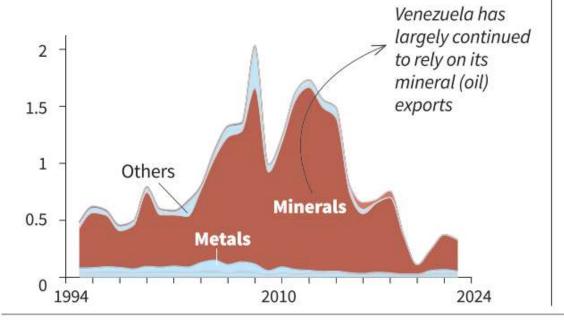
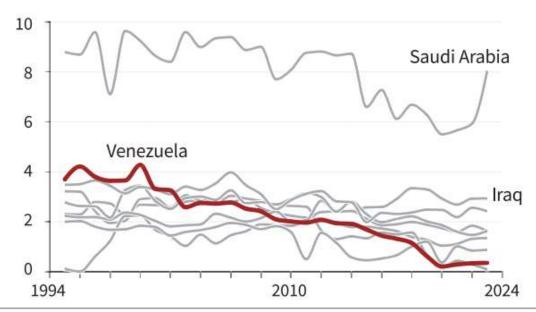


Chart 5: Select OPEC countries' share in global exports of crude oil over time. Figures in %



- The US imposed naval blockade-like enforcement to restrict Venezuelan oil exports.
- अमेरिका ने वेनेज़ुएला के तेल निर्यात को सीमित करने हेतु नौसैनिक नाकेबंदी जैसी कार्रवाई की।
- This intensified economic pressure on Venezuela.
- इससे वेनेज़ुएला पर आर्थिक दबाव और अधिक बढ़ गया।

2. Venezuela as a Petrostate

- Venezuela has the world's largest proven crude oil reserves.
- वेनेज़ुएला के पास विश्व का सबसे बड़ा प्रमाणित कच्चे तेल का भंडार है।
- Proven reserves are about 303 billion barrels (2023).
- प्रमाणित भंडार लगभग 303 अरब बैरल (2023) हैं।
- Despite this, Venezuela ranks low in oil production and refining.
- इसके बावजूद तेल उत्पादन और रिफाइनिंग में वेनेज़ुएला की स्थिति कमजोर है।

3. Nature of Venezuelan Crude

- Most Venezuelan oil is extra-heavy crude.
- वेनेज़ुएला का अधिकांश तेल अत्यधिक भारी श्रेणी का है।
- Extraction and refining require advanced technology and diluents.
- इसके निष्कर्षण और परिशोधन के लिए उन्नत तकनीक और डायल्यूएंट्स की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Sanctions restricted access to capital, technology and diluents.
- प्रतिबंधों ने पूंजी, तकनीक और डायल्यूएंट्स तक पहुँच बाधित कर दी।

4. Role of PDVSA

- · State-run company PDVSA controls oil operations.
- राज्य संचालित कंपनी PDVSA तेल संचालन को नियंत्रित करती है।
- PDVSA owns and operates five refineries in Venezuela.
- PDVSA वेनेज़ुएला में पाँच रिफाइनरियों का स्वामित्व और संचालन करती है।
- The company suffered due to under-investment, mismanagement and skill loss.
- कंपनी को अल्प निवेश, कुप्रबंधन और कौशल क्षरण से नुकसान हुआ।

5. Political Interference and Institutional Weakness

- · After the failed 2002 coup attempt, PDVSA management was replaced.
- 2002 के असफल तख्तापलट प्रयास के बाद PDVSA प्रबंधन बदला गया।
- This happened under President Hugo Chávez.
- यह प्रक्रिया राष्ट्रपति ह्यूगो चावेज़ के कार्यकाल में हुई।
- Critics argue this led to bureaucratisation and loss of efficiency.
- आलोचकों के अनुसार इससे नौकरशाहीकरण और दक्षता में गिरावट आई।

6. Production Decline

- Venezuela produced about 9.2 lakh barrels per day in 2024.
- २०२४ में वेनेज़ुएला का उत्पादन लगभग ९.२ लाख बैरल प्रतिदिन था।
- This is about 56% lower than production levels of the 1980s.
- यह 1980 के दशक के स्तर से लगभग 56% कम है।

7. GDP Per Capita Collapse

- Venezuela's GDP per capita fell back to levels seen three decades ago.
- वेनेज़ुएला की प्रति व्यक्ति GDP तीन दशक पुराने स्तर पर आ गई।
- No other country has seen such a sharp long-term decline.
- किसी अन्य देश में इतनी तेज़ दीर्घकालिक गिरावट नहीं देखी गई।

8. Impact of U.S. Sanctions

- · Sanctions were first imposed in 2017 under Donald Trump administration.
- 2017 में डोनाल्ड ट्रंप प्रशासन के तहत पहली बार प्रतिबंध लगाए गए।
- Venezuela was denied access to US financial markets.
- वेनेज़ुएला को अमेरिकी वित्तीय बाज़ारों से वंचित कर दिया गया।
- In 2019, sanctions targeted PDVSA exports and US-based assets.
- 2019 में प्रतिबंध PDVSA के निर्यात और अमेरिकी परिसंपत्तियों पर लगाए गए।
- · Limited easing occurred in 2023 under Joe Biden but was later reversed.
- 2023 में जो बाइडन के तहत कुछ ढील दी गई, जिसे बाद में वापस ले लिया गया।

9. OPEC Membership Paradox

- Venezuela is a founding member of OPEC.
- वेनेज़ुएला OPEC का संस्थापक सदस्य है।
- · Yet it has the highest general government gross debt among OPEC members.
- फिर भी OPEC देशों में इसका सरकारी ऋण सबसे अधिक है।
- · This shows the crisis is not due to oil prices alone.
- इससे स्पष्ट होता है कि संकट केवल तेल कीमतों के कारण नहीं है।

10. Lack of Economic Diversification

- Venezuela failed to diversify beyond oil exports.
- वेनेज़ुएला तेल से आगे अर्थव्यवस्था का विविधीकरण नहीं कर सका।
- Other OPEC countries diversified into non-oil sectors.
- अन्य OPEC देशों ने गैर-तेल क्षेत्रों में विविधीकरण किया।
- Over-dependence on oil increased vulnerability.
- तेल पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता ने जोखिम बढ़ा दिया।

11. Decline in Global Oil Export Share

- Venezuela contributed over 4% of global oil exports in the 1990s.
- 1990 के दशक में वैश्विक तेल निर्यात में वेनेज़ुएला की हिस्सेदारी 4% से अधिक थी।
- Its share declined to about 0.35% by 2023.
- 2023 तक यह घटकर लगभग 0.35% रह गई।

- With reference to Venezuela's economic crisis, consider the following statements:
- Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven crude oil reserves.
- U.S. sanctions restricted PDVSA's access to finance, technology and diluents.
- Venezuela successfully diversified its economy away from oil exports.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

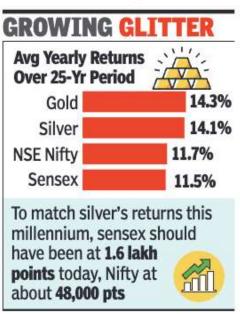
Assets of this millenium: Gold, silver have given best returns over 25 years

Partha.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: In India, gold has emerged as the best performing asset class of this millennium. The yellow metal is closely followed by silver, of late the new darling of traders and investors, pushing equities to third place by a margin. The scenario is not very different in international markets too.

Consider this: In the domestic market since end-1999, the price of gold has risen from about Rs 4,400/10 grams to slightly above Rs 1.4 lakh today. This works out to a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.3%. Silver has gone from Rs 8,100/kg in end-1999 to a little over Rs 2.5 lakh, as on Saturday, at a CAGR of 14.1%.

In comparison, NSE Nifty offered a CAGR return of 11.7%, closely followed by 11.5%



in sensex, the two leading equity benchmarks in India.

For perspective surrounding the outperformance, sensex should have been at 1.6 lakh points mark today, nearly double its current level of about 85K, to match silver's return.

▶ Continued on P 11

- Gold delivered an average annual return (CAGR) of about 14.3% over 25 years.
- सोने ने 25 वर्षों में लगभग 14.3% की औसत वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (CAGR) दी।
- Domestic gold prices rose from around ₹4,400 per 10 grams in 1999 to about ₹1.4 lakh.
- 1999 में लगभग ₹4,400 प्रति 10 ग्राम से बढ़कर सोने की कीमत ₹1.4 लाख तक पहुँची।
- Gold emerged as the top-performing asset of the millennium in India.
- सोना भारत में इस सहस्राब्दी की सबसे श्रेष्ठ परिसंपत्ति के रूप में उभरा।

3. Performance of Silver

- Silver delivered a CAGR of around 14.1%, marginally lower than gold.
- चाँदी ने लगभग 14.1% CAGR दिया, जो सोने से थोड़ा कम है।
- Silver prices rose from around ₹8,100 per kg in 1999 to over ₹2.5 lakh per kg.
- चाँदी की कीमत 1999 में लगभग ₹8,100 प्रति किलोग्राम से बढ़कर ₹2.5 लाख से अधिक हो गई।
- In recent years, silver has become increasingly popular among traders and investors.
- हाल के वर्षों में चाँदी निवेशकों और ट्रेडरों के बीच अधिक लोकप्रिय हुई है।

4. Performance of Equity Markets

- NSE Nifty delivered a CAGR of about 11.7% over the same period.
- NSE निफ्टी ने इसी अवधि में लगभग 11.7% CAGR प्रदान किया।
- BSE Sensex delivered a CAGR of around 11.5%.
- BSE सेंसेक्स ने लगभग 11.5% CAGR दिया।
- Equity markets ranked third after gold and silver in long-term returns.
- दीर्घकालिक रिटर्न में इक्विटी बाज़ार सोना और चाँदी के बाद तीसरे स्थान पर रहे।

5. Comparative Insight from the Article

- To match silver's return, Sensex would have needed to reach about 1.6 lakh points.
- चाँदी के बराबर रिटर्न के लिए सेंसेक्स को लगभग 1.6 लाख अंक तक पहुँचना पड़ता।
- To match gold's return, Nifty would need to be around 48,000 points.
- सोने के रिटर्न के बराबर होने के लिए निफ्टी को लगभग 48,000 अंक पर होना चाहिए था।
- This highlights the compounding power of precious metals.
- इससे कीमती धातुओं की चक्रवृद्धि शक्ति स्पष्ट होती है।

6. Reasons for Strong Performance of Gold & Silver

- Precious metals act as a hedge against inflation.
- कीमती धातुएँ मुद्रास्फीति के विरुद्ध सुरक्षा प्रदान करती हैं।
- Gold and silver benefit during periods of global uncertainty.
- वैश्विक अनिश्चितता के समय सोना और चाँदी को लाभ मिलता है।
- Currency depreciation increases attractiveness of gold.
- मुद्रा अवमूल्यन से सोने का आकर्षण बढ़ता है।

7. Equity Underperformance Compared to Metals

- Equity returns are affected by business cycles and market volatility.
- इक्विटी रिटर्न व्यापार चक्र और बाज़ार अस्थिरता से प्रभावित होते हैं।
- Long bear phases reduce long-term compounded returns.
- दीर्घकालिक मंदी चरण चक्रवृद्धि रिटर्न को कम कर देते हैं।
- Metals offer psychological safety during crises.
- संकट के समय धातुएँ मनोवैज्ञानिक सुरक्षा प्रदान करती हैं।

8. International Comparison

- The pattern of gold outperforming equities is also observed globally.
- वैश्विक स्तर पर भी सोने का इक्विटी से बेहतर प्रदर्शन देखने को मिलता है।
- · Gold remains a global store of value.
- सोना वैश्विक मूल्य-संग्रह का साधन बना हुआ है।

9. Extra Exam-Relevant Facts

- · Gold is a non-yielding asset but gains via price appreciation.
- सोना ब्याज नहीं देता, पर मूल्य वृद्धि से लाभ देता है।
- Silver has dual role: precious metal and industrial metal.
- चाँदी की दोहरी भूमिका है: कीमती धातु और औद्योगिक धातु।
- Asset diversification reduces portfolio risk.
- परिसंपत्ति विविधीकरण से पोर्टफोलियो जोखिम कम होता है।
- · Inflation-adjusted returns are important for real wealth creation.
- वास्तविक संपत्ति सृजन के लिए मुद्रास्फीति-समायोजित रिटर्न महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- With reference to long-term asset returns in India, consider the following statements:
- Gold has delivered higher long-term returns than equity indices over the last 25 years.
- Silver acts only as a precious metal and has no industrial use.
- Equity returns are generally more volatile than precious metal returns.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Modi cites ICMR report on antibiotic resistance, says it should worry all

'Consult Docs, Stay Away From Self-Medication'

Anuja.Jaiswal @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday flagged the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and urged people to stop using these drugs without medical advice, saying "antibiotics are not medicines that should be taken mindlessly".

Speaking in his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi cited a recent report by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that showed antibiotics are increasingly proving ineffective against common infections such as pneumonia and urinary tract infections. He said the trend should worry everyone.

He pointed to indiscriminate consumption of antibiotics as a major driver of rising resistance and warned the belief that "one pill can cure ev-



Health experts have repeatedly cautioned that antimicrobial resistance is emerging as one of India's most serious public health challenges

erything" is making infections stronger than the drugs designed to treat them.

Urging restraint, he appealed to citizens to avoid self-medication, particularly with antibiotics, and to consult doctors before taking such medicines. "Responsible use," he said, "is essential not only for individual health but also to preserve effectiveness of life-saving drugs for society at large."

Modi said greater public awareness and discipline in medicine use are crucial to reversing the trend. "Following medical advice will prove helpful in improving your health," he said.

Health experts have repeatedly cautioned that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is emerging as one of India's most serious public health challenges. ICMR has flagged irrational antibiotic use, often without prescriptions, as a key factor accelerating resistance, raising concerns that routine infections could become harder to treat.

Adding clinical perspective, Dr Hitender Gautam, professor in department of micro-

UAE to Fiji, India's linguistic heritage continues to travel, and thrive, says PM

PM Modi on Sunday spotlighted a quiet but telling cultural push unfolding far beyond India's borders — a Kannada Pathshala in Dubai — as he underlined how regional languages remain central to India's identity, even among its global diaspora, reports Manash Gohain. In the 129th edition of 'Mann Ki Baat', he said the initiative began with a simple but unsettling question among Kannada families in UAE: while their children were excelling in tech-driven world, were they losing touch with their mother tongue? "This is where Kannada Pathshala was born," he said.

From the Gulf, the PM's message travelled to the Pacific. He lauded celebration of Tamil Day in Fiji's Rakiraki, where a school organised its first such event. Students, he said, recited poems, delivered speeches and showcased Tamil culture on stage, signalling a growing attachment to the language among Indian-origin community there. Calling Tamil "the oldest language in the world", Modi said efforts to promote it were also gaining momentum within India, and cited example of Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi. "This is Bharat's unity," the PM said. He suggested, India's linguistic heritage continues to travel, and thrive, well beyond its shores.

biology at AIIMS, said antimicrobial resistance has become one of the most pressing global health threats of 21st century. "Indiscriminate use of antibiotics delays treatment, increases healthcare costs and forces doctors to shift to higher-end drugs with greater side effects, raising risk of serious

illness and morbidity and mortality," he said.

Often described as a "silent pandemic", AMR requires urgent action, he said. "Without preventive measures, projections suggest AMR could become one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide by 2050," he added.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the growing threat of antibiotic resistance.
- प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने एंटीबायोटिक प्रतिरोध की बढ़ती चुनौती को उजागर किया।
- He cited a recent report by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- उन्होंने भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR) की हालिया रिपोर्ट का हवाला दिया।
- The issue was flagged during the radio programme Mann Ki Baat.
- यह विषय 'मन की बात' कार्यक्रम में उठाया गया।

2. What is Antibiotic Resistance (AMR)?

- Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria no longer respond to medicines designed to kill them.
- एंटीबायोटिक प्रतिरोध तब होता है जब बैक्टीरिया दवाओं के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया देना बंद कर देते हैं।
- Infections become harder and costlier to treat.
- संक्रमण का उपचार किंन और महँगा हो जाता है।
- AMR weakens the effectiveness of life-saving drugs.
- AMR जीवनरक्षक दवाओं की प्रभावशीलता को कम करता है।

3. Findings of the ICMR Report

- Antibiotics are becoming less effective against common infections.
- सामान्य संक्रमणों पर एंटीबायोटिक्स की प्रभावशीलता घट रही है।
- Pneumonia and urinary tract infections show rising resistance trends.
- निमोनिया और मूत्र मार्ग संक्रमण में प्रतिरोध बढ़ रहा है।
- Indiscriminate and irrational use of antibiotics is a key driver.
- एंटीबायोटिक्स का अंधाधुंध और तर्कहीन उपयोग मुख्य कारण है।

4. Role of Self-Medication

- · Self-medication with antibiotics accelerates resistance.
- एंटीबायोटिक्स के साथ स्वयं-औषधि प्रतिरोध को तेज करती है।
- · Antibiotics should not be taken without medical advice.
- एंटीबायोटिक्स बिना चिकित्सकीय सलाह के नहीं लेनी चाहिए।
- PM urged citizens to consult doctors before using antibiotics.
- प्रधानमंत्री ने एंटीबायोटिक्स लेने से पहले डॉक्टर से परामर्श की सलाह दी।

5. Public Health Implications

- AMR is emerging as one of India's most serious public health challenges.
- AMR भारत की सबसे गंभीर सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य चुनौतियों में से एक बन रहा है।
- · Routine infections may become untreatable in the future.
- भविष्य में सामान्य संक्रमण भी लाइलाज हो सकते हैं।
- Treatment delays increase illness, mortality and healthcare costs.
- उपचार में देरी से बीमारी, मृत्यु दर और स्वास्थ्य लागत बढ़ती है।

6. Global Dimension of AMR

- AMR is often described as a "silent pandemic".
- AMR को अक्सर "मौन महामारी" कहा जाता है।
- It is considered a major global health threat of the 21st century.
- इसे २१वीं सदी की प्रमुख वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य चुनौती माना जाता है।
- Projections suggest AMR could become a leading cause of death by 2050.
- अनुमान है कि 2050 तक AMR मृत्यु का प्रमुख कारण बन सकता है।

Question:

With reference to antibiotic resistance, consider the following statements:

- 1. Antibiotic resistance reduces the effectiveness of drugs used to treat bacterial infections.
- 2. Self-medication with antibiotics is one of the factors accelerating resistance.
- 3. Antibiotic resistance affects only developing countries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

RRB PO MAINS 28/12/2025 – GA | Verified Direct Answers (Matched & Updated)



Abhijeet Abhyankar <abhyankarabhi@gmail.com>

to me -

RRB PO MAINS 28/12/2025 – GA | Verified Direct Answers (Matched & Updated)

HQ of Central Bank of India – Mumbai Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Award Names – ➤ Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, Vigyan Team

ASEAN Members – 11 (Timor-Leste joined in 2025)

Kohima is the capital of - Nagaland

New Coin Series related to - Indian Rupee coinage issued by Government of India (circulation & commemorative)

SFRA Report related to – Sweep Frequency Response Analysis of transformers

PM ABHIM Scheme related to - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

ST Seats in Lok Sabha - 47

NPCI related to – Umbrella organisation for retail payments & settlement systems RBI (UPI, RuPay, IMPS etc.) Non-quadrilateral national flag – Nepal

Kanchenjunga located in – Sikkim (India–Nepal border)

Sanae Takaichi is PM of - Japan

Srisha Tiger Reserve – Likely Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan Bright Star Military Exercise held in – Egypt

Payments & Settlement Systems regulated by RBI under - Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007

Mirabai Chanu - Weightlifting (48/49 kg category), Olympic Silver Medalist

Chief Economic Advisor appointed by - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

➤ Current CEA: V. Anantha Nageswaran

Gift Portal launched by the President - E-Upahaar

11th World Green Economic

Summit venue - Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE

Election Commissioner appointed by - President of India

RTI Application Fee - ₹10

Sanae Takaichi - Prime Minister of Japan

PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana launched in - 2015

PM JUGA-U stands for - Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

Maritime Week 2025 held in - Mumbai, Maharashtra

Union Minister of Rural Development (2025) - Shivraj Singh Chouhan

WIPO Advisory Board of Judges - Justice Pratibha M. Singh (Chair: 2025-27)

Bidriware GI Tag State – Karnataka (Bidar) International Women's Day – 8 March

Indian Street Premier League - T10 Tennis-ball Cricket League (Founded 2024) -- Majhi mumbai

Recent Cyclone in Bay of Bengal (2025) – Cyclone Shakhti

Justice Pratibha M. Singh appointed in – WIPO Advisory Board of Judges

Indian Constitution translated to English – Originally enacted in English; Hindi translation under Dr. Rajendra Prasad WADA Headquarters – Montreal, Canada

Chief Electoral Officer appointed by - Election Commission of India

Anupam Kher's fourth book - Different But No Less (2025)

Train declared UNESCO World Heritage Site - Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

Secret Mountain & Google related to - AR Rahman's Al-powered metahuman band with Google Cloud

AADIVANI initiative - Al-based translator for tribal languages

National Critical Mineral Mission launched in - 2025

Current Affairs 2025—2026



By Bhunesh Sir

Relevant For Exams By

UPSC Prelims, PSC, SSC, Banking, Railway, Defence, EPFO, IB Among Others

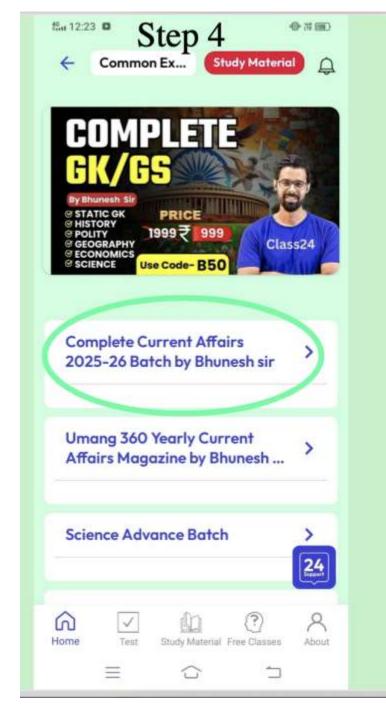
What you'll get

- **⊗** From January 2025 to March 2026

Price - 999/- 1





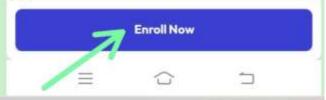






Complete Current Affairs 2025–2026 by Bhunesh Sir

This batch is designed for learners preparing for exams conducted by UPSC Prelims, PSCs, SSC, Banking, Railway, Defence, EPFO, IB like SSC CGL, CHSL, GD, RRB NTPC, RAS, PCS, CET. The focus is to help you build a steady grip on current affairs that matter across



Word of the day

Credence:

belief in or acceptance of something as true

Synonyms: certainty, trust, conviction

Usage: The news report gave credence to the claim.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/credencepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kredəns/



