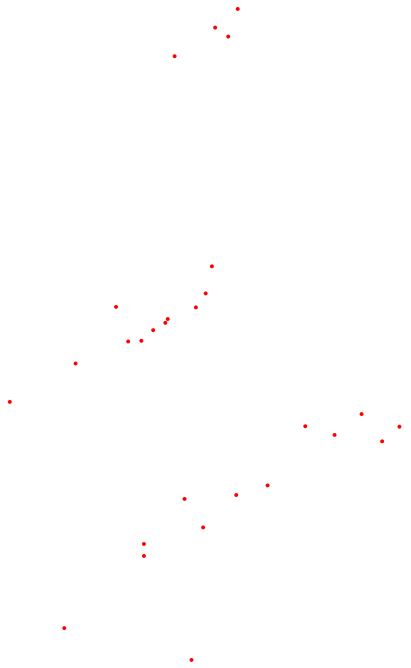


Daily Current Affairs





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10 MCQ QUIZ

- *The one who does a little extra today becomes extraordinary tomorrow.)*



Woman lodges sexual abuse plaint with CM
SOUTH - PAGE 2



India and Indonesia make progress on BrahMos deal
SOUTH - PAGE 2



Judiciary has no magic wand to solve issue: SC
SOUTH - PAGE 2



Are labour codes labour-friendly?
Amid the widespread discontent, experts look at their pros and cons
SOUTH - PAGE 2



Deepthi the biggest buy at the WPL auction
SPORTS - PAGE 26

INSIDE



Japan will pay a 'painful price', warns China

BEIJING China's Defense Ministry said on Thursday that Japan will have to pay a "painful price" if it keeps out of line over Taiwan, responding to Japanese claims to deploy missiles in disputed waters 200 km from Taiwan's coast. **IN PAGE 24**



Nifty hits all-time high of 26,300, closes 300 lower

BOMBAY Benchmark Nifty 50 touched an all-time high of 26,320 points before giving gains and closing at 26,210 on Thursday. The Sensex too hit an all-time high of 26,000 points and ended at 26,000. **IN PAGE 22**

Kerala will call for withdrawal of labour codes

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Kerala will ask the union government to withdraw the new labour codes, Minister for Labour V. Thiruvananthapuram said on Thursday following an online meeting with representatives of trade unions. He said the meeting passed a resolution demanding withdrawal of the labour codes. **IN PAGE 8**

Bengaluru police issue guidelines for gig platforms

BANGALURU In a move aimed at improving safety of gig workers and the general public, the Bengaluru City Police issued a detailed set of guidelines to all app-based service aggregators. The guidelines cover delivery, ride-hailing, and food-on-demand services. **IN PAGE 2**

CISF alters its posting policy at Parliament

NEW DELHI The Central Industrial Security Force has revised the rules of its posting policy at Parliament to ensure the safety of the members of the House. At present, they are posted for three years. However, with a view to ensure security and only those who have completed their training and are posted for a minimum of three years will be posted, a CISF official said. **IN PAGE 2**

SC asks govt. to regulate content on Internet

The court suggests 'impartial, and autonomous body' to vet 'prima facie permissible' content
Court says victims of online abuse have to be protected, and seeks 'preventive mechanisms'

By Anandashankar Dasgupta
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Ministry of Information and Public Relations to work on guidelines for user-generated content to protect innocent users from becoming victims of cyber abuse, even persons, "not national" or potentially damaging online content.

The court, which considered the plea of an "impartial and autonomous authority", further asked the government to set up a body to vet "prima facie permissible" content.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India and Justice K.J. Somaya said that the government should set up a body to vet "prima facie permissible" content.

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Icy weather



Icy weather This is how it looks in the Lake in the city of Srinagar, with temperatures dropping below freezing point, and morning misty by day and foggy by night.



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Law Ministry defends its simultaneous polls proposal

By Anandashankar Dasgupta
NEW DELHI

The Law Ministry, in a written submission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the Bill on simultaneous elections, said that the proposal would not violate the Constitution's basic structure, nor does it infringe upon the federal structure of the country.

IMF gives 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics

By A. S. Shrivastava
NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund's annual review has given India's national accounts statistics a 'C' grade. The review, which is published annually, evaluates the quality of a country's national accounts statistics.

Teacher-BLOs have 'no authority' to decide on citizenship of voters, petitioners tell SC

The petitioners in the Supreme Court on Thursday argued that the Election Commission (EC) is not empowered to decide on the citizenship of voters, and that the responsibility lies with the government.

By Anandashankar Dasgupta
NEW DELHI

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SC asks govt. to regulate content on Internet

The court suggests 'impartial, and autonomous body' to vet 'prima facie permissible' content

Court says victims of online abuse have to be protected, and seeks 'preventive mechanisms'

A takedown takes 24 hours; in that time the harm is already done, Justice Bagchi says

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to work on guidelines for user-generated content to protect innocents from becoming victims of obscene, even perverse, "anti-national" or personally damaging online content.

The top court considered the idea of an "impartial and autonomous authority", neither bound to private broadcasters nor the government, to vet "prima facie permissible" content.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said user-generated con-

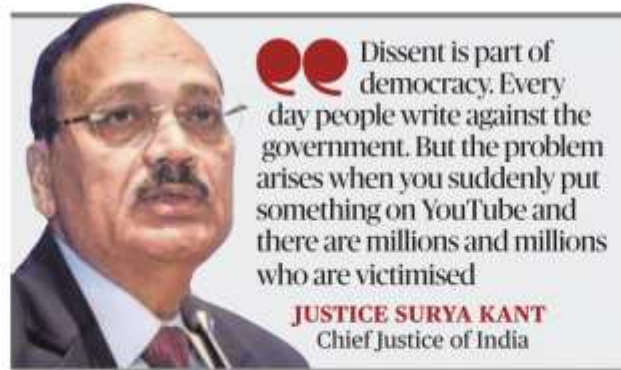
tent, potentially disastrous to reputations or even having "adult content", go viral even before social media intermediaries could take them down.

Aadhaar suggestion

At one point, referring to the easy access to uncurated material online, the court said a few seconds of 'adult content' warning was not enough. It suggested further checks such as sharing Aadhaar details to verify the age of users.

The Chief Justice found it "very strange" the phenomenon that users could create their own online channels and still be not accountable to anyone. "Is there no sense of responsibility?" he asked.

The court clarified that



it did not intend to have the proposed guidelines for user-generated content "tinker" with free speech. Though the right was subject to reasonable regulation under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, it was nevertheless to be respected and protected. However, misuse of online speech has exposed millions of in-

nocent people to abuse. They too have a right to be protected, it reasoned.

'Millions victimised'

"Dissent is part of democracy. Every day people write against the government. But the problem arises when you suddenly put something on YouTube and there are millions and

millions who are victimised. They do not have a voice. They do not have a platform, and by the time they rush to court, the damage is done," Chief Justice Kant said, highlighting the need for guidelines.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said any guidelines restraining free speech mandated prior and extensive public consultations, to be initiated by the Union government.

He cautioned that the term 'anti-national' was both over-broad and ambiguous.

The Chief Justice said there were enough laws to turn to after the damage was done. Victims could approach court for damages or opt for criminal proceedings. But there was

nothing to protect them before the post went online.

"A takedown takes at least 24 hours. By the time it is effectuated, the harm is already done. Social media is mercurial, goes across borders and is transmitted in seconds. This preventive exercise is not to throttle anyone but to have a certain degree of stick. Technology with AI makes you (social media intermediaries) enormously powerful, to curate your material, assess its impact. Platforms are monetising content," Justice Bagchi observed.

The judge termed prosecution of the creator of the offending social media post a "post-occurrence penalty", saying "we must

have preventive mechanisms to ensure there is no spread of misinformation, loss of property as well as sometimes lives".

Senior advocate Amit Sibal, for Indian Broadcast and Digital Foundation, expressed reservations about the court using the term 'preventive' to describe the proposed guidelines. 'Preventive' could be read as 'pre-censorship', Mr. Sibal said.

He suggested changing the prefix to 'effective'.

"The difficulty we are facing is the response time. By the time intermediaries respond to such content, it has already gone viral. Millions of viewership, etc. How do you plug that gap? That is the question," Justice Bagchi emphasised.



Why in News?



The Supreme Court asked the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** to frame guidelines for **user-generated online content**.



Objective: **Protect innocents from obscene, perverse, anti-national, defamatory, and personally damaging content.**



2. SC's Key Concerns

a. Massive scale of online victimisation

- Millions suffer online harassment before content is removed.
- Victims often **do not have a voice or platform**.
- Content goes viral instantly due to **AI-driven algorithms**.

b. Takedown delays

- A takedown takes **minimum 24 hours**, but harm becomes irreversible in minutes.
- Cross-border sharing makes removal harder.

c. Lack of accountability

- Anyone can operate channels without responsibility.
- SC: *"Is there no sense of responsibility?"*

d. Free speech vs harm

- SC clarified guidelines must not "tinker with free speech" under **Article 19(1)(a)**.
- But **reasonable restrictions** under **Article 19(2)** allow regulation of:
 - Morality
 - Defamation
 - Incitement to offence
 - Public order
 - State security
 - Sovereignty & integrity of India

3. SC's Suggestions

a. Creation of an impartial, autonomous vetting body

- Independent of:
 - Govt
 - Private broadcasters
- To screen "**prima facie permissible content**" only.

b. Preventive mechanisms

- To avoid spread of:
 - Misinformation
 - Obscene content
 - Harmful content
 - Digital harassment
 - Anti-national propaganda
- (Court clarified: **Not censorship**, but pre-emptive safety.)

c. Aadhaar-based age verification

- Suggested for restricting access to adult content.
- Raises **privacy & proportionality** concerns.

4. Arguments Raised in Court

a. SC observations

- Technology with AI makes intermediaries **"enormously powerful"**.
- Platforms monetise harmful content.
- Victims reach court too late → *"By the time damage is done."*

b. Concerns by Senior Advocates

- **Prashant Bhushan**
 - Fear that guidelines may **mandate prior censorship**.
 - "Anti-national" is vague & can be misused.
 - **Amit Sibal**
 - Word "preventive" seems like "pre-censorship".
 - Suggested using "effective" instead.
-

- **Existing Regulatory Tools**

- **IT Act, 2000**

- Sec 66A struck down in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)*.
- Sec 69A: Govt has power to block content.

- **IT Rules, 2021 (Intermediary Guidelines)**

- Mandatory grievance redressal.
- Faster takedown of illegal content.
- Due diligence obligations.

- **Gaps Identified by SC**

- IT Rules still **reactive, not preventive**.
- Global misinformation, deepfakes, AI-enhanced virality remain unaddressed.

A. Historical Context

- India long debated balancing **free speech vs state control** (Emergency 1975–77).
- 2012–2015: Rise of social media bans, Sec. 66A misuse.
- 2015 onward: Explosion of YouTube, short videos, influencer ecosystems.

B. Polity

- Freedom of speech under **Article 19(1)(a)** is not absolute.
- Court emphasises **“reasonable restrictions” are legitimate**.
- Debate: **Prior restraint vs post-occurrence penalty**.

C. Society

- Cyberbullying, revenge porn, deepfake videos, fake news.
- Online harassment disproportionately affects:
 - Women
 - Children
 - Minorities
 - Activists
 - Journalists

D. Ethics

- Digital platforms profit from outrage, harmful content → **“ethics of responsibility” missing**.

E. Technology

- AI, deepfake generation, bot manipulation make content moderation complex.

- **UPSC Prelims 2023 – Actual Question**

- **Q. ‘Safe Harbour’ provision (Section 79 IT Act) शिड ढ ड्डश्रिड ण**

- A. Social media intermediaries
- B. Banks
- C. NGOs
- D. Telecom companies

- **NET JRF (Paper 1) – 2023**

- **Q. “Harmful online content moderation”** **ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰੋ** subject **ਵਿਸ਼ਲੇਸ਼ਣ ਕਰੋ**

- A. Governance & Ethics
- B. Mass Communication
- C. Data Analytics
- D. Public Administration

- 
-
- RPSC RAS Mains 2023 (GS-II)

- Q. क्रमचल सङ्केत च सङ्केत ग्रव regulation ढङ्केतसङ्केत इवङ्केत व्रत्रश्रवङ्केत इङ्केत इङ्केत गङ्केत

- **Consider the following statements regarding the recent Supreme Court observations on Internet content regulation:**

- The Supreme Court proposed creation of an impartial and autonomous body to vet prima facie permissible user-generated content.
- The Court held that preventive mechanisms must not amount to prior censorship.
- The Court mandated the government to verify all online users through Aadhaar authentication.
- The Court recognised that delay in takedown makes existing remedies ineffective for victims.

- **Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

IMF gives 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund's annual review has given India's national accounts statistics – including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA) – a grade of 'C', the second-lowest rating.

According to the IMF, this grade means the data available "have some shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance".

This is of particular significance as the government will release the national accounts data for Q2 of this financial year on Friday.

Weaknesses cited

"National accounts data are available at adequate frequency and timeliness and provide broadly adequate granularity," the IMF noted in its annual Article IV assessment of India's economic framework.

"However, some methodological weaknesses somewhat hamper surveillance and warrant an overall sectoral rating for the national accounts of C." Overall, across all data categories, India has received grade 'B'. There are four grades in total: A, B, C and D.

For example, it highlighted an outdated base year of 2011-12 on which the data is based, and the use of wholesale price indices as data sources for deflators due to the lack of producer prices indices. It further pointed out periodic "sizeable discrepancies" between the production and expenditure approaches of measuring GDP, "that may indicate the need to enhance the coverage of the expenditure approach data and the informal sector".

The Indian government



Grade 'C' means the available data have shortcomings that hamper surveillance. REUTERS

has, from the beginning, used the income approach to measure GDP by measuring the incomes of the government, people, and companies. However, it also provides an estimate based on the expenditure approach, which attempts to quantify GDP through the spending done by these entities.

Often, due to the differing data sources and their coverage, the two estimates of GDP differ, which has attracted criticism from some economists. Finally, the IMF also highlighted the lack of seasonally adjusted data and "room for improvement of other statistical techniques" used in the quarterly national accounts data.

'B' for the CPI

Regarding India's main inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index, the IMF graded India a 'B', which means the data provided "have some shortcomings but are broadly adequate for surveillance".

It said that while the CPI data scores well on its frequency and timeliness, coming as it does once a month and with only a month's lag, the rating of 'B' reflects the outdated CPI base year, items basket, and weights (set in 2011-12), "implying that the CPI basket likely fails to accurately represent current spending habits".

1. Why in News?

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its annual Article IV review, has given India's national accounts statistics—including GDP and GVA—a grade 'C', the second-lowest rating.
 - 'C' indicates that data has shortcomings which hamper surveillance.
-

2. What "C Grade" Means (IMF's Data Quality Ratings)

IMF uses a four-grade scale: A, B, C, D

- A → Best (fully adequate)
- B → Broadly adequate, some shortcomings
- C → Significant shortcomings affecting surveillance
- D → Not adequate for surveillance

India got:

- GDP/GVA → Grade C
- CPI → Grade B
- Overall → Grade B

Gross Value Added

GVA is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption.

01

02

Σ GVA at basic prices + product taxes – product subsidies.

GDP at Market Prices

Σ GVA

Add GVAs from all sectors.
Product (Taxes & subsidies) are not the part of GVAs.

03

04

GDP is for entire country. GVA can be sector specific as well as regional. GDP includes both product as well as production taxes and subsidies.

GDP vs GVA

3. Key Weaknesses Identified by IMF

a. Outdated Base Year

- India still uses **2011–12** base year for GDP and CPI.
 - IMF notes this base year no longer reflects **current consumption patterns** or **economic structure**.
 - Lack of timely revision impacts accuracy.
-

b. Issues with Deflators & Price Indices

- India lacks a complete **Producer Price Index (PPI)**.
 - As a result, wholesale price indices used as deflators are outdated.
 - Leads to **“sizeable discrepancies”** between production and expenditure GDP.
-

c. Gaps in Informal Sector Measurement

- Informal sector estimates remain weak.
 - Need for better coverage in expenditure method and MSME data.
-

d. Dual GDP Measurement Approaches

India measures GDP using:

1. **Income approach** (primary method)
2. **Expenditure approach** (secondary estimate)

IMF notes:

- Dual methods often **diverge significantly**, confusing analysts and policymakers.

e. Lack of Seasonal Adjustment & Modern Statistical Techniques

- Quarterly GDP data is not fully seasonally adjusted.
 - IMF demands modernisation of methodologies.
-

4. Concerns Highlighted for CPI (Consumer Price Index)

IMF graded CPI a 'B', meaning "broadly adequate but with shortcomings."

Shortcomings:

- Base year still **2011–12** → outdated consumption basket.
- Weightages no longer reflect real spending habits.
- CPI items lack representativeness of current consumption trends.

Yet, positives:

- CPI has **good frequency (monthly)** and **short time lag (1 month)**.
-

- **Why IMF's Rating Matters?**
- **a. Global Credibility**
- GDP accuracy impacts:
 - FDI
 - Sovereign ratings
 - Bond yields
 - International comparison
 - IMF surveillance decisions
- **b. Domestic Policy Impact**
- RBI monetary policy uses CPI and GDP estimates.
- Poor-quality data affects:
 - Inflation targeting
 - Fiscal deficit assessment
 - Growth projections
- **c. Data Economy Era**
- For a \$4 trillion economy, unreliable estimates can mislead investors & analysts.

A. Historical Context

- India earlier used **NSS surveys**, Annual Survey of Industries, and traditional data systems.
 - GDP base years are usually updated every **5 years**, but India is delayed.
-

B. Polity Angle

- National accounts data is generated by **NSO (National Statistical Office)** under MoSPI.
 - The **Statistical Commission** has repeatedly recommended:
 - New base year
 - Creation of PPI
 - Integration of GST data into national accounts
-

C. Economic Angle

- Divergence between **GDP production** vs **expenditure** sides often exceeds 1% of GDP.
 - Inaccurate deflators distort **real GDP**, affecting India's "fastest growing economy" narrative.
-

D. Global Comparison

Countries with top-quality 'A' level statistical systems include:

- U.S., U.K., Japan, Germany
- They use PPI, multiple surveys, real-time adjustment tools.

-
- UPSC CSE Prelims 2023 – Actual Question
 - Q. क्रमशः GDP व GVA इनका संबंध क्या है?
 - GVA को sectoral output से derive किया जाता है
 - $GDP = \sum(GVA) + \text{Taxes} - \text{Subsidies}$

- RBI Grade-B 2023 – Phase 1
- Q. कृत्रिम रूप से GDP estimation इंग्रज -द्वारा किया गया था।
A. RBI
B. NSO
C. CSO
D. NITI Aayog

- **SSC CGL 2023**

- **Q. Base year for India's GDP estimation changed to:**

- A. 2004–05
- B. 2011–12
- C. 2001–02
- D. 2015–16

Q. Consider the following statements regarding IMF's assessment of India's national accounts data:

1. IMF has assigned India a grade 'C' for its GDP and GVA statistics due to methodological weaknesses.
2. India's CPI data received a grade 'A' for being fully adequate for IMF surveillance.
3. The outdated base year (2011–12) and absence of a comprehensive Producer Price Index are among the reasons cited by the IMF.
4. India primarily uses the expenditure method for calculating GDP.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

IN BRIEF



NDA govt. will ensure good governance in Bihar, Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the newly formed NDA government in Bihar, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, would work with greater strength to ensure good governance in the state. Mr. Shah made the remarks after Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sarban Choudhary called on him in New Delhi to discuss the roadmap for the NDA government in Bihar. Mr. Choudhary, who held the Deputy Chief Minister's post in the previous Cabinet, has retained the role. He was also elected leader of Bharatiya Janata Party's legislative party in the State.

Gujarat govt. begins three-day 'Chintan Shibir' in Valsad

The Gujarat government on Thursday began its three-day 'Chintan Shibir' in Dhamrapur town of Valsad district, where Chief Minister Kanubhai Patel, State Ministers and senior IAS officers are taking part in a series of brainstorming sessions. This is the 12th edition of the exercise, held on the theme 'Samudhik chintan ni samudhik Vikas tair'. From collective thinking to collective development. The sessions will focus on adopting a governance model that is more sensitive to technology-driven and transparent. The initiative was started in 2003 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he served as the Chief Minister.

Rajasthan govt. taking steps to bring excess Yamuna waters during monsoon, says Minister

Muhammed Ishaq
JAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party government in Rajasthan has started preparing a detailed project report (DPR) for construction of a transportation system to divert some of the seasonal flowing water from the Yamuna river during the monsoon to the State. The DPR will be sent shortly to the Central Water Commission.

Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat said at the ninth meeting of the Upper Yamuna Review Committee in Noida on Thursday that the work order for the DPR had been issued and it was being prepared in coordination with a joint task force comprising the members from Rajasthan and Haryana.

The new system will not only ensure proper utilisation of water that flows



The move will resolve the issue of shortage of drinking and irrigation water in four districts of Rajasthan. (HLS PHOTO)

waterfully during floods, but will also ensure water security in various districts by bringing water for the future projects," Mr. Rawat said.

Pact with Haryana
Union Jal Shakti Minister C.K. Patel presided over the meeting, which was attended by Ministers and officials from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

Assam Cabinet approves panel report to grant ST status to six communities

All Bodo Students Union and several allied tribal organisations take out march to demand its withdrawal; the move undermines the interests of indigenous tribal communities, they allege

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has approved a report by a Group of Ministers (GoM) on granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities of the State. The decision has led to protests by tribal organisations in the State demanding its withdrawal.

The six communities are Chakma, Koch Rajmukhar, Matak, Moran, Tal Ahom, and 'Jai tribes' (Adivasi). Tribal Minister Technology Minister Kanubhai Mahanta and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Pijush Hazarika are members of the GoM headed by Education Minister Bano Boga.

The GoM report will be placed before the Assembly and forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for further action," the Chief Minister said after the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday night. The five-day Winter Session of the 126-member



The report will be placed before the Assembly and forwarded to the Centre for further action, the CM said after the meeting. (HLS PHOTO)

House concludes on November 28. The Cabinet's approval is seen as a crucial step for the long-standing demand for ST status by the six communities, who have been organising rallies and demonstrations for almost a month.

Opposing the move, the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) along with several allied tribal organisations on Thursday took out a torchlight rally in Kokrajhar town.

They raised slogans de-

manding the withdrawal of the decision, alleging that it undermines the interests of indigenous tribal communities.

Other organisations that joined the protest include the Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations of Assam, Tribal Sangha, Boro Sangha, Balha and Gaitan students' bodies.

An ABSU spokesperson said the decision would jeopardise the socio-political identity and rights of the existing ST communities. The ABSU and the allied

groups will continue their agitation until the State government revises its stance on the move, he said.

There was, however, no report of any riotous incident during the rally, a police officer said.

Protest at university
In the morning, tribal students at Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, staged a protest on the campus opposing the decision. The agitation escalated after the Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations of Assam (AQI) has consistently remained in the "very poor" category this month, often crossing 300. Additional government pleader Jyoti Chakrabarti said the eruption of the Hach Gahli in Bishupur on November 23 had worsened the situation by sending ash clouds across the Bodoland sub-division.

The Bench, however, rejected the explanation. That eruption happened only two days ago. Even be-

fore that, if one stepped out, the court drew parallels with Delhi. "What steps can be taken? What has worked in Delhi?" the judges asked.

'Stagnant under way'

Advocate Milind Sathie, appearing for the Britannium-Bharatiya Air Quality Index (BACQI), informed the court that some measures were already under way. The BMC has indicated implementing the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP-IV), which includes halting construction activities, in case of a sustained AQI dip.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora on Thursday wrote to the BMC seeking "urgent, extraordinary and sustained intervention" to address the "public health emergency".

HC rejects govt's volcanic ash theory for Mumbai bad air

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed the Maharashtra government's claim that volcanic ash drifting from Ethiopia was responsible for Mumbai's worsening air quality, observing that pollution levels had been poor long before the eruption.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Sharad Chandra Deshpande and Justice Gajendra Narayan had a set of petitions, including a suo motu case initiated in 2023, concerning rising air pollution in the city.

Senior advocates Parthiv Khambata and Janki Tewari, representing the petitioners, pointed out that Mumbai's Air Quality Index (AQI) has consistently remained in the "very poor" category this month, often crossing 300. Additional government pleader Jyoti Chakrabarti said the eruption of the Hach Gahli in Bishupur on November 23 had worsened the situation by sending ash clouds across the Bodoland sub-division.

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A local train runs through thick smog at Bandra in Mumbai on Thursday.

fore that, if one stepped out, the court drew parallels with Delhi. "What steps can be taken? What has worked in Delhi?" the judges asked.

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Cyclone Ditwah to bring intense rainfall till weekend in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cyclone Ditwah, now positioned over coastal Sri Lanka and adjoining southern Bay of Bengal, is set to bring intense rainfall over the delta and adjoining districts on Friday, before shifting to south-west Tamil Nadu by weekend. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) also issued a red alert for several districts on Friday and Saturday.

R. Annadurai, Head (Additional in-charge), RMC, said the cyclone moving from the south-east of Chennai is expected to move closer to the region. Six districts and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region. Six districts and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region. Six districts and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region.

counts by the early morning of November 30. The RMC has declared a cyclonic storm as of now, based on various weather observations. "We will get more clarity on the landfall as the cyclone moves closer to the region," Mr. Annadurai said.

Cyclone Ditwah is set to trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in southern, delta, and adjoining districts on Friday. A red alert has been issued for four districts, including Nagapattinam.

Intense downpour may cause north Tamil Nadu and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region. Six districts and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region. Six districts and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region.

NC's two-day Central Working Committee meeting begins in Srinagar; rebel MP 'not invited'

Ferozabad Ashraf
SRINAGAR

The ruling National Conference (NC) on Thursday started a two-day Central Working Committee in Srinagar to "assess" the party and the government's performance. The party decided not to invite rebel Member of Parliament (MP) Anand Singh.

The two-day meeting was held at the party headquarters, Nawaz-ul-Haq, in Srinagar with party president Farooq Abdullah chairing it. J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also attended the meeting along with his legislators and Ministers.

The NC is likely to pass a joint resolution after the two-day conference on Friday. Several NC leaders have been issued orange alert.



Jammu and Kashmir NC Omar Abdullah and senior party leaders attending the NC Central Working Committee meeting, Srinagar.

and the problems faced by people in constituencies were discussed. Around 20 NC leaders on day 1 of the meeting to highlight the issues faced by the party. "The committee must to review party functioning, responsiveness of office-bearers and strengthen organisational systems," senior NC leader and Minister Fakir Ahmad said.

NC leader Nisar Ahmad said the party has been the Chief Minister, said the on-

going discussions will continue on Friday too. Thereafter, resolutions will be drafted after the completion of the session. Once the decisions are finalised, all details will be shared. Mr. Ward said.

Rebel MP Farooq Abdullah was conspicuous by his absence in the meeting. The NC leader, a prominent Shia cleric with growing popularity, of late has been critical of the Omar Abdullah government.

'Living in fear': transpersons fear being struck off voter rolls amid SIR

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Amid the Election Commission of India's special initiative revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, the transgender people in the State have found themselves struggling to prove their identity. While many of them are not registered in their biological families or were thrown out of their homes, several others who have undergone gender-affirming surgery are facing uncertainty regarding their voting status.

Kabita, a 24-year-old transwoman, moved out of home four years ago leaving behind years of physical violence and trauma from her own family members, who even burnt her birth certificate and other documents when she insisted on living independently. "How will I prove my identity



From left Kabita, Ishan, Koush, and others are some of the many transgender people worried about proving their identity during the ongoing SIR process in West Bengal. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

now? My family is asking me to come home for the SIR's door-to-door verification. But I feel it's a trap and they are using the SIR process as an excuse to call me home so they can lock me up and probably abuse me more," she said.

As part of the SIR exercise, voters are required to prove their identity, origin and, in many cases, paren-

ter previous residence or her ancestors? Ishan, a 40-year-old transgender man, adding that both he and his partner have been spending years in shelters and rented accommodations. "It is a difficult task. My partner lost his job and is struggling to live and lived in a roadside shanty while growing up. That made him very embarrassed with time. From where will she get a proof of

culty answering the barrage of questions from landlords and employers. "Why have you started growing a beard? Why have you started dressing like a man? As if all that was not enough, now there is this SIR sword dangling over our heads," Ishan added.

The transgender identity certificate issued by the Central government which is a nationally recognised document that can be used to officially change one's name and gender in documents such as PAN, Aadhaar and passport, does not appear among the supporting documents listed by the Election Commission for the SIR process.

"This anxiety over SIR and the whole process to prove our identity again is making us relive the past trauma. Most of us are living in a constant state of

fear," Royel Ghosh, the managing trustee of Sappho for Equality told *The Hindu*. There are over 500,000 people associated with Sappho for Equality, and most of them have been unable to fill up the enumeration form for the SIR.

While Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have no solution after his allegedly casteist remarks created a stir in the State and led to protests from the Brahmin community. As per the letter issued by the General Administration Department on Wednesday, the government said the remarks made by Mr. Verma, who was recently appointed State president of the M.P. Anuschari Samajik Sangh (MSS), were "inappropriate and against the national harmony and creating animosity in the society".

Controversial remarks: M.P. govt's show-cause notice to IAS officer

Mohd Moinul
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has issued a show-cause notice to senior IAS officer Santosh Kumar after his allegedly casteist remarks created a stir in the State and led to protests from the Brahmin community.

As per the letter issued by the General Administration Department on Wednesday, the government said the remarks made by Mr. Verma, who was recently appointed State president of the M.P. Anuschari Samajik Sangh (MSS), were "inappropriate and against the national harmony and creating animosity in the society".

and fell under the category of "discipline and serious misconduct".

Addressing a regional summit of the BJP in Bhopal on November 23, Mr. Verma had said, "One person in one family should get reservation until a Brahmin gives away his daughter to my son, or (she) has a relationship with him, it's only then economic condition."

Officer's clarification
Mr. Verma, however, issued a clarification on Tuesday, saying he did not intend to hurt women's sentiment or create a political controversy. "I don't have ill will against any community. I express regret if I have hurt anyone," Mr. Verma said, speaking to a news agency.

Cyclone Ditwah to bring intense rainfall till weekend in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Cyclone Ditwah, now positioned over coastal Sri Lanka and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal, is set to bring intense rainfall over the delta and adjoining districts on Friday, before shifting towards north Tamil Nadu by weekend. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has declared a red alert for several districts on Friday and Saturday.

B. Amudha, Head (Additional in-charge), RMC, said Ditwah, meaning lagoon, a name suggested by Yemen as part of the cyclone naming convention, lies about 570 km south-southeast of Puducherry and 670 km south-southeast of Chennai. It is likely to move across Sri Lanka's coast and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal, and reach near the north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south Andhra Pradesh

coasts by the early morning of November 30.

The RMC has declared a cyclonic storm as of now, based on various weather observations. "We will get more clarity on the landfall as the cyclone moves closer to the region," Ms. Amudha said.

Cyclone Ditwah is set to trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in southern, delta, and adjoining districts on Friday. A red alert has been issued for four districts, including Nagapattinam.

Intense downpour may cover north Tamil Nadu and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region. Six districts along the coast between Chengalpattu and Nagapattinam have been issued a red alert, while 10 other districts, including Chennai, Tiruvallur, and Vellore, have been issued an orange alert.

- **Cyclone Ditwah**, located over **coastal Sri Lanka** and the **southwest Bay of Bengal**, is moving towards **north Tamil Nadu**, Puducherry, and **south Andhra Pradesh**.
 - The **Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC)** has issued:
 - **Red alerts**: Several coastal and delta districts on **Friday & Saturday**
 - **Orange alerts**: Chennai, Tiruvallur, Vellore
-

2. Current Status & Movement Path

a. Meaning & Naming

- **Ditwah** means *lagoon*—a name suggested by **Yemen** under the **WMO cyclone naming convention**.

b. Current Position

- ~570 km south-southeast of **Puducherry**
- ~670 km south-southeast of **Chennai**

c. Expected Movement

- Move across:
 - Sri Lanka's coast
 - Southwest Bay of Bengal
 - Approach **north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south Andhra Pradesh**
- Possible landfall clarity expected by Nov 30 morning.

d. Classification

- Declared a **cyclonic storm** by RMC, based on observation data.

3. Expected Impact (IMD Forecast)

a. Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall

- Affects **southern, delta, and interior districts** of Tamil Nadu.

b. Rainfall Timeline

- **Friday:**
 - Very heavy rainfall in Nagapattinam, delta districts
 - Red alert for 4 districts
- **Saturday:**
 - Heavy rainfall in **north TN**, interior districts
 - Red alert for **six coastal districts** (Chengalpattu → Nagapattinam corridor)
 - Orange alert for Chennai, Tiruvallur, Vellore

c. Localized Flooding & Waterlogging

- Likely in low-lying coastal regions due to:
 - Storm surge
 - High-intensity downpour

a. Formation Region

- Southwest Bay of Bengal → **one of the most active cyclone basins** in the North Indian Ocean.

b. Key Factors for Cyclone Formation

- **Sea Surface Temperature** > 27°C
- High **relative humidity** in lower to mid troposphere
- **Coriolis force** (cyclogenesis away from equator)
- Low vertical **wind shear**

c. Season

- Cyclones in Bay of Bengal peak during:
 - **October–December (Northeast monsoon season)**
-

5. Disaster Preparedness Measures

- RMC coordination with:
 - Local administrations
 - Fishermen advisories
 - Evacuation of low-lying areas
 - Possible suspension of coastal fishing
- Power supply & drainage systems on alert in Chennai and coastal delta districts.

- 
- **UPSC Prelims 2024 – Actual Question**
 - **Q. Tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal are generally more intense than those in the Arabian Sea because:**
 - Sea surface temperature is higher in the Bay of Bengal
 - Availability of more moisture in the Bay of Bengal
 - Bay of Bengal receives cyclonic remnants from the Western Pacific

- **SSC CGL 2023 (Tier-1) – Memory-Based Question**

- **Q. IMD ने "Red Alert" जारी किया है।**

- A. कोई खतरा नहीं
- B. केवल बादल छाए रहेंगे
- C. अत्यधिक भारी वर्षा की संभावना
- D. हवा की गुणवत्ता खराब है

-
- CAPF AC 2024 – Actual Question
 - Q. Cyclone naming इंडियन साइकलोन-द्वारा कौन ठीक प्रकार
 - Indian Ocean cyclones के नाम WMO/ESCAP panel तय करता है
 - हर cyclone का नाम alphabetical order में होता है
 - नाम एक बार उपयोग होने के बाद वापस उपयोग नहीं किया जा सकता

- **RPSC RAS Prelims 2023**

- **Q. கீழ்க்கண்டவற்றில் தமிழ்நாடு வளிமத்தின் மீதான இவற்றில் எது பொருந்தும்?**

- A. Monsoon trough
- B. Bay of Bengal cyclones
- C. Western disturbances
- D. Local convection



• India ~~सं~~ cyclones monitor ~~इं घण्टे इन्हें~~ ~~वृद्धि~~ agency ~~इंग्लैंड~~ ~~ए~~

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. IMD
- D. NDMA

-
- **SSC CHSL 2024 – Actual Q**
 - **Q. El Niño इन्द्र क्षत्र शब्द का अर्थ है**
 - A. Indian cyclones की frequency कम होना
 - B. Pacific Ocean का cooling
 - C. Arabian Sea में cyclones बढ़ना
 - D. कोई नहीं

Q. Consider the following statements about Cyclone Ditwah:

1. The name 'Ditwah' was suggested by Yemen under the WMO/ESCAP cyclone naming system.
2. Cyclone Ditwah formed over the Arabian Sea and is expected to impact Gujarat and Maharashtra.
3. The cyclone is currently classified as a cyclonic storm by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC).
4. Cyclone formation in the Bay of Bengal during November is associated with the Northeast Monsoon season.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is going to assume the Chairmanship of the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)** for the year 2026.
 - **About International IDEA**
 - It was **founded in 1995**, is an **inter-governmental organisation**.
 - It works to strengthen democratic institutions and electoral processes worldwide.
 - It currently has **35 member countries**, with the United States and Japan as observers.
 - India is a **founding member of International IDEA** and has played an active role in its governance and initiatives.
- 

Revised guidelines for 'Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC Students'



- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released updated guidelines for the **‘Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC Students’** expanding financial support and tightening institutional accountability for the 2024–25 academic year.

- **About the Scheme**

- The scheme aims to **promote quality higher education for Scheduled Caste (SC) students by covering full tuition fees** and providing academic allowances across India’s premier institutions.
- The scholarship will be available to SC students with an annual family income of up to ₹8 lakh who secure admission in notified institutions, including IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, NITs, National Law Universities, NIFT, NID, IHMs and other accredited colleges.

- **Revised Financial Norms**

- The Centre will directly transfer full tuition fees and non-refundable charges to students through DBT, capped at ₹2 lakh per year for private institutions.
 - Students will also receive an academic allowance of ₹86,000 in the first year and ₹41,000 in subsequent years to cover living expenses, books and laptops.
 - Beneficiaries will be barred from availing similar scholarships from other Central or State schemes.
 - For 2024–25, 4,400 fresh slots are available within the overall cap of 21,500 (2021–26), with 30% reserved for SC girls.
 - Only first-year students can apply, with renewals subject to performance, and benefits limited to two siblings per family.
- 

UPSC CSE Prelims 2023 – DIRECT RELATED QUESTION

Q. केंद्र सरकार द्वारा चलाया जा रहा 'Top Class Education Scheme' का उद्देश्य क्या है?

- A. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Minority Affairs
- D. Ministry of Tribal Affairs

UPSC CSE Prelims 2022 – RELATED QUESTION

Q. Centrally Sponsored Scholarship Schemes **केंद्रीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना** SC **श्री**

Top Class Education Scheme for SCs

Post-Matric Scholarship for SCs

National Fellowship for SCs

SSC CGL 2023 – DIRECT FACT BASED QUESTION

Q. Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC Students **ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ ਤੋਂ ਉੱਤਰਵਰਗੀ ਉੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਲਾਸ਼ਿਪ ਯੋਜਨਾ**

-
- A. Merit-cum-Means
 - B. Post-Matric
 - C. Residential education support
 - D. Fully funded scholarship with fee coverage & stipend

RPSC (RAS Pre + Mains) – 2022/2023 – Scheme Based Question

Q. Top Class श्रेष्ठ लव गुरु ष्व इव बरबर् क्षुड्डि एव णम

-
- A. SC छात्रो को UG/PG में high-quality institutions में पढ़ने के लिए पूर्ण छात्रवृत्ति देना
 - B. ग्रामीण स्कूलों का आधुनिकीकरण
 - C. SC hostels को upgrade करना
 - D. प्राइमरी शिक्षा को सुधारना

NET JRF – 2023

Q. “Top Class Scholarship Scheme” શ્રેષ્ઠ કે અણગુણીય disadvantaged group માટે છે?

-
- A. Minorities
 - B. OBC
 - C. SC
 - D. EWS

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)



- At the UPSC's 'Shatabdi Sammelan' (Centenary Conclave), the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel praised UPSC as the “**Guardian of India's Steel Frame.**”
- **About the UPSC**
- Subsequent to the provisions of the **Government of India Act, 1919**, and the recommendations of the **Lee Commission (1924)**, the Public Service Commission was established in India on 1st October 1926.

- Later named the **Federal Public Service Commission (1937)**, it was renamed the Union Public Service Commission with the adoption of India's Constitution on **26th January 1950**.
- It conducts civil services examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Forest Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

Members: Besides the chairman, it can have a **maximum of 10 members**.

- A UPSC chairman is appointed for a **term of six years** or until attaining **65 years of age**, all members have the same term.

Reappointment: The UPSC Chairman is **not eligible for reappointment** after completing their term.

Removal (Article 317): Deals with the removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission by the President.

• **Other Constitutional Provisions**

- **Article 309** empowers Parliament and State Legislatures to regulate recruitment and conditions of service.
- **Article 310** of the Constitution states that civil servants of the Union and the States hold office during the pleasure of the President or the Governor, respectively.
- **Article 311** provides safeguards for civil servants against arbitrary dismissal.
- **Article 312** outlines the process for creating All India Services, such as the IAS, IPS, and IFS.

Jakarta Becomes World's Most Populous City (2025)





Topic	Details
Event	Jakarta overtakes Tokyo as the world's most populous urban agglomeration (2025)
Source	UN-backed global urban population assessment (2025)
Jakarta Population (2025)	42 million (Jakarta + surrounding metropolitan region)
Tokyo Population (2025)	33 million
Other Top Megacities (Asia-dominated)	Dhaka (35M), New Delhi, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Cairo, Manila, Kolkata, Seoul
Reason for Shift	Rapid economic growth, high-density urbanisation, rural–urban migration
Region with Most Megacities	Asia (9 out of 10 largest cities)
Implication	Indicates accelerating Asian urbanisation and demographic momentum

Category

UN Definition of Megacity

Urbanisation Trend in Asia

India Urban Stats

Reason Jakarta Growing Fast

Jakarta vs. Nusantara

Jakarta Sinking Issue

Tokyo Population Decline

Urbanisation in India

Largest Urban Agglomeration (History)

Economic Impact

Exam-Relevant Additional Facts

A megacity = **10 million+ population**

By 2030, **60% of the megacities will be in Asia**

India has 3 megacities: **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata**

Internal migration, economic corridors, industrial clusters, port-led development

Indonesia shifting capital to **Nusantara (Borneo)** due to Jakarta's sinking and congestion

City sinking **17 cm/year** due to over-extraction of groundwater

Japan facing **aging population + declining fertility**

India expected to have **7 megacities by 2035** (UN Report)

Tokyo held the top spot for **70+ years** before 2025

Rapid megacity growth → increases pressure on **housing, traffic, pollution, water, climate resilience**

Exam	Year	Question Asked	Correct Answer
UPSC Prelims	2023	<i>Which of the following cities is predicted by the UN to remain among the world's largest megacities by 2035? (Delhi, Tokyo, Dhaka, Shanghai)</i>	Delhi, Dhaka, Shanghai
SSC CGL	2023	<i>According to the UN World Urbanisation Report, which region will host the highest number of megacities?</i>	Asia
RAS Prelims	2022	<i>Which Indian city is projected to become the world's largest megacity by 2030?</i>	Delhi
UPPCS	2023	<i>A megacity is defined as a city with population above:</i>	10 million
SSC CHSL	2024	<i>Which country announced shifting its capital from Jakarta to Nusantara?</i>	Indonesia
CAPF AC	2023	<i>Why is Jakarta facing the risk of sinking?</i>	Over-extraction of groundwater + rising sea levels



Word of the day

Hedging:

a way of avoiding giving a direct answer or opinion

Synonyms: uncertain, unwilling, hesitating

Usage: *Her hedging made it clear she didn't want to answer.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/hedgingpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /hedʒ.ɪŋ/





Thank you 😊

