

Daily Current Affairs



3
The Hindu



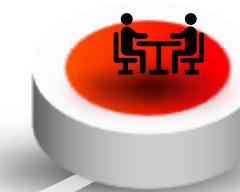
3
The Indian Express



2
Financial Express



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PIB, PRS & Other newspaper

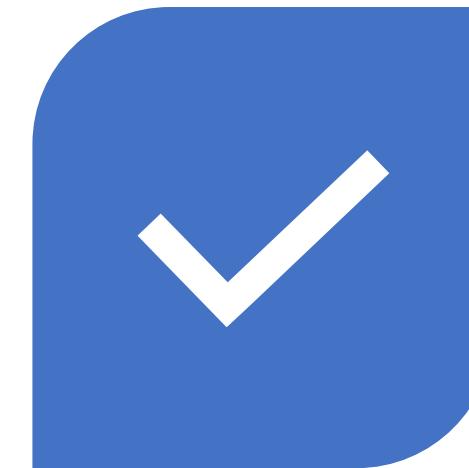


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Jansatta

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10 MCQ QUIZ



**“DON’T STUDY JUST TO BE ‘READY’;
STUDY SO THAT WHEN THE DOOR
OF OPPORTUNITYNITY
FINALLY OPENS, YOUT YOU
AREN’T THE ONLY ONE
ONE IN THE ROOM
SURPRISED BY YOUR
YOUR OWN SUCCESS.**



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Part-6 Governor & Com, High Court Class-2

2024-06-21 at 10:00 AM

[Watch Now](#)

Part-6 Governor & Com, High Court

2024-06-20 at 10:00 AM

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Part-6 Governor & Com Class-2

2024-06-13 at 11:00 AM

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Part-6 Governor & COM

2024-06-12 at 11:00 AM

[Watch Now](#)

Part-5 Supreme Court Class-2 & Part-6 Governor

2024-06-11 at 11:00 AM

[Watch Now](#)

Part-5 Supreme Court

2024-06-08 at 11:00 AM

[Watch Now](#)

What you'll get

- Coverage of all major national and international events from **January 2025 to March 2026**
- **20 high-priority topics** explained in depth so you can handle both factual and analytical questions

Topics to be Covered:

1. Government Schemes (Flagship + New Launches)
2. Budget & Taxation
3. Economic Indicators
4. Reports & Indices (India's Rank)
5. International Affairs (India + Major Summits)
6. Science & Tech
7. Environment & Ecology
8. Polity & Constitution Updates
9. Awards & Honours
10. Sports
11. Banking & Financial Market
12. Defence
13. Appointments & Resignations
14. Books & Authors
15. Important Days & Themes
16. Government Committees
17. States in News
18. India Rankings & Lists
19. Sports + Govt Sports Schemes
20. Miscellaneous Must-Do

- All video lectures will be delivered in bilingual format (Hindi + English) to ensure clarity and comfort for every learner.



HIGHEST IN 24 MONTHS
GDP growth quickens
to 7.8% in December
BUSINESS ■ PAGE 12



STRAY CANINE
SC dissatisfied
with efforts for
animal birth control

TENSION ESCALATES
Time is 'running out'
for Iran, says Trump
WORLD ■ PAGE 14



FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
Mature and
pragmatic
India did well to
negotiate a fair deal
with European Union

EDITORIAL ■ PAGE 6
HITTING BACK
New Zealand wins big
in the fourth T20I
SPORT ■ PAGE 16



Fears of military
operation trigger
exodus in Pak.

RAJYA
More than 70,000 people,
mostly women and children,
have fled a remote region in
northern Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan, over
uncertainty of a military
operation against the Taliban.
Taliban leaders and officials
said on Tuesday. ■ PAGE 12

**SC will hear plea
for judicial probe
into AI 7171 crash**

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court agreed to
give a stay on hearing in
a petition seeking a
judicial probe into the
recently exposed Air India Flight
7171 crash at the Ahmedabad
airport, killing 12 crew
members and 149 passengers
on June 12 last year. ■ PAGE 6

**Kerala's new rail
corridor cleared
by State Cabinet**

THEVANANTHAPURAM
Close on the heels of the
Central government's go-ahead for a
new high-speed rail corridor for
Kerala, the State Cabinet, on
Wednesday, gave in-principle
approval to the construction of
the 565-km Regional Rapid
Transit System (RRTS) project
from Thiruvananthapuram to
Kozhikode in Kerala. ■ PAGE 6

**India and Saudi
conduct security
review in Riyadh**

NEW DELHI
Days after signing a 'Letter of
Intent' for a Strategic
Partnership with the MEA, India
held a security dialogue with
South Arabic, Indian and Saudi
securities officials in Riyadh,
where the two sides carried
out a 'comprehensive review
of ongoing security cooperation'. ■ PAGE 6

Ajit Pawar killed in air crash; foul play denied

The jet carrying the NCP leader crashed on landing in Baramati, his home constituency

Forensic teams have been deployed at the crash site, and an inquiry will be conducted

The last rites will be performed today; and three-days of mourning have been declared

Srinivas Dushpande Pandit
Baramati

Maharashtra Deputy
Chief Minister and National
Congress Party supremo
Ajit Pawar was killed in a
plane crash in Baramati on
Wednesday morning, along with four others on board.

The Learjet 45 aircraft, belonging to Dehli-based
charter operator 999 Airways
Ltd, took off from Mumbai
at 8.45 a.m. and disappeared
from the radar at 8.48 a.m. The
personal security officer Vidyajit Pawar, pilot Captain
Shambhuval Pathak, and flight attendant Pinky Malhotra were on board. Forensic
teams were deployed at the crash site and an inquiry will be conducted.

The family and the government have denied foul play, appealing to people to not politicise the tragedy.

From the crash site being cordoned off, hundreds of people gathered near the area close to the runway.

The debris, strewn over a few metres, contained only a wing and a few frag-

ments; most of the aircraft

was reduced to rubble. Mr Pawar's mortal remains were taken to the Baramati mortuary.

In the general procession, the mortal remains will be taken to Mr Pawar's residence at Kalmali in Kalmali, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Gadkari, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and ministers are expected to be present. Baramati, Mr Pawar's political stronghold and constituency for eight terms,

at 11 a.m. on Thursday.

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Crashed at second attempt
to land in poor visibility

INRAGI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The aircraft involved in Wednesday's crash was flying at low altitude and poor visibility at a facility

equipped only with a
mandatory traffic
control system, without
dedicated aids to transcript
the cockpit. ■ PAGE 5

FULL REPORT ON
Crashed at second attempt
to land in poor visibility

led to a void in Maharashtra's politics, toppling the delicate political equations

which have been turbulence over the past few years.

Political dynamics with the Mayawati alliance consisting of three major parties, including the RJD, the Akhil Bharatiya Samajwadi Party and the Nationalist Congress Party — are also likely to change due to the sudden death of Mr Pawar. It also triggered speculation about the future of the NCP, which is likely to undergo a redefinition of its two factions and succession within the party.

SARANGAMITH TRAGEDY
Senior leaders from

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Senior Minister Narendra Modi posted a condolence message on his on X, saying that Mr Pawar was a leader of the people, having a strong grassroots level connect. "He was a hardworking personality at the forefront of serving the people of Maharashtra. His understanding of administrative matters and passion for serving the people and downtrodden were also noteworthy. His untimely death is a loss to the people and the country. Condolences to his family," he said.

Mr Fadnavis said it was a painful loss to him. "The death of a friend, colleague, and greatest leader Ajit Pawar is a loss to the nation. I am trying to express my feelings. This is a precious loss. This is an irreparable loss for Maharashtra," he said.

Winter games



Children make the best use of fresh snowfall in Thalaiman district of central kashmir on Wednesday. JINNAH KHAN

No notice to 88% T.N. voters facing deletion: DMK

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Around 80% of those voters in Tamil Nadu in the draft schedule for voter deletion in the name of logical discrepancies and major administrative or political intervention (SIR) have not received hearing notice. The Tamil Nadu election commission (TNEC) has not received hearing notices from 1,77,762 voters in the state submitted before the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The petitioners urged the top court to schedule a hearing on Thursday before the Election Commission (EC) for giving an explanation. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of

India Surya Kant agreed to the request. Appearings before the Bench, senior advocate K. S. Raja, representing the petitioners, came to a close on Friday. An application filed by DMK leader K. S. Raja, for the State's ruling party said electoral registration officers did not have issued "logically inconsistent forms" to 17,762 voters. These people have not received notices. The TNEC has issued notices to 18,25,739 voters. It is the same for excluding people for "logical discrepancy" for all — for DMK, Backward Classes, the mar-

riage, etc. Mr. Raja submitted that the notices issued in the January 19 order, the TNEC in the West Bengal election in Tamil Nadu as well as in the same year in the same state to 18,25,739 were formally served. A staggering 88% of the voters have not yet received their notices, the application noted. "Notices have been generated only for a large group. This is a group of 88%. These people have not received notices. The TNEC has issued notices to 18,25,739. If a hearing is delayed, the situation would not be fit to accomplish," Mr. Raja said.

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OPERATION PROTEST
■ PAGE 6

Central authorities working with 'full sensitivity' for all communities, says Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

said that the Union government is working towards social justice. President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said that the central government is to stand as one on issues of national security. Vikram Singh Oberoi, president of the Samajwadi Party, said that the campaign for swadeshi and the campaign for swaraj has

been used with responsibility and wisdom, she said. The President referred to British officials and their policies during the colonial rule in the 19th century. "Through the colonial period, there was a sense of inferiority was instilled among the people of India during that period. Now, for the first time since independence, my government has shown the courage to strike a blow on that," the President said.

She said 2020 also marks the completion of 75 years since the reconstruction of the Somnath temple in Gujarat's Saurashtra. "The thousand year journey of the Somnath temple is over. The Somnath Temple stands as a symbol of Indian religious freedom, secular culture and enduring faith. The enthusiasm with which people are participating in the Somnath seva/maanav Parv has been truly inspiring," she said.

She further mentioned the Free Trade Agreement between India and the EU in her address. She said that the conclusion of negotiations is a major step for India to enhance its exports to India, manufacturing and service sectors and create new employment opportunities.

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Ajit Pawar killed in air crash; foul play denied

The jet carrying the NCP leader crashed on landing in Baramati, his home constituency

Forensic teams have been deployed at the crash site, and an inquiry will be conducted

The last rites will be performed today; and three-days of mourning have been declared

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
BARAMATI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party supremo Ajit Pawar was killed in a plane crash in Baramati on Wednesday morning, along with four others on board.

The Learjet 45 aircraft, belonging to Delhi-based charter company VSR Ventures, took off from Mumbai at 8.10 a.m. and disappeared from the radar at 8.45 a.m. Mr. Pawar, his personal security officer Vidip Jadhav, pilot Capt. Sumit Kapur, co-pilot Shambhavi Pathak, and flight attendant Pinky Mali – were declared dead. Forensic teams were deployed at the crash site and an inquiry will be conducted.

The Pawar family and the State government have denied foul play, appealing to people to not politicise the tragedy.

Despite the crash site being cordoned off, hundreds of people gathered near the area close to the runway.

The debris, strewn over a few metres, contained only a wing and a few frag-



Tragic landing

The Learjet 45 carrying Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others was on its way to Baramati from Mumbai

8.18 a.m.: Aircraft contacts Baramati airfield

■ Next call at 30 nautical miles inbound to Baramati, when it was advised to descend in 'visual meteorological conditions' at the pilot's discretion

■ Crew gets informed of calm winds and visibility of around

3,000 metres

■ Failure to spot runway at final approach forces aircraft to do a go-around

8.43 a.m.: Landing clearance issued for Runway 11, but no response

8.44 a.m.: Flames seen around Runway 11

Charred craft : Emergency response team at the site of the aircraft crash in Baramati, Maharashtra, on Wednesday. PTI

■ Baramati has an 'uncontrolled airfield', which generally means it lacks a proper instrument landing system for low-visibility operations, and traffic information is provided by the instructors/pilots from the flying training organisations

QQ Ajit Pawar was a leader of the people, having a strong grassroots level connect... His untimely demise is very shocking and saddening. Condolences to his family

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



Five people on board

- Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister
- Vidip Jadhav, personal security officer
- Captain Sumit Kapoor, pilot
- Captain Shambhavi Pathak, co-pilot
- Pinky Mali, flight attendant

The last regulatory audit of the aircraft was carried out by the DGCA in February 2025, and 'no level-I findings were issued'

both the NCP and the NCP (SP) converged in Baramati. NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar, who rushed from Mumbai, met family members and held discussions with party leaders at Vidya Pratishthan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted a condolence message on his on X, calling Ajit Pawar a "leader of the people, having a strong grassroots level connect". "He was widely respected as a hardworking personality at the forefront of serving the people of Maharashtra. His understanding of administrative matters and passion for empowering the poor and downtrodden were also noteworthy. His untimely demise is very shocking and saddening. Condolences to his family and countless admirers. Om Shanti," he posted.

Mr Fadnavis said it was a personal loss for him. "The death of my friend, colleague, and grassroot leader Ajit Pawar is distressing. I have no words to express my feelings. This is a personal loss. This is an irreparable loss and a difficult day for Maharashtra," he said.

ments; most of the aircraft was reduced to ashes. Mr. Pawar's mortal remains were taken to the Baramati Medical College for a post-mortem examination and brought to the Vidya Pratishthan ground in Baramati to allow people to pay their respects. "A post mortem was conducted," a senior leader present in Baramati since morning, told *The Hindu*.

The Maharashtra government declared a three-day State mourning. The last rites will be held with full State honours at Baramati, Mr. Pawar's political stronghold and constituency for eight terms,

Crashed at second attempt to land in poor visibility

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The aircraft involved in Wednesday's crash was attempting a second landing amid poor visibility at a facility

equipped only with a rudimentary Air Traffic Control set-up, without dedicated aids to transmit cues to the cockpit.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 5

remained shut following news of his death.

Mr. Pawar's demise has

led to a void in Maharashtra's politics, toppling the delicate political equations

which have seen turbulence over the past few years.

Political dynamics within the Mahayuti, the political alliance consisting of three major parties, including the BJP, the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party – are also likely to change due to the sudden death of Mr. Pawar. It also triggered speculation about the future of the NCP, the possibility of the reunification of its two factions and succession within the party.

Senior leaders from

BARAMATI IN TEARS
» PAGE 5

2) Flight route & timeline

- The aircraft was flying from Mumbai to Baramati.
- It contacted Baramati airfield around 8:18 a.m.
- Poor visibility (~3 km) was reported during the final approach.
- The first landing attempt was aborted (go-around).
- The crash happened during the second landing attempt.
- The report mentions Runway 11, landing clearance, and flames seen around 8:44 a.m.

3) Why did it happen? (Under investigation)

- Baramati airfield was described like an "uncontrolled aerodrome", meaning it may lack:
 - ILS (Instrument Landing System) support
 - Dedicated weather (meteorology) support
 - Standard firefighting and security arrangements
- As per reported eyewitness/source accounts, while lining up with the runway, the aircraft rolled/turned, which may have caused:
 - Loss of lift / stall-like situation
 - Impact near the runway side
- Note: This is not the final conclusion, only early reported details.

बुझें एवं Topic

Uncontrolled aerodrome
(विनियोगिता नहीं होने वाला एयरोड्रोम)

VMC/IMC (Visual/Instrument conditions)

ILS (Instrument Landing System)

Go-around (पुनर्वापन)

Runway number (प्रणाली का संख्या)

खबर लें ज (News-linked) + Extra Static (Exam)

न्यूज़ ATC/airport infra standard “controlled” airports न्यूज़ १४ घ
visual procedures होने वाले विमानों के लिए

VMC = हवा में दृश्य विद्युति का स्तर अचूक विद्युति का स्तर; IMC = instruments
होने वाले विमानों के लिए विद्युति का स्तर Poor visibility रखने की आवश्यकता

प्रणाली का स्तर अचूक होने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती। ILS एवं IMC के बीच का अंतर
low visibility landing रखने की आवश्यकता होती है। “ILS एवं IMC के बीच का अंतर क्या है?”

चूंकि ILS का उपयोग एवं IMC का उपयोग एक ही विद्युति का स्तर के अनुसार होता है।
चूंकि ILS का उपयोग एवं IMC का उपयोग एक ही विद्युति का स्तर के अनुसार होता है।

प्रणाली का स्तर अचूक होने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती। ILS एवं IMC के बीच का अंतर क्या है?

Visibility / RVR

~~DGCA vs AAIB~~

Black box

Airport firefighting

VIP movement vs infrastructure

ICAO norms द्वारा निर्दिष्ट ARFF (rescue & firefighting) capability
airport category हाँग श्रेक्षण, training airstrips रात्रिगप्स risk □ प्रवर्तनप्रयोग

Frequent VIP flights द्वारा प्रभावित basic nav aids/ATC gaps पर्याप्त रिकॉर्डिंग “risk governance + safety compliance” नियंत्रण GS/Essay angles एवं लकड़ियाँ



Tragic landing

The Learjet 45 carrying Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others was on its way to Baramati from Mumbai

8.18 a.m.: Aircraft contacts Baramati airfield

- Next call at **30 nautical miles** inbound to Baramati, when it was advised to descend in '**visual meteorological conditions**' at the pilot's discretion
- Crew gets informed of **calm winds and visibility of around**

3,000 metres

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Charred craft : Emergency response team at the site of the aircraft crash in Baramati, Maharashtra, on Wednesday. PTI

- Baramati has an '**uncontrolled airfield**', which generally means it **lacks a proper instrument landing system** for low-visibility operations, and **traffic information is provided by the instructors/pilots** from the flying training organisations

“ Ajit Pawar was a leader of the people, having a strong grassroots level connect... His untimely demise is very shocking and saddening. Condolences to his family

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



Five people on board

- **Ajit Pawar**, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister
- **Vidip Jadhav**, personal security officer
- **Captain Sumit Kapoor**, pilot
- **Captain Shambhavi Pathak**, co-pilot
- **Pinky Mali**, flight attendant

The last regulatory audit of the aircraft was carried out by the DGCA in February 2025, and 'no level-I findings were issued'

Dimension	Details
Full Name	Ajit Anantrao Pawar / अजित अनंतराव पावर
Birth–Death	1959–2026
Region	Baramati, Maharashtra / बारामती, महाराष्ट्र
Political Lineage	Nephew of Sharad Pawar / शारद पावर का पोता
Party Affiliation	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), later NCP faction allied with BJP / नाशिनी कांगड़ा पार्टी, बाद में बीजेपी से संम्बद्ध नेशनलिस्ट कांगड़ा पार्टी
Reputation	Strong administrator, mass leader / द्रोड़ अंग भट्ट, नेशनलिस्ट कांगड़ा पार्टी का विशेषज्ञ
Key Identity	Known for rebellion and political assertiveness / अप्रकृति और राजनीतिक व्यक्तित्व के लिए जाना जाता है

Office	Tenure & Significance
Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra	<p>Record five times / प्रधानमंत्री नौवार्ष</p>
Finance Minister	<p>Known for fiscal control & budget management / वित्त विभाग के लिए वित्तीय नियंत्रण और बजेट प्रबंधन</p>
Water Resources Minister	<p>Oversaw irrigation projects / नदी विद्युतीकरण योजनाओं का प्रबंधन</p>
MLA	<p>Eight consecutive terms from Baramati / बारामाटी से आठ लगातार विधायक चुनावों में विजेता</p>

Aspect	Explanation
Work Ethic	Known for starting work early morning / ਲੁਧਾਣ ਨਾਲ ਹੁਣ ਲੁਧਕ ਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ
Administrative Grip	Strong control over departments / ਭੇਟ੍ਰਾਵਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ
Financial Acumen	Praised for budget management / ਮੁਨਾਫਾ ਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ
Public Image	Straight talker, often controversial / ਜਾਹਿਰ ਸ਼ਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਲੁਧਾਂ

Issue

Irrigation Scam (Vidarbha)

Political Rebellion

Party Split

Details

Alleged fund diversion, led to resignation in 2012 / २०१२ द्वारा दूर्लभ छुट्टी

Repeated defiance of party leadership /
दंचर छुट्टु दूर्लभ धर्वत्र

Central figure in NCP's 2023 split /
दृष्टिहृष्ट शक्ति ए दृव वर्क्कु दूर्लभ

Air tragedies

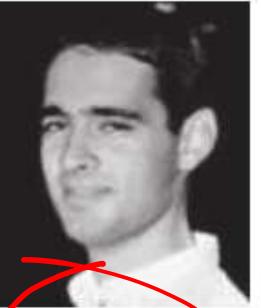
A list of politicians and prominent figures who were killed in air crashes



Homi Bhabha
The pioneering nuclear physicist died in a crash on January 24, 1966



Mohan Kumaramangalam
Union Minister died near the Palam airport on May 31, 1973



Sanjay Gandhi
Congress leader died near the Safdarjung airport on June 23, 1980



N.V.N. Somu
Union Minister passed away in Arunachal Pradesh on November 14, 1997



Madhavrao Scindia
Congress leader died en route to a rally in Kanpur on Sept. 30, 2001



G.M.C. Balayogi
Lok Sabha Speaker died in a chopper crash in Andhra Pradesh on March 3, 2002



Y.S. Rajashekara Reddy
A.P. Chief Minister died on Sept. 2, 2009 in a chopper crash



General Bipin Rawat
CDS was killed in a crash near Coonoor on December 8, 2021



Vijay Rupani
Former Gujarat CM was among the 241 people who died on June 12, 2025



Ajit Pawar
Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister died in a plane crash on January 28, 2026

Year	Approx. Number of Aircraft Accidents / Incidents in India	Notes
2021	Low crash activity (few incidents reported)	General global aviation safer during COVID-19
2022	~12 accidents investigated (highest in decade)	AAIB reports 12 investigations in 2022, most in recent years (<u>FACTLY</u>)
2023	~10 accidents investigated	AAIB also reported ~10 in 2023 (<u>FACTLY</u>)
2024	Few reported major accidents	Very low reported crash counts in AAIB data (<u>FACTLY</u>)
2025	~8 air accidents killed 274 people	Govt told Parliament; includes Air India 171 and other aircraft/helicopter incidents (<u>The New Indian Express</u>)

Global Aviation Safety Metrics (Standard Measures)

Metric	Definition	Why It Matters	
Accidents per Million Flights	Number of aircraft accidents per 1,000,000 departures	Indicates safety per flight exposure	
Fatalities per Billion Passengers	Number of deaths per 1,000,000,000 passengers carried	Shows risk per passenger traffic	
Total Fatal Accidents per Year	Absolute number of fatal crashes	Useful but not for risk comparison	
Accident Rate Trend	Change in rate over years	Shows improvement or decline	

Key Global Aviation Safety Stats (Latest Available)

Indicator	Value	Source / Notes
Scheduled Commercial Accident Rate	~1.87 accidents / million departures (2023)	ICAO Safety Report (2024)
Fatality Rate per Billion Passengers	Lowest in history (recent decade trend)	ICAO & IATA aviation safety data
Trend (Last Decade)	Consistent decline in accident & fatality rates	Despite increase in flights & passengers
Regional Variance	Africa & South America higher than Europe/North America	ICAO regional safety stats
India Domestic Safety Trend	Comparable to global norms in scheduled ops	DGCA & global safety networks

✈️ Standard Safety Ranking (Global Comparison)

(Based on *accidents per million flights* — the accepted comparator for risk exposure)

Rank	Region / Country	Approx. Accident Rate per Million Flights	Typical Classification
1	North America	<1.0	Among safest in the world
2	Europe	~1.0-1.5	Very safe region
3	Asia-Pacific (excluding some developing carriers)	~2.0-3.0	Mixed performance
4	Latin America	~3.0-4.0	Higher than world average
5	Africa	~4.0+	Highest regional rate
Global Avg (2023)		~1.87 / million flights	ICAO Baseline

Note: Figures vary by year and operator category (commercial vs non-commercial). These are accepted **relative safety bucket estimates** used in ICAO/IATA.



ZERO DUTY ON 91% INDIAN GOODS FROM DAY 1

CONSUMERS GAIN: PRICE CUTS ACROSS PRODUCTS

Product	Current Duty	Final Duty
Cars*	110%	10%
Wine	150%	75%**
Spirits	150%	40%
Beer	110%	50%
Olive oil	45%	0%^
Chocolates, Bakery	Up to 50%	0%
Pharma	11%	0%
Sausages & other meat	Up to 110%	50%
Pearls, precious, semi-precious stones	22%	0 for 20% items
Kiwis & pears	33%	10%

* Subject to quotas and price cap of ₹25 lakh and above | ** Once agreement is implemented | ^5 years

EXPORTERS GAIN: ZERO DUTY ACCESS TO \$20TN EU MKT

Product	Current Duty	Final Duty
Marine products	Up to 26%	
Leather	Up to 17%	
Chemicals	Up to 12.8%	
Textiles and garments	Up to 12%	
Home decor, furniture	Up to 10.5%	0%
Base metals	Up to 10%	
Toys & sports goods	Up to 4.7%	
Gems & jewellery	Up to 4%	

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen (R) and European Council president Antonio Costa with PM Modi

WHAT INDIA WILL GET

- 90.7% of India's exports move to zero tariff, including textiles, leather, tea, coffee, jewellery
- **2.9% of exports will move to zero duty in 3-5 years**, including marine products & processed food
- **6% exports will get tariff cuts**, including poultry & steel

➢ EU has opened 144 of the 155 sub-sectors including IT, professional & business services for Indian businesses; India is liberalising norms for 102 sub-sectors including telecom, financial, maritime and environmental

WHAT EU WILL GET

- 49.6% of tariff lines on imports from EU move to zero duty
- 39.5% of tariff lines will be phased out in 5,7 and 10 yrs
- A few products will be subjected to a mix of tariff cuts and quota

➢ Deal may come into effect in 2026 itself, said commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal

EXPECTED TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT

2 weeks from announcement | Text to be cleaned up

➢ **5-6 months** | Legal vetting of text, translation & signing

➢ **12 months** | Expected time for approval by EU Parliament

13 MAJOR OUTCOMES:



- Adoption of Towards 2030: A Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda
- Joint Announcement on the conclusion of the negotiations of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement
- Security and Defence Partnership
- Launch of negotiations for an India-EU Security of Information Agreement
- MoU on Comprehensive Framework on Co-operation on Mobility
- MoU between RBI and European Securities and Market Authority (ESMA)
- Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals
- Announcement on setting up of European Union pilot Legal Gateway Office in India aimed to enhance skill mobility
- Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response agreement
- Constitution of a Green Hydrogen Task Force
- Renewal of India-EU Agreement on Scientific & Technological Cooperation for the period 2025- 2030
- Launch of exploratory talks for India entering into an association agreement with Horizon Europe Programme
- Connectivity agreement to jointly implement projects under the India-EU Trilateral Co-operation

European Union

- **About:** A **supranational** political and economic union created **post-World War II** to promote **peace** and **economic cooperation**, notably between France and Germany.
- **Historical Evolution:** Originated from the **1951 European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**. Key treaties include:
 - **1951:** Establishment of the **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**.
 - **1957:** Treaties of Rome created the **European Economic Community (EEC)** and the **European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)**.
 - **1992:** The **Maastricht Treaty** formally established the **European Union**.
 - **2020:** The **United Kingdom** withdrew (**Brexit**), reducing membership from **28 to 27**.
- **Aims:** Key aims include establishing a **single internal market** with the **Four Freedoms** (goods, services, capital, people) and promoting sustainable development.
- **Key Features:** Operates a **Single Market** and a **Customs Union**. The **Schengen Area** enables **border-free travel**. Four non-EU countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein) are also part of Schengen.
 - 20 member states use the **euro (Eurozone)**, with **Bulgaria** set to join in 2026.



KNOW YOUR VITAL STATS

Why Heart Rate Variability is the new fitness standard

It's been newly added to the wide array of fitness tracking metrics on the smart watch. Doctors say apart from mirroring heart health, HRV also shows how well you can hold your nerve in the face of daily stressors

How is HRV different from heart rate?

HEART RATE

Measures average number of beats per minute

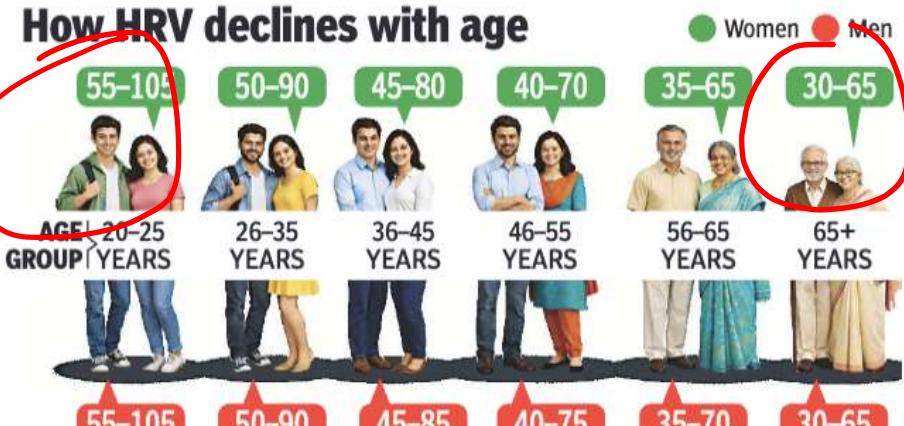
A lower heart rate means better cardiac health

HRV

Measures beat-to-beat variation in heart rate, or time change between successive heartbeats

A higher HRV means better cardiac health, adaptability and fitness

How HRV declines with age



• Average HRV values (in milliseconds) based on Baependi Heart Study data

What regulates the variation?

The autonomic nervous system (ANS), with two branches that keep sending signals to the heart:

■ **Sympathetic system (fight or flight):** Tells heart to beat faster during physical activity or stress situations, increasing heart rate and blood pressure



■ **Parasympathetic system (rest and recovery):** Tells heart to beat slower, stimulates digestion, and promotes relaxation, helping the body recover after stress or strain

A higher HRV indicates a well-functioning ANS, where the body can adapt to stress, recover from exertion better, and respond more efficiently to changing situations

“ In today's world, our sympathetic system is running on overdrive, with too many stressors. The parasympathetic system is affected if people keep awake when they are supposed to sleep, messing up the ANS balance

Dr Manvir Bhatia, SENIOR NEUROLOGIST

How to improve your HRV

- 1 Exercise regularly, but don't overtrain. Your body needs to recover too
- 2 Manage stress with meditation and mindful relaxation techniques
- 3 Sleep well and consistently
- 4 Avoid alcohol, and stimulants like caffeine and nicotine. Hydrate

Sources: Functional Medicine University, I



25th Jan -
National Voters'
Day (NVD) 2026

- **Theme:** The theme for NVD 2026 is "*My India, My Vote*" with the tagline "**Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy**".
 - This symbolizes the ECI's efforts to design citizen-centric electoral processes where the convenience of the voter is paramount.
- **Significance:** It underscores the importance of voter participation in a democracy. It promotes voter enrolment and awareness, with special focus on new and young voters, through nationwide celebrations and outreach activities led by the ECI.
- **Initiatives Launched:**
 - **Best Election District Awards in 2026:** The President presented the **Best Electoral Practices Awards**, recognising states like Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Mizoram, UP, Jharkhand, and Delhi for excellence in technology use, election management, voter awareness, Model Code of Conduct enforcement, and training.
 - **Publications:** On NVD 2026, the publications "2025: A Year of Initiatives and Innovations" and "Chunav Ka Parv, Bihar Ka Garv" were released, showcasing the ECI's leadership in electoral management.

REFORMS IN INDIA

ELECTORAL REFORMS ARE CHANGES MADE TO IMPROVE THE ELECTION PROCESS AND ENSURE FAIRNESS.

Electoral Reforms Before 1996

- ⌚ **Model Code of Conduct (1969):** Guidelines to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections
- ⌚ **61st Constitutional Amendment Act (1988):** Lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 years
- ⌚ **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) (1989):** Switched from individual colored ballot boxes to ballot papers, and later to EVMs
- ⌚ **Booth Capturing (1989):** Provision for adjournment of poll or countermanding of elections in such cases
- ⌚ **Elector's Photo Identity card (EPIC) (1993):** Electoral roll is the basis to issue EPIC to registered electors
- ⌚ **ECI: A Multi-member Body (1993):** Election commissioners were appointed in addition to CEC

Electoral Reforms of 1996

- ⌚ **Time-limit for By-elections:** Elections must occur within 6 months of any vacancy in a legislative house
- ⌚ **Listing of Names of Candidates:** Contesting candidates categorized into 3 groups for listing
 - ⌚ Recognised & registered-unrecognised political parties
 - ⌚ Other (independent)
- ⌚ **Disqualification for Insulting the National Honour Act, 1971:** Leads to election disqualification for 6 years upon:
 - ⌚ Insulting the National Flag, Constitution of India or preventing the singing of National Anthem

Electoral Reforms After 1996

- ⌚ **Vote Through Proxy (2003):** Service voters in Armed Forces & forces under Army Act can vote by proxy
- ⌚ **Allocation of Time on Electronic Media (2003):** Equitable sharing of time on electronic media during elections to address the public
- ⌚ **Introduction of Braille Signage Features in EVMs (2004):** To facilitate the visually impaired voters to cast their votes without an attendant

Electoral Reforms Since 2010

- ⌚ **Voting Rights to Indian Citizens Living Abroad (2010)**
- ⌚ **Online Enrollment in Electoral Roll (2013)**
- ⌚ **Introduction of NOTA option (2014)**
- ⌚ **VVPAT Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (2013):** Introduction of VVPAT with EVMs to conduct free and fair elections
- ⌚ **Photos of Candidates on EVMs and Ballot Papers (2015):** To prevent confusion in constituencies with namesake candidates
- ⌚ **Introduction of Electoral bonds (2017 Budget):** An alternative to cash donations for political parties
 - ⌚ Declared as unconstitutional by SC (2024)
- ⌚ **Launch of Electronic EPIC (2021)**
- ⌚ **Home Voting for People with Disabilities & Those Above 85 years of Age (2024)**

IMPORTANT COMMITTEES/ COMMISSION

Committees/ Commission	Year	Purpose
Tarkunde Committee	1974	By Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) during the "Total Revolution" movement.
Dinesh Goswami Committee	1990	Electoral Reforms
Vohra Committee	1993	On the Nexus between Crime and Politics
Indrajit Gupta Committee	1998	State Funding of Elections
Second Administrative Reforms Commission of India	2007	Report on Ethics in Governance (Headed by Veerappa Moily)
Tankha Committee (Core Committee)	2010	To look into the whole gamut of the election laws & electoral reforms.

+.◦

QS Europe Rankings 2026

Dimension	Details
Ranking Name	QS Europe Rankings 2026 / इंसाइट्स एक्सार्क्यूप 2026
Released By	Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), UK-based global ranking agency / इंग्लैण्ड के आधारित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय रैंकिंग एजेंसी
Coverage	Universities across Europe / यूरोप के विश्वविद्यालय
Purpose	To assess quality of higher education institutions in Europe / यूरोप के विश्वविद्यालयों की गुणवत्ता का विश्वासनीय विश्वासनीय
Top Rank (2026)	University of Oxford (UK) / इंडियन एक्सार्क्यूप जॉक्सन
Oxford's Movement	Rose from 3rd position in 2025 to 1st in 2026 / 2025 रैंकिंग से 2026 तक उत्तरी
2nd Rank	ETH Zurich (Switzerland) / हेल्सिंकी एक्सार्क्यूप जॉक्सन

Significance of ETH Zurich	Highest-ranked continental European university / ਰਾਣੀਅਤੇਹਾਨਾਂ ਗ੍ਰਾਨਾਲੀਟ ਤੁਤ ਫ੍ਰੋਂਟ ਏਂਡ ਏਥ ਬੈਂਕਿੰਗ ਸ਼ਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਵਰਗ
Joint 3rd Rank	Imperial College London & University College London (UCL) / ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਚੁਣ੍ਹਾਂ ਚੁਣ੍ਹਾਂ ਚੁਣ੍ਹਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਗ੍ਰਾਨਾਲੀਟ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਚੁਣ੍ਹਾਂ ਚੁਣ੍ਹਾਂ
Country Dominance	United Kingdom dominates top positions / ਟ੍ਰਾਨਸੁਲੋਪਨ ਵਿਖੇ ਗ੍ਰਾਨਾਲੀਟ ਸਾਡੀਟ ਸ਼ਕਤਿਪੱਤਰਾਂ ਤੁਤ ਅਤੇ
Europe's Trend	High competition, strong research ecosystem / ਇੰਡੀਅਨ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਰਾਨਾਂ ਏਂਡ ਟ੍ਰਾਨਸੁਲੋਪਨ ਵਿਖੇ
Focus Areas	Research output, academic reputation, global engagement / ਟ੍ਰਾਨਸੁਲੋਪਨ ਵਿਖੇ ਇੰਡੀਅਨ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ
UK's Strength	Excellence in research, innovation & global collaboration / ਇੰਡੀਅਨ ਵਿਖੇ, ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ

Factor

Research Excellence

Academic Reputation

Global Engagement

Innovation

Explanation

High-impact research output / **क्षेत्र विश्वासी अनुसन्धान नियन्त्रण**

Strong global academic trust / **विश्वासी अनुसन्धान नियन्त्रण**

International collaborations / **विश्वासी अनुसन्धान नियन्त्रण**

Leadership in science & humanities / **विश्वासी अनुसन्धान नियन्त्रण**

Maharashtra
Launches India's First
Menopause Clinics



Dimension	Details
Initiative	India's first dedicated Menopause Clinics / क्रमागत इह हृष्णव्रह द्रव्यमाला रक्तदूषण सम्प्रश्न
Launched By	Government of Maharashtra / राज्य सरकार द्वारा
Date	January 2026
Sector	Public Health, Women-Centric Healthcare / द्रव्यमाला अधिकारी, रक्तदूषण सम्प्रश्न
Implemented In	Government hospitals and urban health facilities / द्रव्यमाला अधिकारी, रक्तदूषण सम्प्रश्न
Target Group	Women undergoing menopause (generally 45–55 years) / द्रव्यमाला अधिकारी, रक्तदूषण सम्प्रश्न
Objective	Address long-ignored physical & mental health issues of menopause / द्रव्यमाला अधिकारी, रक्तदूषण सम्प्रश्न
Significance	First-of-its-kind initiative in India / क्रमागत रक्तदूषण सम्प्रश्न

Service Area	Explanation
Medical Consultation	Expert doctors for menopause-related issues / ଶ୍ରୀମତ୍ତ୍ବୀ ଶ୍ରୀମତ୍ତ୍ବୀ ହୃଦୟବ୍ରତ୍ତି
Mental Health Support	Psychological counselling, stress & mood management / ରକ୍ଷଣାତ୍ମଦ୍ଵାରା କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ହୃଦୟବ୍ରତ୍ତି
Bone Health	Bone density screening (osteoporosis risk) / ପ୍ରକାଶକ୍ରତ୍ତି ତଣିକା ନିର୍ମାଣ
Cardiovascular Health	Screening for heart-related risks / ଜୃଦ୍ଧି କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ନିର୍ମାଣ
Hormonal Balance	Evaluation of hormonal changes / ପ୍ରକାଶକ୍ରତ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଦ୍ରକ୍ଷ୍ୟାକ୍ରମ ତଥା ରକ୍ତାକ୍ରମ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ
Medicines	Essential medicines provided / ଏତିମାତ୍ରା ଡାକ୍ତରମାତ୍ରା
Lifestyle Guidance	Diet, exercise, sleep & lifestyle counselling / ନିର୍ମାଣକ୍ରମ ହୃଦୟବ୍ରତ୍ତି
Continuity of Care	No need for multiple referrals / ଏକପରିଦ୍ୟାକର୍ତ୍ତା ପାଇଁ ପରିଦ୍ୟା ନିର୍ମାଣ ଏବଂ ଏତିମାତ୍ରା ଡାକ୍ତରମାତ୍ରା

Aspect	Explanation
Neglected Phase	Menopause often ignored in public health policy / रक्तकुप्ति ष्टुक्षु bघ हघ क्षुक्षु
Disease Burden	Linked with osteoporosis, heart disease, depression / छसा रक्तकुप्ति, ज़ग क्षुग, १ अद्वितीय
Women's Health	Shift towards lifecycle-based healthcare / न्हअष्टद्वाह अ श्रव्यावान सोग १५ क्षुक्षु
Preventive Care	Early screening reduces long-term health costs / ब्रह्मान्तर न्हाद्वाह क्षुक्षुल्लक्ष्यन्त्रयाह चर्पण्ह इरव

Framework

SDG 3

NHM

Gender Equity

Preventive Healthcare

Connection

Good Health and Well-being / ੱਤ੍ਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਗ ਇੱਤ੍ਰ
ਇੱਕਰ੍ਤ

Strengthens women's health services /
ਧਰਮਕਾਰ੍ਤ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਗ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਝੁੱਜ਼ਰ ਰਕਤਨ ਲਾਈ

Promotes gender-sensitive healthcare /
ਚਾਲਾਂਦ ਟੁਕੁਕੁਣੀ ਅਤੇ ਟੁਹਾਚਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਗ ਟੁਕੁਕੁਣ

Focus on screening & counselling / ਅਨੁਕਰਨ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਗ ਵਿਧੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ

- **Consider the following statements:**
- Maharashtra has launched India's first dedicated menopause clinics.
- The clinics focus only on psychological counselling.
- Bone density and cardiovascular screening are part of the services.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- **Answer:**
 - (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Akashlabdhi & India's Inflatable Space Habitat Mission

Dimension	Details
Mission / Project	India's first Inflatable Space Habitat Mission / क्रमांक इव्र हृणचर्व स्पेस इव्र हृणचर्व याकृ श्रव्यट ए
Developed By	Aakashlabdhi (Bengaluru-based startup) / इव्रट्र च्यांव जाकू चकू ए श्रव्यष्ट व्यक्ति हृज
Incubation	Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru / क्रमांकह्या श्रव्यित्वा द्विविष्ट, भारत
Habitat Name	AntarikshHAB / शत्रुष्माघल्प्या
Date in News	January 2026
Sector	Space Technology, Human Spaceflight / शत्रुष्माघल्प्या इव्र, रक्ष्युत्र शत्रुष्माघल्प्या क्नव्राष्ट
Key Milestone	Safety & validation tests completed in Switzerland / खुल्द्युघच्चा रखुद्युघच्चा हृष्ट्युल्लर् हृक्ष्य
Next Step	In-orbit demonstration mission planned / इल्ल रखुद्युघच्चा श्रव्यट ए ब्रक्ष्याल

Aspect	Explanation
Concept	Compact module launched and inflated in orbit / ਛਲ੍ਹੂਰ੍ ਝੂਕ੍ ਏਵਂ ਤੁ ਲੱਕ੍ ਰਾਹੂ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੀਕਰਨ ਨਿਰਾਵੁੱਧ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੀਕਰਨ ਰਾਹੂ ਜ਼ਾਮ
Advantage	More habitable volume with less mass / ਤੁ ਰਾਹੂ ਕੁਝ ਰਾਹੂ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁ ਘੱਟੁ ਗੁਝੁ ਕ੍ਰਿਏ
Cost Efficiency	Cheaper than rigid modules / ਤੁ ਝੂਗੁ ਰਾਹੂ ਜ਼ਾਮ ਤੁ ਹੁ ਲੱਗਾਵੁ ਰਾਹੂ ਰਾਹੂ ਚੁਪ੍ਰਾਣ
Use Case	Long-duration human missions / ਕੁਲ੍ਹੂ ਕੁਝੁ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਰਾਹੂ ਅਤੇ ਅਤੇ

- **Consider the following statements:**

- AntarikshHAB is an ~~inflatable~~ space habitat developed by Akashlabdhi.
- Inflatable habitats are ~~heavier~~ than conventional rigid modules.
- The initial AntarikshHAB module is planned at around 70 cubic metres.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

• **Answer:**

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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10. Sports
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12. Defence
13. Appointments & Resignations
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19. Sports + Govt Sports Schemes
20. Miscellaneous Must-Do

- All video lectures will be delivered in bilingual format (Hindi + English) to ensure clarity and comfort for every learner.

Word of the day

Clament:

conspicuously and offensively loud; given to vehement outcry; demanding attention

Synonyms: crying, exigent, insistent, blatant, clamorous, strident, vociferous

Usage: *There is a clamant public demand for a new law to protect stray dogs.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/clamentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'klæmənt/, /'kleɪmənt/

Word of the day

Metonym:

a word that denotes one thing but refers to a related thing

Usage: *Washington is a metonym for the U.S. government.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/metonympro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mɛ.tə.nɪm/



Thank you ☺

