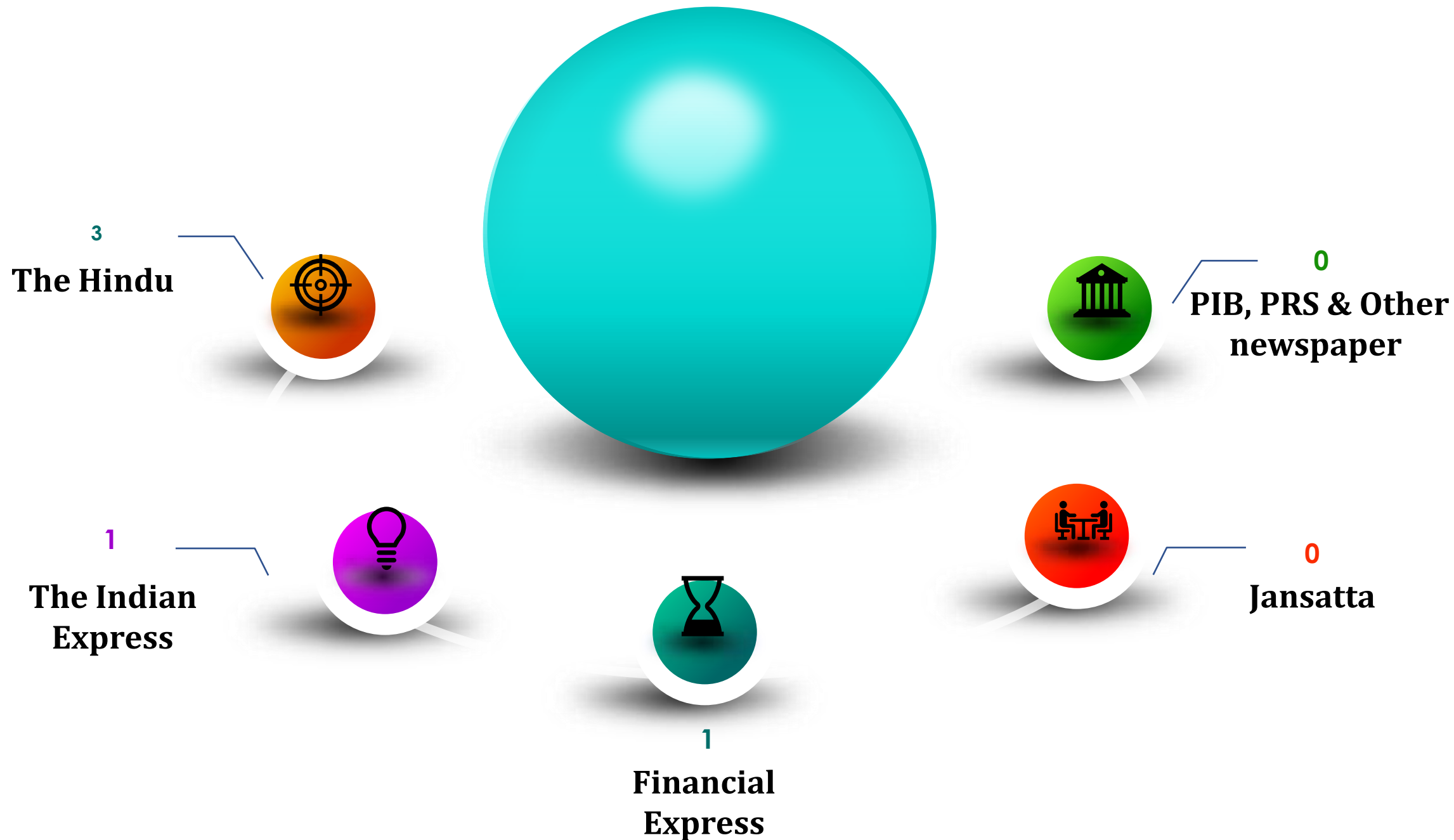


Daily Current Affairs





Be humble and never
think you're better than
anyone else. From dust
you are, and to dust
you shall return.

VULTURE CONSERVATION

2.4-km gap between life and death in Dehradun

Relocating carcasses dumping site away from high-tension power infrastructure has improved raptors' survival rate

NEWS • PAGE 5

U.S. to control 65 billion barrels of Venezuela's oil: Trump

WORLD • PAGE 15

Why is Meta's \$17.1-billion settlement significant?

FAQ • PAGE 6

Injured Neeraj out of Asian Games and rest of the season

SPORT • PAGE 14

INSIDE



37 killed in blast following Russian strike near Kyiv

KYIV Russia struck an arms depot near Kyiv, sparking fires and explosions that killed 37 people and wounded dozens of others, authorities said on Saturday. The attack was the second to hit a depot storing ammunition near Kyiv in less than two months. ■ PAGE 13

PM in Uzbekistan ahead of the SCO summit

TASHKENT Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday arrived in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, where he will hold delegation-level talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, aiming to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. Mr. Modi was received by Mr. Mirziyoyev on arrival. ■ PAGE 8

Revanth seeks time for revision of electoral rolls

HYDERABAD Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday urged the Election Commission of India to extend the claim and objection period for the job of electoral rolls in the state by four weeks, citing concerns over the number of voters flagged for verification and the possibility of errors being left out. ■ PAGE 4

SA reiterates commitment to Atr India

MUMBAI With questions being raised about Atr India's (AO) future amid losses, Singapore Airlines reiterated its commitment to Atr in which it holds 25.1% stake. It said investment in Atr rebounded the attention of its board and any requests for additional capital would be evaluated. ■ PAGE 11

File FIR over Haldwani ritual, Rahul tells Modi

NEW DELHI Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday attacked the BJP and RSS over an alleged ritual in Haldwani, Uttar Pradesh, at the venue of Congress president Mallikarjun Sigar's traditional rally this month. He demanded that PM ensure an FIR against those responsible. ■ PAGE 2

Rescue efforts on a war footing in Nepal as disaster toll hits 675

167 Indian nationals rescued, nearly 2,500 still missing in the last two days, 279 people rescued from hydropower tunnels while India, China dispatch trained rescue experts as over 900 people working with 11 hydropower projects remain missing



Avoid the rescue: A drone view of the aftermath of flash floods at the confluence of the Trishuli and Tadi rivers in Dhangadhi, Bhawal district, Nepal, on Saturday.

Sandeep Satgurun
(KATHMANDU)

The death toll from Nepal's devastating flash flood rose to 675 on Saturday, as authorities said rescue operations continued for a fourth day, though hindered by the remoteness of the region. The country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRMA) said at least 2,498 people remained missing, while more than 7,544 had been rescued.

According to the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), 201 tourists have been rescued, including 167 from India and 40 from China. There were eight people from Ukraine, four from Malta, and three from the U.S., apart from 21 unidentified people who were al-

so brought to safety. According to the NDRMA, more than 900 people associated with 11 hydropower projects, including those under construction, remain unaccounted for. It said that in the last two days, 279 people were rescued from hydropower tunnels and hundreds more are believed to be trapped in tunnels as well, creating a daunting challenge for rescuers.

A tunnel rescue team from India reached Nepal on Saturday with specialised machinery, in accordance with an earlier rescue mission team sent on Friday, India's Ministry of External Affairs said. China also dispatched five tunnel experts on Saturday, who landed directly in the disaster-affected area.

Nepal Foreign Minister Bhishir Khanal dismissed reports that Nepal had rejected international assistance and support, saying that the government had requested specific and specialised assistance "from our friendly neighbours to strengthen search and rescue efforts, particularly in the tunnels."

Six teams of Indian forensic experts are also expected to reach Nepal this weekend, to help identify mortal remains that are being recovered in the disaster-hit areas, the NSA said. In a social media post, Nepal Prime Minister B. K. Poudel said that DNA and other evidence of identification would be preserved for bodies that cannot be handed over.

Bodies identified by families would be handed over to them," he said, adding that 16,708 security personnel have been mobilised in the flood-affected areas.

Authorities have been continuously monitoring river systems and downstream flood risks, with agencies placed on high alert. Meanwhile, authorities struggled to manage the bodies washed up in Chitwan district, downstream from the flood-affected Bhotekoshi/Trishuli river system. According to district authorities in Chitwan, as many as 220 unidentified bodies were being kept at holding centres and health institutions.

Helpline numbers The Embassy of India in Kathmandu said it is working closely with Nepal authorities, including the Nepal Police, to ensure that the mortal remains of Indian nationals can be handed over to the next of kin after identification. The embassy has provided helpline numbers and an email ID for those seeking information: +977 985 13 6807, +977 970 910 7500, +977 981 032 6167, and eekathmandu@doabpo-rnaind.com

The Government of Nepal has been releasing photographs and descriptions of the deceased. Identification related to the identification of mortal remains from the recent flash flood can be accessed through the short URL: <https://nepal.gov.np> (Deposited from Kathmandu: <https://nepal.gov.np>)

A HIMALAYAN TRAGEDY
■ PAGE 9

Not a good sign if a Bar Council loses respect: SC judge

Krishna Das Rameshwar
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Judge Justice B.V. Nagarathna said it is not a good sign if a Bar Council, whether at the Central or State level, loses the respect of its members.

The senior judge was speaking at the 15th convocation of National Law University (NLU) on Saturday. "The Bar Councils, whether the Central or the States, must introspect on their role and importance in upholding professional ethics, morality and professional competence. When a Bar Council does not earn the respect of its members, it is not a good sign for the legal profession," she said.

NALBAR ROW Her words gain added resonance following the recent public outrage and backlash from the legal fraternity over an aborted attempt by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and its long-standing chairperson and senior advocate Manoj Kumar Mishra to restrict the 2020 graduating batch of NALBAR University of Law, Hyderabad, from professional enrolment.

The students had objected to inviting Chief Justice of India Nageswara Rao as the chief guest for the convocation, reportedly taking offence to his oral remarks peppered with terms like "cockroach" and "parasite" in the court room.

Even the CJI took strong exception to the BCI's intervention, calling it an "unwarranted interference". He had said the BCI had no business whatsoever to come between him and NALBAR students who were only exercising their right to protest.

Addressing graduating students, Justice Nagarathna said the legal profession was a liberal parent in the trust



sense of the word. "In institutions — courts, tribunals, the Bar, law schools — are among the places in which disagreements can have a civilised implication," she said.

Ms. Nagarathna underscored the importance of legal professionals safeguarding their profession from outside pulls, pressures and preferences. She said the responsibility to preserve the autonomy of the legal profession lies with the lawyers.

"The independence of the Bar is not an entitlement given to lawyers for their own benefit. Lawyers are safety valves of democracies," she said.

Lawyers should adapt The judge stressed the importance of adaptability for lawyers of the 21st century. "You are entering a profession that must constantly adapt and respond to a changing reality. The velocity of change around us is unprecedented — technological advancements, environmental crises, social upheavals, geopolitical shifts and transformations in the way we live, work, and think. These are not theoretical conundrums. They go to the heart of what kind of society we want to live in — and what role the law should play in shaping it," she said.

India and China yet to announce meeting sites

Yitaka Singh
NEW DELHI

India and China are yet to announce the locations of two additional Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) points along the Line of Actual Control. However, government sources said that at least two rounds of meetings have been held over the past year.

Full Report
■ PAGE 3

T.N. to set up safe houses for vulnerable inter-caste couples

Activists say courts should monitor these shelters to be set up in all districts; they will offer lifeline for couples and survivors facing threats

Dennis S. Joseph
CHENNAI

When a couple goes against their parents' wishes and get married, they often need immediate refuge, especially if they cross caste or religious lines. The Tamil Nadu government's recent plan to set up a 'safe house' in each district offers a lifeline for individuals and families vulnerable to caste killings and related

types of violence. "If only we had such a safe house earlier, I would not have lost my husband Shankar," said activist Kausalya Shankar, welcoming the "historic" decision. Announcing the plan in the State Assembly on Friday, Social Justice Minister Venu Arasu said it was in line with the government's ruling in the *Shakti Vahini vs. Union of India* case, and followed representations from survivors of caste-related killings and activists.

"When a groom is murdered in an honour killing and the bride survives, she is thrust into a state of utter devastation and helplessness," said anti-caste activist and filmmaker Geeta Bangwan. "While a surviving groom in a similar tragedy might eventually find a way to move on, a surviving bride faces a harrowing reality," she said, noting that a safe house would let her "rebuild her livelihood, and fearlessly pursue her

legal battle for justice." Activist Ravindra Kathir offered a note of caution. "It should be ensured that the space is not used to hold talks with the couples to persuade them to end their marriage. The safe house should be under the direct monitoring of the courts," he said. He noted that the State had set up special cells with a helpline to the complaints in this regard as early as 2018. However, they were not functioning properly, he said.





INSIDE



Russia warns of 'massive strikes' against Ukraine

MOSCOW Russia's Defence Ministry on Sunday said it was gearing up for large-scale attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in response to strikes by Kyiv on civilian infrastructure and oil and energy supplies in Russia. **» PAGE 14**



Strikes over NRC are not the way, says Manipur CM

GUWAHATI Manipur Chief Minister Nityanand Sarma on Sunday said that he favoured updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the State, but insisted that blockades were not the way to seek the exercise after civil society groups threatened a 24-hour shutdown. **» PAGE 14**

T.N. moves SC over Cauvery water backlog

NEW DELHI The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday approached the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Karnataka government to release 17,804 tons of water from the Cauvery river, the balance quantity as on August 27, 2026, according to the pre-care formula. **» PAGE 2**

India, Uzbekistan elevate strategic relationship

Uzbekistan is at heart of India's engagement in Central Asia, says PM Modi during two-day visit

Two countries plan comprehensive strategic partnership; set \$5 billion trade target by 2030

Two sides agree to establish a framework for supply of Uranium from Uzbekistan to India

Press Trust of India

India and Uzbekistan on Sunday decided to elevate their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and set a target of \$5 billion in annual trade by 2030 following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The two sides inked 11 agreements for boosting engagement in several key sectors, including mining and tourism, and agreed to establish a framework for long-term supply of uranium from Uzbekistan to India in line with cooperation in other nuclear energy sectors.

The talks focused on expanding cooperation in areas of critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, jewellery, and agriculture, the Prime Minister said.

The current volume of bilateral trade between the two nations is over \$1



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev after receiving the country's highest national award, an

honor. "Uzbekistan is at the heart of India's engagement in the region," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister added: "A stronger India-Uzbekistan partnership will be a powerful force for peace, progress and prosperity in Central Asia."

Delving into the ambitious agenda of future cooperation between the two sides, Mr. Modi said India and Uzbekistan will encourage their defence industries to look at co-development and co-production of military hardware.

A joint statement said the two leaders agreed to expand cooperation in the field of critical minerals through the implementation of joint projects in geological exploration, mining, mineral processing,

and the development of integrated value chains.

"The close defence and security cooperation between our two countries rests on a deep mutual trust. In the future, we will promote direct linkages, co-production, and co-development between our defence industries," Mr. Modi said.

"We believe that terrorism, extremism, and separatism pose serious challenges to the entire region," Mr. Modi said. "Maintaining a policy of zero tolerance against these threats has been, and will continue to be, our shared resolve."

A Letter of Intent for the restoration and conservation of the Buddhist sites of Payas Tepe and Kara Tepe in Uzbekistan was also agreed upon. These ancient Buddhist monasteries in southern Uzbekistan highlight how Buddhism spread along the Silk Road

and flourished in Central Asia.

Pact on UPI payments

The two sides announced that a commercial pact was signed up between NPCI International Payments Ltd (NPCI) and Uzbekistan's National Interbank Clearing Centre (NICC) to enable UPI apps of India to scan Uzbekistan's national QR (UQZB) for making merchant payments in the Central Asian nation.

The announcements included a grant of \$1 million for education in the Aral Sea region.

Mr. Modi landed in Tashkent on Saturday on a two-day visit to bolster ties with Uzbekistan.

In his opening remarks at the bilateral talks, the Prime Minister also made a mention of the "productive talks" he had with the Uzbek President over dinner last night.

"We had a productive

discussion over dinner last night and took several important decisions." "We will establish a Goodwill Council at the level of Foreign Ministers to provide direction to all aspects of our cooperation through close coordination," Mr. Modi said.

Amid a complex geopolitical situation, they stressed the need for a free, open and rules-based international order, building on their traditional cooperation, a joint statement said.

The leaders highly appreciated the progress achieved in regional cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen engagement within Central Asia.

India formal at the level of Heads of States and other levels," the statement added.

PM visits memorabilia

» PAGE 4

In deep water



The Ganges area inundated with floodwater from the swollen Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. (I)

788 dead, 2,500 missing in Nepal; preservation of bodies presents challenges

Sanjeev Nataraj

KATHMANDU

Four days after the flood in Nepal, the death toll in the disaster touched 788, and 2,502 people remained missing even as the preservation of recovered bodies became a challenge for the authorities who continued with the rescue efforts.

Foreign Secretary Anurag Bhattacharya said Nepal urgently required rescue kits and DNA testing kits, warning that the bodies must be preserved and kept in cold storage to prevent decomposition and contain public health risks. He said the government is "putting all our resources at disposal in relief and rescue operations."

"We have requested rescue kits, and we are expected to arrive soon," he added.

"Some other immediate requirements, like airbags for storing bodies, have started to arrive and other equipment is expected to arrive soon," he added.

More than 900 workers are missing from hydro-power sites, and officials believe around 100 people trapped inside tunnels are missing, Mr. Rai said.

From India, China, and South Korea joined the Nepal Army's efforts in rescuing these workers.

The Nepal Army said that after floodwaters receded, it rescue teams reached efforts to locate trapped entrapped workers in drilling with members of military driller cutters and other heavy equipment.

around 200 km from Bamsa, on Saturday after collecting DNA samples as that the remains can be exhumed if the victims are identified.

Madan Lama, an information officer at the District Administration Office in Chitwan, said around 170 bodies had been buried since Saturday, including 96 on the first day, after collecting DNA samples.

An Indian forensic team specialising in DNA testing and analysis arrived to support health officials in collecting samples.

India's External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi on Saturday that more than 275 Indians and 128 persons of Indian origin remained missing. On Sunday, it shared a list of 349 people who were rescued.

The Nepal Tourism Board said 501 foreign nationals remain missing and 200 have been rescued, including 80 Indian and 89 Chinese nationals.

Earlier on Sunday, authorities warned of possible fresh flooding and urged residents in affected districts to remain alert as water levels rose in the Bhotekoshi River.

A suspension bridge in central Nepal was swept away on Sunday morning due to a fresh flood in the Trishuli River, according to officials.

Prakash Pokharel, a geologist and researcher at the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Authority, said flood warning had been sent to people's phones.

The flood, triggered by a glacial collapse, left hundreds missing on the Tibet side, where Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 people unaccounted for.

Asked about the status of Nepali citizens in the disaster-hit area of Tibet, Mr. Rai said China has provided a list that will be updated.

The disaster had struck on Wednesday when a glacial collapse near the Nepal-China border in Ramechhap district triggered massive surge of water, mud and debris through the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river systems.

'WARNINGS TO INDIA'

» PAGE 2

DATA POINT

» PAGE 9

'Hindutva's vision of Bharat includes Muslims'

Jishu Mishra

NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swamisevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said that Hindutva does not envisage a Bharat (name he uses for India) without Muslims, asserting that a person who believes Muslims should have no place in the country would cease to be a Hindu.

Addressing an event in New York City, where he spoke with leaders from different communities and religions, Mr. Bhagwat said that Muslims, during a dialogue with him, had questioned him about the RSS's vision of a "Hindu Rashtra" and whether Muslims would be driven out of the country.

"I said 'no', that is not Hindutva. If any Hindu thinks that there should be no Muslims in Bharat, he will not remain Hindu," he said.

Mr. Bhagwat stressed that while people may follow different religions, humanity remains one. "We live in a society where religions may be different, but humanity is one," he said, adding that India's tradition had been to provide shelter to people irrespective of their religious identity.

He also cited the RSS's service activities to underline his claim that the organisation does not discriminate on the basis of religion. According to him, around 1.5 lakh service projects are being run by RSS volunteers with the help of the public.

Recalling an incident in Dabri, Haryana, where two Muslims were among the first to reach the site. As all volunteers helped arrange funerals and assisted rela-



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat attends the 'Universal Oneness' celebration at New York's Madison Square Garden on Saturday. (I)

tives in identifying the victims, he said.

Talks with minorities

"We don't have the thought that they are Muslims," Mr. Bhagwat said, referring to the RSS's dialogue with members of minority communities, saying that the organisation had become a source of self-interest. Our experience in India is that we have to start with society, and we have started it," he said.

"Dialogue is the first

step, and service is another step," he said.

Invoking the example of Ransakarishna Paramahansa, the RSS chief said the spiritual teacher had practised different religious traditions, including Islam and Christianity. He quoted him as saying, "As many ways, as many thoughts. All lead to one truth."

Mr. Bhagwat said the idea of the unity of humanity was embedded in India's traditional thought as well as in the Constitution. He argued that social change could not be achieved through politics alone and called for initiatives based on selfless service, dialogue and unity.

"Things cannot be changed through politics alone. Sorry to say, but the fact is that politics has now become a game of self-interest. Our experience in India is that we have to start with society, and we have started it," he said.

Mass burials

India also began mass burials of unidentified bodies in Chitwan,



India, Uzbekistan elevate strategic relationship

Uzbekistan is at heart of India's engagement in Central Asia, says PM Modi during two-day visit

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Press Trust of India

TASHKENT

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The two sides inked 11 agreements for boosting engagement in several key sectors, including mining and tourism, and agreed to establish a framework for long-term supply of Uranium from Uzbekistan to India in line with cooperation in the civil nuclear energy sector.

The talks focused on expanding cooperation in areas of critical minerals, mining, defence and security, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, digital public infrastructure, including

UPI, and education.

"We are celebrating the 15th anniversary of our strategic partnership. I am delighted that, on this special occasion, we are elevating our ties to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership," Mr. Modi said.

"We will move forward by setting concrete goals within this framework," he said.

Mr. Modi said both sides will also elevate their existing joint commission from the level of secretaries to that of ministerial level.

Mr. Mirziyoyev said Uzbekistan is determined to boost ties with India in diverse sectors. "We are aiming to advance cooperation in sectors such as energy, culture, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, jewelry, and agriculture," the Uzbek President said.

The current volume of bilateral trade between the two nations is over \$1



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev after receiving the country's highest national award. ANI

billion.

"Uzbekistan is at the heart of Central Asia and is at the heart of India's engagement in the region," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister added: "A stronger India-Uzbekistan partnership will be a powerful force for peace, progress and prosperity in Central Asia."

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and the development of integrated value chains.

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discussion over dinner last night and took several important decisions." "We will establish a Coordination Council at the level of Foreign Ministers to provide direction to all aspects of our cooperation through close coordination," Mr. Modi said.

Amid a complex geopolitical situation, they stressed the need for a free, open and rules-based international order, building on their multilateral cooperation, a joint statement said.

"The leaders highly appreciated the progress achieved in regional cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening engagement within Central Asia-India format at the level of Heads of States and other levels," the statement added.

PM VISITS MEMORIAL

» PAGE 4

Parameter	English	हिंदी
Relationship upgraded	Strategic Partnership → Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	रणनीतिक साझेदारी → व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी
Significance	Upgrade comes on the 15th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership	रणनीतिक साझेदारी की 15वीं वर्षगांठ पर संबंधों का उन्नयन
Trade target	\$5 billion annually by 2030	2030 तक \$5 बिलियन वार्षिक व्यापार का लक्ष्य
Current trade	Bilateral trade has crossed roughly \$1 billion ; Uzbek data put 2024 trade at \$980.4 million	द्विपक्षीय व्यापार लगभग \$1 बिलियन से अधिक ; उज्बेक आँकड़ों के अनुसार 2024 में \$980.4 मिलियन
Uranium	Progress on a long-term uranium supply arrangement from Uzbekistan	उज्बेकिस्तान से दीर्घकालिक यूरेनियम आपूर्ति व्यवस्था पर प्रगति
Critical minerals	Cooperation in geological exploration, mining, processing, value addition and recycling	भूवैज्ञानिक अन्वेषण, खनन, प्रसंस्करण, मूल्य संवर्धन व पुनर्चक्रण में सहयोग
Defence	Direct linkages, co-development and co-production between defence industries	रक्षा उद्योगों के बीच सीधा संपर्क, सह-विकास व सह-उत्पादन

UPI	NIPL–NIPC commercial agreement to enable Indian UPI apps to scan UZQR	भारतीय UPI ऐप से उज्बेकिस्तान के UZQR को स्कैन कर भुगतान की दिशा में समझौता
Aral Sea	India announced a \$1 million grant for afforestation/environmental rehabilitation	अरल सागर क्षेत्र में वनीकरण/पर्यावरण पुनर्वास हेतु \$1 मिलियन अनुदान
Buddhist heritage	Restoration/conservation of Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa Buddhist sites	फयाज़ टेपा और कारा टेपा बौद्ध स्थलों का संरक्षण एवं पुनरुद्धार
Institutional mechanism	A Foreign Ministers-led mechanism will oversee cooperation	सहयोग की निगरानी हेतु विदेश मंत्रियों के नेतृत्व वाला तंत्र
Joint Commission	Inter-Governmental Commission to be raised to ministerial level	अंतर-सरकारी आयोग को मंत्रिस्तरीय स्तर तक उन्नत किया जाएगा
Education/culture	Lal Bahadur Shastri Hindi scholarships + ICCR Sanskrit Chair in Tashkent	लाल बहादुर शास्त्री हिंदी छात्रवृत्ति + ताशकंद में ICCR संस्कृत पीठ



Geography	English	हिंदी
Region	Central Asia	मध्य एशिया
Capital	Tashkent	ताशकंद
Neighbours	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan	कजाखस्तान, किर्गिस्तान, ताजिकिस्तान, अफगानिस्तान और तुर्कमेनिस्तान
China border?	✗ No	✗ चीन से सीमा नहीं लगती
India border?	✗ No direct border	✗ भारत से सीधी सीमा नहीं
Special feature	Uzbekistan is double-landlocked — all its neighbours are themselves landlocked	उज्बेकिस्तान दोहरा स्थलरुद्ध (Double-landlocked) देश है—इसके सभी पड़ोसी भी स्थलरुद्ध हैं
Major desert	Kyzylkum Desert	किज़िलकुम मरुस्थल
Important rivers	Amu Darya & Syr Darya	अमू दरिया और सिर दरिया
Environmental issue	Aral Sea shrinkage is one of the world's major ecological crises	अरल सागर का सिकुड़ना विश्व की प्रमुख पर्यावरणीय समस्याओं में से एक
Strategic position	Located near Afghanistan and at the heart of Central Asia	अफगानिस्तान के निकट और मध्य एशिया के केंद्र में स्थित

Period/Event	English	हिंदी
Ancient period	India and Central Asia were connected through ancient trade routes including Uttarapatha	भारत और मध्य एशिया प्राचीन व्यापार मार्गों, विशेषकर उत्तरापथ, से जुड़े थे
Buddhism	Buddhism spread into Central Asia along Silk Road networks	सिल्क रोड के माध्यम से बौद्ध धर्म मध्य एशिया तक पहुँचा
Kushan connection	Kushan domains historically connected parts of Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent	कुषाण साम्राज्य ने मध्य एशिया और भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के क्षेत्रों को जोड़ा
Babur	Babur was born in Andijan, in present-day Uzbekistan	बाबर का जन्म अंदीजान, वर्तमान उज्बेकिस्तान में हुआ था
Mughal connection	Central Asia consequently occupies an important place in Mughal history	इसलिए मुगल इतिहास में मध्य एशिया का विशेष महत्व है
Silk Road	Uzbekistan's cities formed important centres of historic Silk Road commerce and cultural exchange	उज्बेकिस्तान के नगर ऐतिहासिक सिल्क रोड व्यापार व सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान के महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र थे
Buddhist sites today	India will cooperate in restoration of Fayaz Tepa & Kara Tepa	भारत फयाज़ टेपा व कारा टेपा के संरक्षण में सहयोग करेगा
Lal Bahadur Shastri	Former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri died in Tashkent in 1966, after the Tashkent Declaration	पूर्व PM लाल बहादुर शास्त्री का 1966 में ताशकंद में निधन हुआ, ताशकंद समझौते के बाद

Point	English	हिंदी
Why uranium?	Fuel security for India's expanding civilian nuclear programme	भारत के बढ़ते असैन्य परमाणु कार्यक्रम के लिए ईंधन सुरक्षा
Why Uzbekistan?	Uzbekistan is an important uranium-producing country	उज्बेकिस्तान महत्वपूर्ण यूरेनियम उत्पादक देश है
Earlier arrangement	A 2019 contract provided for supply of 1,100 MT natural uranium concentrate through 2026	2019 के अनुबंध में 2026 तक 1,100 MT प्राकृतिक यूरेनियम कंसंट्रेट की आपूर्ति
New development	Both countries are working toward a new/long-term framework	दोनों देश नई/दीर्घकालिक आपूर्ति व्यवस्था की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं
Strategic benefit	Reduces dependence on a limited number of suppliers	सीमित आपूर्तिकर्ताओं पर निर्भरता घटती है
Nuclear target connection	Supports India's broader Nuclear Energy Mission and energy-security goals	भारत के परमाणु ऊर्जा मिशन व ऊर्जा सुरक्षा लक्ष्यों को समर्थन

Aspect	Importance
 Geography	Heart of Central Asia; proximity to Afghanistan
 Energy	Uranium and nuclear fuel security
 Resources	Critical and strategic minerals
 Economy	Large untapped trade potential; \$5 bn target
 Security	Counter-terrorism, extremism and defence cooperation
 Connectivity	Important for India's access to landlocked Central Asia
 Technology	UPI, DPI, AI, cybersecurity, IT cooperation
 History	Silk Road, Buddhism, Babur, Tashkent
 Environment	Aral Sea restoration
 Soft power	Yoga, Hindi, Sanskrit, education and Indian universities
 Geopolitics	Helps deepen India's strategic footprint in Eurasia

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India–Uzbekistan relations:

- 1. India and Uzbekistan elevated their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2026.**
- 2. The two countries have set a bilateral trade target of \$5 billion by 2030.**
- 3. Uzbekistan shares land borders with both Afghanistan and China.**
- 4. India and Uzbekistan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).**
- 5. India announced a \$1 million grant for afforestation/environmental rehabilitation in the Aral Sea region.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only**
- B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only**
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only**
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

IN BRIEF



FPIs turn buyers for second month, invest ₹30,919 crore

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused ₹30,919 crore in Indian equities in August, extending their buying streak to a second straight month, amid improving corporate earnings, resilient economic activity, stable rupee and easing geopolitical concerns. The inflow follows ₹20,200 crore invested in July, marking a sharp turnaround after four consecutive months of heavy selling. FPIs had withdrawn ₹48,340 crore in June, ₹12,363 crore in May, ₹60,847 crore in April, and a meagre ₹1.17 lakh crore in March. Prior to the selling streak, they had invested ₹22,605 crore in February, according to Central Depository Services (India) Ltd. (CDSL) data. ■

Four die after consuming spurious liquor in Patna

At least four people died allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in dry Bihara's Patna district on Sunday, a police officer said. The incident took place in Beldhna village under the jurisdiction of the Raeb police station. According to the families of the deceased, the four men consumed liquor in a room, and they fell ill soon after. They were taken to the nearest government hospital, where they died during treatment. Barh Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDO) Anshu Srivastava said the bodies of the victims had been sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death. The various law enforcement agencies involved in the case have imposed a total ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol in the state on April 9, 2021. ■

Govt. notifies IST as common time reference across India; gives 180 days for compliance

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Union government has notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard) Time Rules, 2021, mandating Indian Standard Time (IST) as the single reference for legal, administrative, commercial and other official purposes across the country.

The noted Consumer Affairs Ministry notified the rules on August 27, 2021, they will come into force 180 days after their publication in the Official Gazette, giving government departments, businesses, and institutions time to align their systems.

The move comes amid growing reliance on digital and technology-based systems from banking and payments to telecommuni-



The Centre is building facilities to disseminate accurate IST. (PTI/ANANDI/PTI)

cations, railways, power grids and computer networks that depend on accurate and synchronised time stamps. The Ministry said inconsistencies between different time sources could affect the coordination and recording of such activities, precluding the push for a uniform national time standard.

The common time reference is expected to support accurate time-stamping of banking and digital payment transactions, coordination among railways, airports and other transport systems, reliable functioning of telecommunication and internet networks, precise time-keeping in power systems, upgradation of government legal records, and coordination of emergency and other time-critical services, the Ministry said in a statement.

A key feature of the rules is the emphasis on reducing dependence on foreign satellite-based time sources, which several critical systems currently rely on. The government is building infrastructure to disseminate accurate IST through Indian Institutes of Time and Legal Metrology and legal metrology laboratories.

Modi stresses need to keep India's youth free from drugs

Students, theatre groups must raise awareness against drug menace, says PM in his Mann Ki Baat address; 35 lakh women across the country have benefited from PM SVANidhi Yojana, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged the dangers of drug addiction, highlighting the economic, social and health issues opening up for women and girls in India, including in the space industry, and lauded the cleanliness initiatives being undertaken by citizens.

Drug addiction does not just engulf a single individual. The entire family and society have to bear the consequences," Mr. Modi said in his 137th Mann Ki Baat episode on Sunday. "I would like to commend those who raise awareness against drugs and step forward to help individuals struggling with addiction."

Mr. Modi urged young musicians to produce songs that convey the message of a drug-free life, students and worship materials to write short plays that highlight the dangers of drugs while also showing the path to recovery, and content creators to spread the message on social media in their own languages.

"Let us all play our part in this noble mission to



Drug addiction does not just engulf a single individual. The entire family and society have to bear the consequences. (PTI/ANANDI/PTI)

keep India's youth away from drugs and free from addiction," Mr. Modi said.

Women empowerment — "From moving 181 evening, lakhs of women across the streets of our cities and towns are engaged in their work," the Prime Minister noted. "Some sell vegetables or fruits, others run tea stalls, while some sell flowers, carvings, lamps, and worship materials."

He added that, often, a lack of capital prevents such businesses from growing further. "But now, lakhs of such mothers and sisters are gaining new skills to enter space," Mr. Modi told business of his radio programme. "And

you will be proud to know that India is bringing together thousands of daughters who are nurturing such dreams across the globe. This initiative is named Mission Shakti."

Through this initiative, 12,000 girl students from 100 countries are getting the opportunity to learn satellite technology and to advance in the field of innovation, he said.

On August 23, celebrated as National Space Day, the second phase of Mission Shakti was launched at Gagan Bhudha University in Greater Noida where around 100 female students from across the country, including remote regions, and various other countries were together.

"The goal of this entire initiative is to develop preparations are under way to send a satellite developed entirely through the participation of female students — into lunar orbit," Mr. Modi said. "I am confident that many of these students will carve out a distinct identity for themselves in the fields of science, technology, and innovation in the future."

Power failure hits two NEET-PG exam centres in Jaipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) on Sunday constituted a three-member committee to investigate the internal power supply failure that disrupted the NEET-PG 2020 examination at two ICN Digital Zone ICZ Jaipur centres in Jaipur, Rajasthan, sources in the NBEMS said.

The NBEMS conducted the NEET-PG examination on Sunday. The examination was scheduled for 2,74,096 candidates at 1,111 examination centres across 339 cities, covering all 36 States and Union Territories. A total of 2,05,390 candidates appeared for the examination and 2,527 faculty members were appointed as Independent Appraisers to oversee the conduct of the examination. In addition, more than 100 senior faculty members, including Deans, Directors, Medical Superintendents and senior professors, were deployed in their capacity.

"However, a technical disruption occurred at ICN Digital Zone ICZ Jaipur Centre, Jaipur, Rajasthan (ICN Nos. 41682 and 41683), where the examination could not be completed for 2,448 candidates due to internal power supply issues at the test centres, although able to TCIS Ltd., the examination conducting agency, the Union Health Ministry said.

The re-examination for the affected candidates will be conducted at 3 p.m. on September 5 in Jaipur.

The committee has been constituted to ascertain the circumstances leading to the power supply failure and ascertain the reasons for the disruption.

It includes a senior official from the Government of Rajasthan, a joint secretary-level official from the Ministry, and a senior engineering official from the Central Electricity Authority.



A total of 2,05,390 candidates appeared for the examination conducted on Sunday. ■

where the examination could not be completed for 2,448 candidates due to internal power supply issues at the test centres, although able to TCIS Ltd., the examination conducting agency, the Union Health Ministry said.

The re-examination for the affected candidates will be conducted at 3 p.m. on September 5 in Jaipur. The committee has been constituted to ascertain the circumstances leading to the power supply failure and ascertain the reasons for the disruption.

Black flags waved at Maharashtra Deputy CM

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Marathi protesters waved black flags at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, during the Shiv Sena's farmer-youth interaction programme in Parbhani on Sunday.

The protest comes amid the ongoing indefinite hunger strike by Marathi farmer activist Manoj Jarange Patil, who is demanding Kumbh caste certificates for the Marathi community in Parbhani is part of the Maharashtra division and is located 150 km from Antargalli Sagar in Jalna district, the site of the protest.

During the event, Mr. Shinde said, "We (Maharashtra government) formed the Shinde committee to give reservation, we also gave 10% reservation to the Marathi community."

Study sheds light on early warning signs before eruption of solar flares

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a new study, scientists have found small, short-lived brightening 'transient events' occurring before the onset of major flares, offering early warning signs of solar flares.

The study was carried out by researchers from the Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences and Manipal Academy of Higher Education, along with scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space, and other academic institutions.

It used simultaneous ultraviolet (UV) and X-ray observations from three payloads — onboard the Aditya-L1 mission. The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) and the High Energy Lyman-Alpha Imaging X-ray Telescope (HELIX), which measure

major flares. "Some of these also showed corresponding X-ray signatures, indicating that they involve the release of magnetic energy. These pre-flare transient events clustered around the locations where the major flare later occurred. The results suggest that repeated small-scale energy release may precede the onset of major flares, offering early warning signs of solar flares," the ISRO said.

The findings provide valuable insights into the physical processes that trigger solar flares and may enable scientists a step closer towards reliable flare forecasting, which will ultimately contribute to better space weather prediction, help protect satellites, astronauts, and communication systems, and other regions before the onset of

the X-ray emission produced by energetic processes in the solar corona. Combining these data, scientists study how activity in the lower solar atmosphere is linked to solar flares and the corona during the build-up to a flare," the ISRO stated.

Analysing solar flare events, the team found numerous small, short-lived brightening 'transient events', occurring in active regions before the onset of

THE CROSSWORD 14886
(Set by Hypester)

Across

- 7 Legal nationalist forces fighting to secure independence (8)
- 9 Model saving time for second sibling (8)
- 10 Defeat armoured vehicle (4)
- 11 Communicate with men hiring registered vendor (10)

Down

- 12 Doctor separating wounded and serious (8)
- 13 Protect Sonnet — He's last (8)
- 14 A scum from Tom & Jerry, possibly in a temporary reply? (5,5)
- 15 Shot group of journalists per Spooner (8)
- 16 Local lion's clothing fabric (8)
- 17 Letter in main marketplace (4,4)
- 18 Field manager regularly clearing sink (4)
- 19 Keep checking elephants on vacation in jungle (8)
- 20 Win back in random plan (8)
- 21 Decline screening said events set up in camera (8)
- 22 Eat bananas closer to thick tree (4)
- 23 Tasty chemical heating spirit (8)
- 24 European crowd introduced to very strong coffee (8)
- 25 Rich saloon exercises happening at identical intervals (10)
- 26 Play engineer spelling Onam (8)
- 27 Vanity firm is sentenced wrongly (13)
- 28 Initially land needs bulldozer, resulting to go becomes a disgrace to family (10,5)
- 29 Vessel unloading by a trip to spa which is taken frequently (8)
- 30 Trade knave (8)
- 31 Yes, this author made 289 movies (8)
- 32 Provides automobiles without inflated tyre (8)
- 33 Originally France exported tuna and cheese (4)

Notice this puzzle online and access more puzzles at <https://thehindu.com/crosswords>

WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the puzzle. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

Across

1. A type of fruit (4)
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SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

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

FAITH

Hari hurries to devotees

Whenever a devotee is in distress, Perumal rushes to his aid as soon as the distress call is made. No matter the magnitude of the problem, if one chants Hari namo, Perumal will appear at one's side. Perumal's abundant love is not restricted to great devotees alone, but also to poor sinners who have corrected their ways and surrendered to Him. He grants them muksha, said Tirukkuralanthar Dr. Venkatasah.

In Rima yoga, three asuras — Thanugan, Dandagan and Gajmukhan — had undertaken severe penance, praying to Shiva, seeking the boon of everlasting life. When Shiva said all humans have to perish in their physical form, they prayed and were granted their wish that death should never come to them in the hands of Shiva. The three became egoistic and troubled the entire universe. They interrupted the severe penance being undertaken by sage Parasara, father of Vyasa. Rather than serve them, Parasara cried, "Hari! Hari! Hari! Hearing this devotee's cry, Perumal first dispatched Garuda, asking him to vanquish the three, following close behind. The flap of Garuda's wings sent up such fear amongst the army of the asuras that they all scattered. Perumal arrived like a dark cloud (Udumbaragum) and slaying at Thanugan, released the Chakra. The minute the sacred discus touched him, the asura, realising his mistakes and aware that death was upon him, surrendered to Perumal with folded hands. Perumal granted him mukhi. Thanugan sought a boon from Perumal, asking for the lives to be spared after him. Thanugan further prayed that he remain in the site, enabling devotees to surrender to Him, Neelamega Perumal, and attain mukhi.

Govt. notifies IST as common time reference across India; gives 180 days for compliance

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Union government has notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, mandating Indian Standard Time (IST) as the single reference for legal, administrative, commercial and other official purposes across the country.

The nodal Consumer Affairs Ministry notified the rules on August 27. Still, they will come into force 180 days after their publication in the Official Gazette, giving government departments, businesses, and institutions time to align their systems.

The move comes amid growing reliance on digital and technology-based systems—from banking and payments to telecommuni-



The Centre is building facilities to disseminate accurate IST.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

cations, railways, power grids and computer networks—that depend on accurate and synchronised time stamps. The Ministry said inconsistencies between different time sources could affect the coordination and recording of such activities, prompting the push for a uniform national time standard.

The common time reference is expected to sup-

port accurate time-stamping of banking and digital payment transactions, coordination among railways, airports and other transport systems, reliable functioning of telecommunication and internet networks, precise time-keeping in power systems, upkeep of government and legal records, and coordination of emergency and other time-critical services, the Ministry said in a statement.

A key feature of the rules is the emphasis on reducing dependence on foreign satellite-based time sources, which several critical systems currently rely on. The government is building infrastructure to disseminate accurate IST through Indian institutions and legal metrology laboratories.

Parameter	English	हिंदी
Rules	Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026	विधिक मापविज्ञान (भारतीय मानक समय) नियम, 2026
Notified	27 August 2026	27 अगस्त 2026
Parent Act	Legal Metrology Act, 2009	विधिक मापविज्ञान अधिनियम, 2009
Power used	Section 52 of Legal Metrology Act	विधिक मापविज्ञान अधिनियम की धारा 52
Nodal Department	Department of Consumer Affairs	उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग
Objective	One common official time reference across India	पूरे भारत में एक समान आधिकारिक समय संदर्भ
Implementation	180 days after Gazette publication	राजपत्र प्रकाशन के 180 दिन बाद
Initiative	One Nation, One Time	एक राष्ट्र, एक समय
Official reference	Indian Standard Time — IST	भारतीय मानक समय — IST

2. What exactly changes? / वास्तव में क्या बदलेगा?

IST becomes the common time reference for **legal, administrative, commercial and other official purposes.**

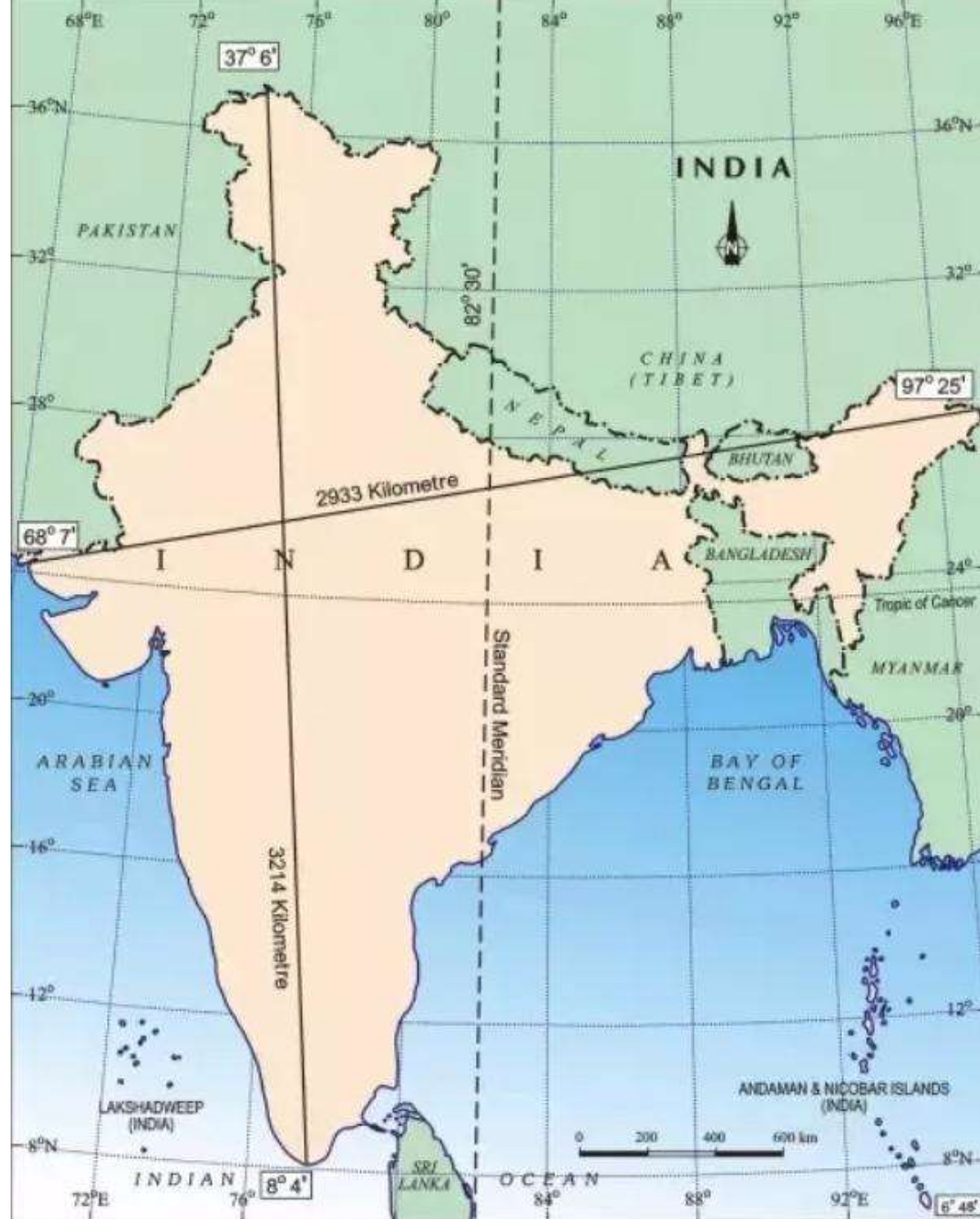
The purpose is not merely that everyone's clock shows the same hour; it is to ensure that critical digital systems have a **traceable, accurate and synchronised Indian timing source.**

Sector	Why accurate IST matters / सटीक IST क्यों जरूरी?
 Banking	Correct transaction timestamps / लेन-देन का सही समय
 UPI & digital payments	Accurate sequencing and settlement / सही क्रम व सेटलमेंट
 Railways	Scheduling and network coordination / समय-सारणी व नेटवर्क समन्वय
 Airports	Precise transport coordination / सटीक परिवहन समन्वय
 Telecom	Network synchronisation / नेटवर्क सिंक्रोनाइजेशन
 Internet & computers	Server/network timestamps / सर्वर व नेटवर्क टाइमस्टैम्प
 Power grid	Grid synchronisation and event analysis / ग्रिड सिंक्रोनाइजेशन व घटना विश्लेषण
 Government records	Reliable legal and administrative records / विश्वसनीय कानूनी व प्रशासनिक रिकॉर्ड
 Emergency services	Coordination of time-critical operations / समय-संवेदनशील सेवाओं का समन्वय
 Financial markets	Precise trade timestamps / ट्रेड का सटीक टाइमस्टैम्प

Standard Meridian of India

- sukrajclasses.com





Fact	English	हिंदी
Standard Meridian	82°30' E (82.5° E)	82°30' पूर्व देशांतर
IST	UTC + 5 hours 30 minutes	UTC से 5 घंटे 30 मिनट आगे
Reference longitude	82°30' E	82°30' पूर्व
Associated location	Standard Meridian passes near Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh	मानक मध्याह्न रेखा मिर्जापुर, उत्तर प्रदेश के पास से गुजरती है
1° longitude	≈ 4 minutes time difference	≈ 4 मिनट समय अंतर
15° longitude	≈ 1 hour	≈ 1 घंटा
Daylight Saving Time	India does not normally use DST	भारत सामान्यतः DST का प्रयोग नहीं करता
Maintained by	CSIR–National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi	CSIR–राष्ट्रीय भौतिक प्रयोगशाला, नई दिल्ली

Period	English	हिंदी
Ancient India	Sophisticated astronomical traditions existed for measuring time	प्राचीन भारत में समय मापन की विकसित खगोलीय परंपरा थी
British period	Different local/regional times were used, including Bombay Time and Calcutta Time	ब्रिटिश काल में बॉम्बे टाइम और कलकत्ता टाइम जैसे अलग स्थानीय समय प्रयोग होते थे
Railways	Expansion of railways created a strong need for standardised time	रेलवे के विस्तार ने एक समान समय की आवश्यकता बढ़ाई
1906	IST became established around the 82°30' E standard meridian	लगभग 82°30' E मानक मध्याह्न पर IST स्थापित हुआ
Post-Independence	IST continued as India's national standard time	स्वतंत्रता के बाद IST राष्ट्रीय मानक समय बना रहा
Modern era	Atomic clocks and satellite/network technologies enable much greater precision	परमाणु घड़ियाँ तथा उपग्रह/नेटवर्क तकनीक अत्यधिक सटीक समय उपलब्ध कराती हैं
2026	Legal Metrology (IST) Rules create a formal nationwide framework for generation, dissemination, synchronisation and traceability	2026 के नियम समय के उत्पादन, प्रसार, सिंक्रोनाइजेशन व ट्रेसबिलिटी हेतु औपचारिक राष्ट्रीय ढाँचा बनाते हैं

Parameter	Details
Technology	White Rabbit Technology
Purpose	Highly accurate network time synchronisation
Location of demonstration	RRSL Bengaluru
Commissioned	July 2026
Initiative	One Nation, One Time
Tested sectors	Banking, telecom, power, transport, digital governance
Another demonstration	Secure IST dissemination between RRSL Bengaluru and NSE Chennai
Participants	CSIR-NPL, ISRO, SEBI, NSE, BSNL and others

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026:

- 1.** The Rules establish IST as the common time reference for legal, administrative and commercial purposes across India.
- 2.** Indian Standard Time is maintained by the CSIR–National Physical Laboratory.
- 3.** IST is derived by adding 5 hours and 30 minutes to UTC(NPLI).
- 4.** White Rabbit Technology is India's indigenous satellite navigation constellation.
- 5.** The Rules come into force 180 days after publication in the Official Gazette.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only**
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only**
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only**
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rehabilitation centres in Mizoram for drug addicts

48 Mizoram has 48 centres and homes providing care and rehabilitation services to 5,224 people affected by drug addiction, officials said on Sunday. The State government provided ₹42 lakh as financial assistance to these centres and homes. **IN**

Number of doctors to be recruited by Himachal govt.

650 Speaking at the inauguration of a health camp, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the government is going to recruit 300 medical officers, 200 specialist doctors and 150 super-specialist doctors. **IN**

Heat-related deaths seen in Austria in June and July

646 Austria saw its highest-ever recorded heat-related deaths this June and July, the country's health agency said on Sunday. The AGS agency said these two months saw 646 heat-related deaths. **IN**

Amount sanctioned by J&K govt. to repair migrant flats

82 In ₹ crore, The Jammu and Kashmir government has sanctioned a number of projects for 5,200 flats across Jammu's migrant camps. Public Works Department officials said that repair and renovation would be taken up soon. **IN**

People aboard ferry that capsized off coast of northern Cyprus

267 At least seven people have died after a ferry carrying at least 267 passengers and crew capsized off the coast of northern Cyprus on Sunday, Turkish media reported. **IN**

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OBG creamy layer and the income test

Why is the Centre finding the ruling difficult to implement? What exactly did the Supreme Court rule on the creamy layer? Why is the Centre seeking clarification? What are its concerns over implementing the ruling? What happens next in the creamy layer case?

EXPLAINER

Abhinav Lakshman

The story so far

The Supreme Court has said it will consider setting up a Bench to hear the Centre's application seeking clarification over its March 11 judgment on the income test component of the OBG creamy layer exclusion. Retrospectively implementing the judgment on the income/wealth test for OBG creamy layer determination is "extremely difficult" and will cause a "cascading effect" in the settled services from 2012 till now, with the impact extending to "all categories, including the Unreserved category", the Centre said in a batch of applications.

Why does the Centre call the ruling 'extremely difficult' to implement?

The Supreme Court on March 11 delivered its judgment in a batch of cases pending for close to a decade, relating to how the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) should interpret the crucial income/wealth test, which is one of the layers through which the "creamy layer" (or relatively socially and economically forward among the Other Backward Classes) communities is excluded from availing the benefit of reservation.

The cases that eventually came before the court involved claims by at least 50 OBG candidates who had appeared in Civil Services Examinations (CSE) since 2018 and were excluded from consideration for an OBG-reserved post after the DoPT classified them as part of the creamy layer solely based on their parents' income.

The Supreme Court found that the DoPT was incorrectly applying the income test for this category of OBG candidates and directed the government to create supernumerary posts for the OBG candidates to whom the income test had been applied with what it called "hostile discrimination", and allot them services according to their ranks in their respective CSE years.

What are the criteria for exclusion?

The creamy layer concept among OBGs emerged from the Supreme Court's 1992 ruling in the *Indra Sawhney* case, which paved the way for the implementation of OBG reservations. The idea was to exclude OBG candidates whose families had accumulated social and economic privileges over the years from the benefits of reservation. Such candidates came to be described as belonging to the "creamy layer".

To clarify which categories of OBG candidates would fall under the creamy layer, the DoPT issued an Office Memorandum (OM), a guiding charter in September 1993, laying down the criteria for exclusion.

The OM prescribed seven categories of exclusions, including children of senior constitutional, judicial, government and armed forces officers.

Besides this, the DoPT also prescribed a crucial income or wealth test, applicable to people in the salaried professional class or engaged in trade; people holding plantations, vacant land and/or buildings in urban areas; and people whose parents held posts in Central or State PSUs or in private employment, that the court delivered in March 11 judgment.



What was the problem with the 1993 OM and 2004 letter?

Under the 1993 DoPT OM on the income/wealth test for OBG reservations, a candidate would be considered part of the creamy layer if their parents' gross family income exceeded the prescribed limit for three consecutive years, or if they possessed wealth above the exemption limit prescribed under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957. The income limit, which was ₹ lakh when the 1993 OM was issued, was revised several times and now stands at ₹ lakh, with the last revision having come in 2017. Importantly, the 1993 DoPT OM specified that income from salaries and agricultural land should be included when applying the income/wealth test, with income from other sources such as property, business, or capital gain being considered.

However, in October 2004, the DoPT issued a letter meant to clarify issues that had arisen in interpreting the 1993 OM. In paragraph 8 of this letter, the DoPT set up the issue of how to calculate income for the income/wealth test for OBGs whose parents were in Central or State PSUs where equivalence of posts had not yet been established. The DoPT seemed to suggest that income from salaries was to be counted to determine if the income was above the prescribed threshold for three consecutive years. The threshold was subsequently revised to ₹ lakh per year in 2017.

In the 2026 ruling, the Division Bench noted that until the government establishes equivalence between the posts of Central or State PSUs and government services, the income/wealth test must continue to apply equally.

How did the Supreme Court interpret the income test?

The March 11 *Union of India vs Rohith Nuthan* judgment said that OBG candidates whose parents work in PSUs or in the private sector, where the government has yet to establish equivalence of posts with government services, cannot be treated differently from OBG candidates in other categories under the creamy layer exclusion criteria. Significantly, the Supreme Court ruled that the income/wealth test component of the exclusion exercise must be seen and operated as a "residual filter", adding that income from salaries and agricultural income had been consistently left out while applying this test under the 1993 OM. The court found that what the 1993 OM was clear about excluding income from salaries from the calculation of the income/wealth test, the 2004 letter appeared to call for its inclusion in circumstances that were

not clearly specified.

The court went on to note that the interpretation of the 1993 OM, read with the 2004 letter, had led to "hostile discrimination" between the children of those in government service and those in PSU or private employment.

Without establishing equivalence of posts, the income test, including salaries, was being applied to rule out OBG candidates whose parents were not in government service, while OBG candidates whose parents were in government service were being subjected to a test that did not include salaries. This is what the court had described as "hostile discrimination".

The court said, "Treating the children of those employed in PSU or private employment, etc., as being excluded from the benefit of reservation only on the basis of their income derived from salaries, and without reference to their posts (whether Group A or B, or Group C or D) would certainly lead to hostile discrimination between parties who are similarly placed and would amount to hostile discrimination."

The court had directed the Centre to implement this reading of the income test within six months by creating supernumerary posts for the petitioners, whose OBG candidates had been excluded from the creamy layer on account of their parents' salaries alone. The parents were working in public sector undertakings or the private sector.

Did the Centre try to implement the Supreme Court's directions?

The Supreme Court's ruling in the *Rohith Nuthan* case was a watershed moment for this category of OBGs, who had said that the issue had been pending for more than a decade. As per the Supreme Court's direction, the Union government was supposed to issue further instructions in pursuance of the court's reading of the income test component – on how the supernumerary posts must be created and how the existing strength of the services must be adjusted to accommodate them.

According to government records, the Union Ministry of Personnel, Pensions and Public Relations wrote to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on June 3 seeking advice on implementing the directions of the *Rohith Nuthan* judgment. The Personnel Ministry told the Social Justice Ministry that the Allocation of Business Rules provide for the Ministry to formulate policy on reservation and that it was therefore seeking

"clarification/action" in this regard. The Personnel Ministry further sought "advice on instructions to be adopted or notified" by the DoPT.

As of August 19, the Centre's position before the Central Administrative Tribunal in a matter identical to that of the *Rohith Nuthan* case was that it was in the process of implementing the March 11 judgment.

However, a few days later, the DoPT filed an application highlighting why it was seemingly impossible to follow the Supreme Court's directions and the issues that were arising in implementing them retrospectively. In this application, the Centre said that despite its efforts to create the supernumerary posts as called for in the *Rohith Nuthan* judgment, it was facing an increasing number of claims for adjustment, issues of seniority arising from such adjustments, and concern that even this exercise could be "unfair" to a different category of OBG candidates and candidates of "all categories, including the unreserved category".

The Centre noted that since the March 11 judgment, 22 other judgments have been issued by courts applying the principles laid out in *Rohith Nuthan*. In addition, the DoPT said that 12 new cases have been filed seeking reconsideration of OBG non-creamy layer status under the *Rohith Nuthan* principles, by candidates who had not previously approached the courts.

However, OBG candidates who spoke to *The Hindu* argued that the Centre's reluctance to implement the directions does not appear to make sense. These candidates have asked why the DoPT had not mentioned these larger issues with implementation earlier.

These candidates have noted that the older reading of the income test – the one that the court said practised "hostile discrimination" – was being applied only by the DoPT, and that too arbitrarily.

What happens next?

Along with the application that the DoPT has filed setting out the difficulties it was facing in implementing the *Rohith Nuthan* judgment's directions, especially retrospectively, the Union government had filed a separate application, seeking that it be allowed to continue allotting services as per the old reading of the income test for CSE 2025 candidates, and seeking clarification on how to implement the directions. The Centre said that more than 800 CSE 2025 candidates were about to start their Foundation Course and that they had been reassured based on the old reading of the income test.

The DoPT argued, in this application, that the retrospective application of the judgment was specifically running into the issues mentioned above. The Supreme Court has now said it will consider setting up a Bench to hear the Centre's request for clarification on how to implement its directions and its request to allow the allotment of services to CSE 2025 candidates to continue as settled for the time being.

However, in the other application filed along with this, the Centre has asked for clarification on how to implement the direction overall. It has further argued that there might be some value in including income from salaries, as in some cases it might be the "residual" or "unintelligible differentials" between two OBG candidates from "similar social backgrounds". It has also argued that, in the absence of salary consideration, some cases might lead to OBG candidates with parents earning up to ₹ crore being considered non-creamy layer.

Now, the question is: how far will the Supreme Court's March 11 verdict reach?

THE GIST

The Supreme Court's March 11 ruling held that salary income should not be used to exclude OBG candidates from the creamy layer where their parents work in PSU or private employment without established equivalence of posts with government service.

The Centre says retrospective implementation could have a "cascading effect" on settled services, while triggering fresh claims from candidates who were previously denied OBG non-creamy-layer status.

The Supreme Court will consider setting up a Bench to hear the Centre's plea for clarification on implementing the ruling, including its application to CSE 2025 candidates.

OBC creamy layer and the income test

Why is the Centre finding the ruling difficult to implement? What exactly did the Supreme Court rule on the creamy layer? Why is the Centre seeking clarification? What are its concerns over implementing the ruling? What happens next in the creamy layer case?

EXPLAINER

Abhinav Lakshman

The Supreme Court has said it will consider setting up a Bench to hear the Centre's application seeking clarification over its March 11 judgment on the income test component of the OBC creamy layer exclusion criteria. Retrospectively implementing the judgment on the income/wealth test for OBC creamy layer determination is "extremely difficult" and will cause a "cascading effect" in the settled services from 2012 till now, with the impact extending to "all categories, including the Unreserved category", the Centre said in a batch of applications.

Why does the Centre call the ruling 'extremely difficult' to implement?
The Supreme Court on March 11 delivered its judgment in a batch of cases pending for close to a decade, relating to how the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) should interpret the crucial income/wealth test, which is one of the layers through which the "creamy layer" (or relatively socially and economically forward) among the Other Backward Classes communities is excluded from availing the benefit of reservation.
The cases that eventually came before the court involved claims by at least 50 OBC candidates who had appeared in Civil Services Examinations (CSE) since 2015 and were excluded from consideration for an OBC-reserved post after the DoPT classified them as part of the creamy layer solely based on their parents' income.
The Supreme Court found that the DoPT was incorrectly applying the income test for this category of OBC candidates and directed the government to create supernumerary posts for the OBC candidates to whom the income test had been applied with what it called "hostile discrimination," and allot them services according to their ranks in their respective CSE years.

What are the criteria for exclusion?
The creamy layer concept among OBCs emerged from the Supreme Court's 1992 ruling in the *Indra Sawhney* case, which paved the way for the implementation of OBC reservations. The idea was to exclude OBC candidates whose families had accumulated social and economic privileges over the years from the benefits of reservation. Such candidates came to be described as belonging to the "creamy layer".

To clarify which categories of OBC candidates would fall under the creamy layer, the DoPT issued an Office Memorandum (OM), a guiding charter in September 1993, laying down the criteria for exclusion.

The OM prescribed several categories of exclusion, including children of senior constitutional, judicial, government and armed forces officers.

Besides this, the DoPT also prescribed a crucial income or wealth test, applicable to people in the salaried professional class or engaged in trade; people holding plantations, vacant land and/or buildings in urban areas; and people whose parents held posts in Central or State PSUs where the equivalence of these posts with government service posts had not yet been established. It is this last category, that is, children of parents holding posts in Central or State PSUs or in private employment, that the court delivered its March 11 judgment.



GETTY IMAGES

What was the problem with the 1993 OM and 2004 letter?

Under the 1993 DoPT OM on the income/wealth test for OBC reservations, a candidate would be considered part of the creamy layer if their parents' gross family income exceeded the prescribed limit for three consecutive years, or if they possessed wealth above the exemption limit prescribed under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957. The income limit, which was ₹1 lakh when the 1993 OM was issued, was revised several times and now stands at ₹8 lakh, with the last revision having come in 2017. Importantly, the 1993 DoPT OM specified that income from salaries and agricultural land should be excluded when applying the income/wealth test, with income from other sources such as property, business, or capital gains being considered.

However, in October 2004, the DoPT issued a letter meant to clarify issues that had arisen in interpreting the 1993 OM. In paragraph 9 of this letter, the DoPT took up the issue of how to calculate income for the income/wealth test for OBCs whose parents were in Central or State PSUs where equivalence of posts had not yet been established. The DoPT seemed to suggest that income from salaries was to be counted to determine if the income was above the prescribed threshold for three consecutive years. The threshold was subsequently revised to ₹8 lakh per year in 2017.

In the 2016 ruling, the Division Bench noted that until the government establishes equivalence between the posts of Central or State PSUs and government services, the income/wealth test must continue to apply equally.

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Significantly, the Supreme Court ruled that the income/wealth test component of the exclusion exercise must be seen and operated as a "residual filter", adding that salaries and agricultural incomes had been consciously left out while applying this test under the 1993 OM. The court found that while the 1993 OM was clear about excluding income from salaries from the calculation of the income/wealth test, the 2004 letter appeared to call for its inclusion in circumstances that were

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The court went on to note that the interpretation of the 1993 OM, read with the 2004 letter, had led to "hostile discrimination" between the children of those in government service and those in PSUs or private employment.

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Now, the question is: how far will the Supreme Court's March 11 verdict reach?

THE GIST

➤ The Supreme Court's March 11 ruling held that salary income should not be used to exclude OBC candidates from the creamy layer where their parents work in PSUs or private employment without established equivalence of posts with government service.

➤ The Centre says retrospective implementation could have a 'cascading effect' on settled services, while triggering fresh claims from candidates who were previously denied OBC non-creamy-layer status.

➤ The Supreme Court will consider setting up a Bench to hear the Centre's plea for clarification on implementing the ruling, including its application to CSE 2025 candidates.

Point	English	हिंदी
Supreme Court ruling	On 11 March 2026, the Supreme Court ruled on how the creamy-layer principle should be applied to children of government employees	11 मार्च 2026 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सरकारी कर्मचारियों के बच्चों पर क्रीमी लेयर सिद्धांत लागू करने के तरीके पर निर्णय दिया
Main issue	Whether parents' income alone can determine creamy-layer status	क्या केवल माता-पिता की आय के आधार पर क्रीमी लेयर तय की जा सकती है?
Court's position	Income cannot mechanically be treated as the sole criterion; parental status/category of employment is crucial	केवल आय को यांत्रिक रूप से एकमात्र आधार नहीं बनाया जा सकता; माता-पिता की सेवा-स्थिति/पद महत्वपूर्ण है
Retrospective issue	Government is concerned about reopening OBC certificates issued in previous years	सरकार पुराने वर्षों में जारी OBC प्रमाणपत्रों की पुनः जाँच को लेकर चिंतित है
Centre's action	DoPT sought a clarification/modification of the ruling	DoPT ने फैसले पर स्पष्टीकरण/संशोधन माँगा
Why important?	Potentially affects recruitment, OBC-NCL certificates and reservation eligibility	भर्ती, OBC-NCL प्रमाणपत्र और आरक्षण पात्रता पर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है

	Year	Development	Exam significance
	1953	First Backward Classes Commission — Kaka Kalelkar Commission	Article 340
	1979	Second Backward Classes Commission — B.P. Mandal Commission	Major turning point
	1980	Mandal Commission submitted report	Recommended reservation for OBCs
	1990	V.P. Singh government announced implementation of 27% OBC reservation in central government employment	Triggered major political/legal controversy
	1991	Modified government order introduced an economic preference/exclusion dimension	Led to litigation
	1992	Indra Sawhney v. Union of India	Landmark judgment
	1993	DoPT issued detailed creamy-layer exclusion criteria	Operational framework
	2004	Clarification regarding treatment of income/salary in applying criteria	Important to present controversy
	2017	Income ceiling revised to ₹8 lakh per annum	Current article's referenced threshold
	2018	102nd Constitutional Amendment gave constitutional status to NCBC	Article 338B etc.
	2021	105th Constitutional Amendment clarified/restored States' power regarding their own SEBC lists	Important federalism connection
	2026	Supreme Court ruling creates renewed debate over income test and service status	Current affairs

Issue	Supreme Court position
27% OBC reservation	☑ Broadly upheld
Creamy layer	Must be excluded from backward-class reservation
Basis	Socially advanced sections should not continue taking benefits meant for backward sections
Reservation ceiling	Ordinarily 50%
Article involved	Primarily Article 16(4)
Reservation in promotion under Art. 16(4)	Court held Art. 16(4), as then understood, did not provide reservation in promotions
Economic criteria alone for backwardness	✗ Cannot by itself define a backward class

Category	Broad consideration
Constitutional posts	Certain high constitutional positions
Government services	Group A/Class I and specified Group B/Class II situations
PSUs/banks/insurance etc.	Equivalent/comparable posts
Armed Forces	Specified senior ranks
Professional/private sector	Income/wealth criteria become particularly relevant
Property/wealth	Specified property/wealth considerations

Government concern	Explanation
Retrospective effect	Could old OBC-NCL certificates need reconsideration?
Recruitment	What happens to candidates already selected?
Uniform implementation	Different departments may interpret criteria differently
Pending cases	Numerous recruitment disputes could be affected
Administrative burden	Reopening historical certificates could be extremely difficult
Private-sector equivalence	Government says comparable/equivalent posts are difficult to determine uniformly
Certainty	Government wants prospective, clear implementation

Parameter	OBC Reservation	EWS Reservation
Basic idea	Social & educational backwardness	Economic weakness
Major constitutional provisions	Arts. 15(4), 15(5), 16(4)	Arts. 15(6), 16(6)
Central quota	27%	10%
Creamy layer	Yes, for OBC reservation	Different eligibility framework
Landmark historical case	Indra Sawhney	Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)
Constitutional amendment for EWS	—	103rd Amendment, 2019

Case	Year	Importance
M.R. Balaji v. State of Mysore	1963	Early reservation jurisprudence
State of Kerala v. N.M. Thomas	1976	Equality and affirmative action
★ Indra Sawhney v. Union of India	1992	OBC creamy layer + ordinarily 50% ceiling
M. Nagaraj v. Union of India	2006	Reservation in promotion jurisprudence
Ashoka Kumar Thakur v. Union of India	2008	OBC reservation in educational institutions
Jarnail Singh v. Lachhmi Narain Gupta	2018	Important SC/ST promotion-reservation jurisprudence
Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil	2021	Maratha reservation; 50% ceiling
Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India	2022	Upheld 103rd Amendment/EWS reservation

Consider the following statements:

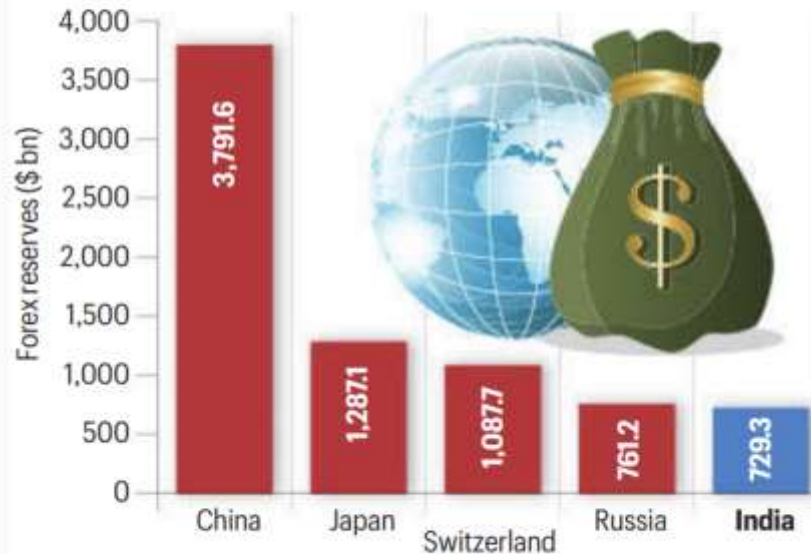
1. The expression “creamy layer” is explicitly defined in the original text of Article 16 of the Constitution.
2. The Supreme Court's *Indra Sawhney* judgment upheld the principle of excluding the creamy layer from OBC reservation.
3. A government employee earning more than ₹8 lakh annually necessarily makes his/her child creamy layer irrespective of the employee's service status.
4. Article 340 empowers the President to appoint a commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes.

Which are correct?

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

● India eyes 4th spot in forex reserves ranks

On Friday, Reserve Bank of India data showed India's foreign exchange reserves hit an all-time high of \$729.33 billion, cementing its position as the country with the fifth-largest reserves in the world and approaching Russia in fourth.



● With the RBI's three concessional swap schemes for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits, Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings, and External Commercial Borrowings still open, reserves should swell further.

● A higher level of forex reserves gives the RBI greater ammunition to defend the rupee when the need arises —

as has been the case over the last year. But how much is enough?

● According to former RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra, the target should be at least \$1 trillion. "Punting against such a level should be beyond the reach of the opportunistic and/or the faint-hearted," Patra wrote in a column in March.

Parameter	English	हिंदी
Forex reserves	\$729.328 billion	\$729.328 बिलियन
Reference date	Week ended 21 Aug 2026	21 अगस्त 2026 को समाप्त सप्ताह
Status	All-time high	अब तक का सर्वाधिक स्तर
Weekly increase	+\$12.422 billion	+\$12.422 बिलियन
Previous week	\$716.907 bn	\$716.907 बिलियन
Increase in 8 weeks	About \$63 billion	लगभग \$63 बिलियन
Approx. global position	Around 5th on the comparison shown	दिए गए तुलनात्मक आँकड़ों में लगभग 5वाँ
Russia	~\$761.2 bn in the graphic	~\$761.2 बिलियन
Gap with Russia	Only about \$31.9 bn	केवल लगभग \$31.9 बिलियन
Maintained/managed by	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
Former RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra's suggested buffer	At least \$1 trillion	कम-से-कम \$1 ट्रिलियन

3. What are Foreign Exchange Reserves?

Forex reserves are external reserve assets held by a country's central bank to meet international-payment needs and manage external financial stability.

विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार वे बाहरी आरक्षित परिसंपत्तियाँ हैं जिन्हें केंद्रीय बैंक अंतरराष्ट्रीय भुगतान आवश्यकताओं तथा बाहरी वित्तीय स्थिरता के लिए रखता है।

India's Forex Reserve = 4 Components

Component	Aug. 21, 2026	What is it? / क्या है?	
 Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)	\$591.333 bn	Foreign-currency securities/assets; largest component / विदेशी मुद्रा परिसंपत्तियाँ; सबसे बड़ा भाग	
 Gold	\$114.218 bn	RBI's gold reserves valued in dollars / RBI का स्वर्ण भंडार	
 SDRs	\$18.852 bn	IMF-created international reserve asset / IMF द्वारा निर्मित अंतरराष्ट्रीय आरक्षित परिसंपत्ति	
 Reserve Tranche Position in IMF	\$4.925 bn	India's reserve position with IMF / IMF में भारत की आरक्षित स्थिति	
TOTAL	\$729.328 bn	India's Forex Reserves	

Check:

$$591.333 + 114.218 + 18.852 + 4.925 = \$729.328 \text{ billion}$$

4. What caused the record increase?

This is more important than merely remembering \$729 billion.

Flow

RBI/Government measures → foreign currency/NRI inflows ↑ → RBI buys/absorbs dollars + valuation gains → Forex reserves ↑

The RBI received nearly **\$73 billion** under special schemes between June 5 and August 21, including roughly **\$65 billion from NRI deposits**.  Reuters

Reason	Explanation	
FCNR(B) deposits	Banks mobilised foreign-currency deposits from NRIs	
Concessional swap facilities	RBI provided attractive swap/hedging arrangements	
Overseas borrowings	Measures encouraged foreign-currency borrowing	
Capital inflows	Increased availability of foreign currency	
RBI dollar purchases	RBI absorbed part of incoming dollars	
Valuation changes	Appreciation/depreciation of non-dollar assets changes their dollar value	
Gold valuation	Higher value of gold holdings contributed substantially	

5. Weekly increase — Where did \$12.42 bn come from?

Component	Weekly change 
Foreign Currency Assets	+\$9.482 bn
Gold	+\$2.801 bn
SDR	+\$0.112 bn
IMF Reserve Position	+\$0.026 bn
Total increase	≈ \$12.422 bn

Thus, the biggest contributor was **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)**.  The Economic Ti...

Benefit	English	हिंदी
 External shock buffer	Protection against global financial shocks	वैश्विक वित्तीय झटकों से सुरक्षा
₹ Rupee stability	RBI has greater ability to intervene during excessive volatility	RBI रुपये में अत्यधिक उतार-चढ़ाव के समय हस्तक्षेप कर सकता है
 Import security	Helps pay for oil, gas, machinery etc.	तेल, गैस, मशीनरी आदि के आयात भुगतान में सहायता
 External debt	Improves capacity to meet foreign-currency obligations	विदेशी मुद्रा ऋण चुकाने की क्षमता बढ़ती है
 Capital flight	Provides cushion during sudden foreign-capital outflow	अचानक पूंजी बहिर्वाह के समय सुरक्षा
 Investor confidence	Strong reserve buffer reduces external vulnerability	मजबूत भंडार बाहरी जोखिम घटाता है
★ Creditworthiness	Can improve perception of external solvency	बाहरी भुगतान क्षमता पर भरोसा बढ़ता है
 Crisis management	Gives policymakers room during geopolitical/financial crises	संकट के दौरान नीति-निर्माताओं को अधिक गुंजाइश

9. How does RBI use reserves to defend the Rupee?

This mechanism is **very important** for Economy MCQs.

When Rupee is depreciating sharply:

Dollar demand $\uparrow$ $\rightarrow$ \$ becomes expensive $\rightarrow$ ₹ depreciates

RBI can:

Sell US dollars from reserves $\rightarrow$ Dollar supply $\uparrow$ $\rightarrow$ pressure on \$ reduces $\rightarrow$ excessive ₹ depreciation can be moderated

When excessive appreciation occurs:

RBI may:

Buy dollars $\rightarrow$ Dollar demand $\uparrow$ $\rightarrow$ Forex reserves $\uparrow$

 **Important**

RBI generally aims to **manage excessive volatility**, rather than publicly defending one permanently fixed USD/INR rate.

10. Does Higher Forex Reserve = Stronger Rupee?

✗ Not necessarily.

This is an excellent conceptual MCQ.

A country can simultaneously have:

Forex reserves ↑ AND currency depreciating.

Why?

Because the exchange rate is influenced by:

capital flows + crude-oil prices + inflation + interest-rate differentials + trade balance + dollar strength + geopolitical risks + market expectations + RBI intervention.

So:

Large forex reserves provide RBI with ammunition; they don't automatically make the rupee appreciate.

Special Drawing Rights

Statement	Correct fact
Issued/created by	IMF
Is it a currency?	 No
International reserve asset?	 Yes
Available to	IMF members
Value determined using	Basket of major currencies
Included in India's forex reserves?	 Yes

Current SDR basket

US Dollar + Euro + Chinese Renminbi + Japanese Yen + Pound Sterling

 **Trap**

Indian Rupee is NOT in the SDR basket.

Word of the day

Compeer:

a person who is of equal standing with another in a group

Synonyms: associate, colleague, accomplice, peer

Usage: *She was respected by her compeers for her expertise.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/compeer

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəmˈpiə/





Thank you ☺

