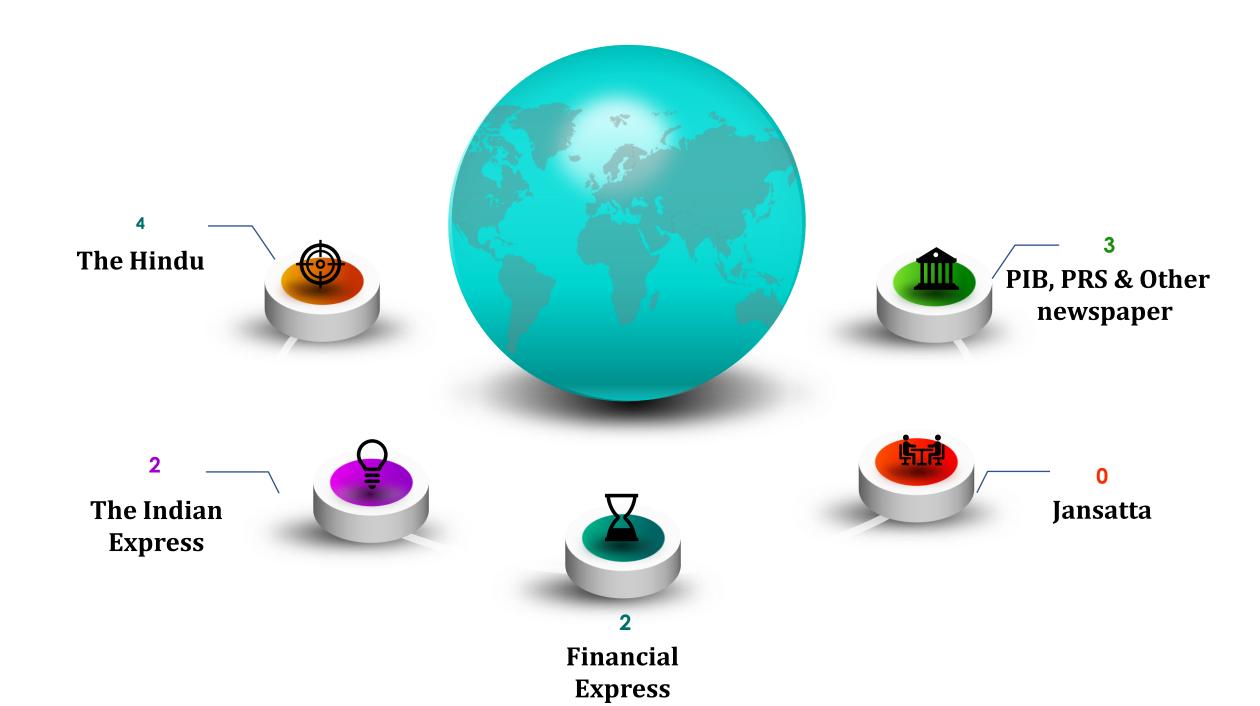
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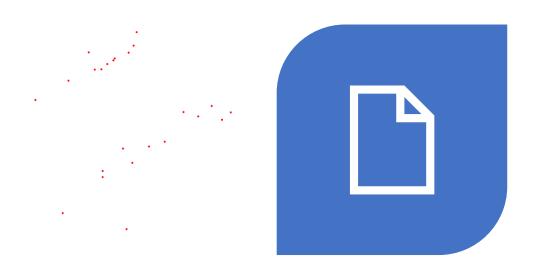








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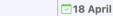












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**671** Contributors



**1,231**Kids



24 States



"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

- Mahatma Gandhi

**BUSINESS** » PAGE 12







A Sri Lankan anti-terror law needing repeal The govt. must deliver on pre-election rhetoric



Narine's spell turns it



WORLD » PAGE 14

#### Kerala child dies of rabies despite vaccination

A six-year-old girl who was bitten by a stray dog a month ago died of rabies on Tuesday College Hospital, Kozhikode

#### HC slams probe in Parbhani custodial death

Bombay HC on Tuesday expressed concerns about the nguiny into the custodial deat in Maharashtra's Parbhani district and restrained the police from "jeopardising the fairness and impartiality" of hearing on May 8. 39 PAGE 2

#### **National Archives** acquires private papers of Kalam

The National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired the private papers of former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, The collection includes lectures delivered by Dr. Kalam in Aadhaar card, passport, PAN

#### Three killed as Russia, Ukraine stage strikes

fired dozens of drones at each other early on Tuesday, killing a 12-year-old girl in Ukraine and two persons in a Russia border region, Russia fired 100 drones at Ukraine between lat Monday and early Tuesday,

## Armed forces have a free hand to respond to terror, says Modi

They will get full operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of India's response to Pahalgam terror attack, says PM at a meeting attended by the Defence Minister, NSA, CDS, and chiefs of the Army, Air Force, and Navy

## Dinakar Peri Vijaita Singh

ffirming that it is In-A ffirming that it is in-dia's "national re-solve to deal a crushing blow to terro-rism", Prime Minister Na-rendra Modi reportedly said on Tuesday that the Indian armed forces had his full confidence and "complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing" of India's response in the aftermath of last week's terror attack at Pahalgam

that left 26 people dead. The Prime Minister is re-ported to have said this during a meeting with De-fence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army chief Gen-eral Upendra Dwivedi, Air

Terror fallout



A.P. Singh, and Navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi. The meeting was held at

the Prime Minister's residence on Tuesday. said that the high-level huddle was held a day be-fore the Prime Minister is set to preside over a meeting of the Cabinet Commit-tee on Security, the second such meeting after the Pa-halgam attack.

"Prime Minister Modi expressed complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the In-dian Armed Forces," said a source in the government. "He added that they [the armed forces] have com-plete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of our res-ponse," the source added. Tuesday's meeting indition is being considered to follow a series of diplomatc measures announced st Pakistan following against Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack. Meanwhile intelligence-

based targeted counter ter ror operations continued in Kashmir on Tuesday, derations continued in Kashmir on Tuesday, de-fence sources said, even as ceasefire violations along the Line of Control conti-nued for the fifth consecutive night.
"During the night of April 28-29, Pakistan Army

resorted to unprovoked small arms firing across the Line of Control in areas op-posite Kupwara and Baramulla districts, as well as the Akhnoor sector," the Army said. "Indian Army responded in a measured and effective manner to the provocation." Also on Tuesday, Home

Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a meeting attend-ed by the Directors Gener-

#### Guard (NSG) and senior of serve Police Force (CRPF) and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). A se-nior government official said that the security forc-

UN chief calls

between India and Pakistan

between India and Pakis

tan following the Pahalgam terror attack, United Na-tions chief Antonio Gu-

ments to exercise restraint and avoid any escalation,"

statement said.

for dialogue

Press Trust of India

said that the security forces were asked to be on al-ert and maintain highest vigil at the borders.

Meanwhile, in a rare development, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat met Mr. Modi at his official residence on Tuesday.

According to succes in the RSS, the meeting lasted

for more than an hour, and was primarily revolving around the security situajournalist N. Ram. tion in Kashmir and India's potential response to the terror attack. Union Home so part of the deliberations. (With inputs from Ishita

privacy rights". The petitioners, repre-sented by senior advocates

tions chief Antonio Guterres stands ready to sup-port any initiatives, acceptable to both parties, for "de-escalation" and resumption of dialogue", his office has said.

The UN Secretary-General "remains deeply con-cerned about the situation-cerned about the situation-tic theory of the secretary of the secr journalist-petitioner Pa-ranjoy Guha Thakurta, said there was added proof now in the form of a U.S. District Court decision which said India was one of the countries in which Pegasus

## What's wrong with using Pegasus for national security: SC

The Supreme Court asked there was something wrong in the government using Israeli military-grade Pegasus spyware for secur-ity reasons against "anti-national elements".

ity reasons against "ant-national elements".

"What is wrong if the country used that spyware against anti-national ele-ments? There is nothing wrong with having spy-used, is the point," Justice Surya Kant, heading a Bench with Justice N. Kotis-war Singh, addressed peti-ty outputs of the point of the journalist N. Ram.

The observation came after senior advocate Dinesh Dwivedi said the "basic question" in this liti-gation was whether or not the government possessed Pegasus, and if it was used for illegal surveillance on

Justice Kant said the right to privacy had to be protected from state sur-veillance. "But we cannot compromise the security of the nation, especially in the present scenario," Jus-tice Kant emphasised. Solicitor-General Tush-ar Mehta interjected dur-

ing the nearly 20-minute hearing, which came a few days after the Pahalgam terror attack, to agree that "terrorists cannot have any

sented by senior advocates
Kapil Sibal, Shyam Divan,
Mr. Dwivedi, and others,
have sought disclosure of
the final findings of a top
court-appointed technical
committee which had conducted digital forensics to
detect malware on mobile
phones submitted to it.
Mr. Sibal, appearing for
cournalist petitioner. Pa.

## wrong with having spyware. Against security of the nation, especially in the present scenario JUSTICE SURYA

the technical committee report in order to at least know if Pegasus was used on the phones that were submitted for

However, the court firm-ly said these were in the realm of allegations, and it would "not disclose even a single word which may af-fect the sovereignty and se-

fect the sovereignty and se-curity of the nation". Justice Kant agreed that the persons who had ap-prehended Pegasus sur-veillance and submitted their phones for checking were entitled to know "whether they were backed or saved from it"

was very serious if the state had used the spyware to spy on its own citizens.

"This is a very serious sit-uation. I can show that this particular spyware was used against citizens of Inused against citizens of In-dia, against journalists, in-cluding judges. The entire report should be placed in the public domain. It is an open court system here,"

The Bench asked the la-wyers to provide a list of names of those who, ap-prehending that they were hacked by Pegasus. The petitioners had also asked for copies of a sepa-

rate report submitted to the top court by former Su-preme Court judge, Justice R.V. Raveendran, with suggestions to enhance exist-ing laws and procedures was employed for surveil-lance. He sought the re-lease of redacted copies of cyber security, etc.

## Carney leads Liberals to victory in Canadian election, hits out at Trump

Mark Carney's Liberal Par-ty has won the federal election, capping a stunning fuelled by U.S. President Donald Trump's annexa-tion threats and trade war.

Mr. Carney's rival, po-pulist Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre, was set to be voted out of his seat in Parliament on

Tuesday.

The Liberals were projected to win more of Parliament's 343 seats than the Conservatives. It was not immediately clear if

would need to roly on a maller party to pass legis triump-like broads, but hation and remain in power. In a victory speech, Mr. Carney stressed the importance of unity in the face of Washington's threats. The loss of his seat re-

presenting his Ottawa dis-trict in Monday's election capped a swift decline in nes for the firebrand Mr. Poilievre, who a few months ago appeared to be a shoo-in to shepherd the Conservatives back into Conservatives back into power for the first time in a decade. But then Mr. Trump launched a trade war with Canada and sug-gested the country should become the 51st U.S. State,

later Tuesday morning. The Liberals were leading or elected in 168 seats when the counting was when the counting was paused, four short of a ma-jority. Elections Canada es-timated that the uncount-ed votes could affect the result in about a dozen dis-tricts.

The decision means Ca-

nadians will not know until later in the day whether

has decided to pause counting of special ballots

away from their districts during the election - until

cast by voters who are



Mr. Carney's Liberals have won a minority or majority mandate. In a victory speech, Mr. Carney stressed the impor-tance of unity in the face of Washington's threats. He also said the mutually be-

neficial system Canada and nehcial system Canada and the U.S. had shared since the Second World War had ended. "We are over the shock of the American betrayal, but we should never forget the lessons," he said.

shade being thrown from the States is great, but it's definitely created some turmoil, that's for sure," he Challenges ahead Historian Robert Bothwell

Reid Warren, a Toronto resident, said he voted Lib-eral because Mr. Poilievre "sounds like mini-Trump to me." He said Mr. Trump's tariffs are a worry. "Canadians coming togeth-er from, you know, all the

Historian Robert Bothwell said Mr. Polilevre appealed to the "same sense of grie-vance" as Mr. Trump, but that it ultimately worked against him.

"The Liberals ought to pay him," Mr. Bothwell said, referring to the U.S.

President. "Trump talking is not good for the Conservatives." Mr. Carney and the Lib-

erals secured a new term, but they have daunting challenges ahead. If they don't win a majority in Parliament, the Liberals might need rely on one of the smaller parties. The Bloc Québécois, which looked set to finish

third, is a separatist party from French-speaking Quebec that seeks independence. Trudeau's Liberals re-

cannot win a majority of in a new minority Parlia-ment could complicate things for them," said McGill University political science professor Daniel Béland.

election this much since

## What's wrong with using Pegasus for national security: SC

#### Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked petitioners on Tuesday if there was something wrong in the government using Israeli military-grade Pegasus spyware for security reasons against "antinational elements".

"What is wrong if the country used that spyware for security reasons against anti-national elements? There is nothing wrong with having spy-ware. Against whom it is used, is the point," Justice Surva Kant, heading a Bench with Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, addressed petitioners, including senior journalist N. Ram.

The observation came after senior advocate Dinesh Dwivedi said the "basic question" in this litigation was whether or not the government possessed Pegasus, and if it was used curity of the nation". for illegal surveillance on private citizens.

Justice Kant said the right to privacy had to be protected from state surveillance. "But we cannot compromise the security of the nation, especially in the present scenario," Justice Kant emphasised.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta interjected during the nearly 20-minute hearing, which came a few days after the Pahalgam terror attack, to agree that "terrorists cannot have any privacy rights".

The petitioners, represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Shyam Divan, Mr. Dwivedi, and others, have sought disclosure of the final findings of a top court-appointed technical committee which had conducted digital forensics to detect malware on mobile phones submitted to it.

Mr. Sibal, appearing for journalist-petitioner Paranjoy Guĥa Thakurta, said there was added proof now in the form of a U.S. District Court decision which said India was one of the countries in which Pegasus ing laws and procedures was employed for surveil- related to surveillance and lance. He sought the re- securing rights, including lease of redacted copies of cyber security, etc.

There is nothing wrong with having spyware. Against whom it is used, is the point... We cannot compromise the security of the nation. especially in the present scenario

SURYA KANT SC judge the technical committee report in order to at least know if Pegasus was used

JUSTICE

on the phones that were submitted examination.

However, the court firm-

ly said these were in the realm of allegations, and it would "not disclose even a single word which may affect the sovereignty and se-

Justice Kant agreed that the persons who had apprehended Pegasus surveillance and submitted their phones for checking were entitled to know "whether they were hacked or saved from it".

Mr. Divan said the issue was very serious if the state had used the spyware to spy on its own citizens.

#### 'Serious situation'

"This is a very serious situation. I can show that this particular spyware was used against citizens of India, against journalists, including judges. The entire report should be placed in the public domain. It is an open court system here." Mr. Divan persisted.

The Bench asked the lawyers to provide a list of names of those who, apprehending that they were hacked by Pegasus.

The petitioners had also asked for copies of a separate report submitted to the top court by former Supreme Court judge, Justice R.V. Raveendran, with suggestions to enhance exist-

## **Supreme Court Stand:**

- Justice Surya Kant (SC Judge) asked:
   "What's wrong if spyware like Pegasus is used for national security?"
- Bench Members: Justice Surya Kant and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh.
- Context: The comment was made during hearings on petitions alleging illegal government surveillance using Pegasus spyware.

## Privacy vs. Security:

- Quote: "We cannot compromise the security of the nation, especially in the present scenario."
- Right to privacy must be protected **from state surveillance**, but security concerns may override that under certain situations.

## **Approximation** Petitioners' Arguments:

- Senior advocates like Kapil Sibal, Shyam Divan, and Dinesh Dwivedi:
  - Alleged use of Pegasus against journalists, activists, and judges.
  - Sought public disclosure of the **technical committee's findings** (set up by SC in 2021).
  - Referred to U.S. court findings confirming India as a country that used Pegasus.

## Forensic Evidence:

- SC-appointed committee had done **digital forensics** on submitted phones.
- SC refused to disclose the names or findings, citing national security.

## **§** Former SC Judge Report:

 Petitioners also asked for release of Justice R.V. Raveendran's report, which suggests reforms in surveillance laws and cybersecurity framework.

Context	Details
Pegasus Origins	Developed by Israeli firm NSO Group for counter-terror operations.
First exposed	2019 WhatsApp breach case, further reported by Pegasus Project in 2021.
Countries accused	India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Hungary among others.
Indian Govt Stand	Neither confirmed nor denied use; argued on grounds of national security.
Right to Privacy Judgment (2017)	SC upheld privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.
Technological Concern	Pegasus can access camera, mic, messages without user's knowledge (zero-click exploit).

## **Legal Dimensions:**

- K.S. Puttaswamy Case (2017): Right to privacy is a fundamental right.
- Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and IT Act, 2000: These govern lawful interception, but lack transparency.
- Call for Reforms: Justice Raveendran recommended overhauling outdated surveillance laws.

## Technological & Cybersecurity Dimensions:

- Pegasus is among the most advanced spyware globally, capable of zero-click infiltration.
- National vs Individual Security: Raises global debate on ethical surveillance and state accountability.



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## Carney leads Liberals to victory in Canadian election, hits out at Trump

**Associated Press** 

TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party has won the federal election, capping a stunning turnaround in fortunes fuelled by U.S. President Donald Trump's annexation threats and trade war.

Mr. Carney's rival, populist Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre, was set to be voted out of his seat in Parliament on Tuesday.

The Liberals were projected to win more of Parliament's 343 seats than the Conservatives. It was not immediately clear if they would win an outright majority – at least 172 – or

would need to rely on a smaller party to pass legislation and remain in power. In a victory speech, Mr. Carney stressed the importance of unity in the face of Washington's threats.

The loss of his seat representing his Ottawa district in Monday's election capped a swift decline in fortunes for the firebrand Mr. Poilievre, who a few months ago appeared to be a shoo-in to shepherd the Conservatives back into power for the first time in a decade. But then Mr. Trump launched a trade war with Canada and suggested the country should become the 51st U.S. State, outraging voters and upending the election. Mr.

Poilievre campaigned with Trump-like bravado, but his similarities to Mr. Trump may have ultimately cost him and his party.

Elections Canada said it has decided to pause counting of special ballots – cast by voters who are away from their districts during the election – until later Tuesday morning.

The Liberals were leading or elected in 168 seats when the counting was paused, four short of a majority. Elections Canada estimated that the uncounted votes could affect the result in about a dozen districts.

The decision means Canadians will not know until later in the day whether



**Stunning victory:** Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney celebrates the victory with wife Diana Fox in Ottawa on Tuesday. AP

Mr. Carney's Liberals have won a minority or majority mandate.

In a victory speech, Mr. Carney stressed the importance of unity in the face of Washington's threats. He also said the mutually beneficial system Canada and the U.S. had shared since the Second World War had ended.

"We are over the shock of the American betrayal, but we should never forget the lessons," he said. Reid Warren, a Toronto resident, said he voted Liberal because Mr. Poilievre "sounds like mini-Trump to me." He said Mr. Trump's tariffs are a worry. "Canadians coming together from, you know, all the shade being thrown from the States is great, but it's definitely created some turmoil, that's for sure," he said.

#### Challenges ahead

Historian Robert Bothwell said Mr. Poilievre appealed to the "same sense of grievance" as Mr. Trump, but that it ultimately worked against him.

"The Liberals ought to pay him," Mr. Bothwell said, referring to the U.S. President. "Trump talking is not good for the Conservatives."

Mr. Carney and the Liberals secured a new term, but they have daunting challenges ahead.

If they don't win a majority in Parliament, the Liberals might need rely on one of the smaller parties.

The Bloc Québécois, which looked set to finish third, is a separatist party from French-speaking Quebec that seeks independence.

Trudeau's Liberals relied on the New Democrats to remain in power for four years, but the progressive party fared poorly on Monday and its leader, Jagmeet Singh, said he was stepping down after eight years in charge.

"This is a dramatic comeback, but if the Liberals cannot win a majority of seats, political uncertainty in a new minority Parliament could complicate things for them," said McGill University political science professor Daniel Béland.

Foreign policy has not dominated a Canadian election this much since 1988, when, ironically, free trade with the United States was the prevailing issue.

**EDITORIAL** 

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## Main Event:

- Mark Carney, leader of the Liberal Party, has won the federal election in Canada.
- Victory credited to backlash against Donald Trump's remarks and U.S. trade war policies.

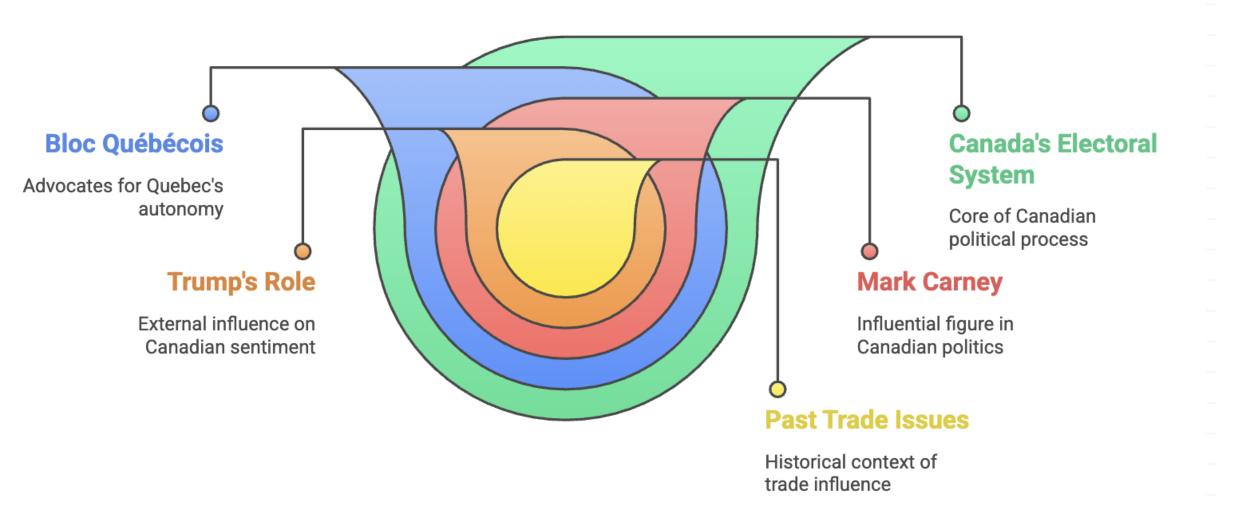
## Seat Distribution:

- Canadian Parliament has 343 seats.
- Liberals were leading or elected in 168 seats—4 short of majority.
- Elections Canada paused special ballot counting—final results pending.
- Likely outcome: Minority government, needing alliance with smaller parties.

## M Coalition Context:

- In past term, Liberals relied on New Democrats (NDP).
- Bloc Québécois (Quebec separatist party) likely to finish third.

## Canadian Political Dynamics



Aspect	Details
Diplomatic Ties Established	1947 (Full diplomatic relations since 1947)
Major Indian Exports to Canada	Pharmaceuticals, gems & jewelry, textiles, machinery, chemicals, IT services
Major Canadian Exports to India	Pulses, fertilizers, paper, wood, crude oil, and mining products
Bilateral Trade (2022-23)	Around <b>USD 8.16 billion</b>
India's Exports to Canada	Approx. <b>USD 4.10 billion</b>
India's Imports from Canada	Approx. <b>USD 4.06 billion</b>

Top Sectors for Canadian Investment in India	Aerospace, agri-food, clean energy, mining, and education
Indian Companies in Canada	Over 600 companies, especially in IT, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing
Canadian Companies in India	More than 1,000 companies operating or sourcing from India
Investment Treaties	Negotiations ongoing for CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement)
Recent Disputes/Tensions	Diplomatic tensions over political issues (e.g., Khalistan, 2023-24 fallout)
High-Level Visits	Multiple Ministerial visits (but strained recently due to diplomatic issues)
Education Link	Canada hosts over <b>3,00,000+</b> Indian students

## Text&Context

THE HINDU

**NEWS IN NUMBERS** 

Lawsuits filed by various plaintiffs to block Trump policies

200 More than 200 lawsuits have been filed by various plaintiffs to block Trump policies as he approaches the 100-day mark of his

Death toll from a fire in China's Liaoyang

People were killed in a restaurant fire in China's Liaoyang city on Tuesday. Three others suffered injuries. There was no word on the cause of the fire. Chinese

Rising heat,

falling fruit?

Amount Malta got from its 'golden passport' program

In billion euros. The European Court of Justice ordered Malta to close its "golden passport" program, long criticised facilitating white collar crime and sanctions evasion. Malta defended the scheme, saying it has brought 1.4 billion euros to the nation since 2015. ar

Countries on U.S. 'priority watch list' for IP rights violation

The U.S. again placed India on its 'priority watch list', stating that New Delhi remains one of the world's Delhi remains one of the world's most challenging major economies concerning protection and enforcement of intellectual property (iP) rights. The report has listed eight countries, including India, in its 'priority watch list'. m

Number of prisoners to be released in Vietnam

8,000 Vietnam will free more than 8,000 prisoners, including foreigners, ahead of the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. It

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## High temperatures and mango production

averaging 7.9 MT/ha.

What's the quantum of growth in India? What are the challenges? How does mango production in India compare to that of China and Thailand? Does genetic diversity play a role in the hardiness and productivity of the fruit? How does it help it combat climate change?

#### Serish Nanisetti

The story so far: The story so far:

here is a drop in mango
longer taste that sweet.

Mangoes are arriving too early in the
most thought the many permanent in the
most the many permanence state in the
most the many permanence state is
lowering too early, these are some of the
mecdotal conversations about mangoes

#### What is the threat?

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Annual Climate Survey of 2024, "the country's annual mean land surface air temperature during the year 2024 was +0.65°C above the 1991-2020 average. Thus, making the year 2024 the warmest year on record since 1901." IMD data shows that the last 12 years have been warmer than earlier years, defying the statistical norm where there is a see-saw of temperatures with some years cooler than others.

Anecdotal information suggests that mango productivity has been affected due to rising temperatures. Researchers in Egypt who published a paper on 'Climate change and Mango production' say that Egypt who published a paper on Camana-change and Mango production' say that "in the near future, agriculture as a whole and mango production, in particular, will face serious threats from climate change."

What's the report from the orchards? what's the report from the orchards? statistical data of the Horticulture Department in India suggest otherwise. In the quarter-century period between the control of the orchard of the control of the orchard o

mango, which are China (8.74 MT/Ha) and Thailand (8.36 MT/Ha).

suggests that manga productivity has been affected due to rising tem koverer, empirical evidence and statistical data of t korticulture Department in Indio suggest otherwise.

Chart 1: Annual all-India mean temperature anomalie

According to the Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University in Hyderabad, the area under nango cultivation has increased, "During 2023-24, mango acreage in India was ncreased by 2.34% to 24.01 lakh hectares (59 34 lakh acres) with 224 23 lakh tonne (59.34 lakh acres) with 224-25 takin our of production (as per the 3rd advance estimates) as compared to 208.72 lakh tonnes of production from 23.46 lakh hectares (57.97 lakh acres) during last

Do heat waves affect trees?

Do heat waves affect trees?

on the human body is being studied, the jury is out on the environmental stress experienced by trees and plants. "Higher maturity, sun scalding, and uneven ripening in mango. In a variety like the seen," points our Naga Harshita Devalla, who teaches at the College of Horticulture in Hyderabad.

"Mangoes possess physiological mechanisms that allow them to st and thrive in diverse and demanding environments. The substantial genetic diversity provides several advantages for the transfer of traditional or modern breeding technique and for determining how to adapt to climate change"

The mango plant has specific weather requirements from the time buds start appearing by the end of winter. The pollination has to take place before the fruit is set. The budding stage as well as year the place of the place o play havoc at any of these stages and affect productivity the hardiness of mango and higher productivity are being linked to genetic diversity.

THE GIST

Indian researchers led by Rajdeep Haldar draw a similar conclusion about mango production rising due to higher temperatures in the region, linking it to genetic diversity

+

While rain, hail, or wind can

## Chart 2: The production of manages in India and land usage Area in 000 ha Production 000 mt 0 200

Is genetic variation important? Indian researchers led by Rajdeep Haldar, who published a paper in the International Journal of Advanced Biochemistry Research in March 2024, draw a similar conclusion about mange uction and higher temperatures in the region. He linked it to genetic

"There are multiple reasons to be production and agriculture. These species have significant adaptability in respo to their surroundings. Mangoes poss physiological mechanisms that allow physiological mechanisms that allow them to adjust and thrive in diverse and demanding environments. The several advantages for the transfer of traditional or modern breeding techniques and for determining how to techniques and for determining how to techniques and for determining how techniques and for determining how conditions required for the growth and production of mango trees are to some extent compatible with the impacts of and high temperatures. The research and high temperatures," the research paper stated.

mounted on the State government and

the WBSSC to release the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates. The State government, however, insisted that teachers would get their salaries. "You

## What is the controversy over **Bengal school scam?**

Why were hundreds of teachers of State-run schools protesting outside the West Bengal School Service Commission? Has the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates been made public?

The story so far: ast week, after days of protests outside the headquarters of the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSC) in Commission (WBSSC) in Kolkata's Salt Lake area, hundreds of teachers of State-run schools decided to call off the agitation for a week. The protests had erupted on April 21 after the State government went back on its promise to make public the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates in the recruitment process carried out in 2016

#### What did the government say? The government said it had sent the list of The government said it had sent the fist or 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates to the district inspectors of schools. The

protesters said they would return to their schools, and resume the protest in a few

protesting employees, the non-teaching staff of State-run schools, held a meeting staff of State-run schools, held a meeting staff of State-run schools, held a limiter for a mount of the State spectrum of the State spectrum of the State spectrum of the State spectrum of the Group G staff and 220,000 per month for Group G staff and 220,000 per month for Group D staff.

#### What have the courts ruled? These developments followed a Supreme Court order on April 3 which upheld a

Calcutta High Court decision of April 22, 2024 cancelling en bloc appointments of 25,752 teaching and non-teaching staff in State-run schools. The recruitment process was carried out in 2016 by the WBSSC. A Bench consisting of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar agreed with the High Court's finding that the selection process was "vitiated and riddled with manipulations and fraud."

The Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court ordered the termination of an entire panel of teaching and non-teaching staff as neither the WBSSC nor the West staff as neither the WBSSC nor the West Bengal government came up with a list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates before the court. The loss of appointments of about 25,000 teaching and non-teaching staff across 19,000 schools raised serious questions on the functioning of schools in the State.

#### What relief has been granted? On April 17, the Supreme Court granted some relief to the West Bengal government by allowing the services of 'untainted' teachers to the State's government and aided schools to be retained till a fresh recruitment process i completed by the end of 2025. The Court, however, passed no such order for non-teaching staff. After the April 17 order, pressure

reachers would get their salaries. "You don't need to worry about who is tainted and who is not. You only need to worry about whether you have your job and all their you have you job and time," Ms. Banerjee said at a public meeting on April 22. So far, neither the West Bengal Education Department nor the list. However, the protesting teachers who held meetings with WBSSC have pointed out that out of 17,206 teachers who lead the said of the list. However, the protesting teachers who held meetings with WBSSC have pointed out that out of 17,206 teachers who lead the said of the list. However, the protesting teachers who lead the said with the end of 2025. runtainted and engine to continue teaching till the end of 2025.

As the West Bengal school recruitment scam continues to make headlines, the big question is around the list and the number of 'tainted' and 'untainted' recruitments. The protesting employees say it is not just about salaries but also about dignity, and that it is necessary to separate the grain from the chaff. When did the scam surface?

The school recruitment scam came to the fore with the arrest of former State School Education Minister Partha Chatterjee by the Enforcement Directorate in July 2022. Subsequently, several arrests were made in the scam which involved

cash-for-school jobs recruitment.

#### THE GIST

A Supreme Court order on 3 upheld a Calcutta High C decision of April 22, 2024 cancelling en bloc appointments of 25,752 teaching and non-teaching staff in State-run schools.

As the West Bengal school As the West Bengal school recruitment scam continues to make headlines, the big question is around the number of 'tainted' and 'untainted'

(110)

# What is the controversy over Bengal school scam?

Why were hundreds of teachers of State-run schools protesting outside the West Bengal School Service Commission? Has the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates been made public?

#### **Shiv Sahay Singh**

## The story so far:

ast week, after days of protests outside the headquarters of the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) in Kolkata's Salt Lake area, hundreds of teachers of State-run schools decided to call off the agitation for a week. The protests had erupted on April 21 after the State government went back on its promise to make public the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates in the recruitment process carried out in 2016.

## What did the government say?

The government said it had sent the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates to the district inspectors of schools. The protesters said they would return to their schools, and resume the protest in a few days. On April 26, another group of

protesting employees, the non-teaching staff of State-run schools, held a meeting with the State government. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that as long as the matter is pending before the courts, the State government would hand out ₹25,000 per month for Group C staff and ₹20,000 per month for Group D staff.

#### What have the courts ruled?

These developments followed a Supreme Court order on April 3 which upheld a Calcutta High Court decision of April 22, 2024 cancelling en bloc appointments of 25,752 teaching and non-teaching staff in State-run schools. The recruitment process was carried out in 2016 by the WBSSC. A Bench consisting of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar agreed with the High Court's finding that the selection process was "vitiated and riddled with manipulations and fraud."

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After the April 17 order, pressure

mounted on the State government and the WBSSC to release the list of 'tainted' and 'untainted' candidates. The State government, however, insisted that teachers would get their salaries. "You don't need to worry about who is tainted and who is not. You only need to worry about whether you have your job and whether you are getting your salaries on time," Ms. Banerjee said at a public meeting on April 22. So far, neither the West Bengal Education Department nor the WBSSC has officially come out with the list. However, the protesting teachers who held meetings with WBSSC have pointed out that out of 17,206 teachers recruited during 2016, 15,403 were 'untainted' and eligible to continue teaching till the end of 2025.

As the West Bengal school recruitment scam continues to make headlines, the big question is around the list and the number of 'tainted' and 'untainted' recruitments. The protesting employees say it is not just about salaries but also about dignity, and that it is necessary to separate the grain from the chaff.

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The school recruitment scam came to the fore with the arrest of former State School Education Minister Partha Chatterjee by the Enforcement Directorate in July 2022. Subsequently, several arrests were made in the scam which involved cash-for-school jobs recruitment.

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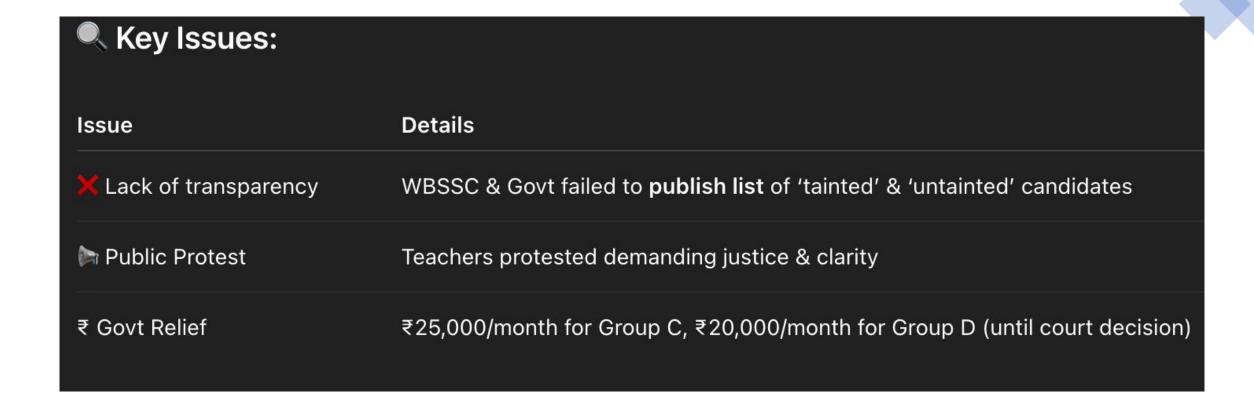
As the West Bengal school recruitment scam continues to make headlines, the big question is around the number of 'tainted' and 'untainted' recruitments.

## Background:

- Scam pertains to recruitment of 25,752 teaching and non-teaching staff in State-run schools via the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) in 2016.
- Arrest of Partha Chatterjee (then Education Minister) in July 2022 by the Enforcement Directorate unearthed the scam.
- Allegations: Jobs were sold for cash, and the selection process was manipulated and fraudulent.

## Supreme Court and Calcutta High Court Orders:

- Calcutta High Court (April 22, 2024):
  - Cancelled entire panel of appointments (teaching + non-teaching).
  - Held the recruitment "vitiated and riddled with fraud".
- Supreme Court (April 3, 2024):
  - Upheld the High Court's verdict.
  - Allowed 'untainted' candidates to continue temporarily till new recruitment is complete (by end of 2025).



## **Data Points:**

- Total affected: 25,752 staff
- 'Untainted' (as per protestors): 15,403 out of 17,206 recruited in 2016
- Schools affected: Over 19,000

## m Constitutional & Administrative Relevance:

- Article 14: Equality before law hiring must be merit-based.
- SC/ST/OBC quotas must be protected with transparency.
- Governance & Ethics: Highlights flaws in state-level service commissions.
- Linked to GS Paper 2 (Governance, Transparency) & GS Paper 4 (Integrity & Ethics).

# US puts India on IPR 'priority watch list'

FE BUREAU New Delhi, April 29

THE US HAS grouped India, along with China and Russia, on a priority watchlist of nations against which it might take action for inadequate protection to intellectual property (IP) of American companies.

This year's Special 301 Report on the adequacy and effectiveness of US trading partners' protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights by the US Trade Representative (USTR) has again put India on the 'Priority Watch List' that also includes Argentina, Chile, Indonesia, Mexico and Venezuela.

"India remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP," the report said.

For countries failing to address US concerns, USTR will take appropriate actions, which may include enforcement actions under Section 301 of the Trade Act or pursuant to World Trade Organization (WTO) or other trade agreement dispute settlement procedures, the USTR said.

Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 allows the US to take actions against countries that engage in unfair or discriminatory trade practices that burden or restrict US commerce. These actions can include imposing tariffs, investigative trade practices and even retaliatory measures.

The concerns identified in the report are based on the inputs provided by the American industry on their perception of the level of protection provided by India to intellectual property.



Patent issues continue to be of particular concern in India, the report said. Among other concerns, the potential threat of patent revocations and the procedural and discretionary invocation of patentability criteria under the Indian Patents Act impact companies across different sectors.

"Moreover, patent applicants generally continue to confront long waiting periods to receive patent grants and excessive reporting requirements. Stakeholders continue to express concerns over vagueness in the interpretation of the Indian Patents Act," the report said.

It did acknowledge the actions taken by India to promote IP protection and enforcement in some areas and steps taken to partially address long-standing issue with patent pre-grant opposition proceedings and cumbersome reporting requirements.

Among other issues highlighted against India in the report are problems of trademark counterfeiting. India along with China and Turkiye has been identified as a source country for counterfeit goods.

## **USTR Special 301 Report Process**

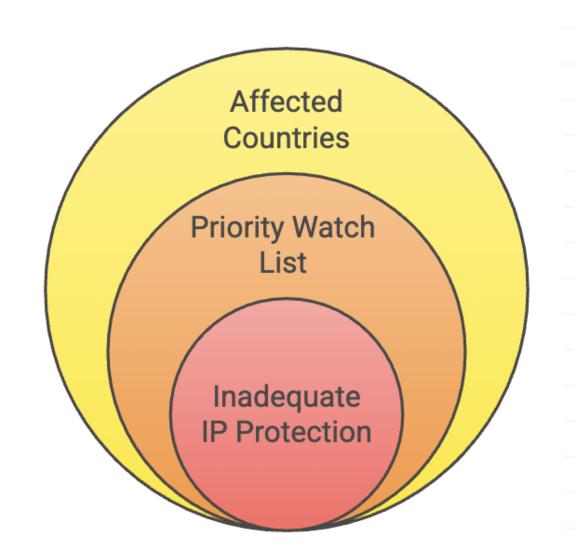


## **Intellectual Property Protection Concerns**

Nations with IP protection concerns

Countries needing IP protection improvement

Core issue affecting American companies

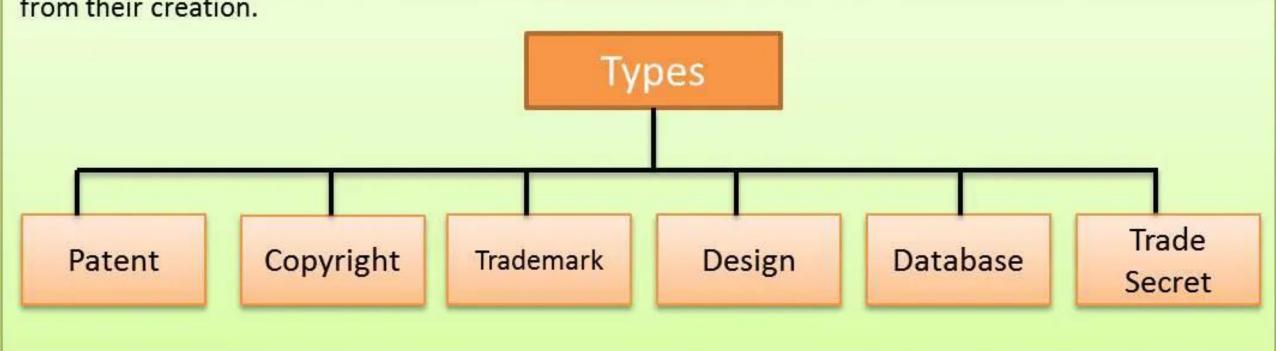


Area	Concern
<i>₫</i> Patents	<ul> <li>Risk of patent revocations under the Indian Patents Act.</li> <li>Procedural vagueness in patentability criteria.</li> <li>Long delays in grant, high compliance burdens.</li> </ul>
Trademarks	- Counterfeit goods: India, China, Türkiye identified as top sources.
Legal Enforcement	- Weak <b>enforcement</b> of IP rights Complex and lengthy <b>pre-grant opposition</b> processes.

Element	Detail
Special 301 Report	Annual USTR report on IP rights of US trading partners.
Section 301, US Trade Act, 1974	Empowers US to act against <b>discriminatory trade practices</b> , possibly via tariffs, WTO complaints.
Indian Patents Act, 1970	Provides for <b>compulsory licensing</b> and <b>pre-grant opposition</b> , often criticized by MNCs.
### TRIPS Agreement (WTO)	India is a signatory; balances <b>IP protection</b> with <b>public health and innovation</b> needs.



Intellectual property is the creations of the minds of an individual which has a commercial and moral value. Intellectual property rights (IPR) grants exclusive rights to an author for utilizing and benefiting from their creation.



Form of IPR	What it protects	Criteria	Duration
PATENTS	Inventions	Novelty Inventive Step Industrial Application	20 years from the date of filing the Patent
COPYRIGHTS	Expression of Ideas (Literary, Dramatic, Musical works, Computer Program per se, etc.)	Originality Fixation	Literary works: Lifetime of author + 60 years Cinematography films/records/ photographs/government works : 60 years Broadcasting : 25 years
TRADEMARKS	Identification symbols, logos, slogans, words/ letters	Distinctive Graphically representable Not deceptive	Indefinite Renewal after every ten years
INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS	External appearance of an article	Novel Original Significantly distinguishable	Initially for 10 years Renewal for 5 more years (maximum protection : 15 years)
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS	Goods of specific geographical origin	Quality Reputation Unique characteristics which are essentially attributable to the geographical area of origin	Indefinite Renewal after every ten years
LAYOUT DESIGN OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS	Lay out of components in the integrated circuits	Original Distinctive Capable of distinguishing from any other lay-out design.	10 years
PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES & FARMERS' RIGHTS	New varieties Farmers' varieties Extant varieties Essentially derived varieties	Novelty Distinctiveness Uniformity Stability Denomination	Trees and vines : 18 years Extant varieties &others : 15 years

## Maharashtra, Gujarat lead composite state rankings

FE BUREAU New Delhi, April 29

#### **MAHARASHTRATOPPEDTHE**

overall composite rankings of states prepared by the CareEdge Ratings, with the state leading in the financial development pillar and performing strongly across the economic, fiscal and social pillars.

Maharashtra was followed by Gujarat and Karnataka in the composite ranking. Gujarat's performance is supported by its leading economic rank, along with favourable outcomes in the fiscal and infrastructure pillars.

"This is a quantitative assessment of states' potential in terms of sustainable and equitable growth and is also a reflection of investment attractiveness of these states. The objective of this report is to present a holistic picture that encourages informed decisionmaking," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist, Care Edge Ratings.

For a comprehensive assessment of the states' overall per-

## **FISCAL GAUGE**

■ Gujarat's performance is aided by its leading economic rank and favourable outcomes



- Western and southern states dominate the top five rankings, finds study
- Odisha leads in fiscal rankings faring well in revenue deficit and debt management among others

formance, Care looked at seven pillars, namely economic, fiscal, financial development, infrastructure, social, governance and environment, covering a total of 50 indicators. As per the study, western and southern states dominate the top five rankings.

Fiscal, economic and financial development pillars are the strong points forwestern states, while the southern states performed well across the economic, financial development, environment, and governance pillars. Goa topped the rankings in Group B (north-east, hilly & small states) with a strong score for financial development, infrastructure, social, fiscal and economic pillars.

In economic rankings, Gujarat topped the economic pillar aided by a strong performance in per capita GSDP, foreign direct investment (FDI) as a percentage of GSDP, and gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) for industries. In fiscal rankings, Odisha led the states by faring well in terms of revenue deficit, interest payments (% revenue), debt management, outstanding liabilities and guarantees.

W

## **With the Example 2 In Manager In Manage**

- Maharashtra: Tops overall composite rankings due to strong financial development, and consistent performance across economic, fiscal, and social pillars.
- Gujarat: Ranked 2nd, led the economic pillar with high scores in:
  - Per capita GSDP
  - FDI inflows (% of GSDP)
  - Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF).
- Karnataka: Ranked 3rd in the overall composite index.

## **Parameters Considered (7 Pillars):**

Pillar	Description
∠ Economic	GSDP, per capita GSDP, FDI, GFCF
§ Fiscal	Revenue deficit, debt management, liabilities
financial Development	Credit availability, access to banking
☐ Infrastructure	Roads, power, transport
Social	Education, healthcare indicators
â Governance	Administrative efficiency, ease of doing business
Environment	Sustainability, pollution control

## ✓ Notable Insights:

Region	Strengths
Western States (Maharashtra, Gujarat)	Economic + fiscal strength
Southern States (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh)	Financial development, governance, environment
Odisha	Leads <b>fiscal rankings</b> due to effective debt management and low interest payments
Goa	Tops <b>Group B</b> (small/hilly/Northeast) states in financial and infrastructure strength



Supreme Court Says 'Sharia Court' Have No Legal Recognition

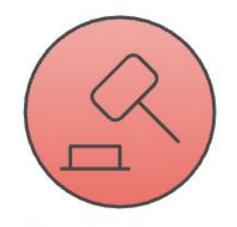
Aspect	Sharia Court	Sharia Law
Definition	A religious court that interprets and applies Sharia law	Islamic legal system derived from the Quran and Hadith
Origin	Developed in Islamic countries to resolve religious/civil matters	Rooted in the Quran, Sunnah (Prophet's traditions), Ijma, and Qiyas
Jurisdiction	Limited to personal law matters (e.g., marriage, divorce, inheritance)	Covers a wide range: personal, criminal, commercial, moral issues
Legal Authority	Varies by country; advisory in some (e.g., India), enforceable in others (e.g., Saudi Arabia)	In countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, it is state law
Presence in India	Exists as informal bodies under Muslim Personal Law Board	Recognized under Article 25 for personal matters, not criminal law

Binding Nature	Not legally binding in India, but decisions are followed by consenting parties	In Islamic nations, it can be fully binding
Example Cases Handled	Nikah (marriage), Talaq (divorce), property division, fatwas	Theft (hadd), adultery, inheritance, religious obligations
Criticism	Alleged to discriminate against women and lack legal safeguards	Varies across interpretations; critics call for modernization
Supporters' View	Seen as a community-centric resolution forum	Seen as divine law, complete guide for life
Global Practice	Practiced in Islamic countries and Muslim communities worldwide	Implemented to varying extents—from partial to full legal systems

Religion/Community	Personal Laws Applicable	Areas Covered
Hindus	Hindu Personal Laws (Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu Succession Act, etc.)	Marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, guardianship
Muslims	Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937	Marriage (Nikah), divorce (Talaq), maintenance, inheritance, waqf
Christians	Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Divorce Act, 1869	Marriage, divorce, inheritance
Parsis	Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936	Marriage, divorce, succession
Jews	No codified law; follows community customs and practices	Marriage, divorce, inheritance (handled under general civil law if required)
Interfaith Marriages	Special Marriage Act, 1954	Marriage, divorce, succession (applicable regardless of religion)
Tribal Communities	Governed by customary laws or special provisions in Constitution	Varies by tribe; often exempt from certain codified personal laws

Aspect	Personal Laws	Uniform Civil Code (UCC)
Definition	Religion-specific laws for personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance	A common set of secular laws applicable to all citizens regardless of religion
Basis of Law	Derived from religious scriptures (e.g., Quran, Vedas, Bible)	Based on constitutional principles of equality and justice
Applicability	Varies by religion (Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Parsi, etc.)	Applies equally to all citizens, regardless of religion
Key Areas Governed	Marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, maintenance	Same areas—marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, maintenance
Equality	May permit gender-based differences (e.g., Muslim polygamy, unequal inheritance)	Aims to ensure gender and religious equality
Flexibility	Based on personal belief systems and traditions	Uniform and codified, less flexibility for religious customs
Examples of Variation	Hindu daughters get equal inheritance (since 2005), Muslim women get less share	Equal rights in inheritance, marriage, divorce for all genders

## Which legal system should be recognized in India?



**Sharia Courts** 

Lack legal recognition

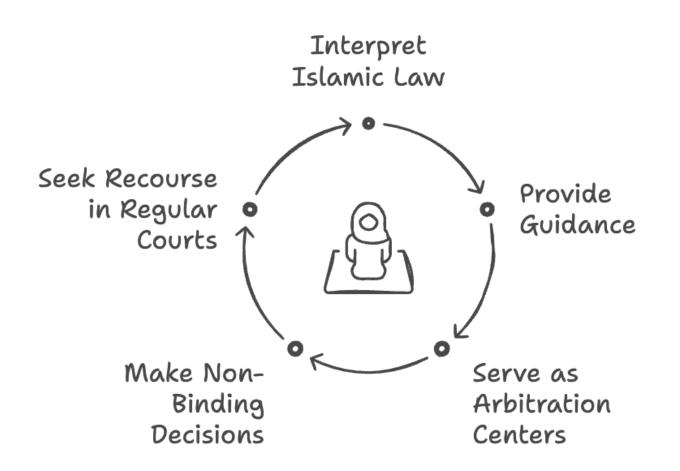


**Supreme Court** 

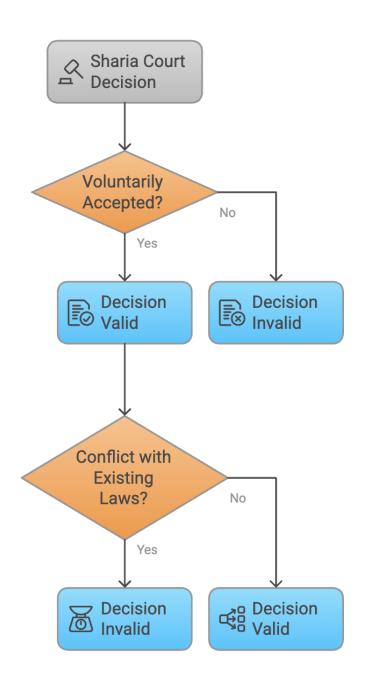
Holds legal authority



# Cycle of Sharia Court Process-marriage, divorce, inheritance, and maintenance



### Sharia Court Decisions and Legal Validity



# Intro of Rafale M

## **MEAN MACHINE**

Besides nuclear capability, the Rafale-M possesses specialised avionics, sensors and communication equipment for maritime operations and comes equipped with a variety of weapons systems

1,912 KMPH

Maximum Speed

1,000 KM Combat Radius

#### WEAPONS SYSTEMS

#### AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES

- » Meteor (Ramjetpowered, >100 km)
- » MICA (Mediumrange; infrared & radar-guided variants)

#### **ELECTRONIC WARFARE**

#### **SPECTRA**

Integrated electronic countermeasures, including radar jamming, missile warning, infrared decoy systems

#### FRONT SECTOR OPTRONICS

Infrared search and track for passive target detection

#### RBE2-AA

Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar with 200 km detection range for air targets

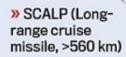


#### **CARRIER COMPATIBILITY**

- » Folding wings to optimise deck storage
- » Anti-corrosion coating for maritime environments
- » Microwave Landing System (MLS)precision carrier landing assistance
- » Reinforced airframe and landing gear for catapult-assisted takeoff and arrested recovery

#### AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILES

» AM39 Exocet (Anti-ship missile, ~70 km)



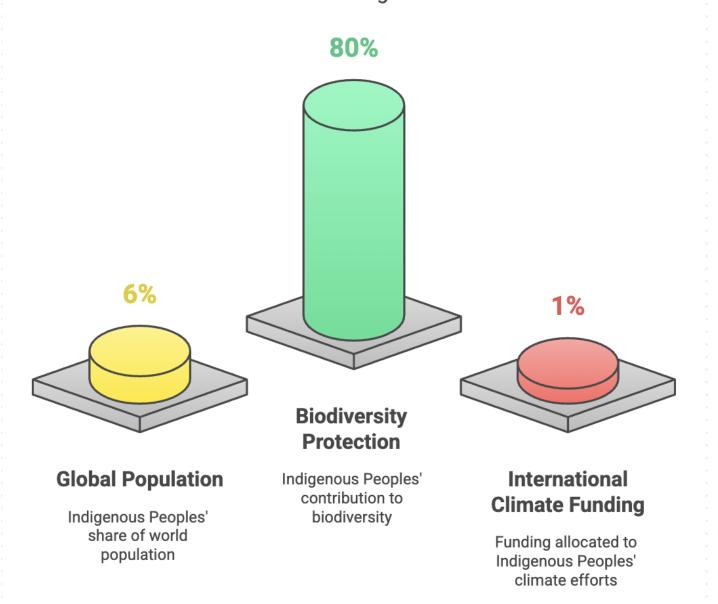
#### PRECISION-GUIDED MUNITIONS



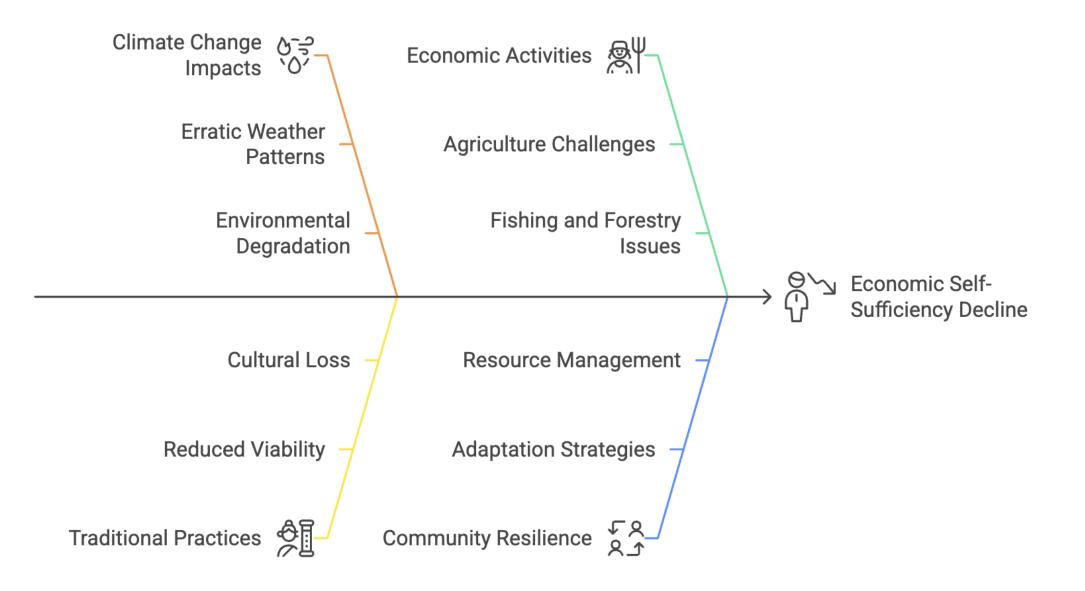
- » Hammer (Navigation systemguided bombs with rocket booster)
- » Paveway (Laserguided bombs)



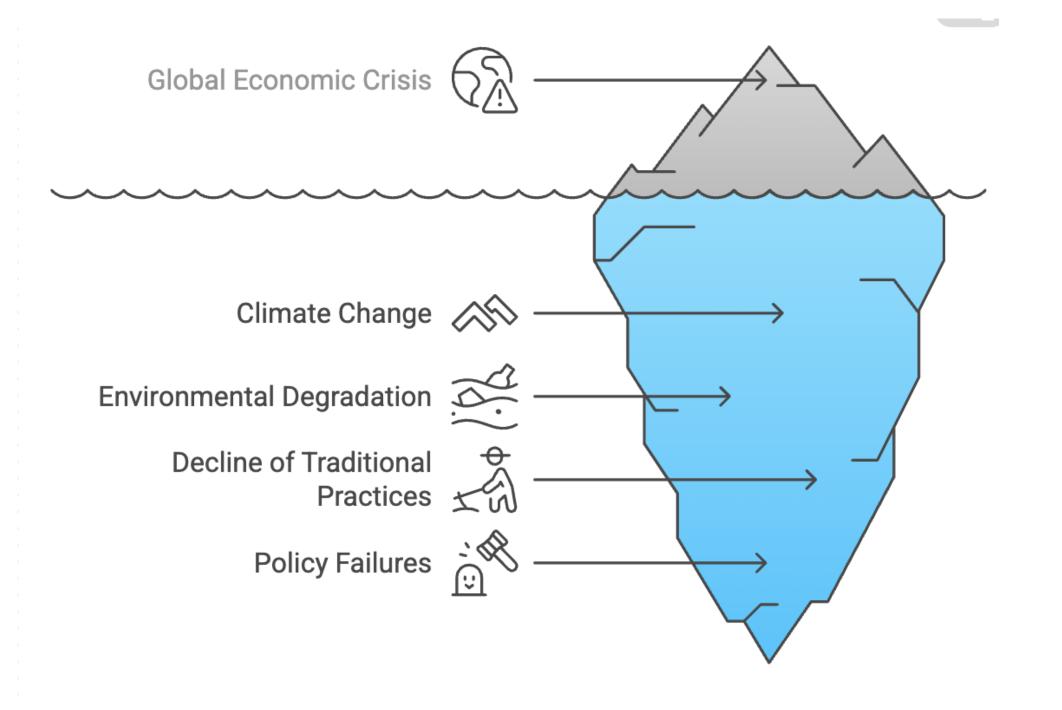
# Indigenous Peoples' Role in Biodiversity Protection vs. Climate Funding



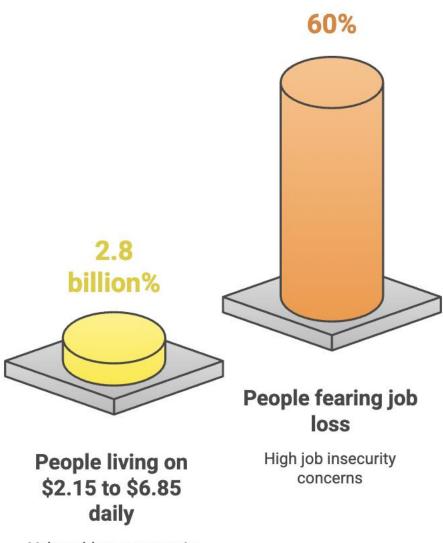
#### Challenges to Indigenous Economies from Climate Change



# World Social Report 2025

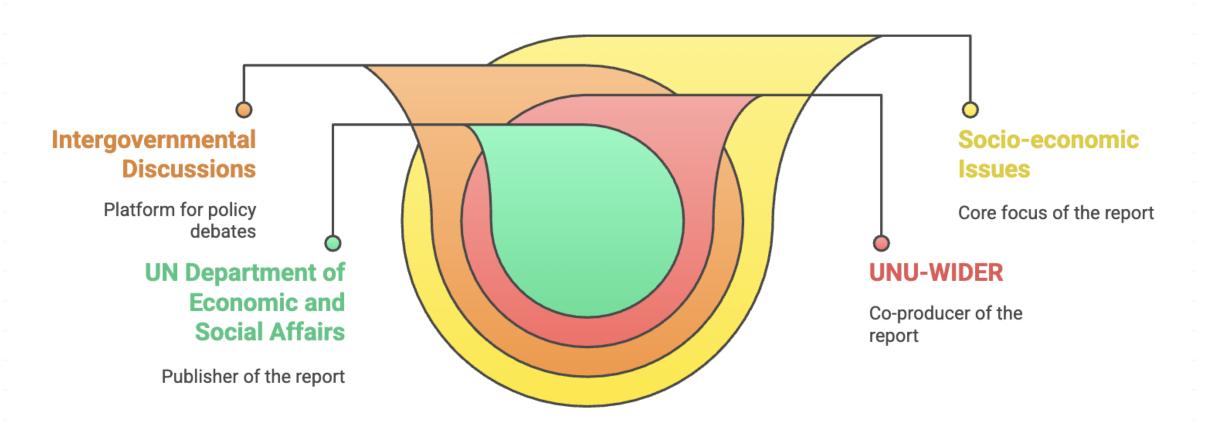


#### Global Economic Vulnerabilities



Vulnerable to economic shocks

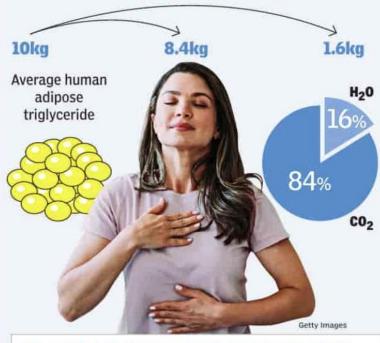
### World Social Report Publication Structure



# When You Lose Weight, Where Does The Fat Actually Go?

Most people think when they lose kilos, body weight turns into muscle. But the truth is fat is broken down into carbon dioxide and water, with majority of the lost fat being exhaled as carbon dioxide. The water formed may be excreted in the urine, faeces, sweat, breath, tears or other bodily fluids

#### When you lose 10kg of fat (triglyceride), 8.4kg is exhaled as CO<sub>2</sub>



#### So, can breathing more make you lose weight?

Unfortunately not. The only way to raise the amount of carbon dioxide your body is producing is by moving one's muscles. For example, jogging replaces an hour of rest with exercise that raises the metabolic rate seven times, removing an extra 39g of carbon from the body

# Sipping pee to cure ailments? Why celebrity claims don't hold water

Actor Paresh Rawal's claims have stirred up a debate on 'urine therapy' but doctors warn against it. Here's why you should think before you drink

Getty Images

#### Dipa Kamdar

V star Bear Grylls says he does it for survival — and teaches his reality show contestants to do the same. Mexican boxer Juan Manuel Márquez practised this therapy to

train for his 2009 fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr (he lost). Former Indian prime minister Morar-

MIND THE SCIENCE

ji Desai claimed a daily glass of the stuff was a remedy for many diseases and contributed to his longevity.

What is the therapy these celebrities practice? Urophagia, also known as urine therapy, is the practice of drinking urine. Whether the urine is your own, someone else's or even obtained from an animal, people have been drinking pee as medicine for thousands of years. Most claims about urine therapy are based on anecdotes or ancient texts with no robust scientific evidence to support the benefits. However, there's evidence to show drinking urine has a number of health risks.

In Ayurveda, urine was used to treat asthma, allergies, indigestion, wrinkles and even cancer. As a rudimentary test for diabetes, doctors used to taste urine to check how sweet it was. Now, of course, we have urine test strips to check for glucose. Historically, drinking pee to treat illnesses may have made sense because of a lack of medical alternatives. But, as urine-sipping celebrities show, the practice is still followed today.

#### WASTE NOT, WANT NOT?

Urine is made by the body to get rid of waste. It is mostly made up of water (about 95%) and several waste products, including urea (2%), which is made by the liver after breaking down proteins in the body creatinine, which is left over



#### **NO CHEERS TO THAT**

- Kidneys might have to work harder to filter out ingested urine, which gets more concentrated
- May cause dehydration
- Can introduce bacteria and toxins back into the gut and cause stomach infections
- Drugs in ingested urine can cause toxic buildup in body

from energy-releasing processes in the muscles, and salts. If urine is just waste, how could drinking it be beneficial?

The kidneys act as regulators — not just to get rid of toxins but to remove anything that it doesn't need. For example, excess vitamins that aren't needed by the body are found in urine. Drinking urine means these vitamins and minerals are getting recycled instead of being wasted — this also goes for other hormones, proteins and antibodies that can be found in urine. However, the amounts of these substances in a glass of urine are unlikely to be enough to be beneficial. A vitamin supplement may be more effective. Other modern uses also include cleansing and detoxification —

some people have claimed continually drinking recycled urine leads to cleaner urine and blood by removing toxins and leading to better overall health. However, there's no scientific evidence to support any of these claims.

Urine does contain urea, which is often added to skin care products as a moisturiser. But the concentration of urea in urine is unlikely to be high enough to have this effect. Urine also contains dehydroepiandrosterone, a steroid hormone produced by the body that declines with age, which has been marketed as an anti-ageing ingredient — but there isn't enough data to demonstrate its efficacy.

#### **RISKY BUSINESS**

Research has found that urine contains low levels of bacteria. Drinking urine, then, can introduce bacteria and toxins into the gut and potentially cause further illness like stomach infections. Urine becomes more concentrated when it comes out again — the kidneys may have to work harder to filter out the excess, putting extra strain on them. The kidneys need water to process these salts.

Drinking urine means you have to pee out more water than you get from it, which speeds up dehydration — it's similar to drinking seawater. Some drugs, such as penicillin, antibiotics or heart medicines, are also excreted in the urine — drinking urine can cause toxic levels of these drugs to build up in the body.

Mainstream medical communities do not endorse urine therapy as it lacks scientific evidence. Small amounts of urine drinking are unlikely to be harmful. But for tangible health benefits, other therapies with scientific evidence may be the way to go. THE CONVERSATION

Dipa Kamdar is senior lecturer, Kingston University

## What is Urine Therapy?

- Also known as **Urophagia**, it is the practice of **drinking urine** (one's own or others') for claimed health benefits.
- Followed by some celebrities like **Bear Grylls**, **Morarji Desai**, and others.
- Historically used in Ayurveda to treat asthma, indigestion, diabetes, etc.



# Scientific Viewpoint:

Aspect	Details
Composition	95% water, 2% urea, creatinine, and traces of vitamins, hormones, salts
X Scientific Backing	No strong scientific evidence supports health benefits
Nrug Concerns	Urine may contain antibiotics, toxins, and excess vitamins excreted from body
/ Bacterial Risks	Low levels of bacteria found; may cause gut infections, dehydration

# Nealth Risks of Drinking Urine:

- Kidneys work harder to refilter already filtered waste
- Can dehydrate the body
- May cause stomach infections or introduce toxins
- May cause toxic buildup of drugs or hormones

## Ethical & Governance Perspective (GS4 & GS2 Linkage):

- Need to discourage pseudoscience in health without robust clinical trials
- Public health policies must promote evidence-based alternatives
- Mainstream medical community does not support urine therapy due to risks



# Consider the following statements about the Supreme Court's observation on Sharia Courts:

- 1. Sharia courts have constitutional validity in India under Article 26.
- 2. The Supreme Court clarified that Sharia courts have no legal recognition in India.
- 3. Darul Qaza rulings are binding like regular court verdicts.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - A) 1 and 2 only
  - B) 2 only
  - C) 2 and 3 only
  - D) All of the above

## Consider the following statements about Rafale-M jets:

- 1.Rafale-M is the naval variant of the Rafale fighter jet.
- 2.It can operate from aircraft carriers with ski-jump take-off systems.
- 3. India is the first foreign country to purchase Rafale-M jets.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
  - A) 1 and 2 only
  - B) 2 and 3 only
  - C) 1 and 3 only
  - D) All of the above

# Consider the following statements about the 'State of the World's Indigenous Peoples' Report (UN):

- 1. The report is published by the United Nations.
- 2.It highlights that indigenous peoples make up about 6% of the world's population.
- 3.It notes that indigenous languages are declining at an unprecedented rate.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
  - A) 1 and 3 only
  - B) 2 and 3 only
  - C) 1, 2 and 3
  - D) 1 and 2 only

## . Consider the following statements about the World Social Report 2025:

- 1. The report focuses on aging populations and their economic implications.
- 2.It is published by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- 3.It recommends investing in health, pension, and care systems for older persons.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
  - A) 1 and 3 only
  - B) 2 and 3 only
  - C) 1 and 2 only
  - D) All of the above

## Consider the following about Darul Qaza (Sharia Courts in India):

- 1. They issue fatwas based on Islamic personal law.
- 2. Their orders are legally enforceable in Indian courts.
- 3. Their purpose is to provide quick resolution within the community framework.

## Which is/are correct?

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

# Consider the following statements about Rafale-M's suitability for Indian aircraft carriers:

- 1.Rafale-M has successfully passed trials on India's INS Vikramaditya.
- 2.Its short take-off and arrested recovery (STOBAR) capability matches Indian Navy's carrier design.

## Which is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

# Consider the following about the UN's focus in the State of Indigenous Peoples Report:

- 1.Indigenous people have contributed least to climate change but suffer its most severe effects.
- 2. The report promotes inclusive development respecting traditional knowledge systems.
- Which is/are correct?
  - A) 1 only
  - B) 2 only
  - C) Both 1 and 2
  - D) Neither 1 nor 2

# According to the World Social Report 2025, what are the key economic risks of population ageing?

- 1. Shrinking labor force
- 2.Increase in age-related public spending
- 3. Decrease in innovation and entrepreneurship

### Which are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) All of the above

# Word of the day

## **Gloaming:**

The time of day immediately following sunset

Synonyms: dusk, fall, twilight

**Usage:** Light fell into the room from the gloaming outside.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/gloamingpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈgləʊ.mɪŋ/











**671**Contributors



**1,231**Kids



24 States

