

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



4
The Hindu



0
PIB, PRS & Other newspaper



2
The Indian Express



0
Jansatta




2
Financial Express



A young green seedling with four leaves grows from a mound of dark soil in a forest. Sunlight filters through the trees in the background, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and other small plants.

*BELIEVE IN YOUR PROGRESS
EVEN BEFORE OTHERS
NOTICE IT.*

Self-Belief



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Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

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Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 is made very simple and easy to understand in a user-friendly and simple format for competitive exam aspirants. It includes all the important current affairs between the period of March 2026 and April 2027; Current Affairs Magazine covers all national and international events, schemes of the government, important updates, as well as exam-related MCQs. The information is articulated in a clear and tight manner, making it straightforward and quick to revamp. The magazine saves you time and boosts preparation by bringing everything together and helping you prepare effectively. Umang 360 is a good choice to help you succeed in the exams, should you need a reliable and effective source of current affairs. It is available in e-PDF format for easy access anytime, anywhere.

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First national deliveries rise to 90.6%: NFHS-6
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GII paves Titans into summit clash
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INSIDE



Hectic parleys in Delhi Karnataka CLP meets today

BENGALURI
Intense lobbying in the Congress continued in New Delhi over the Karnataka government as factions pushed for more power within the new government under H. D. Deve Gowda will be formed. Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in Karnataka will meet on Saturday to elect its new leader. 5 PAGE 2



Apartment block in Romania hit by Russian drone

BUCHAREST
A Russian drone that was part of an overnight attack on Ukraine and then went astray slammed into an apartment building in Romania, injuring two people, Romanian authorities said, adding to concerns that the war could spread across the alliance's borders. 5 PAGE 22

SC issues norms to aid survivors of trafficking

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday issued comprehensive guidelines for the government and competent authorities to protect young women from trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). The court said trafficking was an affront to constitutional rights. 5 PAGE 2

Spurious liquor claims 15 lives in Maharashtra

CHINMAJ, SIKHAWAD, MIDLANDS
At least 15 people have died in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad in Maharashtra after consuming spurious liquor over the last three days, the police said on Friday. Eight people have been arrested, including the main accused, Colonel Vikas Singh. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis directed the police commissioners of both districts to investigate the incident and ascertain the cause of the deaths, vowing to punish the culprits. Preliminary investigation found that a person named Yogesh Wardekar brought ethanol from Mumbai without permission and mixed it to prepare the spurious liquor at a location in Hadapsar and then supplied it to four vendors operating in the Dapodi, Hadapsar, and Chaturburi areas.

The first five deaths occurred on May 27, seven on Thursday, and three on Friday morning. Some patients are undergoing treatment in hospitals. Deaths have been reported from Dapodi, Phugewadi, Hadapsar, and Kalamboli. The police have arrested eight people and said that more arrests are likely soon. The Excise Department has joined the investigation and searches were conducted at multiple liquor shops overnight. The location where the liquor was prepared and the area where it was sold are under investigation. Residents have held a protest, breaking the police curfew and administration, alleging that liquor prepared at a location in Hadapsar was sold in the area. Former Pimpri Chinchwad Mayor Yogesh Behl, a leader of the National

Congress Party (NCP), which is part of the State's ruling alliance, has demanded a probe, alleging that citizens have died because the police turn a blind eye towards such businesses. Opposition leaders have also alleged a failure in the State's law enforcement. Nationalist Congress Party (Shiv Sena) MLA, Rajib Pawar and party workers vandalised a liquor store, breaking the curfew, restoring the stage and disrupting the premises. He demanded action against the store owners, holding them responsible for mass deaths. Mr. Pawar also expressed doubts about the police investigation, accusing the police of trying to protect someone. The accused had been asked to surrender to the police to allow a "big fish" to escape, he claimed. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray also criticised the law-and-order situation in Maharashtra, alleging that authorities have taken action only for "chickens". The deceased have been identified as Rahul Sharad Kulkarni, Vijay Dhanraj Sharma, and Arun Dattaraj Deshpande of Kalamboli; Rajesh Rajput, Pandurang Page, Anand Desai, Akhbar Sultan, and Anand Nikade of Phugewadi; Subhash Digambar and Bhaskar Sheth of Pimpri; and Rajendra Rathod.



Deceased family members mourn after suspected spurious liquor claimed 15 lives in Pune on Friday.

Call for peace



A sand sculpture of Buddha seen on the Days Overlaid on the birthday of Mahatmas on Friday. The sculpture was created by sand artist Subala Mahajan and his team to spread a message of peace amid the conflict in West Asia. (Instagram photo)

Richman Dasgupta
NEW DELHI
Students and entire families have been traumatised by the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) paper leak case, the Supreme Court said on Friday. The court observed that years of hard work and emotional investment had gone waste even as the Union government said the Minister Narendra Modi was "personally monitoring" the situation. A bench headed by Justice P.S. Patanjali asked why the National Testing Agency (NTA), which holds the NEET-UG exam, does not have the Union Public Services Commission had set for its exam. "The court arrived to you 'ad-hocism', and lack of 'institutional memory and framework'." The court directed the Ministry of Human Resource and Development to file an affidavit explaining measures it intends to take to tackle the lack of "physical and intellectual 'where-withal'" within the NTA. The NTA maintained that the cancellation of NEET-UG 2023 and the transfer of the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had been reflected, the seriousness with which examination integrity was treated by both the NTA and the Centre. "Not beyond us" "It is actually traumatic when something like this happens. Traumatic, not just for students, but for their families too. There is investment of so many years of education and study involved, and gone," Justice Narasimha said. "The court also struck an optimistic tone, saying the situation was not beyond us." "We have some of the best officers heading these institutions. But they get transferred and take their experience and know-how with them. The knowledge is not parcelled to the next group of people... It is not the institutional why things have the memory, the institution must retain its memories, experiences and learn from them," Justice Narasimha said. The cancellation of NEET-UG 2023 had left around 23 lakh candidates

lighted the need for accountability in the face of such severe mishaps which affect lakhs of students. "The real problem will not emerge, but it will be effective when we know which individual shoulders the responsibility. Unless you identify the specific duty-bearers, it will be difficult to ensure that it does not happen again." Justice Narasimha said. The agency also said that it has introduced multiple sets of question papers, with one set retained as a back-up. A designated senior officer will oversee the entire printing process, and the use of electronic devices has now been prohibited. All CCTV recordings would also be preserved. "Other reform measures" The NTA said the transport of question papers is now being carried out through the India Post, with chain of custody protocols. The papers would be escorted by the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) from the printing press to the India Post, after which the India Post would then transport the papers to the strict custodians, and the district police would take them to the examination centres. The affidavit further stated that Confidential

Operations (CONOP) guidelines have been operationalised. A dedicated area has been carved out in the office for confidential work, while question paper setters would be isolated in isolated rooms without internet or mobile access. "The NTA informed the court that the re-examination scheduled for June 21 would be conducted under a strengthened standard operating procedure (SOP) framework, incorporating multi-layer authentication, enhanced surveillance and inter-agency coordination. The Chairman of the High Powered Steering Committee on NTA Reforms, Dr. E. Radhakrishnan, said a comprehensive "clean-up" of the system, including the conduct of NEET-UG was under way. "The court has scheduled the next hearing on the matter for the second week of July.

IMD curtails its forecast for southwest monsoon, pushes onset date to June

Incubus Kishor
NEW DELHI
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday lowered its forecast for the 2023 southwest monsoon to 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA) down from the 92% it had projected in April, and acknowledged that the monsoon was unlikely to reach Kerala within the five-day window of its predicted date of May 26.

Monday Mahapatra, Director-General, IMD, said the monsoon would now "likely arrive" in the first week of June. The only time the IMD revised its Kerala onset forecast from 2020-2023 was in 2018. "It happens sometimes," Mr. Mahapatra told The Hindu on the onset forecast going wrong. "But if you look at it, the monsoon system has been steadily advancing. It is hardly surprising that authorities from the Kerala coast I have said several days, but it can cross the Andaman Sea. The rainfall downgrade came from a peripheral water source firmly in to 'below-normal' territory," the agency indicated in April. "The deceased have been identified as Rahul Sharad Kulkarni, Vijay Dhanraj Sharma, and Arun Dattaraj Deshpande of Kalamboli; Rajesh Rajput, Pandurang Page, Anand Desai, Akhbar Sultan, and Anand Nikade of Phugewadi; Subhash Digambar and Bhaskar Sheth of Pimpri; and Rajendra Rathod. For the four broad geographical regions, only the Northeast is forecast to get

IMD curtails its forecast for southwest monsoon, pushes onset date to June

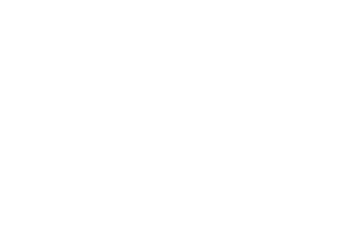
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The monsoon clouds approach the coast of Bangalore on Thursday. (Sensu, Wikimedia)

Nile. Whether 2023 will follow suit depends on intra-seasonal wildcards such as a positive Indian Ocean Dipole can irregular change in sea-surface temperature that alters wind and rain patterns, but which is now absent, a favourable swing of the Madden-Julian Oscillation can eastward moving cloud and rainfall near the equator every 30-60 days or a timely low-pressure system all of which could lift the total rainfall, while their absence could lower it. "62% chance of El Niño" The IMD reckons there is a 92% chance of El Niño conditions during the season - the main reason for the expected drought. "The problem is not just the total reduction in rainfall, but the way the rainfall is distributed," G. Ganamanjappa, executive director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, said. "Crops can manage dry spells of about one week. Beyond that, the soils are unable to support them, insufficient rainfall will prevent groundwater recharge. That may affect irrigated crops as well, including rice and others."

IMD curtails its forecast for southwest monsoon, pushes onset date to June

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday lowered its forecast for the 2026 southwest monsoon to 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA), down from the 92% it had projected in April, and acknowledged that the monsoon was unlikely to reach Kerala within the four-day window of its predicted date of May 26.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said the monsoon would now "likely arrive" in the first week of June. The only time the IMD erred in its Kerala onset forecast from 2005-2025 was in 2015.

"It happens sometimes," Mr. Mohapatra told *The Hindu* on the onset forecast going wrong. "But if you look at it, the monsoon system has been steadily advancing. It is hardly about 100 km away from the Kerala coast. I have said seven days, but it can cross anytime."

The rainfall downgrade entrenches India's principal water source firmly into "below-normal" territory that the agency indicated in April.

Spectre of drought

Friday's warning, however, has raised the spectre of a drought. The IMD now puts the probability of a "deficient" monsoon (rain under 90% of the LPA) at 60%. The agency does not use the term "drought" in its lexicon, a nomenclature used by the Agriculture Ministry.

Of the four broad geographical regions, only the Northeast is forecast to get



Pre-monsoon clouds approach the coast of Shangumugham amid a drizzle, in Thiruvananthapuram, on Thursday. NIRMAL HARIKRAN

a "normal" monsoon; the Northwest, Central India, the Southern Peninsula and the monsoon core zone that feeds most of the country's rain-fed farmland are all expected to fall short. June alone is pegged at under 92% of its average.

D.S. Pai, who heads the IMD's Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai and who co-authored the statistical model the department uses to forecast the Kerala onset, offered a finer-grained account.

The monsoon had reached the Andaman Sea on time, even slightly early, and rain was still falling there, he said. "Only thing, the wind has not strengthened."

Issuing a deficiency warning twice before the rain has entered Kerala is something the IMD has not done since 2015. That year offers an uncomfortable rhyme: a mid-May onset prediction of May 30 overshoot to June 5, an April forecast of 93% cut to 88% in June, and a season that closed at 86%.

With the 88% rain in 2014, it made the fourth back-to-back pair of deficient years in 115 years, both under a building El

Niño. Whether 2026 will follow suit depends on intra-seasonal wildcards such as a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (an irregular change in sea-surface temperature that alters wind and rain patterns but which is now absent), a favourable swing of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (an eastward moving cloud and rainfall near the equator every 30-60 days) or a timely low-pressure system – all of which could lift the total rainfall, while their absence could lower it.

92% chance of El Niño

The IMD reckons there is a 92% chance of El Niño conditions during the season – the main reason for the expected shortfall.

"The problem is not just the total reduction in rainfall, but the way the rainfall is distributed," G. V. Ramanjaneyulu, executive director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, said.

"Crops can manage dry spells of about one week. Beyond that, the soils are unable to support them. Insufficient rainfall will prevent groundwater recharge. That may affect irrigated crops as well, including rice and others."

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Topic	Key Facts	Exam Value / Static GK
Organization	India Meteorological Department (IMD)	Established in 1875 , Headquarters: New Delhi
Announcement	IMD lowered forecast for 2026 Southwest Monsoon from 92% of LPA to 90% of LPA	Important current affairs fact
LPA	Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall = 87 cm (1971–2020 average)	Benchmark used by IMD for monsoon classification
Monsoon Onset	Earlier expected in Kerala by 26 May 2026	Revised to First week of June 2026
Rainfall Category	90% of LPA falls under Below Normal Rainfall category	Important UPSC/RAS fact
Deficient Monsoon	Rainfall below 90% of LPA	Agriculture Ministry terminology
Drought Definition	IMD generally uses "Deficient Rainfall" rather than "Drought"	Static concept

Most Affected Region	Northwest India, Central India, Southern Peninsula, Monsoon Core Zone	Major agricultural regions
Northeast India	Only region expected to receive near-normal rainfall	Regional climate fact
Main Cause	Possible El Niño conditions	Frequently asked in exams
Probability of El Niño	IMD estimates 92% chance during season	Current affairs data
Last Similar Event	2015 forecast error regarding Kerala onset	Historical reference
June Rainfall	Expected around 92% of average rainfall	Important statistic
Agriculture Impact	Lower groundwater recharge, stress on rainfed farming	Economy + Geography linkage

Rainfall Category	Rainfall (% of LPA)
Large Excess	> 120%
Excess	110% – 120%
Above Normal	105% – 110%
Normal	96% – 104%
Below Normal	90% – 95%
Deficient	80% – 89%
Large Deficient	< 80%

Topic

Monsoon Season

Share in Annual Rainfall

First Arrival in India

Normal Onset Date

Complete Coverage of India

Withdrawal Starts

Complete Withdrawal

Main Branches

Monsoon Mechanism

Jet Stream Involved

Important Pressure System

Fact

June–September

About 75% of India's annual rainfall

Kerala Coast

1 June

Around 15 July

Rajasthan (September)

Mid-October

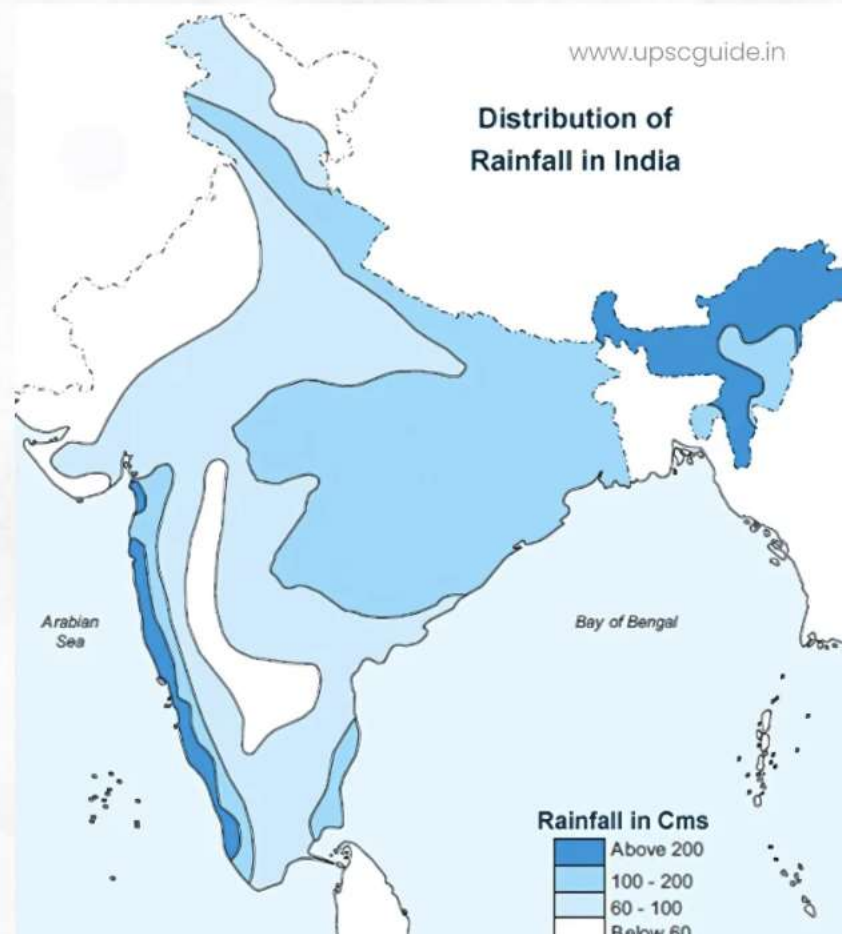
Arabian Sea Branch & Bay of Bengal Branch

Differential heating of land and sea

Tropical Easterly Jet

ITCZ (Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone)

Rainfall in India – Patterns & Regions



IN BRIEF



Vice-Admiral Kochhar takes charge as Vice-Chief of Navy

Vice-Admiral Ajay Kochhar (left), who spearheaded high-level naval combat readiness during Operation Sindoor, assumed charge as the sixth Vice-Chief of the Navy staff on Friday, marking a significant milestone in a distinguished naval career spanning more than 37 years. Upon assuming office, the Flag Officer paid tribute to the Nation's fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, and a specialist in gunnery and missile systems, Vice-Admiral Kochhar was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1988. Over the decades, he has held several key command positions.

8 lion cubs die of suspected Babesiosis infection in Gujarat

The Gujarat Forest Department has intensified disease-control measures in and around the Gir landscape after eight lion cubs died of suspected Babesiosis infection in Gir Somnath and Amreli districts. Authorities have isolated lions within a 10-km radius of the affected areas and launched large-scale tick-removal operations. Babesiosis is a parasitic disease transmitted through ticks and can cause weakness, fever, coughing, and nasal discharge in infected animals. Officials said the infection is being tracked and prevented there because of the possibility of rapid transmission among lions in the open forest and adjoining savanna areas.

Twisha death case: Samarth, Giribala sent to CBI custody

A court in Bhopal on Friday sent Twisha Sharma's husband, Samarth Singh, and her mother-in-law, retired judge Giribala Singh, to five-day CBI custody, a day after the latter was arrested in connection with the 33-year-old model's death and dowry harassment case. The CBI produced the two accused before the court of Justice Shekhana Dhanoo, seeking their custody for interrogation. The court granted the agency custody till June 2. Earlier, the two were taken for their medical examinations. The CBI now plans to question the two in detail and verify their claims, especially about the events leading to Twisha's death.

Phogat can take part in Asian Games selection trials, says SC

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed wrestler Vinash Phogat to participate in the Asian Games 2026 selection trials to be held on May 30. The court said Ms. Phogat needs a chance as she has made the country proud multiple times in the past in the wrestling ring. The court passed the order in response to the petition filed by the Wrestling Federation of India challenging the Bhubli High Court order giving nod to her participation in the Asian Games trials. The WFI argued that she had missed trials and her whereabouts had not been known. Ms. Phogat had responded that she had become a mother and was also engaged in her duties as an MLA.

90% of Indian babies are born in hospitals: NFHS-6

Survey records sharp rise in caesarean section, drop in stunting and severe wasting among young children; improvements in services such as antenatal care and nutrition for pregnant women

Hindu Shashan Perumaldu
NEW DELHI

India made significant progress in maternal and child health, with improvements in vaccination and hospital births, and a drop in stunting and severe wasting among young children, according to the National Family Health Survey-6, for which field work was conducted in 2023 and 2024.

The Health Ministry released data from the survey on Friday it showed that institutional deliveries rose from 86.6% in the previous round of the NFHS conducted between 2019 and 2021, to 90.6% this time, while 95.6% of infants under six months were being breastfed during the survey period.

The survey, which is the largest to be conducted after the COVID-19 pandemic, recorded improvements in child health indicators.

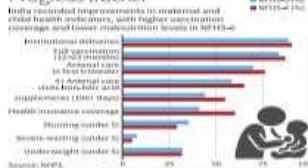
Stunting among children under five years declined from 35.5% to 29.3%, severe wasting from 8.7% to 7.7%, and the percentage of underweight children in this age group declined from 32.1% to 31.9%. Symptoms of acute respiratory infection among children fell from 2.9% to 1.9%, while the prevalence of severe diarrhoea also dropped to 0.5%.

The survey flagged the increase in iron deficiency, undernutrition, and stunting, and the burden of undernutrition and increasing obesity among adults as persistent health challenges.

India's total fertility rate held steady at 2.0 in 2023-24, just under the replacement rate of 2.1, while the contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 66.7% to 69.4%.

The survey highlights health services across the

Progress tracker



country, with 98.9% of pregnant women receiving antenatal care, including 76.2% in the first trimester, an increase from 70% in the previous survey period.

Mothers receiving at least four antenatal care visits also increased from 56.5% to 65.2%. Maternal nutrition indicators also showed improvement.

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caesarean section deliveries had increased sharply from 21 to 27.2%, with substantially higher rates in several states and in private healthcare facilities. In urban areas, the rate of caesarean sections stood at 40%, far exceeding the World Health Organisation's optimal threshold of 10%-15%.

Conducted by the Health Ministry along with the International Institute for Population Sciences, the survey documented progress towards universal immunisation coverage.

Based on vaccination cards, full vaccination coverage among children aged 12-23 months rose from 93.8% to 97.1%, with 93.6% of children getting most of their vaccinations through health facilities.

Among major vaccines, rotavirus vaccination coverage rose substantially, from 36.4% to 65.4%. The coverage of the second dose of measles-containing vaccine also increased significantly, from 67% to 71.4%. The survey found that the use of hygienic methods of menstrual regulation among women aged 15-24 years increased from 77.6% to 79.2%.

However, it found that

India, U.S. affirm commitment to boost defence ties

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI



Rajesh Kumar Singh

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Friday held a series of high-level bilateral engagements on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026 in Singapore, focusing on strengthening defence partnerships, maritime or security cooperation, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

During his interaction with the Chief of Defence Force of the Seychelles Armed Forces, Major-General Michael Rosette, both sides discussed avenues to deepen bilateral defence cooperation and enhance Indian security collaboration in the Indian Ocean Region. The meeting reaffirmed India's commitment to advancing peace, security and stability with its trusted regional partners.

The Defence Secretary also met Canada's Senior Associate Deputy Minister of National Defence, Robert Brosevant. The discussions centred on expanding India-Canada defence cooperation and exploring new opportunities for collaboration across key strategic domains, reflecting the growing convergence of interests between the two countries.

In a separate meeting

with the Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Admiral Samuel J. Papparo, Mr. Singh reviewed measures to strengthen their military-to-military cooperation, enhance collaboration in the Indo-Pacific and address emerging security challenges. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further deepening India-U.S. strategic defence ties.

Mr. Singh also interacted with the Chair of the NATO Military Committee, Admiral Giuseppe Carlo Dragono, on evolving global security challenges, underscoring India's commitment to constructive engagement with major multilateral defence organisations. On the sidelines of the dialogue, the Defence Secretary engaged with leading think tanks and academic institutions on issues related to Indo-Pacific security architecture, defence industrial cooperation and emerging technologies.

SC issues guidelines for protecting survivors of human trafficking

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued comprehensive guidelines for the government and competent authorities to protect young women from trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).

A bench of Justice J.B. Pardiwala and J. Michaelvan said in the judgment in the case, pending for over 22 years in the apex court, was "close to our hearts". The court gave detailed guidelines on establishing a uniform victim protection protocol for survivors of CSE. The court said trafficking was an affront to constitutional dignity.

"We have tried to do our best," Justice Pardiwala said.

SC gives in-service teachers one more year to clear TET

Rishabh Rajan
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday gave teachers who are currently in-service an extension of one more year to pass the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET), taking into consideration the postponement of ensuring continuity in elementary education of children.

The original deadline for teachers to obtain the TET qualification was August 31, 2022, and has now been extended to August 31, 2026.

The limited relief for in-service teachers without TET qualification came in a series of petitions to review a September 1, 2023 judgment which had set the original deadline.

The court further directed States and competent authorities to conduct the

then one-and-a-half decades have passed since the Right to Education (RTE) Act had prescribed the TET qualification for teachers.

"The period of 25 years could be considered more than sufficient time for a teacher to acquire the TET qualification," Justice Datta said.

Rejecting the plea that a continued insistence on TET would push several thousand teachers out of service, the top court said that allowing unqualified educators to continue in the profession would impact the educational future of generations to come.

The RTE Act is a child-centric legislation and must be read so, Service of teachers cannot come at the cost of the educational future of the children, Justice Datta reasoned.

6 dead as slab of unfinished bridge falls on them in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Six workers were killed and three injured after a section of an under-construction bridge collapsed during a storm in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday night.

The bridge is being built over the Berwa river. The incident took place when the workers were engaged in construction activity. A group of labourers were taking shelter underneath the slab which collapsed.

The Additional Superintendent of Police of Hamirpur, Avinash Kumar Verma, said rescue operation was initiated after receiving the information. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident.

THE CROSSWORD 14807
(set by Mythral)

ACROSS

- Big lizard in an atoll from Nicaragua possibly (6)
- Teasing graduate joining a company suppressing nuts (8)
- Relaxing getting casual picnic attire, primarily woollen (8)
- Clear from German songs (6)
- Quietly army a model making a combath, leading show (12)

DOWN

- Scene showing technique (3,5)
- Local model say, introduces nationalist (6)
- Working out deal with adviser somewhere Down Under (9)
- Thrives out in jail (6)
- Liberal engineer collapsed after consuming ecstasy (8)
- One serving drinks and nuts mostly to a partner (6)
- But guests really exaggerate you initially (8)
- Leading on, lift up casually (6)
- This waxy patina's actively hunting leopards (8)
- They say vomiting upon legendary Greek king (8)
- Extremely poor hot pastasize one cooler (8)
- Tool for digging and sand-shovels (6)
- Hang leader of deaths alongside creek (6)
- Frequently, software is free or reasonable (4)

SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Difficulty Rating: ★☆☆☆☆

90% of Indian babies are born in hospitals: NFHS-6

Survey records sharp rise in caesarean section, drop in stunting and severe wasting among young children, improvements in services such as antenatal care and nutrition for pregnant women

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India made significant progress in maternal and child health, with improvements in vaccination and hospital births, and a drop in stunting and severe wasting among young children, according to the National Family Health Survey-6, for which field work was conducted in 2023 and 2024.

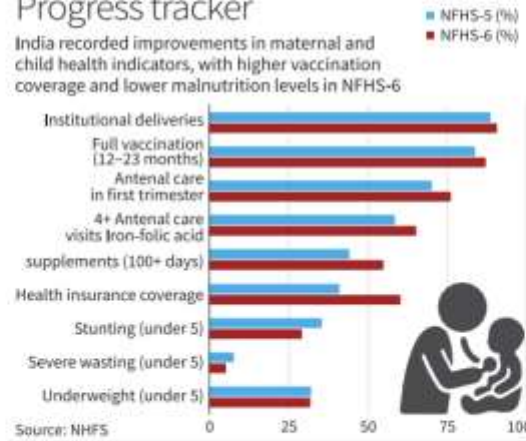
The Health Ministry released data from the survey on Friday. It showed that institutional deliveries rose from 88.6% in the previous round of the NFHS conducted between 2019 and 2021, to 90.6% this time, while 95.6% of infants under six months were being breastfed during the survey period.

The survey, which is the first to be conducted after the COVID-19 pandemic, recorded improvements in child health indicators.

Stunting among children under five years declined from 35.5% to 29.3%, severe wasting dropped from 7.7% to 5.2%, and the percentage of underweight children in this age group slipped marginally from 32.1% to 31.8%. Symptoms of acute respiratory infection among chil-

Progress tracker

India recorded improvements in maternal and child health indicators, with higher vaccination coverage and lower malnutrition levels in NFHS-6



dren fell from 2.8% to 1.9%, while the prevalence of severe diarrhoea also dropped to 0.5%.

The survey flagged the increase in non-communicable diseases, lifestyle-related risks, and the dual burden of undernutrition and increasing obesity among adults as persistent health challenges.

India's total fertility rate held steady at 2.0 in 2023-24, just under the replacement threshold of 2.1, while the contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 66.7% to 69.1%.

The survey highlights progress in maternal health services across the

country, with 95.9% of pregnant women receiving antenatal care, including 76.2% in the first trimester, an increase from 70% in the previous survey period.

Mothers receiving at least four antenatal care visits also increased from 58.5% to 65.2%. Maternal nutrition indicators also showed improvement, with mothers consuming iron-folic acid supplements for 100 days or more during pregnancy rising from 44.1% to 54.9%, while those consuming supplements for 180 days or more rose from 26% to 37.8%.

However, it found that

caesarean section deliveries had increased sharply from 21.5% to 27.2%, with substantially higher rates in several States and in private healthcare facilities. In urban areas, the rate of caesarean sections stood at 40%, far exceeding the World Health Organization optimal threshold of 10%-15%.

Conducted by the Health Ministry along with the International Institute for Population Sciences, the survey documented progress towards universal immunisation coverage.

Improved vaccination

Based on vaccination cards, full vaccination coverage among children aged 12-23 months rose from 83.8% to 87.1%, with 95.6% of children getting most of their vaccinations through public health facilities. Among major vaccines, rotavirus vaccination coverage rose substantially, from 36.4% to 85.4%. The coverage of the second dose of measles-containing vaccines also increased significantly from 58.6% to 71.8%.

The survey found that the use of hygienic methods of menstrual protection among women aged 15-24 years has increased from 77.6% to 79.2%.

Topic	NFHS-5 (2019–21)	NFHS-6 (2023–24)	Exam Significance
Institutional Deliveries	88.6%	90.6%	Highest ever institutional birth coverage
Babies Breastfed (<6 months)	63.7%	95.6%	Major improvement in infant nutrition
Full Vaccination (12–23 months)	83.8%	87.1%	Progress towards universal immunization
Antenatal Care (1st Trimester)	70%	76.2%	Improved maternal healthcare
At Least 4 ANC Visits	58.5%	65.2%	Better pregnancy monitoring
Health Insurance Coverage	~41%	~60%	Expansion of health protection schemes
Stunting (Under-5)	35.5%	29.3%	Significant decline
Severe Wasting (Under-5)	7.7%	5.2%	Child nutrition improvement

Key Health and Demographic Indicators (2018-2023)			
Indicator	2018	2023	Change / Trend
Stunting (Under-5)	35.5%	29.3%	Significant decline
Severe Wasting (Under-5)	7.7%	5.2%	Child nutrition improvement
Underweight (Under-5)	32.1%	31.8%	Marginal improvement
Acute Respiratory Infection	2.8%	1.9%	Reduced disease burden
Severe Diarrhoea	0.8%	0.5%	Better sanitation and healthcare
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.0	2.0	Stable below replacement level
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	66.7%	69.1%	Growing family planning acceptance

Indicator	NFHS-6 Value
Pregnant women receiving ANC	95.9%
ANC during first trimester	76.2%
Four or more ANC visits	65.2%
Iron-Folic Acid supplements (100+ days)	54.9%
Iron-Folic Acid supplements (180+ days)	37.8%
Institutional births	90.6%

Vaccination Coverage

Vaccine/Indicator	NFHS-5	NFHS-6
Full Immunization (12–23 months)	83.8%	87.1%
Children vaccinated in public facilities	95.6%	95.6%
Rotavirus Vaccine	36.4%	85.4%
Measles-containing Vaccine (2nd Dose)	58.6%	71.8%

Caesarean Section (C-Section)

Indicator	Value
NFHS-5	21.5%
NFHS-6	27.2%
Urban Areas	~40%
WHO Recommended Range	10–15%

Child Malnutrition Indicators

Indicator	Meaning	NFHS-6
Stunting	Low height-for-age	29.3%
Wasting	Low weight-for-height	5.2%
Underweight	Low weight-for-age	31.8%

Important Difference

Indicator	Represents
Stunting	Chronic malnutrition
Wasting	Acute malnutrition
Underweight	Combined effect of both

Scheme	Objective
POSHAN Abhiyaan	Reduce malnutrition
Mission Indradhanush	Universal immunization
Janani Suraksha Yojana	Promote institutional deliveries
PM Matru Vandana Yojana	Maternal nutrition support
Ayushman Bharat	Health insurance coverage
Anaemia Mukh Bharat	Reduce anaemia among women and children

IN BRIEF



IndiGo posts ₹2,537 crore loss in Q4 on forex impact

IndiGo on Friday reported a loss of ₹2,536.9 crore in the March quarter due to multiple headwinds, including challenging operating conditions and rupee depreciation. The country's largest airline had a profit of ₹3,007.5 crore in the year-to-date period. For the 2025-26 fiscal, the carrier posted a net loss of ₹2,303.6 crore, but excluding the impact of foreign exchange and exceptional items, it would have been a profit of ₹7,502.8 crore, it said.

Rupee rises 73 paise to close at 94.85 against U.S. dollar

The rupee appreciated 73 paise to close at 94.85 against the U.S. dollar in early trade on Friday, as renewed optimism over the peace deal between the U.S. and Iran boosted market sentiment. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair appreciated on an overnight decline in crude prices and a fall in the U.S. dollar, after the U.S. and Iran reached an understanding to extend the ceasefire for another 60 days. On Wednesday, the rupee settled higher at 95.59 against the U.S. dollar.

NMDC Q4 net rises 35% to ₹2,020 cr on higher revenue

State-owned minor NMDC reported standalone net profit rose 35% for the March quarter to ₹2,020.83 crore compared with ₹1,496.16 crore a year earlier as total income increased. Total income stood at ₹1,600.25 crore (₹7,45.31 crore). For FY26, the net profit increased 10% to ₹7,421.24 crore (₹3,602.67 crore) on a 10.7% rise in total income to ₹33,016.71 crore (₹25,258.56 crore). The board recommended a final dividend of ₹1 per share (face value of ₹1 each) for 2025-26.

Nifty50 slips 1.5% on MSCI index rejig

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI
Foreign investors sold Indian stocks after MSCI, the financial services giant whose indices serve as a benchmark for global investors, replaced four major stocks with five others in the index pulling Nifty 50 by 1.5% and BSE Senses by 1.4% on Friday.

MSCI said Hyundai Motors, Kalan Jewellers India, Real Vikas Nigam and SBI Cards and Payment would be removed from the India Domestic Index and replaced by Adani Energy Solutions, Federal Bank, Hitachi Energy India, Multi Commodity Exchange of India and Foshan Aluminium Co.

Nifty50 opened at 23,902.15 and moved 150 points up to cross 24,050 by noon before sliding to

'The rebalancing is likely to have led to almost \$500 mn to \$1 billion in foreign investment outflow'

the day's low of 23,484.78 and recovering to 23,547.75 at close.

'Huge forex outflow'
The rebalancing is expected to have led to an almost \$500 million to \$1 billion in foreign investment outflow, said U.C. Mittal, a veteran investor and co-founder of Alpheston Private. Further, he said this was a large amount of outflow in a session and the rest of the retail investors who may not have known about the rebalancing exercise might have sold putting further downward pressure on the market.

RB data shows why govt. is concerned about dollars flowing out

India's Balance of Payments stood at a deficit of \$30.8 bn in 2025-26, indicating that total outflows including trade and investments exceeded inflows six fold over the previous year

T.G.A. Sharad Nishavan

NEW DELHI

The latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows why the government and the central bank are so concerned about dollars flowing out of the country, the total amount of dollars flowing out of the country exceeded inflows by \$30.8 billion in 2025-26, a more than six-fold increase over 2024-25. This Balance of Payments (BoP) had been a surplus as recently as 2023-24.

The data in the RBI's annual report for 2025-26, released on Friday, shows that the BoP deficit grew to 2026-26 because of a sharp fall in net foreign investments into India, which compounded a widening trade deficit. The data for 2025-26 is up to December 31. Further, the deficit in 2025-26 was entirely paid for using the RBI's foreign exchange reserves, drawing them significantly.

The overall Balance of Payments in a combination of the current account and the capital account.

The current account captures India's trade in goods and services as well as some cross-border financial transactions. The capital account largely deals with investments, both direct and



portfolio, external borrowing, external aid, and asset transfers. India generally runs a current account deficit (CAD) since it imports more than it exports. Over the last few years, this CAD has varied significantly, but came in at a three-year high of \$30.2 billion in 2025-26. India's overall merchandise trade deficit—the amount that imports exceeded exports—stood at \$28.1 billion in 2025-26, down from \$286.9 billion in the previous year.

On the other hand, the surplus on India's 'invisible' trade, which includes the services trade, fell to \$21.4 billion in 2025-26 from \$20.3 billion in 2024-25. In other words, the services surplus shrank more than the merchandise deficit, meaning that the overall current account was in deficit wider.

the financial year 2025-26 included just one month of the ongoing crisis in West Asia. The 'softer' capital heading, which includes delayed export receipts, advance payments for imports, and net funds held abroad, stood at a deficit of \$22.6 billion in 2025-26, up from a deficit of \$7.4 billion in the previous year.

The other factor driving the capital account deficit was the outflow of foreign portfolio investments. According to the data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out \$4.3 billion more in 2025-26 than they put in. This reversed the trend of the previous two years where FPI inflows exceeded outflows.

All of this data provides the backdrop for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier caution. His message for Indians to reduce their real estate and gold purchases, India imports nearly 90% of its oil requirements, and does not produce any gold of its own, although its gold demand is very high.

The Supreme Court on Friday provided relief to Balance Industries Limited (BIL) by exonerating it from fraud charges. The court also set aside the findings of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in connection with Balance Petroleum Ltd. futures trading of November 2007. The court also set aside the market regulator's directions to BIL, to

Indian economy to remain resilient despite war impact

Lalazamuddin

MUMBAI

The domestic economy in 2026-27 is expected to remain resilient, despite a challenging external environment characterised by elevated energy and commodity prices, rising logistics costs, volatility in global financial markets, and uncertainties surrounding global trade policies, the RBI said in its Annual Report 2025-26 released on Friday.

"Growth prospects are supported by India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, including robust domestic demand, relatively lower dependence on exports as a growth driver, and a stable policy environment," the RBI emphasised.

On the global economy,

'The adverse impact of the conflict is reflected in forecasts of global growth and inflation'

RBI said geopolitical risk has re-emerged as the dominant drag on global growth in 2026.

The adverse impact of the outbreak of the conflict in West Asia at the end of February 2026 is reflected in forecasts of global growth and inflation. In the IMF's baseline scenario, the global economy is projected to grow by 3.1% in 2026 (as against the earlier projection of 3.2% in January 2026), while global merchandise and services trade volume is expected to decelerate to 2.8% in 2026, it said.

SC sets aside 'fraud' findings in 2007 RPL Futures Trading case

Azizulhameed Raisul

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday provided relief to Balance Industries Limited (BIL) by exonerating it from fraud charges. The court also set aside the findings of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in connection with Balance Petroleum Ltd. futures trading of November 2007. The court also set aside the market regulator's directions to BIL, to

disgorge \$47 crore.

A bench led by justice J.B. Pardiwala, in a judgment, concluded that the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) committed an "egregious error" in its finding of fraud against BIL under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations or the SEBI (PDTF) Regulations.

United we make an impact



Refugee issues: A demonstrator holds a flare amid the national strike called by United Grassroots Confederation and Central Grassroots Solidarity Programme and backed up by the 'unity' of the government in a war-torn zone.

Natco Pharma Q4 net slips 34%, shares slide 13.5%

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

Natco Pharma reported consolidated net profit for the March quarter slid almost 34% year-on-year to ₹260 crore on the back of a sharp fall in revenue from formulations export.

Net revenue slipped more than 30% to ₹616.9 crore. Natco's shares on Friday closed 13.5% lower on BSE at ₹1,018.75 against ₹1,169.50 on a total revenue of ₹4,375.9 crore (₹4,784 crore).



Refugee issues: A demonstrator holds a flare amid the national strike called by United Grassroots Confederation and Central Grassroots Solidarity Programme and backed up by the 'unity' of the government in a war-torn zone.

'OMCs asked to have 30-day LPG stock'

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been asked to maintain reserve of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to meet a minimum of 30 days of demand, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Union Petroleum Ministry told reporters at the bi-weekly briefing about the situation in West Asia here on Friday.

"All existing companies have been asked to work out touch that they have a minimum of 30 days for reserves for LPG, and they are working on it," she informed, adding that the OMCs have also been directed to expand the same for crude oil as well.

Ms. Sharma also told reporters that the demand for the bottled hydrocarbon gas presently stands at



about 72,000 metric tonnes (MT) per day with about 80-82,000 MT per day being produced domestically. "The demand for LPG is also impacted by seasonal variations," she stated.

After demand management steps by the government and also because of the impact of the season, right now the demand is around 72,000 MT a day and we are producing 80-82,000 MT a day in our domestic refineries.

SEBI slaps ₹28.6 crore penalty on Suzlon Energy for 'accounting fraud'

Ashokamithran T.

MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) penalised Suzlon Energy Ltd. (SUL) and its top brass ₹28.6 crore for "inflating the firm's net worth via circular transactions and misleading investors".

As per the order, SEI, sold its OMS operations and maintenance services unit worth ₹77.08 crore to one of its subsidiaries SEI2C. A wholly-owned subsidiary of SEI on a lump-sum consideration of ₹2,000 crore in March 2014. The gain on



SEI used misreported accounts to raise ₹1,800 crore.

of ₹700 crore was made through bank accounts. Then, the balance ₹1,800 crore was further divided into two payments of 7000 crore and 1400 crore, respectively. The 7000 crore was recorded as 1500 crore six times and the rest as four records of 1100 crore each. These false records inflated the revenue and turnover. "That this sharp slide has not been done, its net worth would have gone down to a negative ₹1,555.52 crore in FY 2019-20," said Suresh Pradhan, Whole Time Member, SEBI. "The order, SEBI, used the misreported accounts to raise equity capital of ₹1,800 crore from Mr. Dilip Shinghani Family & Association and equalised loan restructuring from banks for 500 crore. SEBI found Shinghani and key top executives Vinod R. Pant, Girish R. Pant, Kiran Vasudha and Anur Aggarwal in violation of Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices, and listing and disclosure rules and accordingly penalised them. SEBI ordered them to pay the penalty within 45 days of the receipt of the order.

NITI Aayog report backs Centre's urgent chip push

Aroon Deo

NEW DELHI

In a report made with KPMG, the NITI Pradhan Tech Hub under the NITI Aayog called manufacturing "imperative to India's aspirational growth of the developed nation by 2047," insisting from a relatively nascent industry. The report is not ready to fully meet local demand for semiconductor. The report is notable in the context of Mr. Yashwantrao's publicly expressed impatience with large portions of the electronics manufacturing sector.



Future bright: Union Ministers Hardeep Singh Nijjar and Ashwini Vaishnaw unveil a roadmap for future of chip sector.

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RBI data shows why govt. is concerned about dollars flowing out

India's Balance of Payments stood at a deficit of \$30.8 bn in 2025-26, indicating that total outflows including trade and investments exceeded inflows six fold over the previous year

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows why the government and the central bank are so concerned about dollars flowing out of the country: the total amount of dollars flowing out of the country exceeded inflows by \$30.8 billion in 2025-26, a more than six-fold increase over 2024-25. This Balance of Payments (BoP) had been a surplus as recently as 2023-24.

The data in the RBI's annual report for 2025-26, released on Friday shows that the BoP deficit grew in 2025-26 because of a sharp fall in net foreign investments into India, which compounded a widening trade deficit. The data for 2025-26 is up to December 31. Further, the deficit in 2025-26 was entirely paid for using the RBI's foreign exchange reserves, denting them significantly.

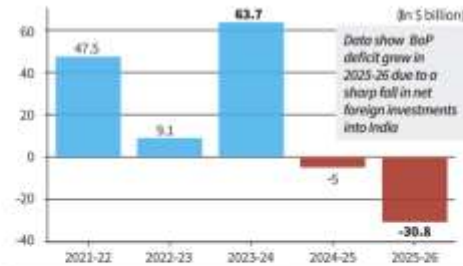
The overall Balance of Payments is a combination of the current account and the capital account.

The current account captures India's trade in goods and services as well as some cross-border financial transactions.

The capital account largely deals with investments, both direct and

Balance of Payments

The outflow of dollars has exceeded inflows by an increasing amount



Source: RBI Annual Report 2025-26 • Note: Data for 2025-26 is provisional. Negative figures indicate a deficit and positive ones denote a surplus.

portfolio, external borrowings, external assistance, and asset transfers.

India generally runs a current account deficit (CAD) since it imports more than it exports. Over the last five years, this CAD has varied significantly, but came in at a three-year high of \$30.2 billion 2025-26. India's overall merchandise trade deficit – the amount that imports exceeded exports – stood \$251.6 billion in 2025-26, down from \$286.9 billion in the previous year.

On the other hand, the surplus on India's 'invisibles' trade, which includes the services trade, fell to \$221.4 billion in 2025-26 from \$263.9 in 2024-25.

In other words, the services surplus shrank more than the merchandise defi-

cit did, meaning that the overall current account saw its deficit widen.

Capital concerns

In 2023-24, when India had a BoP surplus, this was because the surplus on the capital account was so big, it dwarfed the CAD. That is, the CAD was \$26.1 billion in 2023-24, but the capital account surplus was \$89.4 billion. As a result, the BoP surplus was \$63.7 billion.

This scenario did not play out in 2025-26. The capital account surplus that year shrank to \$72 million, down more than 99.5% over the \$16.6 billion seen in 2024-25.

The big reasons for this seems to have been Indians parking their funds abroad and payments related to trade, even though

the financial year 2025-26 included just one month of the ongoing crisis in West Asia. The 'other capital' heading, which includes delayed export receipts, advance payments for imports, and net funds held abroad, stood at a deficit of \$22.6 billion in 2025-26, up from a deficit of \$7.4 billion in the previous year.

The other factor driving the capital account deficit was the outflow of foreign portfolio investments. According to the data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out \$4.3 billion more in 2025-26 than they put in. This reversed the trend of the previous two years where FPI inflows exceeded outflows.

All of this data provides the backdrop for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exhortation earlier this month for Indians to reduce their fuel consumption and gold purchases. India imports nearly 90% of its oil requirement, and does not produce any gold of its own, although its gold demand is very big.

As a result, a large part of the dollar outflows go in paying for oil and gold imports. The government earlier this month also hiked the import duty on gold and silver to 15% from the previous 6%, and also restricted the import of most kinds of silver.

Indicator	2024-25	2025-26*	Exam Significance
Balance of Payments (BoP)	Surplus	Deficit \$30.8 billion	Major economic concern
Current Account Deficit (CAD)	Lower	\$30.2 billion	Import pressure increased
Merchandise Trade Deficit	\$286.9 bn	\$251.6 bn	Improved but still large
Services Trade Surplus	\$263.9 bn	\$221.4 bn	Reduced forex earnings
Capital Account Surplus	\$89.4 bn	\$72 bn	Lower foreign investment inflows
FPI Flows	Net Inflows	Net Outflow \$4.3 bn	Foreign investors withdrew funds
Other Capital	Deficit \$7.4 bn	Surplus \$22.6 bn	Export delays, overseas deposits
RBI Forex Reserves Used	Limited	Significant use	To finance BoP deficit

*2025-26 data provisional (up to December 2025)

What is Balance of Payments (BoP)?

Component	Meaning
Current Account	Trade in goods & services, remittances, income
Capital Account	FDI, FPI, loans, investments
Overall BoP	Current Account + Capital Account + Errors/Omissions
Surplus	Dollar inflows > Outflows
Deficit	Dollar outflows > Inflows

Formula

$$BoP = Current\ Account + Capital\ Account$$

RBI BoP Trend

Year	BoP Position (\$ Billion)
2021-22	+47.5
2022-23	+9.1
2023-24	+63.7
2024-25	-5.0
2025-26	-30.8

Exam Observation

- Sharp deterioration from a surplus of \$63.7 bn in 2023-24 to a deficit of \$30.8 bn in 2025-26.
- Indicates rising pressure on external sector.

Why Did BoP Turn Negative?

Reason	Impact
Lower Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)	Fewer dollar inflows
Capital Account Surplus Declined	Less foreign capital available
Services Trade Surplus Reduced	Lower earnings from IT/services exports
Indians Investing Abroad	More dollar outflow
Import Payments	Increased foreign exchange demand
West Asia Crisis	Export delays and trade disruptions

Current Account Deficit (CAD)

Feature	Details
Meaning	Imports exceed exports
India's CAD 2025-26	\$30.2 billion
Main Cause	Merchandise trade deficit
Impact	Pressure on rupee and forex reserves

Important Concept

$$CAD = Imports - Exports$$

FDI vs FPI

Feature	FDI	FPI
Full Form	Foreign Direct Investment	Foreign Portfolio Investment
Nature	Long-term	Short-term
Control	Ownership stake	Financial investment
Stability	Stable	Volatile
Example	Toyota factory in India	Buying Indian shares

Exam Fact

- FPI is often called "**Hot Money**" because it can leave quickly.

CAPE CANAVERAL

New Glenn, Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin rocket, explodes on launch pad



Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket unleashed a massive fireball into the sky as it exploded during a test on Thursday, in the latest blow to billionaire Jeff Bezos's space ambitions. Blue Origin says on a test the rocket experienced an "anomaly" during the test in Cape Canaveral, and that "all personnel have been accounted for."

LIMASSOL

EU envoy seeks more vessels to secure traffic in Strait of Hormuz



The European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on Thursday that securing freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz after the Iran war ends will require more ships. The EU mission in the Red Sea - dubbed Aegleus - is comprised of three vessels that protect shipping from attacks by Houthi rebels, as

GUATEMALA CITY

Guatemala govt. denies agreeing to joint strikes with U.S. against drug traffickers



Guatemala denied on Thursday reports it had agreed to joint strikes with the United States in the country, but admitted it requested Washington's help in its fight against cartels. It added that "there is no agreement authorising foreign military operations by any country within national territory."

NAIROBI

Kenyan police arrest 8 students on suspicion of arson after school fire



Kenyan police arrested eight female students on suspicion of arson, authorities said on Friday, after a fire destroyed a dormitory at a boarding school, killing 15 children and injuring dozens of others. The motive remains under investigation. The girls were arrested for planning and carrying out a suspected arson attack. AP

Russian drone targeting Ukraine crashes in Romania, injuring two

The NATO member scrambled two F-16 jets and a helicopter that were authorised to engage targets. President Nicusor Dan, who has convened a meeting of NATO's top defence body, says, 'We will have proportional measures in relation to Russia'

Associated Press

Russian drone that was part of an overnight attack on Ukraine and then went astray plummeted into an apartment building in eastern Romania, injuring two people in the NATO member country, Romanian authorities said, adding to concerns that the war could spread across the alliance's borders. The Russian drone was tracked by radar in Romanian airspace and crashed onto the roof of the building in the city of Galati, Romania's Defence Ministry said in a statement. The

impact was followed by a fire. The two people suffered minor injuries, and several others were evacuated.

Serious violation The Romanian military scrambled two F-16 fighter jets and a helicopter that were authorised to engage targets, and alert messages were sent to residents of the affected areas. But the aircraft didn't engage or shoot at the drone to bring it down, Romania asked NATO for a faster transfer of anti-drone capabilities to its military, the Foreign Ministry said, calling the drone's flight a serious violation of international law.



Romanian law enforcement officers work on the site of a drone hit at a residential block of flats in Galati on Friday. AP/ANSA

dent Nicusor Dan convened the NATO member's top defence body for a meeting on Friday to discuss the implications of what he called "the worst incident to hit the national territory", since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine.

"We will have proportional measures in relation to the Russian Federation... There is no ambiguity about the author and the cause of the assault," he wrote in a post on Facebook.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that it was too early to say that the drone which crashed in Romania was Russian.

Trump says he's making final decision on Iran deal

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that he was making his decision on a potential deal with Iran, though Tehran insisted there was still "no final agreement" on ending the West Asia war.

A report from Iran's Fars news agency also reiterated several key elements of Mr. Trump's characterization of the deal, citing informed sources as calling his remarks a "mix of truth and lies".

U.S. sources had told said that the deal was just waiting on Mr. Trump's sign-off following weeks of halting negotiations to end a conflict that had crippled the West Asia and shaken the global economy.



Donald Trump

in the Situation Room, to make a "final determination", Mr. Trump said in a lengthy social media post, restoring hope inside that Iran agrees never to have nuclear weapons and must open the vital Strait of Hormuz shipping lane. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Bahar Raftari, however, told state media that the Islamic republic "said goodbye to the

language of 'must' 47 years ago". "Regarding the understanding... exchanges of messages are continuing, but no final agreement has been reached yet," he added.

In his post, Mr. Trump said Tehran would remove mines in the Strait of Hormuz and end its blockade of the waterway with "no tolls", while the U.S. would lift its parallel blockade of Iranian ports, and the two countries would coordinate on removing and destroying Iran's enriched uranium.

He also said "no money will be exchanged, until further notice". Mr. Raftari also told state TV that there were currently "no negotiations" taking place on Iran's nuclear programme.

15 children killed, 62 injured in Lebanon in last 7 days, says UN

Agence France-Presse

GENEVA Fifteen children have been killed in Lebanon and 62 injured over the last seven days, the United Nations said on Friday, despite the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

UNICEF, the UN children's agency, called the figures "staggering" and stressed that under international humanitarian law, children had to be protected at all times during conflict.

"According to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, 77 children have reportedly been killed or injured over the past week alone," UNICEF spokesman

Ricardo Pires told a media briefing in Geneva. "Fifteen children killed and 62 injured in seven days. That's an average of 11 children every 24 hours. We understand the vast majority of these children were impacted by air strikes in south Lebanon, only yesterday, seven children were killed and 30 injured," he said.

Mr. Pires called for all parties to respect the ceasefire in full and to comply at all times with international humanitarian law, under which "children and civilian infrastructure must be protected at all times".

Israel has issued repeated evacuation warnings to coastal city of Tyre.

Dollar drama



Cash piles: U.S. Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent shows a prepared \$200 bill featuring President Donald Trump during a press briefing in the Brady Briefing Room of the White House in Washington DC on Thursday. AP

Japan-Philippines sea border negotiations 'illegal', says China

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING China expressed strong opposition on Friday to a decision by Japan and the Philippines to start maritime border negotiations, calling the talks "illegal" and claiming exclusive control over the waters concerned.

The two island nations announced on Thursday they would start formal talks "to define the maritime boundary" of an economic zone and continental shelf between them, as Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on a visit to Tokyo.

But Beijing again asserted



Wang Yi

ed on Friday that it has an "exclusive economic zone and continental shelf" in the waters to the east of Taiwan. "China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to this," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular news conference.

Israel and Russia added to UN blacklist for sexual violence in conflict zones

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS An annual United Nations report documenting sexual violence in conflict zones worldwide has included Israeli forces for the first time since the review began more than 19 years ago for their treatment of Palestinian detainees, Israel denies the accusations.

The 35-page report - shared by the Israeli mission to the UN late Tuesday ahead of its expected release on Friday - blacklists 17 government and non-government parties in 27 countries suspected of committing or being responsible for sexual violence in conflict around the world. It says the num-



Palestinian demonstrators hold pictures of prisoners held in Israeli jails during a rally in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, Apr

were warned in last year's report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that they could be put on the list. Ambassadors of both countries expressed outrage at their inclusion and lashed out at Mr. Guterres.

The report said in 2023 the United Nations was able to document "patterns of sexual violence" against Palestinians detained in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, and verified multiple incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, including in a form of torture, inflicted on 14 men, seven women, nine boys and one girl from Gaza and the West Bank.

China is building launch pads near its nuclear missile silos in remote desert

Reuters

In a remote Chinese desert, a vast military complex is taking shape that some security scholars say appears built to ensure an American first strike on China's nuclear arsenal could reliably knock out Beijing's ability to hit back in the United States.

China's nuclear missiles can already reach any city in the United States. Now satellite images show Beijing is building an sprawling fleet of mobile missile launchers and air-defence batteries. They also show facilities that may serve as a sweeping expansion of hardened infrastructure designed to protect and operate China's land-based nuclear



An image of a launch pad, part of two isolated desert networks linked by roads, in Ningxia's Ningxia Autonomous Region, Reuters

forces. Taken together, the network signals a significant upgrade in Beijing's efforts to ensure second-strike capability, undercutting longstanding nuclear competition with the United States on tensions the over issues such as Taiwan's sovereignty. "Taken together, I think there is a real possibility that the ecological structures and the strategic towers are linked to C3 - command, control, and communications - as well as maintenance and storage activities related to China's nuclear operations at points to a sweeping expansion of hardened infrastructure designed to protect and operate China's land-based nuclear

Israel and Russia added to UN blacklist for sexual violence in conflict zones

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS

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The 35-page report – shared by the Israeli mission to the UN late Thursday ahead of its expected release on Friday – blacklists 77 government and non-government parties in a dozen countries suspected of committing or being responsible for sexual violence in conflicts around the world. It says the num-



Palestinian demonstrators hold pictures of prisoners held in Israeli jails during a rally in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. AFP

ber of cases rose sharply in 2025 from 2024.

Russian armed and security forces were also blacklisted for the first time this year for sexual violence against prisoners of war and civilians detained during the war in

Ukraine. The list for 2025 includes Israel's armed and security forces as well as Hamas militants, who were previously blacklisted after their attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, which sparked the war in Gaza.

Both Israel and Russia

were warned in last year's report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that they could be put on the list.

The ambassadors of both countries expressed outrage at their inclusion and lashed out at Mr. Guterres.

The report said in 2025 the United Nations was able to document "patterns of sexual violence" against Palestinians detained in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, and verified multiple incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, including as a form of torture, inflicted on 14 men, seven women, nine boys and one girl from Gaza and the West Bank.

Topic	Details	Exam Relevance
Report	UN Annual Report on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	International Relations
Edition	35th Report	Current Affairs 2025
Released By	United Nations	Important organization
UN Secretary-General	António Guterres	Current affairs fact
New Additions to Blacklist	Israel and Russia	First-time inclusion
Reason for Inclusion	Alleged sexual violence in conflict situations	Human rights issue
Israel Allegations	Treatment of Palestinian detainees	Israel denies allegations
Russia Allegations	Violence against prisoners of war and civilians during Ukraine conflict	First-time listing
Hamas Status	Already blacklisted earlier	Since Oct 2023 conflict
Total Entities Blacklisted	77 government and non-government actors	Across multiple countries
Areas Covered	Gaza, West Bank, Ukraine and other conflict zones	Geography + IR

UN Blacklist Mechanism

Feature	Details
Maintained By	UN Secretary-General
Purpose	Identify parties responsible for grave violations
Coverage	State forces and non-state armed groups
Consequence	International scrutiny and pressure
Legal Impact	Not a direct sanction but influences global action

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security)

Particular	Details
Adopted	2000
Adopted By	<u>United Nations Security Council</u>
Focus	Women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding
Importance	Landmark resolution on gender and security

Organ

Headquarters

General Assembly

New York

Security Council

New York

Economic and Social Council
(ECOSOC)

New York

International Court of Justice

The Hague

Secretariat

New York

Trusteeship Council

New York

Report

Human Development Report

World Happiness Report

Global Gender Gap Report

State of Food Security Report

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
Report

Released By

United Nations Development
Programme

United Nations Sustainable
Development Solutions Network

World Economic Forum

Food and Agriculture Organization

United Nations

Anthropic tops OpenAI to become world's most valuable AI startup

MIKE ISAAC & CADE METZ
San Francisco, May 29

ANTHROPIC, ONCE THE lesser-known artificial intelligence (AI) competitor to OpenAI, has been on an inexorable rise over the past few months.

The San Francisco company recently duelled with the Pentagon over the use of AI in warfare. It released a powerful AI model, Mythos, that it said was uncannily capable of finding and exploiting hidden flaws in software. On Thursday, Anthropic punctuated its ascent by officially passing OpenAI as the world's highest-flying AI start-

up. Anthropic said it had raised \$65 billion in financing that values it at \$900 billion before the inclusion of the new capital, a deal that puts it ahead of OpenAI's last valuation of \$730 billion. The company also unveiled a new flagship AI model, Claude Opus 4.8, which is significantly better than its predecessor at generating computer code.

The new investment, which was led by investors including Greenoaks Capital, Sequoia Capital, Altimeter Capital and Dragoneer Investment Group, boosted Anthropic's value to nearly two and a half times its previous valuation of \$380 bil-

BATTLE FOR AI DOMINANCE

■ Anthropic raised **\$65 bn** in new fundraising putting its value at **\$900 bn,** ahead of OpenAI's last valuation of **\$730 bn**



■ The funding underlined the firm's success in developing AI tech that excels in writing software code



■ Anthropic unveiled **Claude Opus 4.8**, which is better than its predecessor at generating computer code

■ Facing pressure from Anthropic, OpenAI has trimmed side projects to prioritising work on **Codex**

lion about three months ago.

The funding underlined the company's success in developing AI technology that excels in writ-

ing software code, which has turned into a robust business. Since Anthropic improved its AI coding technology in November,

hundreds of businesses have signed up to pay for the software. The company said its "revenue run rate," which is its expected

revenue for the year based on its current performance, crossed \$47 billion this month.

"This funding will help us serve the historic demand we are experiencing, stay at the research frontier and bring Claude to more of the places where work happens," said Krishna Rao, Anthropic's chief financial officer.

Anthropic's rise only adds to its contest with OpenAI and Elon Musk's SpaceX as the private companies race to go public.

Last week, SpaceX revealed its public offering prospectus and is expected to reach the stock market as soon as next

month. OpenAI also plans to file confidentially for an initial public offering in the coming weeks. Anthropic insiders have said the company was also considering an IPO that could come as soon as this year, though the company has declined to comment.

The battle is far from over. Facing pressure from Anthropic, OpenAI has trimmed side projects in favour of prioritising work on its own coding software, called Codex. SpaceX recently entered an agreement to buy Cursor, a software coding interface popular with developers, and has agreed to sell some computing power to Anthropic. **NYT**

Topic	English	शुभ्रह
Company	Anthropic	इंटरनेट
Headquarters	San Francisco, USA	कूपर स्ट्रीट, सैन फ्रान्सिस्को, कॅलिफोर्निया, अमेरिका
Valuation (2026)	US\$ 900 Billion	900 अरब डॉलर
New Funding Raised	US\$ 65 Billion	65 अरब डॉलर
Previous Valuation	US\$ 380 Billion	380 अरब डॉलर
Main Competitor	OpenAI	इंटरनेट
OpenAI Last Valuation	US\$ 730 Billion	730 अरब डॉलर
Flagship AI Model	Claude Opus 4.8	क्लॉड ओपस 4.8
Founder	Dario Amodei	डारियो अमोदेई
Founded	2021	2021

Battle for AI Dominance

Company	Valuation	Key Product
Anthropic	US\$ 900 Billion	Claude
OpenAI	US\$ 730 Billion	ChatGPT
xAI	Growing rapidly	Grok
Google DeepMind	Part of Alphabet	Gemini
Meta AI	Part of Meta	Llama

Why Anthropic Grew Rapidly?

Factor	English	हिंदी
Claude Opus 4.8	Strong coding and reasoning capabilities	उन्नत कोडिंग एवं तर्क क्षमता
Enterprise Adoption	Increasing use by businesses	व्यवसायों द्वारा बढ़ता उपयोग
AI Coding Market	Strong performance in software development	सॉफ्टवेयर विकास क्षेत्र में मजबूत प्रदर्शन
Investor Confidence	Large funding from global investors	वैश्विक निवेशकों का विश्वास
AI Safety Focus	Known for responsible AI development	जिम्मेदार AI विकास के लिए प्रसिद्ध

Major Investors in Anthropic

Investor	Type
Google	Strategic Investor
Amazon	Strategic Investor
Sequoia Capital	Venture Capital
Altimeter Capital	Investment Firm
Dragoneer Investment Group	Investment Firm

Static GK: Artificial Intelligence

Topic	English	हिंदी
Father of AI	John McCarthy	जॉन मैकार्थी
AI Term Coined	1956 Dartmouth Conference	1956 डार्टमाउथ सम्मेलन
Generative AI	AI that creates text, images, code, audio	टेक्स्ट, चित्र, कोड व ऑडियो बनाने वाली AI
Machine Learning	Subset of AI	AI का उपक्षेत्र
Deep Learning	Neural network-based learning	न्यूरल नेटवर्क आधारित अधिगम
Large Language Model (LLM)	AI trained on huge text datasets	विशाल डेटा पर प्रशिक्षित भाषा मॉडल

AI and India

Topic	Fact
India's AI Performance Rank (2026)	4th Globally
India's Digital Economy Rank	5th Globally
AI Talent Pool	2nd Largest in World
IndiaAI Mission Budget	₹10,372 Crore
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)

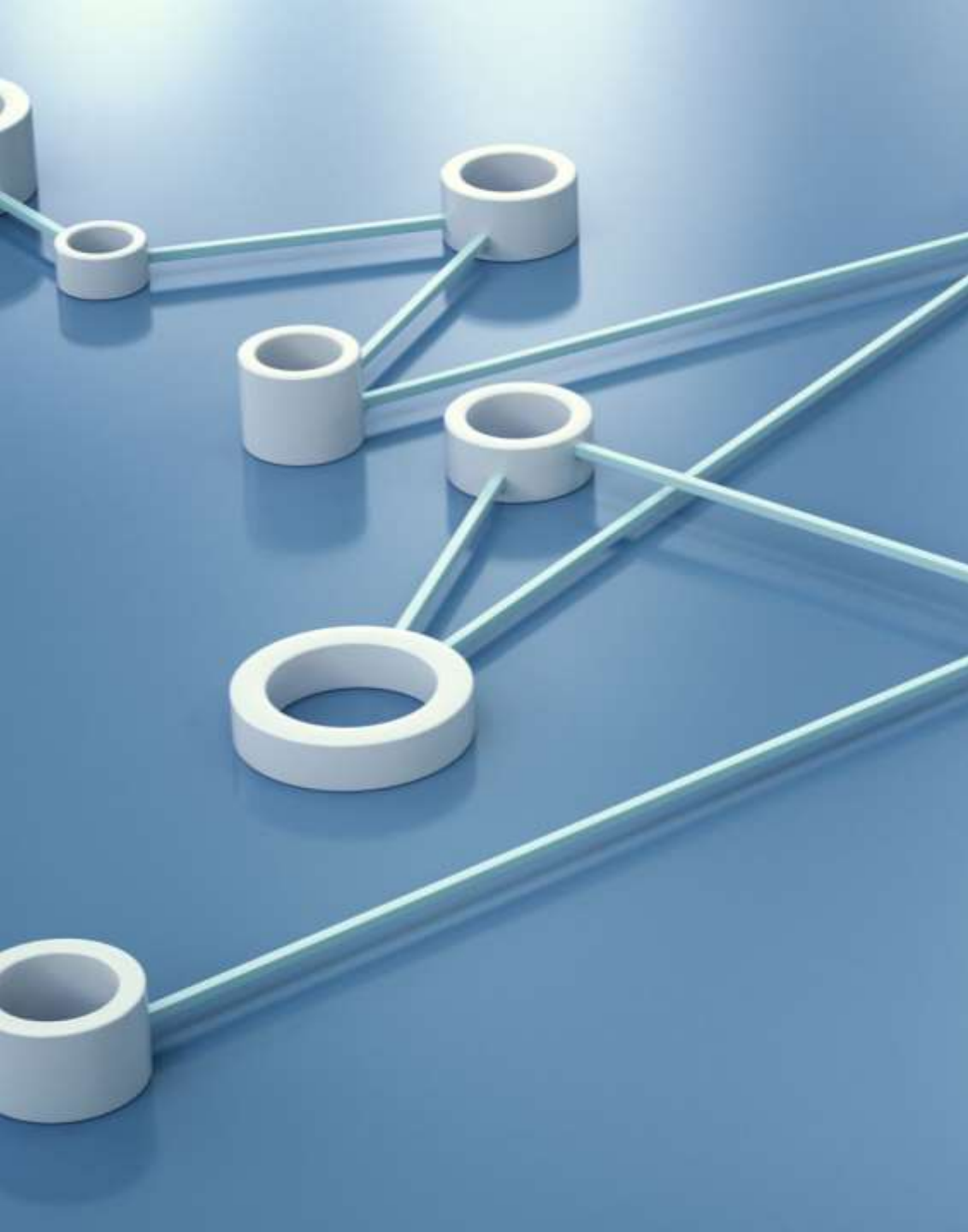
Important Economic Terms

Term	Meaning
Valuation	Estimated market value of a company
Startup	Newly established growth-oriented company
Unicorn	Startup valued above US\$1 Billion
Decacorn	Startup valued above US\$10 Billion
IPO	Initial Public Offering
Venture Capital	Investment in high-growth startups

Indicator	Rank	Key Fact
AI Performance	4th	Ahead of Germany, France, Japan, UK, Canada
Digital Economy	5th	Improved from 8th rank in one year
AI Talent Pool	2nd	Second only to USA
AI Skill Penetration (LinkedIn)	1st	Highest AI skill penetration globally
AI Talent Growth (2019-25)	2nd	Second-highest growth globally

World's Most Valuable Companies (Approx.)


Rank	Company	Country
1	Microsoft	USA
2	NVIDIA	USA
3	Apple	USA
4	Amazon	USA
5	Alphabet (Google)	USA



- **Consider the following statements:**
 - Anthropic became the world's most valuable AI startup in 2026.
 - Anthropic's valuation reached US\$900 billion after a major funding round.
 - Claude is the flagship AI model developed by Anthropic.
 - Anthropic was founded before OpenAI.
 - Which of the statements given above are correct?
- **A. 1, 2 and 3 only**
 - **B. 2 and 4 only**
 - **C. 1, 3 and 4 only**
 - **D. 1, 2, 3 and 4**

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a shiny, metallic bell, likely a service bell, resting on a reflective surface. The bell is highly polished and reflects the surrounding environment. The background is heavily blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with warm lighting, possibly a restaurant or hotel lobby. The text "112 Emergency Helpline" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

112 Emergency Helpline

Topic	English	हिंदी	
What is 112?	112 is India's single national emergency number under ERSS 2.0.	112 भारत का एकीकृत राष्ट्रीय आपातकालीन नंबर है, जो ERSS 2.0 के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।	
Objective	Integrates police, fire, ambulance, disaster response and other emergency services through one platform.	पुलिस, अग्निशमन, एम्बुलेंस, आपदा प्रबंधन एवं अन्य आपातकालीन सेवाओं को एक मंच पर जोड़ता है।	
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).	गृह मंत्रालय (MHA)।	
Supreme Court Direction	On 28 May 2026, Supreme Court directed all States/UTs to integrate emergency helplines into 112 within 3 months.	28 मई 2026 को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने सभी राज्यों/केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों को 3 माह के भीतर आपातकालीन हेल्पलाइन 112 में एकीकृत करने का निर्देश दिया।	
Platform Used	Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 2.0.	इमरजेंसी रिस्पॉन्स सपोर्ट सिस्टम (ERSS) 2.0।	
Access Modes	Call, Mobile App, SMS, Web Portal, Panic Button.	कॉल, मोबाइल ऐप, SMS, वेब पोर्टल तथा पैनिक बटन।	
Key Feature	Automatic caller location tracking for faster emergency response.	त्वरित सहायता हेतु कॉलर की लोकेशन स्वतः पहचानने की सुविधा।	
Example State Initiative	Kerala upgraded 112 services in August 2025 with chatbot, WhatsApp and tracking features.	केरल ने अगस्त 2025 में चैटबॉट, व्हाट्सएप एवं ट्रैकिंग सुविधाओं सहित 112 सेवा को उन्नत किया।	

Existing Helplines Being Integrated into 112

Helpline	Service	सेवा
100	Police	पुलिस
101	Fire Service	अग्निशमन सेवा
102	Ambulance	एम्बुलेंस
108	Emergency Medical Service	आपातकालीन चिकित्सा सेवा
1033	National Highway Emergency	राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग आपात सहायता
1091	Women Helpline	महिला हेल्पलाइन

- **Consider the following statements regarding the 112 Emergency Response System:**

- It operates under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 2.0.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for its implementation.
- It integrates emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance under a single number.
- It is linked to Article 32 of the Constitution.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- **A. 1, 2 and 3 only**
- **B. 2 and 4 only**
- **C. 1 and 4 only**
- **D. 1, 2, 3 and 4**



India's Total Fertility Rate
(TFR) Falls Below
Replacement Level (2024)

State	TFR	Exam Fact
Bihar	2.9	Highest in India
Uttar Pradesh	Above 2.1	Above replacement level
Madhya Pradesh	Above 2.1	Above replacement level
Rajasthan	Above 2.1	Above replacement level
Chhattisgarh	Above 2.1	Above replacement level
Jharkhand	Above 2.1	Above replacement level
Delhi	1.2	Lowest in India
Kerala	1.3	Among lowest
Tamil Nadu	1.3	Among lowest
West Bengal	1.3	Among lowest

Rural vs Urban India

Category	TFR
Rural India	2.1
Urban India	1.5

Key Observation

English	हिंदी
Urbanization is strongly associated with lower fertility rates.	शहरीकरण का संबंध कम प्रजनन दर से है।
Higher education and female workforce participation reduce fertility rates.	उच्च शिक्षा एवं महिला कार्यभागीदारी प्रजनन दर को कम करती है।

Indicator	Data (2024)	शुद्ध
Working-age Population	66.4%	इवगसुहच ष म्म न ष दुद्व 66.4%
Working-age Group	15–59 years	15–59 अद्व
Elderly Population	9.7%	9.7% आषु न ष दुद्व
Elderly Population (10 years ago)	8.6%	8.6%
Highest Elderly Share	Kerala (15%)	इधुच (15%)

Sample Registration System (SRS)

Feature	Details
Established	1969–70
Nodal Agency	Office of Registrar General of India
Purpose	Birth, Death & Fertility Statistics
Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs
Importance	India's largest demographic survey system

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

Survey	Period	TFR
NFHS-4	2015–16	2.2
NFHS-5	2019–21	2.0
SRS 2024	2024	1.9

International Comparison (Approx.)

Country	TFR
South Korea	~0.8
Japan	~1.2
China	~1.0
India	1.9
USA	~1.6
France	~1.8
Replacement Level	2.1

Implications for India

Positive	Negative
Lower pressure on resources	Future labour shortages
Better maternal health	Population ageing
Better education outcomes	Higher pension burden
Improved per-capita income potential	Rising dependency ratio

Consider the following statements regarding India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR):

1. India's TFR in 2024 was reported as 1.9.
2. Replacement-level fertility is considered to be 2.1 children per woman.
3. Bihar recorded the highest TFR among Indian states in 2024.
4. Delhi recorded a TFR above the replacement level.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Sikkim Becomes India's
Fifth Fully Literate State
(2026)**

Topic	English	शुभह
State	Sikkim	शुभह रव
Declaration Date	27 May 2026	27 रवह 2026
Achievement	Became India's 5th Fully Literate State	कवधर इव 5अह लखर दूरलघ घृ ँ प्र
Literacy Rate Achieved	99.82%	99.82%
Benchmark for Full Literacy	95%	95%
Programme	ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram	कुँवह – एत्र कवधर दूरलघलव इवगह रव
Ministry	Ministry of Education	शु लख रकवधग
Chief Minister	Prem Singh Tamang (Golay)	दूरव शुधण लकवण (एरुह)
Venue of Declaration	Sikkim University, Gangtok	शुभह रव शुत्रअवधग ँ एरुह
President Present	Droupadi Murmu	वहह रकवध

What is ULLAS?

Topic	English	हिंदी
Full Form	Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society	समाज में सभी के लिए आजीवन शिक्षा की समझ
Launch Year	2022	2022
Duration	2022–2027	2022–2027
Target Group	Adults aged 15 years and above	15 वर्ष एवं उससे अधिक आयु के वयस्क
Objective	Adult literacy and lifelong learning	वयस्क साक्षरता एवं आजीवन शिक्षा
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Education	शिक्षा मंत्रालय

ULLAS Components

Component	English	हिंदी
Foundational Literacy	Reading, Writing, Numeracy	पढ़ना, लिखना, गणना
Critical Life Skills	Financial & Digital Literacy	वित्तीय एवं डिजिटल साक्षरता
Vocational Skills	Employment-oriented learning	रोजगारोन्मुखी कौशल
Basic Education	Equivalency programmes	समकक्ष शिक्षा कार्यक्रम
Continuing Education	Lifelong learning opportunities	आजीवन शिक्षा के अवसर

Order	State/UT
1	Mizoram
2	Goa
3	Tripura
4	Himachal Pradesh
5	Sikkim
UT Category	Ladakh

Topic	Fact
Capital	Gangtok
Statehood Day	16 May 1975
India's 22nd State	Sikkim
Governor	Om Prakash Mathur
Chief Minister	Prem Singh Tamang
Highest Peak	Kanchenjunga (8,586 m)
State Animal	Red Panda
State Bird	Blood Pheasant
State Flower	Noble Orchid
Official Languages	Nepali, English, Lepcha, Bhutia and others

Topic	English	शुुलुह
Census Literacy Definition	Person aged 7+ who can read and write with understanding	7+ अरुुु इवु ढरु नुन डुरवुडु इडु डुरवुडु हडु-शुुडु डुडुडु
Highest Literacy State (Census 2011)	Kerala (94%)	इडुडुडु (94%)
Lowest Literacy State (Census 2011)	Bihar	शुुडुडुडु
National Literacy Rate (2011 Census)	74.04%	74.04%
Constitutional Provision	Article 21A – Right to Education	शुु डुडु 21A –शुु लुडु इवु शुुशु इवुडु

Article

Provision

Article 21A

Right to Education

Article 45

Early childhood care and
education

Article 46

Promotion of educational
interests of weaker sections

86th Constitutional
Amendment (2002)

Made education a
Fundamental Right

UMANG 360



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