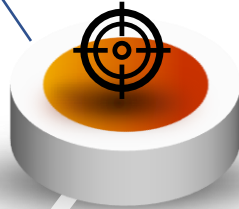


Daily Current Affairs





4
The Hindu



1
**PIB, PRS & Other
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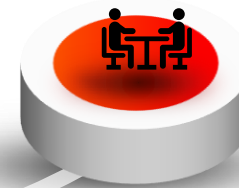


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“I'm the one that's got to die when it's time for me to die, so let me live my life the way I want to.”

— Jimi Hendrix, The Jimi Hendrix Experience - Axis: Bold as Love |

GDP growth at 6.5%, the slowest since pandemic

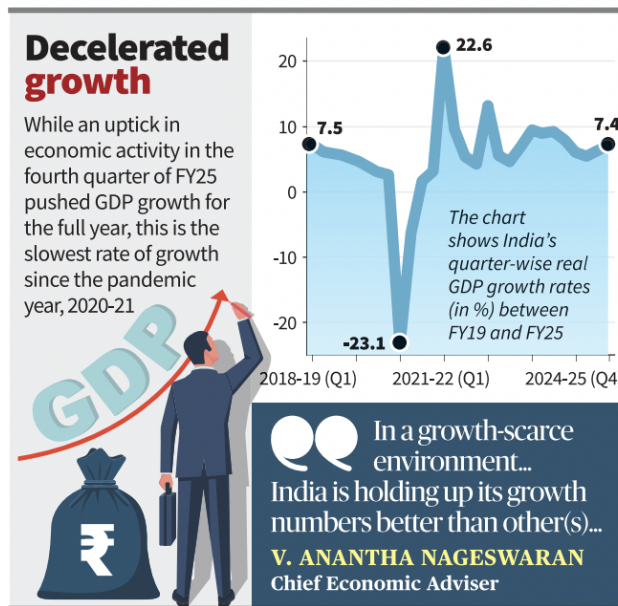
Though real GDP growth in Q4 accelerated to 7.4%, the fastest quarterly growth in 2024-25, it was still slower than 8.4% in Q4 of the previous fiscal; quarterly GDP growth in Q3 stood at 6.4%

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

While a significant uptick in economic activity in the fourth quarter (Q4) of financial year 2024-25 pushed Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the full year to 6.5%, as per the provisional estimates for 2024-25 released by the government on Friday, this is the slowest since the pandemic year 2020-21.

As per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, real GDP growth in Q4 of 2024-25 accelerated to 7.4%, the fastest quarterly growth in the year. It was still slower than 8.4% growth seen in Q4 of the previous financial year. Quarterly GDP growth in Q3 stood at 6.4%.

'India held its own'
Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, in a press briefing following the release of the data, sought



Source: MOSPI, India

to downplay the post-COVID slowdown of the economy, saying that India has held its own in a “growth-scarce” global environment. “If you look in real terms, India’s growth rate differential in comparison to the average growth rate of advanced economies was on the lower side dur-

ing the ‘boom era’ between 2003 and 2010,” Mr. Nageswaran explained. “The growth differential post-COVID is higher than the growth differential in the ‘boom era’.” “In other words, in a growth-scarce environment post COVID and despite the rising uncertainties due to political

conflicts and trade tensions, India is holding up its growth numbers better than many advanced economies,” he added.

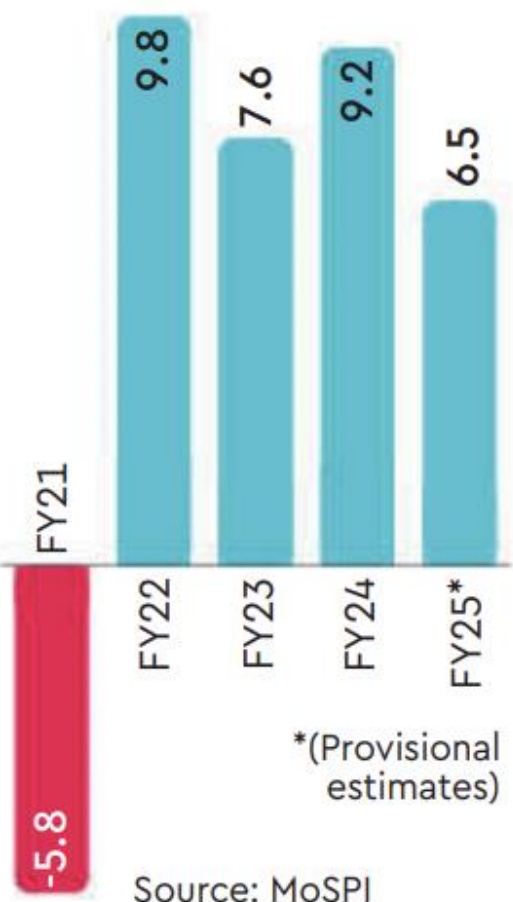
The agriculture sector continued its strong performance in Q4, leading to a relatively strong showing for the full year. The manufacturing sector’s growth stood at 4.8% in Q4 of FY25, the second fastest quarterly growth in the year, on a high base of 11.3% in Q4 of the previous year. The sector grew 4.5% in the full financial year 2024-25. The construction sector returned to double-digit growth of 10.8% in the fourth quarter, the fastest in the year, and faster than the 8.7% seen in Q4 of 2023-24. The sector’s full-year growth stood at 9.4% in 2024-25, down from 10.4% in 2023-24.

The data released on Friday showed that growth in household consumption quickened to 7.2% in 2024-25 from 5.6% in the previous year.

governance review

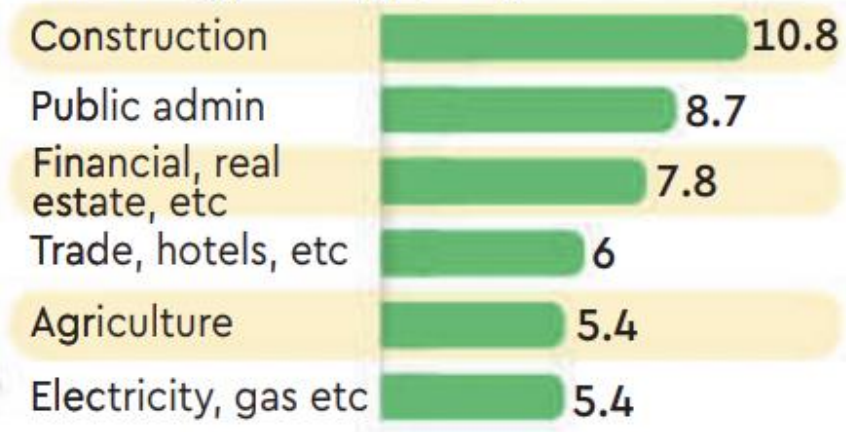
NUMBERS THAT COUNT

Real GDP % chg, y-o-y



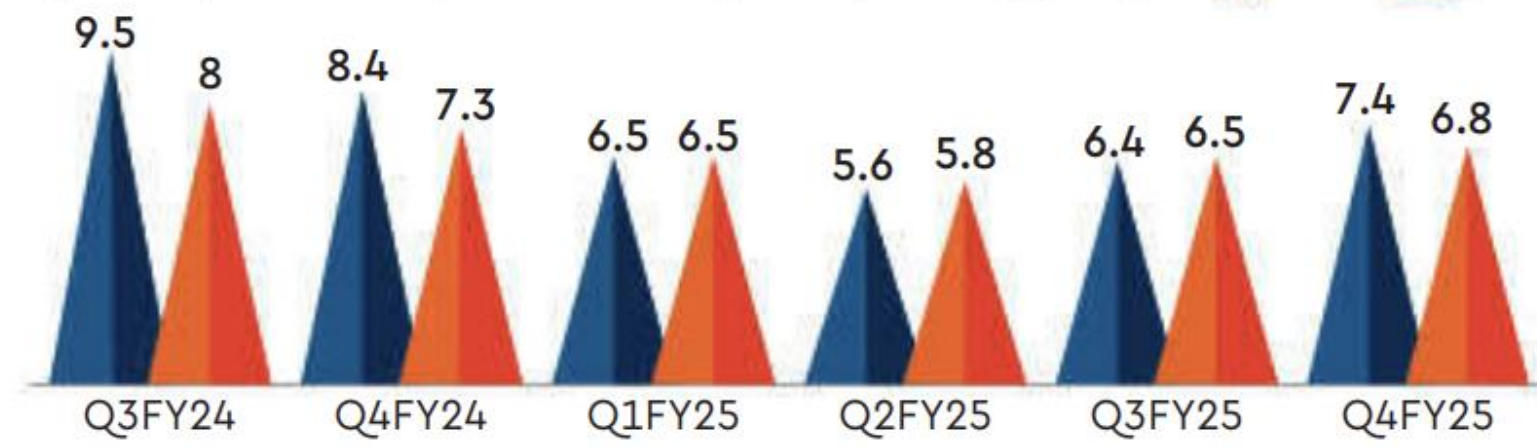
Key performers in Q4FY25

GVA in Q4, % chg, y-o-y



Quarterly numbers, At constant prices; % chg, y-o-y

▲ GDP ▲ GVA



Headline Insight:

- India's GDP grew by **6.5%** in FY 2024–25, marking the **slowest annual growth** since the **pandemic year 2020–21**.
 - Despite a strong Q4 performance, this full-year growth was weaker than FY 2023–24.
-

Quarterly Breakdown:

- **Q4 GDP growth** (Jan–Mar 2025): **7.4%**
 - Highest quarterly growth in FY25
 - Still lower than **8.4%** in Q4 of FY24
 - **Q3 GDP growth:** 6.4%
-

Quarterly Breakdown:

- **Q4 GDP growth** (Jan-Mar 2025): **7.4%**
 - Highest quarterly growth in FY25
 - Still lower than **8.4%** in Q4 of FY24
 - **Q3 GDP growth:** 6.4%
-

Expert View:

- **Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran:**
 - India is managing growth better than many advanced economies.
 - Described global conditions as **"growth-scarce"**.
 - Highlighted India's resilience amid global uncertainty and slower average growth in developed nations.

Sector-wise Performance:

Sector	Growth Rate FY25	Key Points
Agriculture	Strong performance in Q4	Solid full-year performance
Manufacturing	4.8% (Q4)	2nd fastest quarterly growth in FY25; driven by low base of FY24 Q4 (11.3%)
Construction	10.8% (Q4), 9.4% (FY25)	Returned to double-digit growth in Q4
Services	Strong but not quantified	Mentioned as stable
Household Consumption	Grew by 7.2% in FY25	Up from 5.6% in FY24

Sector	Share of GVA (%)
Services	54.72%
Industry	27.62%
Agriculture	17.66%

Breakdown of Sub-sectors:

- **Services Sector:**
 - Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services: 22.66%
 - Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication & Broadcasting: 17.5%
 - Public Administration, Defence & Other Services: 14.55%

- **Industry Sector:**

- Manufacturing: 14.27%
- Construction: 8.91%
- Electricity, Gas, Water Supply & Other Utility Services: 2.48%
- Mining & Quarrying: 1.97%

India Briefing

IN BRIEF



Five workers killed in blast at firecracker unit in Punjab

Five people were killed and 30 injured in a blast at a firecracker manufacturing unit near a village in Lambi in Punjab's Sri Muktsar Sahib district on Friday. The injured were taken to hospitals, including AIIMS Bathinda, and most of them were stated to be out of danger, the police said. The blast occurred in one of the rooms in the manufacturing unit, leading to the collapse of the roof and other parts of the two-storey building. It appears that the explosion was caused by materials used in the making of firecrackers, though the exact cause can be ascertained after investigations and forensic examinations, the police added.

Three more firms get GPU access under IndiaAI Mission

Three firms — Gurugram-based Soket AI, Delhi-based Gan AI, and Bengaluru-based Gnan AI — have been selected in the IndiaAI Mission's ongoing drive to facilitate the development of an indigenous foundational AI large language model (LLM). "Like Sarvam AI" — which was selected earlier this year as the first such firm — "these three teams also have a very big target in front of them," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. By selecting these firms, the government will get access to the Common Compute Facility, giving them access to the nation's supercomputing units (GPUs) on which AI models are trained and deployed.

SC gets three new judges, reaches full strength of 34

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

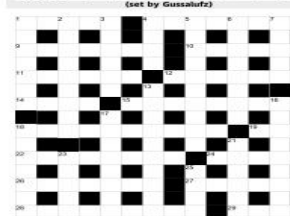
The Supreme Court got three new judges on Friday. Justices N.V. Anjaria, Vijay Bhishnoi, and A.S. Chandurkar were sworn in by Chief Justice of India N.R. Gavai.

With this, the number of judges of the court has reached its sanctioned strength of 34. This will continue until the retirement of Justice Bela M. Trivedi on June 9.

Justices Anjaria, Bhishnoi, and Chandurkar were welcomed with warm handshakes by Chief Justice Gavai after they took their oath of office. Justice Bhishnoi took the oath of office in Hindi.

The Collegium had recommended their names on May 26. The government approved them on Thursday.

THE CROSSWORD **14499**
(Set by Gussaluf2)



Across

- 1 Masala French author rejected (5)
- 4 Took a walk with Sun editor, absorbing stirring nature (9)
- 9 Answer duo from reporters' small pool (7)
- 10 Escape a very long racket going round (7)
- 11 The reason drinking is back, finally, is this drink! (6)
- 12 Backing grim reckoning for beaver-like creatures (8)
- 14 Apocryphal return from Honolulu appointment (4)

Centre asks States to raise enrolment in govt. schools

Education Ministry flags increasing trend of students choosing private schools; it asks States such as Uttarakhnad, Telangana, T.N. and A.P. to identify the root cause and take remedial measures

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Flagging a "disturbing trend" of students choosing private schools over government-run ones, the Union Education Ministry has asked these States to take "remedial steps" to reverse the trend.

The issue was pointed out to individual States in Project Approval Board (PAB) meetings held in March and April this year to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for 2025-26.

In Telangana, for instance, the PAB meeting minutes note that as per the UDISE+ 2023-24 data, out of 42,901 schools in the State, 70% (30,022) are government schools and 28.26% (12,126) are unaided schools. "Total enrolment in government schools is only 38.11% (27.8 lakh), as compared to 60.75% (44.31 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools,"



Student enrolment: Centre says that despite spending large amount of money, govt. school enrolment is seeing a steady drop.

the minutes note.

School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar expressed concerns that in spite of spending a large amount of money, students are moving away from government schools. He suggested that States should make a sincere analysis of the root cause so as to take remedial steps and reverse this trend.

"Govt. school brand"

A similar trend was observed in Uttarakhnad, where enrolment in unaided schools has steadily increased except for the pandemic period of 2021-22. In Uttarakhnad, the minutes note, as per UDISE+ 2023-24, out of 22,551 schools in

the State, 78.4% (16, 201) are government schools and 23.29% (5,252) are unaided schools. "However, the total enrolment in government schools is only 36.68% (8.7 lakh) as compared to 54.39% (12.90 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools," the minutes state.

In Tamil Nadu, the Education Ministry observed that as per UDISE+ 2023-24, 64% of government schools in the State have 37% enrolment whereas 26% of unaided school have 46% enrolment. "In this regard, State was urged to build the government school brand so as to increase enrolment and make best use of the availa-

ble resources," the minutes state.

In Andhra Pradesh, the UDISE+ 2023-24 data show that out of 61,373 schools in the State, 45,000 (73.32%) are government schools and 15,232 (24.82%) are unaided schools. "However, total enrolment in government schools is 46.33% (40.5 lakh) as compared to 52.09% (45.53 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools. Enrolment trend during 2021-22 to 2023-24 suggests that enrolment in unaided schools is steadily increasing," the minutes state.

In Maharashtra, the State's Principal Secretary for Education & Sports attributed the reduction in enrolment in government and aided schools, from over 1.63 crore students in 2018-19 to a little over 1.5 crore in 2023-24, to a data cleansing exercise, using Aadhaar verification. Kerala's Principal Secretary for Education said a similar exercise had been done there as well, when concerns were raised about the reduction of students in government and aided schools, from over 46.37 lakh in 2022-23 to 45.50 lakh in 2023-24.

Conduct NEET-PG in one shift; make necessary arrangements, directs SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2025 examination, scheduled on June 1, must be conducted in a single shift instead of two shifts.

"We direct that necessary arrangements be made for holding the NEET-PG 2025 examination in a single shift, duly ensuring that complete transparency is maintained and secure centres are identified and commissioned," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath directed.

The Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and N.V. Anjaria, said holding the examination in two shifts would risk "confusion and logistical challenges."

"Holding the examination in two shifts would in-



Supreme Court says holding the exam in two shifts would lead to confusion and logistical challenges.

variably enable arbitrariness and not entail a proper evaluation of the comparative merit of the candidates who take the examinations. No two question papers could be said to be at an identical level of difficulty or ease. There is bound to be a variation in the Normalisation may be applied and adopted in exceptional circumstances but not in a routine manner year after year, especially when the number of candidates is not unduly large, as is the case presently," the Bench observed.

The Bench passed the order while hearing a plea challenging a notification on holding the NEET-PG 2025 examination in two shifts. The petition filed by a group of students said the holding of NEET-PG in two shifts would lead to an uneven playing field for candidates.

The petitioners said the exam papers could never be of the same standard and level of difficulty. However, the top court rejected all these arguments of the exam authorities.

"We are not ready to accept that in the entire country, considered the technological advancements we have achieved, the examining body can not find sufficient number of centres to hold the examination in one shift," the court responded.

Calling the move "unfortunate," it said this "scientific mixing of various systems of medicines will benefit the doctors or patients."

The Union government had a similar announcement plans to integrate modern medicine and Ayurvedic medicine under one academic curriculum,

with a new integrated medical programme expected to be launched at the premier healthcare institute in Puducherry.

It is unfortunate that the Union government seems to have decided to go ahead with its plans to unscientifically mix systems of medicine. Reports indicate that the first integrative course mixing MBBS and BAMS started in the premier institution of JIPMER, Pondicherry, said the IMA in a statement.

The MBBS and BAMS are currently offered as two separate five-and-a-half-year programmes. The IMA said it had pointed out several times the mixing of "incompatible systems" was an "irreversible catastrophe."

It appealed to qualified Ayurvedic physicians to defend their system, warning that "mixopathy takes away the right of the patient to choose care of his/her choice."

Let all systems retain their pristine purity. Refrain from producing hybrid doctors who will be only qualified quacks," said the IMA.

It said India has seen life expectancy grow from 47 years in 1947 to 77 years in 2025 because of vaccines and access to modern healthcare.

The association also cited mixing of medicine systems in China and said the move had failed there.

China failed in its experiment of mixing modern medicine and Chinese traditional medicine, it also resulted in decimation of their traditional medicine," the statement by the doctors' body said.

SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Centre grants nod to Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund to receive foreign donations

Vijayta Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has granted the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, registration to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Maharashtra, enabling it to receive foreign donations for "social" programmes.

This is the first time that a State government relief body has been granted permission to receive foreign funds under the Act to supplement financial assistance to those affected by natural calamities, major accidents, communal riots, terrorist attacks or those in need of medical and educational help. The relief funds of State governments usually run on domestic donations and contributions.

In 2018, India had declined foreign aid for Kerala flood relief.

The Maharashtra CMRF is registered as a Trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, its website said. It is managed by the State of Maharashtra under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, who exercises overall supervision and control of the funds.

IMA condemns proposal for integrated MBBS/BAMS course, calls it 'unscientific'

Hindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Friday condemned the proposed introduction of an integrated course combining MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) and BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) programmes at the Jawahar Education Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry.

Calling the move "unfortunate," it said this "scientific mixing of various systems of medicines will benefit the doctors or patients."

The Union government had a similar announcement plans to integrate modern medicine and Ayurvedic medicine under one academic curriculum,

FAITH

Keeping the faith

Bad times may come into our lives in one form or another. Sita weaved and said destiny came to her in the form of a deer. Despite Lakshmana cautioning Sita, she did not pay heed and traduced him with derogatory remarks. Manas, Chaitanyam and Buddhi are relative terms. If people are drawn to worldly things, it is called Chaitanyam. Suppose we are in a state of wavering; it is known as Manas. A controlled and steady position is named Buddhi. Praying to God will make our minds steadfast and unwavering. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that He grants a "clean mind" to those who worship Him.

Sita says on our behalf that people may go berserk and lose their mental stability in times of adversity. We must be patient, exercise restraint, and be cautious during testing times. When the auspicious time arrives, it will automatically prompt our minds to think of noble things.

Sri Damodhara Dikshitar stated in a discourse that God reveals good or bad omens to those who have faith. It is a tradition for people to break coconuts in temples as a sign of good fortune. They pray that it should be correctly broken and should not be stale. For dire prognostications, if any, people may light lamps before God or pray to Goddess Durga.

Upon Hanuman's arrival, Sita experienced favourable omens at Ashokavana, indicating that good things would happen. Seeds dried up due to the wind and scorching sun would sprout with a spell of rain. Sita was all happy with the signs of good omens. Like the moon emerging from an eclipse with incredible shine, Sita's dowry face changed and glowed with all its brightness.

Centre asks States to raise enrolment in govt. schools

Education Ministry flags increasing trend of students choosing private schools; it asks States such as Uttarakhand, Telangana, T.N. and A.P. to identify the root cause and take remedial measures

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Flagging a “disturbing trend” of students choosing private schools over government schools in at least 11 States and Union Territories, including Uttarakhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, the Union Education Ministry has asked these States to take “remedial steps” to reverse the trend.

The issue was pointed out to individual States in Project Approval Board (PAB) meetings held in March and April this year to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for 2025-26.

In Telangana, for instance, the PAB meeting minutes note that as per the Unified District Information System for Education plus (UDISE+) 2023-24 data, out of 42,901 schools in the State, 70% (30,022) are government schools and 28.26% (12,126) are unaided schools. “Total enrolment in government schools is only 38.11% (27.8 lakh) as compared to 60.75% (44.31 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools,”



Student exodus: Centre says that despite spending large amount of money, govt. school enrolment is seeing a steady drop. AFP

the minutes note.

School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar expressed his concerns that in spite of spending a large amount of money, students are moving away from government schools. He suggested that States should make a sincere analysis of the root cause so as to take remedial steps and reverse this trend.

‘Govt. school brand’

A similar trend was observed in Uttarakhand, where enrolment in unaided schools has steadily increased except for the pandemic period of 2021-22. In Uttarakhand, the minutes note, as per UDISE+ 2023-24, out of 22,551 schools in

the State, 71.84% (16, 201) are government schools and 23.29% (5252) are unaided schools. “However, total enrolment in government schools is only 36.68% (8.7 lakh) as compared to 54.39% (12.90 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools,” the minutes state.

In Tamil Nadu, the Education Ministry observed that as per UDISE+ 2023-24, 64% of government schools in the State have 37% enrolment whereas 21% of unaided schools have 46% enrolment. “In this regard, State was urged to build the government school brand so as to increase enrolment and make best use of the availa-

ble resources,” the minutes state.

In Andhra Pradesh, the UDISE+ 2023-24 data show that out of 61,373 schools in the State, 45,000 (73.32%) are government schools and 15,232 (24.82%) are unaided schools. “However, total enrolment in government schools is 46.33% (40.5 lakh) as compared to 52.09% (45.53 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools. Enrolment trend during 2021-22 to 2023-24 suggests that enrolment in unaided schools is steadily increasing,” the minutes state.

In Maharashtra, the State’s Principal Secretary for Education & Sports attributed the reduction in enrolment in government and aided schools, from over 1.63 crore students in 2018-19 to a little over 1.5 crore in 2023-24, to a data cleansing exercise, using Aadhaar verification.

Kerala’s Principal Secretary for Education said a similar exercise had been done there as well, when concerns were raised about the reduction of students in government and aided schools, from close to 46.37 lakh in 2022-23 to 45.50 lakh in 2023-24.



Issue Highlighted


- The **Union Education Ministry** has flagged a **“disturbing trend”** of increasing **student preference for private/unaided schools** over government schools.
 - States like **Telangana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh**, and others have shown a **steady decline** in government school enrolment.
-



Key Instructions from Centre:

- States are asked to:
 - **Identify root causes**
 - **Take “remedial steps”** to reverse the trend
 - **Build confidence** in govt. school brand

State-wise Enrolment Data (UDISE+ 2023–24)

State	Govt. School %	Unaided School %	Notable Trends	
Telangana	38.11% (27.8L)	60.75% (44.31L)	Significant shift toward unaided schools despite public funding	
Andhra Pradesh	46.33% (40.5L)	52.09% (45.53L)	Govt. schools outnumber unaided, but enrolment lower	
Uttarakhand	36.68% (8.7L)	54.39% (12.9L)	Consistent decline in govt. school enrolment, except during COVID-19 pandemic	
Tamil Nadu	64% of schools	46% enrolment	Despite more govt. schools, unaided schools attract higher enrolment	
Maharashtra	—	—	Drop in students from 1.63 Cr (2018–19) to 1.5 Cr (2023–24) due to Aadhaar verification	
Kerala	—	—	Drop from 46.37L (2022–23) to 45.50L (2023–24)	

Government's Concerns:

- **Money spent \neq enrolment gains:** Despite major funding under **Samagra Shiksha**, students **prefer private schools**.
 - States are urged to:
 - **Promote government schools**
 - **Improve infrastructure, teaching, and public perception**
-

Officials Quoted:

- **Sanjay Kumar**, School Education Secretary: Urged sincere analysis and corrective steps.
 - **State Education Secretaries (e.g., Maharashtra, Kerala):** Some attribute trends to **data cleansing** and **Aadhaar validation** exercises.
-

IMA condemns proposal for integrated MBBS-BAMS course, calls it 'unscientific'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Friday condemned the proposed introduction of an integrated course combining MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) and BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) programmes at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry.

Calling the move “unfortunate”, it said this “unscientific mixing of various systems of medicines will not benefit doctors or patients”.

The Union government had earlier announced plans to integrate modern medicine and Ayurvedic medicine under one academic curriculum,

with a new integrated medical programme expected to be launched at the premier healthcare institute in Puducherry.

“It is unfortunate that the Union government seems to have decided to go ahead with its plans to unscientifically mix systems of medicine. Reports indicate that the first integrative course mixing MBBS and BAMS would be started in the premier institution of JIPMER, Pondicherry,” said the IMA in a statement.

The MBBS and BAMS are currently offered as two separate five-and-a-half-year programmes.

The IMA said it had pointed out several times that mixing of “incompatible systems” was an “irreversible catastrophe”.

It appealed to qualified Ayurvedic physicians to

defend their system, warning that “mixopathy takes away the right of the patient to choose care of his/her choice”.

“Let all systems retain their pristine purity. Refrain from producing hybrid doctors who will be only qualified quacks,” said the IMA.

It said India has seen life expectancy grow from 32 years in 1947 to 70.8 years in 2025 because of vaccines and access to modern healthcare.


The association also cited mixing of medicine systems in China and said the move had failed there.

“China failed in its experiment of mixing modern medicine and Chinese traditional medicine; this also resulted in decimation of their traditional medicine,” the statement by the doctors’ body said.

Issue Highlighted:

- The **Indian Medical Association (IMA)** has **condemned** the proposed plan to integrate **MBBS** (modern medicine) and **BAMS** (Ayurvedic medicine) into a **single academic programme**.

IMA's Key Objections:

Aspect	IMA's Stand	
Nature of integration	" Unscientific mixing " of different systems of medicine	
Impact	Will not benefit doctors or patients	
Medical identity	Will lead to " hybrid doctors " who may be considered " quacks "	
Patient autonomy	Violates right of patients to choose their preferred medical system	
Quality of care	Risks diluting the scientific basis of modern medicine	
Precedents	China's attempt to integrate traditional and modern medicine failed	



Implementation Plan:

- The government plans to launch this integrated course at **JIPMER** (Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research), **Puducherry**.
 - Both MBBS and BAMS are currently **5.5-year independent programmes**.
-



IMA's Warning:

- Mixing "incompatible systems" could be an "**irreversible catastrophe**."
 - Called on **qualified Ayurvedic doctors** to defend their system and **resist "mixopathy."**
-

Supporting Points from IMA:

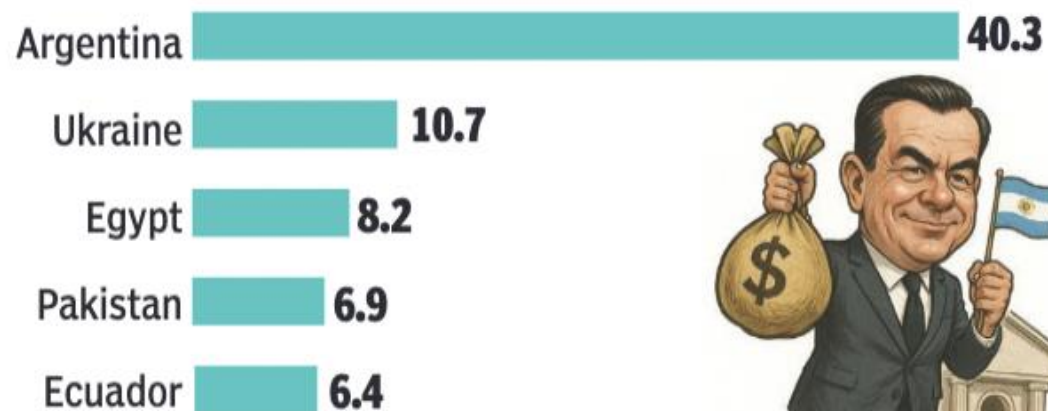
- India's life expectancy rose from **32 years in 1947** to **70.8 years in 2025**, primarily due to **modern healthcare advancements** like **vaccines**.
- Warned against **policy experiments** that could undermine medical education integrity.

Who owes IMF the most?

It's not Pakistan

These five countries, the biggest borrowers from the International Monetary Fund, account for more than 60% of its 118bn-SDR credit to 91 economies across the world

Outstanding IMF credit (bn SDRs)



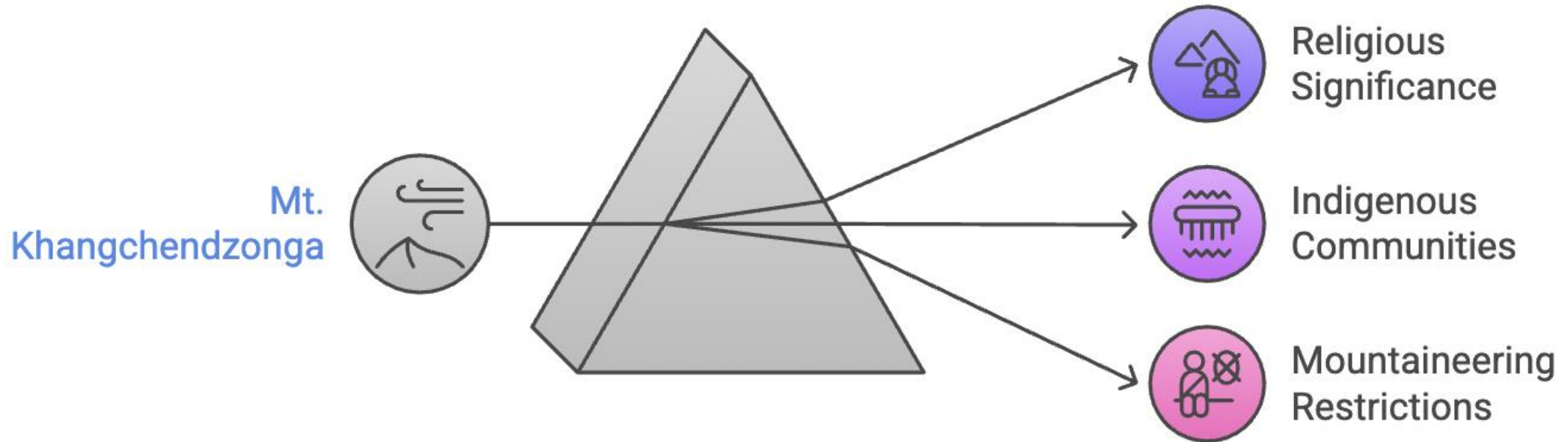
Note: SDR, or Special Drawing Right, is a reserve asset that draws its value from a basket of five currencies — the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling; Source: IMF



AI Image

Mount Khangchendzonga

Unveiling the Layers of Mt. Khangchendzonga



Khangchendzonga's Sacred Hierarchy

Mountain Peak

India's highest and world's third-highest peak



Patron Saint

Guru Padmasambhava recognized Dzoë-Nga



Guardian Deity

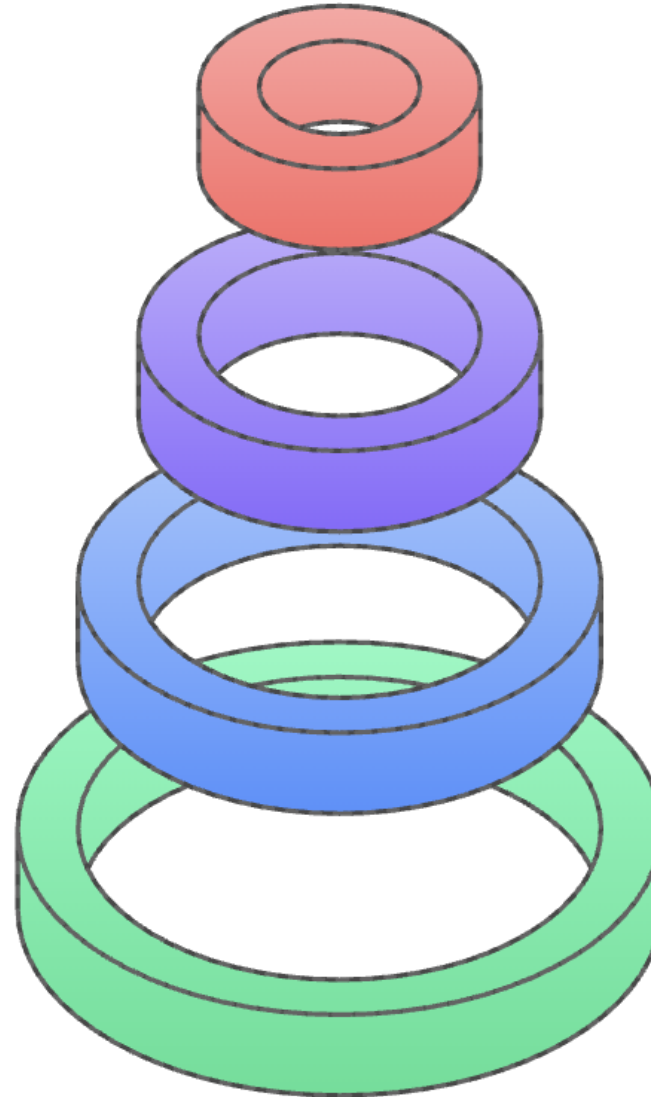
Dzoë-Nga revered as land's protector



Indigenous Faith

Lepcha community's Mun faith and oral traditions

6





Khangchendzonga National Park features



UNESCO World Heritage

Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016.

1



Mixed World Heritage

India's first Mixed World Heritage Site, known for ecosystem.

2



Biodiversity Hotspot

Part of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot region.

3



Notable Fauna

Home to Blood Pheasant, Red Panda, Snow Leopard.

4

Aizawl Joins National Railway Network

Railway Connectivity Boosts Mizoram's Development

Connect Aizawl to
the national railway
network via Bairabi-
Sairang line.

Aizawl lacks railway
access.

Aizawl is integrated
with national
network.



Mizoram Railway Development Sequence



Project Initiation

The 51.38-km railway project begins.



Mizoram's Railhead

Bairabi becomes Mizoram's only railhead.



Extension to Sairang

The railway line extends to Sairang.



Capital Connection

Mizoram's capital is now connected by rail.



Regional Integration

The project enhances regional integration.



Economic Opportunities

New economic opportunities arise.

DEEPER CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH-EAST



Amazon Rain Forests





1950



1985



2000



2005



2010

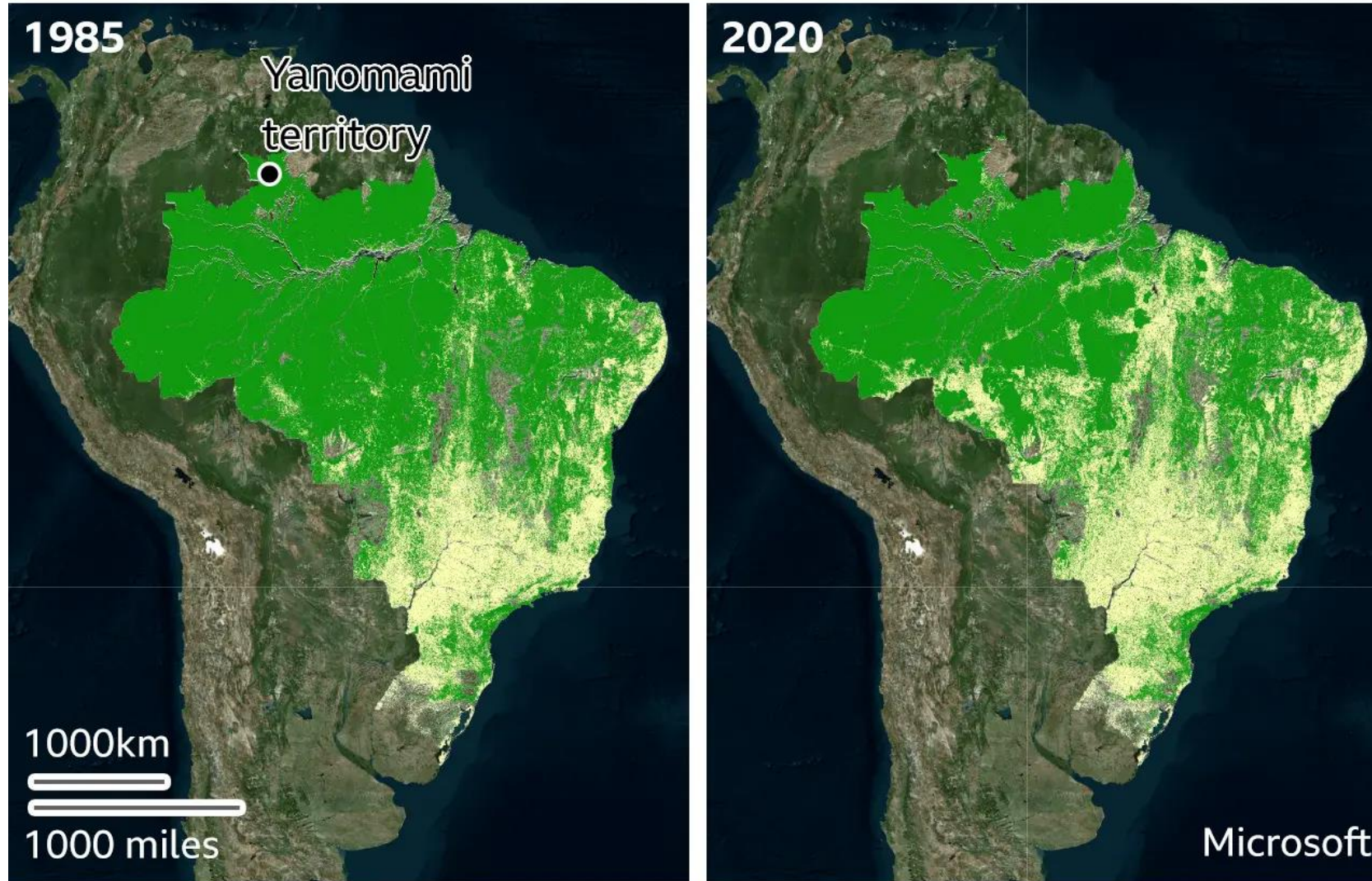


2020



The Amazon has lost almost 450,000km² of forest between 1985 and 2020

■ Forest ■ Agricultural land



Source: Mapbiomas

- The recent release of the book “**How to Save the Amazon**”, completed posthumously in honor of British journalist Dom Phillips, brings renewed global attention to the significance and fragility of the Amazon Rainforest.
-

Amazon Rain Forests

- **Location:** The region belongs to **nine nations** of the **South American** continent.
 - It is bounded by the **Guiana Highlands** to the north, the **Andes Mountains** to the west, the **Brazilian central plateau** to the south, and the **Atlantic Ocean** to the east.
- **Area Covered:** The majority of the forest, 60%, is in **Brazil**, followed by **Peru** with 13%, **Colombia** with 10%, and with minor amounts in **Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela**.
- **Climate:** Hot and humid climate with temperatures of **26-30°C** throughout the year.
 - There are no periodic seasons. The precipitation ranges from 2,000 mm to 10,920 mm annually.
- **Tribes:** Yanomamo, Kayapo, Akuntsu, Matses, Tupi etc.
- **Fauna:** Anaconda, Jesus lizard, howler monkey, golden lion tamarin, jaguar, sloth, spider monkey, Amazon River dolphin, toucan and the scarlet macaw, poison dart frog and the glass frog.
- **Flora:** Moist broadleaf tropical rainforest like myrtle, laurel, palm, acacia, rosewood, Brazil nut, rubber tree, mahogany and Amazonian cedar.

Significance of the Rainforests

- **Lungs of the planet:** Rainforests generate about **20%** of the world's oxygen and its trees play a key role in reducing pollutant levels.
- **Fight climate change:** They act as a crucial buffer in the global fight against climate change as it holds tremendous capacity to store carbon.
- **Medicinal Properties:** Many of these plants contain bioactive compounds capable of treating diseases that are not yet curable, especially cancer.

Threat to the forests

- **Climate Change:** Due to climate change the forests are witnessing various challenges like changes in rainfall patterns, pollution etc.
- **Deforestation:** The size of the Amazon forest shrank dramatically as a result of settlers' clearance of the land to obtain lumber and to create grazing pastures and farmland.
- **Wildfires:** It causes threat to the survival of ecosystems and biodiversity. The 2019 forest fires in the region have led to widespread devastation in the region.

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Thank you
guys.

