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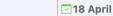












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"I'm the one that's got to die when it's time for me to die, so let me live my life the way I want to."

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



Hold NEET-PG test in single shift, orders SC





A nine-year-old bonded labourer How a child was taken as 'collateral' for a loan and later found dead



#### INSIDE



#### 100% of Gazans at risk of famine, warns UN agency

GENEVA
Gaza is "the hungriest place of
Earth", the United Nations said
on Friday, warning that the
Palestinian territory's entire
population was now at risk of
famine. Un humanistarian
agency OCHA spokesperson ens Laerke said 100% are at risk, rejecting Israel's claims to the contrary. » PAGE 12

#### Only people with agenda suspect me, says Haasan

Veteran actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam founder Kama Haasan said he will not apologise for his Kannada language remark, stating, "If I'm wrong, I will. If not, I won't." He added that his low for Karnataka, Andhra, and Kerala is genuine, and only those with an agenda would suspect it. » PAGE 2

#### Ankita Bhandari's killers sentenced to life in prison

NEW DELIM
A Sessions Court in
Uttrarshand on Friday
awarded life imprisonment to
three men, including son of
expelled B.P leader Winod
Aya, for the murder of 19year-old Ankita Bhandari, who
had worked at a hotel owned
by the accused. » PAGE 3

#### 9 missing after vehicle falls into river in Sikkim

GUWAHATI
Nine people, including Odisha
BJP leader Itishree Jena, were
reported missing in Sikkim
after their tourist vehicle they were travelling in went off the road and fell into the Teesta

#### 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

hile a signifi-cant uptick in economic ac-tivity 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 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 the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, real GDI growth in Q4 of 2024-25 ac celerated to 7.4%, the fas test quarterly growth in the year. It was still slower than 8.4% growth seen in Q4 of the previous finan-cial year. Quarterly GDP

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

Decelerated

-23.1 ₹

to downplay the post-CO-VID slowdown of the economy, saying that India has held its own in a "growthto the average growth rate of advanced economies was on the lower side dur-

growth

conflicts and trade ten sions, India is holding up its growth numbers better than many advanced eco-nomies," he added.

The agriculture sector continued its strong per-formance in Q4, leading to a relatively strong showing for the full year. The manustood at 4.8% in Q4 of FY25, the second fastest quarterly growth in the year, on a high base of 11.3% in O4 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 O4 of 2023-24. The sector's full-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 bousehold consumption

quickened to 7.2% in 2024-25 from 5.6% in the pre-

#### Shah promises to arrange relief package for people affected by Pak. shelling

Peerzada Ashiq

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday promised to work out a comprehen-sive relief package and build more underground

Pakistani air bases by India forced it "to come forward for a ceasefire proposal". "On the night of May 7, terror headquarters and other centres in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan were destroyed in response to the cowardly Pahalgam attack. Precise intelligence and measured targets by the se-curity agencies saw that there was no civilian death and the Pakistan Army was

dreds of terrorists were killed," Mr. Shah said. "Shaken, Pakistan took it as an attack on itself. It proved before the world that Pakistan provides safe



I turned promise

into action, says

day, J&K's residential areas were targeted by shelling by Pakistan. It was only when Pakistan's nine air bases were damaged, it came forward for a com-

promise," he said. The Minister said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new defence policy, India demonstrated that response to such condem-nable attacks "would be of

Shah lauds BSF

the Border Security Forces (BSF) during the three-da been vigilant during the peacetime too. It was evi-dent from the fact that II8 Pakistani posts were des-troved or damaged in minimum time by the BSF se lectively. It will take the enemy four to five years to rebuild them." He reiterat

#### Beached box



ing the 'boom era' bet-ween 2003 and 2010," Mr. Nageswara 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 ur-certainties due to political

#### Trump tariffs stay for now, after court reprieve

#### Agence France-Presse

Trump celebrated a temporary legal win as a court preserved his aggressive tariffs, triggering mixed reactions on Friday across jittery financial markets. The short-term relief will allow the anneals pro-

cess to proceed after the U.S. Court of International rade barred most of the tariffs announced since Mr. Trump took office, ruling on Wednesday that he had erstepped his authority.
Welcoming the latest
vist in legal skirmishes over his trade policies, Mr. Trump lashed out at the Manhattan-based trade court, calling it "horrible" and saying its blockade should be "quickly and de-cisively" reversed for the

Asian shares fell on Fri-Asian snares fell on Fri-day, reversing a rally across world markets the pre-vious day, as the judicial wrangling around Mr. Trump's on-again-off-again

Paris, London and Frankfurt were all in the green as EU trade chief Ma-ros Sefcovic said following a call with U.S. Commerce a call with U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick

that the bloc was "fully invested" in reaching a deal with the U.S. Mr. Sefcovic could meet his U.S. trade counterparts in Paris next week on the sidelines of a Organisation tion and Development mi-nisterial meeting, an EU of-

Talks with China U.S. Treasury Se U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Thursday that trade talks with China – the hardest hit by the tariffs – were "a bit stalled" and Mr. Trump might need to speak to Pre-sident Xi Jinping in order to iron out tariffs between

the world's two biggest conomies. White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told

judicial power to usurp the authority of President

Trump."
Ms. Leavitt said the Su-Ms. Leavitt said the Su-preme Court "must put an end" to the tariff chal-lenge, while stressing that Mr. Trump had other legal means to impose levies. Mr. Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro told press-

persons after the appellate stay that the administra-tion had earlier received tion had earlier received "plenty of phone calls from countries" who said they would continue to "negotiate in good faith," without naming those nations.

#### Handover Azhar, Saeed before talks, says Rajnath

#### The Hindu Bureau

Defence Minister Rajnatl Singh on Friday said that if Pakistan was serious about holding talks with India, it should first hand over Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) founder

Mohammed (JeM) founder Masood Axhar.

Speaking onboard InS Wirvant off the Goa coast, Mr. Singh described Opera-frontal assault against terrorism" and warned that if Pakistan resorted to anything evil, it would face the Indian Nauy's firepowdransformed into a strategie force, significanteric force returned to the State after "fulfilling his promise" made in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. On April 24, two days af-ter the April 22 attack which claimed 26 lives, Mr. ic force, significantly strengthening India's maritime presence. "It warns the enemy that India is no longer just a regional pow-er, it is becoming a global

power," he said. Addressing officers and sailors onboard the country's first indigenous air-craft carrier, Mr. Singh said the Pakistani Navy had not ventured out during the Referring to the success

## PM Modi in Bihar

#### Amarnath Tewary

On the second day of his Bihar visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a large public meeting at Bikramganj in Rohtas dis-trict on Friday, said he had returned to the State after

which claimed 26 lives, Mr. Modi had addressed a rally in Jhanjharpur, Madhubani district, where he pledged that the terrorists and their protectors would be "re-duced to rubble" and pun-ished "beyond their invariantion".

imagination".

"I've come to Bihar again after fulfilling my words," said the PM, as the crowd in the Bikramganj rally responded with loud

of Operation Sindoor car-ried out by Indian armed forces, Mr. Modi said, "Pakistan and the world had seen India's power... it was just one arrow from the

just one arrow from the country's quiver...our fight is against terrorism."

"If terrorism rears its "If terrorism rears its drag it out and crush it; he said."

This is the new Bharat, whose Bharat, whose juye, par wachan in jaye (life

may go, but a promise must be kept)." The Prime Minister in-voked the ideals of Lord Ram, asserting that the pe ople of Sasaram-"self-res pecting and hardwork

#### Manist violence

Maoist violence
Touching upon the earlier
presence of Maoist violence in the region, Mr.
Modi said, "Earlier, 125 districts in the country were
Naxal-affected. Now, only

mental work, once hin-dered by insurgency, had started to reach the grassroots. "Earlier, no develop Naxal presence, but nov things have started to

move," he noted. Taking a dig at the Opreferred to the "land-for jobs" scam in the Railways "When they were in powe

## 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%

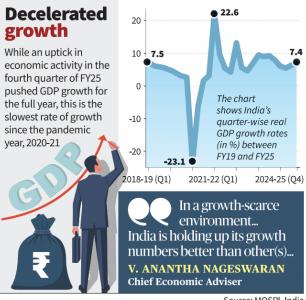
#### T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan NEW DELHI

**7** hile 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



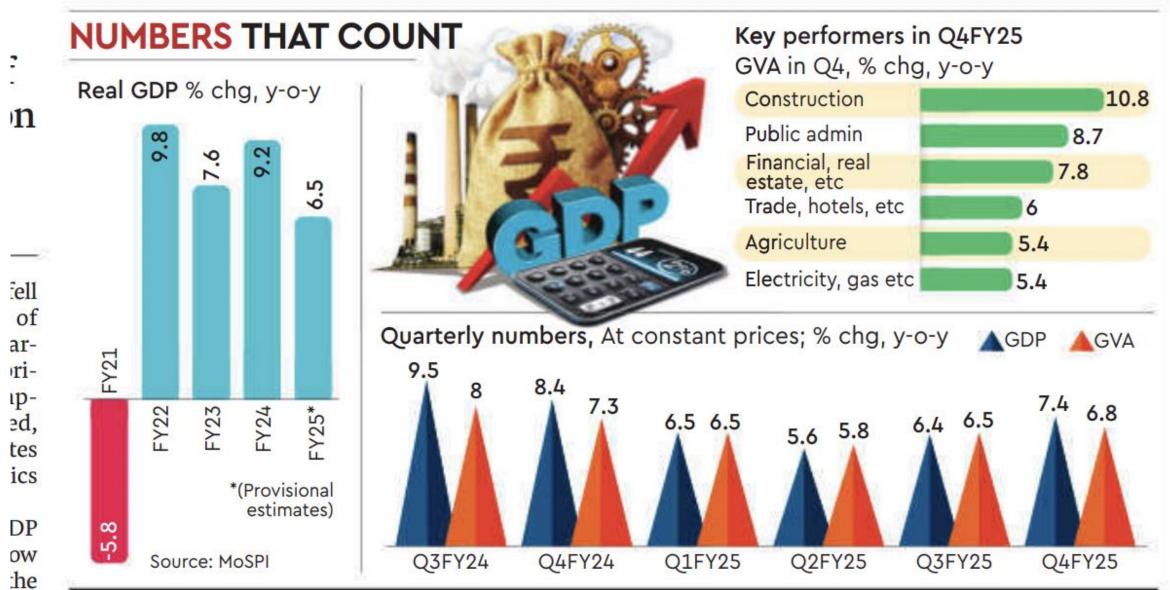
Source: MOSPI, India

to downplay the post-CO-VID slowdown of the economy, saying that India has held its own in a "growthscarce" 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 during 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 doubledigit growth of 10.8% in the fourth quarter, the fastest in the year, and faster than the 8.7% seen in O4 of 2023-24. The sector's fullyear 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.

## 



## 

- 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:

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  - 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), <b>9.4</b> % (FY25)	Returned to double-digit growth in Q4
Services	Strong but not quantified	Mentioned as stable
Household Consumption	Grew by <b>7.2</b> % in FY25	Up from <b>5.6</b> % 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% India Briefing

## Industry Sector:

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

#### INBRIEF



#### Five workers killed in blast at firecracker unit in Punjab

Five people were killed and 30 injured in a blast at a firecracker manufacturing and packaging unit near a village in Lambi in Punjab's Sri Muktsar Sahib district on Friday. The injured Muktaar Sahib district on Friday. The injured were taken to hospitals, including AlIMS Bathinda, and most of them were stated to be out of danger, the police said. The blast occurred in ordinage, the police said. The blast occurred in 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. m

#### Three more firms get GPU access under IndiaAl Mission

Three firms - Gurugram-based Soket AL Three firms – Gurugram-based Soket AI, Delhi-based Gan.AI, and Bengaluru-based Gnani.ai – have been selected in the IndiaAI Mission's ongoing drive to facilitate the development of an indigenous foundational 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 Ashwin Vaishnaw said. By being selected, these firms will get access to the Common Compute facility, giving them access to thousands of graphic processing units (GPUs) on which Al models are trained and deployed.

#### 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



In Telangana, for in-stance, the PAB meeting minutes note that as per minutes note that as per the Unified District Infor-mation System for Educ-tion plus (UDISE) 2023-24 data, out of 42,901 schools in the State, 70% (30,022) are government schools and 28,26% (21,126) are un-aided schools. "Total en-rollment in sewernment rolment in government schools is only 38.11% (27.8 lakh) as compared to 60.75% (44.31 lakh) enrol-ment in unaided schools,\*



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

School Education Secre-tary Sanjay Kumar ex-pressed his concerns that in spite of spending a large amount of money, stu-dents 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' where enrolment in unaid-ed schools has steadily increased except for the pan-demic period of 2021-22. In Uttarakhand, the minutes note, as per UDISE+ 2023-24, out of 22,551 schools in are government schools and 23.29% (5252) are un-aided schools. "However, total enrolment in govern total enrolment in govern-ment schools is only 36.68% (8.7 lakh) as com-pared to 54.39% (12.90 lakh) enrolment in unaid-ed 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 school have 46% enrolment. "In this re-gard, State was urged to build the government school brand so as to increase enrolment and make best use of the availa-

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 and 15, are unai 15,232 (24.82%) ver. total enrolment in governmen enrolment in government schools is 46.33% (40.5 lakh) as compared to 52.09% (45.53 lakh) enrol-ment 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 at-tributed the reduction in and aided schools, from over 1.63 crore students in 2018-19 to a little over 1.5 2018-19 to a little over 1.5 crore in 2023-24, to a data cleansing exercise, using Aadhaar verification. Kerala's Principal Secre-tary for Education said a si-milar exercise had been done there as well, when

contributions.
In 2018, India had de-clined foreign aid for Kera-la flood relief.
The Maharashtra CMRF is registered as a Trust un-der the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, its web-

to 46.37 lakh in 2022-23 to 45.50 lakh in 2023-24. ercises overall supervision and control of the funds.

## foreign donations

has granted the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, registra-Act (FCRA), 2010, registra-tion to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Maharash-tra, enabling it to receive foreign donations for "so-

Centre grants nod to Maharashtra CM's

Relief Fund to receive

foreign donations for "so-cial" programmes.

This is the first time that a State government relief body has been granted per-mission to receive foreign funds under the Act to sup-plement financial assis-tance to those affected by a cicidents, communal light. accidents, communal riots, terrorist attacks or those in need of medical and edu-cational help. The relief funds of State governments usually run on domestic donations and contributions.

site said. It is managed by the State of Maharashtra under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, who ex-

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

According to a tender float ed in February, the average number of transaction handled by the CMRF ar

#### PM CARES Fund

in March 2020 to tackl distress situations such at that posed by the COVID-15 pandemic - was exempted from the FCRA provisions, and a "separate account for receiving foreign dona

tions" was opened. The Home Ministry reg receive foreign donations The 1976 Act was repealed and replaced with a new le

#### SC gets three new judges, reaches full strength of 34

#### + The Hindu Bureau

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

B.R. Gavai.

With this, the number of judges of the court has reached its sanctioned strength of 34. This will continue until the retire-ment of Justice Bela M. Tri-

Justices Anjaria, Bish-noi, and Chandurkar were welcomed with warm handshakes by Chief Justice Gavai after they took Bishnoi took the oath of office in Hindi. The Collegium had re-

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

The Supreme Court on Fri-day directed that the National Eligibility-cum-En-trance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2025 examina-tion, scheduled on June 15, must be conducted in a sin-gle shift instead of two shifts.

"We direct that neces-"We direct that neces-sary arrangements be made for holding the NERT-PG 2028 examina-tion in one shift, duly en-sparency is maintained and secure centres are identified and commis-sioned," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice

Vikram Nath directed. The Bench, also com-prising Justices Sanjay Kumar and N.V. Anjaria, said holding the examination in two shifts would risk

"arbitrariness".

"Holding the examina-tion in two shifts would in-



ness and not entail at-par evaluation of the compara-tive merit of the candidates who take the examina-tions. No two question papers can ever be said to be at an identical level of be at an identical level of difficulty or ease. There is bound to be a variation. Normalisation may be ap-plied and adopted in ex-ceptional circumstances but not in a routine manner year after year, espe-cially when the number of candidates is not unduly large, as is the case pre-sently," 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, as two quescandidates, as two ques-tion papers could never be of the same standard and level of difficulty.

Exam body stand The National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences and other authorities reasoned that the exities reasoned that the ex-am was held in two shifts owing to the fact that the number of candidates ap-pearing were "too large", making it difficult for the examining body to identify

sufficient number of se-cure centres to hold the examination in one shift. Secondly, the authori-ties had contended that

holding the examination in one shift would be an open invitation for unscrupu-lous elements to get involved and indulge in mal-practices. Finally, they argued that finding the reand completion of the ad-mission process. However, the top court

rejected all these argu-ments of the exam

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

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

Bindu Shajan Perappadan NEW DELHI

concerns were raised about the reduction of stu-

dents in government and aided schools, from close

The Indian Medical Assorine indian Medical Asso-ciation (IMA) on Friday condemned the proposed introduction of an integrat-ed course combining MBBS (Bachelor of Medi-MBBS (Bachelor of Medi-cine and Bachelor of Sur-gery) and BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) programmes at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Edu-cation and Research (JIPM-ER), Puducherry. Calling the move "unfor-

tunate", it said this "unscientific mixing of various systems of medicines will not benefit doctors or

The Union govern-ment had earlier an-nounced plans to integrate modern medicine and Ay-

with a new integrated med-ical programme expected to be launched at the premier healthcare institute in Puducherry. "It is unfortunate that

"It is unfortunate that the Union government seems to have decided to go ahead with its plans to unscientifically mix sys-tems of medicine. Reports indicate that the first inte-grative course mixing MBBS and BAMS would be started in the premier instistarted in the premier insti-tution of JIPMER, Pondicherry," said the IMA in a

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 "incompati-ble systems" was an "irre-versible catastrophe".

defend their system, warndetend their system, warn-ing that "mixopathy takes away the right of the pa-tient to choose care of his/ her choice". "Let all systems retain

their pristine purity. Re-frain from producing hy-brid doctors who will be

brid 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.

move had failed there

"China failed in its expe riment of mixing me medicine and Chinese tra resulted in decimation of

# TH CROSSWORD + 14499

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

CM (CO)

- Can Jack love Helen's clothes? (4) Danger signal from valley, in concer (3,5) 24 Billionaire on top of crypto revolution suffering regular losses
- (6)
  26 Papa, couch icky, is hiding rodent! (7)
  27 By plugging running, he gets Australia's two openers stumped and run out (7)
  28 Sweethearts quarrel, losing heads (it's a mistake) (9)
  29 Suffer quiety, not about to reach ciosure (2,2)
- Squad entering to dine in mess (5-2) Men addressed disorderliness? One's Men addressed disorderliness? One's sure dubious (9) Approves supporting credit limit of zero for criminals (6) Very revolting commercial for beverage (4) Aunt let off shackles, cracked jokes without preparation (10)
- 5. Aunt let off shackles, cracked jokes without preparation (10)

  1 appricates that tenerage reciting around a vacant node (3, 1)

  5 dide with ChatGPT, perhaps, in "Lossely-copied Aft" case (5)

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  1 "Come farth, no more sealant hat fast. "Cocklad of girl it's helpfull" (30)

  1 "Express repullingly limits free tour (3)

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  1 Express register given gi
- 25 Orderly is almost at hand with a hit of tea (4)

#### SUDOKU



## Solution to previous puzzle

#### FAITH

#### Keeping the faith

Bad times may come into our lives in one form or another. Sita wailed and said destiny came to her in the form of a deer. Despite Lakshmann cautioning Sita, she did not pay heed and traduced him with derogatory remarks. Manas, and the compart of the compart of

lose their mental stability in times of adversity. We mus be patient, exercise restraint, and be cautious during test ing times. When the auspicious time arrives, it will auto

natically prompt our minds to think of noble things.

Sri Damodhara Dikshithar stated in a discourse that Sri Damodhara Dikshithar 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 God

dess Durga.

Upon Hanuman's arrival, Sita experienced favourable omens at Ashokavana, indicating that good things would be a support of the same took appear of the same would spreat with a spell of rain. Sita was all happy with the signs of good omens. Like the moon emerging from an eclipse with an incredible shine, Sita's dowdy 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** 

lagging 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 Eduction 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 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 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

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

State	Govt. School %	Unaided School %	Notable Trends	ð
Telangana	38.11% (27.8L)	60.75% (44.31L)	Significant shift toward unaided school despite public funding	s
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 1.5 Cr (2023–24) due to Aadhaar verification	9) to
Kerala	_	_	Drop from 46.37L (2022–23) to 45.50L (2023–24)	-

## **Government's Concerns:**

- Money spent ≠ 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'

#### <u>Bindu Shajan Perappadan</u> 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 (JIPM-ER), 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 <b>not benefit</b> 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."

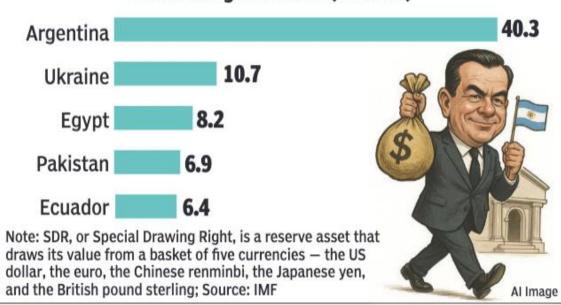
## **■ Supporting Points from IMA:**

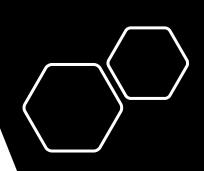
- India's life expectancy rose from 32 years in 1947 to 70.8 years in 2025, primarily due to modern healthcare advancements like vaccines.
- Warned against policy experiments that could undermine medical education integrity.

# 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

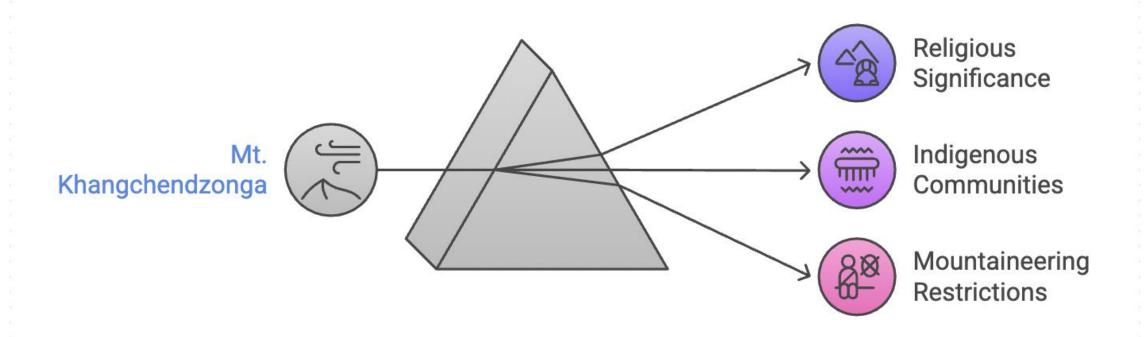
### **Outstanding IMF credit (bn SDRs)**





## Mount Khangchendzonga

## **Unveiling the Layers of Mt. Khangchendzonga**



## Khangchendzonga's Sacred Hierarchy

### **Mountain Peak**

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

### **Patron Saint**



Guru Padmasambhava recognized Dzoe-Nga

## **Guardian Deity**

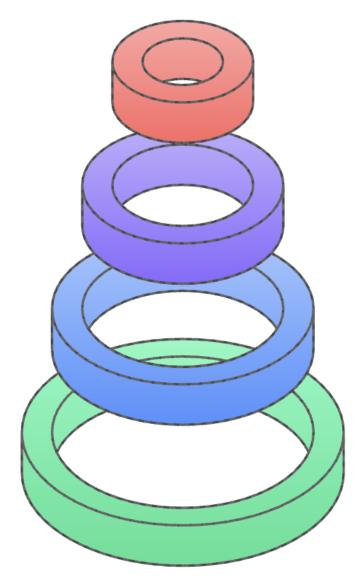


Dzoe-Nga revered as land's protector

### **Indigenous Faith**



Lepcha community's Mun faith and oral traditions





## **Khangchendzonga National Park features**









## UNESCO World Heritage

Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016.

Mixed World Heritage

India's first Mixed World Heritage Site, known for ecosystem. Part of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot region.

**Biodiversity** 

Hotspot

### **Notable Fauna**

Home to Blood Pheasant, Red Panda, Snow Leopard.

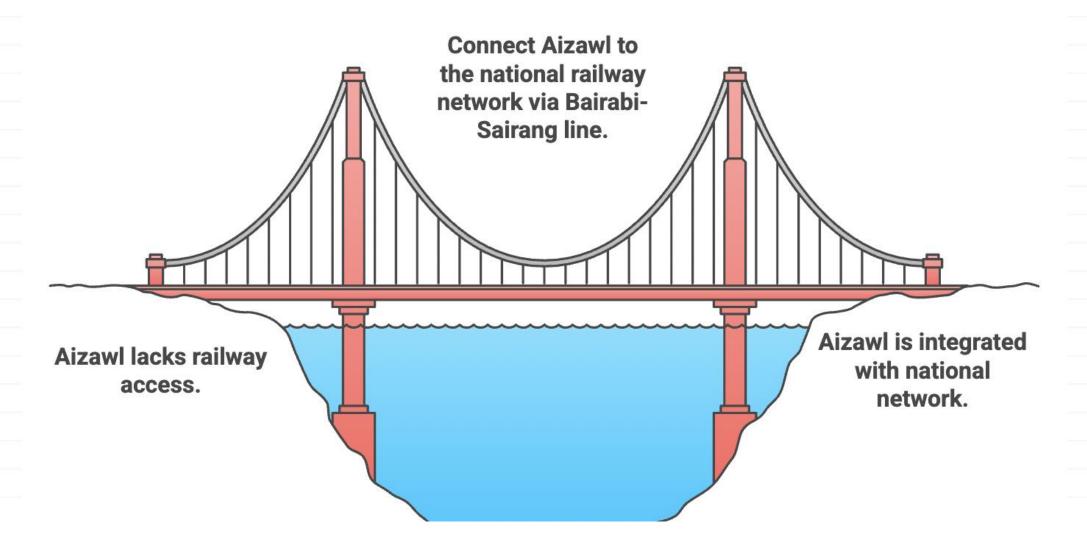
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## Aizawl Joins National Railway Network

## **Railway Connectivity Boosts Mizoram's Development**



## 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.

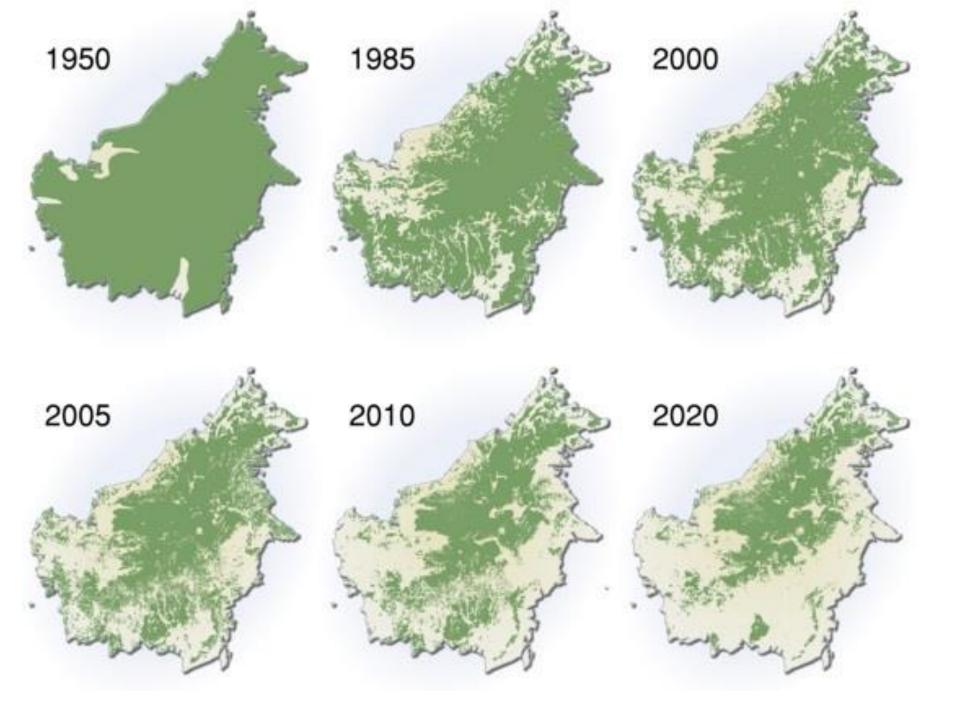
## **DEEPER CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH-EAST**



## **Amazon Rain Forests**

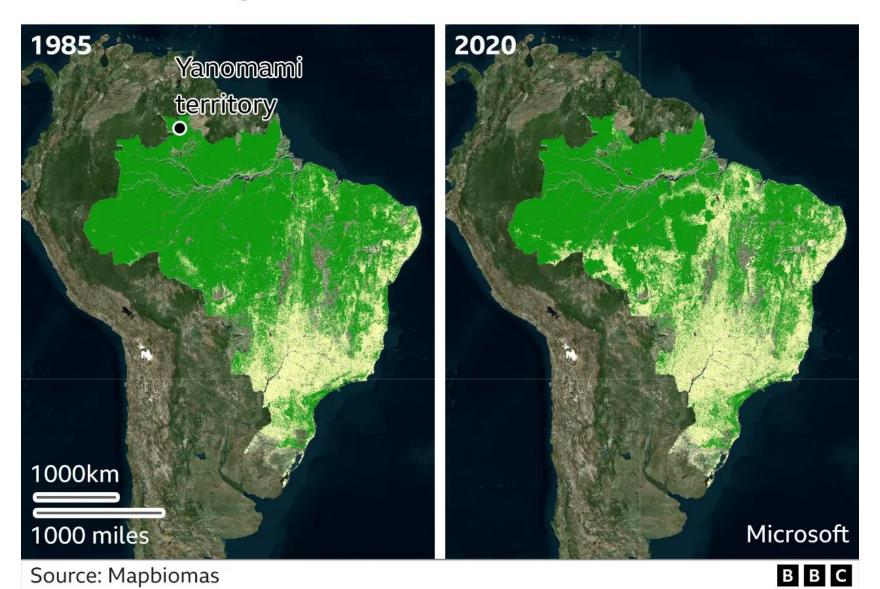






# The Amazon has lost almost 450,000km<sup>2</sup> of forest between 1985 and 2020

Forest Agricultural land



 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.

## **Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT**



1. 7 FULL MOCK TEST BASED ON LATEST PATTERN EXAMINATION

- 2. BILINGUAL LANGUAGE
- 3. DETAILED EXPLANATION
- 4. TEST RANKING AND ANALYSIS







