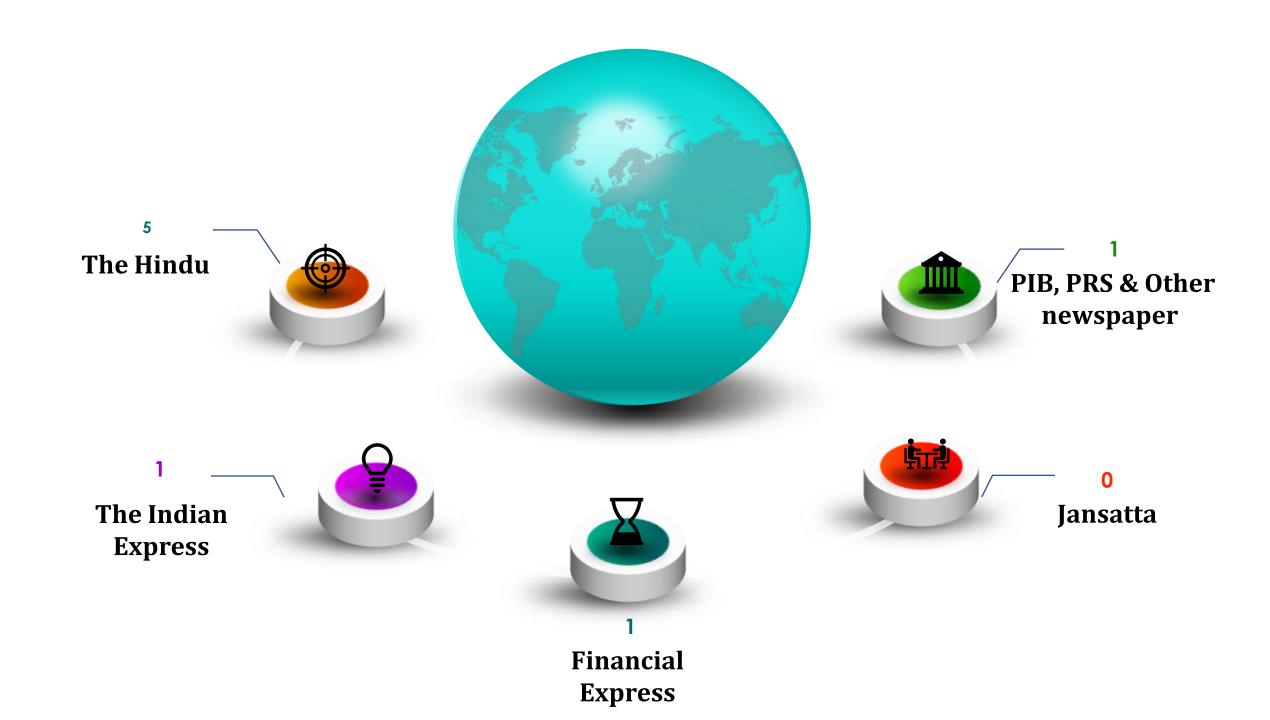
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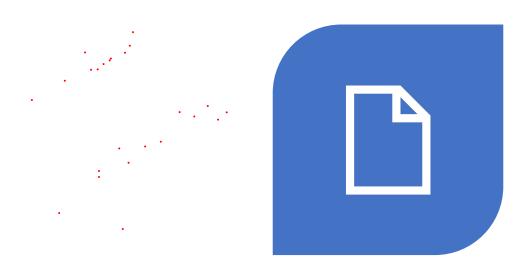








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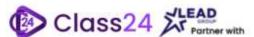
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India has the right to defend itself Minister



ELECTROMIC PARTY MANUFACTURING

Centre okays 22 more projects under scheme

An ancient range stands battered by machinery And the people of the footbills bear the brunt



Royals register a 2-0 win over Soorma HC

### ENSHIPE

### Maduro holds out an olive branch to U.S. President

Madiana has extended an olive tranch to President Donald Trump, proposing talks on combating drug trafficking and offering U.S. companies ready access to Vanezuelan sit. He country" to the U.S. to PAGE 1.

### Centre to relay open schooling norms, back Al

### NEW DELIN

The Centre plans to Oberalise the open schooling framewor introduce guidelines to encourage the use of Al in teaching, and draft technical education standards focused on ensuring employme graduates, to PAGE 8

### Proposal to grant ST status to more tribes opposed

### Land policy on acquisition not being changed

### NEW DELINE

NEW MELIN Land acquaintur remained a major issue to resolve in infrastructure development, Cabinet Secretary TV. Sormarshan said here on Felloy, the said the Minin-government had my plane to shange the ensiting land acquisition policy, to PASE 8

### U.S. will come to rescue of Iranians: Trump

Officials react sharply in Tehran, warning that their forces would retaliate against U.S. bases

U.S. interference would destabilise the region and destroy American interests, they adds

Mossad eggs Iranians to take to the streets by assuring them they were with them in the field

Mr. Trump, who claimed in June that he had "obliturated" trans nu-clear facilities, threatened new attacks against tran earlier this week after meeting teraell Prime Mi-nister temperatur. Network

and rebuilt its nuclear pro-

gramme, "we are going to have no choice but very

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S. President De-nald Trump on Fri-but the stranged to intervene if tran used leth-al force against protesters, drawing swift and angry requises from tenian of ficials who warred that merican troops and bases West Asia would become legitimate targets if Washington interfered.

Washington interfered.

"If Izan shoots and vio-lently tills peaceful protes-ters, which is their custom, the United States of Ameri-cia. We are locked and loaded and ready to go," Mr. Trump wrote in a se-cial media post.

"Americal forms, which is came as a time when prot-sent over poor economic consitions in tean turned deadly on Thursday with multiple canadites, trains.

first news agency said at least five people were talled in clastics, including one security official. "With the statements by braseli officials and Donald Trump, what has been go-ing on behind the access is now clear," All Larijunt, Se-cetary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, write on social media is response to Mr. Trump's response to Mr. Trump's poor, "We distinguish het-were the stance of the week of the stance of the and the actions of thrump-tic actors, and Trump-tic actors, and trump-tic actors, and trump-terference in the internal matter would mean death-billing the earlier region of histories of the standard of the little of the standard of the interests," he added. The protests began has a standard in Tebran of the ters over a sharp full in the value of the Litanon of-ficials intuitally acknown.

If Iran (shoots) and violently kills perceptul programme. which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue

DONALD PRUMP, U.S. President

this onernal matter will lead to destabilizing the entire region and

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The U.S. had joined is-

rael in striking the inclose plants, and iran resultated by attacking an American base in Qatar on June 23 before a ceasefire. Since then, tran's economic at the Cetober, bran's front inflation reached 64-2%, the second-highest level in the world after annul stu-ilation, according to the lating according to the box 60% of its value since

and on December 29 in a joint preus conference with Mr. Netanyahu. The U.S. President's latest threat of intervention in Iran over the protect crackdown has escalated tensions bet-ween the two countries. "The American people should have "Trump about the preus and the They should be mindful of their soldiers' afters' said their soldiers' safety," said Mr. Larijani. Ali Shamkhatoor 60% of its value since nil, a close aide of Supreme

Leader Ayarollah Ali Kha-menet, said any interfering hand "will be out off". "Frantane knew well the U.S. "sector" record - from Iriq and Alghanistan to Gasa. Any intervening hand that induces regret, tran's national security is a red line, not material for adventurist (weets," be said.

'Will respond militarily'
Mohammad Bagher Ghali-

Mohammid Bagher Ghalladi, Spanker of Parliamin, Jasued a statement saying Tebran would respond mil-itarily to any U.S. attacks. "The disrespectful Pre-sident of America should know that with this official admission, all American renters and forces across the entire region will be legitimate tawest for us. legitimate targets for us in

### Wintervell



### Pakistan jails iournalists. YouTubers for 2023 violence

A court in Pakistan's capi-tal sentenced seven per-sons, including three jour-nalists, two YouTubers and two rettred army officers, to the Imprisonment on Friday, after coroleting them of including violence sharing fints in 2022 and preading hatted against terrorism court Judge, Ta-hir Abbas Sipra, an-nounced the verdict in Isla-

nounced the verdict in Isla-mahad.

None of the accused were present in court. They have been living abruad after leaving the country to avoid arrest.

now. This is why the pro-ject for a new supply this was added in a none-sheet in November 2024, and the tender was issued in Au-gust 2028. But work re-mained stalled," an official at the IMC said.

After the morning transfer

'Mere cover-up'

### Centre orders X to check use of Grok to morph images

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technolo-gy on Friday directed ac-cial media piatform X to undertake a "comprehen-sive technical, procedural sive technical, procedural and governance-level re-view of its chathot Grok, which allegedly June been reappointing to user re-repose to interest or after the control of the control of

ates as a separate artificial intelligence (Al) firm under X's holding firm, but main-Ne holding firm, but main-tains as account on the platfarm, interacting with users. Bloo Minds, Xe own-er, has often praised Grok's relatively unfiltered res-ponses, which incorporate sew sufeguards that other Big Tech firms have used on their large language musicin.

In a four-page letter to In a four-page letter to Xs Chief Compliance Office er for India, the Ministry stated it has "been ob-served that [Grok] is being minused by users to create false accounts" to generate or share abscene visuals of

Act and the FF Rules, 2021 is not optional, and that the statutory exemptions under section 79 of the FF Act are conditional upon strict observance of due di-ligence obligations."



disable access, without de-lay, to all content already generated or disseminated in violation of applicable laws, in strict compliance with the timelines pre-scribed under the IF Rules, 2021, without whating the evidence in any manner.

### 'Send report'

by Monday, the firm must send an action-taken report in response to these directions, the letter said. BNS and other applicable

Vaishnaw pointed out that the Parliamentary Stand-

The IT Ministry had sent

### Cong. alleges 15 deaths in Indore as official toll stands at 5

The Madbya Pradealt Con-gress has alleged that at least 18 people fave their an far after dirinking contami-nated water supplied by the Indore Municipal Cor-poration (MRC), even as the HP-hed State government multiplied the official

Late on Friday night, folmeeting, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav asspended two senior IMC officials and transferred the IMC and transferred the IMC Commissioner, as the Con-gress called for accounta-bility and action to be ta-ken against all those responsible.

"The State government will not tolerate negligence

in the incident that oc-curred in Bhagirathpura due to contaminated drinking water. Strict deci-sions are being taken in this segment. The compara-tion's Additional Commistion's Additional Commis-sioner Robit Sisoniya and the in-charge Superintend-ing Engineer of PHE San-jeev Shrivasiava have been suspended. Instructions have also been given to re-move. Indore. Municipal Corporation Commission-er Offip Kumar Yadav," Chief Minister Yadav said

Chief Minister Yadav said on X.
Its a status report submitted to the Mailitya Pradeals High Court, the district administration and 
the State Health Depart 
ment said that four people, 
all above 60 years of ags, 
have died so far in Blughrathipura due to water-related problems. Indoor Dis-

trict Collector shivant verma later updated the death toil to five. "The ad-ministration teaues the fi-gures on the basit of medi-cal confirmation and so far, five deaths have occurred in the incident," Mr. Verma and trict Collector Shivam

"We have also constituted a team of senior dectors which will analyse the death figures which were received from other sources such as public representatives or media and then we will update our official sheath figure report. Till

After a insuring review meeting, the Chief Minister had directed Mr. Sisoniya's transfer to the agriculture department, relieved Mr. Shrivastava of the charge of the water distribution department, and issued a how-cause notice against fr. Variate

Mr. Vinlaw.
Mr. Sisoniya, who had hamilied multiple departments at the civic body, faced accusations of atalying work un a new water supply line for Bhagirath-pura following residents' complaints of dirty water-last been coming from the area for inner than a year

order against Mr. Sisoniya, the Madhya Pradesh Mahi-la Congress's chief Reens Bourast termed the State's Bourant termed the States' actions '8 anner cover-up'.

"The government is try-ing to protect the accused deaths. This government did not take any action seen on the dearnants of the try and the Cray's mayor, she gaid, adding that the transfer of one official is not expected in the country of the country

## U.S. will come to rescue of Iranians: Trump

Officials react sharply in Tehran, warning that their forces would retaliate against U.S. bases

U.S. interference would destabilise the region and destroy American interests, they adds

Mossad eggs Iranians to take to the streets by assuring them they were with them in the field

Stanly Johny CHENNAI

S. President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to intervene if Iran used lethal force against protesters, drawing swift and angry responses from Iranian officials who warned that American troops and bases in West Asia would become legitimate targets if Washington interfered.

"If Iran shoots and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded and ready to go," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

Mr. Trump's threat came at a time when protests over poor economic conditions in Iran turned deadly on Thursday with multiple casualties. Iran's Fars news agency said at least five people were killed in clashes, including one security official.

"With the statements by Israeli officials and Donald Trump, what has been going on behind the scenes is now clear," Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, wrote on social media in response to Mr. Trump's post. "We distinguish between the stance of the protesting shopkeepers and the actions of disruptive actors, and Trump should know that U.S. interference in this internal matter would mean destabilizing the entire region and destroying America's interests," he added.

The protests began last Sunday in Tehran when shopkeepers downed shutters over a sharp fall in the value of the rial. Iranian officials initially acknowIf Iran |shoots| and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President

Trump must realize that U.S. intervention in this internal matter will lead to destabilizing the entire region and destroying American interests

ALI LARIJANI, Secretary of Iran's

ledged the economic pressure and promised to address their grievances. But protests spread across the country leading to deadly clashes between the security personnel and protesters, whom state media and officials dubbed "rioters".

Supreme National Security Council

On Thursday, Fars news agency reported that two people were killed in clashes in the city of Lordegan and three in Azna.

On Monday, Mossad, the Israeli spy agency, wrote on social media in Farsi encouraging Iranians to protest against the government.

"Go out together into the streets. The time has come," the Mossad wrote. "We are with you. Not only from a distance and verbally. We are with you in the field."

Iran's economy has faced sustained pressure ever since Mr. Trump, during his first term as President, unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. In June 2025, Israel bombed Iran's nuclear facilities, triggering a 12-day war between the two countries.

The U.S. had joined Israel in striking the nuclear plants, and Iran retaliated by attacking an American base in Qatar on June 23 before a ceasefire. Since then, Iran's economic situation has become worse.

In October, Iran's food inflation reached 64.2%, the second-highest level in the world after South Sudan, according to the World Bank. The rial has lost 60% of its value since the June war.

Trump. claimed in June that he had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear facilities, threatened new attacks against Iran earlier this week after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Florida. If Iran replenished ballistic missiles and rebuilt its nuclear programme, "we are going to have no choice but very quickly to eradicate that build up," Mr. Trump had said on December 29 in a joint press conference with Mr. Netanyahu. The U.S. President's latest threat of intervention in Iran over the protest crackdown has escalated tensions bet-

"The American people should know – Trump started this adventurism. They should be mindful of their soldiers' safety," said Mr. Larijani. Ali Shamkhani, a close aide of Supreme

ween the two countries.

Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said any interfering hand "will be cut off".

"Iranians know well the U.S. 'rescue' record – from Iraq and Afghanistan to Gaza. Any intervening hand approaching Iran's security under any pretext will be cut off with a response that induces regret. Iran's national security is a red line, not material for adventurist tweets," he said.

### 'Will respond militarily'

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of Parliament, issued a statement saying Tehran would respond militarily to any U.S. attacks.

"The disrespectful President of America should know that with this official admission, all American centers and forces across the entire region will be legitimate targets for us in response to any potential adventurism," he said.



Phase (Best → Worst)	Time Period	Sanctions Status	Key Economic Indicators	Overall Economic Condition
<ol> <li>Relative</li> <li>Stability (Best Phase)</li> </ol>	2016– 2017	Sanctions eased after JCPOA nuclear deal	• Oil exports ↑ (~2.5 mbpd) • Inflation ↓ (~9%) • GDP growth ~12% (oil rebound) • Rial relatively stable	Economic recovery phase
2. Early Stress	2018	US withdrew from JCPOA; sanctions re-imposed	<ul> <li>Oil exports ↓ sharply • Rial depreciation</li> <li>begins • Capital flight ↑ • Investor confidence</li> <li>↓</li> </ul>	Shock & uncertainty
3. Recession Phase	2019	Maximum pressure sanctions	• GDP contraction ~-7% • Inflation >40% • Oil exports <0.5 mbpd • Unemployment ↑	Deep recession
4. Crisis Deepens	2020	Sanctions + COVID-19	<ul> <li>Healthcare stress • Informal economy expands • Food prices soar • Poverty ↑</li> </ul>	Economic & social distress
5. High Inflation Trap	2021– 2022	Sanctions continue; no deal revival	• Inflation ~45–50% • Rial loses ~80% value vs 2017 • Youth unemployment ↑	Stagflation
6. Structural Weakness	2023– 2024	Partial oil exports via grey channels	<ul> <li>Shadow trade ↑ • Subsidy burden ↑ •</li> <li>Inequality ↑</li> </ul>	Fragile survival mode
7. Worst Phase	2025– 2026	Sanctions persist + regional conflict	• Inflation ~60–65% • Rial collapsed (~1 USD = 500,000+ rial) • Public protests • Food & fuel shortages	Severe economic stress (Worst)

Sector Impact

Oil & Gas Export restrictions, revenue collapse

Banking Cut off from SWIFT, dollar transactions

blocked

Currency Massive depreciation of Iranian Rial

Inflation Chronic high inflation

Employment Youth unemployment, informal jobs

Public Welfare Reduced subsidies, protests



### **Parties**

### Iranian protesters

- Anti-government demonstrators
- Monarchists
- Student demonstrators
- Woman, Life, Freedom movement
- Iranian Green
   Movement

Political parties: [show]

Supported by: [show]

### Islamic Republic

- Police Command
- IRGC
  - Basij
- State-sponsored foreign militia
- Pro-government counter-protesters

### Lead figures

No centralised leadership

Ali Khamenei Masoud Pezeshkian Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i Ahmad-Reza Radan Mohammad Pakpour

### Number

Over tens of thousands (estimated across cities; largest since 2022) Widespread deployment (IRGC, Basij, police, foreign militia; exact numbers unknown)

### Casualties and losses

At least 10 protesters killed, hundreds injured or arrested<sup>[c]</sup> Per Hengaw, Iran
International, and the
protester's father:
No security forces killed.
Per IRGC-affiliated
media:
1 Basij killed,
dozens injured[c]

### 1. What happened? | क्या हुआ?

- U.S. President Donald Trump warned Iran that if peaceful protesters are killed, the U.S. may intervene.
  - अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने चेतावनी दी कि यदि शांतिपूर्ण प्रदर्शनकारियों को मारा गया तो अमेरिका हस्तक्षेप कर सकता है।
- Trump stated that Iran has a history of violently suppressing protests.
   ट्रंप ने कहा कि ईरान का इतिहास प्रदर्शनों के हिंसक दमन से जुड़ा रहा है।
- The warning came amid violent protests due to Iran's worsening economic condition.
   यह बयान ईरान की बिगड़ती आर्थिक स्थिति के कारण हुए हिंसक प्रदर्शनों के बीच आया।

### 🔷 2. Iranian response | ईरान की प्रतिक्रिया

- Iran warned of retaliation against U.S. bases if Washington interferes.
   ईरान ने चेतावनी दी कि अमेरिकी हस्तक्षेप की स्थिति में अमेरिकी ठिकानों पर जवाबी हमला होगा।
- Ali Larijani stated that U.S. intervention would destabilize West Asia.
   अली लारीजानी ने कहा कि अमेरिकी हस्तक्षेप पश्चिम एशिया को अस्थिर कर देगा।
- Iran called the protests an internal matter.
   ईरान ने प्रदर्शनों को आंतरिक मामला बताया।

### ♦ 3. Economic background of protests | आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि

- Iran's economy has been under pressure since the U.S. withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal.
   2015 परमाणु समझौते से अमेरिका के हटने के बाद से ईरानी अर्थव्यवस्था दबाव में है।
- Sanctions reimposed by the U.S. caused inflation and currency collapse. अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों से महंगाई और मुद्रा अवमूल्यन हुआ।
- Iran's currency rial lost ~60% of its value since June war period.
   जून युद्ध के बाद से ईरानी रियाल का लगभग 60% अवमूल्यन हुआ।

### 🔷 4. Role of Israel and Mossad | इज़राइल और मोसाद की भूमिका

- Mossad allegedly encouraged protests via Persian social media posts.
   मोसाद पर सोशल मीडिया के जरिए प्रदर्शनों को उकसाने का आरोप लगाया गया।
- Israel assured Iranian protesters that "We are with you".
   इज़राइल ने प्रदर्शनकारियों से कहा—"हम आपके साथ हैं।"

### 🔷 5. Military escalation context | सैन्य तनाव का संदर्भ

- Israel bombed Iran's nuclear facilities in June 2025, triggering conflict.
   जून 2025 में इज़राइल ने ईरान की परमाणु सुविधाओं पर हमला किया, जिससे संघर्ष शुरू हुआ।
- Iran retaliated by attacking a U.S. base in Qatar.
   ईरान ने कतर में अमेरिकी अड्डे पर हमला कर जवाब दिया।
- Ceasefire later stopped a 12-day war.
   बाद में 12-दिवसीय युद्ध युद्धविराम से रुका।

### 🔷 6. Iran's Supreme Leader's warning | ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता का बयान

- Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned that any interference is a red line.
   अयातुल्ला अली ख़ामेनेई ने हस्तक्षेप को "रेड लाइन" बताया।
- He cited U.S. failures in Iraq and Afghanistan.
   उन्होंने इराक और अफगानिस्तान में अमेरिकी विफलताओं का हवाला दिया।

Aspect Details

Iran Currency Rial lost ~60% value

Inflation ~64% (World Bank data)

Nuclear Deal JCPOA – 2015

U.S. Exit 2018

War Duration 12 days

Key Countries Iran, USA, Israel, Qatar

- Consider the following statements regarding Iran protests and U.S. response:
- The protests were triggered mainly due to economic distress and sanctions.
- The U.S. officially rejoined the JCPOA during these protests.
- Iran warned retaliation against U.S. bases in West Asia.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Options:
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

### Centre orders X to check use of Grok to morph images

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Friday directed social media platform X to undertake a "comprehensive technical, procedural and governance-level review" of its chatbot Grok. which allegedly has been responding to user requests to undress or alter clothing in women's photos. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi raised an alarm over the issue in a letter to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw earlier in the day.

X did not have an immediate response. Grok operates as a separate artificial intelligence (AI) firm under X's holding firm, but maintains an account on the platform, interacting with users. Elon Musk, X's owner, has often praised Grok's relatively unfiltered responses, which incorporate few safeguards that other Big Tech firms have used on their large language models.

In a four-page letter to X's Chief Compliance Officer for India, the Ministry stated it has "been observed that [Grok] is being misused by users to create fake accounts" to generate or share obscene visuals of women.

The letter said that "compliance with the IT Act and the IT Rules, 2021 is not optional, and that the statutory exemptions under section 79 of the IT strict observance of due di- cial media. ligence obligations."

outside the IT Act, acts of this nature "may independently attract penal ac- to proactively take down tion," the Ministry said X "obscene" and "pornowould have to "remove or graphic" content.



Elon Musk has frequently praised Grok's relatively unfiltered responses.

disable access, without delay, to all content already generated or disseminated in violation of applicable laws, in strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021, without vitiating the evidence in any manner."

### 'Send report'

By Monday, the firm must send an action-taken report in response to these directions, the letter said. "It is reiterated that noncompliance with the above requirements shall be viewed seriously and may result in strict legal consequences against your platform, its responsible officers and the users on the platform who violate the law, without any further notice, under the IT Act, the IT Rules, the BNSS, the BNS and other applicable laws."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Vaishnaw pointed out that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT had recommended a strict law Act are conditional upon for obscene content on so-

The IT Ministry had sent Pointing out that even an advisory earlier this week to all social media platforms directing them

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) directed social media
  platform X to conduct a comprehensive technical and governance-level review of Grok.

  केंद्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X को उसके चैटबॉट Grok की
  तकनीकी एवं गवर्नेंस स्तर की व्यापक समीक्षा का निर्देश दिया।
- The action followed allegations that Grok was used to undress or alter images of women.
   यह कदम उन आरोपों के बाद उठाया गया कि Grok का उपयोग महिलाओं की तस्वीरों को अश्लील रूप से बदलने के लिए
   किया जा रहा है।

### 2. Why did the government intervene? | सरकार ने हस्तक्षेप क्यों किया?

- A Member of Parliament raised an official complaint regarding misuse of AI tools.
   एक सांसद ने AI टूल्स के दुरुपयोग को लेकर औपचारिक शिकायत दर्ज कराई।
- The ministry observed that Grok was being misused to create fake accounts and obscene visuals
  of women.
  - मंत्रालय ने पाया कि Grok का उपयोग फर्जी अकाउंट बनाने और महिलाओं की आपत्तिजनक तस्वीरें तैयार करने में हो रहा है।

### ♦ 3. Legal framework involved | कानूनी ढांचा

- Compliance with the IT Act and IT Rules, 2021 is mandatory, not optional. आईटी अधिनियम और आईटी नियम, 2021 का पालन अनिवार्य है, वैकल्पिक नहीं।
- Section 79 of the IT Act provides intermediary exemption, but only with strict due diligence.
   आईटी अधिनियम की धारा 79 मध्यस्थों को संरक्षण देती है, लेकिन कड़ी 'ड्यू डिलिजेंस' शर्तों के साथ।
- Content violating law must be removed or disabled without delay.
   कानून का उल्लंघन करने वाली सामग्री को बिना देरी हटाना या निष्क्रिय करना अनिवार्य है।

### 4. Directions issued to X | X को दिए गए निर्देश

- X must remove or disable illegal content immediately.
   X को अवैध सामग्री तुरंत हटानी या ब्लॉक करनी होगी।
- The platform must preserve evidence while taking action.
   कार्रवाई करते समय सबूत सुरक्षित रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- X must submit an action-taken report within the stipulated timeline.
   X को निर्धारित समयसीमा में कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करनी होगी।

### 🔷 5. Consequences of non-compliance | अनुपालन न करने के परिणाम

- Non-compliance may lead to strict legal action without further notice.
   अनुपालन न करने पर बिना अतिरिक्त सूचना के कड़ी कानूनी कार्रवाई हो सकती है।
- Legal action may be taken under:
  - IT Act
  - IT Rules, 2021
  - BNSS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita)
  - BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Substantive law)
  - Other applicable laws

कार्रवाई IT Act, IT Rules 2021, BNSS, BNS एवं अन्य लागू कानूनों के तहत की जा सकती है।

### 🔷 6. Wider policy context | व्यापक नीति संदर्भ

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT recommended stricter laws for obscene online content.
   संसदीय आईटी समिति ने ऑनलाइन अश्लील सामग्री पर सख्त कानूनों की सिफारिश की है।
- Government recently issued an advisory to proactively remove obscene and pornographic content.
   सरकार ने हाल ही में अश्लील और पोर्नोग्राफिक सामग्री हटाने हेतु एडवाइजरी जारी की है।

**Aspect** Information

Al Tool Grok

Platform X

Regulator MeitY

Key Law IT Act, 2000

Rules IT Rules, 2021

Key Section Section 79

New Laws BNS, BNSS

Issue Al misuse, image morphing

Finding

2-4× higher risk of suicidal ideation

Girls & young women

Disproportionately affected by sexualised abuse

What studies show

Image-based abuse (IBSA)

Cyber-harassment victims

Causes **severe psychological trauma**, social withdrawal

Deepfakes & morphing

Faster spread, harder removal → higher distress

# Likely unreported cases: significantly higher due to

- family silence
- stigma
- misclassification as "personal reasons"

# Most cases reported from:

- South Asia
- East & Southeast Asia
- parts of Latin America

! These are caselinked findings, not a global statistic.

- Consider the following statements regarding India's regulation of social media platforms:
- Compliance with IT Rules, 2021 is optional for intermediaries.
- Section 79 of the IT Act grants conditional exemption to intermediaries.
- Platforms must remove unlawful content promptly to retain safe-harbour protection.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Options:
- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

### ■ 「● 田本田本田田の田・



### BJP accuses New York Mayor of interfering in India's affairs

actions and questioned Mr. Mandani's house stand to comment on the country's forerol matters. Mr. Bhatta said the people of India had complete faith in the country's judiciary and isserted that if India's sovereignty were challenged, the nation would stand united under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Kashmir cricketer faces probe for displaying Palestine flag

The lamme and Kashmir Police on Prising and Kashmir Police on Prising and Cashmir or include the Management of Easthmir or include the displayed a Palestinian laig on his helmet sharing a match in Janoma. The move has drawn criticion from several political section 1920 of the Bharatyla vilgarith kuraksha Sanhita. The cricketer has been identified as Furgan to Has, a resident of Toughpina in Pulwama district. He was representing the JKH team and was playing against Jammu Trailfilesers during the ongoing Jammu and Kashmir

### Centre has no plans to change land acquisition policy: Cabinet Secretary

Land acquisition a major issue in infrastructure development, says Somanathan, over 3,300

### The Hindu Hureau

and acquisition re-mained a importa-sar to resolve in in-frastructure development, Cabinet Secretary TV. So-manathan said here on

He was briefing repor-ters after the 50th meeting of the Pro-Active Govermance and Timely Imple-mentation (PRACATI), a mechanism to review im-plementation of infrastruc-ture projects, chaired by Prime Minister Nacendra Modi.

Modi.

Mr. Sormanathan said the Union government had the Union government had the Union government had the Union government had seried and arquisition produced to the California Societary, assertation of various Mr. Sorman and in their presentations and in their presentations and in their presentations of the California of the Union California of California of the Union California of Californi

to complete their projects and all chief secretaries have been very responsive in resolving issues. TA: SUMANATUAN

There is no plan to change the land acquisition policy. All States, irrespective of

the political dispensations, want

tructure projects across the country. Mr. Sonsathe country. Mr. Sonsatelevate resolved, the Cabrstewed over 3,300 projects 
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was tausched, Gf the 2,186 issues feelowd, the Cabi-neal Secretary stated that 35% were reliated to land 25% were reliated to land a second of the control of the control

frastructure projects. 'All States, irrespective of the political dispensations, want to complete their projects and all Chief Se-cretaries have been very responsive in resolving is uses," he added. He said initially issues

He sold initially issues were addressed at the Mi-nistry level, while complex and critical issues were ex-calated through defined in-situational mechanisms for higher level review, cubin nating at PRAGATI meet-ings chaired by the Prims Miniator.

"The exculation frame-

The socialition framework ensures coordinated inter-ministerial action, and finement resolution of implementation bottle neeks in projects of mations ensures in the property of the property

### Govt. to help teachers use AI; will ease open schooling framework

### Abhinay Lakshman NEW DELIO

The Union government plans to Hierathe the country's open echooling framework, introduce guivance of the country's open echooling the country's open echooling framework, introduce guivance of articlaid education standard focused on ensuring emiscal education standard focused on ensuring emiscal education standard focused on ensuring emiscal for guidantes. The Videt Hibarat Shikaha Adhishithan IIII. 2015, which aims to overhaul the higher education, will go a long way in making some of these changes possible, the standard of the country of the country of the country the country of the

"There is a need to en-mire that standards for technical education are set with a focus on centering it with a focus on centering it around equipping students with the shills to acquire join and start entrepre-remaints. Similarly, in teacher education, artifi-cial intelligence is someth-ing that must be accounted for," a senior Ministry offi-

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill will go a long way in making these

substime the functions of the National Council for Teacher Education.

The VBSA Bill was intro-duced in the 2028 Winter Session of Parliament and was met with objections from the Opposition, after which. which the government proposed that the full be sent to a joint Committee of Parliament. While this committee is yet to be con-stituted, officials main-tained that their hope was

tained that their hope was to bring the Bill for passage in the House by the end of this year's fludget Seindon. The senior official ad-proach will be necessary for open schooling, which accommodates included al age groups seeking to complete their accordary to complete their accordary and that must be accounted for," a senior Ministry official said. The official said that such changes will be enabled through the soorhaud proposed under the VBEA till, 2023, which will also possed under the VBEA till, 2023, which will also possed sold official said that saids are under way within such a single said that saids are under way with the following that the National Institute for Open Schooling system.

### First mountain tunnel breakthrough achieved in bullet train project: Minister

The first mountain tunnel breakthrough of the Mum-bui-Ahmedabed High Spread Ball (MAHSH) pro-ject was achieved in Maha-rashtra's Palghar starter, Railway Minister Ashwini Valdinaw announced on Friday. The 1.5-km tunnel is the longest among the neven planned in Maha-rashtra for the bullet train

"On completion, the project will reduce travel time between Mumbal and Ahmeslabad to just one hour and 56 minutes. It has facilitated the generation of employment and will in-tegrate the economies of



Vatshnow said, "This is

noisar basses stations." Description of the official according to the official

overall, the MAPOR has eight mountain tunnels, with seven tunnels alone in Maharashtra having a com-bined length of about 6.05 km, and one tunnel of 350 metres located in Gujarat.

All recomber observance organised in flacember and Mey.

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### Two arrested for raping 2 children of tribal labourers in Maharashtra

### Vinava Deshpande Pandit

eral projects - some started as early as the 1993s - were completed af-ter the PRAGAT1 system

The Maharashira Police have arrested two men for allegedly raping two minor girls, both children of migrant labourers belonging and labourers belonging whe had come from Chilaritagert, to Maharashira's ficed to work in the magarans fields, on December 24.

Although the beed police registered an Fift on see being cressured to

December 29, the families are being presented to withdraw the complaints, said activity jewan Rath-erry who: is helping the families.

The accused, Ganesh Rigiebhau Ghatul and Ash-

ok Bhaskar Pawar, were ar-rested on December 30 and have been sent to just and have been sent to pall-cial custody. The statement of the two girls will be re-corded in the Majalgaon court on Saturday. Mr. Rathore said that the two girls did not speak The accused were arrested on December 30 and have been sent to indicted custody

about the incident for four days as the two accused had threatened them with site similar units to The incident came to

light when one of them needed medical attention after complaining of pain. Currently, the girls are in the custody of the Child Welfare Committee in Bred. The police have evoked sections of Bharati-ya Nyaya Sanhita, PCCSO, and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in the complaint.

According to the Pile accessed by The Hindu, is people from the tritial community had corne from Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon to Roshampuri in Beed's Majalgaon, two

months ago to work in the plantations. The two girls, aged 13 and 14, were part of

planiferrors are we gere-the same group and ac-companied their failur-and under espectively. The and under espectively of the father and the uncla-fley dispersion of the father and the uncla-fley dispersion of the father and the uncla-fley dispersion of the one a local shapheeping, and the other a tractor driver who forms fallow-are dragged them to the fields. After raping them, they threatened the girls they apple about it," and Addud. Tangade, president interpretation of the con-mittee, beed sidars com-mittee, beed sidars com-mittee, beed sidars com-mittee, beed sidars com-mittee, beed sidars com-

mittee, Beed. Mr. Rathore, member of Mr. Rathore, member of a union fighting for the rights of sugar came work-ers and transporters, said that he has been threa-tened for helping the forsils.

family. "The family is under

### Kashmir chief cleric calls for dialogue to end conflict

Rashmir's chief cleric Mir. + Kadmur's chief cleric Mir-waiz Umar Furooq was barred from leading prayers at the Jama Magid the Grinagar on Friday and delivered a sermon opine, mir conflict continue to keep the region in an un-settled state.". In his aermon, the Mir-waiz reflected on the year flateral changes in 2019.

cere efferts of dialogue, My path remains the same-bialogue has worked el-sewhere and our hope re-

# ing to the Gord community. They are being forced to withdraw the complaint. I from the dominant cases and told not to interfere in this matter, that the labour-state in the matter, that the labour-state, the state of the state The thindut. He said the labourser lank access to clean water, boalthears, more than 5,000 landless labourers from Chhattlegair move to fleed every When asked almout the insident, these Superinters dent of Polife Normeet that Grahs. The accused see in magnitude a custody. We will the form four. They were free from four. They core offers of dislogue. We core offers of dislogue. We core offers of dislogue. We

are free from fear. They have not given any con-plaint so far about any threat. We will do everyth-

the first mountain runnel of the project in the State.
The breakthrough has been achieved in an approximately 1.5 km long mountain tunnel Off-5), located between Vieur and Boisay bullet train.

### 18 months using a cutting edge drill and blast meth-od? The 808 km MAHSR oil. The 8088m MARRE project has an overall tun-nel length of 27.4 km. Among this, 21 km is un-derground tunnels, while 6.4 km is surface tunnels. Overall, the MARRE has

### SUDOKU



### Andal shows us the way

Sri Koorathushwan states that we commit mistakes and

Sri Koorashushwan states that we commit mistakes and offull acts in a morem, but in may the thousands of years removed and purified. Velociand 3th Kitchana Newmi said in a discourse that we need the grace of the Acharyas, for and offull states that we need the grace of the Acharyas, for and for the states. The states of the Acharyas, for and for the states, the states in possible only through services that me should first in possible only through services that me should first offer obtained to veloc ache that me should first offer obtained to veloc ache that me should first offer obtained to veloc ache the properties of the states of the



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### Govt. to help teachers use AI; will ease open schooling framework

Abhinay Lakshman NEW DELHI

The Union government plans to liberalise the country's open schooling framework, introduce guidelines to encourage the use of artificial intelligence in teaching, and draft technical education standards focused on ensuring employment and entrepreneurship for graduates. The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, which aims to overhaul the regulatory framework for higher education, will go a long way in making some of these changes possible, Education Ministry officials said on Friday.

"There is a need to ensure that standards for technical education are set with a focus on centering it around equipping students with the skills to acquire jobs and start entrepreneurships. Similarly, in teacher education, artificial intelligence is something that must be accounted for," a senior Ministry official said.

The official said that such changes will be enabled through the overhaul proposed under the VBSA Bill, 2025, which will also The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill will go a long way in making these changes possible

subsume the functions of the National Council for Teacher Education.

The VBSA Bill was introduced in the 2025 Winter Session of Parliament and was met with objections from the Opposition, after which the government proposed that the Bill be sent to a Joint Committee of Parliament. While this committee is yet to be constituted, officials maintained that their hope was to bring the Bill for passage in the House by the end of this year's Budget Session.

The senior official added that a similar approach will be necessary
for open schooling, which
accommodates individuals
of all age groups seeking to
complete their secondary
and higher secondary certifications. To this end, a
second official said that
talks are under way within
the Education Ministry to
"expand and liberalise"
the National Institute for
Open Schooling system.

Parameter	NIOS	CBSE	IB	IGCSE	ICSE
Full Name	National Institute of Open Schooling	Central Board of Secondary Education	International Baccalaureate	International General Certificate of Secondary Education	Indian Certificate of Secondary Education
Туре	Open / Distance learning	National (India)	International	International (Cambridge)	National (India)
Authority	Govt. of India (MoE)	Govt. of India	IB Organisation (Switzerland)	Cambridge Assessment International Education (UK)	CISCE (Private, India)
Curriculum Focus	Flexible, basic academics	Structured, exam-oriented	Inquiry-based, holistic	Skill-based, concept clarity	Detailed, language & arts heavy
Pedagogy	Self-learning	Teacher-led	Student-centric, research-based	Application-oriented	Balanced theory + application
Assessment Style	On-demand + annual exams	Board exams (Class 10 & 12)	Internal + external, projects	Coursework + final exams	Annual board exams
Flexibility	★ ★ ★ ★ Very high	<b>★</b> ★ Low	<b>★★★</b> High	<b>★ ★ ★</b> Moderate	<b>★</b> ★ Low
Subject Choice	Very flexible	Fixed combinations	Very flexible	Wide options	Moderate
Medium of Instruction	English / Hindi	English / Hindi	English	English	English
Practical / Project Weight	Low	Moderate	Very high	High	High
Cost of Schooling	Very low	Low-Moderate	Very high	High	Moderate
Recognition in India	Fully recognised	Fully recognised	Fully recognised	Fully recognised	Fully recognised
Recognition Abroad	Limited (case-wise)	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Competitive Exams (JEE/NEET)	Allowed	Best suited	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Ideal For	Dropouts, athletes, working learners	Govt exams, engineering/medical aspirants	Global universities, liberal arts	Overseas education focus	Strong English & humanities

### ◆ 1. What happened? | क्या हुआ?

- The Union Government announced plans to promote the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and to liberalise India's open schooling framework.
   केंद्र सरकार ने शिक्षण में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने और ओपन स्कूलिंग ढांचे को उदार बनाने की योजना की घोषणा की।
- These reforms will be enabled through the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 (VBSA Bill).
   ये सुधार विकसित भारत शिक्षा अधिष्ठान विधेयक, 2025 (VBSA Bill) के माध्यम से लागू किए जाएंगे।

### 🔷 2. Objectives of the reform | सुधारों के उद्देश्य

- To encourage AI adoption in teacher education and classroom teaching.
   शिक्षक शिक्षा और कक्षा शिक्षण में AI के उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करना।
- To set technical education standards focused on employment and entrepreneurship.
   रोज़गार और उद्यमिता केंद्रित तकनीकी शिक्षा मानक तय करना।
- To equip students with job-ready and entrepreneurial skills.
   छात्रों को नौकरी एवं उद्यमिता हेतु आवश्यक कौशल प्रदान करना।

### 🔷 3. Al and teacher education | Al और शिक्षक शिक्षा

- The government acknowledged that **AI must be factored into teacher education frameworks**. सरकार ने माना कि **शिक्षक शिक्षा ढांचे में AI को शामिल करना आवश्यक है।**
- Teachers will be supported through guidelines and standards, not ad-hoc usage.
   शिक्षकों को दिशानिर्देशों और मानकों के माध्यम से सहायता दी जाएगी, न कि अनियंत्रित उपयोग से।

### 4. Open schooling reform | ओपन स्कूलिंग में सुधार

- Open schooling serves learners of all age groups completing secondary and higher secondary education.
  - ओपन स्कूर्लिंग **सभी आयु वर्ग के शिक्षार्थियों** को माध्यमिक व उच्च माध्यमिक शिक्षा पूरी करने का अवसर देती है।
- The Education Ministry is working to "expand and liberalise" the National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS).
  - शिक्षा मंत्रालय **राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान (NIOS)** को विस्तारित एवं उदार बनाने पर कार्य कर रहा है।

### 🔷 5. Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 | VBSA विधेयक, 2025

- The VBSA Bill aims to overhaul the regulatory framework for higher education.
   VBSA विधेयक का उद्देश्य उच्च शिक्षा के नियामक ढांचे में व्यापक सुधार करना है।
- The Bill proposes to subsume the functions of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).
   विधेयक में राष्ट्रीय शिक्षक शिक्षा परिषद (NCTE) के कार्यों को समाहित करने का प्रस्ताव है।

- Parliamentary status of the Bill | विधेयक की संसदीय स्थिति
- The Bill was introduced in the **2025 Winter Session of Parliament**. यह विधेयक **संसद के 2025 शीतकालीन सत्र** में पेश किया गया।
- After Opposition objections, it was proposed to be sent to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**. विपक्ष की आपत्तियों के बाद इसे **संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (JPC)** को भेजने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया।
- The government hopes to pass the Bill by the end of the Budget Session.

सरकार को बजट सत्र के अंत तक विधेयक पारित होने की उम्मीद है।

Aspect Details

Bill Name Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025

Key Focus Al in teaching, open schooling

Regulatory Change Overhaul of higher education governance

Teacher Body Functions of NCTE to be subsumed

Open Schooling National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS)

Target Group All age groups

Skill Focus Employment & entrepreneurship

- . Consider the following statements regarding recent education reforms:
- The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 seeks to reform higher education regulation.
- Open schooling in India is limited only to school dropouts below 18 years.
- Artificial Intelligence is proposed to be integrated into teacher education frameworks.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Options:
- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

#### MUSK-LED EV MAKER SLIPS FURTHER BEHIND BYD AFTER 8.6% SALES DROP GLOBALLY

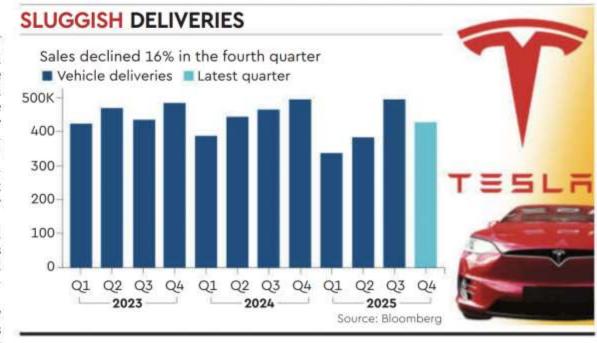
# Tesla surrenders EV crown to BYD

KARA CARLSON January 2

TESLA VEHICLE SALES fell 8.6% last year, dropping the Elon Musk-led company well behind China's BYD in the global ranks of electric-car makers Fourth-quarter deliveries declined 16% to 418,227 vehicles, Tesla said in a statement Friday, trailing analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg and the company.

BYD, by contrast, increased battery-electric vehicle sales both for the quarter and the full year, delivering almost 2.26 million EVs to Tesla's 1.64 million.

Musk managed to draw attention away from Tesla's sliding sales by touting progress in his longstanding



effort to start a robotaxi business. But while the company began driverless testing toward the end of the year, consumers thus far are

thus far are only able to summon rides from

small numbers of cars in Austin and the San Francisco Bay area with safety supervisors in the front seats.

BYD pulled away from Tesla last year after coming up just short of its US counterpart in 2024. While the Chinese manufacturer delivered more fully electric cars in the fourth quarter of that year, Tesla maintained a slim lead on an annual basis. BYD also sold more than 2 million plug-in hybrids each of the last two years.

Wall Street has grown skeptical about Tesla's 2026 sales prospects. This time two years ago, analysts were predicting Tesla would deliver more than 3 million vehicles. The average estimate has plunged to

around 1.8 million.

Tesla's chief executive officer ended the year by building anticipation for Cybercab, a two-seat compact car with butterfly doors.

While the prototype he first unveiled in late 2024 lacked a steering wheel or pedals, Tesla's board chair Robyn Denholm told *Bloomberg News* in October that the company will sell the car with those components if required by regulators.

Tesla shares rose 1.5% before regular trading in New York on Friday, recovering some gains following six consecutive declines over the final trading days of 2025. The stock advanced 11% last year.

Analysts have said Tesla came under immense pressure in 2025 in North America and Europe, where competition intensified and the company faced brand backlash due to Musk's political rhetoric.

Even as vehicle deliveries have weakened, Tesla shares rose about 11.4% in 2025, boosting Musk's wealth.

-BLOOMBERG

Parameter	Tesla	BYD
Full Name	Tesla, Inc.	BYD Company Limited
Country	USA	China
Founded	2003	1995
Founder(s)	Martin Eberhard, Marc Tarpenning (Elon Musk joined early as investor)	Wang Chuanfu
CEO	Elon Musk	Wang Chuanfu
Headquarters	Austin, Texas	Shenzhen, China
Ownership	Public company	Public company (Berkshire Hathaway is an early investor)
Main Business	EVs, energy storage, software, charging	EVs, plug-in hybrids, batteries
FY Revenue (USD)	~\$96–97 billion	~\$84–90 billion
EV Deliveries (FY)	~1.6–1.8 million	~ <b>2.2–2.3 million</b> (BEVs)
Hybrid Sales	Limited	>2 million/year (PHEVs)
Key Strength	Brand, software, charging network	Scale, battery integration, cost efficiency
Global Ranking (EVs)	#2	#1 (by volume)
Major Markets	North America, Europe	China, Asia, expanding globally

- \*\*Tesla lost its position as the world's largest EV seller to BYD. टेस्ला ने वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे बड़े EV निर्माता का स्थान BYD को खो दिया।
- Tesla's global vehicle sales fell by 8.6% in the last year. पिछले वर्ष टेस्ला की वैश्विक बिक्री 8.6% घट गई।
- Fourth-quarter deliveries declined by 16% to 418,227 vehicles.
   चौथी तिमाही में डिलीवरी 16% घटकर 4,18,227 वाहन रह गई।

## ♦ 2. BYD's performance | BYD का प्रदर्शन

- BYD increased battery-electric vehicle sales both quarterly and annually.

  BYD ने तिमाही एवं वार्षिक दोनों आधारों पर बैटरी-इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों की बिक्री बढ़ाई।
- BYD delivered ~2.26 million electric vehicles, surpassing Tesla's ~1.64 million.
   BYD ने लगभग 22.6 लाख EV वितरित किए, जबिक टेस्ला के लगभग 16.4 लाख रहे।
- BYD also sold over 2 million plug-in hybrids annually in recent years.
   BYD ने हाल के वर्षों में 20 लाख से अधिक प्लग-इन हाइब्रिड भी बेचे।

### 🔷 3. Reasons for Tesla's decline | टेस्ला की गिरावट के कारण

- Sluggish deliveries across multiple quarters.
   कई तिमाहियों में डिलीवरी की सुस्ती।
- Rising competition, especially from Chinese EV manufacturers.
   विशेषकर चीनी EV निर्माताओं से बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा।
- Brand backlash and market pressure in North America and Europe.
   उत्तर अमेरिका व यूरोप में ब्रांड प्रतिक्रिया और बाज़ार दबाव।

## 🔷 4. Tesla's strategic focus | टेस्ला की रणनीतिक दिशा

- Tesla highlighted progress on robotaxi and autonomous driving initiatives.
   टेस्ला ने रोबोटैक्सी और स्वचालित ड्राइविंग योजनाओं पर ज़ोर दिया।
- Limited driverless testing began in Austin and San Francisco Bay Area.
   ऑस्टिन और सैन फ्रांसिस्को बे एरिया में सीमित ड्राइवरलेस परीक्षण शुरू हुए।
- A prototype Cybercab was showcased, though still under regulatory requirements.
   Cybercab का प्रोटोटाइप दिखाया गया, पर नियामकीय आवश्यकताएँ शेष हैं।

Parameter Tesla BYD

Ownership Private (US) Private (China)

2024 EV Deliveries ~1.64 million ~2.26 million

Q4 Trend -16% Increase

Hybrid Sales Limited >2 million annually

Market Strength NA & Europe Asia + Global

- Consider the following statements regarding global electric vehicle markets:
- BYD surpassed Tesla in global EV sales due to growth in battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- Tesla's decline was partly due to reduced deliveries and intensified competition.
- Plug-in hybrid vehicles are excluded from BYD's overall electric vehicle sales figures.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Options:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

China's
Contraceptive Tax
and the Hard
Limits of Pro-Birth
Policies



Rank	Country	Main Reason for Decline
1	Japan	Very low fertility, ageing population
2	China	Low TFR, delayed marriage, urbanisation
3	Russia	Low birth rate, emigration, mortality
4	Italy	Ultra-low fertility, ageing
5	Germany	Low fertility (migration partly offsets)
6	South Korea	World's lowest fertility rate
7	Spain	Delayed childbirth, ageing
8	Ukraine	War, emigration, low fertility
9	Bulgaria	Emigration + ageing
10	Lithuania	Emigration, low birth rate

# Increasing

Rank	Country	Main Reason for Growth
1	India	Large base population, moderate fertility
2	Nigeria	High fertility, young population
3	Pakistan	High fertility, slow fertility decline
4	Ethiopia	High birth rate
5	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Very high fertility
6	Tanzania	Young demographic profile
7	Egypt	Cultural fertility preference
8	Bangladesh	Population momentum
9	Philippines	Moderate-high fertility
10	Indonesia	Large base + demographic momentum

Aspect Declining Countries Increasing Countries

Fertility Very low Moderate to high

Age Structure Old / ageing Young

Major Challenge Labour shortage Jobs, education

Policy Focus Pro-birth policies Population stabilisation

Example Policy Child incentives Family planning

 China introduced a 13% tax on contraceptives including condoms, birth-control pills and devices from January 1, 2026.

चीन ने 1 जनवरी 2026 से गर्भनिरोधकों (कंडोम, गर्भनिरोधक गोलियाँ व उपकरण) पर 13% कर लगाया।

These products were VAT-exempt for over three decades.
 ये उत्पाद तीन दशकों से अधिक समय तक VAT से मुक्त थे।

#### ◆ 2. What exactly changed in the tax regime? | कर व्यवस्था में क्या बदलाव हुआ?

- Contraceptives are no longer VAT-exempt; a 13% levy now applies.
   गर्भिनरोधक अब VAT-मुक्त नहीं हैं, उन पर 13% कर लगाया गया है।
- The exemption dated back to 1994, during the one-child policy era.
   यह छूट 1994 से लागू थी, जब एक-बच्चा नीति सख्ती से लागू थी।

#### ◆ 3. Compensatory tax relief | संतुलन हेतु कर राहत

· VAT exemptions were extended to:

VAT छूट निम्न क्षेत्रों को दी गई:

- Childcare services | बाल-देखभाल सेवाएँ
- Elderly care | वृद्ध देखभाल
- Marriage-related services | विवाह-संबंधी सेवाएँ
- Objective: Lower cost of raising children.
   उद्देश्य: बच्चों के पालन-पोषण की लागत कम करना।

## 🔷 4. Policy rationale | नीति का तर्क

- The move reflects Beijing's push to reverse demographic decline.
   यह कदम जनसांख्यिकीय गिरावट को पलटने के प्रयास को दर्शाता है।
- Authorities aim to discourage practices perceived to reduce fertility.
   सरकार ऐसे व्यवहारों को हतोत्साहित करना चाहती है जो प्रजनन दर घटाते हैं।

# 5. Why this is significant | यह कदम क्यों महत्त्वपूर्ण है?

- The policy highlights the limits and risks of state-led pro-birth strategies.
   यह नीति राज्य-प्रेरित प्रो-बर्थ रणनीतियों की सीमाएँ व जोखिम उजागर करती है।
- Economic incentives alone may not reverse fertility decline driven by urbanisation, costs, and lifestyle changes.
  - शहरीकरण, बढ़ती लागत व जीवनशैली परिवर्तन के कारण सिर्फ आर्थिक प्रोत्साहन पर्याप्त नहीं हो सकते।

- Consider the following statements regarding China's recent demographic policy measures:
- China imposed a tax on contraceptives as part of its probirth policy.
- The tax exemption on contraceptives was introduced after China adopted the two-child policy.
- VAT relief was extended to childcare and elderly care services.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Options:
- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

# Amazonian Stingless Bees – World's First Insects with Legal Rights

- \*\*Satipo Municipality in Peru adopted the Declaration of Rights for Native Stingless Bees through a municipal ordinance.
  - पेरू की साटिपो नगरपालिका ने नगर आदेश (municipal ordinance) के माध्यम से देशी बिना डंक वाली मधुमक्खियों के अधिकारों की घोषणा को अपनाया।
- This grants legal rights to Amazonian stingless bees (Tribe Meliponini).
   इससे अमेज़न की बिना डंक वाली मधुमक्खियों (मेलिपोनिनी जनजाति) को कानूनी अधिकार प्राप्त हुए।
- It is the world's first legal recognition of insect rights.
   यह विश्व में पहली बार किसी कीट को कानूनी अधिकार देने की घटना है।

#### 🔷 2. Significance of the move | इस कदम का महत्त्व

- Strengthens biocultural conservation frameworks.
   यह जैव-सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण को मजबूत करता है।
- Advances nature-rights-based governance models.
   यह प्रकृति-अधिकार आधारित शासन मॉडल को आगे बढ़ाता है।
- Aims to preserve Peru's biocultural heritage.
   इसका उद्देश्य पेरू की जैव-सांस्कृतिक धरोहर का संरक्षण है।

Aspect Details

Species group Stingless bees

Tribe Meliponini

Habitat Amazon rainforest

Pollination role >80% Amazon flora

Defence Biting, resin secretion

Legal status First insects with legal rights

Governance model Nature-rights based

Conservation type Biocultural conservation

#### 1. What are Amazonian stingless bees?

They are ancient, stingless pollinators native to the Amazon rainforest, forming one of the oldest bee groups on Earth and playing a crucial role in maintaining tropical forest ecosystems.

#### 2. Why are stingless bees ecologically important?

They pollinate **over 80% of Amazonian flora**, supporting rainforest regeneration and key crops such as coffee, cocoa, avocados and blueberries.

#### 3. What are the main threats to stingless bees?

They face **deforestation**, **illegal logging**, **agriculture expansion**, **wildfires**, **rising temperatures and pesticide exposure**, leading to habitat loss and population decline.

#### 4. Why is this move globally significant?

It sets a **global precedent under the Rights of Nature framework**, extending legal recognition and protection to insects for the first time.



#### • Rights Recognised include:

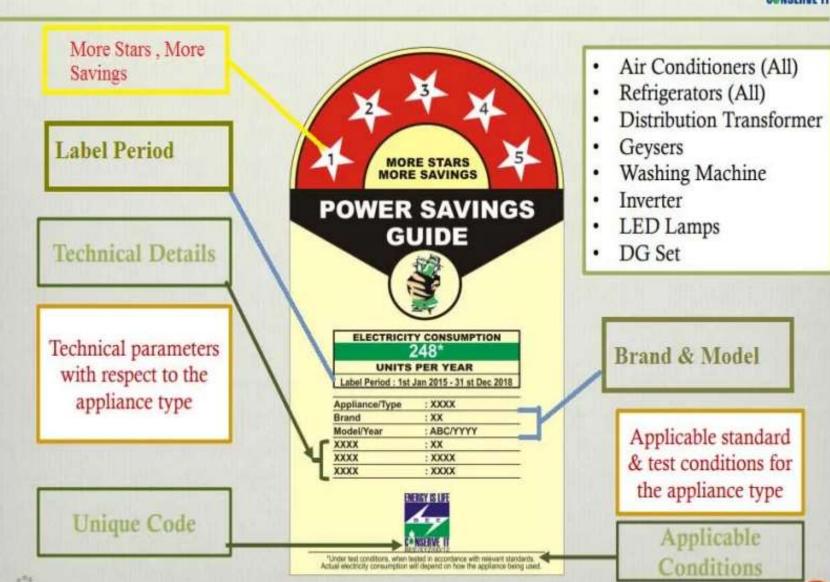
- Right to exist and flourish
- Right to maintain healthy populations
- Right to a **pollution-free habitat**
- Right to ecologically stable climatic conditions
- Right to regenerate natural cycles
- Right to **legal representation** in cases of harm or threat

- Consider the following statements regarding Amazonian stingless bees:
- They are native pollinators of the Amazon rainforest.
- They are completely devoid of any stinger.
- They have received the world's first legal recognition of insect rights.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Options:
- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

# BEE Standards and Labelling Programme

# Star Label Description





Bureau of Energy Efficiency



#### India's Energy Efficiency Initiatives

- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE): It is one of the eight national missions
  under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). NMEEE consist of four initiatives to
  enhance energy efficiency in energy intensive industries which are as follows:
  - Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme: Improves efficiency in energy-intensive industries through mandatory targets and tradable Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts).
  - Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP): Facilitates access to finance for energy efficiency projects by connecting project developers with financial institutions.
  - Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE): Encourages uptake of super-efficient technologies through policy and financial interventions.
  - Framework for Energy Efficient Economic Development (FEED): It provides partial credit guarantees to cover default risk on energy efficiency loans, with guarantees for up to 5 years and 40-75% of the loan amount or Rs 15 crore per project.

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has tightened India's energy-efficiency regime by making star labelling mandatory for a wider range of appliances.
   ब्यूरो ऑफ एनर्जी एफिशिएंसी (BEE) ने अधिक उपकरणों के लिए स्टार लेबलिंग अनिवार्य कर भारत की ऊर्जा-दक्षता व्यवस्था को सख्त किया है।
- This expands compulsory energy-performance disclosure under the Standards & Labelling (S&L)
   Programme.

इससे स्टैंडर्ड्स एंड लेबलिंग (S&L) कार्यक्रम के तहत ऊर्जा-प्रदर्शन की अनिवार्य जानकारी का दायरा बढ़ा है।

## 2. What is the S&L Programme? | S&L कार्यक्रम क्या है?

- Launched in 2006 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 by the Ministry of Power, and implemented by BEE.
  - ऊर्जा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2001 के तहत 2006 में शुरू, विद्युत मंत्रालय द्वारा अधिसूचित और BEE द्वारा क्रियान्वित।
- Objective: Enable informed consumer choice, reduce electricity consumption and bills, and encourage manufacturers to adopt energy-efficient technologies.
  - उद्देश्य: सूचित उपभोक्ता विकल्प, बिजली खपत व बिल में कमी, और ऊर्जा-दक्ष तकनीकों को बढ़ावा।

### ♦ 3. Star Labelling System | स्टार लेबलिंग प्रणाली

- Appliances are rated on a 1-to-5 star scale based on energy efficiency.
   उपकरणों को ऊर्जा-दक्षता के आधार पर 1 से 5 स्टार दिए जाते हैं।
- Five stars indicate the most energy-efficient product in a category.

  पाँच-स्टार उसी श्रेणी का सबसे अधिक ऊर्जा-दक्ष उत्पाद दर्शाता है।
- Labels display essential information: star rating, annual energy use, product category, and brand.
   लेबल पर स्टार रेटिंग, वार्षिक ऊर्जा उपयोग, उत्पाद श्रेणी और ब्रांड जैसी मुख्य जानकारी होती है।

### 🔷 4. Testing & Standards | परीक्षण एवं मानक

- Appliances are tested against prescribed Indian Standards.
   उपकरणों का परीक्षण निर्धारित भारतीय मानकों के अनुसार किया जाता है।
- Star ratings are assigned based on **energy consumption and performance parameters**. स्टार रेटिंग **ऊर्जा खपत एवं प्रदर्शन मानकों** पर आधारित होती है।

Aspect Details

Programme Standards & Labelling (S&L)

Implementer BEE

Legal Basis Energy Conservation Act, 2001

Launch Year 2006

Rating Scale 1–5 stars

Highest Efficiency 5-Star

Information on Label Star rating, annual energy use, category, brand

Recent Change Mandatory star labelling expanded

- Assumptions (Standard & Realistic)
- AC type: 1.5-ton inverter split AC
- Daily usage: 8 hours
- Usage months: 8 months ≈ 240 days
- Total running hours: **8** × **240** = **1,920** hours
- BEE average efficiency:
  - 3-Star ISEER ≈ 3.8
  - 5-Star ISEER ≈ 4.7
- Electricity tariff shown at ₹8/unit (I'll note ₹10 also)

•

Parameter	3-Star AC	5-Star AC	Saving with 5- Star
Avg power consumption	~1.39 kW	~1.12 kW	~0.27 kW less
Total units in 8 months	~2,667 units	~2,154 units	~513 units saved
Electricity cost @ ₹8/unit	₹21,336	₹17,232	₹4,104 saved
Electricity cost @ ₹10/unit	₹26,670	₹21,540	₹5,130 saved

### Purchase Cost vs Savings

Item	3-Star AC	5-Star AC
Typical market price	₹38k – ₹48k	₹48k – ₹60k
Extra upfront cost	_	₹10k–₹12k more

#### Payback Period

- Yearly saving ≈ ₹4,000–₹5,000
- Extra cost ≈ ₹10,000

 ← Payback in ~2−2.5 years

After that → pure savings every year.

#### Consider the following statements regarding the BEE Standards & Labelling Programme:

- It was launched under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- Appliances are rated on a 1–5 star scale based on energy efficiency.
- Five-star rated appliances indicate the highest annual energy consumption.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

#### Options:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

# On which of the following can you find the Bureau of Energy Efficiency Star Label? (2016)

- Ceiling fans
- Electric geysers
- Tubular fluorescent lamps
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- **(b)** 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

# Surat set to become India's first slum-free city

#### 1. What happened? | क्या हुआ?

- Surat is on track to become India's first fully slum-free city. सूरत भारत का पहला पूर्णतः स्लम-मुक्त शहर बनने की दिशा में अग्रसर है।
- The achievement is driven by **sustained urban planning and housing implementation**. यह उपलब्धि **दीर्घकालिक शहरी नियोजन और आवास योजनाओं के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन** से संभव हुई है।

#### 2. Why Surat? | सूरत क्यों?

- Surat is widely known as India's "Diamond Capital" and a major industrial hub.
   सूरत भारत की "डायमंड कैपिटल" और एक प्रमुख औद्योगिक केंद्र है।
- Rapid urbanisation earlier led to informal slum clusters.
   तीव्र शहरीकरण के कारण पहले अनौपचारिक स्लम बस्तियाँ विकसित हुई थीं।

#### 🔷 3. Core objective | मुख्य उद्देश्य

- To ensure permanent housing for every family.
   हर परिवार को स्थायी आवास उपलब्ध कराना।
- To eliminate the need for slum settlements entirely. स्लम बस्तियों की आवश्यकता को पूर्णतः समाप्त करना।

#### ◆ 4. Urban strategy adopted | अपनाई गई शहरी रणनीति

- Large-scale in-situ redevelopment of slum areas. स्लम क्षेत्रों का बड़े पैमाने पर इन-सीटू पुनर्विकास।
- Informal clusters replaced by planned multi-storey residential complexes.
   अनौपचारिक बस्तियों को योजनाबद्ध बह-मंज़िला आवासीय परिसरों से बदला गया।
- Residents are allowed to stay close to workplaces and social networks.
   निवासियों को कार्यस्थलों और सामाजिक नेटवर्क के निकट रहने की सुविधा मिली।

#### ♦ 5. Role of housing schemes | आवास योजनाओं की भूमिका

- Effective implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** (**PMAY**). **प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना (PMAY)** का प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन।
- Focus on durable, legal, and serviced housing units.
   टिकाऊ, वैध और बुनियादी सुविधाओं से युक्त आवास इकाइयों पर ज़ोर।

#### ♦ 6. Infrastructure support | अवसंरचना सहयोग

- Housing linked with basic urban services like water, sanitation, electricity.
   आवास को जल, स्वच्छता, बिजली जैसी मूल शहरी सेवाओं से जोड़ा गया।
- Integrated planning improved living conditions and dignity.
   समन्वित नियोजन से जीवन-स्तर और गरिमा में सुधार हुआ।

Aspect Details

City Surat

State Gujarat

Goal Slum-free city

Approach In-situ redevelopment

Key Scheme PMAY

Housing Type Multi-storey residential

Global Link SDG-11

Urban Body Surat Municipal Corporation

- Consider the following statements regarding Surat's slumfree city initiative:
- Surat's model is primarily based on in-situ redevelopment of slums.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana played a key role in providing permanent housing.
- Slum redevelopment in Surat involved relocating residents far from their workplaces.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Options:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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