

Daily Current Affairs

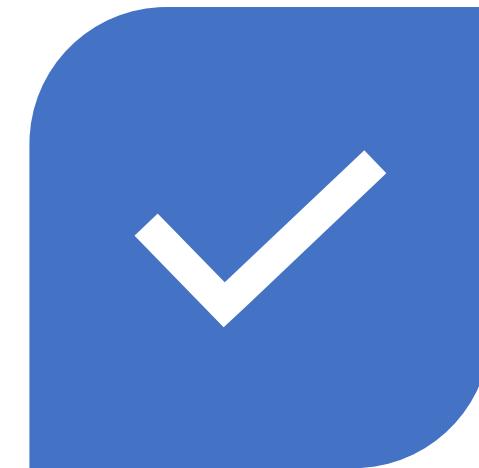




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10 MCQ QUIZ

**Love yourself first,
and everything else
falls into line.**

— *Lucille Ball*

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BY BHUNESH SIR

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Class24



U.S. captures Maduro after strikes on Venezuela

President of South American nation and wife being taken to New York to be prosecuted, says Trump

Venezuelan government urges citizens to take to the streets against the U.S.'s 'imperialist attack'

U.S. to run Caracas and tap its oil reserves to sell large amounts to other countries, adds Trump

Associated Press

CARACAS

The United States captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and took him out of the country on Saturday after an extraordinary nighttime operation that was accompanied by a flurry of strikes, following months of escalating pressure on the oil-rich South American nation.

Claiming that U.S. presence was already in place in Venezuela, President

Donald Trump said, hours after the attack, that his government would run Caracas, at least temporarily, and would tap its vast oil reserves to sell "large amounts" to other countries. "We are going to run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper, and judicious transition," Mr. Trump said at a news conference.

He said Mr. Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were aboard the U.S. warship *Iwo Jima* and headed to New York, where they will



Taken from home: An image posted by Donald Trump shows Nicolas Maduro blindfolded aboard the USS *Iwo Jima*. AFP

face prosecution.

While the legal authori-

ty for the attack was not immediately clear, Mr. Ma-

duro's government accused the U.S. of attacking civilian and military installations, called it an "imperialist attack" and urged citizens to take to the streets.

Mr. Maduro and other Venezuelan officials were indicted in 2020 on "narcoterrorism" conspiracy charges. The U.S. Justice Department released a new indictment on Saturday of Mr. Maduro and his wife for alleged role in narcoterrorism conspiracy.

Venezuelan ruling party leader Nahum Fernández

said Mr. Maduro and Ms. Flores were at their home within the Ft. Tiuna military installation when they were captured. "They carried out what we could call a kidnapping of the President and the First Lady of the country."

Early on Saturday, multiple explosions rang out and low-flying aircraft swept through the Venezuelan capital. The attack itself lasted less than 30 minutes and the explosions – at least seven blasts.

Some Venezuelan civi-

lians and members of the military were killed, Vice President Delcy Rodriguez said. However, Mr. Trump said some U.S. forces were injured but he believed "we had nobody killed".

Venezuela's government responded to the attack with a call to action: "People to the streets!" while Armed people and uniformed members of a civilian militia headed into the streets of Caracas.

MORE REPORTS ON

» PAGES 9 & 12

INSIDE 'OP ABSOLUTE RESOLVE': HOW US CAPTURED MADURO

It all started in Aug when CIA agents started secretly monitoring Maduro's every movement

'How he moved, where he lived, where he travelled, what he ate, what he wore – what were his pets,' US joint chiefs chairman General Dan Caine said on Saturday

10.46pm on Friday (Jan 2) Trump gave the order to go

150 US military aircraft take off from land and sea, including fighter jets, reconnaissance planes, drones, helicopters

► Helicopters carrying the 'extraction force' for Maduro took off into the darkness, flying at just 100 feet above the surface of the ocean

► Fighter jets provided air cover while US satellite and cyber capabilities blocked Venezuelan radars

Videos show fires burning in Caracas and helicopters descending towards Fuerte Tiuna, said to be taken at 1.58am, a military base in centre of Caracas and home to Venezuela's top brass and many senior govt officials, and where Maduro was suspected to be located

Other targets
La Carlota Airport,
La Guaira port,
Higuerote Airport

At least 40 people, including civilians and soldiers, killed in the attack, according to a senior Venezuelan official

Mission involved months of 'pinpoint' planning and rehearsal, US forces built a replica house identical to the one where Maduro was staying

2am Saturday | US forces strike multiple locations in northern Venezuela, including Caracas, to suppress air defences and clear a pathway for US helicopters to reach Maduro



► At 2.01am, US forces arrive at Maduro's compound and back 'over the water' at 4.29am 'with indicted persons on board' (Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores)



► Couple taken to **USS Iwo Jima**, one of the American warships patrolling the Caribbean

► Couple then transferred to New York via the **US navy base at Guantánamo Bay**, where the FBI had a 757 gov't plane waiting on the airstrip to bring them to **Stewart Air National Guard Base**, north of New York City

► After landing in NYC, Maduro taken to Manhattan by helicopter just before 7pm and was driven to the US Drug Enforcement Administration's New York City headquarters

► Maduro then flown by helicopter from Manhattan to Brooklyn and driven to the Metropolitan Detention Center, where he is being held

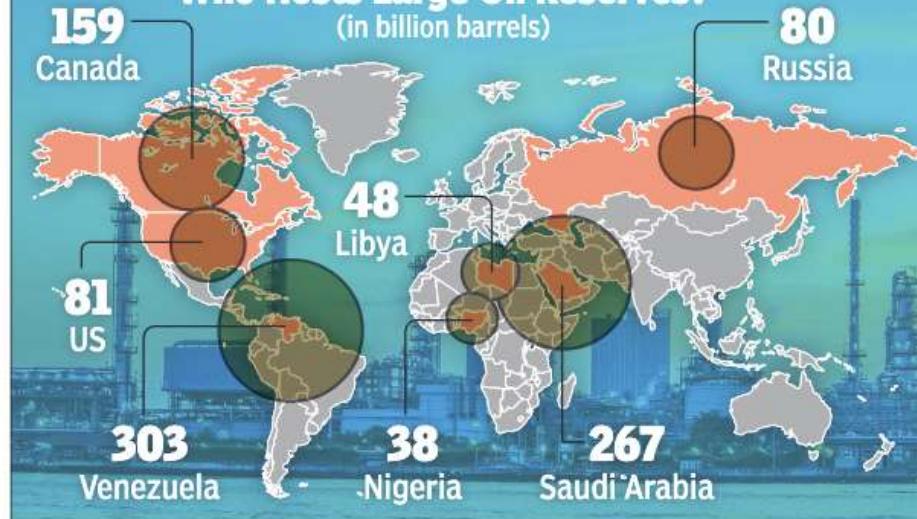
► Maduro and his wife are expected to make their first appearance in a Manhattan court on Monday



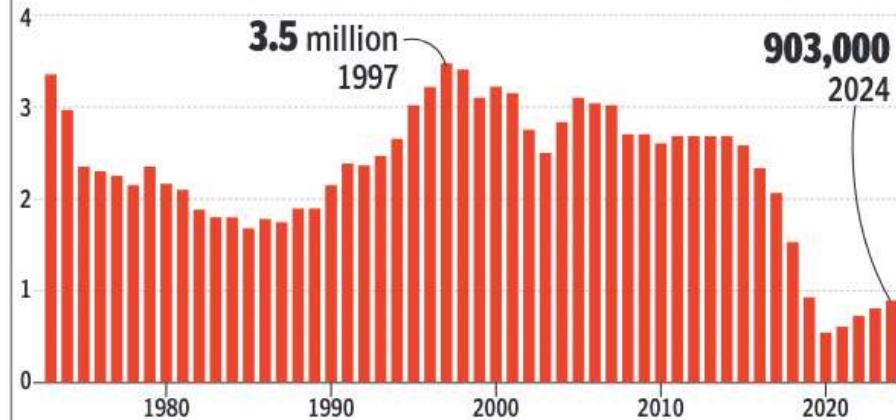
Trump said that no American troops had been killed and that no military equipment had been lost during the operation

Two military sources said that six US forces had been injured in the operation

Who Hosts Large Oil Reserves? (in billion barrels)



Venezuela's yearly oil production (million barrels per day)



Analysts say increasing Venezuelan production will not be cheap. Energy Aspects, a research firm, estimated that adding another half a million barrels a day of production would cost \$10 billion and take about two years

Note: Nearly half of the world's proven oil reserves are in 12 countries in West Asia

Source: NYT

Trump says U.S. to 'run' Venezuela, oil firms to head into the country

President states that a designated group, including Cabinet officials, would oversee management of South American nation; he indicates potential deployment of U.S. troops; he also dismisses Nobel Prize winner Machado as potential interim leader

Agence France-Presse

PALM BEACH

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States will "run" Venezuela and tap its huge oil reserves after snatching leftist leader Nicolas Maduro out of the country during a bombing raid on Caracas.

Mr. Trump's announcement came hours after a lightning attack in which special forces grabbed Mr. Maduro and his wife, while air strikes pounded multiple sites, stunning the capital city.

Mr. Trump did not go into detail what he meant but told a press meet in



Taking control: Donald Trump, alongside Marco Rubio, left, and Pete Hegseth, speaks to the press in Florida on Saturday. AFP

Florida: "We're going to be running it with a group."

"We're designating people," he said, mentioning that Cabinet officials standing with him would be in charge.

In another surprise, Mr. Trump indicated that U.S. troops could be deployed in Venezuela.

The U.S. is "not afraid of boots on the ground", he said.

Although the operation is being framed as a law-enforcement action, Mr. Trump made clear that regime change and Venezuela's oil riches are the major goals.

"We're going to have our very large United States oil companies, the biggest anywhere in the world, go in, spend billions of dollars, fix the badly broken infrastructure," he said. "We'll be selling large amounts of oil," he said.

Mr. Trump said the assault began with a partial blackout caused by U.S. "expertise".

U.S.-backed Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year, post-

ed on social media: "the hour of freedom has arrived."

But Mr. Trump scotched any expectation that Ms. Machado should emerge as Venezuela's new leader. She doesn't have "support or respect" there, he said.

The top U.S. military officer, General Dan Caine, said 150 aircraft took part in the operation, supporting troops helicopter in to seize Mr. Maduro with the help of months of intelligence into the leader's daily habits – down to "what he ate" and what pets he kept.

Mr. Maduro, 63, and his wife "gave up" without a struggle and there was "no loss of U.S. life," he said.

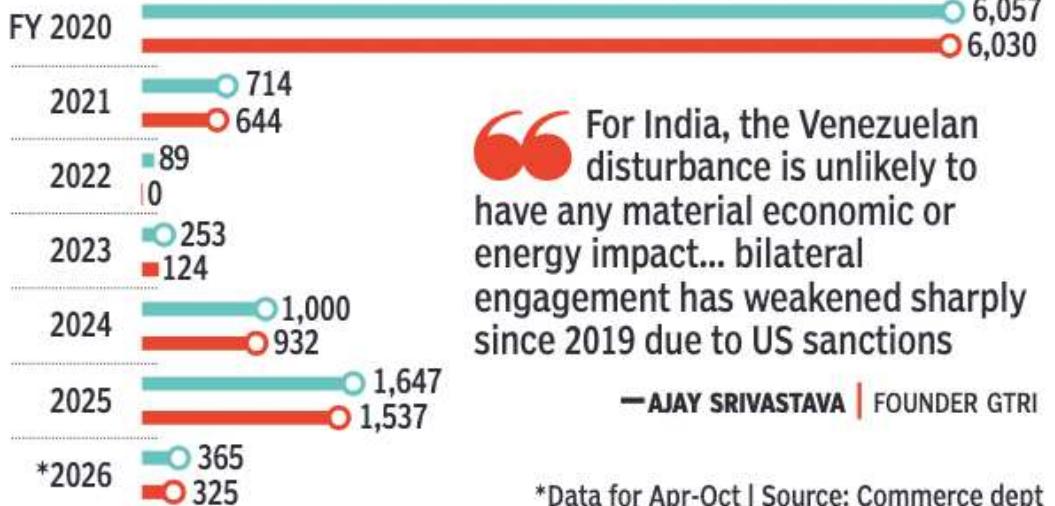
SLIPPING ON SANCTIONS

In 2024, Venezuela was the world's 20th largest oil producer

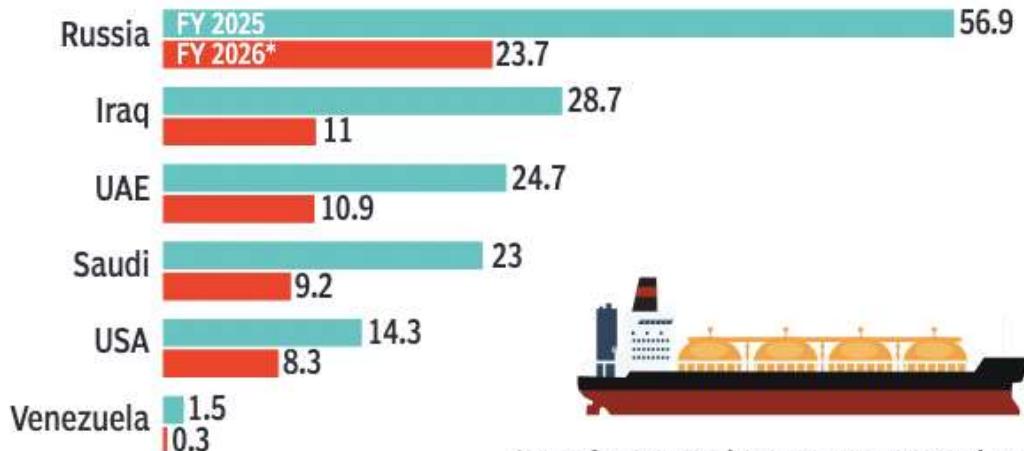
Oil Production
('000 barrels daily)



India's imports from Venezuela



India's top oil suppliers: From being the 18th biggest source of crude last year, Venezuela is now ranked 21st (\$ bn)



Topic	Key Facts (English)	मुख्य तथ्य (Hindi)
Venezuela Oil	Largest proven oil reserves (~303 bn barrels)	विश्व का सबसे बड़ा प्रमाणित तेल भंडार
Capital	Caracas	काराकस
Currency	Bolívar	बोलिवार
Political Crisis	Since 2013	2013 से राजनीतिक संकट
Opposition Leader	Juan Guaidó (earlier)	जुआन गुएदो
US Sanctions	Since 2017	2017 से अमेरिकी प्रतिबंध
International Body	OPEC founding member	ओपेक का संस्थापक सदस्य
		ICC में प्रारंभिक जांच

Provision

UN Charter Art 2(4)

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Regime Change

ICC Jurisdiction

Explanation

Prohibits use of force against sovereignty

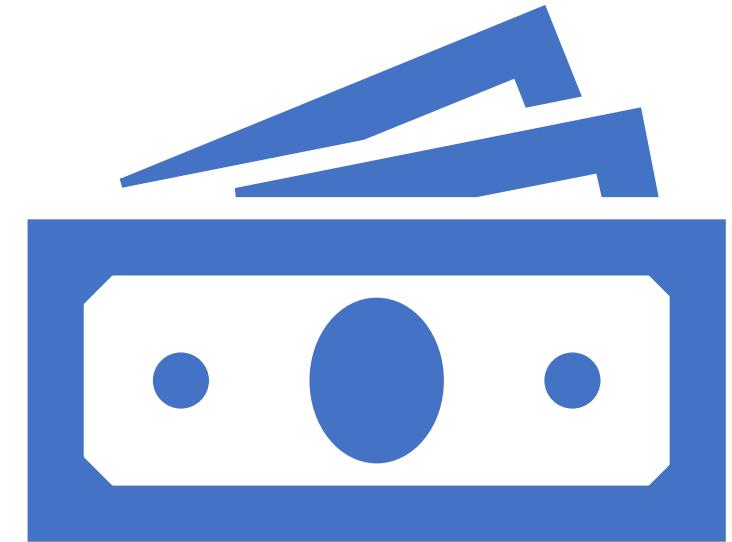
Only via UN Security Council

NOT legal under international law

Requires due process, not military capture

Exam	Year	Question Theme	Exact Linkage
UPSC CSE Prelims	2019	US sanctions on Venezuela	Oil sanctions & sovereignty
UPSC CSE Mains (GS-II)	2020	Intervention vs sovereignty	Regime change debate
UPSC Prelims	2023	OPEC & oil geopolitics	Venezuela reserves
SSC CGL	2022	Capital–Country	Caracas
Banking (IBPS PO)	2021	OPEC members	Venezuela
RPSC RAS	2022	Latin America crisis	Venezuela inflation
Railway Group-D	2023	World affairs basics	US–Venezuela relations

- Consider the following statements regarding Venezuela:
 - Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves.
 - Regime change by military intervention is permitted under the UN Charter.
 - Venezuela is a founding member of OPEC.
 - Which of the above are correct?
- **Options:**
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3





Nritya Kalanidhi award conferred on Urmila Satyanarayanan

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Musician, exponent Urmila Satyanarayanan was presented the Nritya Kalanidhi award at the 19th National Peetham awards at the Music Academy in the city on Saturday.

In the award, Takshashila Mission, Consulate General of Japan in Chennai, and the Music Academy, were not only her artistic excellence but also her lifelong commitment to the promotion and propagation of Bharatanatyam.

Urmila, a graduate between Indian and Japanese dance traditions, he said that she had been honoured such as Noth, Kubota and Nittono Buoy emphasised continued movements and dialogic aspects that resonated strongly with Indian classical dances. Both thanked her for her deep respect for heritage and the teacher-disciple link.

Mr. Munro said many Japanese students had tra-

sold to India to learn Bharatanatyam, while several renowned Indian dan-

ces

had taught and performed in Japan, giving a powerful example of how culture can connect na-

tions.

Accepting the award, Ms. Satyanarayanan expressed gratitude to researchers, students and the Music Academy. Recalling that her 'arrangement' was the result of her insistence, she said receiving the award from the renowned institution was a milestone in the life of a dancer.

Earlier, N. Murali, president of the T.M. Soundararajan and Director of The Hindu Group of Publications, said that the award to Urmila Satyanarayanan came at an important stage in her artistic journey. In her 10 years of her career, she has won 10 awards since she founded the dance school 'Nritya Sankalpa', said to be known for her improvisation and innovation, with several awards, including international presentations and dance drama to her credit, he said.

During the post-mortem of the deceased conducted at Ballari Medical College on Saturday, the forensic (DMBC) doctors recovered the cause of death in the form of one of the bodyguards of Mr. Bharath Reddy, said police sources.

The Ballari Police have

already recovered five firearms of gunmen present

during the altercation on Thursday night.

The sources said that the police forensic team found a match between the bullet cause found in the deceased and bullet found in one of the bodyguards of Mr. Bharath Reddy.

However, only a forensic ballistic examination could confirm it, said the sources. "The bullet cause is missing and a hunt is on for him," a senior police officer said, adding that he expected evidence that he will be traced soon.

There are also multiple

videos of the gunman of Mr. Bharath Reddy that the police were analysing, the sources said.

Over 24 hours after Ballari police chief Mr. Pavan Nejjar was suspended over dereliction of duty on Friday, the district police and his superior, the district superintendent of police posted till Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at Sathyamirthy in the city on Saturday, Mr. Chodankar, said that Congress has been proactive in pursuing an alliance with the DMK and rejected the notion that the party was exploring other options.

"We have been proactive in forming a coalition with the DMK. Our tradition is that we have been allies for generations for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry together," he said.

Mr. Chodankar also took details of the incident from senior police officials.

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Maoist commander, 19 cadre surrenders in Telangana, hand over 48 firearms, cash

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A senior commander of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) and State Committee member of CPI (Maoist) surrendered before the Telangana State Committee along with 19 other cadres.

PLGA is the military wing of the CPI (Maoist).

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shivaiah Reddy said that

the organisation, among those who surrendered, is a commander of the PLGA battalion, Sudha Sankha, alias Devi Reddy, and member of Telangana State Committee.

He said that the weapons included light machine guns, AK-47 rifles, mortars, RPGs, anti-aircraft, RPGs, 7.62 mm, 56 mm, 30 mm, 20 mm, and more than 2,200 rounds of ammunition.

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Atop the temple



A man, purportedly in an infiltrated state, trying to remove the kavach, atop the Govindaraja Swamy temple tower in Tumkur on Friday night. After a three-hour effort, police and fire personnel brought him down and arrested him. (Photo: CHENNAI)

Telangana Assembly abolishes two-child ceiling for local polls

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Legislative Assembly passed a bill to replace the existing law, imposed by the state, that was aimed at curbing the population growth in the state.

The bill, introduced by Minister for Panchayat and Districts, Ashwini Kumar, who said the time had come to remove the two-child ceiling, given the changes in society and the fall in fertility rate.

The assembly passed the bill on Friday, after the minister, through which "mostably weak", he is ready to proceed with the bill to remove the two-child ceiling, given the changes in society and the fall in fertility rate.

After reviewing the poll

bill, the minister said that the two-child ceiling was a trap.

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Karnataka records highest-ever organ donations in 2025, ranks third nationally

Ashfaq Yaseen
BENGALURU

Karnataka's State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO), the nodal agency that facilitates cadaver organ donations, recorded 1,654 donations in 2025, the highest in the country, according to the latest data released by the organization.

The data shows that the number of donations in 2025 is 1,654, which is 10% more than the previous year of 1,516 donations in 2024. With 1,654 donations, Karnataka is the third in the country in organ donations for the year, after Tamil Nadu with 2,077 donations, and Telangana with 2,026.

The data also shows that the number of donations in 2025 is 1,654, which is 10% more than the previous year of 1,516 donations in 2024. With 1,654 donations, Karnataka is the third in the country in organ donations for the year, after Tamil Nadu with 2,077 donations, and Telangana with 2,026.

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Karnataka records highest-ever organ donations in 2025, ranks third nationally

Afshan Yasmeen

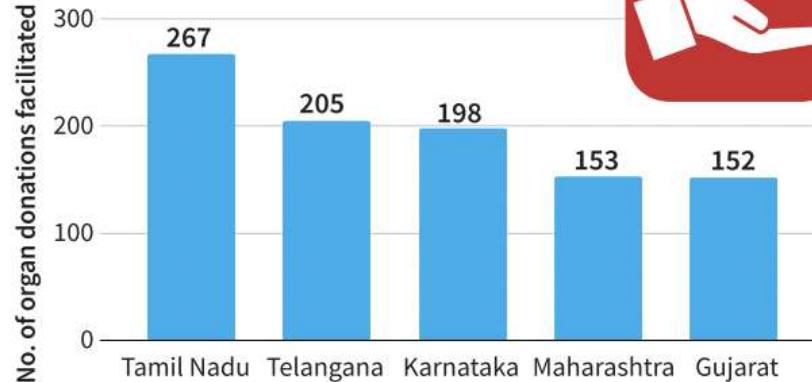
BENGALURU

Karnataka's State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), the nodal agency that facilitates cadaver organ donations, has recorded 198 donations in 2025, the highest recorded in the State so far. This surpasses the previous peak of 178 donations in 2023. With this, Karnataka ranked third in the country in organ donations for the year, after Tamil Nadu with 267 donations, and Telangana with 205.

The steady rise in donations over the past five years reflects expanded hospital participation, and improved systems, officials said. In 2024, the State re-

Growing donations

The chart shows the top 5 States that facilitated the most organ transplants in 2025



corded 168 donations, while the figure stood at 70 in 2021.

Principal Secretary (Health) Harsh Gupta told *The Hindu* that the increase was driven by the empanelment of more hospitals as non-retrieval organ transplant centres

(NTHORCs), including in Tier 2 cities, along with sustained awareness efforts. "We are also felicitating donor families on January 26 and August 15 through the Chief Minister and Ministers, which has helped in building awareness and trust around or-

gan donation," he said.

Mr. Gupta said the government now plans to expand the programme to taluk-level hospitals. "Doctors also need to be sensitised about declaring brain death... We are identifying where there is potential for donations and what the challenges are," he said.

He pointed out that institutions such as NIMHANS see a significant number of cases where brain death could potentially be declared, but these opportunities are not being fully utilised. "We had planned to place dedicated counsellors and earmark beds for potential brain-death cases, but these are not being used effectively," he said.

- **Karnataka recorded its highest-ever organ donations in 2025 and ranked 3rd nationally.
कर्नाटक ने 2025 में अब तक का सबसे अधिक अंगदान दर्ज किया और राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया।

Key Data

- 198 cadaver organ donations recorded in 2025 (highest ever).
2025 में 198 शव अंगदान – अब तक का सर्वोच्च आँकड़ा।
- Previous peak: 178 donations in 2023.
पिछला सर्वोच्च आँकड़ा 2023 में 178 था।
- National Rank: 3rd
राष्ट्रीय रैंक: तीसरा

Nodal Agency

- Donations facilitated by **State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO)**.
अंगदान का संचालन SOTTO द्वारा।

Top States Comparison (2025)

- **Tamil Nadu** – 267 (1st)
- **Telangana** – 205 (2nd)
- **Karnataka** – 198 (3rd)
- **Maharashtra** – 153
- **Gujarat** – 152

Reasons for Increase

- Expansion of hospital participation
अधिक अस्पतालों की भागीदारी
- Empanelment of Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORCs)
NTORC केंद्रों की संख्या में वृद्धि
- Improved systems & coordination
बेहतर प्रणाली और समन्वय

Key Challenges Highlighted

- Under-declaration of brain death
ब्रेन-डेड मामलों की कम घोषणा
- Lack of trained counsellors & earmarked beds
प्रशिक्षित काउंसलर व आरक्षित बेड की कमी
- Untapped potential even in top institutes like **NIMHANS**
NIMHANS जैसे संस्थानों में भी संभावनाओं का पूर्ण उपयोग नहीं

Government Initiatives

- Expansion to taluk-level hospitals
तालुक स्तर के अस्पतालों तक विस्तार
- Felicitation of donor families on Republic Day (26 Jan) & Independence Day (15 Aug)
26 जनवरी व 15 अगस्त को दाता परिवारों का सम्मान

Dimension

Type of Donation

Nodal Agency (State)

National Body

Legal Basis

Brain Death

Best Performing State

Awareness Need

Data (English)

Cadaver (Brain-death based)

SOTTO

NOTTO

Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994

Legal death in India

Tamil Nadu

Counselling + declaration

ਲਈ ਜਾਂ (Hindi)

ਟ੍ਰਾਂਸਪ੍ਰਾਂਡਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ

SOTTO

ਨਾਲ ਜਾਂ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਦੇਣਾ

ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਨਾਲ
ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਗਰਵ, ਝੱਥੀਥਾਂ

ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਵਾਲਾ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ

ਲਾਗੂ ਕਰਨਾ

ਡਾਕਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ

Organ / Tissue	When can it be donated?	Time limit after death	Key points (exam-relevant)
Heart	Brain death only	Within 4–6 hours	Needs continuous oxygen supply
Lungs	Brain death only	Within 4–6 hours	Can donate both or single lung
Liver	Brain death only	Within 8–12 hours	Can be split into 2 for recipients
Kidneys	Brain death or cardiac death	24–36 hours	Most commonly transplanted organ
Pancreas	Brain death only	12–18 hours	Mainly for diabetes patients
Intestine	Brain death only	6–8 hours	Rare transplant, complex surgery
Cornea (eyes)	Brain death or cardiac death	Up to 6 hours	One donor can give sight to 2
Skin	Brain death or cardiac death	Up to 6–12 hours	Used for burn victims
Bones	Brain death or cardiac death	Up to 24 hours	Used in orthopaedics
Heart valves	Brain death or cardiac death	Up to 24 hours	Used in cardiac surgery
Tendons/Ligaments	Brain death or cardiac death	Up to 24 hours	Sports injury treatments
Blood vessels	Brain death or cardiac death	Up to 24 hours	Vascular surgeries

Heart, lungs, liver →
ONLY after brain
death

Eyes (cornea) → Most
flexible; can be
donated even after
home death

Kidneys have the
longest survival time

One donor can save
up to 8 lives

Exam	Year	Question Theme	Actual Focus
UPSC Prelims	2013	Organ transplantation law	Brain death
UPSC Mains GS-II	2018	Public health systems	State capacity
UPSC Prelims	2020	NOTTO	National organ donation
RPSC RAS	2021	Health indicators	Transplant infrastructure
SSC CGL	2019	Static GK	Human organs
IBPS PO	2020	Awareness	Health initiatives
Railway NTPC	2022	General Science	Organ donation basics

- With reference to organ donation in India, consider the following statements:
 - Brain death is legally recognised in India.
 - SOTTO functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the national level.
 - Tamil Nadu has historically been among the top states in cadaver organ donation.
 - Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

IN BRIEF



Shah-led panel meet focuses on issues of national security

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting of the Union Home Ministry in Sri Vilaya Puram. The panel meeting, which started at 11 a.m. and ended at around 2.40 p.m., focused on issues such as counter-terrrorism, counter-mission, cyber security and regional infrastructure, sources said. The meeting also emphasized the need to strengthen the forensic units in the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at the regional level, the sources said.

Man arrested for playing 'anti-national' songs at salon

A 25-year-old man has been arrested by the Mysore Bhayandar Vimar police in Palgbar district of Mysore for playing 'anti-national' songs related to Kashmir at his salon, officials said on Saturday. The accused, identified as Sharath, who is originally from Assambari in Uttar Pradesh, has been operating his salon in Nalgonda for several years. According to local people who complained to the police, he allegedly played anti-national songs regularly, ignoring previous warnings, an official said. He was produced before a local court, which remanded him in police custody, a police officer said.

'NEP will bring Indian youth out of Macaulay mentality'

The National Education Policy will be the medium to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to bring the country's new generation out of the Macaulay mentality. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Friday said that the NEP, which is in its sixth year now, will herald a paradigm shift. "The NEP has been designed to bring the new needs to come out of the Macaulay mentality," he said. The Union Minister further pitched for holistic assessment of students' academic and innovation in education, adding that youth should not be just job seekers but also job creators.

Centre pushes States to speed up farm scheme fund release

Union Agriculture Minister Shriji Singh Chouhan on Saturday urged States to adopt a strict approach in releasing funds, warning that delay in spending allocated funds result in losses for States and hamper the timely release of infrastructure centric interventions. "States are unable to spend their budgets on time if they result in losses for them," the Minister said, adding that budget allocations are often held up due to lack of timely release of funds. Mr. Chouhan stressed the need for prompt verification of eligible farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme, and ensuring timely settlement of claims.

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

100%, outpacing several traditional media segments.

With an expected CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 10% the sector is poised to position India among the leading global live event destination by 2030, as per government estimates.

India's live events industry is witnessing rapid expansion and is emerging as a key driver for the media and entertainment ecosystem, an official said. The global live events market was valued at \$20,861 crore in 2024, registering a growth rate of

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Peace and dialogue essential where there are 'only disputes', says Modi

PM speaks at exposition on Piprahwa relics related to the Buddha, he says Buddha's philosophy is India's guide to a global approach; some relics repatriated to India after the family of a colonial archaeologist sought to auction them



Reviving heritage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics related to Lord Buddha, at RAI Pithora Cultural Complex in New Delhi on Saturday.

Strength is necessary against the "enemies of humanity", but when there are "only disputes", dialogue and peace are essential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, speaking at the inauguration of an international exposition of the sacred Piprahwa relics related to Lord Buddha in New Delhi.

"Buddha's philosophy of 'walking together instead of conflict and dominance' has been India's 'philosophy' and approach to the world in the 21st century. India is committed to 'Sarvajan Hitva, Sarvajan Sabha' (the welfare and happiness of all). This is what Lord Buddha taught us,"

Mr. Modi said that the export of the relics from India and their eventual auction in the West were "an inexcusable act".

"For those who took the relics away and their descendants, these were just 'treasures' and nothing else. This is why they had tried to auction them off. We are not against the auction of relics as a part of our reverent duty, an inseparable part of our civilization. Therefore, today, I decided that their public auction

would not be allowed," he said.

The exposition, being hosted at the RAI Pithora Complex in New Delhi, contains 100 items, including 100 Relics from the 1898 excavation in Kapilavastu, other related artifacts from the 1970s, reliquaries and jewelled treasures from India and abroad.

In Kolkata, a monolithic stone coffin which had originally contained the gau Relics, and the most recently repatriated Relics from the family collection of Mr. Clinton Pepper, who had led the 1898 excavation.

The Piprahwa family collection, which was repatriated to India in July 2025 after a joint effort by the Indian government and private partners, had as they were about to be auctioned in Hong Kong. Acknowledging the support of private partners, including Hong Kong, the Prime Minister thanked

'Correct use of technology can reduce court delays'

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Chief Justice of India Surya Kanta Das said that the Piprahwa stones for seven buildings on the Pataliputra Hill Complex had attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the new building of the Bihar Judicial Academy (BJA).

Asserting that the institution's strength is its capacity to technological capacity, Chief Justice Kanti said, "Appropriate use of technology, reduce delays, improve transparency and make courts more approachable for the public, persons with special disabilities, and those who are elderly, disabled, etc. This is what we call access to justice."

The Jharkhand High Court has launched an ACH platform for judicial officers designed to modernize the process of filing and managing cases and Confidential Reports online. He also inaugurated the new guest house at the BDA.

The government has worked to preserve relics and artifacts, which is important to India as well, he said, citing the example of the Jharkhand Circuit, connecting pilgrimage sites across the country. Puri as a classical language and multiple projects underway to make sites of Buddhist heritage more accessible to the people.

Challenges aplenty for rural, tribal, migrant groups in fighting TB: report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India continues to bear a major portion of the global tuberculosis (TB) burden, accounting for nearly 27% of the cases worldwide, and faces challenges—increasing incidence, geographic disparities, malnutrition, comorbidities, and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic—that impede elimination efforts.

A TB report titled 'India's struggle in fighting the challenges of Tuberculosis', published by Stark Foundation and the Women's Collective, has identified India's rural and tribal migrant communities as those faced with multiple challenges when fighting tuberculosis.

"Migrant populations in India encounter critical challenges due to high mobility, informal employment, and limited health access, leading to delayed diagnosis and disrupted treatment," said the report. "Therefore, targeted interventions should include nationwide mapping of non-notified settlements to identify



The study says, migrant populations in India encounter critical obstacles to TB care due to limited health access. ISTRONET

The report calls for a nationwide mapping of non-notified settlements to locate high-burden clusters.

High-burden migrant clusters, as well as those due to high mobility, informal employment, and limited health access, are leading to delayed diagnosis and disrupted treatment.

It also noted that addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged approach, combining a strong health framework, combining various sectors such as AV, nutrition, tuberculosis (TB) and vector-borne disease services at common delivery points. Also, strengthening

data systems for frontline workers and establishing an electronic medical record platform can improve tracking and continuity care.

Highlighting the challenges faced by frontline workers, the report called for a robust employee welfare policy that encompasses reimbursement, health insurance, and salary standards for frontline workers.

"Operational research

implementation processes and barriers to patient-centred service delivery among frontline workers may pro-

vide insights into TB elimination goals.

NCC cadets assisted authorities during Operation Sindoora

Saurabh Tripathi
NEW DELHI

From disaster response during Operation Sindoora to shaping disciplined youth at the national level, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) continues to play a pivotal role in nation-building. Director-General Lieutenant General Vibhuti Vats said on Saturday.

Addressing the media, Lt. Gen. Vibhuti Vats said that the organisation's expanding footprint, embedding digital technology and equity, ensuring uniformity in standards, and empowering communities through partnership, are key to overcome the existing barriers and achieve TB elimination targets.

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Additionally, research also indicates that a significant proportion of TB survivors are at high risk of re-infection, symptoms or structural lung damage such as fibrosis and cavities, and airflow obstruction.

Poer/TB lung disease significantly impacts morbidity, disrupts education, and affects family and social life.

He also highlighted the strong and committed participation of girl cadets, who now constitute 40% of the TB elimination force.

He said that during Operation Sindoora, approximately 1,000 TB cases with symptoms in India initially seek care from private providers, and only 10% seek critical need for robust and sustained public-private partnerships to meet national TB elimination goals.

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of TB cases in India initially seek care from private providers, and only 10% seek critical need for robust and sustained public-private partnerships to meet national TB elimination goals.

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social commitment. India

launched the operation

against Pakistan on May 7,

2025, following the Pata

hing attack.

The conflict ended four

days later.

The NCC Republic Day

Camp (RDC) 2026 com

enced at the DGI NCC

camp in Patna.

A total of 2,400

participants, in

cluding 127 from Jammu & Kashmir, 100 from Jharkhand, and 131 from the north-eastern region, are participating in the camp. Participants from 28 friendly foreign countries are also taking part under the Youth Exchange Programme.

fall, with increases of 21%

in Shillong, 100% in Guwahati

and 143% in Kokrajhar.

Vizagapatnam recorded

the highest growth at

230%, followed by Vadodara

at 200%, the records

show.

A 17% rise in consumption of live entertainment activities in malls, bars, restaurants, and sports and theatre has also been noted. Over five lakh people travelled to other cities to attend the events, representing an 18% increase over the previous year. Among the 100 cities, the events rose by 48%, reflecting renewed public engagement.

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Challenges aplenty for rural, tribal, migrant groups in fighting TB: report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI

India continues to bear a major portion of the global tuberculosis (TB) burden, accounting for about 27% of the cases worldwide, and faces challenges—including socio-economic disparities, malnutrition, comorbidities, and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic—that impede elimination efforts.

A TB report titled 'India's Progress in Addressing the Challenges of Tuberculosis', published by stakeholders, including the Women's Collective Forum, has also identified India's rural, tribal, and migrant communities as those faced with multiple challenges when fighting tuberculosis.

"Migrant populations in India encounter critical obstacles to TB care due to high mobility, informal employment, and limited health access, often resulting in delayed diagnosis and disrupted treatment," said the report, adding that targeted intervention should include nationwide mapping of non-notified settlements to identify



The study says, migrant populations in India encounter critical obstacles to TB care due to limited health access. ISTOCKPHOTO

The report calls for a nationwide mapping of non-notified settlements to locate high-burden clusters

high-burden migrant clusters, as well as outreach programmes in educational institutions for early awareness and screening.

It also noted that addressing these challenges requires an integrated migrant health framework, combining various sectors such as HIV, non-communicable disease (NCD) and vector-borne disease services at common delivery points. Also, strengthening

data systems for frontline workers and establishing an online inter-state referral platform can improve tracking and continuity care, stated the report.

Highlighting the challenges faced by frontline workers, the report called for prioritisation of developing a robust employee welfare policy that encompasses incentives, travel reimbursement, health insurance, and salary standardisation for frontline workers.

"Operational research on work patterns, documentation processes and barriers to patient-centred service delivery among frontline workers may pro-

duce evidence-based strategies," said the report.

It notes that strengthening health infrastructure, embedding digital technology and equity, ensuring uninterrupted care in crises, and empowering communities through partnership models will be critical to overcome the existing barriers and achieve TB elimination targets," it said.

Call for framework

Additionally, research also indicates that a significant proportion of TB survivors exhibit chronic respiratory symptoms or structural lung damage such as fibrosis, bronchiectasis and airflow obstruction.

"Post-TB lung disease significantly impacts morbidity, disability and mortality rates. Establishing a national framework for post-TB care is crucial," said the report.

It added that nearly 60 % of individuals with TB symptoms in India initially seek care from private providers, underscoring the critical need for robust and sustained public-private partnerships to meet national TB elimination goals.

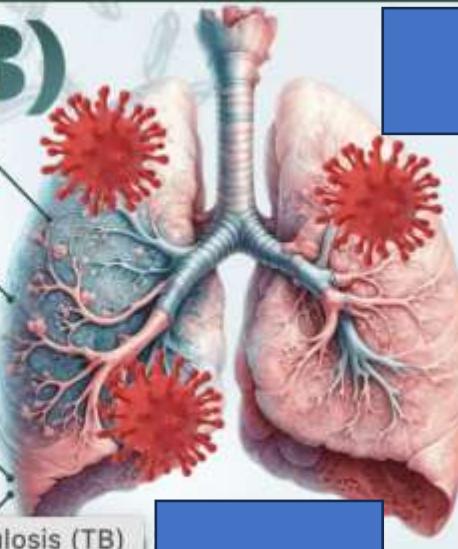
TUBERCULOSIS (TB)



Caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.

Commonly impacts the **lungs** (**pulmonary TB**) but can also affect **other areas (extrapulmonary TB)**.

Leading cause of death for people with HIV and a major factor in **antimicrobial resistance**.



Tuberculosis (TB)

Transmission occurs through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

Individuals with **latent TB**, who show no symptoms, do not spread the disease.



Treatment

- It is a curable disease. Treatment depends on whether it is **drug-resistant** or **simple** tuberculosis.



Common drugs for treatment

Isoniazid (H)

Rifampicin (R)

Pyrazinamide (Z)

Ethambutol (E)

Streptomycin (S)

BPaLM Regimen for MDR-TB

- It consists of a four-drug combination - **Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin**.
- It is a **highly effective** and **shorter** treatment option than the previous MDR-TB treatment procedure.

Symptoms



Chronic cough with blood-tinged sputum



Loss of weight



Loss of appetite



Prevalence

Global TB-related Deaths in 2022 and 2023

2022
1.32 M

Every day, **3500 People** die from TB worldwide



2023
1.25 M



Low- and middle-income countries carry **87%** of the global TB burden



Primary risk factors



Types of Drug-Resistant TB

Multidrug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB)

TB Bacteria resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampicin.



Fever and night sweats

Extensively Drug-Resistant TB (XDR-TB)

TB bacteria resistant to isoniazid, rifampin, fluoroquinolone, and second-line injectables.



Fatigue

Government Strategies to end TB

National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP): Aims to eradicate TB in India by 2025.

Community Engagement Initiatives like the [Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan](#)



TB Preventive Therapy to individuals at high risk of developing active TB.

Project Axshya Plus involves contact tracing, testing, and managing latent TB infections.



Ni-kshay Mitras encourage public involvement in TB care and awareness.



Eliminating TB

UN aims to end the TB epidemic by **2030**. India aims to eliminate TB by **2025**.

- **India continues to bear a very high tuberculosis (TB) burden, especially among rural, tribal and migrant populations.**
भारत में ग्रामीण, जनजातीय और प्रवासी समुदायों में टीबी का बोझ अभी भी बहुत अधिक है।
- **India accounts for ~27% of global TB cases.**
वैश्विक टीबी मामलों का लगभग 27% भारत में है।

Report & Source

- Report titled "India's Progress in Addressing the Challenges of Tuberculosis".
रिपोर्ट: "टीबी की चुनौतियों से निपटने में भारत की प्रगति"
- Published by multiple stakeholders including Women's Collective Forum.
महिला समूहों सहित विभिन्न हितधारकों द्वारा प्रकाशित।

Key Challenges Identified

- **Socio-economic disparities**
सामाजिक-आर्थिक असमानताएँ
- **Malnutrition & comorbidities (HIV, NCDs)**
कुपोषण और सह-रोग (HIV, गैर-संचारी रोग)
- **High mobility & informal employment of migrants**
प्रवासियों की अधिक गतिशीलता और असंगठित रोजगार
- **Limited access to healthcare → delayed diagnosis & treatment disruption**
स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक सीमित पहुँच → देर से पहचान व उपचार में बाधा
- **COVID-19 pandemic disruptions**
कोविड-19 से टीबी सेवाओं में व्यवधान

Special Concern: Migrant Populations

- Migrants face **treatment discontinuity** due to inter-state movement.
राज्यों के बीच आवागमन से उपचार में निरंतरता नहीं रहती।
- High dependence on **private healthcare** (~60%), leading to under-notification.
लगभग 60% मरीज निजी क्षेत्र पर निर्भर, जिससे कम रिपोर्टिंग।

Key Recommendations of the Report

- **Nationwide mapping of non-notified settlements** to identify high-burden clusters
अघोषित बस्तियों का राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मैपिंग
- **Integrated migrant health framework** combining TB, HIV, NCD & vector-borne services
टीबी-एचआई-एनसीडी-वेक्टर रोगों का एकीकृत ढाँचा
- **Digital data systems** for frontline workers
फ्रॉन्टलाइन कर्मियों के लिए डिजिटल डेटा सिस्टम
- **Online inter-state referral platform** for treatment continuity
अंतर-राज्यीय रेफरल हेतु ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म

Dimension

Global TB Share

TB Type

Causative Agent

High-Risk Groups

Major Driver

Private Sector

Post-TB Issue

Data (English)

India ~27%

Infectious bacterial disease

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Migrants, tribal, rural poor

Malnutrition

~60% initial care

Chronic lung disease

लूँग जHindi)

क्रोधर्व ~जपाप

द्रव्यवरवर्द्ध न्हअप्रस्तुष्मा

रक्त-द्वायाप्त हृष्पग्रव्र
श्वाघड्याप्त दृ

ब्रवद्वल, न एन्वल्हग, इक्रम्ह
प्रद्वल

द्विद्वर

~द्वाप श्वन्ह लूँग

द्रव्यवरवर्द्ध एड्य न्वर्ष्मा



Scheme / Body

National TB Elimination Programme
(NTEP)

Nikshay Portal

Ayushman Bharat

POSHAN Abhiyaan

Integrated Disease Surveillance

Relevance

TB elimination by 2025

TB notification & tracking

Health access

Malnutrition

Early detection

Exam	Year	Question Theme	Direct Link
UPSC Prelims	2018	TB & DOTS	TB control
UPSC Mains GS-II	2020	Health inequity	Migrants
UPSC Prelims	2021	Nikshay portal	TB tracking
RPSC RAS	2022	Public health challenges	TB
SSC CGL	2019	Bacterial diseases	TB
IBPS PO	2020	Health CA	TB elimination
Railway NTPC	2022	Infectious diseases	TB basics

- With reference to Tuberculosis (TB) in India, consider the following statements:

- India accounts for more than one-fourth of the global TB burden.
- Migrant populations often face disruption in TB treatment continuity.
- Post-TB lung disease has negligible impact on long-term health outcomes.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Signs of global memory chip shortage emerge at PC shops

The build-your-own-PC market has become far more expensive due to surging memory chip prices, in what might foreshadow price increases elsewhere for Indian electronics

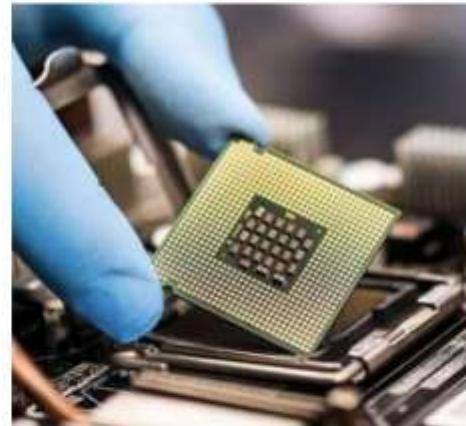
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

At Nehru Place in the national capital, the beginnings of a looming pricing crisis in personal electronics is taking shape, as customers and retailers in the sprawling market struggle to get hands on RAM sticks and SSDs used in desktop PCs, laptops and smartphones.

Over the last few weeks, prices of these components have surged with little precedent, beyond even the levels seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, as AI hyper scalers globally crowd out a supply chain that now has less room for consumer-grade products.

At Manoj PC Wala, a single stick of DDR5 16GB RAM — that until November was selling for about ₹5,000 at worst — now bears a fresh MRP sticker. The current price is ₹15,000. "SSD prices have doubled, and RAM prices have increased four times," Subhash, one of the store's attendants, said. Price data for these components reviewed by *The Hindu* confirm this assessment.

Early in December, one of the handful of importers for RAM sticks, which are usually pre-installed in pre-built PCs or laptops (and less commonly sold separately to enthusiasts or enterprises), offered retailers a chance to buy up stock in bulk at the prevailing prices of the time. Suppliers



Compute the cost: Cause of the problem is 3 firms have cornered the memory chip market's supply chain. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

warned rates would only rise from there, Pramod, another attendant, said. Most retailers balked, unable or unwilling to risk the down payment this offer entailed. Now, RAM and SSD prices are indeed skyrocketing and the climb in prices could persist in the months ahead.

Consumer electronics
The root cause of the problem is three firms have largely cornered the memory chip market's supply chain: SK Hynix, Samsung and Micron. These firms have been overwhelmed with orders for chips used in AI data centres by Big Tech that outbid consumer-grade electronics makers' prices. Micron has even announced that it will shut down Crucial, its RAM

brand for consumers. The full impact of the price shock this situation will lead to — in the absence of the trio ramping up production — will be felt in the coming months. Electronics markets such as the Nehru Place cater to a small portion of consumers, who build their own hardware. Large-scale original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Dell, HP and Asus often have long-term supply agreements that protect them from immediate price jolts.

But even these firms are preparing for price adjustments. Dell has already announced plans for raising prices of laptops sold to enterprise clients, sparing individual buyers for now.

Long-planned computer procurements across go-

vernment and the private sector have been spared so far: a senior State government official told *The Hindu* Tamil Nadu's plan to distribute 10 lakh laptops to college students was not impacted by the chip price surge. A senior IT Ministry official said the price shocks had not reached large industry players yet, due to their existing reserves and supply deals with memory chip makers.

Even smartphone makers may have to scale down the level of RAM or memory they offer at a given price point, or hike prices. While smartphone prices are now only hit at low-budget line-ups, price shocks "could spread across the broader smartphone and consumer electronics ecosystem," Ivan Lam, analyst, Counterpoint Research, wrote in a note. As India's smartphone market is on the right side of a recovery in shipments, the shock may impact the recovery.

As far as the custom PC builders are concerned, driven as they are by a usually correct logic that assembling one's own PC is cheaper than paying for a pre-built one, they are less willing to invest in things needing a separate RAM purchase for the moment, Subhash said.

"What they thought they could build for ₹50,000 now costs ₹70,000," he says. "So they're not buying."

- Signs of a global memory chip shortage are emerging in Indian PC markets, especially at **Nehru Place**, Asia's largest electronics hub.
वैश्विक मेमोरी चिप की कमी के संकेत भारत के पीसी बाज़ारों में दिखने लगे हैं, विशेषकर नेहरू प्लेस में।

What Is Happening on the Ground

- Prices of RAM and SSDs used in PCs, laptops and smartphones have surged sharply.
पीसी, लैपटॉप और स्मार्टफोन में उपयोग होने वाले RAM और SSD की कीमतों में तेज़ बढ़ोतरी।
- Example: 16 GB DDR5 RAM price rose from ~₹5,000 (Nov) to ₹15,000.
16 GB DDR5 RAM की कीमत ₹5,000 से बढ़कर ₹15,000।
- SSD prices have doubled, RAM prices quadrupled in some cases.
SSD की कीमत दोगुनी, RAM की कीमत चार गुना तक।

Root Cause (Supply-Side)

- Global memory supply is **cornered by three firms**:
SK Hynix, Samsung, and Micron.
तीन कंपनियों का वैश्विक मेमोरी सप्लाई पर प्रभुत्व।
- AI data centres and hyperscalers are **outbidding consumer electronics makers**.
AI डेटा सेंटर उपभोक्ता इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स से ज्यादा कीमत देकर चिप खरीद रहे हैं।
- Micron has announced **shutdown of Crucial RAM brand for consumers**.
Micron द्वारा Crucial RAM ब्रांड बंद करने की घोषणा।

Why This Is Serious

- Price shock **worse than COVID-19 period** in memory components.

कोविड-19 काल से भी अधिक गंभीर मूल्य झटका।

- Custom PC building becoming unaffordable.

कस्टम पीसी बनाना महंगा होता जा रहा है।

Impact on Electronics Ecosystem

- Short-term impact limited for large OEMs like Dell, HP, Asus due to long-term contracts.

दीर्घकालिक अनुबंधों के कारण बड़े OEM फिलहाल सुरक्षित।

- Possible future laptop and smartphone price hikes.

भविष्य में लैपटॉप व स्मार्टफोन महंगे हो सकते हैं।

- Smartphone makers may **reduce RAM configurations** or raise prices.

RAM क्षमता घटाना या कीमत बढ़ाना।

Government View

- Large public procurement (e.g. Tamil Nadu's laptop scheme) **not yet impacted**.

सरकारी खरीद पर अभी असर नहीं।

Dimension

Memory Chips

Major Suppliers

Key Demand Driver

COVID Comparison

Affected Sectors

India Impact

Data (English)

DRAM, NAND

Samsung, SK Hynix,
Micron

AI data centres

Current shock worse

PCs, laptops,
smartphones

Custom PC builders hit
first

दिशा (Hindi)

DRAM, NAND

संसॅक्टिक्यूप, SK हाय्निक्स, रक्सा-डैश्यू

AI मूल्यांकन

कूलरिंग ड्रॉपरुप फ्रिजर

हार्डवेर, सॉफ्टवेर, नवेक्षण

इंडिया वैश्विक ड्रॉपरुप ड्रॉपरुप

- **With reference to the recent rise in memory chip prices, consider the following statements:**
 - The global DRAM and NAND memory market is dominated by three firms.
 - Rising AI data-centre demand has reduced chip availability for consumer electronics.
 - India is currently self-sufficient in memory chip manufacturing.
 - Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3



INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY
Myanmar Junta releases over 6,100 prisoners
WORLD > PAGE 24

CHINA PARABOLIC
What Beijing's shifting stance means for world
India must be alert and strategically patient
EDITORIAL > PAGE 5

SYDNEY TEST
Root, Brook rescue England on day one
SPORT > PAGE 37

INSIDE



WOKERS
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sent a fresh letter to Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Verma urging him to rectify glitches in the special intensive revision electoral rolls or halt the exercise in the state. > PAGE 1



VERSATILE
The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has given a call to the working class to make the February 12 general strike against the proposed changes in the draconian Labour Codes and the multi-pronged attack by the Modi government on the rights and entitlements of a large success. > PAGE 1

KTR triggers row with his remarks on Rahul Gandhi

HYDERABAD
Union Minister Sanchi (BNS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday sparked a fresh political row in Andhra Pradesh by saying that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi "should be hanged" for what he described as failure prioritise roads to unemployed youth. > PAGE 1

Maduro in NY jail, V-P to take over in Caracas

With Maduro facing charges in the U.S., Venezuela's apex court appoints V.P. Rodriguez as interim chief

**Associated Press
REUTERS
CARACAS**

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has been held in New York prison on sum day to face criminal charges after being captured in a night-time raid on an office done without approval from the U.S. Congress, even though he is the country's top court-appointed Vice-President. The court chose Rodriguez as interim leader.

Mr. Maduro and wife Cilia Flores, were taken from their home in a military base by U.S. forces on Saturday – an act that Mr. Maduro's government called "imperialist". The

"couple faces U.S. charges of participating in a narcotics conspiracy."

In Caracas, the Supreme Court ordered on Saturday that Ms. Rodriguez act as acting President in the absence of Mr. Maduro.

With Rodriguez to assume

the office of President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the court guaranteed administrative continuity and the preservation of the constitution.

"If she does not do what is right," according to an interview with *The Atlantic* magazine.

Mr. Rodriguez had said that her country would defend its natural resources after Saturday's events.



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro at the offices of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in New York on Saturday. AP

India concerned for the well-being of Venezuelans

NEW YORK
A day after the U.S. took away President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores from Venezuela's capital Caracas, the Indian government expressed concern for the well-being of the people of Venezuela, and called for dialogue to ensure peace in the region. > PAGE 4

"If Rodriguez does not do what is right, she will pay a bigger price than Maduro," says Trump.

After arriving at a small airport in New York City's northern suburbs, Mr. Maduro was driven by a reporter to Manhattan, where a convoy of law enforcement vehicles and a black armoured car was waiting to whisk him to a nearby U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration office.

Some Venezuelan civilians and members of the military were killed during Mr. Rodriguez's, who didn't give a number, a number of protesters hours after Mr. Maduro's capture on Saturday. Mr. Rodriguez, who is from the state of Denmark, a NATO country.

The Venezuelan court's

ruling on Sunday added

that the court will debate the matter in order to determine what is applicable to the country of the state, the administration of government of sovereignty in the face of the forced absence of the President of the Republic.

Some Venezuelan civilians and members of the military were killed during Mr. Rodriguez's, who didn't give a number, a number of protesters

hours after Mr. Maduro's capture on Saturday. Mr. Rodriguez, who is from the state of Denmark, a NATO country.

The Venezuelan court's

ruling on Sunday added

to American intervention. "We do need Green力量," Mr. Rodriguez said. Mr. Trump and his wife, Melania, had previously planned to exploit the leadership void to "fix" the country's oil infrastructure and sell "large amounts" of oil to other countries.

Wounded tiger



Taking cover: An injured tiger resting on a hillside near the Thiruvananthapuram reserve forest at Poothi near Kollam on Sunday. Forest officials said it was injured after a fight with another tiger and was being monitored using thermal drones. It is recovering

Bangladesh 'will not travel to India for T20 WC over security concerns'

AMOL KACHADKAR

REUBAN

With less than five weeks remaining for the Men's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by India and Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced that its team will not travel to India to participate in the tournament, and has formally requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) to relocate Bangladesh's matches outside India.

The announcement came a day after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) directed the Indian Cricket Association (ICA) franchisee, Kolkata Knight Riders, to part ways with Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman.



"Following a thorough analysis of the current situation and the growing concern regarding the safety and security of the Indian public, the BCB, and considering the advice from the Bangladeshi government, the board of directors resolved

that the Bangladeshi national team will not travel to India for the tournament due to security conditions," the statement said.

The matter now rests with the ICC, which is expected to respond to the BCB's request within the next few days.

The Men's T20 World Cup is scheduled to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8. Following 18 matches in the tournament, Sri Lanka is slated to host 20, including all of Pakistan's fixtures, which the BCB already agreed to neutral venues for India-Pakistan matches in ICC events until 2028.

Centre to allow multiple airports in major cities: Civil Aviation Minister

N. Srinivas Rao
VELAGAMAGARAM

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu said here on Sunday that the Union government would allow the setting up of two or more airports each in major cities in view of increasing air traffic across the country.

"The Centre will review the proposal to allow two or more airports within a 150-km radius," Mr. Rammohan Naidu said after the successful first test flight at the new Alur Sitaraha airport in West Bengal, located in the Bhogarpuram in Villupuram district of Andhra Pradesh.

The Centre was already taking steps to review the construction of new airports in Mumbai, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, and Bengaluru located about 42 km from New Delhi, Bengaluru, Paravur in Kerala, and other cities.

"The government will accept the proposals for new airports if the existing airports reach saturation levels," he said.

On the other hand, the government was according to top priority to the aviation sector by promoting new airports, along with maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities, to spur economic activity and ensure direct



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India's Russian oil imports at six-month high in Nov.

T.C.A. Sharad Rao
NEW DELHI

India's Russian oil imports rose to a six-month high in terms of volume and value in November 2023, with its share in the market rising and imports rising to 35%, latest data showed.

Expressing confidence that the Bhogarpuram air port will be a powerful growth engine that would create employment opportunities and economic activity said Rammohan Naidu said. "The airport will strengthen exports and imports and the tourism potential of Andhra Pradesh."

The Civil Aviation Minister for M/S/M/s Kondapalli Ravikumar and GM/B Group Airports and Airports Authority of India G.B.S. Rao, excused confidence that the North Andhra region would witness rapid growth with the development of new international airport at Bhogarpuram.

Workers from Bengal were 'assaulted' in Maharashtra

**Press Trust of India
KOLKATA**

Three migrant workers from Pabna in West Bengal were allegedly assaulted and beaten up by a mob of upper castes in Maharashtra that they were "Bengali/Bangladeshi", prompting sharp reactions in the State.

Pandalswar MLA Narendranath Chakrabarty met the victims on Sunday and condemned the incident. He hit out at the Congress for its "anti-Bengali atmosphere against Bengali-speaking people".

On the other hand, the government was according to top priority to the aviation sector by promoting new airports, along with maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities, to spur economic activity and ensure direct

imports of Russian oil. The volume was 7% higher than the volume imports in November 2023, the highest since May 2023.

In November, India imported 5.2 billion barrels of Russian oil in November 2023, constituting 3.4% of its imports. The U.S. in August 2023, imposed a 25% tariff on India's imports from 28% to 50% as a "penalty" for its imports of Russian oil.

According to sources in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, there is growing frustration in the government over the fact that despite India's legal measures to cut Russian oil imports, there has been little progress on tariffs.

FULL REPORT ON

» PAGE 2

Maduro in NY jail, V-P to take over in Caracas

With Maduro facing charges in the U.S., Venezuela's apex court appoints V-P Rodríguez as interim chief

Acting President demands that the U.S. free the President, calls him the country's rightful leader

If Rodríguez does not do what is right, she will pay a bigger price than Maduro, says Trump

Associated Press

Reuters

CARACAS

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was held in a New York prison on Sunday to face criminal charges after being captured in a night-time military operation done without approval from the U.S. Congress, even as the South American country's top court appointed Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez as interim leader.

Mr. Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were taken from their home in a military base by U.S. forces on Saturday – an act that Mr. Maduro's government called "imperialist". The

couple faces U.S. charges of participating in a narco-terrorism conspiracy.

In Venezuela, the Supreme Court ordered on Saturday that Ms. Rodríguez assume the role of Acting President in the absence of Mr. Maduro.

While the court said Ms. Rodríguez would assume "the office of President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in order to guarantee administrative continuity and the comprehensive defence of the nation", she demanded that the U.S. free Mr. Maduro and called him the country's rightful leader.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday said Ms. Rodríguez may pay a bigger price than Mr. Maduro



Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro at the offices of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in New York on Saturday. REUTERS

"if she does not do what is right," according to an interview with *The Atlantic magazine*.

Ms. Rodríguez had said that her country would defend its natural resources after Saturday's events.

"If she does not do what is right, she is going to pay a very big price, probably bigger than Mr. Maduro," Mr. Trump was quoted as saying in a telephone interview. He also said other countries may be subject

India 'concerned' for the well-being of Venezuelans

NEW DELHI

A day after the U.S. took away President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores from Venezuela's capital Caracas, India expressed its concern for the "well-being of the people of Venezuela", and called for dialogue to ensure peace in the region. [» PAGE 4](#)

to American intervention.

"We do need Greenland, absolutely," Mr. Trump said of the island that is part of Denmark, a NATO country.

The Venezuela court's ruling on Sunday added

that the court will debate the matter in order to "determine the applicable legal framework to guarantee the continuity of the state, the administration of government, and the defence of sovereignty in the face of the forced absence of the President of the Republic."

Some Venezuelan civilians and members of the military were killed, said Ms. Rodríguez, who didn't give a number.

Speaking to reporters hours after Mr. Maduro's capture on Saturday, Mr. Trump had revealed his plans to exploit the leadership void to "fix" the country's oil infrastructure and sell "large amounts" of oil to other countries.

After arriving at a small airport in New York City's northern suburbs, Mr. Maduro was flown by helicopter to Manhattan, where a convoy of law enforcement vehicles, including an armoured car, was waiting to whisk him to a nearby U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration office.

A video posted by a White House account showed Mr. Maduro, smiling, as he was escorted through that office by DEA agents grasping his arms.

Venezuela's ruling party has held power since 1999, when Mr. Maduro's predecessor, Hugo Chávez, took office, promising to uplift poor people and later to implement a self-described socialist revolution.

- Maduro faces U.S. criminal charges, including narcotics-terrorism conspiracy.
मादुरो पर अमेरिका में ड्रग-आतंकवाद साजिश के आरोप।
- Venezuela's Supreme Court appoints Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez as Acting President.
वेनेज़ुएला की सर्वोच्च अदालत द्वारा डेल्सी रोद्रिगोज को कार्यवाहक राष्ट्रपति नियुक्त।
- Acting President demands the U.S. release Maduro, calling him the country's rightful leader.
अमेरिका से मादुरो को रिहा करने की मांग।

U.S. Position (as claimed)

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump warns Rodríguez of "bigger consequences" if she does not act in U.S. interest.
द्रम्प द्वारा कठोर चेतावनी।
- U.S. hints at:
 - Regime continuity decisions
 - Control over oil infrastructureशासन निरंतरता और तेल संसाधनों पर नियंत्रण के संकेत।

The uncertainty after Maduro

The US apprehends Nicolás Maduro to face charges of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism, following months of pressure on Venezuela. Republican hawks hope for regime change, but most of the government and military remain intact; removing Maduro alone is unlikely to transform politics and may spark challenges

WORLD INSIGHT

Andrew Gantorp

Venezuela's president, Nicolás Maduro, has been apprehended and flown to the U.S., where the U.S. attorney-general has announced he will face charges of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism. The U.S. military's operation to snatch Mr. Maduro was carried out in the early hours of January 3 and follows months of steadily mounting pressure on the Venezuelan government.

Now it appears that the U.S. operation to remove a leader it has designated as a "narco-terrorist" has come to fruition. But whether the capture and removal of Mr. Maduro will lead to regime change in the oil-rich Latin American country remains unclear at present.

The U.S. campaign against Venezuela is the product of two distinct policy impulses within the Donald Trump administration. The first is the long-held desire of many Republican hawks, including U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to force regime change in Caracas. They detest Venezuela's socialist government and see overturning it as an opportunity to appeal to conservative Hispanic voters in the U.S.

The second impulse is more complex. Mr. Trump campaigned for election in 2016 on the idea that his administration would not become involved in foreign conflicts. But his administration claims that Venezuela's government and military are involved in drug trafficking, which, in Washington's thinking, makes them terrorist organisations that are harming the American people. As head of the country's government, Mr. Maduro, according to the Trump administration's logic, is responsible for that.

During Mr. Trump's first administration, his Department of Justice indicted Mr. Maduro on charges of "narco-terrorism". Now U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi says there might be a new indictment which also covers Mr. Maduro's wife, who was taken into detention with him. The fact that U.S. law enforcement was involved in their capture reinforces the idea that they will now face those charges at a New York court, despite an early claim by opposition sources in Venezuela that Mr. Maduro's departure may have been negotiated with the U.S. government.

What comes next?

The big question is what comes next in Venezuela, and whether either the Republican hawks or the "America first" crowd will get the outcome that they want: ending U.S. military presence to "finish the job" or simply a show of U.S. strength to punish its adversary which doesn't involve a lengthy American involvement.

The U.S. has discovered time and again in recent decades that it is extremely difficult to dictate the political futures of foreign countries with military force. The White House might want to see the emergence of a non-socialist government in Caracas, as well as one which cracks down on the drug trade.

But simply removing Mr. Maduro and dropping some bombs is unlikely to achieve that goal after nearly three decades of building up the regime under Mr. Maduro and his predecessor Hugo Chávez.

The Trump administration could have learned this lesson from Libya, whose dictatorial government the U.S. and its



Frayed tempers: A supporter of Nicolás Maduro waves a national flag while standing on a median strip in Caracas, Venezuela, on Saturday. AP

ally collapsed in 2011. The country collapsed into chaos soon after, inflicting widespread suffering on its own citizens and creating problems for its neighbours.

In the case of Venezuela, it is unlikely that the American military's strikes alone will be enough to fatally undermine its government. Mr. Maduro may be gone, but the vast majority of the country's governmental and military apparatus remains intact. Power will likely pass to a new figure in the regime. The White House may dream that popular protests will break out against the government after Mr. Maduro's ousting, but history shows that people usually react to being bombed by a foreign power by rallying around the flag, not turning against their leaders.

Nor would Venezuela's descent into chaos be likely to help the Trump administration achieve its goals. Conflict in Venezuela could generate new refugee flows which would eventually reach America's southern border. The collapse of central government authority would be likely to create a more conducive environment for drug trafficking. Widespread internal violence and human rights violations could hardly be portrayed as a victory to the crucial

conservative Hispanic voting bloc.

If the Trump administration dreams of establishing a stable, pro-American government in Caracas, it is going to have to do more than just arrest Mr. Maduro. Bringing about durable regime change typically involves occupying a country with ground troops and engaging in "nation building". The U.S. tried this with decidedly mixed results in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Trump has pledged to avoid such entanglements and Mr. Rubio has said that, for now at least, the U.S. has no plans for further military action against Venezuela. Mr. Trump has a penchant for flashy, quick wins, particularly in foreign policy. He may hope to tout Mr. Maduro's capture as a victory and move on to other matters.

Nation-building failures

In almost no recent U.S. military intervention did the American government set out to engage in nation-building right from the beginning. The perceived need to shepherd a new government into existence has typically only come to be felt when the limits of what can be accomplished by military force alone become apparent.

THE GIST

The U.S. apprehends Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro and flies him to the United States to face charges of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism, marking the culmination of months of mounting pressure on Caracas.

Removing a leader through force or arrest has rarely delivered stable political outcomes, as past U.S. interventions show.

Without nation-building or long-term engagement, U.S. goals of a non-socialist, stable government in Caracas are unlikely to be achieved.

What the U.S. Claims

- U.S. apprehended Maduro to face drug-trafficking and narco-terrorism charges.
अमेरिका द्वारा मादुरो पर ड्रग तस्करी व नाकॉ-आतंकवाद के आरोप।
- Action followed months of diplomatic, economic and political pressure.
कई महीनों के दबाव के बाद कार्रवाई।

Key Insight of the Article (VERY IMPORTANT)

- Removing a leader ≠ Regime change
केवल नेता को हटाने से शासन परिवर्तन नहीं होता।
- Venezuelan state institutions and military largely remain intact.
वेनेज़ुएला की सेना व प्रशासनिक ढाँचा अभी भी कायम है।

Limits of Military or Coercive Action

- History shows foreign military intervention rarely brings durable political stability.
इतिहास बताता है कि सैन्य हस्तक्षेप से टिकाऊ राजनीतिक स्थिरता नहीं आती।
- Without:
 - nation-building
 - long-term governance strategy
 - public legitimacy
बिना राष्ट्र-निर्माण व वैधता के परिवर्तन संभव नहीं।

Domestic Impact in Venezuela

- Risk of:
 - internal instability
 - nationalist backlash
 - protests and violence
- Power may shift within ruling elites, **not necessarily to democracy.**
सत्ता का पुनर्वितरण हो सकता है, लोकतंत्र नहीं।

Wider Geopolitical Concern

- Such actions may:
 - destabilise Latin America
 - worsen refugee flows
 - create regional spillovers
- क्षेत्रीय अस्थिरता और शरणार्थी संकट को बढ़ा सकते हैं।

India's Likely Strategic Position

- **Principled neutrality, dialogue and concern for civilians.**
भारत की नीति: संप्रभुता, संवाद और मानव कल्याण।

Big hurdles ahead of Trump's plan to seize, revitalise Venezuela's oil sector

The South American country's oil industry is in disrepair after years of neglect and international sanctions; it could take years and major investments before production can increase dramatically; however, some analysts opine it could double its current output to return to historic levels fairly quickly

NEWS ANALYSIS

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's plan to take control of Venezuela's oil industry and ask American companies to revitalise it after capturing President Nicolás Maduro in a raid isn't likely to have a significant immediate impact on oil prices.

Venezuela's oil industry is in disrepair after years of neglect and international sanctions, so it could take years and major investments before production can increase dramatically. But some analysts are optimistic that Venezuela could double or triple its current output of about 1.1 million barrels of oil a day to return to historic levels fairly quickly.

"While many are reporting Venezuela's oil infrastructure was unharmed by U.S. military actions, has been decaying for many many years and will take time to rebuild," said Patrick De Haan, who is the lead petroleum analyst at gasoline price tracker GasBuddy.

American oil companies will want a stable regime in the country before they are willing to invest heavily, and the political picture remained uncertain Saturday with Trump saying that the United States is in

charge, while the current Venezuelan Vice President argued, before Venezuela's High Court ordered her to assume the role of interim president, that Mr. Maduro should be restored to power.

"But if it seems like the U.S. is successful in running the country for the next 24 hours, I would say there would be a lot of optimism that U.S. energy companies could come in and revitalise the Venezuelan oil industry fairly quickly," said Phil Flynn, a senior market analyst at the Price Futures Group.

And if Venezuela can grow into an oil production powerhouse, Mr. Flynn said "that could cement lower prices for the longer term" and put more pressure on Russia.

Oil isn't traded over the weekend, so there wasn't an immediate impact on prices. But a major shift in prices isn't expected when the market does reopen. Venezuela is a member of OPEC so its production is already accounted for there. And there is currently a surplus of oil on the global market.

Venezuela is known to have the world's largest proven crude oil reserves of approximately 303 billion barrels, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That accounts for roughly 17% of all global oil reserves.

So international oil companies have reason to be



Sensitive situation: Protesters demonstrate against U.S. military action in Venezuela in Times Square, New York, on Saturday. AFP

interested in Venezuela.

Leading companies, including Exxon Mobil and Chevron, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment Saturday. ConocoPhillips spokesperson Dennis Nuss said by email that the company "is monitoring developments in Venezuela and their potential implications for global energy supply and stability. It would be premature to speculate on any future business activities or investments."

Chevron is the only one with significant operations in Venezuela, where it produces about 2,500,000 barrels a day. Chevron, which first invested in Venezuela in the 1920s, does business in the country through joint ventures with the state-owned company Petróleos de Venezuela S.A., commonly known as

reign companies to start pouring money in before they have a clear perspective on the political stability, the contract situation and the like," said Francisco Monaldi, who is the director of the Latin American energy program at Rice University.

But the infrastructure does need significant investment.

"The estimate is that in order for Venezuela to increase from one million barrels per day – that is what it produces today – to four million barrels, it will take about a decade and about a hundred billion dollars of investment," Mr. Monaldi said.

Venezuela produces the kind of heavy crude oil that's needed for diesel fuel, asphalt and other fuels for heavy equipment. Diesel is in short supply around the world because of the sanctions on oil from Venezuela and Russia and because America's lighter crude oil can't easily replace it.

Pressure on Russia

Years ago, American refineries on the Gulf Coast were optimised to handle that kind of heavy crude at a time when U.S. oil production was falling and Venezuelan and Mexican crude was plentiful. So refineries would love to have more access to Venezuela's crude because it would help them operate more efficiently, and it tends to be

a little cheaper.

Boosting Venezuelan production could also make it easier to put pressure on Russia because Europe and the rest of the world could get more of the diesel and heavy oil they need from Venezuela and stop buying from Russia.

"There's been a big benefit for Russia to see Venezuela's oil industry collapse. And the reason is because they were a competitor on the global stage for that oil market," Mr. Flynn said.

But Matthew Waxman, a Columbia University law professor who was a national security official in the George W. Bush administration, said seizing control of Venezuela's resources opens up additional legal issues.

"For example, a big issue will be who really owns Venezuela's oil?" Mr. Waxman wrote in an email.

"An occupying military power can't enrich itself by taking another state's resources, but the Trump administration will probably claim that the Venezuelan government never rightfully held them."

But Mr. Waxman, who served in the State and Defense departments and on the National Security Council under Mr. Bush, noted that "we've seen the administration talk very dismissively about international law when it comes to Venezuela."

- The article analyses major hurdles in the plan attributed to former U.S. President Donald Trump to seize and revitalise the oil sector of Venezuela.

यह लेख वेनेज़ुएला के तेल क्षेत्र को अपने नियंत्रण में लेने और पुनर्जीवित करने की अमेरिकी योजना में आने वाली बड़ी बाधाओं का विश्लेषण करता है।

Present Condition of Venezuela's Oil Sector

- Venezuela's oil industry is in deep disrepair due to:
 - years of neglect
 - corruption and mismanagement
 - international sanctionsतेल उद्योग वर्षों की उपेक्षा, भ्रष्टाचार और अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबंधों के कारण जर्जर स्थिति में है।
- Oil production has fallen sharply from ~3.5 million barrels/day (1999) to ~1 million barrels/day or less.

उत्पादन 1999 के 35 लाख बैरल/दिन से घटकर लगभग 10 लाख बैरल/दिन।

Why Quick Revival Is Difficult

- **Infrastructure decay:** refineries, pipelines, storage need rebuilding
अवसंरचना जर्जर – रिफाइनरी, पाइपलाइन, भंडारण सभी।
- **Huge investment requirement:** estimated \$100 billion + a decade to reach 4 million barrels/c
लगभग 100 अरब डॉलर और 10 वर्ष का समय आवश्यक।
- **Political instability & legal uncertainty** discourage foreign investors.
राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और कानूनी अनिश्चितता निवेश को हतोत्साहित करती है।

Role of International Oil Companies

- Major companies such as **ExxonMobil**, **Chevron** remain cautious.
बड़ी तेल कंपनियाँ सतर्क रुख अपनाए हुए हैं।
- Only **Chevron** has limited operations through joint ventures with **PDVSA**.
केवल शेवरॉन की सीमित मौजूदगी।

Oil Quality & Market Constraints

- Venezuela produces **heavy crude**, not easily replaceable by U.S. light crude.
वेनेज़ुएला का तेल भारी किस्म का है, अमेरिकी तेल उसका विकल्प नहीं।
- Global oil market currently has **relative surplus**, limiting price shocks.
वैश्विक बाज़ार में अभी तेल अधिशेष।

SC: Open seats not a quota, can be filled by SC/ST/OBC candidates

Anyone Scoring More Than Gen Cut-Off Can Get It

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that candidates belonging to SC, ST, OBC and EWS are entitled to general category posts if they secure the cut-off marks stipulated for the general category.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta & Augustine G Masih dismissed a petition by Rajasthan HC which, while recruiting candidates for certain posts, had barred reserved category candidates from getting appointed against general category posts despite their securing more marks than the cut-off for the general category.

The SC said if a reserved category candidate is more meritorious than the general category candidate, then the

'RESERVATION NO BAR'

 Vacancies notified/advertised as **open or unreserved or general** are not reserved for any caste/tribe/class/gender

The availability of reservation does not operate as a bar for a reserved category candidate from being **considered on merit against unreserved category**

For unreserved posts, **merit among all candidates serves as benchmark** –SC

former has to be considered for the posts earmarked as 'general' or 'open'. Writing the judgment, Justice Datta said, "We hold that the word 'open' connotes nothing but 'open', meaning thereby that vacant posts which are sought to be filled by earmarking it as 'open' do not fall in any category."

This significant ruling by a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine G Masih was inspired by SC's landmark verdict in the Indra Sawhney case of

1992 which had granted 27% reservation to OBCs in govt jobs.

Writing the judgment, Justice Datta said, "One does find categories like 'open' or 'unreserved' or 'general' being widely used in course of recruitment drives but they are meant to signify the open/unreserved vacant posts on which any suitable candidate can be appointed, regardless of the caste/tribe/class/gender of such candidate."

The bench said, "For all intents and purposes, the vacancies on posts which are notified/advertised as open or unreserved or general, as the terms suggest, are not reserved for any caste/tribe/class/gender and are, thus, open to all notwithstanding that a cross-section of society can also compete for appointment on vacant posts which are 'reserved' – vertical or horizontal – as mentioned in the notification/advertisement."

►Continued on P 4

Core Judgment

- Supreme Court of India ruled that “open / general seats are NOT a quota” and can be filled by SC / ST / OBC / EWS candidates if they score above the general cut-off.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने स्पष्ट किया कि ‘ओपन/जनरल सीटें’ कोई कोटा नहीं हैं और यदि SC/ST/OBC/EWS उम्मीदवार जनरल कट-ऑफ से अधिक अंक लाते हैं तो वे इन सीटों पर चयनित हो सकते हैं।

Key Legal Principle

- Merit prevails for open seats.
ओपन सीटों पर मेरिट ही आधार है।
- Reservation does not bar a reserved category candidate from being considered in the general category.
आरक्षण किसी भी योग्य उम्मीदवार को जनरल सीट से नहीं रोकता।

What the Court Clarified

- Vacancies advertised/notified as **open / unreserved / general**:
 - are **not reserved for any caste, tribe, class, or gender**
 - are **open to all candidates purely on merit**
‘ओपन/अनारक्षित’ पद किसी भी जाति/वर्ग/लिंग के लिए आरक्षित नहीं होते और केवल मेरिट के आधार पर भरे जाते हैं।
- Reserved category candidates **do not “consume” reserved seats if selected on open merit.**
यदि आरक्षित वर्ग का उम्मीदवार मेरिट से चुना जाता है, तो वह आरक्षित सीट नहीं घेरता।

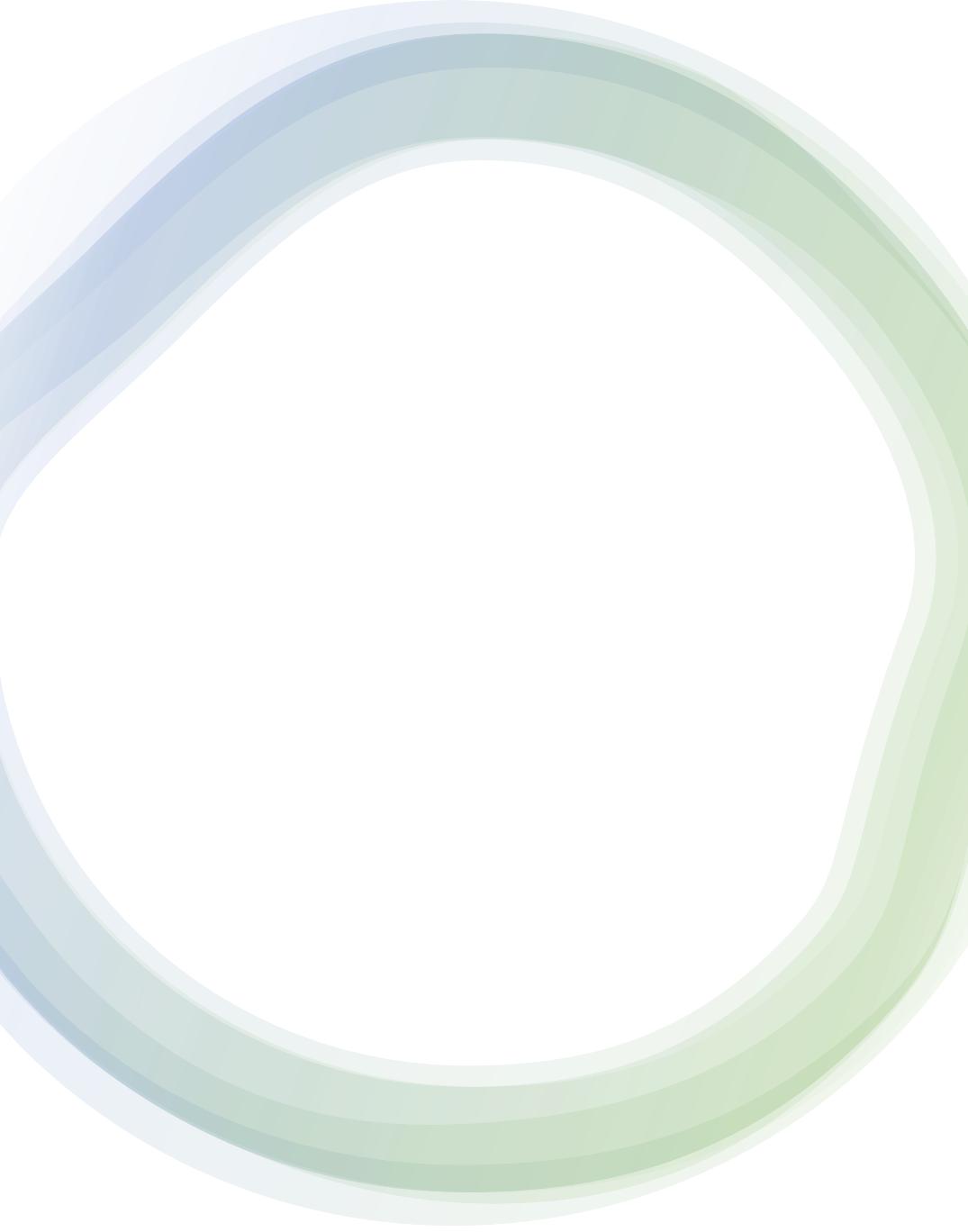
Case Background

- Judgment delivered by a Bench of **Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Augustine G. Masih.**
न्यायमूर्ति दीपांकर दत्ता और न्यायमूर्ति ऑगस्टीन जॉर्ज मसीह की पीठ।
- Court dismissed a petition that **barred reserved candidates from general posts** despite higher marks.
आरक्षित उम्मीदवारों को जनरल सीट से रोकने की याचिका खारिज।

Term	Meaning (English)	₹ का (Hindi)
Open / General Seat	Merit-based, no reservation	इकूल अन्तर्गत रक्कम व शरणार्थी
Reserved Seat	Earmarked for SC/ST/OBC/EWS	अधिकारी वर्ग
Cut-off	Minimum qualifying marks	ऐसी अंक जो विद्युत दर्शक को अवृत्ति देती है
Merit Candidate	Highest scorer irrespective of category	अप्रतिकूल होने वाले शरणार्थी

Dimension	Key Fact (English)	रक्षा लैंग ज़ (Hindi)
Constitutional Articles	Art. 14, 15(4), 16(4)	द्रक्षेत्र लैंग अंग घर्ल र्
Reservation Limit	50% (Indra Sawhney)	इंजप द्रहक्ष
Open Seats	Not a quota	इंजन्क्ष एण्हा
Merit Rule	Applies to all	द्रक्षह हंग चरफ्ल
Vertical Reservation	SC/ST/OBC	चंगात्र अंग घर्ल र्
Horizontal Reservation	Women, PwD	लैंगर अंग घर्ल र्

Exam	Year	Question Theme	Direct Link
UPSC Prelims	2011	Indra Sawhney case	Reservation limits
UPSC Mains GS-II	2016	Reservation & equality	Arts. 14–16
UPSC Prelims	2019	Constitutional provisions	Public employment
RPSC RAS	2022	Reservation policy	Merit vs quota
SSC CGL	2020	Constitutional GK	Equality
IBPS PO	2021	Social justice	Reservation
Railway NTPC	2023	Polity basics	Recruitment rules



- With reference to reservation in public employment in India, consider the following statements:
- Open or general category seats are not reserved for any caste or class.
- A reserved category candidate selected on merit against an open seat is counted against the reserved quota.
- The Indra Sawhney judgment upheld reservation but emphasised merit in open competition.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

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Word of the day

Disparate:

fundamentally different or distinct in quality or kind

Synonyms: contrary, diverse, unrelated

Usage: *The report combines disparate ideas.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/disparatepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /dɪspərət/





Thank you ☺

