

# Daily Current Affairs





3  
**The Hindu**



0  
**PIB, PRS & Other newspaper**

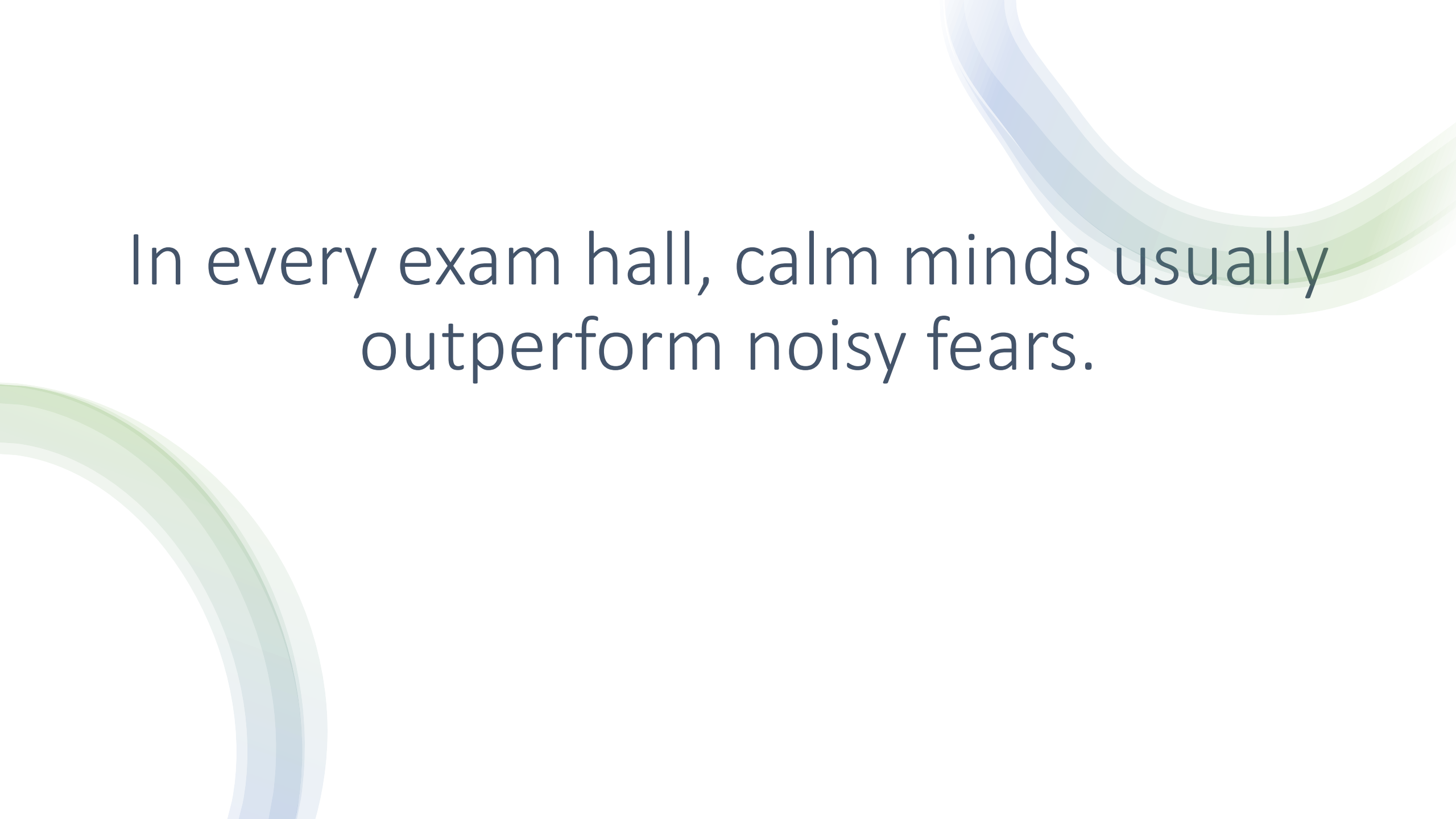
2  
**The Indian Express**



2  
**Financial Express**



0  
**Jansatta**

The background features two large, overlapping, curved lines. One is a light blue line that curves from the top right towards the center. The other is a light green line that curves from the bottom left towards the center. They overlap in the middle of the page.

In every exam hall, calm minds usually  
outperform noisy fears.

# UMANG 360



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE



- ✓ UMANG 360 MAGAZINE – COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS IN ONE PLACE
- ✓ COVERS MARCH 2026 TO APRIL 2027 MONTH-WISE
- ✓ INCLUDES MCQS, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & KEY UPDATES
- ✓ EASY, CONCISE & PERFECT FOR QUICK REVISION
- ✓ SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR UPSC, SSC, STATE PCS & ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS
- ✓ AVAILABLE IN E- PDF ( DOWNLOADABLE & PRINTABLE)



 Class24

HOME / COURSES / CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GK / UMANG 360 CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE 2026

### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir covers national & international events, key facts, MCQs, and analysis. Ideal for SSC, UPSC, RRB & other exams preparation.

Class24: Team Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir (4.8)

Overview Videos Test

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

### Get success in your hand. Start study anytime anywhere.

The journey becomes simple and enjoyable when you start taking interest in it. And through our app "Class24", we will be your trusted partners in developing that interest.



### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

₹149

BUY NOW

Have a Coupon Code?

Enquiry Whatsapp

Relative To Class24 Support Hi, how can we help

LIVE QUIZZES TESTS CLASSES

Home > Opinion > Sports > Business > Health > Education > Environment > Sub > Special > Gujarat > Karnataka > Kerala > Madhya Pradesh > Maharashtra > Mizoram > Nagaland > Odisha > Punjab > Rajasthan > Tamil Nadu > Telangana > West Bengal > World > Migration > News > India > Sports > Local > Opinion > Page 18

**TURNING IN TRIANPOOL**  
**Expelled MLA named**  
**Bengal Assembly LoP**  
NEWS > PAGE 9

**Over 40,000**  
**seek answer**  
**verification,**  
**re-evaluation**  
NEWS > PAGE 6

**'PRIORITY PARTNER'**  
**Chief of Nepal's ruling**  
**party meets PM Modi**  
NEWS > PAGE 4

**Why judicial**  
**holidays**  
**are necessary**  
*The debate needs to be on a more informed footing*  
OPINION > PAGE 8

**ENCORE**  
**Praggnanandhaa**  
**beats Carlsen again**  
SPORTS > PAGE 16

**INSIDE**



**Indian killed in Iranian drone strike on Kuwait**  
DUBAI  
An Indian was killed and dozens arrested in Kuwait on Wednesday after Iranian drones heavily damaged the main airport in the Persian Gulf country in the latest back and forth attacks by Tehran and Washington in West Asia. Both parties said they were retaliating for earlier attacks. > PAGE 14

**362 Bangladeshi 'illegals' arrested in Gujarat drive**  
AHMEDABAD  
The Gujarat Police detained 362 undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants and questioned more than 700 suspected foreign nationals under "Operation Galla Hunt" on Tuesday night and early Wednesday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently said that illegal infiltrators would be identified and deported. > PAGE 4

**Cong. leaders hail Karmanidhi on birth anniversary**  
NEW DELHI  
After breaking the alliance with the DMK in Tamil Nadu recently, Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday hailed late Bhargava Karmanidhi as the first secretary. Mr. Kharge praised Karmanidhi's lifelong commitment to social justice and national thought, while Mr. Gandhi said he spent his life fighting for Tamil. > PAGE 4

# 21 dead in Delhi fire; foreigners among victims

At least 47 were rescued from the blazing hotel which did not have fire clearance, say officials | Of the deceased, nine persons were from various African countries and two from Turkmenistan | Owner of building held, I-G orders month-long drive to review fire-safety regulations in the city

**Shivakumar Shivakumar**  
NEW DELHI  
Twenty-one people, foreign nationals among them, died in a blaze that ripped through a hotel in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar on Wednesday morning, officials said.  
At least 47 persons were pulled out from the fire and taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.  
Officials said the Proudh Stay hotel and breakfast facility was operating without clearance from the fire department. Lovesh Bahal, the owner of the building, was apprehended by police in New Delhi. A municipal corporation report (MCR) was registered against him under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 305 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The police said that of

the deceased, 12 were foreign nationals and rest were Indians.  
According to the Delhi Police, the fire started at the ground floor of the six-storey building and spread to the upper floors. Many people trapped inside the building began jumping out in desperation onto mattresses laid out on the ground by the local people, who were trying to rescue people, eyewitnesses said.  
**Lacking infrastructure**  
A senior Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official told *The Hindu*: "The building did not have any clearance through the fire department. There was no in-built firefighting infrastructure in place at the hotel. The architectural layout was also not as per fire safety norms."  
The building had only one entry-exit point and access to upper floors was



People attempt to douse the fire that breaks out in the hotel in Malviya Nagar, Delhi on Wednesday.

in-charged a meeting along with the fire department. Adishood and ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident to fix responsibility.  
The Lieutenant-Governor also ordered a month-long drive from Thursday to review safety con-

ditions will be done.  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratis of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 to each of the injured.  
**Fire-fighting operation**  
As per Delhi Police, the first call was received at 5.48 a.m., regarding a fire at the hotel at Malviya Nagar. The police and DFS reached the spot immediately and commenced the rescue, evacuation and relief operations. "The fire was on the ground, first and second floors of the building which has a basement. While the fire was contained on these floors, the rest of the building was affected by heat and smoke. A total of 10 firefighting units were deployed, said a senior fire department official.  
Fire-safety regula-

tions have revealed serious violations of safety and licence norms, including unauthorised commercial expansion, as per Mr. Modi's office.  
Meanwhile, both the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress attacked the BJP government over alleged delay in the fire department's response to the incident and other recent fires.  
While the locals alleged that the Fire Department arrived almost 45 minutes late and did not have proper equipment, the officials denied the allegations, saying that they had reached as soon as they received the call.  
Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said that immediately upon receiving information, emergency response agencies were mobilised and launched rescue and relief operations.

**NEWS TO WATCH**  
**PAGE 4**

## Shivakumar sworn in as Karnataka CM

**Bharath S. Srivastava**  
**Naresh Prabhlu**  
BANGALORE  
D.K. Shivakumar, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief and eight-time legislator, on Wednesday took oath as the 25th Chief Minister of the State along with 12 Cabinet Ministers.  
Senior leader G. Karanadeswara was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister, the post held by Mr. Shivakumar in the previous Siddaramaiah Cabinet. Yashoda Sankaranarayanan, son of the former Chief Minister, was also inducted into the new Cabinet.  
**Full version see**  
**PAGE 4**



Change of guard: Governor Thambiah Shanmugam administering the oath of office to Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar as the Chief Minister of Karnataka at the U.S. Embassy in Bangalore on Wednesday.

## U.S. moots 12.5% tariff on India for failure to enforce 'forced labour' regulations

**U.S. Sen. Shradha Bhawan**  
WASHINGTON  
The U.S. government has proposed to levy a tariff of 12.5% on imports from 54 countries, including India, that it says have "failed to enforce" its "forced labour" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour.  
In response, the Indian government has said it "remains engaged" with the U.S. government regarding the development as well as the finalisation of an Interim Agreement on the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) had, in March this year, launched an investigation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 to look into whether its trade partners were taking enough steps to stop the import of goods made using forced labour.  
The latest tariff announcement, as part of this investigation, are not final as yet.  
The countries, including India, can submit requests to the USTR to be exempted from the tariff. Similarly, if the country does not have a tariff and occupants are deflected in the open, we are looking to check if there is a tariff nearby, even that of a neighbour or a relative, which they may be occasionally or even a public utility. Thus the entry can be changed from open deflection to having access to tariff.  
Another exemption from U.S. Trade Sanctions, which may be applied to select systems that may show the government in poor light.

**Blow-by-blow**  
A timeline of U.S. tariff-related events  
Feb. 10, 2020: U.S. Supreme Court rejects treatment tariffs, Trump imposes 10% tariff on steel imports from all countries.  
March 2020: U.S. Trade Representative launches investigation into forced labour.  
June 4-11: U.S. investigation into India's labour laws.  
June 24: USTR announces findings of investigation related to forced labour.  
July 20: U.S. imposes 10% U.S. tariff on India.

the acts, policies and practices of India related to the failure to impose and effectively enforce a forced labour import prohibition are unreasonable and burdensome to U.S. commerce," the USTR report said.  
The proposed tariffs put India in the same tariff bracket as several of its competitors, including Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.  
The proposal by the USTR also includes a separate mechanism for textile and apparel products, under which a certain volume of imports from selected economies would be allowed to enter the U.S. at lower tariff rates.  
According to Agriwatch, senior trade policy leader at IY India, the impact of these tariffs on India could be significant.  
"In the near term, exporters in labour-intensive industries such as textiles, garments, carpets, leather, industries such as leather, footwear, and brassware could face at least an additional 10% levy under section 301, adding to their existing tariff exposure," Mr.

Sen said. "India should therefore submit detailed written representations by July 6 and participate proactively in the July 7 public hearing to challenge these conclusions," he added.  
**Govt. response**  
"India remains engaged with the U.S. on the matter as a part of Section 301 proceedings," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement on Wednesday.  
"India is also proactively engaged with the U.S. for finalisation of a Framework Agreement as was announced on February 2, 2020, and in accordance with the joint statement released on February 7, 2020," it added.  
A negotiating team from the U.S. is currently in Delhi on a three-day visit that will conclude on June 4.  
According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the purpose of the trip is to "finalize the details" pertaining to the Interim Agreement between the two countries and take forward the negotiations towards a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

## Re-check ordered over Census data 'discrepancies'

**Milana Shah**  
NEW DELHI  
With the ongoing Census exercise throwing up data that differ from government records, particularly on issues such as open defecation and household access to electricity or cooking gas, the government, commentators say they have been asked to revisit household and extract the data "discrepancies".  
Several governments, mostly government school-teachers and anganwadis workers, had taken to social media to report the field directions and flag the glaring inequality on the ground. Some commented that residents were unwilling to share information, fearing cancellation of government benefits.  
On Tuesday, the Director of Census Operations (DCCO), Rajasthan, wrote to all district commissioners that "during the analysis of



Household surveyors visit a household in Bihar, Rajasthan, during door-to-door survey for Census 2020.

field data collected so far, some discrepancies have been noticed". In the letter, the DCCO said that the charge officers were in the field to verify the block-level data through the CMIS (Census Management Information System) portal, in accordance with the actual field situation. The letter said that discrepancy in data collected was noticed largely over a few subjects. It flagged the categorisation of "open defecation" for most households, use of

so be checked carefully. It also cited selection of "no lighting" option and showing internet access as available even when the household did not have a phone (basic/smartphone/landline).  
When contacted, a senior Census official said, "The letter was issued to ensure that actual field conditions are recorded without any ambiguity or lack of understanding, and in the absence of the open defecation gap between the household and the enumerator. Discrepancies found after field verification by Charge Officers, Sub-District Census Officers, Principal Census Officers, District Coordinators, Officers of Census Directorate, etc., must be addressed. The quality of data/information should not be affected due to ambiguity or lack of clarity in pre-notified notices".  
The DCCO letter, dated August 13, 2020, out of 5,86,944 villages, as

many as 1,56,068 were declared "open defecation free" by the Centre.  
**'Are we supposed to be a tin roof, we are asked by our superiors to change it to concrete. Are we supposed to be? Similarly, if the house does not have a toilet and occupants are deflected in the open, we are looking to check if there is a toilet nearby, even that of a neighbour or a relative, which they may be occasionally or even a public utility. Thus the entry can be changed from open deflection to having access to tariff.'**  
Another exemption from U.S. Trade Sanctions, which may be applied to select systems that may show the government in poor light.

# U.S. moots 12.5% tariff on India for failure to enforce 'forced labour' regulations

T.G.A. Sharad Raghavan  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. government has proposed to levy a tariff of 12.5% on imports from 54 countries, including India, that it says have "failed to impose and effectively enforce" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour.

In response, the Indian government has said it "remains engaged" with the U.S. government regarding this development as well as the finalisation of an Interim Agreement on trade.

The office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) had, in March this year, launched an investigation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 to look into whether its trade partners were taking enough steps to stop the import of goods made using forced labour.

The latest tariff announcements, as part of this investigation, are not final as yet.

Countries, including India, can submit requests to take part in public hearings by June 22, submit written comments by July 6, and participate in the public hearings on July 7.

## Tool to impose tariff

According to trade experts, investigations under Section 301 was seen as a tool for the U.S. to impose tariffs on its imports after the country's Supreme Court in February struck down the reciprocal tariffs – including the 50% levied on India – that had been imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"The results of this investigation indicate that

## Blow-by-blow | A timeline of U.S. tariff-related events

- **Feb. 20, 2026:** U.S. Supreme Court scraps reciprocal tariffs. Trump imposes 10% 150-day tariffs on all imports
- **March 2026:** U.S. Trade Representative launches investigations on partners
- **June 1-4:** U.S. negotiators visit India to finalise trade deal
- **June 2:** USTR announces findings of investigations related to forced labour
- **June 22:** Deadline to submit requests to take part in public hearings on the case
- **July 6:** Deadline to submit written comments
- **July 7:** Date of public hearings related to the investigation
- **July 24:** Expiry of 10% U.S. tariffs



the acts, policies and practices of India related to the failure to impose and effectively enforce a forced labour import prohibition are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce," the USTR report said.

The proposed tariffs put India in the same tariff bracket as several of its competitors, including Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The proposal by the USTR also includes a separate mechanism for textile and apparel products, under which a certain volume of imports from selected economies would be allowed to enter the U.S. at lower tariff rates.

According to Agneshwar Sen, trade policy leader at EY India, the impact of these tariffs on India could be multidimensional.

"In the near term, exporters in labour-intensive industries such as textiles, garments, carpets, leather products, and brassware could face at least an additional 10% levy under Section 301, adding to their existing tariff exposure," Mr.

Sen said. "India should therefore submit detailed written representations by July 6 and participate proactively in the July 7 public hearing to challenge these conclusions," he added.

## Govt. response

"India remains engaged with the U.S. on the matter as a part of Section 301 proceedings," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement on Wednesday. "India is also parallelly engaged with the U.S. for finalisation of a framework agreement as was announced on February 2, 2026, and in accordance with the joint statement released on February 7, 2026," it added.

A negotiating team from the U.S. is currently in India on a three-day visit that will conclude on June 4.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the purpose of the trip is to "finalise the details" pertaining to the Interim Agreement between the two countries and take forward the negotiations on a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

# Article 1: US 12.5% Tariff on India

Section 301 | Trade Act 1974

12.5%

Tariff Proposed  
टैरिफ प्रस्तावित

54

Countries Targeted  
लक्षित देश

Jul 7

Public Hearing Date  
सार्वजनिक सुनवाई

~18%

India's US Export Share  
भारत का US निर्यात

## Key Facts / मुख्य तथ्य

- Section 301 = US Trade Act 1974 — punitive tariff tool
- India in same bracket as China, Bangladesh, Vietnam
- US Supreme Court struck down reciprocal tariffs: Feb 2026
- ILO Conv. 29 (1930) = Forced Labour Convention
- Article 23: India's constitutional ban on forced labour
- BTA (Bilateral Trade Agreement) negotiations ongoing

## Timeline / समयरेखा

- **Feb 2026** SC scraps reciprocal tariffs
- **Mar 2026** Section 301 investigation launched
- **Jun 1-4** US team visits India for BTA
- **Jun 2** USTR announces forced labour probe
- **Jun 22** Deadline: Public hearing requests
- **Jul 6** Deadline: Written comments
- **Jul 7** Public hearings held
- **Jul 24** 10% US tariffs expire

# Article 1: Multi-Subject Grid | बहु-विषय संबंध

## Polity / राजव्यवस्था

- Art. 23 — Prohibition of forced labour
- WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)
- USTR investigations vs WTO rules

## Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

- Section 301 = punitive tariff mechanism
- MFN (Most Favoured Nation) under WTO
- India-US trade: ~\$77B exports

## History / इतिहास

- Trade Act 1974 enacted post-Vietnam era
- Section 301 used vs China in 2018
- India-US trade relations since 1991

## Geography / भूगोल

- Textile hubs: Surat, Tiruppur, Ludhiana
- Carpet: Bhadohi (UP); Leather: Agra
- Brassware: Moradabad, UP

## Environment / पर्यावरण

- Forced labour linked to illegal mining
- Supply chain deforestation concerns
- ILO Convention 29 (1930)

## Science & Tech / विज्ञान

- Blockchain for supply chain verification
- RFID tracking of labour-free products
- Digital trade facilitation tools

# Through smoke and screams, Hauz Rani residents rushed to save lives

As a devastating fire tore through a six-storey hotel in Delhi, local residents turned first responders too: they lay mattresses below windows to soften falls, performed CPR, carried many lodgers to safety, and offered help to police and firefighters

**Sanjiv Khandelwal**  
NEW DELHI

A thick smoke engulfed a six-storey hotel in Hauz Rani, Delhi, on Wednesday morning. Local residents rushed to rescue trapped occupants even before the fire alarm sounded.

The hotel, which looks out around a 20 x 20-metre area, spread across three floors of the building, leaving several guests stranded inside amid dense smoke and panic. The smokestack reportedly had only one window, entry and exit points and no emergency staircase.

Sixty-year-old Rishi Mehta, who runs a road-side shop opposite the building, said he quickly pulled out mattresses from his shop and laid them below the hotel's windows to help people jump to safety.

Moment later, trapped residents began jumping through windows to sa-



Smoke billows from a six-storey hotel in Hauz Rani, Delhi, on Wednesday. Some lodgers escaped through windows while some residents helped to carry many of those affected to safety. (Photo: Anand Mehta)

fety from every floor," Mr. Mehta said, adding, "Many were trapped in the lift shafts. Some lodgers were still trapped in the lift shafts. Locals also said that the majority of the occupants are foreign nationals on medical visas."

Mr. Mehta said he performed CPR on eight people. "I conducted a simple first aid. Around five people were brought and sent to a hospital," he said. "I don't know if they made it," said a local pharmacist.



Some lodgers were rescued from the hotel in Hauz Rani, Delhi, on Wednesday. Some were taken to a hospital. (Photo: Anand Mehta)

Two women were rescued from a bathroom where they had locked themselves to escape the fire. "I carried them out in a mattress. Most people staying there were already sick and had come to Delhi for treatment."

"A student and her child had been in the room yesterday. They were supposed to travel to Agartala. I don't know if they made it," said a local pharmacist.

# Assam and Meghalaya villagers resume farm work in disputed area

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

Villagers in Assam and Meghalaya resumed their farming activities in a disputed boundary area on Wednesday, marking weeks of intransigent conflict.

The impasse followed a formal meeting between representatives of the two states' government teams, who met in the disputed Tapal Lapsang area on Tuesday afternoon and inked a joint statement, but no hope of the spirit of cooperation.

Tapal in Assam's West Karbi Angling district, and Lapsang in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district.

"The people have started work on the disputed fields today. It is a huge relief for locals heavily dependent on farming," Meha Meha, a resident of Lapsang, told The Hindu.

According to the agreement, the Karbi resumed work on their fields in Assam.

# Nepal is a priority partner, says Modi after meeting RSP chief

**Kuldeep Khatiwada**  
NEW DELHI

Nepal's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who called the meeting, was a "priority partner" for India.

The meeting came a day after Mr. Lamschamber called an internal affairs meeting. Mr. Lamschamber and Prime Minister Anand Shah and discussed development and security partnership between the two countries. The meeting came even as official sources here said that Nepal's Foreign Minister, Ghanshyam Poudyal, is expected to arrive in India this week.

"Delighted to meet the Chairman of the Bharatiya Janata Party of Nepal, Mr. Rishi Lamschamber. I welcome his visit and his decision to work closely together for a shared and prosperous future. Nepal is a priority partner for India," Modi said in a tweet.

"By focusing on shared civilizational bonds, digital corridors, and economic



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with RSP chief Rishi Lamschamber in New Delhi.

cooperation, we can truly build a partnership defined by progress and mutual trust. BJP looks forward to translating these possibilities into reality for people of Nepal and India - for our shared prosperity."

The Embassy of Nepal, in a tweet, congratulated the meeting, calling it a "historic" event.

The tweet welcomed Mr. Lamschamber to India and expressed the Indian government's support for the meeting.

# 362 detained, 782 questioned in anti-infiltration drive in Gujarat

**ANAND MEHTA**  
GUWAHATI

The Gujarat Police detained 362 individuals and questioned 782 others in an anti-infiltration drive in Gujarat on Wednesday. The operation was carried out across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and other parts of the state.

The operation was carried out across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and other parts of the state. Officials said it is an ongoing operation with more raids in the off-

# Congress demands the resignation of Arunachal Pradesh CM

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday demanded the resignation of Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Himanta Sarma, alleging that the party was disorganised and incapable of governing the state.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in charge of Arunachal Pradesh, Anand Mehta, said the BJP had demanded the resignation of Himanta Sarma.

Sharma continued to hold the Public Works Department portfolio and therefore retained control over the government's large expenditure. This is not an ideal situation, he said.

The Congress leader had posted on an X post in order of the Supreme Court directing the CM to resign.

# Union Cabinet approves ₹9,585-crore scheme to cut pollution in Delhi-NCR

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a two-year scheme aimed at reducing air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) by increasing the conversion of private transport technologies.

With a total financial outlay of ₹9,585 crore, including ₹5,000 crore from the Centre and an amount of ₹4,585 crore in tax incentives from the participating States, the scheme seeks to incentivise owners of trucks and buses registered in the Delhi-NCR that comply with BS-VI or earlier norms.

The scheme is expected to reduce vehicular emissions and contribute to the overall improvement of air quality in the NCR. However, in Delhi, light green vehicles purchased under the scheme must be electric, while in other states, they can be either CNG or electric.



Light green electric vehicles purchased under the scheme are seen in Delhi on Wednesday. (Photo: Anand Mehta)

BS-VI norms, run on CNG, or be electric only. Government vehicles are excluded from the scheme.

The Centre will provide 5% instant deduction on loan for five years, interest-free and grant up to ₹500 crore, while a concession for one vehicle and 50% for used vehicles for 10 years. They will also waive pending litigation on old vehicles.

# Cabinet gives its nod for new coastal highway in Odisha

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the construction of a new coastal highway from Paradip to Paradip in Odisha, at a total project cost of ₹1,000 crore.

The new coastal highway will be constructed on a hybrid mode, with two packages, with a combined total length of 107.18 km, an official statement said. It will pass through Khordha, Puri, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts of Odisha. The project will enhance regional mobility and promote socio-economic development in the region.

The project was among the announcements made by Union Minister of Industries, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Piyush Goyal, on Wednesday.

# Russia delivers fourth squadron of the S-400 air defence system

**Sankarjit Ghosh**  
NEW DELHI

India has received the fourth squadron of the Russian-made S-400 air defence system, strengthening its air defence network. The system arrived from Russia on Wednesday.

The delivery is part of a \$1.5-billion agreement signed between India and Russia in 2018. The S-400 will be integrated with the Indian air defence network.



The delivery is part of a \$1.5-billion agreement signed between India and Russia in 2018.

"AI-enabled targeting will assist operations in identifying and prioritising aerial threats. All incoming targets will be displayed on the screen, and AI will provide recommendations based on the nature of the threat. However, the final judgement decision will remain with the operator," a senior official said.

# Union Cabinet approves ₹9,585-crore scheme to cut pollution in Delhi-NCR

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a two-year scheme aimed at reducing air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) by accelerating the transition to cleaner transport technologies.

With a total financial outlay of ₹9,585 crore, including ₹5,041 crore from the Centre and an estimated ₹1,601 crore in tax concessions from the participating States, the scheme seeks to incentivise owners of trucks and buses registered in the Delhi-NCR that comply with BS-IV or earlier emission norms to replace them with BS-VI or stricter emission-compliant vehicles, or electric vehicles (EVs).

The scheme is expected to reduce vehicular emissions and contribute to improved air quality index (AQI), read an official statement.

The move will benefit approximately 2.07 lakh (1.91 lakh trucks and 16,329



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announces the Cabinet decisions in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

buses) owners in Delhi-NCR (comprising Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh), it stated.

For BS-III or older vehicles, scrapping at registered vehicle scrapping facilities is mandatory. BS-IV vehicles may either be “scrapped or sold outside the NCR in non-National Clean Air Programme cities/towns”. Owners must then purchase and register a BS-VI or stricter norms-compliant or an EV within the NCR. However, in Delhi, light goods vehicles purchased under the scheme must be electric while buses must be compliant with

BS-VI norms, run on CNG, or be electric only. Government vehicles are excluded from the scheme.

The Centre will provide 5% interest subvention on loans for five years, monthly fuel vouchers worth up to ₹4,800 depending on vehicle category, and lump-sum benefits for EV purchases or Certificate of Deposit trading.

States will waive registration fees and grant up to 100% motor vehicle tax concessions for new vehicles and 50% for used vehicles for 10 years. They will also waive pending liabilities on old vehicles.

# Article 2: ₹9,585 Cr Delhi-NCR Clean Transport Scheme

₹9,585 Cr

Total Outlay  
कुल परिव्यय

₹5,041 Cr

Centre's Share  
केंद्र का हिस्सा

2.07 Lakh

Vehicles Covered  
कवर वाहन

10 ppm

BS-VI Sulphur  
सल्फर सामग्री

## Key Provisions / मुख्य प्रावधान

- BS-III or older: Mandatory scrapping at registered centres
- BS-IV: Scrap OR sell outside NCR non-NCAP cities
- Delhi light goods vehicles: Electric ONLY
- 5% interest subvention on loans for 5 years
- Monthly fuel voucher: up to ₹4,800
- 100% motor vehicle tax waiver for new vehicles (10 yrs)
- States waive registration fees + pending liabilities

## AQI Scale / वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक

0-50

Good / अच्छा

51-100

Satisfactory / संतोषजनक

101-200

Moderate / मध्यम

201-300

Poor / खराब

301-400

Very Poor / बहुत खराब

401-500

Severe / गंभीर

# Article 2: Multi-Subject Grid | बहु-विषय संबंध

## Polity / राजव्यवस्था

- CAQM Act 2021 — supersedes states for NCR
- Air (Prevention) Act 1981
- Environment Protection Act 1986

## Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

- FAME-II (2019): EV adoption subsidies
- PLI Scheme for automobile sector
- Vehicle Scrappage Policy 2021

## History / इतिहास

- MC Mehta case → CNG order 1998
- India leapfrogged BS-IV to BS-VI (2020)
- Delhi air crisis: decades of interventions

## Geography / भूगोल

- Indo-Gangetic Plain: bowl traps pollutants
- Stubble burning: Punjab/Haryana
- Delhi-NCR: Delhi, HR, RJ, UP

## Environment / पर्यावरण

- PM<sub>2.5</sub> < 2.5 μm — penetrates lungs
- NCAP: 40% PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub> by 2026
- WHO limit: 5 μg/m<sup>3</sup> (India: 40 μg/m<sup>3</sup>)

## Science & Tech / विज्ञान

- BS-VI: 10 ppm sulphur (BS-IV: 50 ppm)
- Li-ion EV batteries
- GRAP: 4-stage emergency response

## Why judicial holidays are necessary

The debate over judicial holidays has resurfaced in recent weeks, with critics questioning why courts observe extended breaks. The assumption is that judges, like most professionals, step away from work during these periods. That assumption is largely wrong.

For most judges, a holiday is rarely a holiday in any conventional sense. The public sees only the visible part of the work: judges presiding over courtrooms, hearing arguments, questioning lawyers and delivering verdicts. What they do not see is the considerably longer phase that begins after court hours, when judges return home to write judgments. This work often stretches past midnight. Each judgment requires close analysis of facts, application of legal principles, reference to precedent, and precision in language, since every word carries legal weight.

A single decision can affect lives, businesses, reputations and personal liberty.

**A time for uninterrupted work.** This pattern is not unique to a Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was a judge on the United States Supreme Court for 27 years, was known to arrive at her chambers shortly after lunch and work late into the night. Her former law clerk, Elizabeth Lin, now a Justice of the California Supreme Court, has spoken of receiving voluminous files for two or three in the morning, when she was at the height of her writing. From oral argument to majority opinion, she averaged 60 days, the fastest pace on the Bench. When she underwent surgery for colon cancer in 1999, and again for pancreatic cancer in 2008, she scheduled her procedures as an act to miss a single day on the Bench.

In India, the workload is no less demanding. Justice D.K. Chaudhurd, during his eight-year tenure in the Supreme Court, authored over 600



Ravi Shankar Behl, former lawyer and member of the Rajya Sabha

judgments and sat on more than 1,200 benches before retiring as the 56th Chief Justice of India in November 2024. Few professions outside the bench demand such sustained intellectual output year after year, and that too with little public recognition or fee larvae involved.

The mornings begin no earlier. Long before court assemblies, judges are reading voluminous case files, studying precedents and preparing for the day's hearings. By the time proceedings open, hours of unseen work have already gone in.

Judicial holidays, then, are not periods of rest but working windows. During these breaks, judges complete pending judgments, study lengthy case records and prepare for matters of constitutional importance. With case backlogs continuing to rise across courts, these are often the only stretches available for uninterrupted work.

Families bear much of the strain. Spouses and children of judges describe a familiar pattern: even on holidays, judges are occupied with their laptops, files and e-mails with law clerks. The time supposed to be shared in company with their family is regularly interrupted by judicial work. Thus, judicial service is not only an individual commitment. It becomes a shared one for the household.

**Not as lucrative.** The economic life of the Bench is also not discussed often. While judges receive a structured and respectable salary, it is not comparable to what senior lawyers earn at the top end of the bar. A senior advocate may earn in a single hearing what a judge receives for several months. Judges, in turn, carry the greater burden of decision-making and accountability.

Many take the Bench after giving up lucrative private-sector jobs, choosing service to the nation over personal financial gain. The pressure does not end with

the workload. Judicial decisions are scrutinised publicly and legally. Judges must remain neutral and detached, even when the cost of doing so is high.

**The unseen cost.** In his autobiography, *Neither Roses Nor Thorns*, Justice H.R. Khanna recalled the night before he delivered his lone dissent in the *ADM Jabalpur* case during the Emergency. Sitting in the moonlight in his compound with the Ganges flowing in front of them, he turned to his younger sister and said, "I have prepared a judgment which is going to condemn the Chief Justice of India." He was right. The following year he was succeeded for the top post by Justice M.H. Beg, who had ruled with majority, and resigned soon after.

His dissent, eventually vindicated when the Supreme Court overruled *ADM Jabalpur* in the *Partogowry* verdict of 2017, is now remembered as one of the bravest decisions in Indian judicial history.

"The dedication asked of a judge does not end with retirement when Lord Easingham, whom Margaret Thatcher described as probably the greatest English judge of modern times, served on the Bench for 38 years and delivered around 2,000 reported judgments before retiring at 83. He continued writing books on the law till his 102nd birthday.

Chief Justice Justice V.R. Krishna Rao kept producing books, articles and lectures on jurisprudence long after his retirement from the Supreme Court, almost until his death at 99 in 2004.

The debate on judicial holidays deserves a more informed footing. A judge's duty does not go away when courts close. It continues through late night drafting, early morning preparation, and constant engagement with the law.

Choosing service to the nation over personal financial gain. The pressure does not end with

## A re-entry into Telangana politics

Pawan Kalyan seeks to transform controversy into political capital in the State

### STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy

What began as a stray remark by former Union Home Minister Pawan Kalyan, professor and political analyst K. Nagabowar has spiralled into one of the most contentious episodes in Telangana's political discourse in recent times. The claim that the Janasiksha Party (JSP) chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had lobbied Union Home Minister Amit Shah to act against the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy led to severe backlash in Andhra Pradesh, which made him withdraw the allegation. Yet, the damage was done.

JSP cadres filed multiple FIRs against Mr. Nagabowar in Andhra, prompting Telangana's chief minister, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and journalists' bodies to rally behind him. For them, the FIRs symbolised an assault on Telangana's freedom of speech.

Thus, the controversy, which might have faded quietly, became a rallying cry for delivery of around 2,000 reported judgments before retiring at 83. He continued writing books on the law till his 102nd birthday.

Chief Justice Justice V.R. Krishna Rao kept producing books, articles and lectures on jurisprudence long after his retirement from the Supreme Court, almost until his death at 99 in 2004.

The debate on judicial holidays deserves a more informed footing. A judge's duty does not go away when courts close. It continues through late night drafting, early morning preparation, and constant engagement with the law.

### TELANGANA

M.A. Aniruddh Reddy, responded sharply to the press conference, branding Mr. Kalyan's remarks as atrocious. Mr. Praduktar dismissed him as a "paid artist" who had once opposed Telangana's formation. Both insisted that while Telangans welcomed Andhra residents, opportunistic politics would not be tolerated.

The controversy soon drew in other players. K. Karitha, daughter of Bharat Karitha Sawada (BKS) chief K. Chandra Shekhar Rao, who had recently formed her own party, condemned the FIRs against Mr. Nagabowar, insisting that freedom of speech was non-negotiable. The symbolism of the Andhra Pradesh police allegedly seeking to assert authority in Hyderabad reinforced the narrative that Telangana's autonomy was under threat.

**Multiple alignments.** For Mr. Kalyan, the timing was symbolic. He announced the JSP's entry into Telangana politics, vowing to contest the 2029 Assembly elections. "We will not retreat from Telangana," he declared. He accused Congress leaders of a divide-and-conquer strategy to fracture the JSP's organisational base in Hyderabad, with a focus on the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation polls. The police denied him permission to attend a proposed meeting in Hyderabad, which in itself became a part of his marketing strategy, allowing him to frame the denial as an issue around democratic rights.

Mr. Kalyan's entry is also personal. Telangana was where he announced the JSP's formation a decade ago. His re-entry, therefore, carries symbolic weight, positioning him both as an insider and an outsider to the State's politics. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), meanwhile, has kept a cautious distance, limiting its involvement to criticising the Congress government for delaying participation. Yet, its inattention is evident. Struggling to expand beyond urban pockets, the BJP sees potential in replicating Andhra Pradesh's alliance politics in Telangana. By aligning with the JSP and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), it hopes to tap into the large Andhra origin vote bank in Hyderabad.

For the Congress, which currently rules Telangana, the JSP's re-entry poses a challenge to its consolidation in Hyderabad. Welfare schemes and urban development have been its main tools, but the continued appeal of Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's administrative expertise and Pawan Kalyan's youth connect could chip away at its urban vote bank. And as for the BJP, the JSP's success could further erode its base among Telugu voters.

The episode underscores how a "non-issue" monsoon coincided with the Telangana Formation Day, which was a symbolic moment to project the JSP's entry into the State. For Pawan Kalyan, it has become an opportunity to re-enter the State. For the Congress and the BJP, it was a reminder that Telangana's identity politics remains volatile. And for the JSP, it is a chance to test alliances articulated in a state where it still seeks a breakthrough.

## How India scaled its startup industry from 2016 to 2025

The Startup India scheme has been a success due to a supportive policy environment, robust startup growth, and a positive investment climate

**DATA POINT**  
**Thilak Rajan A., Chinnai Chaitanya, Vamika Perumal**

The Indian startup economy has truly come of age in the 10 years since Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the clarion call during his Independence Day address on August 15, 2016, to make India the "Number 1" country in startups, and thereby saved the seeds of significant structural change.

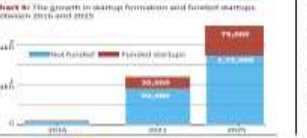
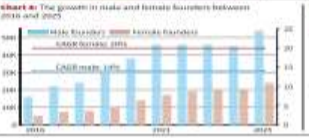
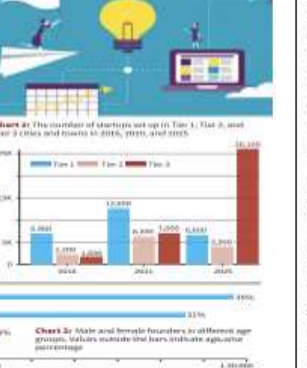
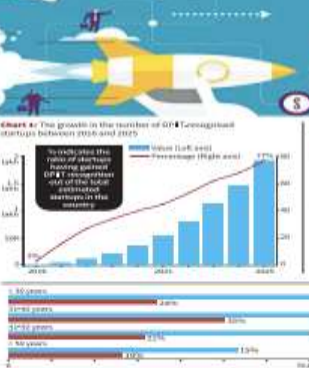
The three traits that make startups different from conventional businesses are an emphasis on innovation, the use of technology, and market opportunity. To distil startup success from other businesses, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) started recognising companies that aligned with government guidelines as startups. Despite DPIIT recognition not being mandatory for startups to operate, there has been a significant growth in startups applying for its recognition. From 266 in 2016, which was just 3% of the total startups functioning then, the DPIIT's coverage has increased to 77% in 2025. The growing willingness to join the formal startup ecosystem has been an important indicator of success for India's startup story.

Another indicator of success has been the penetration of startup culture across the length and breadth of the country. There has been a remarkable shift in startup formation from Tier 1 cities to Tier 3 towns. In 2016, Tier 1 cities dominated the startup landscape, accounting for about 65% of the total startups set up that year, while Tier 3 towns accounted for just about 18%. In 2020, these shares changed to 48% and 27%, respectively. However, the biggest change happened in 2022, when Tier 1 cities accounted for just 18% of new startups, whereas Tier 3 towns made up for 71%. This shift high-

lights the spread of innovation beyond major urban India. The age and gender distributions of startup founders also show a strong presence of the youth. A substantial portion of founders across both genders (approximately 80% are male founders and 80% female founders) are under 40. The embrace of entrepreneurship early in one's career signals a high level of aspirational and supportive ecosystem for startups. The data shows that women embark on their entrepreneurial journey relatively late and their proportion increases notably with age. While women account for about 21% of the founders in the under-30 age group, they account for 33% in the 30-plus age group. Creating a supportive environment for women to pursue entrepreneurship has been an important policy imperative. The Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of women founders stood at 20%, compared with 14% for men, underscoring the strong trend of women increasingly pursuing entrepreneurship.

### Startup surge

The data were sourced from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and YMCOS Venture Engine



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The Hindia

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 4, 1976  
**Full take-over of Oil India planned**

New Delhi, June 3: The Central Government is seriously thinking of complete take-over of the joint venture Oil India Limited (OIL) in which the Government and Birlasul Oil Company hold 30 per cent equity each.

The future of OIL has assumed importance in the context of current negotiations over the taking over of the Indian share of the two remaining foreign oil companies operating in India - Caldec and Assam Oil Company. The Ministry of Petroleum proposes to set up a inter-ministerial committee to expedite the take-over of these two companies.

The thinking in the Ministry is that the same committee should also go into the future equity setup of OIL, mostly with a view to developing the organisation as the second public sector oil exploration and production agency in the country.

The Ministry also thinks that OIL should be developed with added responsibilities in on-shore and off-shore oil exploration and production. But this would be possible only if the cost-area becomes a 100 per cent government enterprise.

According to the thinking in the Ministry, all constraints on the restructuring and expansion of the oil industry will disappear once the remaining foreign assets in the industry are taken over.

At present the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and OIL are seen solely in on-shore exploration. They could be further expanded to take over most of off-shore exploratory work. Where expertise is needed, it could be commercially bought.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 4, 1926

### Wheat forecast

Calcutta, June 3: The fourth All-India Wheat forecast says that the total area is now returned at 30,286,000 acres as against 31,636,000 acres at this time last year or a decrease of four per cent.

The total yield is now estimated at 8,886,000 tons at this time last year or a decrease of two per cent.

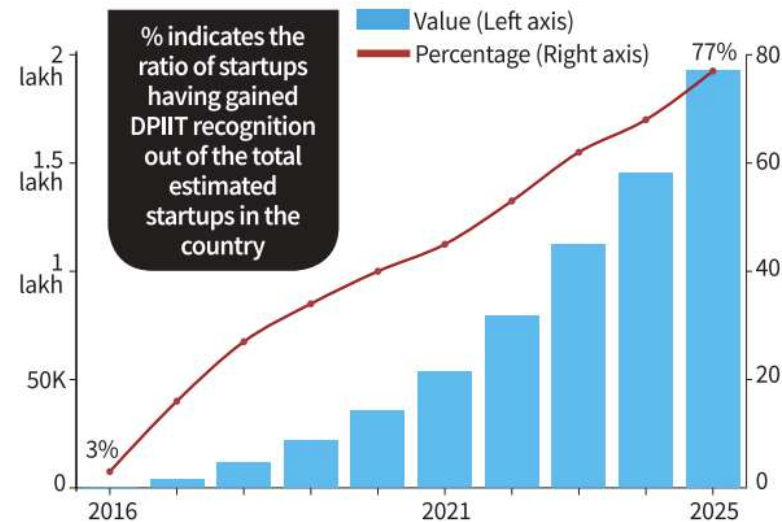
The condition of the crop on the whole is reported to be fair.

# Startup surge

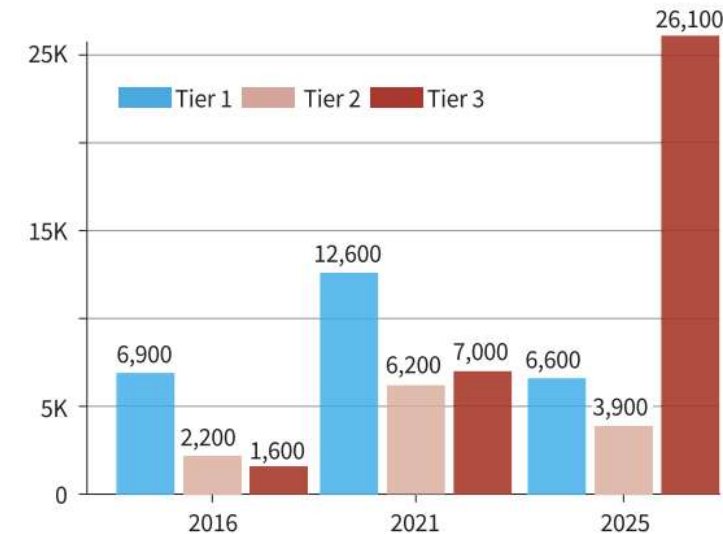
The data were sourced from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and YNOS Venture Engine

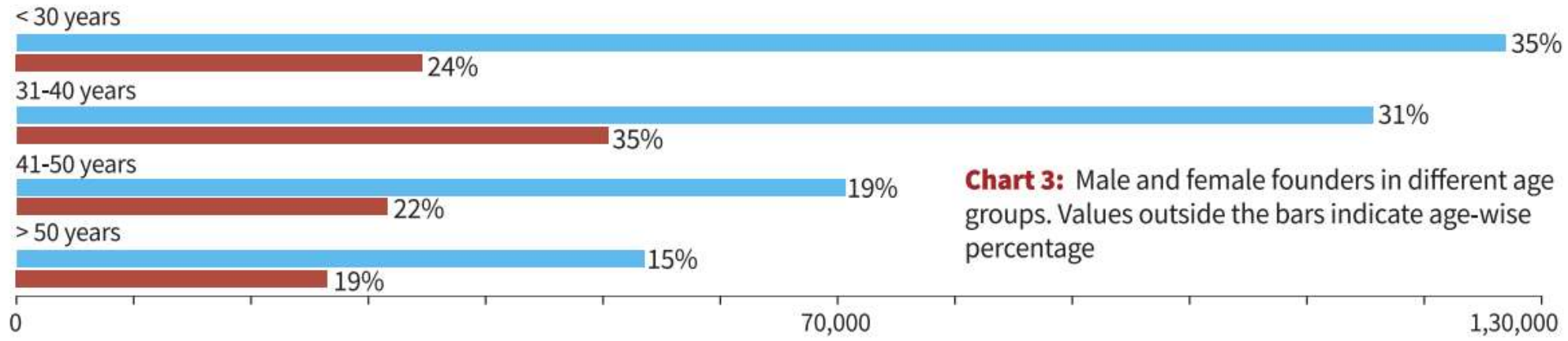


**Chart 1:** The growth in the number of DPIIT-recognised startups between 2016 and 2025



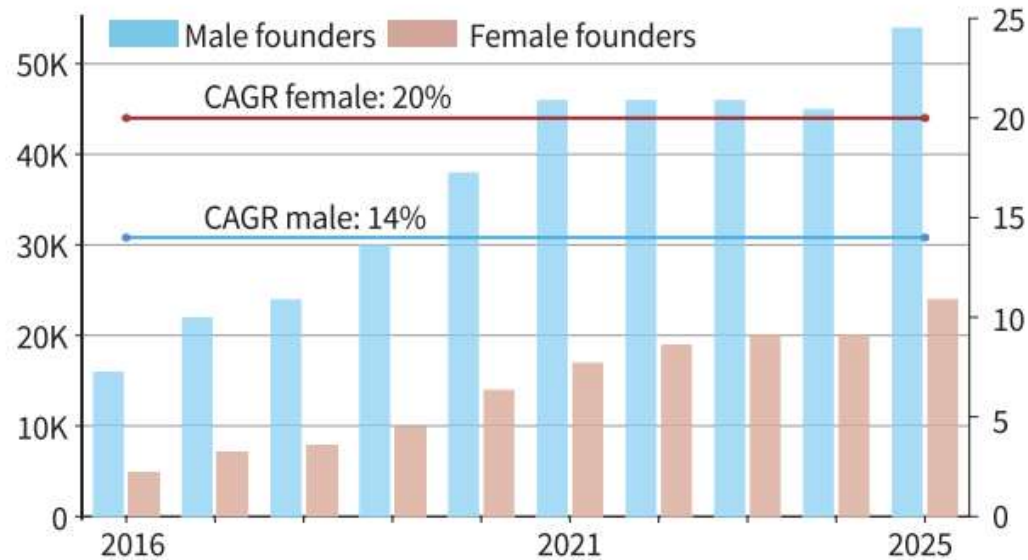
**Chart 2:** The number of startups set up in Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 cities and towns in 2016, 2020, and 2025



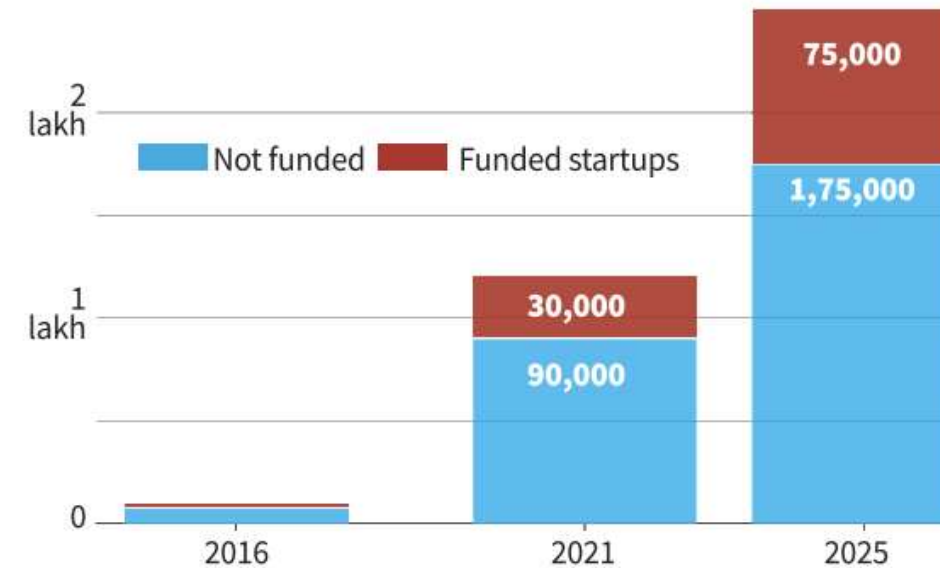


**Chart 3:** Male and female founders in different age groups. Values outside the bars indicate age-wise percentage

**Chart 4:** The growth in male and female founders between 2016 and 2025



**Chart 5:** The growth in startup formation and funded startups between 2016 and 2025



## NEWS IN NUMBERS

## Indian tyre exports in the financial year 2025-26

**27,312** In ₹ crore, Indian tyre exports were at a record high of ₹7,312 crore in FY2025-26, with the U.S. being the largest export destination for the segment, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association said on Wednesday, citing data released by the Commerce Ministry. The exports rose 9% from ₹28,007 crore a year ago. (INFORMATION ON THE COVER PAGE)

## Applications filed for re-evaluation under CBSE

**43,980** Nearly 44,000 students have availed the re-evaluation facility for board exams and completed the application process till Wednesday morning, the CBSE said. "The portal has accepted 4,929 applications for verification and 38,050 applications for re-evaluation (total of 43,980) as of 13 noon today". (INFORMATION ON THE COVER PAGE)

## Persons killed in south Delhi hotel fire on Wednesday morning

**21** A massive fire broke out in a hotel in a congested bylane in south Delhi's Mayapuri nagar area on Wednesday, killing at least 43 people, including foreigners whose relatives were being treated in hospitals nearby. The death toll could rise with several of the injured in a critical condition. The blaze began around 8.30 a.m. and quickly spread, locking everybody upstairs. (INFORMATION ON THE COVER PAGE)

## Recent fine imposed on Shein by French authorities

**22** In million euros, French authorities said on Wednesday that they had imposed two Asian fashion giant Shein fines on more than 22 million euros (\$28 million), citing environmental, traceability, environmental labelling and delivery times. The latest fines were imposed by the government's consumer protection agency DGCCRF. (INFORMATION ON THE COVER PAGE)

## Japan's fertility rate falls to a record low

**1.14** Japan's fertility rate fell again last year to a record low, official data showed. Japan has one of the world's lowest birth rates, as well as a falling and ageing population, leading to labour shortages, a ballooning social security bill and a shrinking tax base. The number of babies born in the country fell by nearly 12,000. (INFORMATION ON THE COVER PAGE)

Follow us [facebook.com/thehindu](https://www.facebook.com/thehindu) [X.com/thehindu](https://www.x.com/thehindu) [instagram.com/thehindu](https://www.instagram.com/thehindu)

## Is shoot-to-disable the new normal?

Why is Operation Langda a pragmatic strategy? Has a sporadic enforcement tactic become a routine practice? What makes it legally defensible? To what extent does the State endorse half-encounters? Why are piecemeal reforms insufficient?

## EXPLAINED

G.S. Bajpai  
Vibhuti Sharma

The story so far  
The "shoot-to-disable" doctrine appears to have become the new normal in Uttar Pradesh, emerging as a genuine crime-control model that Herbert Packer advocated in 1968, in his work — *The Limits of the Criminal Sanction*. Between 2017 and 2025, the State Police recorded over 16,000 encounter operations, in about 97% of cases, the accused survived with a bullet wound to the leg. At this scale, the question is no longer whether something unusual happened, but what it means when the unusual becomes routine.

**What is Operation Langda?**  
A motorcycle is intercepted on a highway. The accused attempts to flee. Shots are fired. His leg is injured, typically in the leg, and taken into custody. This sequence, which news reports and the media, is now known as "Operation Langda", or "half-encounters", from the Hindi word *langda* (lame), a policing methodology cultivated by the Uttar Pradesh Police since 2017 under its "zero-tolerance" framework. What may initially have appeared as a sporadic enforcement tactic has, over time, acquired the characteristics of a routine practice governed by a dual logic of incapacitation and punishment.

Refined through repetition, encounters have evolved into a recognizable policing pattern marked by targeted leg injury, standardized reporting, official endorsement and overt punitive logic.

**How are half-encounters structured?**  
A study by the Centre for Criminology and Victimology at National Law University Delhi, based on official U.P. Police data and IOJ verified encounter cases (January 2019 to 2020), found that these incidents follow a



In Uttar Pradesh, encounters have evolved into a recognizable policing pattern marked by targeted leg injury, standardized reporting, official endorsement and overt punitive logic. (INFORMATION ON THE COVER PAGE)

near-identical sequence: intelligence received, suspect intercepted, alleged attempt to flee or police response in self-defence, gunshot to the leg, arrest, and recovery of a locally made pistol. This seven-step sequence in the standardized operational template of Operation Langda, repeated across more than 30 districts over nearly a decade.

What distinguishes the practice is its focus on incapacitation rather than lethality, by visibly disabling accused persons, it functions as both a disciplinary mechanism and an assertion of state authority. The standardized language of police reports further normalises this extra-procedural punishment by presenting it as routine law enforcement. Nearly 80% of IOJ cases in the micro-level dataset used either "retaliation" or "self-defence" as the major justificatory framing, no matter what the alleged offence is.

The consistency of this framing across widely different offences suggests a standardised narrative template rather than case-specific accounts. This helps

reproduce the practice across districts as a recognizable policing methodology. In a trial of the IOJ cases, we observed that media reports reproduced the police version without critical scrutiny. Critical coverage emerged only when direct counter-evidence challenged the official narrative. As a result, these incidents entered the news cycle largely as routine law-and-order events, that functioned as transmission rather than scrutiny. The emergence of this methodology must be understood against the institutional constraints faced by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Prior to 2017, conviction rates in several categories of violent crimes were below 20%, while investigative capacity lagged far behind caseloads. In this environment, "half-encounters" present a pragmatic alternative.

Crucially, shooting to disable rather than kill makes the practice more legally defensible. The accused survives to be produced in court, the officer can claim self-defence, and the state records an arrest rather than a death. This helps

distinguish the U.P. model from the typical "fake encounter" tradition. It is also a reason why the practice continues to enjoy official support. State data show declines in crimes such as dacoity and robbery, but these gains do not address concerns over the process and the erosion of the rule of law.

Uttar Pradesh publicly treats encounter statistics as indicators of law-and-order achievement. Through official recognition and accelerated promotions, an encounter tactic has become an accepted metric of policing performance. The incentive structure is reflected in the data: 2,729 encounter operations were recorded in 2023 alone — the highest annual figure in the dataset.

This official endorsement contrasts sharply with established judicial standards. In *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. State of Maharashtra (2014)*, the Supreme Court laid down strict principles and mandated an independent inquiry in every case. While these remain the legal benchmarks, they have not been systematically applied in the State.

In January 2020, the Allahabad High Court observed that "half-encounter" practices were often driven by official rewards and promotions. The court reiterated that the power to punish belongs exclusively to the judiciary.

**What makes reform so difficult?**  
The central problem is that "Operation Langda" is that it operates as a self-sustaining system. Political incentives, media transmission and the chronic weaknesses of the criminal justice process do not merely tolerate the practice, they reproduce it. Piecemeal reforms will not be enough. What is most striking is how a practice that sits outside legal norms has, through routine and reward, become part of how the state governs. Any discrete reform must dismantle the interlocking incentives and channels that produce it.

G.S. Bajpai is the Vice-Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi. Vibhuti Sharma is a lawyer. *Follow: NLI, India. Views are personal.*

## THE GIST

Encounters have evolved into a recognizable policing pattern marked by targeted leg injury, standardized reporting, official endorsement and overt punitive logic.

The consistency of this framing across widely different offences suggests a standardised narrative template rather than case-specific accounts.

The emergence of this methodology must be understood against the institutional constraints faced by the Uttar Pradesh Police.

The central problem is that "Operation Langda" operates as a self-sustaining system.

## Is climate research being held back by local instrumentation?

What are India's biggest gaps in climate research? Why do prototypes fail to become products?

Janak Khajuria

The story so far  
Mega Science Vision 2035 report on Climate Research is a milestone step for the Indian climate research community with the Indian Institute of Space (IIS), Bangalore, as the lead institution, and submitted to the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India, was made public this week.

**What is its central message?**  
The central message of the report is that India has effectively lost the ability to build its own scientific instruments. "Today, virtually no company in India manufactures quality scientific instruments for climate research," it

states, adding that "billions of rupees have been spent and continue to be spent on procuring instruments manufactured elsewhere." Worse, imported instruments are often used "without knowing the principles of operation, the built-in assumptions... and their limitations," and left uncalibrated for years — producing, in the report's words, "incorrect data being reported in national and international journals, often leading to questions on the credibility of Indian science."

**What is the Mega Science Vision exercise?**  
The Mega Science Vision exercise, historically used to plan large, long-horizon projects in nuclear and high-energy physics, was for the first time extended to climate research, ecology and astronomy, and facilitated by the PSA's

office under Prof. Ajay K. Sood. A working group chaired by Prof. S.K. Satishchandra, with former Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) director Dr. S.K.C. Shetye, as member secretary, drew on consultations with over 1,000 researchers. Crucially, the document calls itself "a Climate Research community exercise" of "hopes and aspirations," whose projects are "indicative" — it is neither a mandatory prescription nor a statement of government policy or funding.

**Hasn't India built any of its own climate instruments?**  
It has built prototypes, but rarely products. The report notes that Indian engineers can design and demonstrate instruments, "some of which have already been demonstrated successfully," yet

"they are not often translated into final industrial products." Examples include automatic profiling floats developed at the National Institute of Ocean Technology's ocean observation, and automatic weather stations by the India Meteorological Department and ISRO. Although transferred to industry, "most of them have not reached the market yet."

Tellingly, the first phase of the proposed ocean programme is an audit to identify why such technologies fail to scale to production. The suggested remedy — manufacturing these instruments in India, backed by assured procurement and pricing — sits uneasily with the recent exercise of the Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal, made on consultations with over 1,000 vendors, was rolled back for scientific institutions in June 2025 after scientists found it "uncertain" of "hopes and aspirations," high-quality equipment.

**Why study uncontrolled renewables?**  
Although renewable energy seems to be the right solution to replace polluting sources, the report cautions that studies are needed to assess the long-term effects of uncontrolled tapping of natural resources — even as it finds renewables "can't sustain the momentum." India, which has pledged 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030,

crossed the halfway mark in installed capacity in 2025. The report also calls for scientific methods to estimate the social cost of carbon, a "polluter pays" mechanism to prevent the atmosphere from becoming a dumping ground, and measures to offset the burden of carbon taxation on the poor.

**What else in the report is of importance?**

The report proposes a pan-India Climate and Health Observatory under a mega project on adaptation and resilience, reducing five daily India tracks climate-related health impacts. It outlines eight mega projects spanning observational networks, indigenous sensors, models, two strands of climate modelling, field campaigns, carbon neutrality research and adaptation science, to be overseen by a high-level apex committee. On science, it alerts contained ground, backing a dense Black Carbon, aerosol optical network despite disputed claims about its relative role in global warming. It flags India's thin paleoclimatic networks as a gap in understanding the monsoon's deep past, and the risk of crossing tipping points such as ice-sheet collapse and shifts in ocean circulation. It also warns of limited trained manpower, including in environmental epidemiology.

# Is climate research being held back by local instrumentation?

What are India's biggest gaps in climate research? Why do prototypes fail to become products?

Jacob Koshy

## The story so far:

**A** Mega Science Vision-2035 report on Climate Research is a roadmap prepared by the Indian climate research community with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, as the nodal institution, and submitted to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, was made public this week.

## What is its central message?

The central message of the report is that India has effectively lost the ability to build its own scientific instruments. "Today, virtually no company in India manufactures quality scientific instruments for climate research," it

states, adding that "billions of rupees have been spent and continue to be spent on procuring instruments manufactured elsewhere." Worse, imported instruments are often used "without knowing the principle of operation, the built-in assumptions... and their limitations," and left uncalibrated for years – producing, in the report's words, "incorrect data being reported in national and international journals, often leading to questions on the credibility of Indian science."

## What is the Mega Science Vision exercise?

The Mega Science Vision exercise, historically used to plan large, long-horizon projects in nuclear and high-energy physics, was for the first time extended to climate research, ecology and astronomy, and facilitated by the PSA's

office under Prof. Ajay K. Sood. A working group chaired by Prof. S.K. Satheesh, with former Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) director Dr. S.S.C. Shenoi, as member-secretary, drew on consultations with over 3,000 researchers. Crucially, the document calls itself "a Climate Research community document" of "hopes and aspirations" whose projects are "indicative" – it is neither a mandatory prescription nor a statement of government policy or funding.

## Hasn't India built any of its own climate instruments?

It has built prototypes, but rarely products. The report notes that Indian engineers can design and demonstrate instruments, "some of which have already been demonstrated successfully," yet

"they are not often translated into final industrial products." Examples include automatic profiling floats developed at the National Institute of Ocean Technology for ocean observation, and automatic weather stations by the India Meteorological Department and ISRO. Although transferred to industry, "most of them have not reached the market yet." Tellingly, the first phase of the proposed sensor programme is an audit to identify why such technologies fail to scale to production. The suggested remedy – mandating that most instruments be made in India, backed by assured procurement and pricing – sits uneasily with recent experience: the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, made mandatory to support domestic vendors, was rolled back for scientific institutions in June 2025 after scientists found it hindered access to customised, high-quality equipment.

## Why study uncontrolled renewables?

Although renewable energy seems to be the right solution to replace polluting sources, the report cautions that studies are needed to assess the long-term effects of uncontrolled tapping of natural resources – even as it insists renewables must remain a priority to sustain recent momentum. India, which has pledged 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030,

crossed the halfway mark in installed capacity in 2025. The report also calls for scientific methods to estimate the social cost of carbon, a "polluter pays" mechanism to prevent the atmosphere from becoming a dumping ground, and measures to offset the burden of carbon taxation on the poor.

## What else in the report is of importance?

The report proposes a pan-India Climate and Health Observatory under a mega project on adaptation and resilience, reflecting how thinly India tracks climate-related health impacts. It outlines eight mega projects spanning observational networks, indigenous sensors, satellites, two strands of climate modelling, field campaigns, carbon-neutrality research and adaptation science, to be overseen by a high-level apex committee. On science, it enters contested ground, backing a dense Black Carbon observatory network despite disputed claims about its relative role in global warming. It flags India's thin paleoclimate networks as a gap in understanding the monsoon's deep past, and the risk of crossing tipping points such as ice-sheet collapse and shifts in ocean circulation. It also warns of limited trained manpower, including in environmental epidemiology.

# Article 3: Mega Science Vision-2035 | जलवायु अनुसंधान उपकरण

0

Quality Instrument Cos.  
गुणवत्ता उपकरण कंपनियाँ

3,000+

Researchers Consulted  
शोधकर्ता परामर्श

8

Mega Projects Proposed  
प्रस्तावित मेगा परियोजनाएं

500 GW

Renewable Target 2030  
50% crossed in 2025

## Key Findings / मुख्य निष्कर्ष

- IISc Bengaluru (est. 1909) — nodal institution
- PSA: Prof. Ajay K. Sood; Chair: Prof. S.K. Satheesh
- Community document — NOT mandatory govt. policy
- Imports used without knowing principle of operation
- GeM portal rolled back for sci. institutions (Jun 2025)
- Proposes pan-India Climate & Health Observatory
- Social cost of carbon + 'polluter pays' mechanism proposed

## 8 Mega Projects / 8 मेगा परियोजनाएं

1. Pan-India observational networks
2. Indigenous sensor development
3. Climate satellites programme
4. Climate modelling (strand 1)
5. Climate modelling (strand 2)
6. Field campaigns
7. Carbon-neutrality research
8. Adaptation science

---

Report                      Mega Science Vision-2035: Climate Research

---

Prepared By                Indian climate research community led by  
Indian Institute of Science

---

Submitted To              Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to  
Government of India

---

Main Concern              India lacks indigenous climate research  
instruments

---

Key Problem                Dependence on imported scientific  
instruments

---

Recommendation         Develop Indian-made climate instruments and  
sensors

---

Time Horizon              Vision 2035

# Major Gaps in India's Climate Research

Gap	Details
Indigenous Sensors	Lack of domestic sensor manufacturing
Observation Networks	Insufficient climate monitoring stations
Ocean Observation	Limited deep-ocean monitoring systems
Paleoclimate Research	Weak understanding of historical climate records
Climate-Health Research	Poor tracking of climate-related diseases
Carbon Monitoring	Need for Black Carbon Observatory Network
Climate Modelling	Need for advanced regional climate models
Research Commercialisation	Weak industry-academia linkages

# Why Imported Instruments are a Problem?

## Challenge

## Explanation

Expensive Procurement

Large public expenditure

Limited Customisation

Not suited for local conditions

Maintenance Issues

Dependence on foreign suppliers

Calibration Errors

May produce inaccurate data

Strategic Risk

Vulnerable during geopolitical disruptions

Knowledge Gap

Researchers may not know internal design limitations

Recommendation

Purpose

Mandatory Indigenous  
Procurement

Promote Indian manufacturers

Long-term Government Orders

Ensure market certainty

Sensor Mission

Develop climate sensors  
domestically

Industry Collaboration

Convert prototypes into products

Innovation Funding

Support scaling of technologies

Climate Instrument Ecosystem

Build end-to-end manufacturing  
capability

Institution

Headquarters

Indian Institute of Science

Bengaluru

India Meteorological Department

New Delhi

National Institute of Ocean Technology

Chennai

Indian Space Research Organisation

Bengaluru

Office of Principal Scientific Adviser

New Delhi



India Joins Anthropic's Advanced AI  
Programme (Project Glasswing &  
Claude Mythos)

News	India joined Anthropic's advanced AI access programme under Project Glasswing (June 2026).	Important for Science & Technology, AI Governance, Digital India, and Current Affairs.
Company	<u>Anthropic</u>	Major AI company competing with OpenAI, Google DeepMind, and Meta AI.
AI Model	Claude Mythos Preview	One of Anthropic's most advanced AI models with restricted access.
Programme Name	Project Glasswing	Global initiative providing controlled access to advanced AI systems.
Countries Covered	15+ countries	Shows international cooperation in AI governance.
Organisations Covered	Around 150 organisations	Indicates selective and strategic deployment.
Indian Participation	Included in latest expansion	Enhances India's AI ecosystem and critical infrastructure capabilities.
Target Sectors	Power grids, water systems, healthcare, telecommunications	Critical infrastructure protection is becoming a major AI application area.
Access Type	Controlled/Restricted	Due to cybersecurity and misuse concerns.

Feature

Founded

Headquarters

Country

CEO

Flagship Product

Competitors

Focus Areas

Details

2021

San Francisco

United States

Dario Amodei

Claude AI

OpenAI, Google DeepMind, Meta

Generative AI, AI Safety, Enterprise AI, Coding AI



Area

Cybersecurity

Infrastructure Protection

Disaster Response

Strategic Planning

Enterprise Applications

Importance

Can identify and respond to cyber threats faster.

Supports power grids, telecom networks, and water systems.

Can analyse large-scale data during emergencies.

Helps governments model risks and scenarios.

Advanced reasoning and coding capabilities.



## Challenges & Concerns

Challenge	Explanation
AI Misuse	Deepfakes, cyberattacks, misinformation.
Data Privacy	Sensitive infrastructure data protection.
Dependence on Foreign AI	Strategic vulnerability if domestic capabilities lag.
Regulatory Gaps	Need for AI governance framework.
Skill Gap	Shortage of advanced AI talent.
Ethical Issues	Bias, transparency, accountability.

## Related Government Initiatives

Initiative	Purpose
<a href="#">IndiaAI Mission</a>	Building national AI ecosystem
Digital India	Digital transformation
National Supercomputing Mission	High-performance computing
Semiconductor Mission	Chip manufacturing ecosystem
National Data Governance Framework	Data management and security

**Consider the following statements regarding Anthropic and Project Glasswing:**

1. Anthropic is a United States-based AI company known for Claude AI models.
2. Project Glasswing provides unrestricted public access to Claude Mythos AI.
3. India was included in the June 2026 expansion of the programme.
4. The programme focuses on critical infrastructure sectors.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



Odisha Selected for  
PM Surya Ghar  
Excellence Awards

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>
News	Odisha selected for PM Surya Ghar Excellence Awards (2 June 2026)
Scheme	PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
Ministry	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
Award Basis	Performance during Month of Solar Campaign (May 2026)
State Awarded	<u>Odisha</u>
Ranking	1st among medium-consumer states
Key Categories	Applications, Solar Installations, DISCOM Inspections
Additional Achievement	3rd place in Vendor Registrations

Aspect

Details

Launch Date

February 2024

Launched By

Narendra Modi

Objective

Promote rooftop solar power in households

Target

1 Crore households

Nodal Ministry

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Main Benefit

Free/Reduced electricity bills through rooftop solar

Financial Support

Central subsidy for installation

Implementation

Through DISCOMs and State Agencies

Funding

Central Government

# Why Odisha Won the Award?

Category	Odisha's Performance
Solar Applications	Highest number among medium-consumer states
Solar Installations	Highest rooftop solar installation rate
DISCOM Inspections	Highest inspection performance
Consumer Participation	Strong public involvement
Vendor Ecosystem	Third highest vendor registrations

Topic

Fact

Solar Energy

Renewable energy derived from sunlight

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Headquarters at Gurugram

ISA Launch

2015 (India–France Initiative)

National Solar Mission

Launched in 2010

Renewable Energy Sources

Solar, Wind, Hydro, Biomass, Geothermal

Largest Renewable Source in India

Solar is fastest growing

Parameter	Conventional Power	Solar Power
Fuel	Coal/Gas	Sunlight
Pollution	High	Negligible
Running Cost	High	Very Low
Carbon Emission	High	Almost Zero
Sustainability	Limited	Renewable
Import Dependence	High	Low

**Consider the following statements regarding PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:**

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. The scheme promotes rooftop solar installations in households.
3. DISCOMs play a role in inspection and grid connectivity.
4. Odisha secured first position among medium-consumer states in solar installations under the 2026 Excellence Awards.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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





# Indian Teenagers Win Earth Prize 2026 for "Plas-Stick"

News	Three Indian teenagers won Earth Prize 2026	Science & Technology + Environment
Award	The Earth Prize 2026	International Environmental Award
Winners	<u>Vivaan Chhawchharia</u> , <u>Ariana Agarwal</u> , <u>Avyana Mehta</u>	
Age	16 years	Young Innovators
Innovation	Plas-Stick	Water purification technology
Raw Material	Tamarind seed waste	Agricultural waste utilization
Purpose	Removal of microplastics from water	Environmental Protection
Technology Type	Biodegradable filtration material	Sustainable Technology
Power Requirement	No electricity needed	Rural-friendly innovation
Cost	Low-cost solution	Affordable Technology

# Earth Prize 2026

## Feature

## Details

Nature

Global environmental innovation competition

Focus

Climate and environmental solutions

Participants

School students worldwide

Objective

Encourage youth-led sustainability innovations

Prize Money

US\$12,500 Grant

Global Recognition

First-ever Global Winners

# What is Plas-Stick?

Feature	Explanation
Form	Powder-based material
Source	Tamarind seed waste
Function	Attracts microplastic particles
Process	Causes microplastics to clump together
Removal Method	Handheld magnet removes clumps
Electricity Requirement	None
Environmental Impact	Biodegradable
Target Users	Rural and low-resource communities

## How Does Plas-Stick Work?

Step	Process
1	Powder added to contaminated water
2	Powder binds with microplastics
3	Microplastics form larger clumps
4	Magnet removes the clumps
5	Cleaner water remains

## Key Scientific Principle

Principle	Application
Adsorption	Microplastics attach to material surface
Aggregation	Small particles combine into larger particles
Magnetic Separation	Easier removal from water

## Why Microplastics are Dangerous?

Impact Area	Effect
Human Health	May affect hormones and organs
Marine Life	Consumed by fish and aquatic organisms
Food Chain	Bioaccumulation occurs
Agriculture	Soil contamination
Water Quality	Reduces ecosystem health

## Tamarind Seed Waste: Exam Perspective

Aspect	Details
Source	Tamarind fruit processing industry
Type	Agricultural by-product
Nature	Biodegradable
Usage	Adsorbent and binding material
Benefit	Waste-to-Wealth Model

# Word of the day

## **Segue:**

the act of changing smoothly from one state or situation to another proceed without interruption

---

**Synonyms:** shift, transition

---

**Usage:** *The comedian's awkward segue between jokes made the audience laugh even harder.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/segue](http://newsth.live/segue)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ˈsɛɡweɪ/

---



# UMANG 360



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE



- ✓ UMANG 360 MAGAZINE – COMPLETE CURRENT AFFAIRS IN ONE PLACE
- ✓ COVERS MARCH 2026 TO APRIL 2027 MONTH-WISE
- ✓ INCLUDES MCQS, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & KEY UPDATES
- ✓ EASY, CONCISE & PERFECT FOR QUICK REVISION
- ✓ SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR UPSC, SSC, STATE PCS & ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS
- ✓ AVAILABLE IN E- PDF ( DOWNLOADABLE & PRINTABLE)



 Class24

HOME / COURSES / CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GK / UMANG 360 CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE 2026

### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir covers national & international events, key facts, MCQs, and analysis. Ideal for SSC, UPSC, RRB & other exams preparation.

Class24: Team Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir (4.8)

Overview Videos Test

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

Get success in your hand. Start study anytime anywhere.

The journey becomes simple and enjoyable when you start taking interest in it. And through our app "Class24", we will be your trusted partners in developing that interest.



### Umang 360 Current Affairs Magazine 2026-27 by Bhunesh Sir

₹149

BUY NOW

Have a Coupon Code?

Enquiry Whatsapp

Relative To Class24 Support Hi, how can we help

LIVE QUIZZES TESTS CLASSES



Thank you 😊