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WILL BRITISH ASSAULT CASE
Vinesh says she is a complainant in case
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POST UAE 2020
OPEC hikes oil production quotas
WORLD • PAGE 14

COURSE OF ACTION
Govt. issues childhood diabetes care norms
NEWS • PAGE 6

BATHERING STORM
AI and power left unchecked
Corporate control of AI raises urgent questions about accountability
EDITORIAL • PAGE 5

BUILDING THE DAY
Titans, Knight Riders register victories
SPORTS • PAGE 18

INSIDE

NET-UG held at 551 cities in India and 14 abroad
NEW DELHI
The NET-UG 2020 examination was conducted on Sunday across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited the National Testing Agency (NTA) headquarters to ensure on-ground readiness for the exam, officials said. • PAGE 8

Revoke charges imposed on Haj pilgrims: Cong.
NEW DELHI
The Congress on Sunday demanded the immediate withdrawal of the April 28 order issued by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, which requires Haj pilgrims to make an additional payment by May 15, alleging that the circular was issued without prior consultation and was a result of mismanagement by the government. • PAGE 4

Jabalpur tragedy: two more bodies are retrieved
Bhopal
The death toll in the Jabalpur cruise tragedy rose to 13 on Sunday after the bodies of the last two victims were recovered from the Bargi dam reservoir, authorities said. The bodies of nine-year-old Mayam and his uncle Ramraj Aja were found during a search operation in the reservoir. • PAGE 6

Robbers loot gold after shooting at three shop hands
KABIRNAGAR
In a daylight robbery, five armed robbers stormed a jewellery shop in Kamnagari in Telangana and looted the staff on Sunday, injuring three of them before decamping with gold ornaments. It is suspected that an inter-gang of robbers executed the crime. • PAGE 8

Nitish's son starts his Sadbhav Yatra from Champaran
BETWA
Former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's son, Mahant Kumar, on Sunday, launched his 'Sadbhav Yatra' from Bagaha in West Champaran district, following his father's long-held tradition of launching all political yatras from Champaran. • PAGE 8

Parties set for verdict; EC vows transparency

Votes for five bitterly contested Assembly polls and seven byelections to be counted today

In Assam, Congress-led front hopes to prevent BJP-led NDA coalition from scoring a hat-trick

Today's verdict will reveal to what extent T.N.'s political landscape is disrupted by Vijay's TVK

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI
The Election Commission on Sunday said it would uphold the "highest standards of transparency, security and efficiency" when votes polled in the elections to the Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry and the bypolls in seven Assembly constituencies in five States are counted on Monday.
For West Bengal, the EC had deployed 103 additional counting observers to assist counting observers and 77 police officers to conduct "a secure, peaceful, intimidation-free, and transparent environment". Exuding confidence, the political parties and fronts are watching the counting preparations closely.
In Assam, the Congress front of its parties

Eyes on the count
The chart shows the governments' past participation in the four States and one Union Territory.
With exit polls hitting a United Democratic Front (UDF) comeback, the Congress-led Opposition is already in a celebratory mood. Measowhale, CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Gowdan was confident that the Left Democratic Front (LDF) would return for a straight third term. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is pinning its hopes on a handful of constituencies, such as Neeamm, where it had fended

the fourth consecutive bad April. In its principal Opposition partner, the Trinamool over the promise of "parishad" exchange.
The Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Indian Secular Front and contested the Assembly polls. The Congress also fielded candidates in all



Breaking the ice



Paving the way: Army personnel clearing snow on Sunday at Gurubandh Sri Hanuman Sahib in Chameli district of Uttarakhand, ahead of its opening. The Hanuman Sahib yatra begins on May 21. PPT

U.S. choices are impossible operation or bad deal: Iran

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE TEHRAN
Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Sunday said the United States faced a choice between an "impossible" military operation or a "bad deal" with Tehran.
Negotiations between the two countries have been deadlocked since a ceasefire came into effect last April. It, with only one round of direct peace talks held so far. Iran's Foreign Ministry said Tehran had submitted a 14-point plan focused on ending the war and that Washington had already responded to it in a message to Farsi news mediators.
"We are reviewing this and will take whatever response is necessary regarding it," spokeswoman Esmail Baghat told state television. Mr. Trump, however, had already dismissed the offer. "I will soon be reviewing the plan that Iran has put out to us, but can't imagine that it would be acceptable in that they have not yet paid a big enough price for what they have done to Americans, and the World, over the last 47 years."
DONALD TRUMP U.S. President

I will soon be reviewing the plan that Iran has put out to us, but can't imagine that it would be acceptable in that they have not yet paid a big enough price for what they have done to Americans, and the World, over the last 47 years.
DONALD TRUMP U.S. President

Concern in Nepal on Kailash Yatra route

Kailash Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI
Foreign Secretary Mier's upcoming visit to Nepal came under a shadow on Sunday with Nepal expressing "concerns" in response to Kailashwar's remarks. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that Nepal's claims on the Lipulekh Pass are not based on "historical facts".
The Ministry had announced on April 30 the

Nine dead as fire rips through building in Delhi

Shajmaul Kausarik NEW DELHI
Nine people were killed in a major fire in an incidental building in Shahdara in East Delhi in the early hours of Sunday. Fifteen people were brought to safety by rescue teams. Five of the dead were from one family.
The fire was reported around 3:40 a.m. in the building in the Vashik Vihar Phase I residential complex. Eyewitnesses said the fire broke out on the first floor, likely from an air-conditioning unit, and quickly spread to the three upper floors. Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officers said the blaze was brought under control at 5:25 a.m. Two of the residents had injuries. Several of them were taken to a nearby hospital, while the search continued through the morning. Most of them were discharged immediately, officials said.
"The search-and-rescue and firefighting operations were carried out simultaneously. The building com-

Mukesh Verma, Duty Officer, DFS, said. Expressing grief, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ex-gratia for the kin of the dead and the injured.
Bodies recovered
As the search operation ended, the DFS and the police continued the recovery of minor charred bodies — one from the first floor, five from the second floor, and three from a locked staircase on the third floor.
While most of those residing in the flat on the first floor were rescued, those on the roof side were affected the most. The deceased belonged to three families. Authorities said further investigation is under way to ascertain the cause of the fire.
Following the blaze reported in firefighting units, including fire tenders, water bowlers, and other special equipment, used for rescue operations.
The tragedy has struck more than a month after nine members of a family ended, the DFS and the police continued the recovery of minor charred bodies — one from the first floor, five from the second floor, and three from a locked staircase on the third floor.
While most of those residing in the flat on the first floor were rescued, those on the roof side were affected the most. The deceased belonged to three families. Authorities said further investigation is under way to ascertain the cause of the fire.



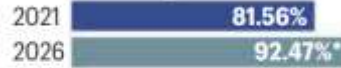
Family members of victims mourn after nine people were killed in a fire at Vashik Vihar in East Delhi on Sunday. (S. VISWANATHAN)

SLEEPLESS IN TEHRAN
• PAGE 14

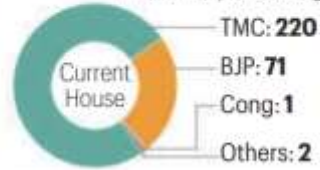
DECISION 2026



West Bengal (294* seats)



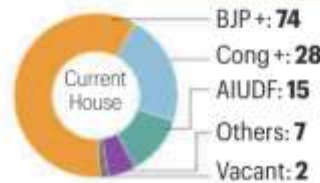
Turnout in %, *provisional figure



Tamil Nadu (234 seats)



Assam (126 seats)



Kerala (140 seats)



*Full repoll will be held in Falta seat on May 21; voter turnout excluding postal ballots; Source: ECI, statistical reports, state Assemblies

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India sends Army team to Cambodia for joint exercise

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has dispatched a 120-member contingent for the second edition of the India-Cambodia Joint Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026, scheduled from May 4 to 17 in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia. The exercise will take place at the Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre.

According to the Defence Ministry, the exercise, conducted under the framework of the UN Charter's Chapter VII mandate, will focus on company-level joint operations in a sub-conventional environment.

The Indian contingent, primarily drawn from a battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment, will train alongside 160 personnel from the Royal Cambodian Army, it added. It also said the exercise will centre on counter-terrorism operations aligned with real-world UN peacekeeping scenarios.



The Indian contingent is mainly from a battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment. ANI

CINBAX-II aims to boost interoperability, coordination, and operational synergy between the two forces. It will also serve as a platform to exchange best practices and share operational experiences, particularly in semi-urban combat environments.

The exercise underscores the growing defence ties between India and Cambodia and is expected to deepen bilateral relations while enhancing joint capabilities to address regional and global security challenges.

120

Indian Army contingent
(Maratha Light Infantry
Regiment)

160

Royal Cambodian Army
personnel training
alongside India

May 4-17

CINBAX-II dates;
Kampong Speu Province,
Cambodia

**2nd
Edition**

CINBAX = India-Cambodia
Bilateral Army Exercise;
2nd edition

Ch.VII

UN Charter Chapter VII
Framework — Peace
& Security

KEY DEVELOPMENT (EN) — मुख्य विकास

- Indian Army dispatched 120-member contingent for CINBAX-II 2026 — second edition of India-Cambodia Joint Military Exercise
- Dates: May 4–17, 2026; Location: Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia; Venue: Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre
- Indian contingent primarily from Maratha Light Infantry Regiment; trains alongside 160 personnel from Royal Cambodian Army
- Exercise conducted under UN Charter Chapter VII mandate (Peace and Security)
- Focus: Company-level joint operations in sub-conventional environment; counter-terrorism operations aligned with real-world UN peacekeeping scenarios
- Objectives: Boost interoperability, coordination, operational synergy; exchange best practices; share operational experiences in semi-urban combat environments
- Significance: Underscores growing defence ties between India and Cambodia; deepens bilateral relations and joint capabilities for regional and global security

मुख्य विकास (HI) — KEY DEVELOPMENT

- भारतीय सेना ने CINBAX-II 2026 के लिए 120 सदस्यीय दल भेजा — भारत-कंबोडिया संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास का दूसरा संस्करण
- तिथि: 4-17 मई 2026; स्थान: Kampong Speu Province, कंबोडिया; Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre
- भारतीय दल मुख्यतः मराठा लाइट इन्फैंट्री रेजिमेंट से; Royal Cambodian Army के 160 जवानों के साथ प्रशिक्षण
- UN चार्टर अध्याय VII के तहत संचालित
- फोकस: उप-पारंपरिक वातावरण में कंपनी-स्तरीय संयुक्त अभियान; आतंकवाद-विरोधी ऑपरेशन; UN शांति रक्षा परिदृश्य
- उद्देश्य: अंतःक्रियाशीलता, समन्वय, परिचालन तालमेल; अर्ध-शहरी लड़ाई अनुभव साझा करना
- महत्व: भारत-कंबोडिया बढ़ते रक्षा संबंध; क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक सुरक्षा के लिए संयुक्त क्षमताएं

CAMBODIA — GEOGRAPHY & PROFILE

- Official name: Kingdom of Cambodia; Capital: Phnom Penh; Currency: Cambodian Riel (KHR)
- Location: Southeast Asia; borders Thailand (W), Laos (N), Vietnam (E), Gulf of Thailand (S)
- Major river: Mekong River (flows through Cambodia); Tonle Sap = largest freshwater lake in SE Asia
- Major landmark: Angkor Wat — world's largest Hindu temple complex (later Buddhist); UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Member: ASEAN (1999); ASEM; UN; RCEP; Former French colony until 1953
- PM: Hun Manet (since 2023); ASEAN rotating chair

MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT

- One of the oldest and most decorated infantry regiments of the Indian Army
- Raised: 1768; Origins trace to Maratha Empire military forces under Peshwa
- Battle honours: Kargil War (Operation Vijay 1999), multiple UN Peacekeeping operations in Congo, Lebanon, Sudan
- HQ: Belgaum (Belagavi), Karnataka
- Regiment's motto: 'Yash Siddhis' (Victory through valour and honour)
- Part of Army Training Command (ARTRAC) battalion; selected for CINBAX-II

UN CHARTER CHAPTER VII — KEY FACTS

- UN Charter has 19 chapters + 111 Articles
- Chapter VI (Articles 33-38): Pacific Settlement of Disputes — calls for negotiation, mediation, arbitration
- Chapter VII (Articles 39-51): Action with respect to Threats to the Peace — authorises UN to use collective force
- Chapter VII key: Under Chapter VII, UN Security Council can authorise military force (peacekeeping missions, sanctions)
- India and UN Peacekeeping: India is one of the LARGEST troop contributors to UN Peacekeeping Missions (UNPKM); 2.5 lakh+ troops deployed historically
- CINBAX aligned with Chapter VII = training for actual UN peacekeeping/peace enforcement scenarios

INDIA-CAMBODIA RELATIONS & ASEAN CONTEXT

- India-ASEAN FTA (2009): India's Act East Policy links India to ASEAN; Cambodia is ASEAN member
- India provides development assistance to Cambodia; Buddhist cultural ties; Angkor Wat in Indian consciousness
- India's Act East Policy (2014): Deepening engagement with Southeast Asia — bilateral exercises key element
- ASEAN founded 1967 (Bangkok Declaration); 10 members; ASEAN-India Summit annually
- India has joint exercises with many ASEAN nations: Singapore (SIMBEX-Navy), Vietnam (bilateral), Thailand (Maitree), Indonesia (Garuda), Myanmar (IM-BEX)



CONFIRMED PYQs (UPSC/CDS/NDA/SSC/BANK) — पुष्टि PYQ

UPSC Pre 2023: Maratha Light Infantry Regiment HQ is at? **ANS: Belgaum (Belagavi), Karnataka**

CDS 2024: UN Charter Chapter VII authorises? **ANS: Use of collective force for threats to peace**

UPSC Pre 2022: India-Thailand joint exercise 'Maitree' is a? **ANS: Army exercise** | **NDA 2023: Angkor Wat is located in? ANS: Cambodia**

MCQ 1 — DIRECT (UPSC/CDS/NDA PATTERN)

- Q. CINBAX-II 2026 is the joint military exercise between India and which country?
- (a) Vietnam
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Cambodia
- (d) Indonesia

MCQ 2 — STATEMENT-BASED (UPSC PATTERN)

- Q. Consider statements about CINBAX-II 2026:
- 1. It is the second edition of India-Cambodia Joint Military Exercise
- 2. Indian contingent is from Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- 3. It is conducted under UN Charter Chapter VI framework
- 4. Venue is Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre
- (a) 1, 2, 4 (b) 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4

10 REVISION POINTS (EN + HI)

- 1. CINBAX-II 2026: India-Cambodia Joint Military Exercise; 2nd edition; May 4-17
- 2. Venue: Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre, Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia
- 3. Indian contingent: 120 members; Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- 4. Cambodia side: 160 personnel from Royal Cambodian Army
- 5. Framework: UN Charter Chapter VII; focus: counter-terrorism, semi-urban combat, peacekeeping
- 1. CINBAX-II 2026: भारत-कंबोडिया संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास; दूसरा संस्करण; 4-17 मई
- 2. स्थान: Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre, Kampong Speu
- 3. भारतीय दल: 120 सदस्य; मराठा लाइट इन्फैंट्री रेजिमेंट
- 4. कंबोडिया: Royal Cambodian Army के 160 जवान
- 5. UN Charter Chapter VII; आतंकवाद-विरोधी, अर्ध-शहरी युद्ध, शांति रक्षा

MAINS ANGLES + ESSAY + INTERVIEW

- GS-2 (IR): India-ASEAN relations; Act East Policy; India's defence diplomacy with Southeast Asia; UN Peacekeeping
- GS-3 (Security): India's joint military exercises framework; interoperability and regional security; sub-conventional warfare
- GS-2 (Polity): UN Charter structure (Ch.VI vs VII); India's role in UN Peacekeeping; India as consistent troop contributor
- Static GK: Cambodia — Capital Phnom Penh; Angkor Wat (UNESCO WHS); ASEAN member 1999; Mekong River; Tonle Sap lake
- Essay: 'India's Act East Policy: From Look East to Act East — deepening strategic partnerships'
- Interview: 'India and Cambodia conducted CINBAX-II. How does this reflect India's Act East Policy and strategic interests in SE Asia?'
- GS-2: भारत-ASEAN; Act East नीति; UN शांति रक्षा
- GS-3: संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास; उप-पारंपरिक युद्ध

IN BRIEF

Mission Drishti, world's first OptoSAR satellite, launched

Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite developed by the Bengaluru-based space start-up Galaxeye has been successfully launched on Sunday aboard a Falcon 9 by SpaceX from Vandenberg, California. Weighing 600 kilograms, it is India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite. "It is the first satellite globally to integrate Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors into a single operational platform, enabling all-weather, day and night imaging capabilities. This approach addresses long-standing limitations of conventional systems and enables more reliable and consistent data acquisition across diverse environmental conditions," Galaxeye said.

Andaman sets two Guinness World Records in two days

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Sunday created another Guinness World Record with the formation of the tallest human stack under water at Divulal Island, formerly known as Narsuck Island, officials said. Fourteen people, including Lt. Gov. D.K. Joshi, took part to forming the 22.3-metre-long stack, and they stayed under water for three minutes. The feat comes a day after the Union Territory administration unfurled the world's largest national flag, measuring approximately 60 by 40 metres, near the same island. Officials said the two achievements are part of a larger initiative to showcase the islands as a premier global diving destination, highlighting their pristine marine ecosystem and advanced diving capabilities.

India needs future-ready workforce to sustain its leadership in pharma

The Hindu Bureau GURUVAI



Experts at a webinar underscored the need for innovation ecosystems, streamline regulatory frameworks, and they urged under-tapped ready workforce to sustain its global leadership in pharma.

The webinar, "Pharma 2030: Innovation, Regulation and the Rise of India" held on Sunday was organised by The Hindu and SRM Institute of Science and Technology as part of the Future Career Conversations series.

It focused on India's evolving role in the global pharma landscape and the shifts required to move up the value chain. Setting the context, S. Vincent, Member-Secretary, Tamil Nadu

Venot Sambandamurthy, Senior Vice-President, Strategy and Global Operations, at Biogen, research into market-ready solutions and stressed the need for stronger partnerships and interdisciplinary approaches.

N. Ramodharan, Vice-Principal and Professor and Head, Department of Pharmaceutics, SRM College of Pharmacy, highlighted the growing role of advanced drug delivery systems, nanotechnology, and formulation science, noting a shift towards more complex and value-driven products.

The session was moderated by Asha Esha Johnson, Senior Reporter, The Hindu. The webinar can be viewed at newshive/pharma

Early intervention

The Union Health Ministry has introduced a structured and standardised national framework for the screening, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of diabetes in children.



Financial burden and ensure uninterrupted treatment for children diagnosed with diabetes.

integrated care While the initiative positions India among a select group of countries that have integrated childhood diabetes care into the public health system, the document also introduces an integrated continuum of care, linking community-level screening with the state, monitoring and management and advanced care at medical colleges.

Age to many of the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels.

NEW FRAMEWORK

The initiative seeks to support early detection and prompt the "4Cs" awareness framework - Tolerant, Timely, Treated, and Treated - enabling parents, teachers and caregivers to recognise early warning signs of Type 1 diabetes.

While the initiative is expected to deliver public health benefits in a chronic disease that causes mortality due to early detection, prevention of complications, and improved quality of life for affected children.

AICTE's Internship Portal sees 4.7 cr. student registrations in over 4 years

MALINI PURSOTA NEW DELHI

The National Internship Portal run by the Ministry of Education's All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has recorded over 4.7 crore student registrations in four-and-a-half years, AICTE's Chief Co-ordinating Officer (CEO) Buddha Chandrasekhar said.

Mr. Chandrasekhar told the AICTE that of the over 4.7 crore registered students, AICTE had been able to verify the credentials of over 2.9 crore. "We have a vetting process in place to ensure those students who have registered for internships are at least registered in an academic institution," he said.

Over 79.57 lakh intern-



The scheme is aimed at bridging the gap between theory and workplace reality.

ship opportunities have been offered by the portal, and more than 32.76 lakh students have completed their internships, official AICTE data say. "We have tied up with 81,483 companies, 1,000 government MoUs with 12,077 colleges," Mr. Chandrasekhar added.

Rescue operation continued a search operation after the cruise tragedy in Jabalpur district on Thursday. (P)

Jabalpur cruise tragedy: two more bodies recovered

MALINI PURSOTA BIRUPAL

The death toll in the Jabalpur cruise tragedy rose to 33 on Monday after the bodies of the last two victims were recovered from the Bargi dam reservoir, authorities said.

Jabalpur Collector Rajgopal Singh told The Hindu that the body of nine-year-old Mayaram was recovered around 5 a.m., while remains of his uncle Kanwar Arjo were found around 6 a.m. during a search operation in the reservoir. Both are residents of Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli.

The official account of Madhya Pradesh Tourism, carried 19 tourists and two crew members, capsized after facing a sudden storm on the Bargi dam on the Narmada river in Jabalpur

on Thursday. Twenty-eight people were rescued safely while bodies of four victims were recovered soon after.

While five bodies and the vessel wreckage were brought out on Friday, two deceased children were found on Saturday.

Mr. Singh said that while Indian Army's rescuers and divers have returned, NDRF, SDRF and local administration are continuing the search efforts to look for parts of the cruise boat and belongings of the victims.

"We are continuing it today (Sunday) and will evaluate the situation if we should keep it going on Monday. We are also preparing the list of injured victims to provide them the financial relief announced by the government," he said.

FAITH

Nrusimha keeps 8 promises

Sri Venkateswara Prathabacharya Swamy explained in a discourse that God's manifestations as Nrusimha was to fulfil eight promises. The idea of the eight promises is a theological elaboration emphasizing that the Lord's actions are never arbitrary. They are perfectly aligned to protect dharma and honour His devotees, and yet respect the cosmic order, including the becom granted earlier. When His conyogakship knocked down a pillar (created by him, knowing nothing inside), the Lord appeared instantaneously from the pillar to uphold the words of His devotee Pradhana, who said God dwells everywhere, including the pillar. God says He is present in all five elements of nature, and the pillar is associated with the element Earth.

The gatekeepers of Sri Vaikunta who incurred the curse of Kaushika and other sages were destined to be born as animals for these births, but they prayed to Lord Narayana to be slain and retrieved by the God. Hiranyakship's birth was one of the three, and God fulfilled that promise. Hiranyakship prayed to Lord Brahma that he should not be killed by any of Brahma's creations, and Nrusimha fulfilled that promise also, as He was not created by Brahma. Hiranyakship also prayed that he should not be killed during the day or night, nor by those of outsiders. To fulfil this condition, God chose to kill him on the threshold and at twilight. Through Hiranyakship had obtained numerous boons, he was inwardly certain that his persecution of Pradhana would ultimately lead to his destruction, a fate that the Lord indeed brought to a conclusion. Sage Narada assured India that Pradhana could never be slain by Hiranyakship, a truth that the Lord unflinchingly upheld.

Word search puzzle with 14784 words and a list of 30 clues. Clues include: 1. Without being hidden, captured male removed face covering (30), 2. Chops messaged for long periods (6), 3. Confused vote with head of spider in small space (13,3), 4. Figure covering competition of binary digits (6), 5. Repeated broadcast from station unavailability (6), 6. Wringly say, "Putts and returns in the same place" (5,3), 7. Implements used to make steel (3), 8. Leave the station to Perry, for example (4,4), 9. Located over six-foot amount small water body and gave a reaction (3), 10. Shake skin to some extent and drink (3), 11. Come get to market to obtain current discharge (6), 12. Falls in space created by India reconstruction (6), 13. Bill, perhaps, by American word (6), 14. Extraterrestrial fleet Armstrong initially sent back (5), 15. Tiptoe from stellar revolution (6), 16. Professionals who give oral exams (6), 17. Down, 18. Say, "Alloy" (3), 19. Born up, "Hot answers for King" (3), 20. Soft material from South Africa placed in front of container (3), 21. Much visitors having his name? (6), 22. Kid love his waste ascending merry (3,4), 23. Charlie gets light future (3), 24. For example, honey, even into highly acidic (6), 25. Widespread remnant after group of actors got dropped (4,4), 26. Card game four pawns played (4,2), 27. Parasiter and snakes trapped between a couple of mountains (3), 28. Escape from old decline (6), 29. Restricted film is all barbie (3,4), 30. Make it easy when you apologize by without plan (3), 31. Reprimand star consuming egg of sea (3), 32. Dreams often carrying writing material (3), 33. Eye problem from dusty environment (4)

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9 and a difficulty rating of 3 stars.



Mission Drishti, world's first OptoSAR satellite, launched

Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite developed by the Bengaluru-based space start-up GalaxEye has been successfully launched on Sunday aboard a Falcon 9 by SpaceX from Vandenberg, California. Weighing 190 kilograms, it is India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite. "It is the first satellite globally to integrate Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors into a single operational platform, enabling all-weather, day-and-night imaging capabilities. This approach addresses long-standing limitations of conventional systems and enables more reliable and consistent data acquisition across diverse environmental conditions," GalaxEye said.

World #1

First globally to integrate EO + SAR in single operational platform

190 kg

India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite

Falcon 9

Launched aboard SpaceX Falcon 9 from Vandenberg, California

GalaxEye

Bengaluru-based space start-up — developer of Mission Drishti

OptoSAR

Optical + Synthetic Aperture Radar — new satellite class

KEY DEVELOPMENT (EN) — मुख्य विकास

- Mission Drishti — world's first OptoSAR satellite — developed by Bengaluru-based space start-up GalaxEye
- Successfully launched aboard SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California
- Weighs 190 kg — India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite
- OptoSAR = world's first satellite to integrate Electro-Optical (EO) AND Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors into a SINGLE operational platform
- Capability: All-weather, day-and-night imaging — EO for optical clarity; SAR to penetrate clouds, darkness, and all weather
- Addresses long-standing limitation of conventional satellites: EO-only satellites blind at night/in clouds; SAR-only satellites cannot capture optical colour detail
- Impact: More reliable and consistent data acquisition across diverse environmental conditions — useful for defence, agriculture, disaster management, urban planning

मुख्य विकास (HI) — KEY DEVELOPMENT

- मिशन दृष्टि — विश्व का पहला OptoSAR सैटेलाइट — बेंगलुरु स्थित अंतरिक्ष स्टार्ट-अप GalaxEye द्वारा विकसित
- Vandenberg Space Force Base, California से SpaceX Falcon 9 पर सफलतापूर्वक लॉन्च
- वजन: 190 kg — भारत का सबसे बड़ा निजी रूप से विकसित पृथ्वी अवलोकन उपग्रह
- OptoSAR = Electro-Optical (EO) और Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) दोनों को एक ही प्लेटफॉर्म में एकीकृत करने वाला विश्व का पहला सैटेलाइट
- क्षमता: सभी मौसम, दिन-रात इमेजिंग — बादल, अंधेरे और सभी मौसम में काम
- पारंपरिक उपग्रहों की दीर्घकालिक सीमा को दूर करता है
- उपयोग: रक्षा, कृषि, आपदा प्रबंधन, शहरी नियोजन में अधिक विश्वसनीय डेटा

SATELLITE SENSOR TECHNOLOGY COMPARISON

Feature	EO (Electro-Optical)	SAR	OptoSAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Works at night?	No	Yes	Yes
Works in clouds?	No	Yes	Yes
Colour imagery?	Yes (vivid)	Limited	Yes
Resolution	High visual	Medium	Best of both
India examples	Cartosat	RISAT-1,2	Mission Drishti

ISRO + EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITES

- ISRO's EO satellites: IRS (Indian Remote Sensing) series, Cartosat series (optical), RISAT series (SAR)
- Cartosat-3: 25 cm resolution — one of world's sharpest commercial imaging satellites
- RISAT-1, RISAT-2: Synthetic Aperture Radar satellites — all-weather surveillance
- RESOURCE SAT, OCEANSAT, SARAL: specialised earth observation
- National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad: Processes and distributes satellite data
- Mission Drishti surpasses ISRO's own capabilities by combining EO+SAR in one

INDIA'S PRIVATE SPACE ECOSYSTEM

- Space sector opened to private players: IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) — est. 2020 under Dept. of Space
- Space Amendments to FDI: 100% FDI allowed in satellite manufacturing (automatic route)
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL): Commercial arm of ISRO for private sector collaboration
- GalaxEye: IIT Madras incubated; Bengaluru HQ; part of India's new private space ecosystem
- Other Indian private space start-ups: Skyroot (Vikram rocket), Agnikul Cosmos (Agnibaan), Dhruva Space, Pixxel (hyperspectral)
- India now 6th country in space with significant private space sector

SPACEX FALCON 9 + VANDENBERG

- SpaceX: Founded by Elon Musk (2002); HQ Hawthorne, California; world's most active rocket launcher
- Falcon 9: Partially reusable 2-stage rocket; most frequently launched orbital rocket in history
- Vandenberg Space Force Base: Located in California; used for polar and sun-synchronous orbit launches
- India's commercial satellite launches: ISRO uses PSLV; increasingly using foreign rockets (SpaceX, Ariane) for private payloads
- India's Space Policy 2023: Enables private sector to design, build, launch and operate satellites

CONFIRMED PYQs (UPSC/SSC/BANK) — पुष्टि PYQ

UPSC Pre 2023: SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellites are useful because? **ANS: They can image through clouds and at night (all-weather, day-night capability)**

UPSC Pre 2024: IN-SPACe was established to? **ANS: Promote and authorise private sector participation in space activities**

SSC CGL 2022: SpaceX was founded by? ANS: Elon Musk | UPSC 2022: RISAT series satellites use which technology? **ANS: SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar)**

MCQ 1 — DIRECT (UPSC/SSC PATTERN)

- **Q. Mission Drishti, launched in 2026, is described as the world's first satellite to:**
- (a) Use nuclear propulsion in low Earth orbit
- (b) Integrate Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) in a single platform
- (c) Achieve resolution below 10 cm for civilian use
- (d) Operate entirely on solar power without batteries

MCQ 2 — STATEMENT-BASED (UPSC PATTERN)

- **Q. Consider statements about Mission Drishti:**
- 1. It is developed by ISRO as part of its earth observation programme
- 2. It is India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite at 190 kg
- 3. It was launched on SpaceX Falcon 9 from Vandenberg, California
- 4. OptoSAR combines Electro-Optical and SAR sensors
- (a) 1, 2, 3 (b) 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4

10 REVISION POINTS (EN + HI)

- 1. Mission Drishti: World's first OptoSAR satellite; integrates EO + SAR in single platform
- 2. Developed by GalaxEye (Bengaluru space start-up; IIT Madras incubated)
- 3. Launched on SpaceX Falcon 9 from Vandenberg, California
- 4. Weight: 190 kg — India's largest privately developed earth observation satellite
- 5. Capability: All-weather, day-and-night imaging; overcomes limitations of EO-only and SAR-only satellites
- 1. मिशन दृष्टि: विश्व का पहला OptoSAR; EO + SAR एकीकृत
- 2. GalaxEye (बेंगलुरु; IIT मद्रास इनक्यूबेटेड) द्वारा विकसित
- 3. Vandenberg, California से Falcon 9 पर लॉन्च
- 4. वजन: 190 kg — भारत का सबसे बड़ा निजी पृथ्वी अवलोकन उपग्रह
- 5. सभी मौसम, दिन-रात इमेजिंग — पारंपरिक सीमाओं को दूर करता है

MAINS ANGLES + ESSAY + INTERVIEW

- GS-3 (S&T): India's private space sector; IN-SPACe; Space Policy 2023; OptoSAR technology; earth observation applications (defence, agriculture, disaster)
- GS-3 (Economy): Start-up ecosystem; deep tech funding; space economy (global \$630B by 2030 — SpaceX, OneWeb); India's space economy target \$44B by 2033
- GS-2 (Governance): Space regulation; FDI in space; IN-SPACe vs ISRO division of roles
- GS-3 (Defence): Dual-use of satellite technology; all-weather surveillance; strategic intelligence gathering
- Essay: 'From ISRO to start-ups: India's space sector democratisation and the new era of commercial space'
- Interview: 'GalaxEye launched the world's first OptoSAR satellite. How does this reflect India's evolving space ecosystem?'
- GS-3: S&T — OptoSAR; IN-SPACe; Space Policy 2023
- GS-3: अर्थव्यवस्था — स्टार्ट-अप; अंतरिक्ष अर्थव्यवस्था \$44B लक्ष्य 2033

KB'S OWN

Narine first overseas bowler to join 200-wicket club in the IPL



Bumrah joined the 200-wicket club in the IPL, becoming the first bowler other than a fast and slow bowler to reach the mark...

SNIPPER'S PRIDE

'Varun is always confident, works very hard and has a great attitude'



Varun Kohli is always confident, works very hard and has a great attitude...

MISSED CHANCE

We should've found a way to get around 180 to 200: Cummins



Mitchell Starc says he should have found a way to get around 180 to 200 runs...

JOY TO ANGIKHE

CSK's Ramakrishna ruled out of the season with foot fracture



Ravi Kumar Jadeja is ruled out of the season with a foot fracture...



Bumrah is the first bowler to reach 200 wickets in the IPL...

Holder, Washington star as Titans win a thriller

Holder off 50 and James, respectively

James Holder was star of the match as he led the Titans to a thrilling victory over the Sunrisers Hyderabad...

Varun and Narine set up KKR's emphatic victory

The two spinners share five wickets to bowl out Sunrisers for a below-par 188 after a stunning onslaught by opener Head, the Kolkata side's top-order fires in unison in the modest chase



Varun Kohli and Yashvir Jaiswal are the top scorers for Kolkata Knight Riders...

Sunrisers Hyderabad, captained by Faf du Plessis, began its IPL clash against Kolkata Knight Riders with an onslaught on bowler K... Head, the Kolkata side's top-order fires in unison in the modest chase...



Bumrah is the first bowler to reach 200 wickets in the IPL...

MI meets LSG in a do-or-die encounter

Shane Watson

Shane Watson has long been a regular in the Mumbai Indians' lineup...

Mumbai Indians has long been a regular in the Mumbai Indians' lineup... Today's match: Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad...

Holder off 50 and James, respectively. James Holder was star of the match as he led the Titans to a thrilling victory over the Sunrisers Hyderabad...

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Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes names like Holder, James, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes names like Varun, Narine, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes names like Watson, etc.

South Korean women dethrone China

UBER CUP

Sports Bureau

South Korean women stunned China to reclaim the Uber Cup, for the first time in four years, after a 3-1 victory in the summit clash at Horsens on Sunday. Korea won its third

crown after the triumphs in 2010 and 2022.

The results: Uber Cup: Final:

South Korea bt China 3-1 (An Se-young bt Wang Zhi Yi 21-10, 21-13; Lee So-hee & Jeong Na-eun lost to Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Nin 15-21, 12-21; Kim Ga-eun bt Chen Yu Fei 21-19, 21-15; Kim Hye-jeong & Baek Ha-na bt Jia Yi Fan & Zhang Shu Xian 16-21, 21-10, 21-13.

3-1

South Korea beat China
in final at Horsens,
Denmark

**3rd
Title**

Korea's 3rd Uber Cup
championship
(2010, 2022, 2026)

4 years

First time in four
years South Korea
reclaims the title

**An
Se-young**

World No.1 South Korean
badminton star led
Korea's triumph

Horsens

Venue: Horsens,
Denmark — Uber Cup
2026 host city

KEY DEVELOPMENT (EN) — मुख्य विकास

- South Korean women's badminton team stunned China to reclaim the Uber Cup for the first time in four years
- South Korea bt China 3-1 in the summit clash at Horsens, Denmark
- Match results: An Se-young bt Wang Zhi Yi 21-10, 21-13; Lee So-hee & Jeong Na-eun lost 15-21, 12-21; Kim Ga-eun bt Chen Yu Fei 21-19, 21-15; Kim Hye-jeong & Baek Ha-na bt Jia Yi Fan & Zhang Shu Xian 16-21, 21-10, 21-13
- Korea's third Uber Cup title — after victories in 2010 and 2022
- An Se-young (World No.1) was the star performer — beat former world champion and Olympic gold medallist Chen Yu Fei's partner Wang Zhi Yi
- Uber Cup = prestigious women's international badminton team championship — traditionally dominated by China
- China had won the Uber Cup most times historically; Korea dethroning them is a significant upset

मुख्य विकास (HI) — KEY DEVELOPMENT

- दक्षिण कोरियाई महिला बैडमिंटन टीम ने चीन को हराकर चार साल बाद Uber Cup पुनः जीता
- दक्षिण कोरिया ने Horsens, Denmark में फाइनल में चीन को 3-1 से हराया
- मैच परिणाम: An Se-young ने Wang Zhi Yi को 21-10, 21-13 से हराया; Kim Ga-eun ने Chen Yu Fei को 21-19, 21-15 से; Kim Hye-jeong & Baek Ha-na ने युगल जीता
- कोरिया का तीसरा Uber Cup खिताब — 2010 और 2022 के बाद
- An Se-young (विश्व नंबर 1) ने शानदार प्रदर्शन किया
- Uber Cup = प्रतिष्ठित महिला अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बैडमिंटन टीम चैम्पियनशिप — ऐतिहासिक रूप से चीन का वर्चस्व
- चीन से खिताब छीनना बड़ी उपलब्धि

UBER CUP — COMPLETE PROFILE

- Official name: BWF Uber Cup — International Badminton Federation Women's World Team Championship
- Started: 1956-57 (inaugural); named after Betty Uber (English badminton player who donated the trophy in 1956)
- Frequency: Held every 2 years
- Most titles: China (15 titles — dominant force in women's badminton); Japan (6 titles); USA (1)
- South Korea's titles: 2010, 2022, 2026 — third title
- Held alongside Thomas Cup (men's equivalent) — same year, often same venue

THOMAS CUP — MEN'S EQUIVALENT

- Thomas Cup = BWF International Badminton Federation Men's World Team Championship
- Started: 1948-49; named after Sir George Thomas (English badminton champion who donated trophy)
- Most titles: Indonesia (14 titles); China (10 titles); Malaysia (5 titles)
- India Thomas Cup 2022: India won Thomas Cup for FIRST TIME in history (beat Indonesia 3-0 in final) — historic
- India's Uber Cup: India has won Uber Cup —
- 2022: India won Thomas Cup (historic first) and Uber Cup same year — dual glory

BWF + BADMINTON TIMELINE

- BWF (Badminton World Federation): HQ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; founded 1934 as IBF; renamed BWF in 2006
- Major BWF tournaments: All England, World Championships, Olympic badminton, Thomas Cup, Uber Cup, Sudirman Cup (mixed), BWF World Tour
- Sudirman Cup: Mixed team championship; started 1989
- Badminton at Olympics: Included since 1992 Barcelona Olympics; events — MS, WS, MD, WD, XD
- An Se-young: South Korean WS star; World No.1; known for high speed and deceptive play
- India in badminton: PV Sindhu (2 Olympic medals), Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Saina Nehwal (2012 Olympic bronze)

INDIA IN BADMINTON — KEY FACTS

- Badminton Association of India (BAI): Founded 1934; affiliated to BWF and BCA (Badminton Confederation of Asia)
- PV Sindhu: First Indian woman to win consecutive Olympic medals — Silver 2016 Rio, Bronze 2020 Tokyo; World Champion 2019
- Saina Nehwal: Bronze 2012 London Olympics; former World No.1
- India Thomas Cup 2022: Historic win; Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Chirag Shetty-Satwik pair
- Satwik-Chirag: World No.1 doubles pair; 2023 World Championship finalists
- India National Badminton Academy: SAI (Sports Authority of India) funded; Hyderabad and Bengaluru centres

CONFIRMED PYQs (UPSC/SSC/BANK/RAILWAY) — पुष्टि PYQ

SSC CGL 2023: BWF Headquarters is located at? **ANS: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

UPSC Pre 2024: India won the Thomas Cup for the first time in? **ANS: 2022 (beat Indonesia 3-0 in final)**

Bank PO 2023: PV Sindhu won Silver at which Olympics? **ANS: 2016 Rio** | **SSC 2022: Uber Cup is associated with which sport? ANS: Badminton (Women's team)**

MCQ 1 — DIRECT (SSC/BANK PATTERN)

- **Q. The Uber Cup 2026 was won by which country?**
- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) India
- (d) South Korea

MCQ 2 — STATEMENT-BASED (UPSC PATTERN)

- **Q. Consider statements about Uber Cup and Thomas Cup:**
- 1. Uber Cup is the women's badminton team championship; Thomas Cup is men's
- 2. India won the Thomas Cup for the first time in 2022
- 3. Both cups are named after badminton champions who donated the respective trophies
- 4. BWF headquarters is in Singapore
- (a) 1, 2, 3 (b) 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 2, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4
- **ANS: (a) 1, 2 and 3 — BWF HQ is in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (NOT Singapore)**
- Statement 4 wrong — BWF HQ = Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

10 REVISION POINTS (EN + HI)

- 1. South Korea won Uber Cup 2026, beating China 3-1 at Horsens, Denmark
- 2. Korea's 3rd Uber Cup title: 2010, 2022, 2026; first win in 4 years
- 3. Uber Cup = BWF Women's International Badminton Team Championship; started 1956-57
- 4. Thomas Cup = Men's equivalent; India won historic FIRST Thomas Cup in 2022
- 5. BWF HQ: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; founded 1934 as IBF; renamed BWF 2006
- 1. दक्षिण कोरिया ने Uber Cup 2026 जीता; चीन को 3-1 से हराया; Horsens, Denmark
- 2. कोरिया का तीसरा Uber Cup: 2010, 2022, 2026
- 3. Uber Cup = BWF महिला टीम चैम्पियनशिप; 1956-57 में शुरू
- 4. Thomas Cup = पुरुष समकक्ष; भारत ने 2022 में ऐतिहासिक पहली बार जीता
- 5. BWF HQ: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 1934 में IBF के रूप में स्थापित

MAINS / INTERVIEW / STATIC GK ANGLES

- Sports GK (all exams): Uber Cup (women, 1956), Thomas Cup (men, 1948), Sudirman Cup (mixed, 1989); BWF HQ Kuala Lumpur
- PV Sindhu: Silver (2016 Rio) + Bronze (2020 Tokyo) — first Indian woman with consecutive Olympic medals; World Champion 2019
- Saina Nehwal: Bronze 2012 London — first Indian woman Olympic badminton medal; former World No.1
- India Thomas Cup 2022: Kidambi Srikanth, Lakshya Sen, Satwik-Chirag; beat Indonesia 3-0
- Badminton at Olympics since 1992 (Barcelona); events: MS, WS, MD, WD, Mixed Doubles
- GS-4 Ethics angle: Sports as soft power; women's achievement in sports; role of coaches and infrastructure
- इंटरव्यू: 'खेल भारत की soft power का हिस्सा है। PV Sindhu और भारत की बैडमिंटन सफलता इसे कैसे दर्शाती है?'
- Sports GK: BWF HQ KL; Uber (महिला); Thomas (पुरुष); Sudirman (मिश्रित)

• DEFENCE

Why India's new helicopter-launched naval missile 'hits different'

Sushant Kulkarni
Pune, May 3

LAST WEEK, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully test-launched a salvo of short-range anti-ship missiles from a helicopter off the Odisha coast. These indigenously developed missiles, called the Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR), are to be deployed from ship-borne helicopters.

This was the platform's first successful salvo test — multiple launches in quick succession — wherein two such missiles were launched from the same chopper. While the Navy already has helicopter-launched missiles, the NASM-SR offers a potential upgrade.

Role of the missiles

A helicopter-launched system, such as NASM-SR, allows a navy to engage hostile vessels from a safe distance.

The Indian Navy already possesses the British-origin Sea Eagle anti-ship missile, which it has equipped its Sea King 42B heli-

copters with. Stationed on ships, these helicopters can take off, strike a target from a relatively close range, and then return to the ship.

The Sea Eagles are 1980s-era missiles, lacking many modern capabilities. One of its key issues was its weight: a single missile weighs around 580 kg.

In the early 2010s, the DRDO began working on a lighter, modern, and home-grown missile that could be carried in higher numbers in helicopters. The NASM-SR's first successful flight test was conducted in May 2022.

Anatomy of the missile

The NASM-SR uses a solid propulsion booster rocket that gives the missile its first thrust and a long-burn sustainer engine that keeps it flying for longer.

One of its key subsystems include the seeker — a sensor that detects and tracks the target. It also has a radio altimeter device that measures height from the ground or sea. Another critical component is a high-bandwidth two-way data link system that allows real-time communication be-

Development partners

● Premier DRDO labs in Hyderabad, Pune, and Chandigarh were part of the development process

● The missiles are being produced by private sector partners with the help of MSMEs, startups, and others



The NASM-MR missile was tested last week.
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

tween the missile and operator sitting in the helicopter, DRDO said.

One missile weighs around 380 kg; 200 kg lighter than the Sea Eagle. Its 55-km range, however, is lower than the Sea Eagle's 110 km. When the NASM-SR missile is within a certain distance of its target, a radio proximity fuse detonates its explosive device.

The hits

Many modern navies have helicopter-launched missiles with two features: "man-in-loop" and "waterline hit".

"Man-in-loop" means that a human operator can change the missile's path even when it's mid-flight. In a crowded maritime environment, this reduces the risk of hitting non-combatants and makes the missile more adaptable. The Navy and DRDO successfully tested this feature in February 2025. In contrast, Sea Eagles are "fire-and-forget" missiles.

A "waterline hit" means the missile strikes a ship at or just above the line where the hull meets the water. One of the ship's most vulnerable parts, damage here can cause water to rapidly flood the vessel and disable or sink it. The Sea Eagle has no specific waterline hit capabilities.

The salvo test

Demonstrating a salvo launch shows the ability to overwhelm shipborne defence systems. The missile can maintain a sea-skimming trajectory and accurately lock onto the most vulnerable part of the target.

NASM-SR

Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range — first successful salvo test

380 kg

Weight of NASM-SR (200 kg lighter than Sea Eagle at 580 kg)

55 km

Range of NASM-SR (vs Sea Eagle's 110 km range)

DRDO

Developed with DRDO labs in Hyderabad, Pune and Chandigarh

2022

NASM-SR's first successful flight test conducted

KEY DEVELOPMENT (EN) — मुख्य विकास

- DRDO and Indian Navy successfully test-launched a SALVO of short-range anti-ship missiles (NASM-SR) from a helicopter off the ODISHA COAST
- NASM-SR = Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range — to be deployed from ship-borne helicopters
- First successful SALVO TEST — multiple launches in quick succession — TWO missiles from the same helicopter
- Indian Navy already has British-origin Sea Eagle anti-ship missiles on Sea King 42B helicopters; NASM-SR is a potential upgrade
- Key upgrades over Sea Eagle: 200 kg lighter (380 kg vs 580 kg); man-in-loop capability; waterline hit; private sector production (MSMEs/start-ups)
- Development partners: DRDO labs in Hyderabad, Pune, Chandigarh; produced by private sector partners with MSMEs and start-ups
- Anatomy: Solid propulsion booster + sustainer engine + seeker + radio altimeter + high-bandwidth two-way data link system

मुख्य विकास (HI) — KEY DEVELOPMENT

- DRDO और भारतीय नौसेना ने ओडिशा तट पर हेलीकॉप्टर से NASM-SR (नौसेना जहाज-रोधी मिसाइल शॉर्ट रेंज) का SALVO परीक्षण सफलतापूर्वक किया
- NASM-SR = नौसेना जहाज-रोधी मिसाइल शॉर्ट रेंज — जहाज-स्थित हेलीकॉप्टरों से तैनाती के लिए
- पहला सफल Salvo Test — एक ही हेलीकॉप्टर से त्वरित उत्तराधिकार में दो मिसाइलें
- नौसेना के पास British-मूल की Sea Eagle मिसाइलें हैं; NASM-SR एक संभावित उन्नयन है
- मुख्य सुधार: 200 kg हल्की; man-in-loop क्षमता; waterline hit; निजी क्षेत्र उत्पादन
- विकास भागीदार: DRDO लैब हैदराबाद, पुणे, चंडीगढ़; MSMEs और स्टार्ट-अप
- संरचना: Solid propulsion booster + sustainer engine + seeker + radio altimeter + data link

NASM-SR vs SEA EAGLE — COMPARISON TABLE

Feature	Sea Eagle (British)	NASM-SR (India) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Weight	~580 kg	~380 kg (-200 kg)
Range	~110 km	~55 km
Man-in-loop	No (fire-forget)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Waterline hit	No specific	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Origin	British (BAE)	Indigenous (DRDO)
Production	Imported	Private sector (MSME)
Era	1980s	2020s modern

DRDO + INDIA'S MISSILE PROGRAMME

- DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation): Est. 1958; HQ New Delhi; under Ministry of Defence; 50+ labs
- Key DRDO missile programmes: BrahMos (supersonic cruise, with Russia), Agni series (ICBM/IRBM), Prithvi, Astra (BVRAAM), HELINA (helicopter-launched anti-tank), Nag (anti-tank), MRSAM/LRSAM (air defence)
- Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP): Launched 1983 by APJ Abdul Kalam; produced Prithvi, Akash, Nag, Trishul, Agni
- Make in India defence: Private sector (MSMEs, start-ups) now part of missile production

KEY TECHNICAL FEATURES — मुख्य तकनीकी विशेषताएं

- Man-in-Loop: Human operator can change missile path even MID-FLIGHT; reduces risk of hitting non-combatants; makes missile more adaptable; tested February 2025
- Waterline Hit: Missile strikes ship at/just above waterline (hull-water junction); most vulnerable part — can cause rapid flooding, disable or sink vessel; Sea Eagle lacks this
- Salvo Test: Multiple missiles launched in quick succession from one platform; ability to OVERWHELM ship's defence systems (saturate point defences)
- Seeker: Sensor that detects and tracks the target; two-way data link = real-time operator control
- Sea-skimming trajectory: Flies very low over sea surface — difficult for radar to detect

NAVAL STRATEGY & INDIAN OCEAN

- India's strategic interest: Indian Ocean = lifeline for 75% of world's petroleum trade; India's SLOC (Sea Lanes of Communication) security
- Helicopter-launched missiles: Allow ship to engage hostile vessels from safe standoff distance without exposing the ship
- Odisha coast tests: Odisha = India's primary missile testing ground; Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Balasore
- India's Naval doctrine: Blue water navy ambition; 3 aircraft carriers; P-8I Poseidon (maritime patrol aircraft from USA)
- Indo-Pacific strategy: QUAD (India, USA, Japan, Australia); maritime security cooperation

CONFIRMED PYQs (UPSC/CDS/NDA/SSC) — पुष्टि PYQ

UPSC Pre 2023: IGMDP was associated with development of which missiles? **ANS: Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Nag, Trishul**

CDS 2024: DRDO headquarters is located in? **ANS: New Delhi** | NDA 2023: BrahMos missile developed jointly by India and which country? **ANS: Russia (BrahMos = Brahmaputra + Moskva rivers)**

MCQ 1 — DIRECT (UPSC/CDS/NDA PATTERN)

- Q. NASM-SR successfully tested in 2026 stands for:
- (a) Naval Advanced Surface Missile Short Range
- (b) Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range
- (c) National Anti-Submarine Missile System Range
- (d) Naval Air Strike Missile Subsonic Range

MCQ 2 — STATEMENT-BASED (UPSC PATTERN)

- Q. Consider statements about NASM-SR:
- 1. It weighs approximately 380 kg — 200 kg lighter than the Sea Eagle
- 2. It has a range of 110 km, greater than the Sea Eagle's 55 km range
- 3. It features 'man-in-loop' capability — operator can change missile path mid-flight
- 4. Its first successful flight test was conducted in May 2022
- (a) 1, 3, 4 (b) 1, 2, 3 (c) 2, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4
- **ANS: (a) 1, 3 and 4 — NASM-SR range is 55 km; Sea Eagle range is 110 km (not reversed)**
- Statement 2 WRONG — NASM-SR = 55 km; Sea Eagle = 110 km

10 REVISION POINTS (EN + HI)

- 1. NASM-SR = Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range; DRDO + Indian Navy; Odisha coast
- 2. First successful SALVO TEST — two missiles in quick succession from one helicopter
- 3. NASM-SR: 380 kg; 55 km range; man-in-loop; waterline hit; vs Sea Eagle: 580 kg; 110 km; fire-and-forget
- 4. Development: DRDO labs (Hyderabad, Pune, Chandigarh); private sector (MSMEs, start-ups)
- 5. First flight test: May 2022; man-in-loop tested: February 2025; salvo test: May 2026
- 1. NASM-SR = नौसेना जहाज-रोधी मिसाइल शॉर्ट रेंज; DRDO + नौसेना; ओडिशा तट
- 2. पहला सफल Salvo Test — एक हेलीकॉप्टर से दो मिसाइलें
- 3. NASM-SR: 380 kg; 55 km; man-in-loop; waterline hit; Sea Eagle: 580 kg; 110 km; fire-and-forget
- 4. विकास: DRDO लैब हैदराबाद, पुणे, चंडीगढ़; निजी क्षेत्र (MSMEs, स्टार्ट-अप)
- 5. उड़ान परीक्षण: मई 2022; man-in-loop परीक्षण: फरवरी 2025; salvo: मई 2026

MAINS ANGLES + ESSAY + INTERVIEW

- GS-3 (S&T/Security): DRDO's role in indigenous defence; IGMDP legacy; man-in-loop capability for IHL (International Humanitarian Law) compliance; private sector in defence production
- GS-3 (Defence): India's naval modernisation; helicopter-launched missiles; Indian Ocean security; SLOC protection; QUAD and maritime security
- GS-2 (IR): India's Make in India Defence; Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence; FDI in defence (74% auto, 100% govt route); DPP (Defence Procurement Procedure)
- GS-4 (Ethics): Man-in-loop = ethical weapon design; reducing collateral damage; distinction between combatants and non-combatants (IHL principle of distinction)
- Essay: 'Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence: India's journey from importer to innovator'
- GS-3: DRDO; IGMDP; man-in-loop और IHL; Make in India Defence
- GS-4: Man-in-loop — IHL अनुपालन; लड़ाकों और गैर-लड़ाकों में अंतर (Distinction)
- निबंध: 'रक्षा में आत्मनिर्भर भारत: आयातक से नवाचारक तक की यात्रा'

How the newest rail zone came into being; ops likely to commence from June 1

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, May 3

MINISTER FOR Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw last Tuesday (April 28) announced in Visakhapatnam that the gazette notification for the creation of South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) will be issued soon, with operations expected to commence from June 1, 2026.

The minister was addressing the gathering after the ground-breaking ceremony of Google Cloud India AI Hub in the city, saying that the new zone will mark a significant step toward strengthening the Railway Administration in Andhra Pradesh.

SCoR is the newest and 18th zone of Indian Railways. It is headquartered in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The foundation of the zone lies in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014, which led to the formation of Telangana.

Since then, there has been a continuous demand for a separate railway zone in the state. However, it was fulfilled only after the 2024 general election when the state and the Centre came on the same page.

Andhra Pradesh's ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre.

On February 7, 2025, the Union Cabinet gave ex post facto approval for the creation of the new South Coast Railway Zone. The zone connects to the area rich in minerals and natural resources with the important ports on the eastern coast, including Visakhapatnam port.

That is why it is set to become one of the important zones for freight loading in Railways.

How was it created?

The new zone covers the major portion of Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

It is divided into four divisions, namely Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam (erstwhile Waltair).

It was created after carving out the areas of two adjacent



Vaishnaw said the zone will be a major step toward strengthening Railway Administration in Andhra Pradesh. EXPRES/PTI

zones, East Coast Railway (ECoR) and South Central Railway (SCR).

For the 18th zone, Railways divided the erstwhile Waltair division of ECoR into two parts. Around 40 km was assigned to the Visakhapatnam division, while the remaining 680 km was renamed as the Rayagada division, replacing the colonial-era name.

Further, the other two divisions, Vijayawada and Guntur, were created from South Central Railway.

What is the status of the zone?

The zone has yet to begin operations.

In January 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the SCoR's headquarters in Visakhapatnam.

A total of 52.2 acres of land at Mudasarlova has been earmarked for the headquarters, which the State Government handed over to Railways in August 2024.

Officials said that Rs. 284 crore has been sanctioned for the setting up of the South Coast Railway headquarters.

Along the same lines, the construction of the zonal headquarters office building has also been taken up.

The general manager of SCoR was appointed within months of construction work.

The new zone also gains importance given the fact that the railway projects worth approximately Rs 1,06,000 crore are currently underway in Andhra Pradesh.

But why is there opposition?

While SCoR is being touted as an important requirement for the Railways, there has been opposition from Odisha's political parties, alleging that ECoR's revenue-making portion has been given to the new zone.

In fact, the transfer of the 50-km Palasa-Ichchapuram section from ECoR to SCoR united the ruling BJP and the opposition BJD earlier this month.

The parties demanded that the decision be repealed as it will affect the revenue of ECoR, which covers almost the entire state of Odisha, and is headquartered in Bhubaneswar.

However, the Railway Board said that none of the seven stations in the Palasa-Ichchapuram section is located within Odisha, and these are small to mid-sized stations that primarily handle passenger traffic.

The Board also stated that none of them is a major freight loading point. So far, ECoR has remained one of the most freight-revenue-generating divisions of Indian Railways.

In the last financial year, 2025-26, the zone transported 286 million tonnes of freight, accounting for over 17% of the Railways' total freight loading during the period.

While nearly 66% of Indian Railways' revenue comes from freight, the share of goods revenue in ECoR is more than 90%. The zone stretches along a long coastal line rich in minerals and natural resources.

18th

SCoR is India's newest and 18th Railway Zone (newest and latest)

HQ Vizag

Headquarters:
Visakhapatnam,
Andhra Pradesh

June 1 2026

Operations expected to commence from June 1, 2026

4

Divisions

Guntakal, Vijayawada,
Guntur, Visakhapatnam
(erstwhile Waltair)

410 km

Of ECoR assigned to Visakhapatnam division; 680 km to Rayagada

KEY DEVELOPMENT (EN) — मुख्य विकास

- Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced gazette notification for creation of South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) to be issued soon; operations expected from June 1, 2026
- SCoR is India's NEWEST and 18th Railway Zone; headquarters at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Created from AP Reorganisation Act 2014 (which led to formation of Telangana); longstanding demand of Andhra Pradesh fulfilled after 2024 general elections
- SCoR covers the major portion of Andhra Pradesh + parts of Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
- Created by carving out areas from two adjacent zones: East Coast Railway (ECoR) and South Central Railway (SCR)
- 4 Divisions: Guntakal, Vijayawada, Guntur, Visakhapatnam (erstwhile Waltair division); ~52.5 acres land for HQ marked at Mudasarlova
- Opposition: Odisha parties allege ECoR revenue-making Palasa-Ichhapuram section transferred to SCoR; ECoR transported 286 million tonnes freight in 2025-26 (17% of Railways' total)

मुख्य विकास (HI) — KEY DEVELOPMENT

- रेल मंत्री Ashwini Vaishnaw ने घोषणा: South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) के लिए राजपत्र अधिसूचना जल्द; 1 जून 2026 से परिचालन अपेक्षित
- SCoR = भारत का सबसे नया और 18वाँ रेलवे ज़ोन; HQ विशाखापट्टनम, आंध्र प्रदेश
- AP Reorganisation Act 2014 (Telangana निर्माण) के बाद से AP की लंबे समय से मांग; 2024 आम चुनाव के बाद पूरी
- SCoR में AP का बड़ा हिस्सा + Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka के कुछ भाग
- ECoR और SCR (साउथ सेंट्रल रेलवे) के क्षेत्रों से बनाया गया
- 4 डिवीजन: गुंटकल, विजयवाड़ा, गुंटूर, विशाखापट्टनम (पूर्व Waltair)
- विरोध: Odisha दलों का आरोप — ECoR का राजस्व उत्पन्न करने वाला Palasa-Ichhapuram खंड SCoR को दिया

INDIAN RAILWAYS ZONES — COMPLETE TABLE

Zone	HQ	Zone	HQ
1. CR	Mumbai	10. SR	Chennai
2. ER	Kolkata	11. SWR	Hubli
3. ECR	Hajipur	12. WCR	Jabalpur
4. ECoR	Bhubaneswar	13. WR	Mumbai
5. NR	New Delhi	14. NER	Gorakhpur
6. NCR	Allahabad	15. SECR	Bilaspur
7. NFR	Guwahati	16. SER	Kolkata
8. NWR	Jaipur	17. SCR	Secunderabad

CONSTITUTIONAL + GOVERNANCE ANGLE

- Article 3: Parliament can form new states, alter boundaries, change names of existing states — basis for AP Reorganisation Act
- Railways = Union List (Entry 22, 7th Schedule) — exclusive domain of Central Government
- Indian Railways: Ministry of Railways; 18 zones; ~1.4 lakh km rail network; largest rail employer in world
- Gazette notification: Official government notification in Official Gazette — gives legal effect to government decisions
- ECoR: East Coast Railway; HQ Bhubaneswar; concerns about revenue loss from SCoR creation

AP REORGANISATION ACT 2014 — KEY FACTS

- AP Reorganisation Act 2014: Bifurcated undivided Andhra Pradesh into two states — AP and Telangana (effective June 2, 2014)
- Telangana capital: Hyderabad; AP capital: Amaravati (under construction); Visakhapatnam = executive capital of AP
- Post-bifurcation promise: AP to get a new Railway Zone (SCoR), new AIIMS, IIT, central university — largely unfulfilled until 2024
- TDP (Telugu Desam Party) under CM Chandrababu Naidu: BJP-TDP-Jana Sena alliance (2024); pushed for SCoR creation
- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced at Google AI data centre ceremony in Visakhapatnam (April 28, 2026)

GEOGRAPHY — VISAKHAPATNAM & ANDHRA PRADESH

- Visakhapatnam (Vizag): Largest city of AP; Bay of Bengal coast; natural deep harbour; Eastern Naval Command HQ; major port and industrial hub
- Andhra Pradesh: 26th state by area; borders Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu; coastal state on Bay of Bengal + Arabian Sea
- Key AP ports: Visakhapatnam (major port), Krishnapatnam, Machilipatnam, Kakinada
- AP = rich in minerals: iron ore (Bailadila link via ECoR), coal, bauxite, limestone; ECoR crucial for freight
- Google AI data centre project (\$15 billion) also at Visakhapatnam — strategic importance growing

CONFIRMED PYQs (UPSC/SSC/BANK/RAILWAY) — पुष्टि PYQ

UPSC Pre 2023: ECoR (East Coast Railway) headquarters is at? **ANS: Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

Railway RRB 2023: How many railway zones are there in India after SCoR? ANS: 18 | SSC CGL 2022: AP Reorganisation Act was passed in which year? **ANS: 2014 (Telangana became 29th state on June 2, 2014)**

MCQ 1 — DIRECT (UPSC/SSC/RAILWAY PATTERN)

- **Q. The South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) is India's 18th railway zone with headquarters at:**
- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Vijayawada
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) Chennai
- **ANS: (c) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**
- Note: Operations from June 1, 2026; carved from ECoR and SCR; arose from AP Reorganisation Act 2014

MCQ 2 — STATEMENT-BASED (UPSC PATTERN)

- **Q. Consider statements about South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR):**
- 1. SCoR is India's 18th Railway Zone with HQ at Visakhapatnam
- 2. It was created following demands arising from AP Reorganisation Act, 2014
- 3. It was carved from East Coast Railway (ECoR) and South Central Railway (SCR)
- 4. Railway is on the State List of the 7th Schedule
- (a) 1, 2, 3 (b) 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 2, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4
- **ANS: (a) 1, 2 and 3 — Railway is on Union List (Entry 22), NOT State List**
- Statement 4 WRONG — Railway = Union List Entry 22

10 REVISION POINTS (EN + HI)

- 1. SCoR = South Coast Railway Zone; India's 18th Railway Zone; HQ Visakhapatnam, AP
- 2. Operations from June 1, 2026; gazette notification from Ministry of Railways soon
- 3. Arose from AP Reorganisation Act 2014 (bifurcation into AP + Telangana)
- 4. Carved from ECoR (East Coast Railway, HQ Bhubaneswar) and SCR (South Central Railway, HQ Secunderabad)
- 5. 4 Divisions: Guntakal, Vijayawada, Guntur, Visakhapatnam (erstwhile Waltair)
- 1. SCoR = साउथ कोस्ट रेलवे ज़ोन; 18वाँ ज़ोन; HQ विशाखापट्टनम, AP
- 2. 1 जून 2026 से परिचालन; रेल मंत्रालय से राजपत्र अधिसूचना
- 3. AP Reorganisation Act 2014 (AP + Telangana विभाजन) से उत्पन्न
- 4. ECoR (HQ भुवनेश्वर) और SCR (HQ सिकंदराबाद) से निर्मित
- 5. 4 डिवीजन: गुंटकल, विजयवाड़ा, गुंटूर, विशाखापट्टनम (पूर्व Waltair)

MAINS ANGLES + ESSAY + INTERVIEW

- GS-2 (Polity/Governance): Article 3 (new state formation); Article 246 + 7th Schedule Entry 22 (Railways = Union List); Centre-State relations in infrastructure development
- GS-2 (IR/Governance): AP Reorganisation Act 2014; post-bifurcation commitments; federalism and regional demands
- GS-3 (Infrastructure/Economy): Importance of railways in freight; Eastern coast connectivity; logistics corridor; PM GatiShakti National Master Plan
- GS-1 (Geography): AP geography — coastal state; Visakhapatnam port; Eastern coast industrial belt
- Essay: 'Indian Railways: Infrastructure backbone for a \$5 trillion economy'
- Interview: 'SCoR was a demand since AP bifurcation in 2014. What does its creation mean for AP's development and railways administration?'
- GS-2: अनुच्छेद 3; Entry 22 Union List; केंद्र-राज्य संबंध
- GS-3: रेलवे माल ढुलाई; GatiShakti; पूर्वी तट कनेक्टिविटी

Billionaires Mittal, Poonawala buy stake in RR in Rs 15,660 Cr deal

Venkata Krishna B
Chennai, May 3

UK-BASED Indian billionaire Lakshmi Mittal, along with Adar Poonawala of the Serum Institute of India, has acquired a stake in the IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals in a deal worth \$1.65 billion, approximately Rs 15,660 crore. The Mittal family, Poonawala and Manoj Badale, the current principal owner of RR, have formed a new consortium that will own Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals, two other franchises that are part of the SA20 and the Caribbean Premier League respectively.

RR, one of the eight franchises that has been part of the IPL since 2008, was bought by Badale for \$67 million. The Mittals have presence in other sporting ventures like the NBA's Boston Celtics as well as English football club Queens

Park Rangers.

The deal, announced on Sunday, comes after months of uncertainty over RR's ownership. In March, reports suggested that the franchise had a new owner – a consortium led by Arizona-based tech entrepreneur Kal Somani. But that was not to be, and now the new Mittal-Poonawala deal awaits the approval of the BCCI and the Competition Commission of India.

The statement released by the three parties gave the specifics about RR's new ownership. "Following completion, the Mittal Family will own approximately 75% of Rajasthan Royals, with Adar Poonawalla holding approximately 18%. The remaining approximately 7% will be held by approved existing investors, including Manoj Badale. Mr Badale will continue to support Rajasthan



Rajasthan Royals, one of the eight teams that have been in the IPL since its inception, were sold for \$6 million in 2008. ANI

Royals, acting as a bridge between the past and the present, and bringing his deep knowledge and experience of cricket to the franchise," the press re-

lease said.

It is understood that Lakshmi Mittal's son Aditya is likely to be the new face of the franchise. The 50-year-old,

who is the CEO of Arcelor Mittal, made his entry into the NBA in 2025 by investing \$1 billion into the Bolton Celtics. Mittal Sr, in 2007, had bought a 33 per cent stake in Queens Park Rangers, a London-based club that has been a part of the English Premier League.

"I love cricket and my family is from Rajasthan, so there is no IPL team that I would rather be part of than the Rajasthan Royals," Lakshmi Mittal said. "I first played cricket as a schoolboy, and since then I have been an avid fan of the sport. Many great players have worn the Rajasthan Royals shirts, including Indian icons of the sport who have been an inspiration for the younger talent. I look forward to being part of this great team, and cannot wait to join all the fans on the pitch-side to cheer on our future success."

According to the statement, Badale would continue to be part of RR, acting as a bridge between the past and the present. "It has been the privilege of a lifetime to be involved with the Rajasthan Royals from inception, and to have played a small part in building what has become the world's most exciting and successful cricket league. We are delighted to welcome the Mittal Family and Adar Poonawalla as the new owners of the Rajasthan Royals. Their passion for cricket, their connection to Rajasthan and India, and their long-term ambition for the franchise make them ideal custodians of the next chapter. I very much look forward to working alongside them, and to supporting our extraordinary team and its loyal fans as the Royals continue to grow," Badale said.

**₹15,660
Cr**

Deal value (\$1.65B)
for Rajasthan Royals
stake acquisition

75%

Mittal Family to own
approx. 75% of
Rajasthan Royals

18%

Adar Poonawala
(Serum Institute)
to hold ~18% stake

\$67M

Original purchase
price of RR in 2008
by Manoj Badale

**BCCI
+ CCI**

Deal needs approval
from BCCI and
Competition Commission

KEY DEVELOPMENT (EN) — मुख्य विकास

- UK-based Indian billionaire Lakshmi Mittal and Adar Poonawala (Serum Institute of India) acquired a stake in IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals — deal worth \$1.65 billion (₹15,660 crore)
- Mittal Family + Poonawala + current principal owner Manoj Badale formed a new consortium; will also own Paarl Royals (SA20) and Barbados Royals (Caribbean Premier League)
- Post-deal ownership: Mittal Family ~75%; Adar Poonawala ~18%; Manoj Badale ~7% (existing investors)
- Deal needs approval from BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) and CCI (Competition Commission of India)
- RR was originally bought by Manoj Badale for \$67 million in 2008 — valuation jumped to \$1.65 billion (25x increase in 18 years)
- Aditya Mittal (son of Lakshmi Mittal, CEO of ArcelorMittal) is likely to be new face of franchise
- Context: RR is one of IPL's original 8 franchises; only team to win IPL in inaugural season 2008 (Shane Warne captain)

मुख्य विकास (HI) — KEY DEVELOPMENT

- UK-स्थित भारतीय अरबपति Lakshmi Mittal और Adar Poonawala (Serum Institute) ने Rajasthan Royals में \$1.65 बिलियन (₹15,660 करोड़) में हिस्सेदारी हासिल की
- Mittal परिवार + Poonawala + मौजूदा मालिक Manoj Badale का नया कंसोर्शियम; Paarl Royals (SA20) और Barbados Royals (CPL) भी शामिल
- हिस्सेदारी: Mittal परिवार ~75%; Adar Poonawala ~18%; Manoj Badale ~7%
- BCCI और CCI (Competition Commission of India) की मंजूरी आवश्यक
- RR को 2008 में Manoj Badale ने \$67 मिलियन में खरीदा था — 18 साल में 25 गुना वृद्धि
- Aditya Mittal (Lakshmi Mittal के पुत्र, ArcelorMittal CEO) franchise का नया चेहरा होंगे
- RR = IPL के 8 मूल फ्रेंचाइजी में से एक; 2008 में पहला IPL जीता (Shane Warne कप्तान)

IPL — ECONOMIC PROFILE & VALUATION

- IPL (Indian Premier League): Est. 2008 by BCCI; 10 franchises currently; Twenty20 format; highest-attended cricket league globally
- IPL brand value 2025: ~\$10 billion+ (Duff & Phelps/Houlihan Lokey estimates); most valuable cricket property
- RR 2008 price: \$67 million; RR 2026 deal: \$1.65 billion — 25x appreciation in 18 years
- IPL media rights: 2023-27 cycle — JioCinema (digital) + Star Sports (TV); total rights value ~₹48,390 crore (\$5.8B) for 5 years
- BCCI approval for ownership changes: Required as per IPL franchise agreements; BCCI can reject unsuitable owners
- CCI (Competition Commission of India): Ensures fair competition; checks monopolistic practices

BCCI + COMPETITION COMMISSION — REGULATORY

- BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India): Est. 1928; HQ Mumbai; not a statutory body — operates under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act; regulates cricket in India
- BCCI is richest cricket board in world; not covered under RTI Act (as it's a private body); Supreme Court placed it under Lodha Committee reforms (2016)
- Competition Commission of India (CCI): Est. under Competition Act 2002; HQ New Delhi; regulates anti-competitive practices, mergers and acquisitions above threshold
- CCI approval needed: When acquisition above ₹2,000 crore threshold — RR deal well above (₹15,660 crore)
- IPL franchise transfer: Must comply with BCCI Governing Council rules and CCI regulations

KEY PLAYERS — PROFILES

- Lakshmi Mittal: UK-based Indian billionaire; CEO ArcelorMittal (world's largest steel company); Forbes list; family from Rajasthan — emotional connect to RR
- Adar Poonawala: CEO Serum Institute of India (Pune); world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume; produced Covishield (AstraZeneca COVID vaccine) in India
- Manoj Badale: British businessman; original owner since 2008; continues as bridge between past and present
- ArcelorMittal: India operations — Hazira plant (Gujarat), Odisha plant (under construction); major employer
- Serum Institute: Est. 1966 by Cyrus Poonawala; HQ Pune; ~50% of world's children vaccinated with Serum products

SERUM INSTITUTE + VACCINE ECONOMY

- Serum Institute of India (SII): Founded 1966 by Cyrus Poonawala; HQ Pune; world's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses
- Covishield: AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID vaccine manufactured by SII in India; ~1.5 billion doses produced
- India's vaccine diplomacy: Vaccine Maitri — donated/supplied vaccines to 76+ countries during COVID (2021)
- Poonawala family: Billionaires; Adar Poonawala (son) is current CEO; invested \$1 billion in Boston Celtics (NBA) in 2025
- IPL as investment class: Sports franchises increasingly seen as appreciating alternative assets; global billionaires buying sports teams (Abu Dhabi owns Man City, Saudi Arabia buying sports)

CONFIRMED PYQs (UPSC/SSC/BANK/RAILWAY) — पुष्टि PYQ

UPSC Pre 2024: Competition Commission of India established under? **ANS: Competition Act, 2002**

Bank PO 2023: Serum Institute of India is world's largest manufacturer of? ANS: Vaccines | SSC CGL 2023: ArcelorMittal is primarily associated with which industry? **ANS: Steel (world's largest steel company by revenue)**

MCQ 1 — DIRECT (SSC/BANK/UPSC PATTERN)

- Q. The deal for Lakshmi Mittal and Adar Poonawala's stake in Rajasthan Royals (IPL) requires approval from which two bodies?
- (a) SEBI and Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Finance
- (c) BCCI and Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- (d) Supreme Court and BCCI

MCQ 2 — STATEMENT-BASED (UPSC PATTERN)

- Q. Consider statements about the Rajasthan Royals deal:
- 1. Rajasthan Royals was originally bought for \$67 million in 2008
- 2. Adar Poonawala is the CEO of Serum Institute of India — world's largest vaccine manufacturer
- 3. The Mittal Family will own approximately 75% of Rajasthan Royals after completion
- 4. The deal requires only BCCI approval; CCI approval is not required
- (a) 1, 2, 3 (b) 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4

10 REVISION POINTS (EN + HI)

- 1. Lakshmi Mittal + Adar Poonawala acquired stake in Rajasthan Royals; deal worth ₹15,660 crore (\$1.65B)
- 2. Ownership post-deal: Mittal Family ~75%; Poonawala ~18%; Manoj Badale ~7%
- 3. RR originally bought for \$67 million (2008) — now valued at \$1.65B (25x in 18 years)
- 4. BCCI + CCI approval needed; CCI = Competition Act 2002; HQ New Delhi
- 5. Serum Institute (HQ Pune): World's largest vaccine manufacturer; Covishield; Adar Poonawala is CEO
- 1. Lakshmi Mittal + Adar Poonawala ने RR में ₹15,660 करोड़ में हिस्सेदारी
- 2. स्वामित्व: Mittal ~75%; Poonawala ~18%; Manoj Badale ~7%
- 3. RR 2008 में \$67 मिलियन — अब \$1.65B (18 साल में 25 गुना)
- 4. BCCI + CCI की मंजूरी जरूरी; CCI = Competition Act 2002; HQ नई दिल्ली
- 5. Serum Institute (HQ पुणे): विश्व का सबसे बड़ा वैक्सीन निर्माता; Covishield; Adar Poonawala CEO

MAINS ANGLES + ESSAY + INTERVIEW

- GS-3 (Economy): IPL as alternative investment asset; sports economy; franchise valuation; FDI in sports; SEBI-listed sports companies
- GS-2 (Polity/Governance): BCCI regulation; CCI oversight; Competition Act 2002; mergers and acquisition threshold; Lodha Committee on BCCI
- GS-3 (Economy): Serum Institute; vaccine economy; Vaccine Maitri; India's pharmaceutical exports (~\$25B/year); HQ Pune = pharmaceutical capital
- GS-4 (Ethics): Corporate governance in sports; transparency in franchise ownership; accountability of BCCI (private body, public interest)
- Essay: 'Sports as soft power and economic force: The IPL story'
- Interview: 'Rajasthan Royals was valued at \$67 million in 2008 and is now worth \$1.65 billion. What does this say about India's sports economy?'
- GS-3: IPL franchise; CCI; Competition Act 2002; Serum Institute; वैक्सीन कूटनीति
- GS-4: BCCI पारदर्शिता; खेल फ्रेंचाइजी स्वामित्व; Lodha Committee

Word of the day

Cadge:

ask for and get free; be a parasite

Synonyms: beg, borrow, demand

Usage: *He tried to cadge a free meal from his friends.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/cadge

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kædʒ/



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