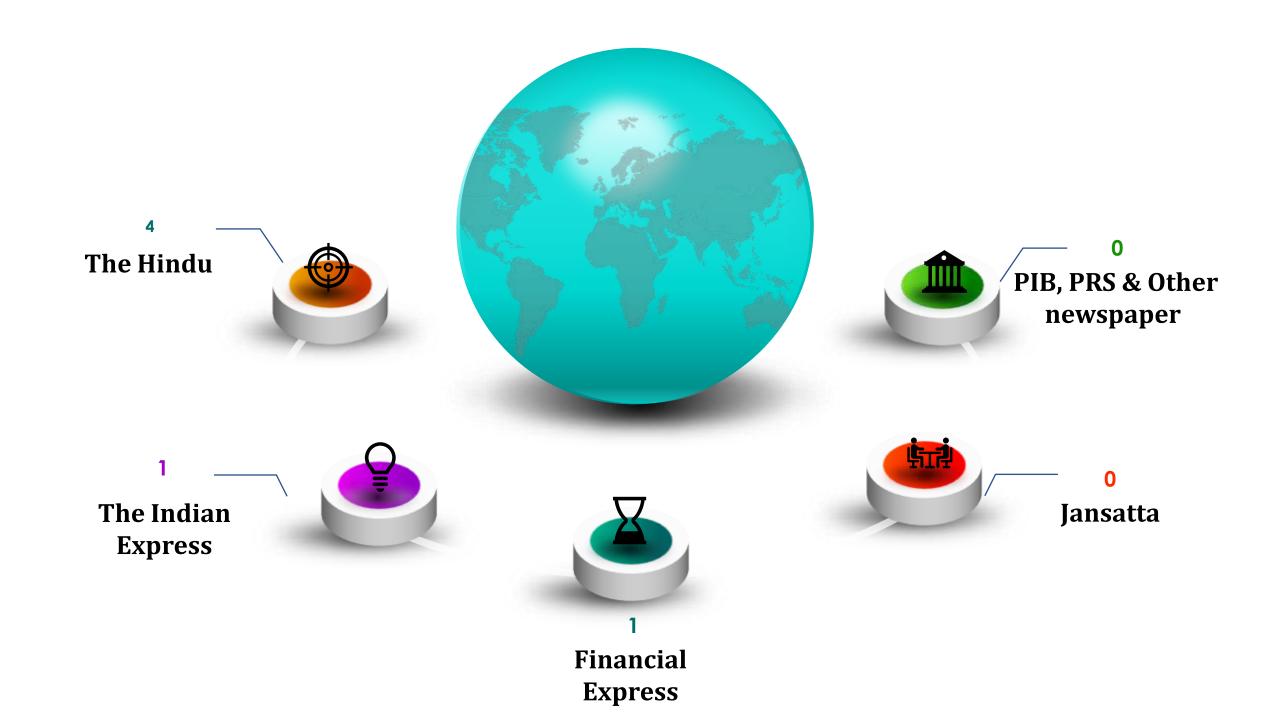
Daily Current Affairs



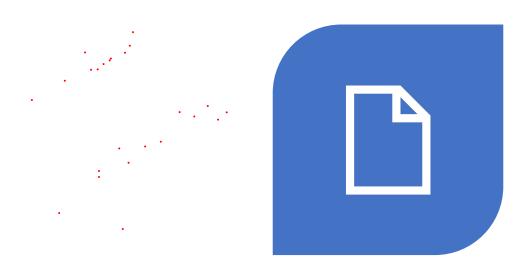








Download class24





PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ

• "Every day you delay your dream, someone else is living theirs. Start now."

E MAR H

NEWS II PAGE I







on Bihar rolls post SIR'

Do we need to change how a city is governed? Experts discuss ways to make cities responsive OPINION N PAGE 9



INSTIDE

BOUTH II PAGE I

Oil import bill from Russia cut by 38% in Oct.

NAMES AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN



Putin 'relects' parts of U.S. peace plan

Bussian President Visitimi Putin says that some proposal in a 32.5, plan to end the war in Ubraine are unacceptable to the Bremtin, indicating that any deal is still some way of HOVEYS IS HEST SA

3.258 Indians were deported by U.S. in 2025

figure for any year since 2009. A total of 18,822 Initian 10010 2009, 3 PAGE 8

SC refuses to halt the razing of two houses in Bareilly

demolition of houses of two Barelly residents, who allege on a "targetast" elemolition drive in the aftermath of the violent clashes on Rept. 26. after the Rushad-e-Millat Council chief had called for a protect over alleged to the "Llose Muhammad prostors, o cooks a

Officials denied ball in case over Sabarimala gold

dented anticipatory buil to 5 breekunar, former autoministrative officer of (TDB) and also to 5. Jayasree in the case partnising to the gold from the Sabarmula





Root and Stare shine on the opening day SPORT H PAGE AS

Deploy fresh staff to ease BLOs' workload: SC

Court says States could deploy additional staff, distress of BLOs cannot 'hamper' the exercise

The judges emphasise that State staff working as BLOs are bound to perform statutory duties

The Bench underscored the fact that States were obliged to provide the EC with human resources

he Supreme Court on Thursday put the onus entirely on State governments to adistitute employees un-able to bear the work pres-sure of a booth-level officer (BLO), while refusing to lot the reported distress of the workforce "hamper" a tightly wound second phase of the special inten-sive revision of electoral rolls conducted by the lection Commission cross nine States and

> The States could also employees to strengthen se BLO ranks and reduce ir work stress, it said. Benefice Object frontes

BLOs. "Whenever an em-ployee has any individual, specific reasons for seeking exemption from the as-signed duties, the compe-tent authority, the State go-vernment, may consider such requests on a case-tocase basis and replace such persons," it directed. The Bench undersconst

that States were obliged to provide the Risction Com-mission (RC) with the requisite human resources to complete the SIR within the specified deadline. artice Joynnalys Bagchi
mphaeised that State onhoyen recruited as BLOs that BLOs were unable to

to case basis and replace such persons SUPPLEMENT COURT THE PARTY meet the overwhelming targets set by the EC, colassigned to a booth had 37 days, from November 4 to

Whenever an employee has any individual, specific reasons for socking

esemption from the assigned duties, the competent

gweenment, may consider

murbority, the State

lapsing under pressure or even choosing to take their December II, to complete the enumeration work, The EC, represented by senter advocate Bakesh Dwivedi, said claims of der Singh, also for the EC, submitted that 90% of forms had been distributed in Tamil Nadu and 85% in BLOs wilting under work Uttar Pradesh, where BLC

pressure were "works of imagination". He submit-ted that each polling booth was limited to 1,200 elec-tors under the EC's ration-alisation scheme. The BLO BLCs deployed in Tamil
Nath alone.

"Genuine concern"
Countering them, sentor
advocase Engl (Sibal, appearing for petitioners
trom formla and West Renvellound for not meeting to

pearing for petitioners from Kerala and West Rea-gal, urged the court to re-cognise the cause of BLOs as a "genuine concern".
"Why does the EC want.
Six to be completed in just
two months? The election
in Ultrar Predech is in 2027. still, they want it done in two months, when there is a whole year ahead... They claim bt.Os have uploaded 90 per cent of the forms 90 per cent of the forms.
Who is going to crosscheck? Everything EC says
may not be train... The narrattee was there were
'ghaspanhiyar' [intruders],
none were found." Mr. Sibal submitted. the country," Mr. Sanka-ranarayanan submitted.

Senior advocate Gopal

lagriti Chandra new pos.m

targets.
-Fifty Fifts have been registered against BLOs un-der Section 32 of the Re-presentation of the People Act of 1950 for the breach of official duty in connection with the preparation, etc., of electoral rolls. The EC is the complainant. Thirty odd BLOs have ta-lain their own lives across

Duty to be humane He urged the court to stop the EC from fling criminal

ing the work of the RC. The electoral body had a duty to be humans to them.

"This is not the way we behave with our teachers and angained workers... At least when yeu conclust in exercise, he humans about it," he submitted. However, the Hench shifted the focus from the EU to the Stone, observing

ployees. The States could decide whom to depute for nant or unwell, need no

IndiGo cancels 550

flights, airports see

ground. Somebody has to do this... They are State employees. There is an obligation on them. There

The work (SH) canno

PM welcomes Putin at airport in warm gesture, hails India-Russia partnership

In a special gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Russian Presi-dent Vladimir Putin upon his arrival at the Air Force Station, Palam on Thuce day evening, ahead of the India-Russia annual sum-mit scheduled for Priday. This is Mr. Putin's first state visit to India since the be visit to India since the be-ginning of the war in Uk-raine, which is currently drawing global attention because of renewed peace

latter's official residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. The Rassian leader will receive a ceremonial reception at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan at II a.m. on Friday, which will be followed by a visit to Raighat, where he will lay a wreath at the memorial to Mahat-

ma Gandhi. On agenda The 23" India-Bussia an drawing global attention loss are all the state of the st

bost from at a banquet dinner. Several members of Mr.

Putin's official delegation reached New Delhi hours sefore his arrival, Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousey met Defence Mi-nister Rajouth Singh on Thursday evening, in a Thursday evening. In a post on 'X', Mr. Ringh said after the meeting "India is determined for expanding capacity of indigenous de-

Executive Board of Bussia's largest bank Sherbank met the media and announced that Russia and India have been carrying out larger cale transactions without the use of 'third party

Mr. Gref also said that Sherbank have launched First-India, a closed-end mutual fund focused on Nifty50 index that will faellitate greater Bussian in vestments into the Indian stock market. Both Ministers reitoral

Bold Ministers reiocrates at that he bilbarred part and the sea bilbarred part neirably is rooted in deep mutual trast, abared principles, and long stending espect, the Winjarry of Declence and Mr. Singh furth or underscored indulates annihiment to strong thering its independent of the system under the Autmanitchar Blazar Velsion, the Ministry said.

rises to 18 after firefight with police in Chhattisgarh Shubbomoy Sikdar

Maoist toll

Sankaranarayanan, ap-pearing for Tamilaga Vetiri

Chaos persisted at airports across the country as Indi-Go's flight delays stretched A day after a gunfight broke out between securi-ty forces and Misoists along the Rijapur Dantewada boundary in Chhattiagarb, into Thursday, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights. The disruption of flights. The disruption hit other carriers too, which were forced to can-cel some flights as Indicto the police said six more be-due were recovered and a total of in Maoists killed in aircraft occupied parking bays amid lack of available the anti-Naxal operation.
Earlier on Wednesday,
the police had said 12
Maoists had been killed.

rew. According to PTI, Indi-to cancelled over 880 domestic and international flights. Major airports af-fected included Mumbai operation. Three other se-curity personnel who suf-fered injuries are receiving

fored injuries are receiving treatment. Element of Publice P. Sumharral told journalists in Hijapar that the intermittent exchange of fire stopped on Thurs of the stopped on Thurs to the control of the last more baddes were found in the area. He said there were nine. Wemen Hyderabad airport, pas-sengers ruised degans. Meanwhile, top inditto officials mer Civil Aviation there were nine wemen among the 18 deaths.

Senior Maoist killed Of the 18 slain Navalities, sixteen have been identi-fied as senior cadres who flights from December 8 to collectively carried a re-ward of \$1.3 crore on their the next two to three days.

a DGCA diatement and.
During the meeting, in-defer also informed offi-cials that the widespread flight disruptions were due to "mispidgement and heads. Among them was Modiyami Vella, who was allegedly active as the commander of Company No. 2 of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA).
"Vella was involved in at "Veilla was involved in at loast 44 Maoist incidents, including the 2013 Jhiram attack (Bantar district) in which 32 people including senior Gongress leaders were leffect.," said Mr. Sandarraj. governing rest and duty for pilots from November 1, primarily those on restrict-

attack (Bastar destrict) in which 32 people including sentor Georgeos leaders including a second of the second of the second and the sunderest second of the three beautiful A glased of honour was accorded to the three put Allied in the operation at Shaheed Vande in Bigany Police Lines, All three weets residence of Bigans.

*I+

continued turmoil

At Chennal airport, 54 flights were conselled on Thiassley.

new roles, the press state ment said.

The airline has also

The regulator will review this demand from the air-line. The airline has to submir a detailed road map outlining projected crew recruitment in relation to aircraft induction as well as measures for crew train

flight disruption spilled ov-er to other airlines. At Pune airport, nine of the IC



M.P. CM releases 3 cheetahs into the Kuno National Park

Madbyu Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yaday or Thursday released three cheetahs into the wild from their enclosures at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district, on International Cheerah Day, According to officials, Mr. Yaday released Veers and her two 10-month-old cubs in reseased veers and ner two to-contribute contribute the Purcent forces region. He said that the pledge of bringing the big cast back to Asia had picked up pace. "Shooper Kamo region has now become an international-level centre. The toarism here an international-level centre. The tourism is has gone up five times and the way their [chestalis] family is growing, the displaced people of the region will get new work opportunities in the coming time," he said.

Bhima Koregaon case: HC grants bail to Hany Babu

The Bombay High Court on Thursday granted ball to former Delhi University Associate Professor Hany Babu, who has been in custody for more than five years in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Bhirna Kovegaon case. A Division Bench of Justices A.X. Caddatt and Banjitainha R. Bhonsale directed that Babu be released on a personal bond of ti lakh with sureties. The court observed that his prolonged incarceration without commencement of trial violated his fundamental right to a speedy trial under Article 25 of the Constitution. He was arrested by the NIA on July 28, 2020, under provisions of the UAPA.

Postal department considers **UPI-like 'labels' for addresses**

The system, called DHRUVA, will provide users a convenient way to share their addresses across platforms; users can grant firms limited address access, after which the label needs re-authorisation

he Department of Posts this week re-leased a draft amendment to the Post Of-fice Act, 2023, aimed at in-treducing an interopera-ble, standardised, and ser-centric addressing yetem called the Digital beer-centred. Andersoning the beautiful first fi

participate.
The department is hop-

ing to draw interest from ecommerce and gig plat-forms, where users need to provide addresses across Smart addresses

multiple services. On these platforms, individuals would be able to provide a label instead of an address and authorise firms to re-

ceive the geographic coor-dinates and full text of their address instantly, in-stead of filling out address

forms repeatedly.

The draft amendment would allow the postal department to set up a Section 8 not-for-profit entity.

A straft amendment speks to make as

The system will be built as pert of government's digital pobles influencourse bis play a rule similar to the Stational Payments Corpo-ration of India, which is an association of banks admi-nistering the UPI payments

Consent-based Uners would be able to authorize companies to view their address for a specified period if they wish, after which a given label will require re-auth-orization.

orisation.
There is no compulsion

in the draft amendment for private players to join, the official said, and the de-partment hopes the sy-tem will be compelling enough for firms and users

Labels will be provided by address service provid-ers, and the consent architecture will be managed by agreets, or AlAs.

The DIGIPIN system
The DIGIPIN system is the
foundational layer for this
foundational layer for this
foundational layer for this
foundational layer for this
digital layer foundation
to be a second of layer
alphanumeric expression
of latitude and longitude
loped to provide many presize locations in rural areas
or in cases where the texrual expression of a physitial expression of a physidequate (information offeradequate (information)

cal address does not offer adequate information. DIGIPIN was open-sourced by the depart-ment, and each DIGIPIN corresponds to a rengitity 14 aquare metre patch of land, with a mathematical function deterministically generating a unique code. This translates to accound 226 billion DIGIP'Ns for In-dian territory.

Union govt. evades question on infant malnutrition deaths

The Hindu Bureau

dons about the number of nlimit deaths due to mat-nutrition in tribal regions

in the past five years.

In a four-page response to a direct question by Tri-namool Congress member Sougata Ray, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs spoke of schemes and pro-

spoke of achieves and pro-grammes it was running to their with malmatrition in all children.

All this provided publi-cally academic various and properties that the pro-cally feath Survey (NTE) date on attriting, worting, and underweight children, and mentioned protected instead to minimize nurtal install to minimize the to malmatrition.

No data However, it did not provide any data on the number of deaths due to malnutrition.

The reply was given by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Ulkey in the Lok Sabha.

The Union government cited analyses of publicly available data from National Family Health Surveys to argue that malnutrition in

public data to argue that malnutrition indicators for children had improved since 1990-91

dicators for all children bad improved since 1990

Significantly, Mr. Ulkey's reply noted that the gothe age of five at over 13.1

trore.

However, only about 6.6 crore of these children are enrolled at anganwadi centres and registered on the government's Poshan-tracker.

Government data showed that 6.44 crore of these children had been examined for malnutrition

stunted, wasted, or under-weight as of October 2025. "The analysis of the above NPHS data and the Poshan Tracker data show improvement in mainutri-tion indicators in children across India," the Union government's response



Ex-Mizoram Governor Swaraj Kaushal dies

The Hindu Bureau

Swaroj Kaushal, former Go

afternoon, He was 73.

Kaushal was the husband of the late Sushma Swaruj and father of New Delhi MP Banniri Swaraj. Frime Military revote in a post on X. "He distinguished himself as a lawyer and a person who believed in using the legal profession to improve the lives of the underprivileged."

Supreme Court to review clause in 2025 Order that contradicts Assam Accord

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response to a plea challenging the constitu-tionality of a provision that

challenging the consum-tionality of a provision that inconsists from Aglianis-tan, Pakistan, and Sangla-desh who emerced india documents below becom-ber 31, 2024, to stay on in Asson.

San issued firmal notice for the stay of the stay of the Chief Justice of India Surya Kani Issued Inframal notice San Issued Inframal notice (San Issued Inframal Inframal Inframal (San Issued Inframal Inframal Inframal Inframal Inframal (San Issued Inframal Inframal

AGP says it has indirectly logalised illegal immigration into Assam after

The Accord, meant to hait the influx of people to the influx of people foreigners who had entered Assum on or after the influence of the Assum on or after the internal and deported. The intern of the Assum Accord was made explicit through into the Cliksenship Act in the Assumption of the Assum

safeguard. Any attempt to extend the cut-off date from March 24, 1971 to De-cember 31, 2024 would be violative of the constitu-tional, legislative and matu-tury protection accorded

Supreme Court in October lost year. The position submitted

preserve the demography and to promote the cultu-ral, social and linguistic identities and heritage of that the clause ignored the point that Section 6A would override "all other provisions of law for the

SC declines to halt demolitions in Bareilly, asks residents to move HC

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to stay the demolition of the houses of two Bareilly rest-dents, who alleged that State authorities had em-barked on a "targetest" de-molition drive in the aftermath of the violent clashes that crupted on september 36 after Islamic cloric and Ittehad e-Millat — Gouncil

Chief Tanguer Baza Ghan called for a sirin protest cover alleged devegatory removes against the protest cover alleged devegatory removes against the protest cover alleged poeters.

A Bench of Justices Vitarian Nath and Sandeep petition filed under Article 22 by the two residents, who contended that their banquier hall were teing banquier hall were teing banquet hall were being razed without any notice and in complete disregard of due process.



Appearing for the peti-tioners, senter adversate Ranf Rahim submitted that the conduct of the author-tic period of the author-appex courts November 13, 2024 ruling, which laid down pan-India guidelines musclating a prior show-cause author and author-man bridgy response pe-riod to the period of the form of the period of the form of the period of the late.

One of the positioners is a Toyour-sold man what re-cently under-west cardiac surgery, the authorities have already demolished a part of the house, he said. The judges, however, questioned why the peri-tioners had not ap-presselved the Allahabad high Coort in the first in-

One of the petitioners is a

"This is contempt in the face of the court's order.

should you come under Ar-ticle 32 every time?* the Bench said. Mr. Rahim submitted

during which the demoli-tion could cause irrevers-ble harm, "The powers of this court are enormous... please protect me in the meantime," he urged the

Justice Nath resterated the court's reluciance in stay the demolition, ob-

dosers" and that further demolition was imminent, the Bench agreed to grant

mance. "The court has al-ready given a detailed judg-ment. Approach the High Court and take the benefit Brothed Interim protection.
Accordingly, the court
directed that the status que-be maintained for a week.

TH GROS SWORD+ 14657

33 Twelve murdits? Mostly long (4)





14 Provokes followers (4) 36 Primarily glotting effortlessly, creature keenly observing Buard (5) LR Black speathound sesses (4)

19 Sharp blow killing that man in cloak (4) 21 Special treats cop arranged for viewers (10) 23 Bald German without leads to get councillor (8) 28 Surrupean rejected English daughter and ran away (6) 26 About crime? Nothing in gambling house (6)

27 Shakes pieces (7) 1 Suggestions confusing son with clues (III

Loading bag with fresh gin outside bar (8) 4 Cancel permit to enter river (6)

railer wants new filer (6) Motioniess deer with insect below tip of nose (8) Rest often Intefly at ten (5) 13 City in France checked by furthand for uncution (5) 15 Similarly a balloon with a string initially (2,4,2) 17 Broadcast rovel "The Iron man" essentially (2,3,3)

7 Nothing in the for erro (?)
3 Terrifield spired becare, one admitted (0)
10 Debris of zerov at sea clase to dick near a vacant garage 18 Course with old information for source of disease (8) 20 Paper article is describing views at last (6) 21 Mark in musical Instrument reportedly (6) 22 Sage climbing up around strong ridge (5) 11 Old niece perhaps receiving training with right knowledge 24 Mesh covering small report (4)

SURDOME



Lord Narayana, the owner

We should strive to reach Lord Narayana's feet. He is the goal, but He is also the means, we must understand that discourse. The word "swarfal," means owner. The Lord is our awarn, that is the owner of all armas. In Tamil, one of the words for owner is "subapara;" This word "swarfal, one of the words for owner is "subapara;" This word "subapara; of sirrangam, The Lord owner overgithing in the world. The Sanskrit word "subapara "discourse and subapara "subapara" that words the subapara words, and it is common? to talk of the Lord's nitys vibinati and His leefs vibinati. Set Vallamiha, the Lord's abode, is His nithys vibinit. This world that we morrals inhabit is also undoubtedly the wealth, and is known as leefs vibinati. When Lord Ranaga-

world find we discirate instant in sine unstantistically the was saying that all His wealth was Ramaniga's too. Such was saying that all His wealth was Ramaniga's too. Such was saying that all His wealth was Ramaniga's too. Such was The corner of a property has to safeguard his property. That is why the Land, as the corner of jectaman, is also the One who has to ensure that they cross the ocean of cannather than the corner of jectaman is a sea to the same that the means to liberation. Hamman is ready to receive Sita. But Sita suffuses to accept his offer of help, Site is Herself that Sita suffuses to accept his offer of help, Site is Herself that Sita suffuses to accept his offer of help, Sita is Herself that Sita suffuses to accept his offer on his provinces the constitution of the same than the same than the same that the same than the same t





Postal department considers UPI-like 'labels' for addresses

The system, called DHRUVA, will provide users a convenient way to share their addresses across platforms; users can grant firms limited address access, after which the label needs re-authorisation

Aroon Deep

NEW DELHI

he Department of Posts this week released a draft amendment to the Post Office Act, 2023, aimed at introducing an interoperable, standardised, and user-centric addressing system called the Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address, or DHRUVA. The framework has been under consultation for a few months, with one key element, DIGIPIN, rolled out in March.

A senior official involved in DHRUVA's implementation said it would be able to replace textual addresses with email or UPI address-like labels such as "name@entity", which would act as a proxy for a physical address.

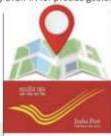
The government hopes to build this system as part of its digital public infrastructure initiatives and will allow private companies to participate.

The department is hoping to draw interest from ecommerce and gig platforms, where users need to provide addresses across

Smart addresses

A draft amendment seeks to enable an interoperable system replacing physical addresses with smart labels like *name@ entity" powered by DIGIPIN for precise geolocation

- Labels will be provided by address service providers, while consent architecture will be managed by address information agents
- It will be based on the DIGIPIN system, which is a 10-character alphanumeric expression of latitude and longitude coordinates



The technology was developed to provide more precise locations in rural areas or in cases where the textual expression of a physical address does not

- offer adequate
- The draft
 amendment
 is under
 consultation;
 Section 8 entity
 proposed (like
 NPCI for UPI)
- The system will be built as part of government's digital public infrastructure initiatives, and will allow private firms to participate

multiple services. On these platforms, individuals would be able to provide a label instead of an address and authorise firms to receive the geographic coordinates and full text of their address instantly, instead of filling out address forms repeatedly.

The draft amendment would allow the postal department to set up a Section 8 not-for-profit entity under government supervision. The body would play a role similar to the National Payments Corporation of India, which is an association of banks administering the UPI payments system.

Consent-based

Users would be able to authorise companies to view their address for a specified period if they wish, after which a given label will require re-authorisation.

There is no compulsion

in the draft amendment for private players to join, the official said, and the department hopes the system will be compelling enough for firms and users to sign up.

Labels will be provided by address service providers, and the consent architecture will be managed by address information agents, or AIAs.

DIGIPIN system

The DIGIPIN system is the foundational layer for this service, the official said. DIGIPIN is a 10-character alphanumeric expression of latitude and longitude. The technology was developed to provide more precise locations in rural areas or in cases where the textual expression of a physical address does not offer adequate information.

DIGIPIN was opensourced by the department, and each DIGIPIN corresponds to a roughly 14 square metre patch of land, with a mathematical function deterministically generating a unique code. This translates to around 228 billion DIGIPINs for Indian territory.

- The Department of Posts has released a draft amendment to the Post Office Act, 2023.
- Aim: Introduce an interoperable, digital, user-centric addressing system called
 DHRUVA (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address).
- This will allow people to use UPI-like address labels for physical addresses (e.g., name@entity).

B. What is DHRUVA? (Digital Address Labels System)

Key Objective

Replace long, inconsistent physical addresses with smart digital labels that work across platforms.

How It Works

- A user will get a label such as "name@entity" similar to UPI VPA.
- This label will act as a proxy for the physical address.
- Users can authorize firms (e-commerce, logistics, govt agencies) to view:
 - Full address
 - · Geographic coordinates
- Access is time-limited and must be re-authorized later.

Who Manages It?

- · Labels issued by address service providers.
- · Consent architecture managed by Address Information Agents (AIAs).

C. What is DIGIPIN? (Foundational Layer)

- DHRUVA is built on **DIGIPIN**, a **10-character alphanumeric code**.
- DIGIPIN = precise representation of latitude & longitude.
- Developed to:
 - Provide accurate geolocation in rural areas
 - Solve issues where textual addresses are unclear or incomplete.

Scale

- One DIGIPIN ≈ 14 sq. metres.
- India can have ~228 billion unique DIGIPINs.

D. Why This System Is Needed

- Many Indian addresses are:
 - Unstructured
 - Inconsistent
 - Missing house numbers/streets
- Delivery firms waste time interpreting unclear addresses.
- Users repeatedly fill addresses on different platforms → inefficient.

E. Institutional Setup

- A new Section 8 Not-for-Profit entity under government supervision is proposed
- It will work similar to NPCI (which runs UPI):
 - · Common digital infrastructure
 - · Participation by private players
 - Large-scale interoperability

F. Consent-Based Access

- Users can grant temporary access to their address.
- After expiry, access auto-revokes.
- Enhances privacy compared to traditional addresses printed everywhere.

G. Participation of Private Companies

- · No compulsion for private platforms to join.
- Govt believes the system will become industry standard due to convenience.
- Expected participants:
 - E-commerce
 - Logistics
 - · Food delivery apps
 - Fintech
 - Government portals

Topic

DHRUVA

DIGIPIN

NPCI Comparison

UPI-like labels

Current Address Issues

Postal Act Amendment

Privacy Aspect

Key Exam Facts

Digital label-based addressing system proposed

by the Department of Posts

10-character alphanumeric geolocation code;

deterministic mathematical function

DHRUVA's operator model similar to NPCI for UPI

"name@entity" format inspired by UPI handles

India lacks standardized geolocation-based

addressing

Draft amendment under consultation

Controlled access → higher privacy than static

addresses

Exam	Year	Actual Verified Question	Correct Answer
UPSC Prelims	2023	With reference to the NPCI, which of the following statements is correct?	NPCI is a not-for-profit company set up by RBI & IBA to operate retail payments.
UPSC Prelims	2023	What is the primary purpose of the UPI system?	Instant, interoperable bank-to-bank payments using mobile handles.
UPSC Prelims	2022	What does geotagging refer to?	Attaching geographic coordinates to digital data.
SSC CGL	2023	What is the PIN code system used by India Post?	6-digit postal index code launched in 1972.
IBPS PO Mains	2023	Which technology helps identify precise locations in delivery logistics?	Geospatial coordinates (lat-long).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed DHRUVA addressing system:

- 1. It will allow users to share UPI-like digital labels that act as proxies for physical addresses.
- 2. DIGIPIN, the foundational layer, is a 10-digit numeric code representing PIN code zones.
- The system will follow a consent-based model where access to a user's address must be reauthorized after a defined period.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

-

PULL CONTEXT



How the Mahad satyagraha(s) shaped constitutional discourse

Mahad marks the birthplace of one of India's first human rights movements initiated by Dr. B. R. Amhedkar in 1927, challenging caste discrimination and asserting Dalit rights. It also shaped the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution

Nikhil Saniay Bekha Adaule

he Mahad teinali, in pre-Independent India, was a part of the Rombay Prevince centre, providing latiour to the industrial according to the fundation accorded the Rombay Prevince in Mahad, imitiation of caste norms led to wide agreed acceptance of caste discrimination, with high-case individuals treating Dalits with contempt Untouchability, a result of casteiam, Union-fieldilly, a result of cantelsin, represents systemic social exclusions that reinfunces the hierarchical nature of the caste system. In Mahad, the exclusion of Dalits was evident in their denial of access to drinking water from public tanks, such as the Chavadar Tunk.

Method was a key site for one of India's

first rights movements, which paved the way for human rights discourse and its lessons absorbed in constitutional ethics

Understanding the legacy
The movement for human rights and water democracy started with a resolution, passed in the Bombay Legislative Council in August 1923, initiated by S. K. Bole, it stated, "The

Legislative Courts in August 1922.

Council recommende that the introductable classes be allowed to use all public wavering places in disharanshalas, public wavering places in disharanshalas, and the state of the

which aimed to unite the depressed classes for equality, saw Charldorber, R. B. More, Ramj Potdar, and others drink from a level lake and wells. Communist it, region was eager to support Ambeddear's straggle for equity and equality, seeking to restore the rights of unitoritables. Additionally, this region was renowned for being the thirthylace of activists like for being the intriplace of activities like Gopalbaba Walangkar, N. M. Joshi, Saridhaji Galkwad, and others. Thus, Mahad was estored by Dr. R. Ambedkar as the site of one of India's first burnar fields successents.

Malsad 1.0 and 3.0 in amounts to subsection and list amounts on March 19-20, 1927, by asserting the rights of untouchables to drink water as per the hole Resolution of 1923. The amounts of the hole Resolution of 1923. The amounts of the hole Resolution of 1923. The amounts of the subsection of 1923, the amounts of the amounts of the subsection of 1923, the amounts of the subsection of 1923, the amounts of the subsection of 1923, the amounts of 1923, the amounts of 1923, the subsection of 1923, the amounts of

water worth 640 had to be purchased specifically for this purpose. Specifically for this purpose, and the purchased specifically for the purpose had to be cause in Annhedder and the seminary had to be caused by the specific spec

During this period, Dr. Ambedkar launched his formightly publication, Bullishtrus Bharus, which discussed democratic truths and ideals while emphasising human rights. He also

participated in the Ambabai Temple satyagraha, initiated by Dr. Panjabran Dealmush in November 1927, following violent attacks on Dalits after the Mahad inisient, which led to the formation of the Ambodkar Seva Dai for their protection. Since the Chavadar Lake case was still pending. Dr. Ambediar docaded against launching a satyagraha after consulting his followers. However, on consulting his holowers, it newver, on December 25, he burned the Manamriti following a resolution from Gangathur Sahasarahisahlur, Rajdhog, and Tharat. In Mahad 2.0, he specifically addressed warren, asserting that hamon rights should include gender equality.

The Mahad revolution
Dr. Ambedkar stated that the Mahad 1.0
and Mahad 2.0 satyagrahas embodied the
selegalat of the French Revolution.
In Dr. Ambedkar's spesches during the
Mahad satyagraba, he promotes an entlightened ethes of dignity and self-respect. In Mahad 2,0, Dr. Ambedian discusses the French National Assembly of 1798. These two historical events. which defined the two eras, Mahad 1.0 and 2.0, were instrumental in shaping the idea of India and the ethics of its

idea of fiedia and the efficie of fit.
Constitution.
However, the French Revolution, didn't,
However, the French Revolution, didn't,
However, the French Revolution, didn't,
So, neither their National Assembly norfarther developments hase their
their developments hase their
their developments have their
the living bookles and sould off wenner. It
was Mary Wolldemerstaff's intervention
via her jourphete "A beckarding of when the
pupped of the property of the property of the
content in the French Revolution.
It is not because in the 19th paper, had
uniferstanding of castelot, questioning the
approach of freilms auctiologies to
making ermaking symmalian of women in the

making remaking unmaking of women to

group the binse of caste, as well as the non-workability of the siles approach to annihilate it. The end can be achieved amountaine it. The end can be achieved through gendered means or by the appearance and a colors at Mahad 1.0 have the partnership of women and men, irrespective of their gender, geography, class, and casto(s). They gathered there as the National Assembly to break free from the imposed Brahumanta thegemony and chart their own course, just as the Third Estate did during their Tennis Court Oath after being dealed permission by King after being desired permission by King Louis XVI. In Mehaul 2.0, diblough prelimitary, the resolution passes appears to be influenced primarily because it inflicts injustice on Mudria. However, even an initial understanding of dogmas, as well as the period of the Momentum, suggests that it treated women as shudras. Contemporary fleenry and historical texts provide ample fleenry and historical texts provide ample

berary and materical texts provide amprovidence to support this.

Dr. Ambedkar's actions in Mahad 2.0, especially the huming of the Manusmritt and addressing the gathering of women, try to foreground a new discourse on human rights whose liberty, equality, and fraternity principles are derived from non-violent Buddhism.

non-votest Buddhism. fit. Ambedkar introduced a new concept of a gendered nation whose enlightened nationalism was based not on essentialism but on existentialism, rooted. essentiation but on existentialism, notical in the body of the people and their natural, legial human rights. Thus, Documber is a also constructed in thits are becaused as a low of the property of the prope

the Mahad Satyagraha, institutionalised in the Constitution of India. Nikhi Xarjay-Rekha Adsule is a Senior Besearch Schular, ITT Delhi

Please send in your any

THE DAILY QUIZ

Walter Elias Disney, a pioneer of the animation industry in the U.S., was born on this day in 1901. How well do you know Disney films?

selso in laft to claus, up garbage on future Carth us ramed after Wall Disney, Name the film R MOITEBUD

This is the oddest blamay birm, it was made as a live action receptly and was heavily criticised for reasons reniging from santing to publical orcorrections. Harne it.

ritasyland at six tiliones heme parks around the

oth a word that means

ery targe: Name him

PHOITESUS

QUESTION 2
She is sometimes
considered Discay's
'unerfacial' museou and
often appears abregatile
Wast Discays shedio logo
Wite is she? This Disney character doesn't speak. It has improved an earliet



Visual question: This film was incestly based on a novel by Charles Dickens, Name it.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quist 1. This man submitted a report in 1946, in which he called to mergic curative treatment with preventive case and build medical culleges to train human resources. Ans. Juseph

William Bhore 2. This physician was a freedom fighter who went on to se 2. This physician was a treation righter who wont on to sever in government as well. Are: Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (B.C.Roy) 5 for hadambini was the first practising female doctor in India, and held this historic role as well. Are: She was the first woman prealers at a meeting of the Indian Hatianal Congress session
4. This indian physician and scientist made a monumental

Isola size. Amis Dr. Upsnofes Nath Brahmschart

5. In 1995, the Vinten government or up a second sourcey and
Flamming Committee insaded by this pirison. Anal Dr. An.
Flamming Committee insaded by this pirison. Anal Dr. An.
Flamming Committee insaded by this pirison. Anal Dr. An.
Flamming Committee insaded by this pirison in Madrian
Flamming Committee insaded by the Committee of ala-azar Ana: Br. Upendra Nath Brahmachari



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know vour English

S. Upendran

"Nice to see you. Have your cousins left?"

"Yes, 'They left about 10 days ago, I got their bread-and-buster letter yesterday."

"Bread-and-buster letter yesterday."

"Br the letter you write to your boot and hostess thanking them for their wonderful hospitality."

"It's like a thank you note, then? "I guess you could say that. As soon as I returned from Mumbal, I wrote a bread-and-butter letter to my cousin."

returned flyan blumbal, I wrote a bread-and-butter letter to my country. Design of the property of the propert

best thing since sliced bread."
That's true in the thor Madomia's CD is
"That's true in the chor Madomia's CD is
the country in the chor of the chor of the
"To tell you the cruft, I hade troud.
Bleed or unsteed."
"I am not from all bread enther."
"I am not from all bread there?
"I am not from all bread they cruft in the your
Principal give on Chalkren's Day?"
"The usual boring kind. He talked
about Pandis Rehru. He got all the dases
wrone, But strangely enough none of the
"The teachers know which side their
troud is buttered."
"Bread and butter again! I shought you
said you delint like hereal."
"Read and butter again! I shought you
said you delint like hereal."
"Rows which side his bread is buttered,"
in means that in a given situation the

it means that in a given situation the person is amart enough to know what is good for him and white is not. Such a

good for him and white is not, Such a person will not offend a person will not offend a person will not offend a person in power. The trackers didn't went to offend the Principal because he might have created problems for them letter on? The Ganaly Main Julianome out Tale Ganaly Main Julianome out Tale Ganaly Main Julianome out they know which sale their tread is instread. "Most cisclesters don't spass ill of the committee members because they know "Otherwise the Solen" inight drop "Otherwise the Solen" inight drop.

"Otherwise the 'jokers' might drop them from the team! Now let me..." "....! have beard commentators on

television say that the leg glance is someone's bread and butter shot. What does it mean?"

does it mean?"
"When you talk about the "bread and butter" of an eiganisation, you are talking about the activity which provides the organisation to main router of income, and butter of a person, you are talking about the activity which provides the person his income,"
"Exactly!"
"Exactly!"
"Ended in The Hindu on November 17, 1998.

Word of the day Drowsy:

Synonyms: meitant, passing Usage: the cold made for for anyear

Pronunciation: newshillon/deliwsyles International Phonetic Alphabet: /www

for feedback and suggestions for

FULL CONTEXT



In remembrance: Followers of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar gather at Chaityabhoomi to pay him homage on his death anniversary, at Shivaji Park, Dadar, on December 6, 2022 in Mumbai. GETTY IMAGES

How the Mahad satyagraha(s) shaped constitutional discourse

Mahad marks the birthplace of one of India's first human rights movements initiated by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in 1927, challenging caste discrimination and asserting Dalit rights. It also shaped the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule

he Mahad tehsil, in pre-Independent India, was a part of the Bombay Province and a significant economic centre, providing labour to the industrial sector of the Bombay Presidency. In Mahad, imitation of caste norms led to widespread acceptance of caste discrimination, with high-caste individuals treating Dalits with contempt. Untouchability, a result of casteism, represents systemic social exclusion that reinforces the hierarchical nature of the caste system. In Mahad, the exclusion of Dalits was evident in their denial of access to drinking water from public tanks, such as the Chavadar Tank.

Mahad was a key site for one of India's first rights movements, which paved the way for human rights discourse and its lessons absorbed in constitutional ethics.

Understanding the legacy

The movement for human rights and water democracy started with a resolution, passed in the Bombay Legislative Council in August 1923, initiated by S. K. Bole. It stated, "The council recommends that the untouchable classes be allowed to use all public watering places in dharamshalas, which are built and maintained out of public funds administered by parties appointed by the government or created by statute, as well as public schools, courts, offices, and dispensaries".

This resolution challenged Brahmanical dominance and prompted social change efforts at Goregaon and Dasgaon near Mahad. In 1926, Ramchandra Chandorkar, a leader from the Chambhar caste, jumped into a public reservoir in Goregaon, which sparked attacks on untouchables' – Chambhars and Mahars – properties by villagers. In Dasgaon, the Mahar Samai Seva Sangh. which aimed to unite the depressed classes for equality, saw Chandorkar, R. B. More, Ramji Potdar, and others drink from a local lake and wells. Communist R. B. More's memoir highlights how the region was eager to support Ambedkar's struggle for equity and equality, seeking to restore the rights of untouchables. Additionally, this region was renowned for being the birthplace of activists like Gopalbaba Walangkar, N. M. Joshi, Sambhaji Gaikwad, and others. Thus, Mahad was selected by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as the site of one of India's first human rights movements.

Mahad 1.0 and 2.0

Dr. Ambedkar and his anuyayis
(followers) conducted a satyagraha on
March 19-20, 1927, by asserting the rights
of untouchables to drink water as per the
Bole Resolution of 1923. The anuyayis of
Ambedkar thronged to the event with
their meagre belongings, empty
stomachs, and lathis (traditionally carried
by Mahars, except those who came from
the then Bombay presidency) to assert
their rights. However, the satyagrahis
were denied water by the locals; hence,
water worth ₹40 had to be purchased
specifically for this purpose.

After the Mahad 1.0 satyagraha, purification rituals were performed, because Dr. Ambedkar and his anuyayis had touched and consumed the water, which aimed to reinforce the caste system over human rights. Consequently, Dr. Ambedkar planned the Second Mahad conference for December 25 and 26, 1927. Meanwhile, the courts issued a stay restricting water access for outcastes, claiming the Chavadar tank was privately owned.

During this period, Dr. Ambedkar launched his fortnightly publication, Bahishkrut Bharat, which discussed democratic truths and ideals while emphasising human rights. He also

participated in the Ambabai Temple satvagraha, initiated by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in November 1927, following violent attacks on Dalits after the Mahad incident, which led to the formation of the Ambedkar Seva Dal for their protection. Since the Chavadar Lake case was still pending, Dr. Ambedkar decided against launching a satvagraha after consulting his followers. However, on December 25, he burned the Manusmriti following a resolution from Gangadhar Sahasrabuddhe, Raibhoi, and Thorat. In Mahad 2.0, he specifically addressed women, asserting that human rights should include gender equality.

The Mahad revolution

Dr. Ambedkar stated that the Mahad I.O and Mahad 2.O satyagrahas embodied the zeitgeist of the French Revolution.

In Dr. Ambedkar's speeches during the Mahad satyagraha, he promotes an enlightened ethos of dignity and self-respect. In Mahad 2.0, Dr. Ambedkar discusses the French National Assembly of 1798. These two historical events, which defined the two eras, Mahad 1.0 and 2.0, were instrumental in shaping the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution.

However, the French Revolution, didn't encompass women in its idea of rights. So, neither their National Assembly nor further developments base their substantive egalitarianism by including the living bodies and souls of women. It was Mary Wollstonecraft's intervention via her pamphlet "A Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Citizen" that questioned the exclusion and the place of women in the French Revolution.

Dr. Ambedkar, in his 1916 paper, had proposed a novel gendered understanding of caste(s), questioning the approach of Indian sociologists to understand the making-remaking-unmaking of women to grasp the issue of caste, as well as the non-workability of the silos approach to annihilate it. The end can be achieved through gendered means only. The speeches and actions at Mahad 1.0 have the partnership of women and men, irrespective of their gender, geography, class, and caste(s). They gathered there as the National Assembly to break free from the imposed Brahmanical hegemony and chart their own course, just as the Third Estate did during their Tennis Court Oath after being denied permission by King Louis XVI. In Mahad 2.0, although preliminary, the resolution passed appears to be influenced primarily because it inflicts injustice on Shudras. However, even an initial understanding of dogmas, as well as the period of the Manusmriti, suggests that it treated women as Shudras. Contemporary literary and historical texts provide ample evidence to support this.

Dr. Ambedkar's actions in Mahad 2.0, especially the burning of the Manusmriti and addressing the gathering of women, try to foreground a new discourse on human rights whose liberty, equality, and fraternity principles are derived from non-violent Buddhism.

Dr. Ambedkar introduced a new concept of a gendered nation whose enlightened nationalism was based not on essentialism but on existentialism, rooted in the body of the people and their natural, legal human rights. Thus, December 25 is also celebrated in India as Indian Women's Liberation Day. The only essentialism it strives to seek is the Manuski, based on Maitri, which is a true democracy lived rather than a mere idea of governmentality. This reflects the foundations of constitutional morality derived from the ethics learned during the Mahad Satyagraha, institutionalised in the Constitution of India.

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule is a Senior Research Scholar, IIT-Delhi

- Mahad, in pre-Independence India, was a significant urban centre of the Bombay Presidency.
- It became the birthplace of one of India's earliest human rights movements led by Dr. B.R.
 Ambedkar in 1927.
- The Mahad Satyagraha(s) shaped India's modern constitutional values, anti-caste discourse, and ideas of equality and human dignity.

B. Why Mahad? (Background & Social Context)

- Mahad had:
 - Active social reformers
 - · A culture supporting anti-caste mobilisation
 - Influential leaders like Sane Guruji, R.B. More, Keshav Gore, N.M. Joshi, etc.
- Caste norms in Mahad restricted Dalits' access to public water sources, notably the Chavdar Tank.
- Ambedkar identified Mahad as a symbolic centre to assert the right of untouchables to drink water from public tanks.

C. Mahad Satyagraha 1.0 (March 1927)

Purpose

 To assert Dalits' right to drink water from the Chavdar Tank, legally open to all under the Bombay Legislative Council resolution of 1923.

What Happened

- Ambedkar and hundreds of followers (the anyapyaach) marched to the tank.
- They drank water publicly, defying caste prohibitions.
- This was a direct challenge to caste hierarchy and public space exclusion.
- Triggered violent backlash from caste Hindus.

Aftermath

 Caste Hindus filed a court case claiming the tank was private property, leading to restrictions on Dalits.

D. Mahad Satyagraha 2.0 (December 1927)

Context

- Ambedkar held a second conference at Mahad.
- The famous text "The Annihilation of Caste" seeds emerge from this philosophical turn.

Key Shifts

- Focus expanded beyond water rights → complete destruction of caste.
- Ambedkar burned the Manusmriti publicly as a symbolic rejection of caste-based laws.
- He stressed:
 - Rights of women
 - Equality
 - Human dignity
 - Non-violent assertion of self-respect

Impact

- Connected caste struggle with universal human rights values.
- · Reinterpreted social reform as a constitutional and moral project.

E. How the Mahad Movements Shaped Constitutional Thought

1. Birth of India's Human Rights Discourse

- Mahad linked civil rights, water rights, public space rights, and self-respect.
- · Anticipated modern principles of:
 - Equality
 - Liberty
 - Fraternity
 - Constitutional morality

2. Centrality of Dignity in the Indian Constitution

- · Direct influence on:
 - · Fundamental Rights
 - · Abolition of untouchability (Art. 17)
 - · Equality before law (Art. 14)
 - · Non-discrimination (Art. 15)

3. Anti-caste Constitutionalism

- · Mahad demonstrated:
 - · Rejection of religious texts that justify caste
 - · Public assertion of constitutional identity
 - Early framing of Ambedkar's constitutional morality

4. Links to Women's Rights

- · Ambedkar emphasised:
 - · Centrality of women's participation
 - · Equality in public life
 - · Breaking Brahmanical patriarchy

Mahad Satyagraha has become:

- A cornerstone of Dalit assertion
- An inspiration for civil rights movements
- A critical case-study in nonviolent resistance

25 December (Manusmriti Dahan Divas) is observed as Indian Women's Liberation Day by activists.

Topic Key Fact

Leader Dr. B.R. Ambedkar led both Mahad Satyagrahas

Year 1927

Place Mahad, Raigad district, Maharashtra

Core Issue

Right of Dalits to use public water sources (Chavdar Tank)

Ia

Legal Resolution1923 Bombay Council resolution allowed Dalits access but caste Hindus resisted

Philosophical Turn

Burning of *Manusmriti* marked shift to annihilation of caste

Outcome Strengthened anti-caste discourse and constitutional values

Connection to Constitution

Influenced Ambedkar's framing of equality, fraternity, and social justice

Exam	Year	Verified Question	Correct Answer
UPSC Prelims	2023	Who led the Mahad Satyagraha of 1927?	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
UPSC Prelims	2023	What was the purpose of the Mahad Satyagraha?	To assert the right of Dalits to access public water tanks
UPSC Mains (GS1)	2022	Discuss the role of Ambedkar in the anti-caste movement.	Addressed through Mahad, Kalaram Mandir Satyagraha, etc.
SSC CGL (History)	2023	Where did Ambedkar burn the Manusmriti?	Mahad (1927)
State PCS (Multiple)	2022–23	Chavdar Tank movement relates to?	Dalit civil rights movement led by Ambedkar

- With reference to the Mahad Satyagraha(s), consider the following statements:
- The first Mahad Satyagraha was launched to secure Dalits' right to draw water from a public tank.
- The second Mahad conference saw Ambedkar burn the Manusmriti as a rejection of caste-based authority.
- Both movements collectively influenced the constitutional principles of equality and dignity.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

• 1.77 LAKH PEOPLE DIED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 2024, AN INCREASE OF 2.31% FROM 2023, NITIN GADKARI TELLS LOK SABHA

Fatalities increase, target to reduce road accidents missed

Dheeraj Mishra

New Delhi, December 4

INDIA HAS once again missed its target to reduce road accident deaths, recording a marginally higher number of fatalities in 2024 over the previous year.

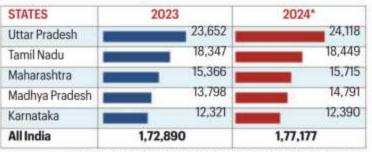
According to data presented by Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, in Lok Sabha on Thursday, 1.77 lakh people died in road accidents in 2024, an increase of 2.31% from 2023, when 1.73 lakh fatalities were recorded in 4.80 lakh road accidents.

The data is based on realtime information entered by state police on the government's Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) portal. While the minister did not share the total number of accidents in 2024, The Indian Express earlier reported the figure at 4.73 lakh, excluding West Bengal.

The Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety, adopted at the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in February 2020, set a global target to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030. India is a signatory to that.

Yet the country has continued to record a year-on-year upward trend in road accidents and deaths. A temporary decline was observed during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.

States with the highest fatalities



SOURCE: MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; "PROVISIONAL DATA

According to World Road Statistics, a non-profit organisation, India continues to be the top country in terms of the total number of people killed in road accidents, followed by China and the US. The fatality rate per lakh population in China is 4.3. The figure is 12.76 in the US and 11.89 in India.

Gadkari told Parliament that the government has formulated a strategy to reduce accidents and fatalities based on "4Es"—education, engineering, enforcement and emergency care. "Funds allocated to be spent for comprehensive road safety aspects varies from 2.21% to 15% of total cost of the development projects depending upon structures involved for construction of National Highways," he said.

On November 4, The Indian Express had reported that the road fatality numbers for 2024 would exceed the 2023 figure.

As per the earlier report, in terms of overall numbers, Tamil Nadu maintained its top position for the seventh consecutive year in 2024 with 67,526 accidents, followed by Madhya Pradesh. Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka. In terms of fatalities in accidents, UP topped with 24,118 deaths in 2024, followed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

In reply to another question by SP MP Dharmendra Yadav, Gadkari said the current system of toll collection will come to an end in a year and an electronic system will take its place. He added that the new system has been rolled out in 10 places and will be extended across the country within a year.

With Delhi gasping to breath, Gadkari said Centre is giving priority to alternative and bio-fuels, adding he has started using Toyota's 'Mirai' hydrogen fuel-cell car.

Fatalities

• 2024: 1,77,177 deaths

• **2023**: 1,72,890 deaths

Increase = 2.31%

Total Road Accidents

• 2024 accidents estimated at 4.73 lakh (excluding West Bengal)

• 2023: 4.80 lakh accidents

Highest Fatality States (2024)

State	2023	2024
Uttar Pradesh	23,652	24,118
Tamil Nadu	18,347	18,449
Maharashtra	15,366	15,715
Madhya Pradesh	13,798	14,791
Karnataka	12,321	12,390

C. International Commitment

- Under the Stockholm Declaration (2020) at the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference, countries committed to:
 - Reduce traffic deaths & injuries by 50% by 2030.
- India is a signatory but has shown year-on-year rise in fatalities (except during COVID years).

D. Global Comparison (World Road Statistics)

- India = highest number of road accident deaths globally.
- Fatality rate (deaths per lakh population):

India: 11.89

US: 12.76

China: 4.3

- In terms of absolute number of accidents:
 - Tamil Nadu leads (2024: 67,526 accidents)
 - Followed by Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh.

E. Government's Strategy to Reduce Accidents (4Es Model)

The government's strategy is based on:

- 1. Engineering
- 2. Enforcement
- 3. Education
- 4. Emergency care

Funding Gap

• Only 2.21%-15% of project cost is spent on road safety engineering—a major constraint.

F. Digitisation of Toll System

- Current toll booths will be phased out within 1 year.
- Will be replaced with an electronic GPS-based toll collection system.
- New system already piloted in 10 locations; nationwide rollout expected within a year.

G. Other Points

- Increase in fatalities despite improved roads highlights:
 - Overspeeding
 - · Poor enforcement
 - Safer vehicle design gaps
 - · Behavioural issues (helmet/seatbelt non-compliance)
- · Gadkari highlighted focus on biofuels, EVs, hydrogen-powered vehicles like Toyota Mirai.

Topic Important Fact

Stockholm Declaration Reduce road deaths by **50% by 2030**

India's Rank #1 globally in road deaths

4 Es Engineering, Enforcement, Education,

Emergency Care

Data Source e-DAR Portal (Detailed Accident Report)

Highest Accident-Reporting State Tamil Nadu

Toll Reform

Entire toll-collection system shifting to **GPS-**

based electronic tolling

Main Cause of Deaths in India

Overspeeding (as per MoRTH reports)

Exam	Year	Verified Question	Correct Answer
UPSC Prelims	2023	What are the "4Es" used in Road Safety management?	Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Emergency care
UPSC Prelims	2023	What is the role of the e- DAR portal?	To digitally report and process road accidents
UPSC Mains (GS3)	2022	Discuss causes of increasing road accidents in India despite improvements in road infrastructure.	Behavioural issues, weak enforcement, road design flaws
SSC CGL	2023	Which country has the highest road accident fatalities?	India
State PSC (Multiple)	2023	Stockholm Declaration relates to?	Global commitment to reduce road deaths by 50%

Category Details

Total deaths in 2024 1,77,177

Increase over 2023 2.31%

Highest fatality state Uttar Pradesh

Highest accident count Tamil Nadu

Global fatality rate (India) 11.89 per lakh population

International Target (2030) Reduce deaths by 50%

Govt strategy 4Es

Tech reform GPS-based toll collection replacing booths

- Consider the following statements regarding India's road accident situation in 2024:
- India recorded more than 1.75 lakh fatalities in road accidents in 2024.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of road accident deaths in 2024.
- Under the Stockholm Declaration, India has committed to reducing road accident deaths by 50% by 2030.
- Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of accidents in 2024.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

LAW

Row around the film 'Dhurandhar', involving a decorated Major

Man Aman Singh Chhina

Chandigarh, December 4

THE UPCOMING Bollywood film *Dhur-andhar*, starring actor Ranveer Singh, has run into legal trouble, with the family of a highly decorated Indian Army officer claiming it is based on his life without due acknowledgement.

Major Mohit Sharma laid down his life while battling militants in Jammu and Kashmir in 2009. He was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award. His parents recently approached the Delhi High Court against *Dhurandhar*, scheduled for release on Friday, seeking protection of their son's legacy and persona. They also wanted the film privately screened before release.

Major Sharma's career

Major Mohit Sharma was a Special Forces (SF) officer. Born in Rohtak in 1978, he joined the National Defence Academy (NDA) in 1995. He was commissioned in December 1999 in the 5th Battalion of The Madras Regiment after passing out from the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

After a stint in J&K in Rashtriya Rifles, Major Sharma volunteered for the Special Forces, joining the 1 Parachute Battalion (Special Forces). During his tenure with this battalion, he earned the Sena Medal. He is said to have infiltrated a Hizbul Mujahideen group under cover in 2004.

In 2009, Major Sharma was again deployed with a Special Forces unit in Kupwara in J&K.He took part in an action in which several militants were killed. However, he became grievously injured and lost his life. For acts of bravery beyond the call of duty, Major Mohit Sharma was awarded the Ashok Chakra posthumously.

Claims around 'Dhurandhar'

The family members of Major Mohit

Real and reel

- Before the Ashok Chakra, Major Mohit Sharma was awarded a Sena Medal for gallantry for infiltrating a Hizbul Mujahideen group in J&K and killing two militants.
- Clips from Dhurandhar show its lead character, played by Ranveer Singh, infiltrating a terrorist network in Pakistan.

Sharma have alleged that Singh's character is based on him. In the film's trailer and other promotional material, his character is shown infiltrating a terrorist network in Pakistan.

On social media, speculation is rife that various other characters in the movie are also based on real-life persons. Sanjay Dutt is supposed to be playing Chaudhary Aslam Khan Swati, an 'encounter specialist' of the Karachi police who was killed in a Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan bomb blast in 2014.

Akshaye Khanna's character is also said to be based on Sardar Abdul Rehman Baloch, a well-known criminal from Karachi's Lyari locality who was killed in 2009. Another character, played by R Madhavan, is said to resemble National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

Legal status of dispute

The petition came up for hearing on De-

cember 1. The plea said that *Dhurandhar* is being publicly promoted with a view to create a perception that it is based upon the life, persona and operations of Major Mohit Sharma. It was alleged that the same is being done without any consent, consultation or authorisation from the family.

The director, screenwriter and co-producer of the movie have vehemently denied that the film is being promoted as having been inspired by Major Sharma's life. It was stated that the film is purely a work of fiction and though inspired by true events, it bears no connection with the Major.

The petition was disposed of by the court with the following directions: (i) The Central Board of Film Certification shall consider all relevant aspects of the matter before granting requisite certification. (ii) If considered the opposite, the censor board will refer the matter to the authorities concerned of the Indian Army before taking a final decision.

- Bollywood film "Dhurandhar" starring Ranveer Singh is facing legal trouble.
- Family of Major Mohit Sharma, a decorated Indian Army officer (Ashok Chakra awardee), alleges the film is based on his life without permission.
- Petition filed in Delhi High Court asking for:
 - Protection of Major Sharma's legacy
 - · Private screening before release
 - · Preventing misleading portrayal

B. Who was Major Mohit Sharma? (Career & Heroism)

1. Background

- · Born: 1978, Rohtak (Haryana)
- Joined NDA (1995), commissioned in Dec 1999 into 5th Battalion, Madras Regiment
- Trained at IMA, Dehradun

2. Service in Special Forces

- Served in Rashtriya Rifles → then volunteered for Special Forces
- Joined 1 Para (SF)
- Earned the Sena Medal
- Known for undercover infiltration of Hizbul Mujahideen group (2004)

3. 2009 Kupwara Operation

- Led a Special Forces unit in Kupwara (J&K)
- · Killed several militants
- · Suffered severe injuries, laid down his life
- · Awarded Ashok Chakra posthumously, India's J. hest peacetime gallantry award

C. Claims Around the Film "Dhurandhar"

- Family alleges:
 - Film's promotional material shows a character resembling Major Sharma
 - Trailer depicts infiltration of a terrorist network in Pakistan similar to Major Sharma's real operations
 - Done without consultation or authorization
 - Misleading the public by creating perception the film is based on him

D. What the Film Team Says

- Director, writer, and co-producer deny any direct link to Major Sharma's life
- Claim:
 - The film is "pure fiction"
 - Though inspired by real events, not based on Major Mohit Sharma
 - No promotional material claims such linkage

E. "Real and Reel" Points Noted in the Petition

Family's Claim

- · Before Ashok Chakra, Major Sharma:
 - Infiltrated terror networks undercover
 - Earned Sena Medal
- Trailer shows similar undercover ops → strong resemblance

Similar Characters in the Film

Speculation on social media:

- Sanjay Dutt playing a character resembling Chaudhary Aslam Khan (encounter specialist killed in 2014)
- Akshaye Khanna resembles Sardar Abdul Rehman Balooch (Karachi gangster)
- R Madhavan resembles National Security Adviser Ajit Doval
- → Indicates multiple characters loosely based on real personalities.

F. Legal Status of Dispute

- · Delhi High Court directed:
 - 1. CBFC must examine all material carefully before granting certification
 - 2. If required, CBFC must consult Indian Army authorities before clearing the film
- Petition was disposed of with these directions.

Exam	Year	Actual Question	Correct Answer
UPSC Prelims	2023	Ashok Chakra is awarded for which type of action?	Valour, courageous action, self-sacrifice away from battlefield (peacetime gallantry).
UPSC Prelims	2023	What is the role of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)?	Grants certification to films for public exhibition and imposes conditions under Cinematograph Act.
UPSC Mains (GS-II)	2022	Discuss the conflict between freedom of expression of filmmakers and protection of individual reputation/identity.	Relevant to this case.
SSC CGL	2023	Which is India's highest peacetime gallantry award?	Ashok Chakra
State PCS (Multiple)	2022–23	Which Special Forces unit does "1 Para SF" belong to?	Parachute Regiment of Indian Army

- Consider the following statements regarding the controversy around the film "Dhurandhar":
- The family of Major Mohit Sharma approached the Delhi High Court alleging unauthorized use of his life story.
- The court directed the CBFC to consult the Indian Army before taking a final decision, if required.
- Major Mohit Sharma was awarded the Ashok Chakra for an operation in Kupwara in 2009.
- Which of the statements above are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. **1, 2 and 3**

Story of Operation Trident, 1971 war campaign marked as Navy Day

INDIA CELEBRATES Navy Day on December 4 by commemorating Operation Trident. On this day, the Navy heavily damaged Pakistani vessels in the Karachi harbour amid the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

The war began a day before the naval operation, when the Pakistan Air Force launched pre-emptive strikes on airfields in western India. On December 4, when India declared war, the Navy sank three vessels near Karachi during Op Trident. The stars of the mission were the then-recently acquired Soviet Osa missile boats, fitted with 4 SS-N-2 (P-15) Styx missiles.

INS Kiltan, Katchall, Nipat, Nighat and Veer sank PNS Khaibar, PNS Muhafiz and a merchant ship, killing over 250 Pakistani sailors.

Many aspects of the attacks were novel, including the use of missiles in this region for the first time and ingenious methods of communication to remain undetected. It also came after years of increased investments into naval infrastructure. On December 5, 1971, the Indian Navy's then Western C-in-C, Vice Admiral S N Kohli, received the code word "Angaar", which meant suc-



A Navy Day event in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

cess in the operation.

During this op, India suffered no casualties. On December 8, Operation Python was launched to inflict further damage. The morale of the Pakistani

Navy was dented, with their ships ordered to reduce the ammunition on board to de-

crease the explosion damage if hit.

The war ended on December 16, with the instrument of surrender signed by Lt Gen A A K Niazi of Pakistan, with Lt Gen J S Aurora watching at Dhaka. That remains the lasting image of the 1971 war. ENS

- Navy Day (4 December) is celebrated to commemorate Operation Trident, India's first-ever
 offensive naval action using missiles, executed during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.
- On 4 December 1971, the Indian Navy destroyed multiple Pakistani naval assets in Karachi harbour.

B. Background of the War

- War began on 3 December 1971, when Pakistan launched pre-emptive air strikes (similar to Israel's 1967 strategy).
- India formally declared war, triggering full-scale operations across air, land, and sea.

C. What Was Operation Trident?

A surprise naval strike on the night of 4–5 December 1971 by the Indian Western Naval Command.

Key Features

- Used Osa-class missile boats acquired from the Soviet Union.
- Armed with P-15 Termit (SS-N-2 Styx) anti-ship missiles.
- · Conducted at night to ensure stealth and avoid detection by Pakistani radars.
- First-ever use of long-range anti-ship missiles in the region.

D. Vessels Involved (Indian Navy)

- INS Nipat
- INS Nirghat
- INS Veer
- INS Kiltan
- INS Katchall

These operated under Western Naval Command led by Vice Admiral S.N. Kohli.

E. Successes of Operation Trident

Pakistan Navy Losses

- Warship PNS Khaibar (destroyer) sunk
- Minesweeper PNS Muhafiz sunk
- Merchant vessel destroyed
- Oil tanks at Karachi harbour set ablaze
- Over 250 Pakistani sailors killed

Indian Navy Casualties

- Zero losses
- Mission codename "Angaar" (meaning "success")

F. Strategic Significance

- Demonstrated India's naval strike capability far from its coastline.
- Severely dented Pakistani Navy morale.
- Forced Pakistan to reduce ammunition onboard ships to avoid secondary explosions.
- Resulted in Pakistan restricting movements of its Navy for the rest of the war.

G. Follow-up Operation

Operation Python (8 December 1971)

- Follow-up strike to inflict additional damage on Karachi harbour.
- Further destruction of oil tanks and fuel reserves.

H. End of War

- War ended on 16 December 1971 with:
 - Surrender of Lt Gen A.A.K. Niazi (Pakistan)
 - Signed before Lt Gen J.S. Aurora (India) in Dhaka
- · Resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.

Topic

Navy Day

1971 Indo-Pak War

Missiles used

Naval strategy

Commanding Officer

First use

Follow-up op

India's casualties

Key Fact

Celebrated on **4 December** to honour Operation Trident

Also known as **Bangladesh Liberation War**

Soviet-origin P-15 Termit (Styx)

Surprise night assault; missile boats refueled at sea

Vice Admiral **S.N. Kohli**, Western Naval Command

First time long-range missiles used in naval warfare in the Indian Ocean region

Operation Python on 8 December

Zero in Operation Trident

Exam	Year	Verified Question	Correct Answer
UPSC CDS	2023	Operation Trident is associated with which war?	Indo-Pak War of 1971
UPSC Prelims	2023	Why is Navy Day celebrated on 4 December in India?	To commemorate Operation Trident (1971)
State PCS (Punjab/Haryana)	2023	Which missile was used in Operation Trident?	P-15 Styx missile
SSC CGL	2023	Who was the Pakistani commander who surrendered in 1971?	Lt Gen A.A.K. Niazi
CDS	2022	INS Nipat and INS Nirghat were involved in which operation?	Operation Trident

Category Details

Year of Operation 1971

War Indo-Pak/Bangladesh Liberation War

Date Night of 4–5 December

Indian vessels INS Nipat, Nirghat, Veer, Kiltan, Katchall

Missiles P-15 Termit (Styx)

Pakistani vessels sunk PNS Khaibar, PNS Muhafiz, merchant ship

Follow-up Operation Python (8 Dec)

Importance First missile attack by Indian Navy; huge strategic blow

to Pakistan

Navy Day 4 December

Consider the following statements regarding Operation Trident:

- It was India's first naval offensive that used anti-ship missiles.
- It resulted in the sinking of the Pakistani destroyer PNS Khaibar.
- India suffered significant naval losses during the operation.
- Operation Python was a follow-up attack on Karachi harbour.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Dr Rajendra Prasad

- The President of India, paid tributes to Dr Rajendra Prasad, the **first President of India**, on his birth anniversary.
- Early Life and Education
- **Birth:** He was born in **1884** in the Siwan district of **Bihar.**
- Education: He joined Presidency College, Calcutta, where he pursued his undergraduate studies. In 1915, he completed his Master of Law (LLM) with Honours.

- Role in the Freedom Movement
- Champaran Satyagraha (1917): Gandhiji's call brought him to Champaran. This marked a turning point, inspiring him towards national service.
- Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22): Gave up his successful law practice and founded the National College in Patna (1921).
 - Stood firmly with Gandhiji after the Chauri Chaura incident.
- Salt Satyagraha (1930): Led the Salt Satyagraha in Bihar at Patna's Nakhas Ponds, where volunteers made salt and courted arrest.
- Congress President: He presided over the Bombay session of the INC in 1934. Following the resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose as the President of the Congress in 1939, He was elected as President.
 - In July 1946, when the **Constituent Assembly** was established to frame the Constitution of India, he was elected its **President**.
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1962 for his exemplary service.

- Committees of Constituent Assembly chaired by Rajendra Prasad
- Committee on the Rules of Procedure
- Steering Committee
- Finance and Staff Committee
- Ad hoc Committee on the National Flag
- Literary Contributions
- He documented his experiences and political insights in several influential works:
 - Satyagraha at Champaran (1922)
 - India Divided (1946)
 - Atmakatha (1946)
 - Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminiscences (1949)
 - Bapu Ke Kadmon Mein (1954)

Word of the day

Drowsy:

half asleep; showing lack of attention or boredom

Synonyms: oscitant, yawning

Usage: The cold made her feel drowsy.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/drowsypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈdɹaʊzi/

