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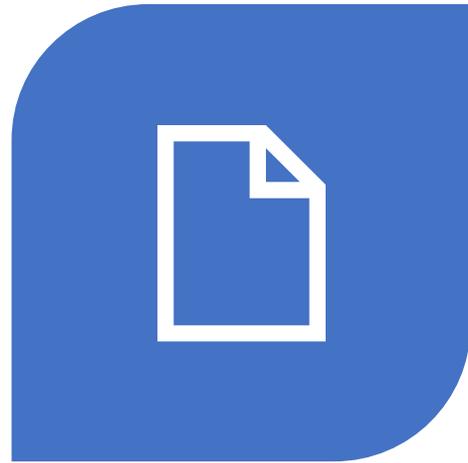
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**•The pain of studying today is far less than the regret of wasting tomorrow.”**





# Iran launches fresh attacks against Israel, U.S.

**Associated Press**

DUBAI

Iran launched a new wave of attacks against Israel, American bases and countries around the region on Thursday, even as Israel and the U.S. hammered the Islamic Republic for a sixth day. Bahrain said an Iranian missile hit a state-run oil refinery. It said the fire on Thursday night was extinguished and the refinery was still working.

The war keeps escalating each day, affecting additional 14 countries across West Asia and beyond. On Thursday, Azerbaijan accused Iran of attacking it with drones – though Tehran denied that. A day earlier, the U.S. said it sank an Iranian frigate in the waters off Sri Lanka.

Israel, meanwhile, is-

sued a mass evacuation warning for all of Beirut's southern suburbs as the fighting escalated with Lebanon's Iran-allied Hezbollah militants. UN peacekeepers reported ground combat in southern Lebanon as more Israeli troops crossed the border.

All the while, the U.S. and Israel have battered Iran with nationwide strikes, targeting their military capabilities leadership and nuclear programme. Israeli and American leaders have also suggested that toppling the government was a goal.

The war has killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, more than 70 in Lebanon and around a dozen in Israel, according to officials in those countries. Six U.S. troops have been killed.

An Iranian cleric called



**Under fire:** A plume of smoke rises after a strike on the Iranian capital of Tehran on Thursday. AFP

on state television for the shedding of both Israel's and "Trump's blood". A statement from Ayatollah Abdollah Javadi Amoli gave a rare call for violence by an ayatollah, one of the highest ranks within the clergy of Shia Islam. There are dozens in Iran.

Israel announced multiple incoming missile attacks and air sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The Israeli military said it carried out a wave of strikes on Iran's ballistic missile launch sites.

Gulf countries also re-

ported coming under fire. In Abu Dhabi, a drone was shot down near the Al Dhafra Air Base, which hosts U.S. forces, and shrapnel fell to the ground, authorities said. Six people were wounded.

Qatar evacuated residents near the U.S. Embassy in Doha as a temporary precaution and later reported a missile attack on the city. Saudi Arabia said it destroyed a drone in its province bordering Jordan.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev accused Iran of carrying out "a groundless act of terror and aggression" after a drone crashed Thursday near the airport in Nakhchivan.

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**WEST ASIA ON FIRE**

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## 1. Latest Escalation: Iran Launches Fresh Attacks on Israel and U.S.

नवीन घटनाक्रम: ईरान द्वारा इज़राइल और अमेरिका पर नए हमले

### • New wave of attacks

- Iran launched a **new wave of missile and drone attacks** targeting Israel, U.S. bases and regional allies.
- ईरान ने इज़राइल, अमेरिकी सैन्य ठिकानों और क्षेत्रीय सहयोगियों पर मिसाइल व ड्रोन से नए हमले किए।

### • Attacks across West Asia

- The conflict expanded across **14 countries in West Asia and surrounding regions**.
- यह संघर्ष पश्चिम एशिया और आसपास के लगभग 14 देशों को प्रभावित कर रहा है।

### • Bahrain refinery strike

- A missile reportedly hit a **state-owned oil refinery in Bahrain**, causing fire but refinery operations continued.
- बहरीन के सरकारी तेल रिफाइनरी पर मिसाइल हमला हुआ, आग लगी लेकिन रिफाइनरी चालू रही।

### • Drone tensions with Azerbaijan

- Azerbaijan accused Iran of **drone attacks near Nakhchivan airport**, though Iran denied involvement.
- अज़रबैजान ने नख़चिवान हवाई अड्डे के पास ड्रोन हमले का आरोप लगाया, जिसे ईरान ने नकार दिया।

## 2. Military Situation and Ground Fighting

### सैन्य स्थिति और जमीनी लड़ाई

#### • Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iran

- Israel and the U.S. launched **nationwide strikes inside Iran** targeting:
  - Ballistic missile sites
  - Nuclear programme facilities
  - Military leadership
- इज़राइल और अमेरिका ने ईरान के भीतर कई हवाई हमले किए जिनका लक्ष्य था:
  - बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल ठिकाने
  - परमाणु कार्यक्रम
  - सैन्य नेतृत्व

#### • Hezbollah involvement

- Fighting intensified in **southern Lebanon**, where Iran-backed Hezbollah militants are involved.
- दक्षिणी लेबनान में हिज़्बुल्लाह (ईरान समर्थित संगठन) के साथ लड़ाई तेज हो गई।

#### • Israeli troop movement

- Israeli troops crossed the border into **southern Lebanon** according to UN peacekeepers.
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति सैनिकों के अनुसार इज़राइली सैनिक दक्षिणी लेबनान में प्रवेश कर गए।

### 3. Casualties and Human Impact

मानवीय प्रभाव और हताहत

- **Death toll**

- Around **1,230 people killed in Iran**, more than **70 in Lebanon**, and about a **dozen in Israel**.
- लगभग **1230 लोग ईरान में, 70 से अधिक लेबनान में, और लगभग 12 इज़राइल में मारे गए।**

- **U.S. military losses**

- At least **six U.S. troops killed** during the conflict.
- संघर्ष में कम से कम **6 अमेरिकी सैनिक मारे गए।**

- **Civilian evacuations**

- Qatar evacuated residents near the **U.S. Embassy in Doha**.
  - कतर ने दोहा में अमेरिकी दूतावास के पास लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थान पर भेजा।
-

Exam	Date	Question	Answer
SSC CGL Tier-1	Sept 2025	Strait of Hormuz connects which two water bodies?	Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
CDS Exam	April 2025	Strait of Hormuz is located between which countries?	Iran and Oman
Banking Awareness	July 2025	Which country withdrew from the Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA) in 2018?	United States

**CPI(M) expels ex-MLA after he attends dissidents' convention**

**The Hindu Bureau  
 PALAKKAD**

Communist Party of India (CPI(M)) dissident and former MLA P.K. Sasi was expelled from the party soon after he attended a convention of dissidents in Palakkad district of Kerala on Thursday. CPI(M) district secretary E.N. Sarath Sasi announced that Mr. Sasi had been removed from the party's primary membership.

Mr. Sasi had earlier faced disciplinary action over alleged financial irregularities and was demoted from the district leadership to the branch level. He had stepped down as chairperson of the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation two weeks ago.

While inaugurating the convention, Mr. Sasi launched a scathing attack on the party's state and district leadership.

Without naming State secretary M. Govindan, Mr. Sasi said the CPI(M) no longer cared for its workers as it did during the tenure of Kodiyeri Balakrishnan as state secretary. "Had Kodiyeri been alive, the CPI(M) would not have plunged to this state," he added. He maintained that the dissidents had not deserted the party.

Mr. Sasi recently held discussions with leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and is learnt to have sought assistance regarding a possible candidacy in the upcoming Assembly election.

**A.P. introduces incentives for families to have 3 children**

The policy aims at raising TFR from 1.5 to 2.1. ₹25,000 to be given at time of delivery, and ₹1,000 monthly assistance for five years and free education till age 18; policy will come to effect on April 1

**The Hindu Bureau  
 CHENNAI**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu introduced the Draft Population Management Policy, whose objective is to raise the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 1.5 to an optimal level of 2.1, in the Assembly on Thursday, thereby reversing the declining fertility rate and prepare the State for an ageing society by 2047.

To encourage parents to have a third child, he proposed an incentive of ₹25,000, noting that inaction at this stage would cause problems like in Japan, Italy and South Korea within 1.2 and 0.7 TFR, they were facing. The new



policy had been targeted to be implemented from April 1, 2020.

"Andhra Pradesh is now mirroring Tamil Nadu (TFR of 1.4) and Kerala (1.6). We are no longer a high fertility state. The situation requires an entirely new policy playbook," Mr. Naidu.

The Chief Minister observed that the state's TFR was well below the replacement level of 2.1, and if the trend continued, nearly 23% of the population would be elderly. If the falling TFR was not stopped, the State would have a shrinking workforce and it would cripple the economy, he observed.

The State set the goal to stabilise the TFR at 2.1 and nearly double the women's participation in labour

force to boost Gross State Domestic Product by 10%. Mr. Naidu said, as part of the efforts to increase the TFR, the government would give a "Poshana - Shiksha - Suraksha" package for the families having a third child, under which the incentive would be paid at the time of delivery and ₹1,000 monthly assistance for five years and free education in the child up to age 18.

Mr. Naidu said an economic zone, birth rates tend to decline, creating work-force shortages and long-term economic challenges. The draft policy document was being placed in the public domain for one month to facilitate deliberations, after which it would be given a final shape, he said.

**Author M.T.'s daughter files defamation suit against three persons**

**The Hindu Bureau  
 BANGALURU**

Aarathy V. Nair, daughter of late writer M.T. Vasudevan Nair, has filed a defamation case against authors Pooja Damodaran, Eshwari and publisher A.V. Sreenivasan.

Earlier, Mr. Aarathy and her stepmother Shara Girish had demanded the book, *Empty Space: Bushpeetha's Daughter Aarav V. Nair*, jointly written by Pooja Damodaran and Eshwari, and published by Sreekanth, be withdrawn, as it contained defamatory material about M.T.

Through the book the authors had alleged that M.T. had ill-treated his first wife the late Pramila Nair. Ms. Shara and Ms. Aarathy through a joint post on social media had written that the book did not conform to facts. They had said that the book, published 20 years after Pramila's death and a year after M.T.'s death, was part of a foul attempt to accuse her of infidelity and character assassination of their father and their families, and to create a controversy and help with book sales.

In the complaint, filed through advocate M.S. Raju, M. Aarathy said that through defamatory and insulting statements the authors and the publisher of the book caused immense damage to her family and they succeeded in their intention to a great extent.



Upgrading Infrastructure: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurating projects in Chennai on Thursday. (HINDU ARCHIVES)

**T.N. CM launches scheme for women entrepreneurs**

**The Hindu Bureau  
 CHENNAI**

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched the Tamil Nadu Women Entrepreneurship Scheme (TWES), designed by the MSME Department, which aims for one lakh women to take up entrepreneurship in five years.

During an event at the Secretariat on Wednesday, Mr. Stalin virtually inaugurated welfare centres for construction workers and elderly citizens, set up by the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department. He also laid the foundation stone for of three new ITIs to be constructed at a cost of ₹27 crore.

Mr. Stalin released the Tiruchirappalli Master Plan 2045 and the Thoothukudi Master Plan 2045. He also virtually inaugurated medical infrastructure in various locations across the State, built at a total cost of ₹167 crore. He also laid the foundation for the construction of warehouse units with a total capac-

ity of 60,000 MT, executed by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation at a total cost of ₹79 crore.

The Chief Minister inaugurated infrastructure set up for the Fisheries sector at locations across the State at a cost of ₹100 crore. He also laid the foundation for 13 new projects to be implemented at a total cost of ₹68 crore. He inaugurated three shooting floors in the Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Institute, established at a cost of ₹39 crore.

Mr. Stalin laid the foundation stone for a Marine Conservation Centre at Pichavaram in Ramanathapuram in Villupuram district under the Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy, and a Conservation Centre for the Nilgiri Tiger in Coimbatore. He also presented the District Animal Welfare, Wildlife Conservation Award to the son of late veterinarian Vaidyanathan Krishnasamy.

**Ayyappa meet: HC seeks report on lapses**

**The Hindu Bureau  
 CHENNAI**

The Kerala High Court has directed the auditing firm concerned to file a statement detailing the "anomalous deficiencies and lapses" noticed in the audited accounts of the Transocean Board (TBO), in consultation with the Global Ayyappa Foundation, in Mahabharata on September 29, 2019.

The firm was also directed to indicate procedural or financial safeguards that



the Bench noted a lack of transparency in the accounting framework of the TBO.

The Bench noted a lack of transparency in the accounting framework of the TBO. The firm was also directed to indicate procedural or financial safeguards that

had, and the manner in which appropriate disclosures had been released without an independent accounting framework's pricing. It also indicated a disturbing lack of financial prudence and internal financial control. There is serious slackness in recording the bills on which the expenditure was sanctioned, and the adequate approvals proper utilisation of the amounts involved. The court has posted the matter for hearing on April 1.

**IN BRIEF**



**Excessive explosive material caused Vetpalam blast: SP**

The owners of Surya Sri Fireworks (SRF) had stored a huge quantity of explosive materials, and had employed 30 workers at their firecracker manufacturing complex in Vetpalam village, Kakinada district in order to meet the supply deadline set for March 5. The blast, which occurred in the SRF complex on February 28, killed 27 people, of whom 10 workers, including the owners' father, were burnt alive. The survivors, eight have died while undergoing treatment at various hospitals since February 28, and two are still on ventilator support.

**SIT grills former MD of A.P. liquor body in scam case**

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the alleged multi-crore liquor scam grilled former A.P. State Beverages Corporation Limited Managing Director D. Vasudha Reddy, who was also the Commissioner of Excises and Beverages, on Thursday. Mr. Reddy was questioned on changing the liquor policy, cash sales and collusion with other accused persons in the case. The accused allegedly caused huge loss to the government. The police has so far identified 51 accused, of which 16 were arrested. The SIT officials said.

**HC refuses to entertain fresh plea on 'The Kerala Story 2'**

The Kerala High Court on Thursday refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea seeking removal of Kerala from the title of the film 'The Kerala Story 2'. The court said that the petition and an appeal regarding the matter were already pending before the court. A Division Bench had also passed an order putting the release, so the court could not override it. The court warned the petitioners against attempting to cut operations on the court, following which, they offered an unconditional apology.

**Erasing the past**



An earthmover at work to demolish pillars of old Railway bridge across Krishna River, near Vijayawada on Thursday. (HINDU ARCHIVES)

**ED files complaints in court against sea cucumber poaching**

**The Hindu Bureau  
 BANGALURU**

The Directorate of Enforcement (DE), Kochi Zonal Office, has filed prosecution complaints before the Special Court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) Cases, Kavaratti in Lakshadweep, against four persons in two separate cases relating to the alleged illegal hunting, possession, and attempted trade of protected sea cucumbers in 2016 and 2020.

The first case sees registered against T.P. Mukherjee, 51, of Agatti in Lakshadweep, under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for

illegal hunting, possession, and attempted trade of sea cucumbers, which are Schedule-I species accorded the highest level of protection, equivalent to flagship species such as tigers.

In the second case, three persons were booked in connection with the seizure of 210 sea cucumbers at the western lagoon of Subidi Chooriyakara Island on January 11, 2019.

Sea cucumbers are highly valued in international markets, as a delicacy and as an additional nutraceutical product. Their illegal trade is a serious concern in Lakshadweep, as the black-market prices

**Karnataka HC directs inclusion of 55 sq. km forest area to wildlife sanctuary**

**The Hindu Bureau  
 BANGALURU**

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to issue a further notification to include the left-out areas of the Kappatagadda reserve forest as part of the Kappatagadda Wildlife Sanctuary in Sadaq district, as per the resolution passed at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Karnataka State Wildlife Board (KSWB) on January 2019.

A Division Bench led by Chief Justice V.R. Ravi Kumar issued the direction after work on the 55 sq. km area was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in the May 16, 2019 notification, even though the

area was not included in the notification. The Bench also issued the direction to include the left-out areas of 55 sq. km in Kappatagadda Wildlife Sanctuary. (HINDU ARCHIVES)

as Stone Crushing Industries and other operators are allowed to operate in the area. The Bench also directed the government to issue a notification to add the left-out area of 55 sq. km to the sanctuary.

The Bench also issued the direction to include the left-out areas of 55 sq. km in Kappatagadda Wildlife Sanctuary. (HINDU ARCHIVES)

**Karnataka Speaker seeks probe into discarded Aadhaars**

**The Hindu Bureau  
 BANGALURU**

Karnataka Legislative Assembly speaker U.T. Khader has written to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to conduct a probe into the large number of Aadhaar cards discarded on the banks of Netravathi river at the outskirts of Mandya village, on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, in his letter to Project Manager UIDAI, K. Hanumanth Gowda, Bengaluru, Mr. Khader, as Karnataka's speaker, said that the presence of Aadhaar cards in the river, near Vijayawada on Thursday. (HINDU ARCHIVES)

the cards on Tuesday, and gathered them. "Later, they informed me," he said.

The speaker asked the UIDAI to conduct a probe into why such a large number of Aadhaar cards were strewn on the banks of the river, and trace the persons who were responsible. "Legal measures should be taken against the culprit," he said.

On Thursday, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada R. Raju told The Hindu that the Tahsildar conducted the spot inspection (disposal and inventory) on Wednesday.

Further investigation is on, he added.

**ED files complaints in court against sea cucumber poaching**

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# A.P. introduces incentives for families to have 3 children

The policy aims at raising TFR from 1.5 to 2.1; ₹25,000 to be given at time of delivery, and ₹1,000 monthly assistance for five years and free education till age 18; policy will come to effect on April 1

**The Hindu Bureau**

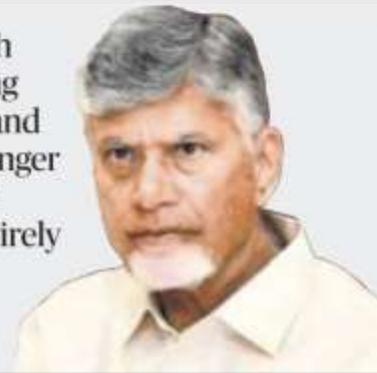
VIJAYAWADA

**A**ndhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu introduced the Draft Population Management Policy, whose objective is to raise the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 1.5 to an optimal level of 2.1, in the Assembly on Thursday, thereby reversing the declining fertility rate and prepare the State for an ageing society by 2047.

To encourage parents to have a third child, he proposed an incentive of ₹25,000, noting that inaction at this stage would cause problems like in Japan, Italy and South Korea with 1.2, 1.2 and 0.7 TFRs they were facing. The new

 Andhra Pradesh is now mirroring Tamil Nadu (TFR of 1.4) and Kerala (1.6). We are no longer a high fertility State. The situation requires an entirely new policy playbook

N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU  
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister



policy had been targeted to be implemented from April 1, 2026.

“Andhra Pradesh is now mirroring Tamil Nadu (TFR of 1.4) and Kerala (1.6). We are no longer a high fertility State. The situation requires an entirely new policy playbook,” Mr. Naidu.

The Chief Minister observed that the State’s TFR was well below the re-

placement level of 2.1, and if the trend continued, nearly 23% of the population would be elderly. If the falling TFR was not stopped, the State would have a shrinking workforce and it would cripple the economy, he observed.

The State set the goal to stabilise the TFR at 2.1 and nearly double women’s participation in labour

force to boost Gross State Domestic Product by 15%.

Mr. Naidu said, as part of the efforts to increase the TFR, the government would give a “Poshana - Shiksha - Suraksha” package for the families having a third child, under which the incentive would be paid at the time of delivery and ₹1,000 monthly assistance for five years and free education to the child up to age 18.

Mr. Naidu said as economies grow, birth rates tend to decline, creating workforce shortages and long-term economic challenges. The draft policy document was being placed in the public domain for one month to facilitate deliberations, after which it would be given a final shape, he said.

- The government of N. Chandrababu Naidu introduced a **Draft Population Management Policy** to increase fertility rates.
  - आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री N. Chandrababu Naidu ने जनसंख्या प्रबंधन की **ड्राफ्ट नीति** पेश की।
  - The aim is to increase the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** from 1.5 to 2.1, which is considered the **replacement level fertility**.
  - इसका उद्देश्य कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR) को 1.5 से बढ़ाकर 2.1 करना है, जिसे जनसंख्या स्थिरता का स्तर माना जाता है।
  - The policy is expected to come into effect from **1 April 2026**.
  - यह नीति **1 अप्रैल 2026** से लागू होने की संभावना है।
- 

## 2. Incentives Provided Under the Policy

### नीति के तहत दिए जाने वाले प्रोत्साहन

- Families having a **third child** will receive:
- तीसरे बच्चे वाले परिवारों को निम्न लाभ दिए जाएंगे:
  1. **₹25,000 financial assistance at the time of delivery**  
जन्म के समय ₹25,000 की सहायता
  2. **₹1,000 monthly assistance for five years**  
5 वर्षों तक प्रति माह ₹1,000 सहायता
  3. **Free education up to the age of 18 years**  
18 वर्ष तक निःशुल्क शिक्षा
- This package is called **Poshana-Shiksha-Suraksha scheme**.
- इस योजना को **पोषण-शिक्षा-सुरक्षा योजना** कहा गया है।

### 3. Why the Policy Was Introduced

#### यह नीति क्यों लाई गई

- The state is witnessing a **declining fertility rate**.
- राज्य में प्रजनन दर लगातार घट रही है।
- Andhra Pradesh fertility trends are similar to Tamil Nadu (TFR 1.4) and Kerala (TFR 1.6).
- आंध्र प्रदेश की स्थिति Tamil Nadu (TFR 1.4) और Kerala (TFR 1.6) जैसी हो रही है।
- If the fertility rate continues to fall:
- यदि प्रजनन दर घटती रही तो:
  - Workforce will decline
  - श्रमबल कम हो जाएगा
  - Elderly population will increase
  - वृद्ध जनसंख्या बढ़ेगी
  - Economic productivity may fall
  - आर्थिक उत्पादकता घट सकती है

## 4. Economic and Labour Impact

### आर्थिक और श्रम प्रभाव

- The government aims to **increase women's participation in the labour force**.
- सरकार का लक्ष्य महिलाओं की श्रम भागीदारी बढ़ाना है।
- Higher fertility combined with workforce participation could boost the **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by around 15%**.
- अधिक जन्म दर और श्रम भागीदारी से राज्य की अर्थव्यवस्था (GSDP) लगभग 15% तक बढ़ सकती है।

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## Extra Important Facts for Exams

### 5. Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

#### कुल प्रजनन दर

Concept	Explanation
Total Fertility Rate	Average number of children born to a woman during her lifetime
Replacement Level Fertility	About <b>2.1 children per woman</b> needed to maintain population
India TFR	Around <b>2.0 (NFHS-5)</b>
States with very low TFR	Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

## 6. Countries Facing Low Fertility Crisis

कम प्रजनन दर से जूझ रहे देश

Country	TFR
<u>Japan</u>	~1.2
<u>Italy</u>	~1.2
<u>South Korea</u>	~0.7

These countries face:

- ageing population
- shrinking workforce
- pension and economic pressure

इन देशों में समस्याएँ:

- वृद्ध जनसंख्या
  - श्रमबल की कमी
  - आर्थिक दबाव
-

## 7. Demographic Dividend

### जनसांख्यिकीय लाभ

- India is currently benefiting from a **demographic dividend**.
- भारत वर्तमान में जनसांख्यिकीय लाभ की स्थिति में है।
- Around **65% of the population is under 35 years of age**.
- भारत की लगभग **65% जनसंख्या 35 वर्ष से कम उम्र की है**।

## 8. Population Policies in India

### भारत की जनसंख्या नीतियाँ

Policy	Year	Key Objective
National Population Policy	2000	Stabilize population by 2045
Mission Parivar Vikas	2016	Reduce high fertility in some states
Andhra Pradesh Draft Policy	2026	Increase fertility rate

Exam	Date	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	May 2025	Replacement level fertility refers to which value of Total Fertility Rate?	About 2.1
SSC CGL	Sept 2025	Total Fertility Rate measures what?	Average number of children born to a woman
RBI Grade B	July 2025	India's demographic dividend refers to which factor?	Higher share of working-age population

Consider the following statements regarding fertility policies:

1. Replacement level fertility is approximately 2.1 children per woman.
2. Countries like Japan and South Korea are facing population ageing due to low fertility rates.
3. Andhra Pradesh's new policy discourages families from having more than two children.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

# With exit of 'forever CM' Nitish Kumar, an era ends in Bihar

NEWS ANALYSIS  
Nishita Debbar  
NEW DELHI

A comment circulating online encapsulates the political developments in Bihar perfectly — "It took a global war for a regime change in Bihar to effect one in Bihar."

Nitish Kumar, the State's longest-serving Chief Minister, is going to the Rajya Sabha, vacating the post for National Democratic Alliance ally Bharatya Janta Party (BJP), which finally gets to hold the top spot.

Nitish Kumar, the State's longest-serving Chief Minister, is going to the Rajya Sabha, vacating the post for National Democratic Alliance ally Bharatya Janta Party (BJP), which finally gets to hold the top spot.

The line between the Janta Dal (JD) and the BJP through the years — from the time when the JD(U) was Samata Party to now — has been full of twists and turns, with one constant factor: Nitish Kumar as the chief ministerial face, even if in non-NDA governments since 2008.

This constant nature of the alliance's face, since 2008 — when the Samata Party got fewer seats than the BJP, but now Mr. Kumar being projected as Chief Minister for a brief period of seven days in a short-lived claim — to 2020, when, again, the BJP won more seats than the JD(U), was a product of not only the political field of Bihar but also the image and persona of Mr. Kumar.

Strong base He managed to carve out a strong base from the larger Mandali umbrella of Extremely backward Classes, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, and women voters. It was a reinterpretation of social justice politics and the emergence of regional sub-nationalism of Bihar pride, of a renewal of the State after the "single raft" of the BJP years, that made him valuable to the BJP as well, which was considered a party of largely upper caste, Hindu communities.

The advent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, hailing from a backward community, may have mobilised some of that image for the BJP in Bihar, but as the party discovered in 2018, the caste arithmetic did not add up for it in the absence of Mr. Kumar.

That is perhaps why, in every Assembly poll since, even if the JD(U) won fewer seats than the BJP, Mr. Kumar would be the chief ministerial face. Even in 2020,

# 'Kalyan Singh told an utter lie on Babri Masjid'

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister had said in court that he would see to it that no demolition would take place and that the police would stop the kar sevaks, says former Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal but no such efforts were made as Singh was prepared to mislead the court, he adds

INTERVIEW

K.K. Venugopal  
Kishanadas Balagopal

In a conversation with The Hindu, Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal says that Kalyan Singh was a "utter liar" that triggered the anti-dikh riots in the 1990s, his sense of betrayal when he realised that the then Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh had told him an "utter lie" that the Babri Masjid would not be demolished in the 1990s, and the government's duty today to ensure that there is no discrimination or persecution of any religion or caste. Edited excerpts

When did you decide to name your book 'The Accidental Lawyer'?

The question of my entering the legal profession by accident took place when I originally abandoned D.Sc.

Physics and decided that I will start entering the legal profession. That is how I called myself an accidental lawyer from the very beginning.

As a lawyer, you have represented several Chief Ministers, states, and top politicians. Is it more demanding to appear for them?

For me, it made no difference whether a person was a Chief Minister or any other client. They had to come to me. I would never go and see a Chief Minister. There is a heavy reading chapter in your book about the horrors of the Delhi riots, which you also witnessed. What was the trigger for these horrors?

So far as these Sikh riots were concerned, that was a corollary from the political masters.

You have said objectively reduced in recent years?

It depends on the government. I suppose the duty of the government to ensure that in a secular state like India, there is no discrimination or persecution of any religion or caste and another.

They have to ensure that there is no discrimination or persecution. And if that is not done, we cannot

hold our heads high. In the chapter 'Reaping the Whirlwind' on the Babri Masjid demolition, you write of selling justice to the hawks and other judges. I thought if the bricks were put back the very same night, there would be no hue and cry. But the Attorney General (M.D.K. Handoo) said I was trying to do something very, very funny.

I suppose the real reason was Congress thought they would lose a vote bank. Kalyan Singh told an utter lie.

Did you feel a sense of betrayal when Kalyan Singh told you that what he told you and made you assure the

lawyer in the Supreme Court?

Not only that, he filed an affidavit which I handed over to the court. M.D.K. Handoo, the Attorney-General handed over an intelligence report, which said that the kar sevaks had been trained over a long period of time. They were ready to come and demolish.

The demolition will take place. But Justice Venkatachaliah had to accept Kalyan Singh's word that it would not be done. And this is the result. Kalyan Singh was prepared to mislead the court and me.

The Supreme Court has said in recent judgments that we should move towards a casteless society. Do you agree?

I agree fully. What is wrong with this country is casteism. But that you can take it from me. I cannot foresee a period when caste will disappear.

# Hariyansh's term ending, no clarity on a successor

As the senior JD(U) leader, retiring on April 9, has not been renominated by his party, speculation has begun on who will succeed him, and whether the government will be filling the position at all

NEWS ANALYSIS  
Nishita K. Das  
NEW DELHI

With the term of the Rajya Sabha Chairman and former Union Minister Hariyansh Narayan Singh ending on April 9, speculation has begun on who will replace him.

Three scenarios are being discussed here. One is to replace him with a senior leader of Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) may keep the seat for itself. Two, the seat may again go to the JD(U), or to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) or All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). The AIADMK floor leader M. Thambiah was the previous Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha. Three, as much as in the Lok Sabha, the government may choose not to hold an elec-

tion for the Deputy Chairman's post, allowing a Panel of Chairpersons to assist Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan. Since June 2019, the post of Deputy Speaker has remained vacant in the Lok Sabha. The BJP has only two members in the Upper House. The party was not keen on the Deputy Speaker's post in the Lok Sabha and there has been no significant change in its stance.

The JD(U) has four members in the Upper House and could easily make the cut, though it is not yet clear whether the government would want to continue with the arrangement. Though Mr. Thambiah has a slim chance, considering that Rajya Sabha Chairman J.P. Radhakrishnan is also from Tamil Nadu, the top two positions of the Upper House cannot be filled by persons belonging to the same State.

Likely scenario Many agree that the third scenario — of the government choosing not to hold an election for the Deputy Chairman's post — is far more likely.

While the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is comfortably placed in the Upper House, its strength — exceeding 420 members — is in its favour, but they could help narrow the margin.

The Opposition could also choose to project a moral defeat for the government, especially at a time when the Rajya Sabha (RS) is, for the first time ever, working while the Congress, on Thursday, prolongs debates over how to fill his nomination papers in Bihar.

The BJP has seven members in the Upper House. The party has far maintained equilibrium from both the government and the Opposition, although it has more often than not leaned towards the government.

# Congress releases list of Rajya Sabha candidates

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Thursday released the list of party candidates approved for the upcoming 2020 biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha.

According to a statement by the party, Congress president Mallikarjun Charag has approved the candidature of Phulo Devi Narayan (Chhattisgarh), Kamraj Singh Bhoori (Gujarat), Anurag Sharma (Himachal Pradesh), Christopher Thak (Chhattisgarh), and Ashish Kumar Singh (Chhattisgarh) to contest the election.

Mr. Singh has been renominated as the party's Rajya Sabha candidate from Telangana, along with Narendra Reddy.

# Mascots Pragati, Vikas to serve as the friendly faces of Census 2027

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday unveiled two mascots, Pragati and Vikas, for the upcoming Population Census 2027. Mr. Shah also announced four digital tools to be used during the exercise. This will be the first Census that will be digital and the first to allow self-enumeration and construction of caste.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) developed the advanced digital platforms to facilitate enumeration operations across the country. Census 2027 is to be conducted in two phases — Household Operations (H/O), and Personal Enumeration. The mascots Pragati (female enumerator) and Vikas (male enumerator)



have been unveiled to serve as friendly faces of the Census 2027, a statement by the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

The four digital platforms first launched by Mr. Shah are: Householding H/O Creator (H/O-C) web application, H/O mobile app, self-enumeration (SE) portal, and Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMMS) web application.

H/O-C is a centralised web-based digital platform designed to plan, manage, execute, and monitor all Census-related activities across the country. The H/O-C app is a secure, offline mobile application for enumerators to collect and upload householding data. Only enumerators registered on the CMMMS portal can access the application. The SE portal is a secure web-based facility that allows eligible respondents within a household to submit their household information online, prior to field operations. Upon successful submission, a unique Self-Enumeration ID (SE-ID) is generated. This SE-ID can be shared with the enumerator, from all over which the enumerator will be able to verify the information.

Census Team of India  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Thursday met the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, in Thimphu and offered comprehensive support for technical assistance and development of best practices in the digitisation and digitalisation of judicial processes in the Himalayan region.

A press statement issued by the Supreme Court said that Justice Kant received an audience with the King. Justice Kant offered extensive and comprehensive support for technical assistance and development of best practices in the digitisation and digitalisation of judicial processes in Bhutan. "They discussed the deep and long lasting relationship shared by the two countries in the area of cooperation in taking the cooperation forward in the

# BJP earned ₹6,769.14 cr. in 2024-25, Cong. earned ₹918.28 cr.

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The BJP declared an income of ₹6,769.14 crore in the financial year 2024-25, the highest among national parties, while the Congress, which has come to power, declared an income of ₹918.28 crore, according to a report by the Association of Democratic Reformers.

The report analysed the declaration made by the six national parties — BJP, Congress, Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and National People's Party (NPP) — in their annual audit reports submitted to the Election Commission (EC).

The six parties together declared an income of ₹7,987.49 crore in 2024-25, collected from all over India.

The BJP alone garnered 85.63% of the total income. It spent 28.79% of its income — (₹2,74.58 crore) while the Congress spent around ₹1,111.94 crore

The BJP alone garnered 85.63% of the total income and spent 28.79% of its income.

which is 21.09% (₹93.66 crore) more than its income. The BJP reported an income of ₹12.66 crore, while it spent ₹12.96 crore.

The BSP declared an income of ₹86.58 crore, while its expenditure was ₹87.30 crore.

The AAP reported an income of ₹39.28 crore, while it spent ₹36.46 crore. Between 2023-24 and 2024-25, the BJP's earnings rose by 55.95% (₹2,428.67 crore), while the Congress saw its income decline by 23.08% (₹306.83 crore).

The income of the AAP witnessed a significant growth of 73.20% (₹16.60 crore), 85.63% of the total income. It spent 28.79% of its income — (₹2,74.58 crore) while the Congress spent around ₹1,111.94 crore

# CJI meets Bhutan king; offers digitalisation support

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Thursday met the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, in Thimphu and offered comprehensive support for technical assistance and development of best practices in the digitisation and digitalisation of judicial processes in the Himalayan region.

A press statement issued by the Supreme Court said that Justice Kant received an audience with the King. Justice Kant offered extensive and comprehensive support for technical assistance and development of best practices in the digitisation and digitalisation of judicial processes in Bhutan. "They discussed the deep and long lasting relationship shared by the two countries in the area of cooperation in taking the cooperation forward in the



emergent proliferation of cyber-crimes and how to deal with them. Justice Kant offered extensive and comprehensive support for technical assistance and development of best practices in the digitisation and digitalisation of judicial processes in Bhutan. "It added that both leaders also deliberated on the

# 'Kalyan Singh told an utter lie on Babri Masjid'

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister had said in court that he would see to it that no demolition would take place and that the police would stop the *kar sevaks*, says former Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal; but no such efforts were made as Singh was prepared to mislead the court, he adds

## INTERVIEW

### ***K.K. Venugopal***

#### **Krishnadas Rajagopal**

In a conversation with *The Hindu*, former Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal discusses the "command from political masters" that triggered the anti-Sikh riots in the 1980s, his sense of betrayal when he realised that the then Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh had told him an "utter lie" that the Babri Masjid would not be demolished in the 1990s, and the government's duty today to ensure that there is no discrimination or persecution of any religion or caste. Edited excerpts:

#### **When did you decide to name your book *The Accidental Lawyer*?**

The question of my entering the legal profession by accident took place when I originally abandoned B.Sc.

Physics and decided that I will start entering the legal profession. That is how I called myself an accidental lawyer from the very beginning.

#### **As a lawyer, you have represented several Chief Ministers, States, and top politicians. Is it more demanding to appear for them?**

For me, it made no difference whether a person was a Chief Minister or any other client. They had to come to me. I would never go and see a Chief Minister.

#### **There is a heart-rending chapter in your book about the horrors of the Delhi riots, which you also witnessed. What was the trigger for these riots?**

So far as these Sikh riots were concerned, that was a command from the political masters.

#### **You have said objectivity is a plus for**



R.V. MOORTHY

#### **lawyers. We now see lawyers coming to court with cases with communal overtones. Has objectivity reduced in recent years?**

It depends on the government.

It is the duty of the government to ensure that in a secular state like India, there is no difference between one religious community and another, or between one caste and another.

They have to ensure that there is no discrimination or persecution. And if that is not done, we cannot

hold our heads high.

**In the chapter 'Reaping the Whirlwind' on the Babri Masjid demolition, you write of telling Justice Venkatachaliah and other judges, 'I hang my head in shame. As swiftly as this demolition has taken place, let the Union of India, the Central government, put the bricks back so that the next day the Masjid would stand whole and untouched.' You were Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh's**

#### **lawyer in the Supreme Court.**

I thought they were the right words to say. Why? Because Kalyan Singh had said that he would see to it that no demolition would take place. That there was a bridge, and the police would stop them at this bridge if they tried to enter. But no efforts were made to stop [the *kar sevaks*] from entering. They came and they demolished... I thought if the bricks were put back the very same night, there would be no hue and cry. But the Attorney General [Milon K. Banerjee] said I was trying to do something 'very, very funny'.

I suppose the real reason was Congress thought they would lose a vote bank if the bricks were put back... Kalyan Singh told an utter lie.

**Did you feel a sense of betrayal? That Kalyan Singh knew more than what he told you and made you assure the**

#### **court that this would not happen?**

Not only that, he filed an affidavit which I handed over [to the court]. Milon [Banerjee, the Attorney-General] handed over an intelligence report, which said that the *kar sevaks* had been trained over a long period of time. They were ready to come and demolish.

The demolition will take place. But Justice Venkatachaliah had to accept Kalyan Singh's word that it would not be done. And this is the result. Kalyan Singh was prepared to mislead the court and me.

#### **The Supreme Court has said in recent judgments that we should move towards a casteless society. Do you agree?**

I agree fully. What is wrong with this country is caste. Everything... But then you can take it from me. I cannot foresee a period when caste will disappear.

# BJP earned ₹6,769.14 cr. in 2024-25, Cong. earned ₹918.28 cr.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The BJP declared an income of ₹6,769.14 crore in the financial year 2024-25, the highest among national parties, while the Congress took the second spot with an income of ₹918.28 crore, according to a report by the Association of Democratic Reforms.

The report analysed the declarations made by the six national parties – BJP, Congress, Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)], Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and National People's Party (NPP) – in their annual audit reports submitted to the Election Commission (EC).

The six parties together declared an income of ₹7,960.09 crore in 2024-25, collected from all over India.

The BJP alone garnered 85.03% of the total income. It spent 55.76% of its income (₹3,774.58 crore) while the Congress spent around ₹1,111.94 crore

**The BJP alone garnered 85.03% of the total income and spent 55.76% of its income**

which is 21.09% (₹193.66 crore) more than its income.

The CPI(M) reported an income of ₹172.60 crore, while it spent ₹173.86 crore.

The BSP declared an income of ₹58.58 crore, while its expenditure was ₹106.30 crore.

The AAP reported an income of ₹39.28 crore, while it spent ₹36.46 crore.

Between 2023-24 and 2024-25, the BJP's earnings rose by 55.95% (₹2,428.67 crore), while the Congress saw its income decline by 25.05% (₹306.83 crore). The income of the AAP witnessed a significant growth of 73.20% (₹16.60 crore), while the CPI(M) registered a marginal rise of 2.96% (₹4.96 crore). The BSP's income decreased by 9.56% (₹6.19 crore).

## 1. Overall Income of National Parties

### राष्ट्रीय दलों की कुल आय

- Six national political parties declared their income in their **annual audit reports submitted to the Election Commission of India.**
- छह राष्ट्रीय राजनीतिक दलों ने अपनी आय **Election Commission of India** को प्रस्तुत वार्षिक ऑडिट रिपोर्ट में घोषित की।
- The analysis was done by **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).**
- इन आंकड़ों का विश्लेषण **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** ने किया।
- Total income of six national parties in **FY 2024–25:**
- वित्त वर्ष **2024–25** में छह राष्ट्रीय दलों की कुल आय:

**₹7,960.09 crore**

## 2. Party-wise Income (2024–25)

### दलवार आय (2024–25)

Political Party	Income (₹ crore)	हिंदी
<u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u>	₹6,769.14 cr	भारतीय जनता पार्टी
<u>Indian National Congress</u>	₹918.28 cr	भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस
<u>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</u>	₹172.60 cr	मार्क्सवादी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी
<u>Bahujan Samaj Party</u>	₹58.58 cr	बहुजन समाज पार्टी
<u>Aam Aadmi Party</u>	₹39.28 cr	आम आदमी पार्टी
<u>National People's Party</u>	Data smaller share	नेशनल पीपल्स पार्टी

## 3. BJP's Dominance in Party Income

### राजनीतिक दलों की आय में भाजपा का प्रभुत्व

- Bharatiya Janata Party alone earned 85.03% of total income of national parties.
- भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने कुल राष्ट्रीय दलों की आय का 85.03% अर्जित किया।

- BJP income: ₹6,769.14 crore
- भाजपा की आय: ₹6,769.14 करोड़

- Expenditure by BJP:
- भाजपा का खर्च:

₹3,774.58 crore (55.76% of income)



## 5. Income and Expenditure of Other Parties

### अन्य दलों की आय और व्यय

Party	Income	Expenditure	हिंदी
CPI(M)	₹172.60 cr	₹173.86 cr	सीपीआई (एम)
BSP	₹58.58 cr	₹106.30 cr	बसपा
AAP	₹39.28 cr	₹36.46 cr	आम आदमी पार्टी

## 6. Growth and Decline Trends (2023–24 to 2024–25)

### आय में वृद्धि या गिरावट (2023–24 से 2024–25)

Party	Change	हिंदी
BJP	+55.95% increase	55.95% वृद्धि
Congress	-25.05% decline	25.05% गिरावट
AAP	+73.20% increase	73.20% वृद्धि
CPI(M)	+2.96% increase	2.96% वृद्धि
BSP	-9.56% decline	9.56% गिरावट

## 7. Sources of Income of Political Parties

### राजनीतिक दलों की आय के स्रोत

Source	Explanation	हिंदी
Donations	Contributions from individuals & companies	दान
Electoral Bonds	Anonymous funding scheme	इलेक्टोरल बॉन्ड
Membership fees	Party membership charges	सदस्यता शुल्क
Sale of coupons	Fundraising coupons	कूपन बिक्री
Interest income	From deposits and investments	ब्याज आय

## 8. Electoral Bonds Scheme

### इलेक्टोरल बॉन्ड योजना

Feature	Explanation
Introduced	2018
Issued by	<u>State Bank of India</u>
Purpose	Transparent political funding
Supreme Court decision	Struck down in <b>2024</b>

## 9. National Parties in India

### भारत के राष्ट्रीय दल

Recognized by Election Commission of India

Party	Founded	हिंदी
Bharatiya Janata Party	1980	भारतीय जनता पार्टी
Indian National Congress	1885	भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस
CPI(M)	1964	माक्सवादी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी
Bahujan Samaj Party	1984	बहुजन समाज पार्टी
Aam Aadmi Party	2012	आम आदमी पार्टी
National People's Party	2013	नेशनल पीपल्स पार्टी

Exam	Date	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	May 2025	Electoral Bonds in India were issued by which institution?	State Bank of India
SSC CGL	Sept 2025	Which body regulates political parties in India?	Election Commission of India
Banking Awareness	July 2025	Electoral Bonds scheme was introduced in which year?	2018

## Question

Consider the following statements regarding political party funding in India:

1. The Election Commission of India receives annual audit reports of political parties.
2. Electoral Bonds were introduced in 2018 for political funding.
3. The Bharatiya Janata Party accounted for more than 80% of the total income of national parties in FY 2024–25.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

# Mascots Pragati, Vikas to serve as the friendly faces of Census 2027

**Vijaita Singh**

NEW DELHI

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday unveiled two mascots, Pragati and Vikas, for the upcoming Population Census 2027. Mr. Shah also soft-launched four digital tools to be used during the exercise. This will be the first Census that will be digital, and the first to allow self-enumeration and enumeration of caste.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) developed the advanced digital platforms to facilitate enumeration operations across the country. Census 2027 is to be conducted in two phases – Houselisting Operations (HLO), and Population Enumeration.

The mascots Pragati (female enumerator) and Vikas (male enumerator)



Amit Shah launches digital tools and the mascots Pragati and Vikas for Census 2027, in New Delhi. @PIB\_INDIA

have been unveiled to serve as friendly faces of the Census 2027, a statement by the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

The four digital platforms soft launched by Mr. Shah are – Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) web application, HLO mobile app, Self-Enumeration (SE) portal, and Census Management and Monitoring

System (CMMS) portal.

HLBC is web-map application that enables Charge Officers to digitally create houselisting blocks using satellite imagery, ensuring standardised geographic coverage across the country. The HLO app is a secure, offline mobile application for enumerators to collect and upload houselisting data. Only enumera-

tors registered on the CMMS portal can access the application. The SE portal is a secure web-based facility that allows eligible respondents within a household to submit their household information online, prior to field operations. Upon successful submission, a unique Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID) is generated. This SE ID can be shared with the enumerator, on the basis of which the enumerator will be able to verify the information.

The CMMS is a centralised, web-based digital platform designed to plan, manage, execute, and monitor all Census-related activities across administrative levels.

The Population Census 2027 data will be collected using secure mobile applications by going door-to-door.

## 1. Launch of Mascots

### शुभंकरों का लॉन्च

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** unveiled the mascots **Pragati and Vikas** for **Census 2027**.
  - केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **Amit Shah** ने **Census 2027** के लिए शुभंकर **प्रगति और विकास** लॉन्च किए।
  - These mascots will act as **friendly representatives of the census exercise**.
  - ये शुभंकर जनगणना प्रक्रिया के जनसंपर्क चेहरे के रूप में काम करेंगे।
  - Pragati represents a **female enumerator**, while Vikas represents a **male enumerator**.
  - प्रगति महिला गणनाकर्मी और विकास पुरुष गणनाकर्मी का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।
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## 2. Census 2027 – Key Features

### जनगणना 2027 की मुख्य विशेषताएँ

- Census 2027 will be **India's first fully digital census**.
  - जनगणना 2027 भारत की पहली पूर्णतः डिजिटल जनगणना होगी।
  - It will also allow **self-enumeration by citizens**.
  - इसमें नागरिकों को स्वयं डेटा दर्ज करने (**Self-Enumeration**) की सुविधा होगी।
  - It will include **caste enumeration**, which has major policy implications.
  - इसमें जाति आधारित गणना भी शामिल होगी।
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### 3. Phases of Census 2027

#### जनगणना 2027 के चरण

The census will be conducted in **two phases**:

##### Phase 1: Houselisting Operations (HLO)

- Collects data on housing conditions and amenities.
- घरों की स्थिति और सुविधाओं की जानकारी एकत्र की जाती है।

##### Phase 2: Population Enumeration

- Collects demographic details of individuals.
- व्यक्तियों की जनसांख्यिकीय जानकारी एकत्र की जाती है।

### 4. Digital Tools Introduced for Census

#### जनगणना के लिए लॉन्च किए गए डिजिटल उपकरण

The government launched **four digital platforms**.

Platform	Purpose	हिंदी
Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC)	Creates digital census blocks using satellite imagery	डिजिटल जनगणना ब्लॉक बनाना
HLO Mobile App	Data collection by enumerators	गणनाकर्मी द्वारा डेटा संग्रह
Self-Enumeration Portal	Citizens submit data themselves	नागरिक स्वयं डेटा भर सकते हैं
Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS)	Centralised census monitoring	जनगणना प्रबंधन प्रणाली

## 5. Self-Enumeration System

### स्व-गणना प्रणाली

- Citizens can fill their data through the **Self-Enumeration portal**.
  - नागरिक **Self-Enumeration पोर्टल** पर स्वयं जानकारी भर सकते हैं।
  - After submission, a **Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID)** will be generated.
  - जानकारी जमा करने के बाद **Self-Enumeration ID** जारी होगी।
  - This ID will help the enumerator verify the information.
  - यह ID गणनाकर्मी को जानकारी सत्यापित करने में मदद करेगी।
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## 6. Role of Technology in Census

### जनगणना में तकनीक की भूमिका

- Digital platforms for Census were developed by **C-DAC**.
- जनगणना के डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म **C-DAC** ने विकसित किए।
- Satellite imagery will help create **accurate geographic blocks**.
- सैटेलाइट इमेजरी से सटीक भौगोलिक ब्लॉक बनाए जाएंगे।
- Mobile applications will enable **real-time data collection and monitoring**.
- मोबाइल ऐप से रियल टाइम डेटा संग्रह और निगरानी संभव होगी।

- **7. Importance of Census for Governance**
- **शासन के लिए जनगणना का महत्व**
- Census data is used for:
  - • Policy planning
  - नीति निर्माण
  - • Welfare schemes targeting
  - कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का लक्ष्य निर्धारण
  - • Resource allocation
  - संसाधन वितरण
  - • Electoral delimitation
  - निर्वाचन क्षेत्र निर्धारण

## 8. Census in India – Historical Facts

### भारत में जनगणना का इतिहास

Fact	Details	हिंदी
First Census in India	1872 (non-synchronous)	पहली जनगणना 1872
First synchronous census	1881	पहली समकालिक जनगणना
Census conducted every	10 years	हर 10 वर्ष
Last completed census	2011	अंतिम पूर्ण जनगणना 2011
Next census	2027	अगली जनगणना

## 9. Constitutional and Legal Basis

### संवैधानिक व कानूनी आधार

Law	Year	हिंदी
Census Act	1948	जनगणना अधिनियम 1948
Conducted by	Registrar General & Census Commissioner	भारत के रजिस्ट्रार जनरल

Exam	Date	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	May 2025	Census in India is conducted under which Act?	Census Act 1948
SSC CGL	Sept 2025	How frequently is Census conducted in India?	Every 10 years
CDS Exam	April 2025	Who conducts the Census in India?	Registrar General of India

Consider the following statements regarding Census in India:

1. Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital census.
2. Census in India is conducted every 10 years.
3. The Census Act was enacted in 1950.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

# India condoles Khamenei death as Miski visits Embassy of Iran

The Supreme Leader was killed in U.S.-Israel strikes, Jaishankar dials Iranian counterpart Araghchi, Iranian interlocutor says Tehran is facing an 'existential war' and that access to the Strait of Hormuz for energy buyers remains uncertain

Rakul Khanna  
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday condoned the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated in the opening salvo of the U.S. Israel war on Iran on February 20.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Miski signed the book of condolence that was opened at the Embassy of Iran here, an External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a round of telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Ayatollah Abbas Araghchi.

The outreach from India coincided with remarks from a senior Iranian interlocutor who announced here that Iran is facing an "existential war" and that access to the Strait of Hormuz for energy buyers remains uncertain in the current circumstances.

"Foreign Secretary Vikram Miski visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and signed the condolence book, on behalf of the people and the Government of India, on the demise of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei," said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal.

India had so far remained silent following the



offering condolences. Foreign Secretary Vikram Miski, on behalf of the Government of India, signed the condolence book at the Embassy of Iran in New Delhi on Thursday.

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but now that they started the war we are left with no other strategy apart from retreating. We have to resist and that is our only strategy," said the senior Iranian official.

Explaining Iran's position on the situation at the Strait of Hormuz, he pointed to the insurance companies over backing out of extending insurance to cargo vessels and said, "It is not just Iran's Army that has closed the Strait of Hormuz." He said there was a moral and ethical requirement on every stakeholder to counter the killing and telecommunications.

"The visit by Mr. Miski, who was here as chief guest for the Raisina Dialogue organised by the External Affairs Ministry, came on the heels of the finalisation of the EU-Iran Trade Agreement, and the doubling current bilateral trade levels of \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion as a result of the FTA."

India and Finland both believe in the rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy," said Mr. Modi during a ceremony to exchange agreements on international politics was unpredictable, where "might is right" and might have once again become a "foreign policy tool" of choice, criticising

# Conflicts can't be resolved solely by military action: PM on West Asia, Ukraine

Suhel Haidar  
NEW DELHI

India and Finland will support every effort aimed at the early end of conflict and the restoration of peace," he added.

Ministry Secretary (West Asia) discussed developments in West Asia. While the joint statement referred to the need to establish a "comprehensive, just, and lasting peace" in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy, based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, it did not refer to the situation in the Gulf, Iran or Israel.

Delivering the inaugural keynote address at the Raisina Dialogue, Mr. Modi said that international politics was unpredictable, where "might is right" and might have once again become a "foreign policy tool" of choice, criticising

Russia for the invasion of Ukraine. Without naming the U.S. and Iran, he said there was a "rapid escalation" between countries who were "pursuing for diplomatic solutions".

Mr. Modi said that since 1947, India has based foreign policy on a "pragmatic and realistic worldview". "You've (India) had shown the rest of the world what strategic caution and safeguarding autonomy means, all the while championing multilateralism and global cooperation... it is time that we all become a little bit more India," he said, adding that non-alignment and multi-alignment had made India more independent from "one partner or bloc". The two sides exchanged agreements on cooperation in renewable energies, including solar energy, green hydrogen, as well as wind, solar and small hydro power.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, in New Delhi on Thursday. (AP/HUMAYUN FARUK/ANSA)

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## Cong. slams PM's silence on sinking of Iranian warship

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on the Narendra Modi government for its "silence" over the sinking of the Iranian warship by a U.S. submarine, the Congress on Thursday said that "no Indian government has been so hood of fearful".

Congress president Mallikarjuna Kharge accused the Union government of "electroting" India's foreign policy which has been carefully and painstakingly built and followed by successive governments over the years.

"Modi Govt's reckless allegation of India's strategic & national interests is there for all to see," Mr. Kharge said in an X post.

The Congress chief said the Iranian vessel was unarmed and a guest of India that was returning home after participating in the recent multilateral naval exercise - MILAN - held in Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 25, when it was torpedoed. "No statement of concern or condolence, PM Modi remains mute," he said. Questioning the government's claim that India is a "net security provider" in the Indian Ocean Region, Mr. Kharge asked the Centre how could it locate the vessel when it had not responded to developments occurring "in its own backyard". He raised concerns over the safety of Indian seafarers and commercial vessels in the region.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi criticised the Prime Minister for not responding to the situation. In an X post, he said the world had entered a "volatile phase", and warned that India's energy security could be at risk.

## Navy began search, rescue operations after receiving Iranian ship's distress call

Saurabh Trivedi  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy launched search-and-rescue operations after a distress call from the Iranian vessel JMS Denav was received by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Colombo early on Wednesday.

The Indian Navy said the ship was operating about 20 nautical miles west of Galle in the Gulf region under a distress call from the Iranian vessel JMS Denav was received by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Colombo early on Wednesday.

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## Conflict grounds IndiGo aircraft loaned from a Norwegian carrier

Jaachit Chandra  
NEW DELHI

IndiGo's entire fleet of widebody aircraft, comprising six Boeing 787s that flew to several international destinations, including London, Manchester and Amsterdam, were grounded from the start of the Iran-Israel conflict on Tuesday, as the aircraft the Indian airline has loaned from the Norwegian carrier Norse cannot fly over West Asian countries due to European advisory, sources said.

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## Sinking of ship brings war to region: Sri Lanka, Maldives leaders

Suhel Haidar  
NEW DELHI

The sinking of an Iranian ship by the U.S. in the Indian Ocean raises concern for the smaller countries in the region, leaders from Sri Lanka and the Maldives, who have gathered for the Raisina Dialogue, said on Thursday. They called for closer communication on the issue with India as a "net security provider" in the region.

Indian diplomats also described the torpedo attack on the Iranian vessel JMS Denav as a "net security provider" in the region.

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## Modi speaks to Macron on conflict in West Asia

Rakul Khanna  
NEW DELHI

The attack by the U.S. submarine was premeditated as the U.S. was aware of the Iranian ship's presence in the exercise to which the U.S. Navy was invited but withdrew from participation at the last minute, presumably with intentions in mind. The U.S. has ignored India's sensitivities as the ship was in these waters because of India's invitation," he said on X, adding that India had a "moral and human responsibility" to provide the loss of lives of its guests.

The conflict overshadowed the opening day of the Raisina Dialogue, with about 1,000 of the 1,600 international delegates cancelling their plans to attend the dialogue, including flight cancellations.

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# India condoles Khamenei death as Misri visits Embassy of Iran

The Supreme Leader was killed in U.S.-Israel strikes; Jaishankar dials Iranian counterpart Araghchi; Iranian interlocutor says Tehran is facing an 'existential war' and that access to the Strait of Hormuz for energy buyers remains uncertain

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday condoned the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated in the opening salvo of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran on February 28.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri signed the book of condolence that was opened at the Embassy of Iran here, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a round of telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

The outreach from India coincided with remarks from a senior Iranian interlocutor who announced here that Iran is facing an "existential war" and that access to the Strait of Hormuz for energy buyers remains uncertain in the current circumstances.

"Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and signed the condolence book, on behalf of the people and the Government of India, on the demise of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei," said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

India had so far remained silent following the



**Offering commiserations:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, on behalf of the Government of India, signed the condolence book at the Embassy of Iran in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

assassination of Khamenei.

The conversations between Indian and Iranian officials coincided with senior Iranian officials expressing disappointment over India's unwillingness to condemn the assassination of Khamenei as officials in the External Affairs Ministry expressed disappointment over Iran targeting oil tankers, which left at least three Indian sailors dead. The overall state of current India-Iran relations came up during the Jaishankar-Araghchi telephone conversation, with sources indicating that India is urging for an "early cessation of hostilities" and conveying to all sides that safety of Indian citizens in the West

Asian states and on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz is of utmost interest.

## Iranian strikes

A senior Iranian diplomatic source, however, argued that Tehran's retaliation to the U.S.-Israeli attacks was "precise and deliberate" and was aimed at the military and intelligence assets of its adversaries. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the source said, was part of Iran's strategy to deal with the "existential threat" posed by the U.S.-Israel coalition. He said that Iran's relation with India had been "consistent" and that Iran expected that "third party"

like Israel or the U.S. would never be able to influence that relation. He expressed disappointment that third parties are at present a reality in India-Iran relations.

"All our actions are based on what we had told our neighbours before the beginning of the war. We had told them that this is what we would have to do if your airbases and assets are used to attack us," said the official pointing to the attacks on U.S. military bases in the West Asian states and the choking of the Strait of Hormuz. "We stop attacks as soon as they stop. We were pragmatic and that is why we went for negotiation with the U.S.

but now that they started the war we are left with no other strategy apart from resisting. We have to resist and that is our only strategy," said the senior Iranian official.

Explaining Iran's position on the situation at the Strait of Hormuz, he pointed to the insurance companies that are backing out of extending insurance to cargo vessels and said, "It is not just Iran's Army that has closed the Strait of Hormuz." He said there was a moral and ethical requirement on every stakeholder to condemn the killing of Khamenei, saying, "We call upon everyone, including India, to condemn the killing of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. That they can decapitate or assassinate the head of another state at will is a breach of law and this breach of law is going to haunt everyone."

Trying to balance the interest of the West Asian states that host more than a crore Indian expatriate workers and Iran, which controls the Strait of Hormuz, India has maintained a cautious approach in the conflict. Against this backdrop, India has reached out to multiple suppliers to ensure that the energy shockwave of the conflict is absorbed without disrupting the Indian economy.

19 INDIAN BANKING BRANDS REPRESENT \$47.8 BN IN TOTAL BRAND VALUE

# SBI strongest Indian bank: Report

● **HDFC Bank**  
most valuable  
banking brand

**CHRISTINA MONIZ**  
Mumbai, March 5

**STATE BANK OF India (SBI)** has been ranked the 16th strongest bank globally and the only Indian name with AAA+ rating, the highest accolade for brand strength, according to the 2026 Banking 500 journal released by brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance on Thursday.

The report also names HDFC Bank as the most valuable Indian banking brand, although it dropped seven places to 31 from its 2025 ranking in the global rankings.

SBI's brand value rose by 2% y-o-y to reach \$8.1 billion as the bank claimed the 56th spot (down from 49 last year) among the most valuable global brands. HDFC Bank's brand value saw a decline of 7% to reach \$12.4 billion this year, but it climbed four places

## GAINING GROUND GLOBALLY

Top 10 Indian banks in Brand Finance Banking 500 2026

	Rank in 2026	Rank in 2025
HDFC Bank	31	24
SBI	56	49
ICICI Bank	76	82
Axis Bank	96	98
Bank of Baroda	133	139
Union Bank of India	151	160
Punjab National Bank	153	177
Kotak Mahindra Bank	160	140
Indian Bank	194	222
Bank of India (ranked as per brand value)	209	238

from 2025 to reach the 28th rank for brand strength globally. ICICI Bank's brand value climbed by 19% to \$5.5 billion, taking it six places ahead of last year's ranking to 76.

Indian banking brands continue to gain ground globally, with 19 banks from the country featured in the rankings, collectively representing \$47.8 billion in brand value.

The report credits SBI's latest performance to its continued diversification and digital initiatives that have driven customer acquisition, cross-selling and higher transaction volumes. HDFC Bank's performance in the last year was underpinned by its acquisition of HDFC Limited in 2023, which positioned the bank as a direct provider of housing



■ India ranks eighth in banking brand value, accounting for 2.7% of the top banking brands' value

■ At \$12.4 bn, HDFC Bank leads Indian banking brands globally in value

■ SBI has a brand strength index (BSI) score of 91 out of 100

■ ICICI Bank is the fastest growing among top three Indian banking brands

loans and broadened its retail product suite.

"India's banking sector over the last couple of years has invested heavily in back-end technology and CX (customer experience) interfaces, enabling a smoother engagement with its vast customer base. In our 2026 analysis, we witness mid-sized banks, both public and private, closing the

gap rapidly with large, established private and public sector banks, demonstrating the power of technology to bring services closer to end-customers," said Ajimon Francis, managing director India for Brand Finance, noting that the brands to watch out for are Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Federal Bank and Yes Bank, among others.

- State Bank of India (SBI) is ranked **16th strongest bank globally**.
- State Bank of India (SBI) को वैश्विक स्तर पर **16वाँ सबसे मजबूत बैंक** माना गया।
- It achieved **AAA brand strength rating**.
- इसे **AAA ब्रांड स्ट्रेंथ रेटिंग** मिली।
- SBI's **Brand Strength Index (BSI) score: 91/100**.
- एसबीआई का **BSI स्कोर 91/100** रहा।
- SBI brand value increased **20% year-on-year to \$8.1 billion**.
- एसबीआई का ब्रांड मूल्य **20% बढ़कर \$8.1 बिलियन** हो गया।

- **Most Valuable Banking Brand in India**
- **भारत का सबसे मूल्यवान बैंकिंग ब्रांड**
- • **HDFC Bank is the most valuable Indian banking brand.**
- **HDFC Bank भारत का सबसे मूल्यवान बैंकिंग ब्रांड है।**
- • **Brand value: \$12.4 billion.**
- **ब्रांड मूल्य: \$12.4 बिलियन।**
- • **Global brand ranking: 31st in 2026 (down from 24 in 2025).**
- **वैश्विक रैंक: 2026 में 31वाँ स्थान (2025 में 24वाँ)।**

Bank	Rank 2026	Rank 2025	श्रद्धा
HDFC Bank	31	24	इंटरनेट डेवेलपर्स
SBI	56	49	कॉन्सल्टिंग अ इन्फोर्मेटिक्स
ICICI Bank	76	82	ए हार्डवेयर हार्डवेयर ए इन्फोर्मेटिक्स
Axis Bank	96	98	इंटरनेट डेवेलपर्स
Bank of Baroda	133	139	इन्फोर्मेटिक्स ए इन्फोर्मेटिक्स
Union Bank of India	151	160	ग्रामग्राम इन्फोर्मेटिक्स
Punjab National Bank	153	177	हार्डवेयर ए इन्फोर्मेटिक्स
Kotak Mahindra Bank	160	140	इंटरनेट डेवेलपर्स ए इन्फोर्मेटिक्स
Indian Bank	194	222	ग्रामग्राम इन्फोर्मेटिक्स
Bank of India	209	238	इन्फोर्मेटिक्स ए इन्फोर्मेटिक्स

## 5. Fastest Growing Banking Brand

### सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाला बैंकिंग ब्रांड

- **ICICI Bank** is the fastest-growing among top Indian banking brands.
  - **ICICI Bank** शीर्ष भारतीय बैंकों में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाला ब्रांड है।
  - Brand value increased by **19% to \$5.5 billion**.
  - ब्रांड मूल्य **19% बढ़कर \$5.5 बिलियन** हो गया।
- 

## 6. Factors Behind Growth of Indian Banks

### भारतीय बैंकों की वृद्धि के कारण

- Digital banking expansion
- डिजिटल बैंकिंग का विस्तार
- Strong retail banking products
- मजबूत रिटेल बैंकिंग उत्पाद
- Technology investment in customer experience
- ग्राहक अनुभव के लिए तकनीकी निवेश
- Mergers and acquisitions (e.g., **HDFC Ltd–HDFC Bank merger 2023**)
- विलय और अधिग्रहण (जैसे **2023 में एचडीएफसी लिमिटेड-एचडीएफसी बैंक विलय**)

## Top Public Sector Banks in India (by assets)

Rank	Bank	हिंदी
1	State Bank of India	भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
2	Bank of Baroda	बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
3	Punjab National Bank	पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
4	Canara Bank	केनरा बैंक
5	Union Bank of India	यूनियन बैंक

## Largest Private Banks in India

Rank	Bank	हिंदी
1	HDFC Bank	एचडीएफसी बैंक
2	ICICI Bank	आईसीआईसीआई बैंक
3	Axis Bank	एक्सिस बैंक
4	Kotak Mahindra Bank	कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक
5	IndusInd Bank	इंडसइंड बैंक

Exam	Date	Question	Answer
RBI Grade B	July 2025	Which bank is the largest public sector bank in India?	State Bank of India
SSC CGL	Sept 2025	HDFC Bank belongs to which sector?	Private sector bank
Banking Awareness	Aug 2025	Which institution publishes the Banking 500 report?	Brand Finance

- Consider the following statements regarding Indian banking brands:
- State Bank of India is ranked among the strongest banks globally in the Brand Finance Banking 500 Report 2026.
- HDFC Bank is the most valuable banking brand in India.
- ICICI Bank is the fastest growing Indian banking brand among the top banks.
- Which of the statements are correct?
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1, 2 and 3
  - D. 1 and 3 only



Chile Eliminates  
Leprosy — Verified  
by WHO



Aspect	Details	शुभुतु
Disease name	Leprosy (Hansen's disease)	कुशुतु कुशुतु
Bacterium	Mycobacterium leprae	रकुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु
Disease type	Chronic infectious disease	कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु
Affected organs	Skin, peripheral nerves, eyes, respiratory mucosa	कुशुतु, कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु
Incubation period	5–20 years	5–20 कुशुतु
Treatment	Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT)	कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु कुशुतु (MDT)

## Symptoms of Leprosy

### कुष्ठ रोग के लक्षण

Symptoms	हिंदी
Skin lesions or patches	त्वचा पर धब्बे
Loss of sensation	संवेदना की कमी
Nerve damage	नसों को नुकसान
Muscle weakness	मांसपेशियों की कमजोरी
Eye complications	आँखों की समस्या

## WHO Criteria for Elimination

### WHO द्वारा उन्मूलन की परिभाषा

Criteria	Explanation	हिंदी
Elimination definition	Less than 1 case per 10,000 population	10,000 लोगों पर 1 से कम केस
Monitoring	Continuous surveillance required	लगातार निगरानी आवश्यक
Imported cases	Country must detect and treat quickly	आयातित मामलों का त्वरित उपचार

## Countries that Eliminated Leprosy

Country	Year	Region	हिंदी
<u>Jordan</u>	2024	Asia	जॉर्डन
<u>Chile</u>	2026	Americas	चिली

Chile became **first country in the Americas** to achieve this status.

## Global Leprosy Situation

Indicator	Data	हिंदी
Global new cases per year	~200,000	प्रति वर्ष लगभग 2 लाख मामले
Most affected region	South-East Asia	दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया
Countries with highest cases	India, Brazil, Indonesia	भारत, ब्राजील, इंडोनेशिया



- Consider the following statements regarding leprosy:
- Leprosy is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- Chile became the first country in the Americas verified by WHO for eliminating leprosy as a public health problem.
- Leprosy mainly affects the lungs.
- Which of the statements are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

# Andhra Pradesh Launches Project HANUMAN to Reduce Human–Wildlife Conflict

Topic

Details

शुभह

Scheme Name

Project HANUMAN

हनुमन् प्रक्षर

Launched By

Pawan Kalyan

Pawan Kalyan

Launch Date

3 March 2026

3 रक्त 2026

Occasion

World Wildlife Day

World Wildlife Day इडु  
१ अदुघ हघ

Objective

Reduce human-wildlife  
conflict

रक्त-अनुह अदु कुडुख  
इघषु

State

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh

## Full Form of HANUMAN

### HANUMAN का पूरा नाम

#### English

Healing And Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife

#### हिंदी

वन्यजीवों की निगरानी, सहायता और देखभाल के लिए उपचार और पोषण इकाइयाँ

## Objectives of Project HANUMAN

### प्रोजेक्ट के उद्देश्य

#### Objective

Rapid response to wildlife emergencies

Rescue and rehabilitation of injured animals

Technological monitoring of wildlife movement

Reduce human-animal conflict

Protect biodiversity

#### हिंदी

वन्यजीव आपात स्थितियों में त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया

घायल वन्यजीवों का बचाव और पुनर्वास

वन्यजीवों की तकनीकी निगरानी

मानव-पशु संघर्ष कम करना

जैव विविधता संरक्षण

# Human-Wildlife Conflict in Andhra Pradesh

Indicator	Data	हिंदी
Incidents reported	2,107 cases (2025-26)	2,107 घटनाएँ
Compensation paid	₹4 crore	₹4 करोड़
Reason	Habitat pressure, expansion of agriculture, wildlife entering settlements	आवास दबाव, कृषि विस्तार

## Compensation for Victims

Category	Compensation	हिंदी
Death due to animal attack	₹10 lakh	मृत्यु पर ₹10 लाख
Injury	₹2 lakh	घायल होने पर ₹2 लाख
Livestock loss	As per market value	पशुधन नुकसान का बाजार मूल्य

# Important Facts about Human-Wildlife Conflict (Exam Oriented)

Topic	Details	हिंदी
Major conflict animals in India	Elephant, leopard, tiger, wild boar	हाथी, तेंदुआ, बाघ
Main causes	Habitat loss, urbanisation, agriculture expansion	आवास विनाश
Most affected states	Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam	कर्नाटक, महाराष्ट्र

# Important Conservation Programmes in India

Programme	Focus	हिंदी
Project Tiger (1973)	Tiger conservation	बाघ संरक्षण
Project Elephant (1992)	Elephant protection	हाथी संरक्षण
Project Snow Leopard (2009)	Himalayan ecosystem	हिम तेंदुआ संरक्षण
Project Dolphin (2020)	River dolphin conservation	डॉल्फिन संरक्षण

Topic	Details	शुभुतु
Day	World Wildlife Day	World Wildlife Day
Date	3 March	3 रकुतु
Declared by	United Nations General Assembly	United Nations General Assembly
Year Declared	2013 (68th session of UNGA)	2013
Purpose	Awareness for wildlife and biodiversity conservation	औनुहुतु दुतुतुतु नुतुतु इ तुतु
Linked Convention	CITES	CITES

# Theme of World Wildlife Day 2026

## विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस 2026 का विषय

Theme	हिंदी
"Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods"	"औषधीय एवं सुगंधित पौधे: स्वास्थ्य, विरासत और आजीविका का संरक्षण"

## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Feature	Details	हिंदी
Full form	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	लुप्तप्राय जीवों के अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर सम्मेलन
Year signed	1973	1973
Implemented	1975	1975
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland	जेनेवा, स्विट्ज़रलैंड
Purpose	Regulate international trade in endangered species	संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों का व्यापार नियंत्रण

## Biodiversity and Medicinal Plants in India

Indicator	Data	हिंदी
Biodiversity status	India is a mega-biodiverse country	भारत एक मेगा-बायोडायवर्स देश
Share of global biodiversity	~7%	वैश्विक जैव विविधता का 7%
Total plant species	~45,000	लगभग 45,000 पौधों की प्रजातियाँ
Medicinal plant species	~15,000	लगभग 15,000 औषधीय पौधे
Plants used in traditional medicine	~8,000	लगभग 8,000 औषधीय पौधे

## Traditional Indian Medicine Systems Using Plants

System	हिंदी
Ayurveda	आयुर्वेद
Siddha	सिद्ध
Unani	यूनानी
Folk medicine	लोक चिकित्सा

# Conservation Methods in India

Type	Example	हिंदी
In-situ conservation	Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCAs)	प्राकृतिक आवास में संरक्षण
Ex-situ conservation	<u>National Seed Gene Bank</u>	प्राकृतिक आवास से बाहर संरक्षण

India has **115 Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCAs)**.

## Seed Gene Bank Facts

Feature	Data	हिंदी
Function	Long-term preservation of plant genetic resources	पौधों के जीन संरक्षण
Medium-term storage	5–25 years	5–25 वर्ष
Storage temperature	0–5°C	0–5°C
Long-term storage	–10°C to –20°C	–10°C से –20°C

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding World Wildlife Day:
  - World Wildlife Day is celebrated on 3 March.
  - The day commemorates the signing of the CITES convention.
  - India accounts for about 7% of global biodiversity.
  - Which of the statements are correct?
    - A. 1 and 2 only
    - B. 1 and 3 only
    - C. 2 and 3 only
    - D. 1, 2 and 3

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# Word of the day

## **Pithy:**

concise and full of meaning

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**Synonyms:** short, crisp, to the point

---

**Usage:** *The article ends with a pithy comment.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /pɪθi/

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# Word of the day

## **Irascible:**

quickly aroused to anger

---

**Synonyms:** fiery, bad-tempered, irritable

---

**Usage:** *His irascible nature made him difficult to work with.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ɪræsɪbəl/

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Thank you 😊