

Daily Current

Affairs





4
The Hindu



2
**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



3
**The Indian
Express**



0
Jansatta



1
**Financial
Express**



Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

STILL CONFUSED! HOW TO PREPARE

Start from zero and take the first step
with expert guidance in our **Online Wo**

For English Medium Candidates Only



RAS Mains



Join RASonly Jaipur – Ace RAS 2025!

Looking for the best RAS offline coaching in Jaipur? Our
expert faculty, daily tests, and personalized guidance will
get you exam-ready!



Register Now

📞 9057143412



28–30, JDA Market, Shri Hans
Marg, Gopalpura Bypass Rd

Request a Free Consultation

Name

Mobile Number

E-mail address

Submit Request



+9190571 43412



info.rasonly@gmail.com



We are the team of passionate officer educators and Technocra

We Want to make your RAS jour



“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect).”

— Mark Twain



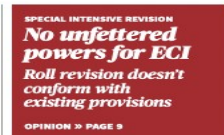
TERROR ATTACKS
FATF flags use of VPNs, e-commerce platforms
NEWS » PAGE 4



PM IN BRASILIA
India-Brazil ties relevant for the whole world: Modi
NEWS » PAGE 4



GUNFIGHT WITH POLICE
Key suspect in Khemka murder shot dead
NEWS » PAGE 4



SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION
No unfettered powers for ECI
Roll revision doesn't conform with existing provisions
OPINION » PAGE 5



TOUGH ASSIGNMENT
Sabalenka overcomes Siegemund's challenge
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE



Netanyahu backs Trump for Nobel

WASHINGTON Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told President Donald Trump he was nominating the U.S. leader for a Nobel Peace Prize as the two took a victory lap on Monday to hail their strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities. » PAGE 14

5 Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza

TEL AVIV Five Israeli soldiers were killed in an attack in the northern Gaza Strip, Israel's military said on Tuesday, while health officials in the Palestinian territory said that at least 51 people were killed in Israeli strikes. » PAGE 14

India says trade deal with U.S. 'imminent'

U.S. President Donald Trump extends tariff pause to August 1 and threatens new hikes for 14 countries

Negotiations could be extended to August 1 if the deal specifics do not suit India, says an official

India has placed its final proposals, now the U.S. has to decide whether to accept it, says a source

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India expects to announce a "mini" trade deal with the United States "in a day or two", government officials said on Tuesday, though U.S. President Donald Trump has now extended his tariff pause until August 1. They cautioned, however, that India will not push ahead if the deal specifics do not suit Indian interests.

This came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump also said that the U.S. was "close to making a deal with India".

Mr. Trump has also sent letters to 14 countries, threatening higher tariffs from August 1, in a bid to force them to agree to a trade deal with the U.S. They include Japan, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Tunisia, South Africa, Bosnia

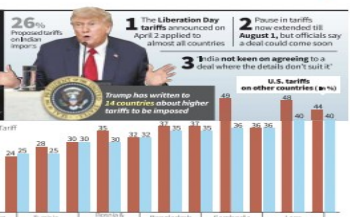
and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Serbia, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar.

The Liberation Day tariffs — announced on April 2 and originally paused till midnight on July 8 — applied to almost all countries, and included a 25% tariff on Indian imports.

"The August 1 deadline is for countries that have been sent the letters," an official told *The Hindu*. "India has not been sent a letter, and we are still working to finalise the deal, so the July 8-9 deadline is still what we are operating under."

However, as per an executive order signed by Mr. Trump in Washington on Monday, "based on additional information and recommendations from various senior officials,

including information on the status of discussions with trading partners," the suspension of higher tariffs will now extend until 12:01 a.m. on August 1, by U.S.



Eastern Daylight time. The official said that the expanded August 1 window "if the deal specifics do not suit us". Stating that levies would

start being paid on August 1, Mr. Trump on Tuesday said that he would not extend the deadline again. "No extensions will be granted," he posted on Truth Social. "There will be no change."

On Monday, Mr. Trump said that the U.S. had "spoken to everybody". "We have made some (trade) deals, but for the most part we are going to send a letter," he said.

As *The Hindu* has reported before, the main issues holding up a deal between India and the U.S. continue to be genetically modified (GM) crops and dairy imports.

The U.S. is pushing India to allow the import of GM products such as soybean meal and distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) for animal feed. DDGS is a by-product of the ethanol production process. India has not been inclined towards GM crops even produced domestically, let alone imported.

Another demand is for India to allow the import of cow milk from the U.S., which India has been resisting.

Final day of Rathayatra



Sweet outcome: A priest offers rosogole as prasada on the final day of the Rathayatra festival (Nalidra) at Puri in Odisha. Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra return to the Shree Jagannath temple on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three schoolchildren killed as train hits van at level crossing gate in T.N.

S. Prasad
CUDDALORE

Three schoolchildren were killed when their school van was rammed by a passenger train while attempting to cross a manned railway gate at Semmankuppam in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. One more student, the van driver and another person were injured.

The Villupuram-Mayiladuthurai passenger train, travelling at a speed of 95 kmph, struck the van, carrying four students around 7:45 a.m., and dragged it for nearly 50 metres before coming to a halt, reports said.

Preliminary inquiries by railway officials suggested that it was the van driver who insisted on allowing



The school van that was hit by the Villupuram-Mayiladuthurai passenger train in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. S. PRASAD

the vehicle to cross the gate. This should not have been permitted, the officials said.

"Gate was kept open" According to eyewitness accounts, railway gatekeeper Panikaj Sharma had failed to close the gate during the train's passing. An

irate crowd thrashed him. Nimalath, 12, and T. Charumathi, 16, were killed on the spot. Charumathi's brother T. Chezhian, 15, was declared brought dead at the Jawahar Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry. Viswesh, 16, and the driver

of the van S. Sankar, 47, have been admitted to the Government Hospital, Cuddalore.

Annadurai, 55, a resident of Semmankuppam, sustained injuries while attempting to rescue the children when a snapped overhead power cable fell on him.

Southern Railway said the van belonging to Krishnaswamy Vidyamurthan, a private CBSE school in S.Kumarapuram in Cuddalore district, attempted to cross the railway level crossing gate no. 170, a non-interlocked manned gate between Cuddalore and Alappakkam.

Superintendent of Police S. Jayakumar and Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Villupuram Range) E.S. Uma monitored the rescue operations.

No more backbenchers: a Malayalam film inspires change in Kerala schools

Malayalam movie nudges institutions in the State to give up the traditional row-based seating arrangement in favour of a semi-circular layout; the movie, directed by Vinesh Viswanath, aims to do away with the unconscious splitting of students into groups — the studious children in the front and the often disruptive rebels on the back benches.

Athira M.
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vinesh Viswanath did not expect his directorial debut, *Shunavathi Sreelakshmi*, to trigger a change in mindset in schools. The heart-warming, coming-of-age Malayalam film about an upper primary school in Thiruvananthapuram shows how one classroom does away with the conventional row-based seating arrangement in favour of a semi-circle arrangement, with the teacher at the centre. Since the film was released

on the OTT platform Saina Play last month, this classroom configuration has been adopted by several schools in Kerala.

"At least six schools have already introduced it, and we came to know of it when they tagged our Instagram handle," Mr. Viswanath says.



Students of RCC LPS in Wadakkancherry, Thrissur, in their new seating layout. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The concept is not new, since the District Primary Education Programme launched by the Union government in 1994 in six States, including Kerala, had suggested flexible

seating arrangements that some schools had tried. However, most educational institutions have been inclined to stick to the traditional row system.

Mr. Viswanath, who wrote the story and co-wrote the screenplay with Anand Mammadhan, Murali Krishnan, and K. Kaishash S. Bhavan, says he used to sit like this in his primary classes at the government school at Pedikulangam.

But when we placed that as the climax, we never expected it to reach so many schools," he says.

Short run in theaters The film, starring Alia Varghese, Johnny Antony, and a bunch of child actors, had several factors stacked against it from the

start. It was released after a delay of almost a year, and despite the glowing reviews, it had a rather short run in theatres. The OTT release came after several months, considered a long gap in the industry. The first school that introduced the new seating arrangement was RCC Higher Secondary School at Valakom, in Kollam district.

The school is managed by Kerala Transport Minister K.B. Ganesh Kumar. "We had shown it to him several months before the film reached theatres. We were unaware that he had

Domicile now must for women's job quota in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet on Tuesday made domicile mandatory for accessing the 35% reservation for women in State government jobs. Previously, women from outside Bihar could also benefit from the reservation policy, which was introduced by the State government in 2016.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 5

India says trade deal with U.S. ‘imminent’

U.S. President Donald Trump extends tariff pause to August 1 and threatens new hikes for 14 countries

Negotiations could be extended to August 1 if the deal specifics do not suit India, says an official

India has placed its final proposals, now the U.S. has to decide whether to accept it, says a source

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India expects to announce a ‘mini’ trade deal with the United States “in a day or two”, government officials said on Tuesday, though U.S. President Donald Trump has now extended his tariff pause until August 1. They cautioned, however, that India will not push ahead if the deal specifics do not suit Indian interests.

This came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump also said that the U.S. was “close to making a deal with India”.

Mr. Trump has also sent letters to 14 countries, threatening higher tariffs from August 1, in a bid to address their trade deficits with the U.S. They include Japan, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Tunisia, South Africa, Bosnia

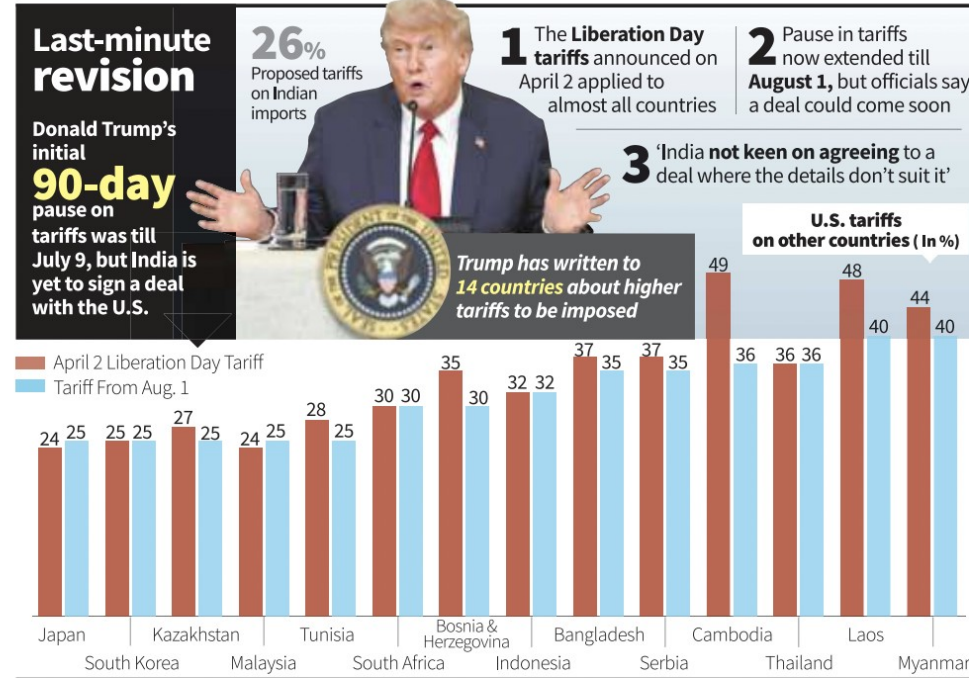
and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Serbia, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar.

The Liberation Day tariffs – announced on April 2 and originally paused till midnight on July 8 – applied to almost all countries, and included a 26% tariff on Indian imports.

“The August 1 deadline is for countries that have been sent the letters,” an official told *The Hindu*. “India has not been sent a letter, and we are still working to finalise the deal, so the July 8-9 deadline is still what we are operating under.”

New deadline

However, as per an executive order signed by Mr. Trump in Washington on Monday, “based on additional information and recommendations from various senior officials,



including information on the status of discussions with trading partners”, the suspension of higher tariffs will now extend until 12:01 a.m. on August 1, by U.S.

Eastern Daylight time.

Another official aware of the negotiations said a deal could materialise by the night of July 8, or “in a day or two”.

However, this official added that India could use the expanded August 1 window “if the deal specifics do not suit us”.

Stating that levies would

start being paid on August 1, Mr. Trump on Tuesday said that he would not extend the deadline again.

“No extensions will be granted,” he posted on Truth Social. “There will be no change.”

On Monday, Mr. Trump said that the U.S. had “spoken to everybody”.

“We have made some [trade] deals, but for the most part we are going to send a letter,” he said.

Deal dynamics

A team of Indian negotiators led by Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rajesh Agrawal returned from their second trip to the U.S. last week. A team from the U.S. has also visited India twice in the last few months.

According to sources, India has placed its final proposals before the U.S.

and now the U.S. has to decide whether to accept the deal or not. India, for its part, will not further amend its proposals for the mini deal.

As *The Hindu* has reported before, the main issues holding up a deal between India and the U.S. continue to be genetically-modified (GM) crops and dairy imports.

The U.S. is pushing India to allow the import of GM products such as soybean meal and distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) for animal feed. DDGS is a by-product of the ethanol production process. India has not been inclined towards GM crops even produced domestically, let alone imported.

Another demand is for India to allow the import of cow milk from the U.S., which India has been resisting.

1. What's the News?

- India is expected to finalize a **'mini' trade deal** with the **United States** in a day or two.
 - The U.S. has extended its **tariff pause** for India till **August 1** under **Donald Trump's** revised 90-day pause framework.
-

2. Liberation Day Tariffs – Background

- **Announced on April 2**, applied to almost all countries.
- India faces a proposed **26% tariff on its exports** to the U.S.
- Trump sent **letters to 14 countries**, warning of increased tariffs from **August 1**.

3. India's Trade Concerns

- India has **not yet signed** the deal as negotiations are ongoing.
 - Key **Indian concerns**:
 - U.S. demand to **allow imports of genetically modified (GM) crops** and **dairy products**.
 - India resists GM crop imports for **biosecurity, health, and self-reliance**.
 - U.S. wants access for **Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS)** for animal feed.
 - India resists **cow milk imports**, particularly from countries with different animal welfare standards.
-

4. Deal Status

- India has submitted **final proposals**; now waiting for **U.S. decision**.
- If terms are unsatisfactory, India may **opt out** of the deal even after August 1.
- India is cautious not to compromise its **domestic sector interests**.

GS Paper-wise Relevance

Geographical (GS I):

- The 14 countries include **Japan, Korea, South Asia & Southeast Asia** – indicating India's position in the global **Indo-Pacific trade corridor**.

Political & IR (GS II):

- This development reflects **India-U.S. economic diplomacy**, and **India's assertion of strategic autonomy**.
- Reflects a shift in U.S. bilateralism over multilateral trade frameworks.

Economic (GS III):

- India's agricultural & dairy sector fears **dumping of subsidized U.S. goods**.
- U.S. pushing India to open up to **bio-engineered agricultural inputs** like GM corn and soybean.
- Trade deal may affect **MSME exporters** and **domestic animal husbandry**.

Q. With reference to the recent developments in India–U.S. trade relations, consider the following statements:

- 1.** India has already agreed to import genetically modified crops from the U.S.
- 2.** The proposed U.S. tariffs on Indian goods are part of the “Liberation Day Tariff” initiative.
- 3.** India’s main concern in the deal involves agricultural and dairy product access.
- 4.** The U.S. has granted India an indefinite exemption from the tariff hike.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Last-minute revision

Donald Trump's initial **90-day** pause on tariffs was till July 9, but India is yet to sign a deal with the U.S.

26%

Proposed tariffs on Indian imports



1 The **Liberation Day** tariffs announced on April 2 applied to almost all countries

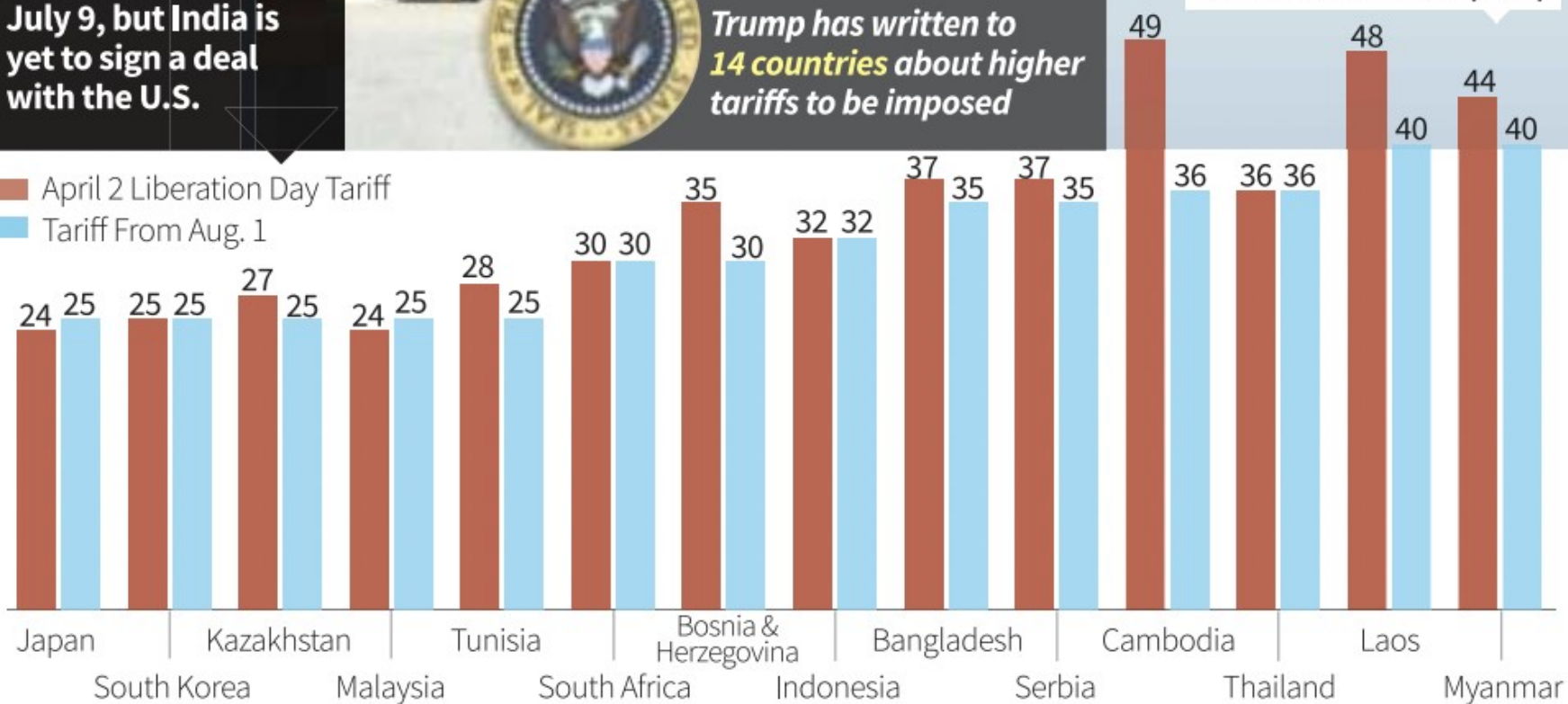
2 Pause in tariffs now extended till **August 1**, but officials say a deal could come soon

3 'India **not keen on agreeing** to a deal where the details don't suit it'

Trump has written to **14 countries** about higher tariffs to be imposed

U.S. tariffs on other countries (In %)

■ April 2 Liberation Day Tariff
■ Tariff From Aug. 1



No more backbenchers: a Malayalam film inspires change in Kerala schools

Malayalam movie nudges institutions in the State to give up the traditional row-based seating arrangement in favour of a semi-circular layout; the movie, directed by Vinesh Viswanath, aims to do away with the unconscious splitting of students into groups — the studious children in the front and the often disruptive rebels on the back benches

Athira M.
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vinesh Viswanath did not expect his directorial debut, *Sthanarthi Sreekuttan*, to trigger a change in mindset in schools. The heart-warming, coming-of-age Malayalam film about an upper primary school in Thiruvananthapuram shows how one classroom does away with the conventional row-based seating arrangement in favour of a semi-circle arrangement, with the teacher at the centre. Since the film was released

on the OTT platform Saina Play last month, this classroom configuration has been adopted by several schools in Kerala.

“At least six schools have already introduced it, and we came to know of it when they tagged our Instagram handle,” Mr. Viswanath says.

In the film, the idea is mooted by the eponymous character, an unassuming backbencher who is perpetually late for class. It aims to do away with the unconscious splitting of students — the studious children in the front and the often disruptive rebels on the back benches.



Students of RCC LPS in Wadakkanchery, Thrissur, in their new seating layout. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The concept is not new, since the District Primary Education Programme launched by the Union government in 1994 in six States, including Kerala, had suggested flexible

seating arrangements that some schools had tried. However, most educational institutions have been inclined to stick to the traditional row system.

Mr. Viswanath, who wrote the story and co-wrote the screenplay with Anand Manmadhan, Murali Krishnan, and Kailash S. Bhavan, says he used to sit like that in his primary classes at the government school at Pedikulam in Thiruvananthapuram. “But when we placed that as the climax, we never expected it to reach so many schools,” he says.

Short run in theaters

The film, starring Aju Varghese, Johny Antony, and a bunch of child actors, had several factors stacked against it from the

start. It was released after a delay of almost a year, and despite the glowing reviews, it had a rather short run in theatres. The OTT release came after seven months, considered a long gap in the industry.

The first school that introduced the new seating arrangement was RVV Higher Secondary School at Valakom, in Kollam district.

The school is managed by Kerala Transport Minister K.B. Ganesh Kumar “We had shown it to him several months before the film reached theatres. We were unaware that he had

introduced the system in his school. However, we could not publicise it when the film released because that was the climax of the movie. We made the reveal only after it started streaming on OTT,” Mr. Viswanath says.

The schools that have adopted this concept include the Pappinisseri West LP School and Andoor ALP School, both in Kannur; RCC LP School in East Mangad, Thrissur; Government Higher Secondary School at Tholanur in Palakkad; and NSV Vocational Higher Secondary School at Valacode in Kollam.

1. Background

- Malayalam film ***Sthanarthi Sreekuttan***, directed by **Vinesh Viswanath**, has unexpectedly influenced classroom practices in Kerala schools.
 - The film highlights **inclusive classroom seating** by replacing traditional **row-based** arrangements with **semi-circular layouts**.
-

2. Objective of the Film's Message

- The goal is to **eliminate unconscious segregation**:
 - Studious children at the front.
 - Disruptive or disinterested students at the back.
- Encourages **collaborative learning** and more teacher-student engagement.

3. From OTT to School Desks

- Released on **Saina Play (OTT platform)** after a 7-month delay.
 - Several schools in Kerala started implementing the new layout post its OTT release.
 - **At least six schools** adopted the concept and tagged the film team on Instagram.
-

4. Impact and Adoption

- First school to implement: **RVV Higher Secondary School, Valakom (Kollam)**.
- Other schools:
 - Pappinisseri West LP and Andoor ALP School (Kannur)
 - RCC LP School (Thrissur)
 - Govt. HSS Tholannur (Palakkad)
 - NSV Vocational HSS (Kollam)
- Backed informally by **Kerala Transport Minister K.B. Ganesh Kumar**.

5. Educational Background

- Not a new concept: **District Primary Education Programme (1994)** had recommended **flexible seating**.
 - However, traditional row seating remains dominant due to inertia and lack of awareness.
-

GS Paper-wise Relevance

GS II: Governance and Education

- Demonstrates how **popular culture** can influence **grassroots education reform**.
- Reflects alignment with **NEP 2020**, which promotes experiential and inclusive learning.

Essay / Ethics:

- Role of **cinema as a social reform tool**.
- Breaking stereotypes in **institutional practices**.

IN BRIEF



EPFO to complete process of crediting interest this week

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandavkar said on Tuesday that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will complete the process of crediting 8.25% interest for FY25 into members' accounts this week. "This year, the annual account update had to be done for 13.84 lakh establishments with 33.56 crore member accounts, out of which till 8th July, interest was credited in 52.39 crore member accounts from 13.86 lakh establishments. This translates into completion of annual accounts update for 99.9% of the establishments and 96.51% of the member accounts," the Minister said, while talking to the presspersons.

Jeweller shot dead in armed robbery in Gujarat's Surat

A jeweller was shot dead and another person injured during a daring armed robbery at a jewellery showroom in Gujarat's Surat city late Monday night, police said. According to police, four armed men stormed into Shrinathi Jewellers in the city's Sachin area around 8.30 p.m. and opened fire while looting valuables. When showroom owner Ashish Rajpara tried to intervene, the robbers shot him twice in the chest. Rajpara died shortly after being rushed to a hospital. "As the robbers attempted to flee, locals gave chase. The assailants fired at them, injuring one person, Namit Shah, who sustained a bullet wound to his leg," police said.

Nearly 600 Eklavya school students cracked IIT-JEE and NEET, says Tribal Affairs Ministry

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Close to 600 students from government-run Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students across 12 States have cleared top entrance examinations this year for undergraduate studies in medicine and engineering across the country, the Tribal Affairs Ministry said in an assessment of the EMRS' performance for the year showed.

Officials added that in a special effort to give these students the confidence to proceed with higher education, the Ministry is preparing to reach out to these students with the gamut of government scholarships available to them and handhold the entire application process.

Officials told *The Hindu* that a total of 596 students of EMRS schools in Chhat-



The Ministry is preparing to reach out to the students of EMRS and support them through the entire application process. IIT-JEE

garhat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra qualified for either IIT-JEE Mains, IIT-JEE Advanced, or the NEET examinations. One official said this was the first time such data had been compiled for EMRS students.

The EMRS is one of the Tribal Affairs Ministry's flagship schemes and the

last couple of years to provide specific training to students of EMRSs, where tribal students, including students from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, form close to 85% of the student population.

Outreach programme In a departure from regular process, senior government official said the scholarship Division of the Tribal Affairs Ministry was now looking to start an outreach programme, where all the Ministry's available post-matriculate scholarships for tribal students would be taken to them. "Usually, they are left to apply for the scholarships themselves. In this case, they have done excellent work, and the Ministry wants to encourage them and give them confidence. So, since both NEETs and scholarships are handled by the Ministry, now the

Ministry will track these students and handhold them to get all scholarships tribal students, including students from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, form close to 85% of the student population.

Ministry will track these students and handhold them to get all scholarships tribal students, including students from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, form close to 85% of the student population.

Ministry will track these students and handhold them to get all scholarships tribal students, including students from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, form close to 85% of the student population.

Ministry will track these students and handhold them to get all scholarships tribal students, including students from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, form close to 85% of the student population.

Countrywide survey reveals deficits in student learning

Punjab, Kerala among top performers; Grade-level gaps seen in key subjects such as mathematics and language; PARAKH RS finds that 54% of Class 9 students can identify main points of a text

A.M. Iqbal
NEW DELHI

The results of the Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development Rashtriya Sarvekshan (PARAKH RS), formerly known as the National Achievement Survey (NAS), have revealed that Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh are the best performing States and Union Territories in school education.

PARAKH RS assessed the performance of children in Grades 3, 6 and 9 from 74,225 schools in 781 districts of the country in the following subjects: language and mathematics (for Grades 3, 6 and 9), the world around us (for Grades 3 and 6), and science and social science (for Grade 9). As many as 2,70,424 teachers and school leaders responded through questionnaires.

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala emerged as the top performing States in Grade 3. Kerala, Punjab and Dadra Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 6. Punjab, Kerala and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 9. The Kendriya Vidyalayas, run by the Union government, recorded the lowest performance in mathematics in Grade 3. In Grade 6, government-aided and State government schools showed weak performance in mathematics. For Grade 9, students from Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects, particularly in language.

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala emerged as the top performing States in Grade 3. Kerala, Punjab and Dadra Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 6. Punjab, Kerala and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 9. The Kendriya Vidyalayas, run by the Union government, recorded the lowest performance in mathematics in Grade 3. In Grade 6, government-aided and State government schools showed weak performance in mathematics. For Grade 9, students from Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects, particularly in language.

Survey snapshots

The PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan was conducted on December 4, 2024, covering 21,15,022 students from both government and private schools in Grades 3, 6 and 9.

- Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh are the best performing States in school education.
- Kendriya Vidyalayas recorded the lowest performance in Mathematics in Class 3.
- In Class 6, government-aided and State government schools showed poor performance in Mathematics.
- For Class 9, Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects.

Haveli and Daman & Diu were the top performers for Grade 6. Punjab, Kerala and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 9. The Kendriya Vidyalayas, run by the Union government, recorded the lowest performance in mathematics in Grade 3. In Grade 6, government-aided and State government schools showed weak performance in mathematics. For Grade 9, students from Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects, particularly in language.

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala emerged as the top performing States in Grade 3. Kerala, Punjab and Dadra Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 6. Punjab, Kerala and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 9. The Kendriya Vidyalayas, run by the Union government, recorded the lowest performance in mathematics in Grade 3. In Grade 6, government-aided and State government schools showed weak performance in mathematics. For Grade 9, students from Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects, particularly in language.

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala emerged as the top performing States in Grade 3. Kerala, Punjab and Dadra Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 6. Punjab, Kerala and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 9. The Kendriya Vidyalayas, run by the Union government, recorded the lowest performance in mathematics in Grade 3. In Grade 6, government-aided and State government schools showed weak performance in mathematics. For Grade 9, students from Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects, particularly in language.

could read the names of very large numbers. Only 38% students could solve puzzles and daily-life problems involving one or more operations on whole numbers.

Only 38% of Grade 6 students could answer questions and made predictions about simple patterns (season change, food chain, phases of the moon, movement of stars and planets, shapes of trees, plants, leaves, and flowers, rituals, celebrations) observed in the immediate environment.

In Grade 9, 45% of students could explain how the Constitution came to be, estimated between 40% and 90% - are Vitamin D deficient. "Lifestyle changes like staying indoors, use of sunscreen, and sun-protective clothing are significant contributors to this silent crisis," he said.

Calling it the "sunlight vitamin", Dr. Kurien said it plays a vital role in bone health and calcium absorption. Its deficiency can lead to rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults. He urged mid-day sun exposure of fish, meat, egg yolks, and mushrooms. However,

in mathematics, 68% students in Grade 3 could sort objects into groups and sub-groups based on more than one property, while 60% could identify and extend simple patterns in their surroundings. For Grade 9, students from Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects, particularly in language.

In Grade 6, only 54% could represent numbers and real numbers, and their properties, the survey results said.

Vitamin D deficiency poses public health challenge: experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Vitamin D deficiency has reached epidemic proportions in India and ignoring it could have serious health consequences, experts said during a webinar on "Vitamin D Deficiency: Myths vs Reality" on Sunday.

The session, the 14th in a 15-part series under the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative, was jointly presented by Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, and The Hindu.

Kurien Thomas, senior consultant physician and clinical epidemiologist at Naruvi Hospitals, said a vast majority of Indians - estimated between 40% and 90% - are Vitamin D deficient. "Lifestyle changes like staying indoors, use of sunscreen, and sun-protective clothing are significant contributors to this silent crisis," he said.

Calling it the "sunlight vitamin", Dr. Kurien said it plays a vital role in bone health and calcium absorption. Its deficiency can lead to rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults. He urged mid-day sun exposure of fish, meat, egg yolks, and mushrooms. However,

since only 20% of orally consumed vitamin D is absorbed, he recommended supplements, especially for at-risk groups.

D. Anesh Basheer, Professor of medicine at SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Chennai, called for targeted screening and fortified food options, while cautioning about the potential toxicity of excess vitamin D.

Pranita Vanjare, consultant in geriatrics and internal medicine at Naruvi Hospitals, said, "It supports not just bone and muscle health but plays a broader role in regulating blood pressure, reducing inflammation and potentially lowering the risk of Type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, respiratory infections, and certain cancers".

The webinar can be viewed here: [newsh.livemint.com/naruvivebinars14](https://www.newsh.livemint.com/naruvivebinars14)

OUP launches Oxford Big Read Global Challenge to promote reading, literacy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a continued effort to promote reading and literacy, Oxford University Press (OUP) has announced the launch of the seventh edition of its annual Oxford Big Read Global Challenge.

The challenge invites schools across the country, from primary to senior school, to participate in a global reading competition. The challenge requires students to design a book cover, write a critical review, or a comparison of two books. Participants will be grouped into three levels (Classes 1 to 3, Classes 4 to 6, and Classes 7 to 9), and will be given tasks accordingly. As part of the initiative, participating schools will receive complimentary three-month digital subscription from the Young World Club. It will see participation from Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and other countries.

Registration for the competition is to be done only through schools. The deadline to send entries is October 30. The national-level winners will be announced on November 30 and global winners on December 30. For further details and to register for the Oxford Big Read, visit <https://media.oup.com/oxfordbigread/>. For queries, schools can write to Priyadarshini Bhattacharya at priyadarshini.bhattacharya@oup.com

Oxford Big Read

Prizes will be awarded by the OUP, along with gift hampers and vouchers from Faber-Castell and Amazon. Rewards range from medals and certificates at the school level to globes, iPads, and an exclusive internship opportunity for the Level 3 global winner with the University Press team. All school-level qualifiers will receive a complimentary three-month digital subscription from the Young World Club. It will see participation from Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and other countries.

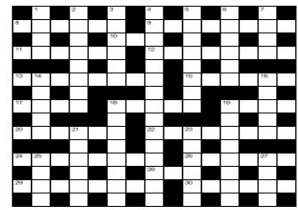
Registration for the competition is to be done only through schools. The deadline to send entries is October 30. The national-level winners will be announced on November 30 and global winners on December 30. For further details and to register for the Oxford Big Read, visit <https://media.oup.com/oxfordbigread/>. For queries, schools can write to Priyadarshini Bhattacharya at priyadarshini.bhattacharya@oup.com

FAITH

Her merciful glances

In his Sri Guna Ratna Kosha, Parasaara Bhattar praises Goddess Ranganayaki's feet as having the fragrance of the Vedas. Parasaara Bhattar explains that those who surrender at Mahalakshmi's feet, will receive Her merciful glances. A beautiful incident from the Ramayana must be recalled here, said T.A.K. Srinivasacharya in a discourse. After Sita has been abducted by Ravana, an anguished Rama and Lakshmana begin to look for Her. Sugreeva was witness to Sita being carried away, and he tells Rama that as Sita was being taken away by Ravana in his vimana, She had dropped Her jewels, wrapping them in Her upper cloth. Sugreeva then shows Rama the jewels She had dropped and asks Him if He can identify them. Rama identifies Her garment, and Her jewels and draws Lakshmana's attention to them. Lakshmana replies that he is only familiar with Her anklets, because he has never looked beyond Her feet. So, he has no idea about any of Her other jewels. This shows us the regard Lakshmana had for Sita.

It also shows us that we must seek Her feet and surrender at Her feet. "This surrender will not only earn for us Her grace, but also the Lord's affection. Parasaara Bhattar, describing the Goddess' eyes, says that even a small glance from Her eyes enriches a person's life. This is evident from the position of the celestial and mighty kings. Their eyes in turn display their pride in the fact that they have been favoured by Goddess Mahalakshmi. Parasaara Bhattar prays that Her merciful glances should drench Him. The Lord, who is Himself known for His lotus-like eyes, is stunned by the beauty of Her eyes. What is one to say of mere mortals?"

TH CROSSWORD 14532
(set by Vidwan)

Across

- 1 A volatile liquid, cure associated with Dances crossing borders (6)
- 9 Occupation means an Engineer in Gen X (8)
- 13 Racy naked image (3)
- 15 Some of that said muscle disorder (6)
- 17 Figures of Scottish women checking into a match (8)

To solve this puzzle online, go to <https://www.crosswordclues.com> at <https://www.crosswordclues.com>

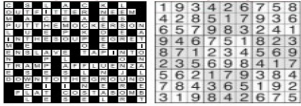


- 1 Kind of plant with only one main branch, later replaced by a side from one side only (8)
- 2 Close quarters, almost close to a group of nine (6)
- 3 X is following a Y, for example (4)
- 4 Best and more works for reformist (5)
- 5 One going after exact type of public transportation (4)
- 6 Set free! Set off! Fly! (6)
- 7 I'd go next perhaps for cleansing body from inside (8)
- 8 'G down Pin' produce and putting on some gripping stuff! (8)
- 9 'G down Pin' produce and putting on some gripping stuff! (8)
- 10 Principles of alliance incorporating a basic mantra (6)
- 11 Rent some stripteasers (5)
- 12 Top conservative quietly replaced to shield one thrown out (8)
- 13 Bull looks at sunflower-like plants (6)
- 14 down
- 15 One of the canonical hours to send lewd message on phone (4)
- 16 Vacuous, punctureless, taan abandoned felons (4)
- 17 North-Eastern friend, one of our neighbours (6)
- 18 Single rate for what graduate wants (5)
- 19 One following, guarding every amateur (8)
- 20 1/3rd of water's gone, wasted, tapped by earlier two generations (6)
- 21 Presently unknown (4)
- 22 Mostly following American link (5)
- 23 Growth hormone from face index (5)
- 24 Live overhills love, failing to be adaptable (8)
- 25 Words and wiles, women's unmasking materials (6)
- 26 Table emptied by me to vote for American outline (3)
- 27 It is used to serve drink to a pet stay (6)
- 28 Petty cunning female going after power (4)
- 29 Men having independent bearing (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



Vitamin D deficiency poses public health challenge: experts

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Vitamin D deficiency has reached epidemic proportions in India and ignoring it could have serious health consequences, experts said during a webinar on “Vitamin D Deficiency: Myths vs Reality” on Sunday.

The session, the 14th in a 15-part series under the “Healthy India, Happy India” initiative, was jointly presented by Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, and *The Hindu*.

Kurien Thomas, senior consultant physician and clinical epidemiologist at Naruvi Hospitals, said a vast majority of Indians – estimated between 40% and 90% – are Vitamin D deficient. “Lifestyle changes like staying indoors, use of sunscreen, and sun-protective clothing are significant contributors to this silent crisis,” he said.

Calling it the “sunlight vitamin”, Dr. Kurien said it plays a vital role in bone health and calcium absorption. Its deficiency can lead to rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults. He urged mid-day sun exposure and dietary inclusion of fish, meat, egg yolk, fortified dairy products, and mushrooms. However,



since only 20% of orally consumed vitamin D is absorbed, he recommended supplements, especially for at-risk groups.

D. Aneesh Basheer, Professor of medicine at SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Chennai, called for targeted screening and fortified food options, while cautioning about the potential toxicity of excess vitamin D.

Pranita Vanjare, consultant in geriatrics and internal medicine at Naruvi Hospitals, said, “It supports not just bone and muscle health but plays a broader role in regulating blood pressure, reducing inflammation and potentially lowering the risk of Type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, respiratory infections, and certain cancers”.

The webinar can be viewed here newsth.live/naruviwebinar14

1. Key Issue

- **Vitamin D deficiency** has reached **epidemic proportions** in India.
 - Experts estimate that **40% to 90%** of Indians are deficient.
 - The issue was discussed in a webinar titled *"Vitamin D Deficiency: Myths vs Reality"*, part of the **Healthy India, Happy India** initiative by Naruvi Hospitals and *The Hindu*.
-

2. Causes of Deficiency

- **Lifestyle changes:** staying indoors, avoiding sun exposure.
- Use of **sunscreens, sun-protective clothing**.
- Poor dietary intake of vitamin D-rich foods.

3. Role of Vitamin D

- Known as the “**sunlight vitamin**”.
- Essential for:
 - **Bone health, muscle strength, and calcium absorption.**
 - Preventing **rickets** in children and **osteomalacia** in adults.
 - Regulating **blood pressure**, reducing **inflammation**.
 - Lowering risks of:
 - Type 1 diabetes
 - Rheumatoid arthritis
 - Respiratory infections
 - Certain cancers

4. Recommendations

- **Mid-day sun exposure** (natural source).
 - **Dietary sources:** fish, meat, egg yolk, fortified dairy products, mushrooms.
 - **Supplements** recommended, especially since only **20% of oral intake is absorbed**.
 - **Fortified foods** and **targeted screening** also suggested.
-

5. Warning

- **Excess vitamin D** can be **toxic**, hence supplementation should be monitored.
-

Vitamin D: Normal Range

- **Blood Level (25-hydroxyvitamin D):**
 - **Deficient:** Less than 20 ng/mL
 - **Insufficient:** 20–29 ng/mL
 - **Sufficient/Normal:** 30–50 ng/mL
 - **Upper safe limit:** Up to 100 ng/mL
 - **Toxicity risk:** Above 150 ng/mL
-

Sources of Vitamin D

1. Sunlight (Primary Source)

- UVB rays from sunlight help the skin produce Vitamin D.
- **15–30 minutes** of sun exposure (midday, face & arms) several times a week is ideal.

2. Food Sources

- **Fatty Fish** (salmon, sardines, tuna, mackerel)
- **Cod Liver Oil**
- **Egg Yolks**
- **Fortified Foods** (milk, orange juice, cereals)
- **Mushrooms** exposed to UV light

3. Supplements

- **Vitamin D2 (ergocalciferol)** – plant-based
- **Vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol)** – animal-based, more effective at raising blood levels



GS Paper-wise Relevance

GS II: Governance

- Public health systems need to address widespread nutritional deficiencies.
- Preventive health policies, awareness, and community outreach are key.

GS III: Science and Technology

- Role of vitamin D in cellular function, immune regulation, and chronic disease prevention.
 - Importance of biotechnology in **food fortification** and supplement development.
-

Q. With reference to Vitamin D deficiency in India, consider the following statements:

- 1.** Over 70% of orally consumed vitamin D is absorbed by the human body.
- 2.** Deficiency of Vitamin D can lead to rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults.
- 3.** Vitamin D plays a role in regulating blood pressure and lowering the risk of autoimmune disorders.
- 4.** India has launched a national scheme to provide free vitamin D supplements through public hospitals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Countrywide survey reveals deficits in student learning

Punjab, Kerala among top performers; Grade-level gaps seen in key subjects such as mathematics and language; PARAKH RS finds that 54% of Class 9 students can identify main points of a text

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The results of the Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development Rashtriya Sarvekshen (PARAKH RS), formerly known as the National Achievement Survey (NAS), have revealed that Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Chandigarh are the best performing States and Union Territories in school education.

PARAKH RS assessed the performance of 21,15,022 children in Grades 3, 6 and 9 from 74,229 schools in 781 districts of the country in the following subjects: language and mathematics (for Grades 3, 6, and 9), the world around us (for Grades 3 and 6), and science and social science (for Grade 9). As many as 2,70,424 teachers and school leaders responded through questionnaires.

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala emerged as the top performing States in Grade 3. Kerala, Punjab and Dadra Nagar

Survey snapshots

The PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshen was conducted on December 4, 2024, covering 21,15,022 students from both government and private schools in Grades 3, 6 and 9



- Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Chandigarh are the best performers in school education
- Kendriya Vidyalayas recorded the lowest performance in Mathematics in Class 3
- In Class 6, government-aided and State government schools showed poor performance in Mathematics
- For Class 9, Kendriya Vidyalaya students performed the best across all subjects

Haveli and Daman & Diu were the top performers for Grade 6. Punjab, Kerala and Chandigarh were the best performing States for Grade 9. The Kendriya Vidyalayas, run by the Union government, recorded the lowest performance in mathematics in Grade 3. In Grade 6, government-aided and State government schools showed weak performance in mathematics. For Grade 9, students from Kendriya Vidyalayas performed the best across all subjects, particularly in language.

The results found that in Grade 3, 67% students know and use enough words to carry out day-to-

day interactions effectively and could guess the meaning of new words by using existing vocabulary.

Figuring it out

In mathematics, 68% students in Grade 3 could sort objects into groups and sub-groups based on more than one property, while 69% could identify and extend simple patterns in their surroundings, shapes, and numbers. Only 55% could arrange numbers up to 99 in ascending and descending order.

In Grade 6, only 54% could represent numbers using the place value structure of the Indian number system, and knew and

could read the names of very large numbers. Only 38% students could solve puzzles and daily-life problems involving one or more operations on whole numbers.

Only 38% of Grade 6 students asked questions and made predictions about simple patterns (season change, food chain, phases of the moon, movement of stars and planets, shapes of trees, plants, leaves, and flowers, rituals, celebrations) observed in the immediate environment.

In Grade 9, 45% of students could explain how the Constitution came to be and understood the ideas and ideals of the Indian national movement enshrined in it as well as those drawn from India's civilisational heritage. About 54% of students could identify the main points in a text from careful listening or reading of news articles, reports or editorials.

Only 31% could explore and understand sets of numbers, such as whole numbers, fractions, integers, rational numbers, and real numbers, and their properties, the survey results said.



1. Background of the Survey

- Conducted by: **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development).**
- Date: **December 4, 2024**
- Coverage:
 - **21,15,022 students**
 - Classes: **Grades 3, 6, and 9**
 - **781 districts**, both govt. & private schools
 - Subjects: **Language, Mathematics, EVS, Social Science**



2. Top Performers

- Best performing States/UTs:
 - Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Chandigarh
 - Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) recorded:
 - Lowest performance in Grade 3 Maths
 - Best overall performance in Grade 9 (esp. language)
-



3. Key Learning Gaps Identified

Grade 3:

- 67%: Could write daily interactions.
- 68%: Could group objects by more than one property.
- 55%: Could arrange numbers up to 99 in correct order.

Grade 6:

- Only 38%: Could solve real-world number problems.
- Only 38%: Could answer questions on seasonal & planetary changes.
- Only 31%: Understood number properties (e.g., factors, remainders, place value).

Grade 9:

- 54%: Could identify **main points** in an editorial/news article.
 - 45%: Could explain how the **Constitution** works.
 - Majority lacked grasp of **Indian heritage**, civics, and historical values.
-



4. Institutional Performance

- **State government and aided schools:** Weak in Class 6 Maths.
- **Private schools:** Outperformed government schools.
- **Kendriya Vidyalayas:** Strongest in Grade 9, weakest in early grades.

Q. With reference to the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan survey conducted in 2024, consider the following statements:

1. Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala were among the top-performing states across all assessed grades.
2. Kendriya Vidyalayas consistently outperformed all schools in all subjects across grades.
3. Less than 40% of Class 6 students could solve real-life mathematical problems involving whole numbers.
4. Over 50% of Class 3 students were able to arrange numbers up to 99 correctly.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

The ECI does not have unfettered powers

The Election Commission of India (ECI) ordered a special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, which will be facing Assembly elections in November. Politicians in the Opposition have alleged that the SIR is aimed at disenfranchising thousands of voters in Bihar by disqualifying them on the ground that they are not citizens of India. The ECI has denied this allegation and justified the revision. In the meantime, many petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the ECI's order. While the controversy centres on the motive behind this exercise being conducted just a couple of months before elections, especially when electoral rolls were revised in 2024, this article focuses on the legality of this exercise and the powers of the ECI to undertake it.

Reasons for disqualification
Article 326 of the Constitution declares that elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies shall be held on the basis of adult suffrage. This means every adult person is entitled to be a voter provided they are not disqualified on certain specified grounds. There are two essential conditions of being an elector under this Article: the person should be citizen of India and should be not less than 18. The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950, which disqualifications for registration as an elector. These are namely: unsoundness of mind as declared by a competent court, and disqualification from voting as provided in Section 1A of the 1951 RPA. Conditions for registration as a voter are laid out in Section 1A of the RPA: the person should not be less than 18 years of age and they should be ordinarily resident in a constituency. The term 'ordinarily resident' is defined in Section 20, which says a person shall not be deemed to be ordinarily resident merely because they own or possess a dwelling house in that constituency. Also, a person does not cease to be ordinarily resident if they absent



F.D.T. Achary
Former Secretary
of Lok Sabha

themselves temporarily from their ordinary place of residence. The ECI enjoys enormous powers in respect of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to Parliament, the State Legislatures, and to the offices of the President and Vice President. Article 324 of the Constitution, which empowers the ECI to undertake these tasks, is characterised by the Supreme Court as a "reservoir of power". Since the conduct of free and fair elections is an essential feature of the basic structure of the Constitution, the ECI needs to be vested with all the necessary powers to complete its task.

Nevertheless, it is inconceivable that the Constitution should confer on any authority unfettered powers. The Supreme Court has made it clear that the ECI can exercise all powers in its discretion in areas which are not covered by any statute but shall act in accordance with the law wherever it exists. In *Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner* (1978), the Court stated the law as follows: "Firstly when Parliament or any State Legislature has made valid law relating to or in connection with elections, the Commission shall act in conformity with, not in violation of, such provisions but where such law is silent, Article 324 is a reservoir of power to act for the avowed purpose of pushing forward a free and fair election with expedition."

The qualifying date
Let us look at the relevant provisions of the RPA to get a perspective on the powers of the ECI in regard to revision of the electoral rolls. Section 21 of the 1950 RPA deals with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. It speaks of four stages of revisions: (1) before elections to the Lok Sabha or Assembly; (2) before each section; (3) on the direction of the ECI in any year; and (4) a

special revision for a constituency or part of a constituency with the ECI recording reasons for doing so. All revisions except (4) are done with reference to a qualifying date, which, under Section 14, is the first day of January. The only exception is (4): no qualifying date is mentioned because it can be done any time.

The ECI order of June 24 mentions the qualifying date as 01/07/2025 and is a direction under Section 21(2)(b) of the RPA. It can be assumed that the revision being done in Bihar is under the same Section. But under this provision, the qualifying date should be 01/01/2025. The revision then should have been done from January 1, 2025. The qualifying date mentioned in the ECI order has no sanction under the law.

Similarly, the term 'special intensive revision' is not found in the law. The only case where a special revision can be ordered by the ECI at any time is in relation to a constituency or a part of it and not in relation to an entire State.

Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that the SIR in Bihar is not in conformity with the provisions of the RPA. The ECI has claimed in its order that it has power under Section 21 to undertake such exercise. True, but that power is limited to a constituency or part of it under Section 21(3) of the Act. While enjoying enormous powers under Article 324, the ECI is responsible to the rule of law and should be amenable to the norms of natural justice as per the Supreme Court. Electoral registration officers cannot summarily reject applications on the ground that foolproof 1950 RPA is not being furnished to prove citizenship. Rule 8 of the Registration of Electors Rules clearly states that information shall be furnished "to the best of ability" of the citizens. The ECI cannot ignore this statutory stipulation.

Grand ambitions, troubling questions

The Polavaram Banakacharla Link Project carries several risks

STATE OF PLAY

G.V.R. Subba Rao
November 2024
parlamentsession@ndia.com

The Andhra Pradesh government's ₹81,900 crore Polavaram Banakacharla Link Project, which aims to transfer surplus water from the Godavari river to Banakacharla in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region, is in limbo. This is a contentious project as Telangana argues that it violates the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Last week, the expert appraisal committee denied clearance for the terms of reference required to conduct the environmental impact assessment and environmental management plan for the project. The committee argued that the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award must first be examined and that the Central Water Commission (CWC) should be consulted before any environmental approvals are granted. The government has not yet commented on this decision.

A political dialogue between the Chief Ministers of A.P. and Telangana may be necessary to move the project forward. While the bold project seems to be a solution to Rayalaseema's acute water scarcity, a troubling question lies behind the grand ambition: Is the State mortgaging its future for a project that may never be economically viable or ecologically sound?

On paper, the project is an engineering marvel. However, the scale of investment, particularly when weighed against its energy costs, environmental footprint, and legal uncertainties. The project will require an estimated 3,377 MW of power. This is a staggering demand for a fiscally

managed, the project hinges on the assumption that excess floodwaters from the Godavari are flowing wastefully into the sea. But this is unverified. And as noted earlier, the committee has already denied permission for the terms of reference. Without clearance from the CWC, Central funding is uncertain.

Telangana's Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project sets a cautionary precedent. The CWC refused to approve an add-on component after determining that water availability projections were exaggerated. The A.P. government's proposal may face similar resistance, especially in the absence of a formal agreement on sharing surplus Godavari flows.

Telangana has already raised objections under the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014, which mandates that all new projects on the Krishna and Godavari rivers receive clearances from river management boards. A.P., however, argues that this is an intra-state project using floodwater headed for the sea. It is a legal grey zone that could lead to levels of litigation.

In recent years, A.P. has often found its interests sidelined. The Centre supported Karnataka's Upper Bhadra project just before elections. In Telangana, it adjusted the terms of reference on Krishna water allocation just before elections. As the TDP is back for a project that speculation is rife that the Godavari-Banakacharla project could become a political bargaining chip, Rayalaseema's long-term water security should not be reduced to Delhi's short-term arithmetic. At the same time, development in Rayalaseema must happen through projects that are sustainable, legally defensible, and based on hydrological realities.

Unusually, the responsibility for obtaining critical clearances from various ministries and from the CWC is being placed on contractors. Even if the finances and power needs are somehow

How fast is India's fastest man?

Since 1968, 1,027 athletes from around 90 countries have run the 100 m faster than Animesh Kujur

Need for speed

The data for the charts are sourced from Worldathletics.org. In the charts, records which are yet to be ratified by the Athletics Federation of India were not considered. Only events recorded in Worldathletics.org and ratified are presented.

Chart 1: The best 100 metre runs of Indians, equal to or below 10.55 seconds. Only events recorded in Worldathletics.org and ratified are presented.

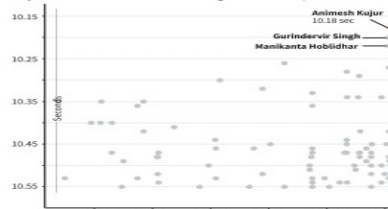


Chart 2: All the 100 metre runs, equal to or below 10.18 seconds. This chart includes an athlete's multiple runs if it was equal to or better than Kujur's record.

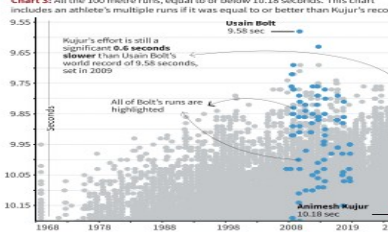


Chart 3: The best 100 metre runs, equal to or below 10.18 seconds. Each dot represents one athlete and his best run equal to or better than Kujur's national record.

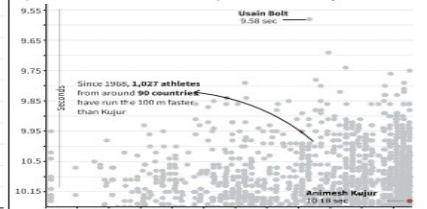
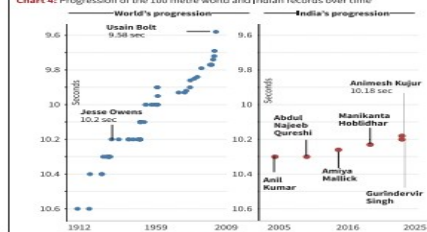


Chart 4: Progression of the 100 metre world and Indian records over time



DATA POINT

Vinayach Radhakrishnan

Last Saturday, Animesh Kujur became India's fastest man by breaking the national record in the men's 100 metres. He clocked 10.18 seconds in Greece, becoming the first Indian to run the 100 m event under 10.2 seconds.

Chart 1 shows the best 100 m runs of all Indians equal to or below 10.55 seconds. Notably, two India's fastest 100 m runs have come in quick succession in 2025. In March, Gurinder Singh set a record of 10.2 seconds; he is now the second fastest. On a parallel lane, Manikanta Hoblihar ran the 100 m race in 10.22 seconds; he is now the third fastest Indian.

Since 1968, 1,027 athletes from around 90 countries have run the 100m faster than Kujur (Chart 2). Kujur's effort is still a significant 0.6 seconds faster than Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58 seconds, set in 2009, which remains unbeaten (Chart 3). Bolt also holds the record for the second-fastest 100 m (9.63 seconds).

Chart 4 shows the progression of the 100 m world and Indian records over time. Kujur's national record is 0.2 seconds faster than the legendary sprinter Jesse Owens' best of 10.2 seconds, set in 1936. The current Indian national record is comparable to world records set in the 1930s to 1950s.

On Saturday, Kujur broke Singh's record of 10.20 seconds, set earlier this year. Singh had surpassed Hoblihar's 2023 mark of 10.23 seconds, who in turn had broken Amiya Mullick's 10.26 seconds from 2016. Mullick had bettered Abdul Najeeb Qureshi's 10.30 seconds, set in 2010, which had equalled Anil Kumar's record from 2005. In essence, over the past 20 years, Indian sprinters have improved their 100 m time by 0.12 seconds.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 9, 1975

WHO panels clears 'genetic engineering'

Geneva, July 7: The dangers of genetic engineering, altering the structural foundation of life, can be controlled, an international panel of top scientists has told the World Health Organization. The panel, meeting here privately at the end of last month, has made recommendations for action which, a WHO official said, would "give the amber light" to research on artificial recombination of genes. This is a field which has caused disquiet among many scientists because of the prospect of "engineered" human beings by changing genes. "The field has tremendous implications in cancer research, for example," a WHO spokesman said yesterday. "But last year it was discovered that it could have unexpected and fatal results." The details of the recommendations by the WHO's Advisory Committee on medical research are being kept secret until July 24. The committee heard a report from Dr. E.S. Anderson, of the London Central Public Health Laboratory on his work, the WHO spokesman said. A WHO statement last week said only that the committee "discussed at some length the safety problems involved in the experimental handling of pathogenic organisms." It added, "Special attention was given to the developments which are likely to stem from the new techniques which have recently become available." The statement added: "This powerful methodology amounts to performing artificial recombination between genes of different organisms. It was recognised by the committee that extremely important advances in medical science could be expected from the application of these techniques to the solution of a wide variety of problems in the prevention and therapy of human and animal diseases."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 9, 1925

Russo-Polish relation

Warsaw, July 8: Further incidents on the Polish-Russian frontier are reported. 20 Russian soldiers who crossed the frontier were fired on by the Polish Frontier Guards, who drove back the Russians, of whom one was mortally wounded.

The Political Police have recently arrested 200 Soviet emissaries on the Eastern border.

How fast is India's fastest man?

Since 1968, 1,027 athletes from around 90 countries have run the 100 m faster than Animesh Kujur



Need for speed

The data for the charts are sourced from Worldathletics.org. In the charts, records which are yet to be ratified by the Athletics Federation of India were not considered

Chart 1: The best 100 metre runs of Indians, equal to or below 10.55 seconds. Only events recorded in Worldathletics.org and ratified are presented

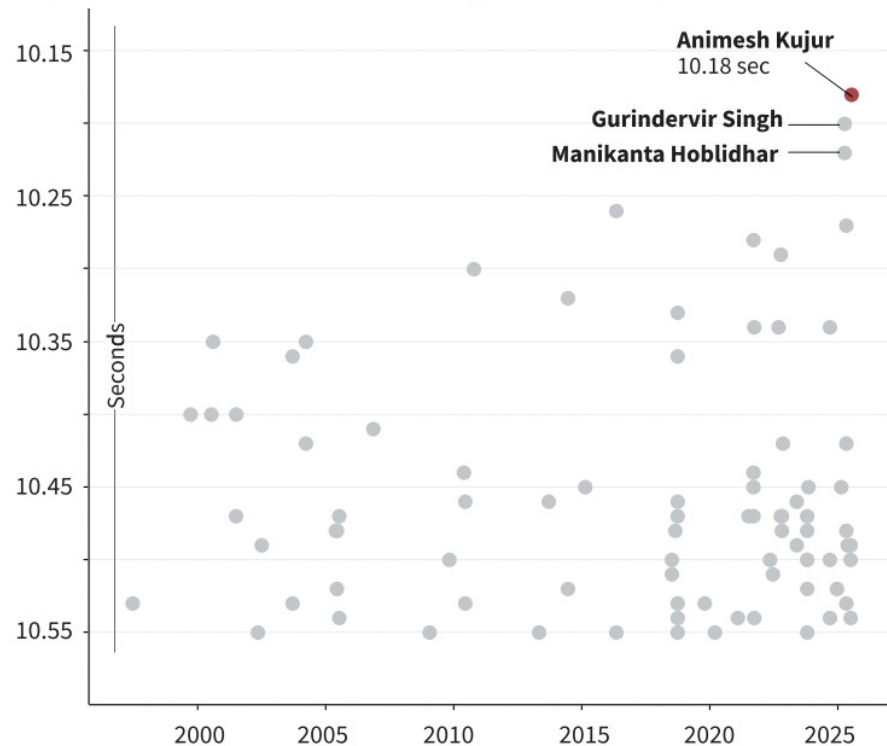
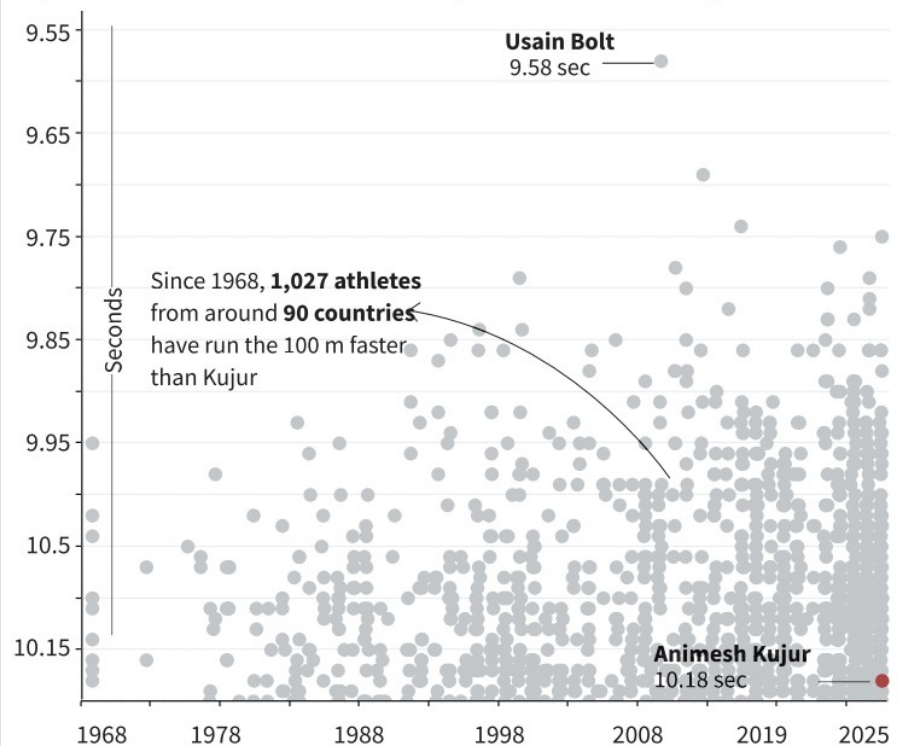


Chart 2: The best 100 metre runs, equal to or below 10.18 seconds. Each dot represents one athlete and his best run equal to or better than Kujur's national record



Ku-
stest
na-
100
nds
t In-
nder

0 m
be-
o of
ave
025.
set a
now
allel
the
re is

rom
the
t 2).
cant
sain
se-
ains
also

Chart 3: All the 100 metre runs, equal to or below 10.18 seconds. This chart includes an athlete's multiple runs if it was equal to or better than Kujur's record

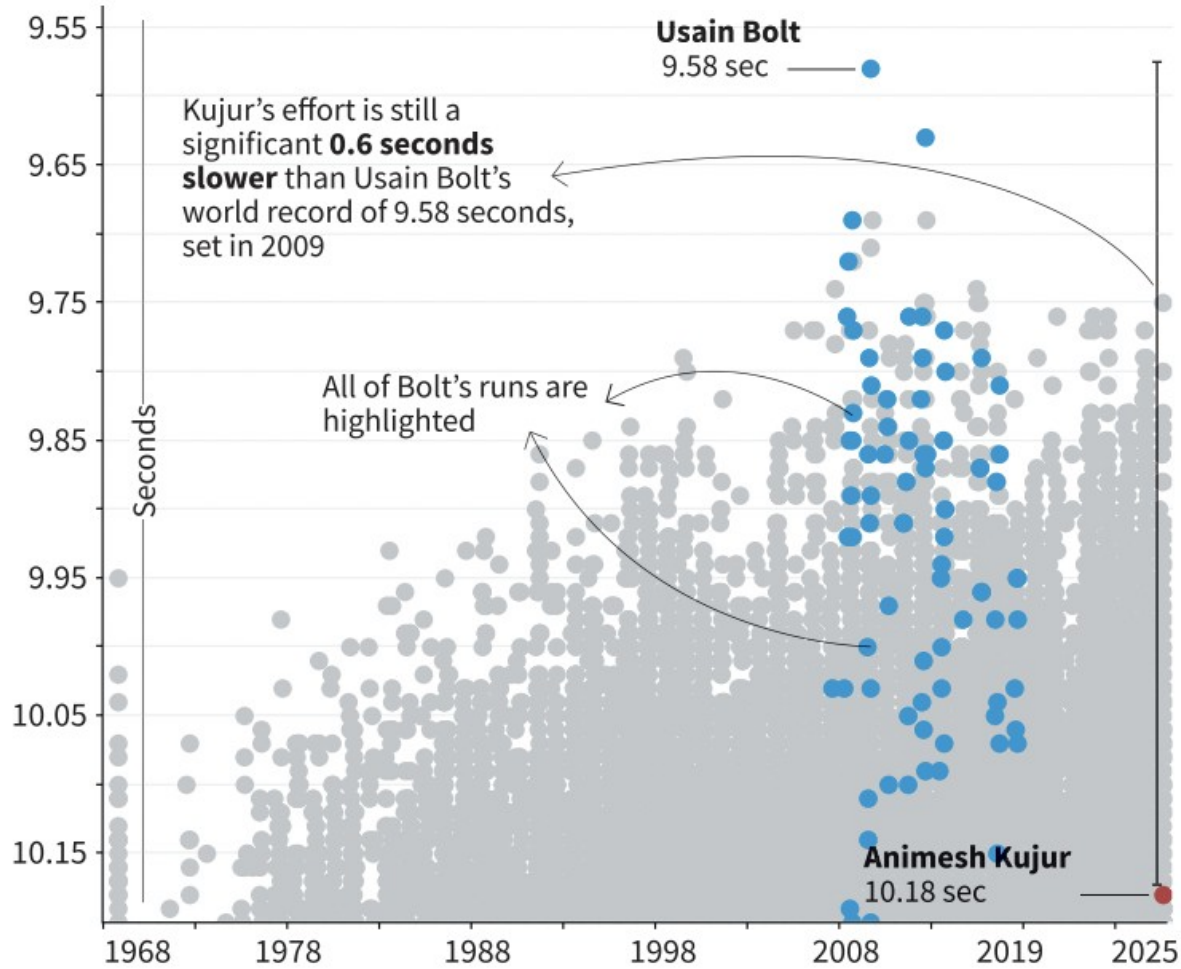
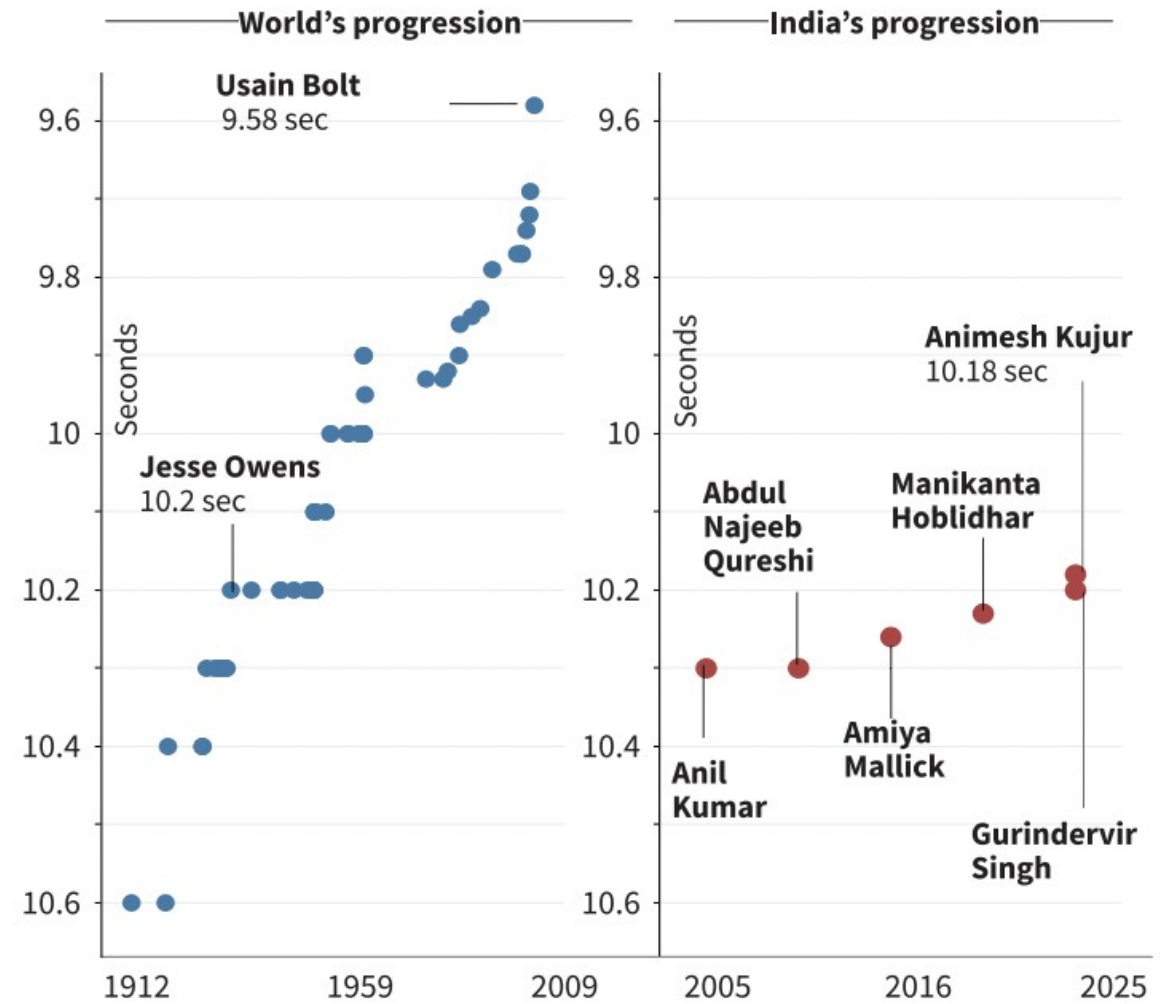
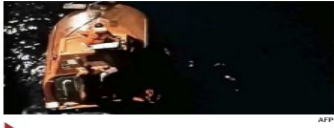


Chart 4: Progression of the 100 metre world and Indian records over time



DUBAI

Two killed in Red Sea attack as Yemen's Houthis resume strikes



An ongoing attack on a cargo vessel in the Red Sea has killed two people after Yemen's Houthis rebels resumed their campaign against shipping in the vital waterway. The *Eternity*, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, has been badly damaged and under "continuous attack" since Monday in waters off Yemen, a maritime monitor said. AFP

BRUSSELS

Bulgaria becomes 21st member to adopt euro after EU green light



EU ministers gave the final green light for Bulgaria to adopt the euro on January 1, 2025, making it the 21st member. Bulgaria's switch from the lev to the euro comes nearly 19 years after the country joined the European Union. EU finance ministers officially set the euro at 1.95583 Bulgarian lev. AFP

KATHMANDU

Eight dead, 31 missing in floods at border between China and Nepal



Floods triggered by torrential rainfall tore down a Himalayan valley between China and Nepal on Tuesday, with at least eight killed and 31 missing. The wall of water also swept away the Friendship Bridge at Rasuwagadi, which is 120 km north of Kathmandu and one of the main bridges linking Nepal and China over the Bhotekoshi river. AFP

MOSCOW

Kremlin 'shocked' by the suicide of Minister terminated from service



The Kremlin on Tuesday expressed shock over the apparent suicide of former Transport Minister Roman Starovoyt following his sacking by Russian President Vladimir Putin a day earlier. "It cannot not shock normal people. And of course it shocked us too," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. AFP

Trump, Netanyahu take lap of victory to mark Iran strikes

Israeli PM nominates U.S. leader for Nobel Peace Prize, saying he's forging peace one region after the other; both leaders optimistic that their success in Iran would mark a new era in West Asia

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told President Donald Trump he was nominating the U.S. leader for a Nobel Peace Prize as the two took a victory lap on Monday to hail their recent joint strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities as an unmitigated success.

The two leaders sat down with their top aides for a dinner in the White House Blue Room to mark the Iran operation and discuss efforts to push forward with a 60-day ceasefire proposal to pause the 21-month conflict in Gaza. "He's forging peace as



Head in gloves: Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting at the White House on Monday. AP

we speak, one country and one region after the other," Mr. Netanyahu said as he presented the U.S. President with a nominating letter that he said he has sent

him the nomination letter. Mr. Netanyahu's outwardly triumphant visit to the White House, his third this year, was dogged by Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza and questions over how hard Mr. Trump will push for an end to the conflict.

But in an exchange before reporters before the dinner got underway, both leaders expressed optimism that their success in Iran would mark a new era in West Asia.

"I think things are going to be really settled down a lot in the Middle East (West Asia)," Mr. Trump said. "And, they respect us and they respect Israel," he added.

Trump to send 'more weapons' to Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has said Washington will send additional weapons to Ukraine, triggering Russian criticism after Moscow claimed new gains in its grinding war against its neighbor.

The Kremlin warned on Tuesday that sending arms to Ukraine only serves to prolong the conflict, a day after Mr. Trump's pledge for "more weapons" for Ukraine to end itself.

Mr. Trump's announcement to send weapons to Ukraine on Monday followed Washington saying last week that it was halting its weapons shipments to Kyiv, leaving Ukrainian officials caught off guard and scrambling for clarity.

Five Israeli soldiers killed; Israeli strikes kill 51 Gazans

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Five Israeli soldiers were killed in an attack in the northern Gaza Strip, Israeli military said on Tuesday, while health officials in the Palestinian territory said 51 people were killed in Israeli strikes.

The soldiers' deaths could add to pressure on Mr. Netanyahu to strike a deal, as polls in Israel have shown widespread support for ending the 21-month war.

The soldiers were killed roughly two weeks after Israel reported one of its deadliest days in months in Gaza when seven soldiers were killed after a Palestinian attached a bomb to weapons shipments were taken, said one strike targeted vehicle.

An Israeli security official said explosive devices



Cry for help: Two children, whose house in Deir al-Balah came under Israeli fire, arrive at the al-Aqsa hospital on Tuesday. REUTERS

were detonated against the five soldiers during an operation in the Beit Hanoun area in northern Gaza, an area where Israel has repeatedly fought regrouping militants.

Health officials at Nasser Hospital, where victims of the Israeli strikes were taken, said one strike targeted tents sheltering displaced people in Khan

Younis in southern Gaza, killing four persons. A separate strike in Khan Younis killed four persons, including a mother, father and their two children, officials said.

Nasser Hospital records showed a total of 41 people killed on Tuesday. In central Gaza, Israeli strikes killed another 10 people and wounded 72.

Iran denies requesting for talks with the U.S. since war

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran said on Tuesday it has not made any request for talks with the United States after President Donald Trump said Tehran was seeking negotiations following last month's war with Israel.

"No request for a meeting has been made on our side to the American side," said Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, according to *Tasnim* news agency.

Mr. Trump said on Monday that Iran was seeking talks with the United States and that talks have been scheduled, without specifying the time or the location.

Soothing touch



A mother from South Sudan feeds her six-month-old child with ready-to-use supplementary food received from the World Food Programme at the Matar refugee camp in Gambella region in Ethiopia. REUTERS

Russia's main poll monitor stops work amid crackdown

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia's main independent voting observer Golos, which monitored the country's increasingly tightly-controlled elections for 25 years, announced its closure on Tuesday.

"Golov - which means 'voice' in Russian - had for years meticulously recorded voting fraud across the huge country as elected under President Vladimir Putin's long rule turned into a ritual with little real choice.

The group's co-chair Grigory Melkonyants, Russia's most respected inde-



Grigory Melkonyants

pendent election observer, was sentenced to five years in prison in May as part of the Kremlin's sweeping crackdown on dissent. He had "no choice" but to end its activity after the sentencing as it put its participants "at risk".

Macron calls for the U.K. and Europe to de-risk ties with America and China

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

French President Emmanuel Macron made a strong plea for the U.K. and other European countries to de-risk their relationships with and decrease their reliance on both the U.S. and China. Mr. Macron made these remarks in an address to both Houses of the British Parliament on Tuesday afternoon, the first day of his three-day state visit to the U.K.

While his remarks on China are not unusual, the repeated references to the risks of partnering with the U.S. indicate the extent of the structural changes the transatlantic relationship



Emmanuel Macron

has undergone, following Donald Trump's return to the White House.

"We will have, as well, to de-risk our two countries for the excessive dependencies on both the U.S. and China," Mr. Macron said, adding that he was not equating China and the U.S.

China could distort supply chains with its (excess) capacity and subsidies, Mr. Macron said, while also hitting out at the U.S. "The trade war is clearly an explicit decision not to be compliant anymore with the WTO (World Trade Organization)," he said.

He spoke about Anglo-French cooperation on climate and biodiversity in the face of challenges. "Together we commit to the planet, in the face of the new league within the international reactionaries who deny science and facts, we also defend with one voice, implementation of our climate ambitions towards carbon neutrality, phasing out fossil fuels and protect-

ing forests," Mr. Macron said. On Gaza, Mr. Macron called for an immediate ceasefire without conditions, in strong terms.

"Today, a dehumanisation is occurring there that can never be justified," he said, also calling for the release of hostages captured by Hamas in October 2023.

The French President is due to have a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday. The operational part of the summit is scheduled for Thursday.

Mr. Macron outlined his cooperation they would seek on migration, energy, space in addition to defence and security.

Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

The International Criminal Court on Tuesday issued arrest warrants for senior Taliban leaders in Afghanistan over the persecution of women, a crime against humanity. ICC judges said there were "reasonable grounds" to suspect Supreme Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada and Chief Justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani of the crime against humanity of persecution...

Meanwhile, India abstained in the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution on Afghanistan, noting that a "business as usual" approach is unlikely



Haibatullah Akhundzada

to deliver outcomes that the global community envisions for the Afghans. The 193-member UN General Assembly on Monday adopted the draft, introduced by Germany on "The situation in Afghanistan". The resolution was adopted with 116 votes in favour; two against and 12 abstentions, including India.

German court rules at-risk Afghan family be given visas

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

A German court ruled on Tuesday that the government must issue visas to an Afghan family previously accepted under a programme for those at risk after the Taliban seized power in 2021.

The new government under conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz has frozen the programme, but Berlin's administrative court said the family had been given a "legally binding" commitment and must be allowed to travel to Germany. About 2,500 Afghans with similar approvals are estimated to be in Pakistan waiting to be able to travel to Germany.

Germany says China targeted plane with laser over Red Sea

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Berlin on Tuesday said the Chinese military had targeted a laser at a German aircraft participating in an EU-led mission to protect marine traffic in the Red Sea.

"Endangering German personnel and disrupting operations is entirely unacceptable," the German Foreign Ministry said on X, adding that Beijing's Ambassador to Berlin had been summoned for discussions. The German aircraft was targeted "without reason or prior contact... dur-

The German aircraft was targeted "during a routine operation" while taking part in EU's Aspidos mission

ing a routine operation" over the Red Sea while taking part in the European Union's Aspidos mission, a spokesman for the German Defence Ministry said.

The aircraft in question was a "multi-sensor platform" used as a "flying eye" for reconnaissance. It was not immediately clear whether the laser was a weapon or a laser guidance system.

BRUSSELS

Bulgaria becomes 21st member to adopt euro after EU green light



AFP

EU ministers gave the final green light for Bulgaria to adopt the euro on January 1, 2026, making it the single currency area's 21st member. Bulgaria's switch from the lev to the euro comes nearly 19 years after the country joined the European Union. EU finance ministers officially set the euro at 1.95583 Bulgarian lev. AFP



Capital <div>and largest city</div>	<div>Sofia</div> <div><div><div></div><div><div></div><div>42°41′51″N</div></div></div><div>23°19′21″E</div></div>
Official languages	Bulgarian ^[1]
Official script	Cyrillic
Ethnic groups ^(2021 census^[note 1]^[2])	<div>85.7% Bulgarians</div> <div>8.5% Turks</div> <div>4.5% Roma</div> <div>1.3% Others</div>
Religion ^{(2021 census)^[2]}	<div><div><div>64.7% Christianity</div><div><div><div>62.7% Bulgarian Orthodoxy</div><div>2.0% other Christian</div></div></div><div>15.9% no religion</div><div>9.8% Islam</div><div>0.1% other</div><div>9.5% unanswered</div></div></div>
Demonym(s)	Bulgarian
Government	<div>Unitary parliamentary republic</div> <div><div><div><div>• President</div><div>• Vice President</div><div>• Prime Minister</div><div>• Chairperson of the National Assembly</div></div><div><div>Rumen Radev</div><div>Iliana Iotova</div><div>Rosen Zhelyazkov</div><div>Nataliya Kiselova</div></div></div></div>
Legislature	National Assembly
Establishment history	<div><div><div>• 1st Bulgarian Empire</div><div>681–1018</div></div><div><div>• 2nd Bulgarian Empire</div><div>1185–1396</div></div><div><div>• Principality of Bulgaria</div><div>3 March 1878</div></div><div><div>• Independence from the Ottoman Empire</div><div>5 October 1908</div></div><div><div>• Monarchy abolished</div><div>15 September 1946</div></div><div><div>• Current state form</div><div>15 November 1990</div></div></div>

Area	
<div><div><div>• Total</div><div>110,993.6^[3] km² (42,854.9 sq mi) (103rd)</div></div><div><div>• Water (%)</div><div>2.16^[4]</div></div></div>	
Population	
<div><div><div>• December 2024^[5] estimate</div><div>▼ 6,437,360 (109th)</div></div><div><div>• 2021^[6] census</div><div>▼ 6,519,789</div></div><div><div>• Density</div><div>58/km² (150.2/sq mi) (154th)</div></div></div>	
GDP (PPP)	2025 estimate
<div><div><div>• Total</div><div>▲ \$264.699 billion^[7] (73rd)</div></div><div><div>• Per capita</div><div>▲ \$41,901^[8] (55th)</div></div></div>	
GDP (nominal)	2025 estimate
<div><div><div>• Total</div><div>▲ \$117.007 billion^[8] (68th)</div></div><div><div>• Per capita</div><div>▲ \$18,522^[8] (59th)</div></div></div>	
Gini (2023)	▼ 37.2 ^[9] <div>medium inequality</div>
HDI (2023)	▲ 0.845 ^[10] <div>very high (55th)</div>
Currency	Lev (BGN)
Time zone	UTC+2 (EET)

Banknotes

Freq. used [€5](#), [€10](#), [€20](#), [€50](#), [€100](#)^[2]
Rarely used [€200](#), [€500](#)^[2]

Coins

Freq. used [1c](#), [2c](#), [5c](#), [10c](#), [20c](#), [50c](#), [€1](#),
 [€2](#)

Rarely used [1c](#), [2c](#) (Belgium, Estonia,
 Finland, Ireland, Italy,
 Lithuania, Netherlands,
 Slovakia^[3]^[4]^[5]^[6])

Demographics

Date of introduction 1 January 1999; 26 years ago

Replaced [European Currency Unit](#)

User(s) primary: § [members of Eurozone](#) (20),
 also: § [other users](#)

Issuance

Central bank [European Central Bank](#)

Website [www.ecb.europa.eu](#) ↗

Printer see § [Banknote printing](#)

Mint [List of mints](#)

Valuation

Inflation 1.9% (May 2025)^[7]

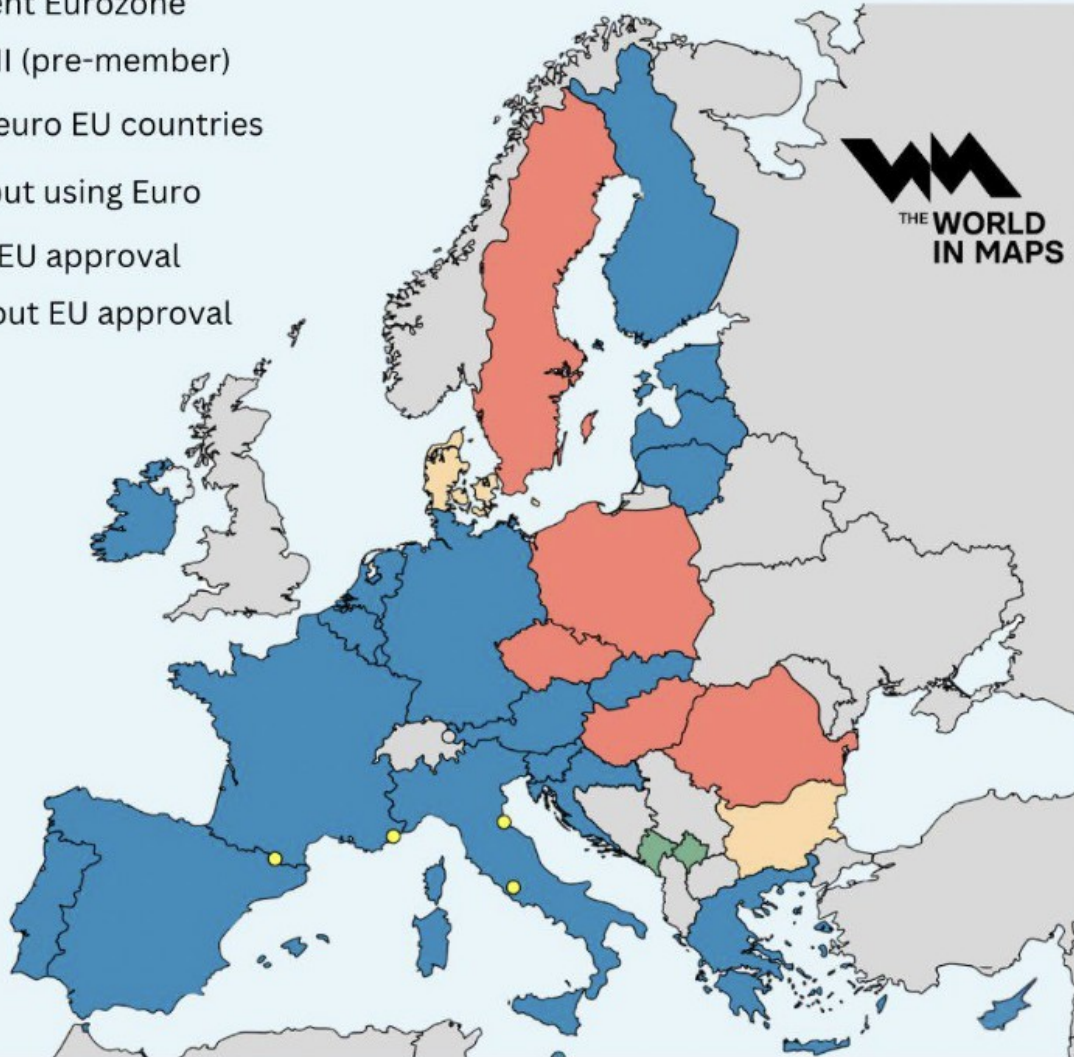
Source [ec.europa.eu](#) ↗


Method [HICP](#)

Pegged by see § [Pegged currencies](#)

COUNTRIES USING THE EURO

- Current Eurozone
- ERM II (pre-member)
- Non-euro EU countries
- Non-EU but using Euro
 - With EU approval
 - Without EU approval



An aerial, high-angle view of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, showing a multitude of skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "2nd Edition of the NER District SDG Index" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

2nd Edition of the NER District SDG Index

The second edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index Report (2023-24) was released by NITI Aayog.

About

The Index is developed by **NITI Aayog** and the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER)**, with support from the **United Nations Development Programme**.

The Index, builds upon the momentum of the first edition released in 2021, measures the performance of districts across eight North Eastern States on the SDGs.

- Districts are categorised into **four categories**:
 - **Achiever**: Score equals 100 (achieved the targets set for identified indicators);
 - **Front Runner**: Score between 65 and 99 (excluding 100);
 - **Performer**: Score between 50 and 65 (excluding 65); and
 - **Aspirant**: Score less than 50.
- All districts in **Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura** have **achieved Front Runner status**, with no districts falling in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.
 - Mizoram has the highest-scoring district in the entire Northeast region (Hnahthial at 81.43) and Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest-scoring district in the entire region (Longding at 58.71).

Top 10 Districts

State	District	Score	Rank
Mizoram	Hnahthial	81.43	1
Mizoram	Champhai	79.86	2
Tripura	Gomati	78.79	3
Nagaland	Mokokchung	78.43	4
Tripura	West Tripura	77.64	5
Nagaland	Kohima	76.93	6
Tripura	South Tripura	76.71	7
Sikkim	Gangtok	76.64	8
Mizoram	Kolasib	76.50	9
Nagaland	Dimapur	76.29	10

Colombia and Uzbekistan Joined New Development Bank (NDB)

Colombia and Uzbekistan have officially joined the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, expanding the multilateral lender's membership to 11 countries.

New Development Bank (NDB)

Establishment: The NDB was founded in July 2014 at the **6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza**, Brazil, and became operational in July 2015.

Headquarters: Shanghai, China

Mandate: The bank's primary goal is to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects that contribute to economic growth and development in member countries and beyond.

Capitalization: The initial authorized capital of the NDB is \$100 billion, with each founding member contributing an equal share.

Members: India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria are members of NDB.

Governance: The NDB is governed by a **Board of Governors** and a **Board of Directors**, with each member country having equal voting rights, reflecting the principle of equality among founding members.

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme

-
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has withheld provisional award letters for 66 out of 106 selected candidates under the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) due to a shortage of funds.

What is the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme?

- A Central Sector Scheme that enables students from **marginalised communities** to pursue higher education abroad (Master's or Ph.D.) by offering **financial assistance** for tuition, living expenses, and other costs.

Launched By:

- Ministry: Social Justice and Empowerment
- Target Groups:
 - Scheduled Castes (SCs)
 - Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes
 - Landless Agricultural Labourers
 - Traditional Artisans

- Eligibility Criteria:

- Academic Qualification:

- For Master's – Bachelor's degree with $\geq 60\%$
 - For Ph.D. – Master's degree with $\geq 60\%$

- Age Limit: Not more than **35 years** as on April 1 of selection year.

- Income Ceiling: Annual family income should not exceed **₹8 lakh**.

- University Requirement: Unconditional admission in **Top 500 QS-ranked institutions**.

- Others:

- Not already studying/settled abroad
 - Max **2 children per family** eligible (second only if seats remain)

Word of the day

Sodden:

wet through and through; thoroughly wet

Synonym: soppy

Usage: *He wrung out his sodden shirt.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/soddenpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'sɒ.dən/



STILL CONFUSED! HOW TO PREPARE

Start from zero and take the first step
with expert guidance in our **Online Wo**

For English Medium Candidates Only



RAS Mains



Join RASonly Jaipur – Ace RAS 2025!

Looking for the best RAS offline coaching in Jaipur? Our
expert faculty, daily tests, and personalized guidance will
get you exam-ready!



Register Now

📞 9057143412



28–30, JDA Market, Shri Hans
Marg, Gopalpura Bypass Rd

Request a Free Consultation

Name

Mobile Number

E-mail address

Submit Request



+9190571 43412




info.rasonly@gmail.com



We are the team of passionate officer educators and Technocra

We Want to make your RAS jour

A blurred background image showing a group of people in a meeting or conference, with several hands raised in the air, suggesting applause or a group exercise. The image is out of focus, with the foreground hands being sharper than the background figures.

Thank you
guys.
