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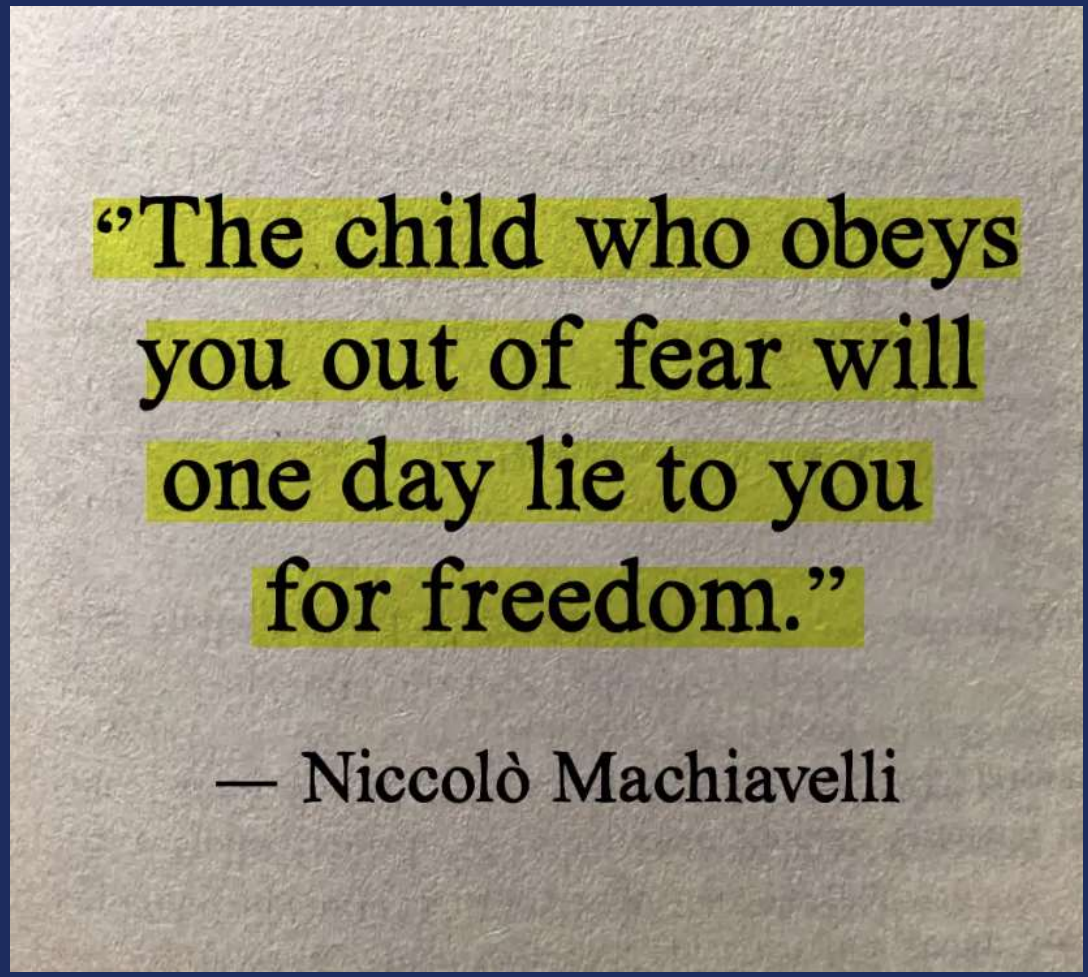
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National & International



By Bhunesh Sir

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"The child who obeys you out of fear will one day lie to you for freedom."
— Niccolò Machiavelli

Today’s Current Affairs | 5 November 2026

आज के समसामयिक मुद्दे — The Hindu • Indian Express • Financial Express — 5 articles + exam PYQs + MCQs + Myth Buster

1. **SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated**
   दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक
2. **Democrats seize Congress in US midterms**
   अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव
3. **Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service**
   अग्निपथ में बदलाव
4. **The Amazon is now a carbon emitter**
   अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक
5. **Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028**
   स्वच्छ भारत मिशन


THE HINDU

Falling fertility rate makes 2-child norms outdated: SC

Public spaces and democratic citizenship

Bodies of missing sisters recovered in Kedarnal

Do not fear prosecution, SC tells excluded voters

Pacers and Kohli give Mexi in Blue the lead

INSIDE

Volatility index stays elevated despite rally

Four people dead as armed groups clash in Manipur

Cess on sales tax falls in State's scope, says SC

Four tankers on fire after 'hitting mines in Hormuz'

1

w for Trump as Democrats seize Congress

The U.S. President strikes a conciliatory note, says disappointing results are "not a hit on him"

2

Back to work

veers get option for nsion; pathway to join army as regular soldiers

Career trajectory

Hockey star's Olympic gold stolen in Bengaluru

THE HINDU • 5 NOV 2026

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Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 **Democrats seize Congress | अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव**

2 **Agniveers' new pathway | अग्निवीर**

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव

Blow for Trump as Democrats seize Congress

- Opposition flips seats long held by GoP, securing majorities in both House and Senate in midterms
- The U.S. President strikes a conciliatory note, says disappointing results are 'not a hit on him'
- The landslide will give Opposition power to block legislation, investigate Trump's administration

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Democrats seized control of the U.S. Congress after the midterm election on Tuesday, capturing the Senate and House of Representatives in a stunning, nationwide rejection of President Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his term.

With most of the electoral races called by Wednesday, the Opposition party won at least 237 seats in the 435-member House and increased its strength in the 100-member Senate to at least 54.

Democrats flipped seats that had long been held by Republicans, scoring breakthroughs in South Carolina, North Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Texas, and Maine as public anger at rising living costs compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular President.

In Texas, Democrat James Talarico, a former schoolteacher who campaigned on a "politics of love", won the Senate defeating the State's attorney-general Ken Paxton, a close ally of Mr. Trump. He becomes the first Democrat to win Statewide office since 1994 while Gina Hinojosa unseated the State's Republican Governor, Greg Abbott, ending decades of Republican rule.

The scale of the victory grew further when Abdul El-Sayed defeated former Republican lawmaker Mike Rogers in Michigan to become the first Muslim elected to the upper chamber of Congress.



Jubilant crowd: Democratic supporters in Texas react on Tuesday as the party secured major victories in the midterm polls. REUTERS

Not a hit on me: Trump

Mr. Trump struck a conciliatory tone despite his history of questioning elections, telling *The New York Times* he was "absolutely willing" to accept the results. However, he later told Fox News, "I do not view it as a hit on me." He also warned the Democrats against launching any effort to impeach him, saying that it would "destroy" their party. The landslide will give the Opposition power to block legislation, launch broad investigations into Mr. Trump's administration, and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.

"Michigan, we did it!" Mr. El-Sayed said in a speech at his election headquarters after his historic win in Michigan.

Mr. El-Sayed won despite a last-minute curveball in his campaign when congresswoman Haley Stevens, who lost the Democratic primary to Mr. El-Sayed, came out in support of the Republican candidate at the 11th hour.

In Kansas, Methodist Minister Adam Hamilton became the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the reliably conservative State since 1932. Iowa had not elected a Democratic Senator since 2008.

In Maine, former logger Troy Jackson defeated long-time Republican Senator Susan Collins, the party's seventh Senate seat captured from Republicans. Democrats also protected key Senate seats of their own, including Jon Ossoff in Georgia and an open seat in New Hampshire.

The party's House victory saw gains across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina, Wisconsin and New Jersey, including districts Mr. Trump had carried comfortably in 2024.

Historic firsts

In a closely watched bellwether, Democrat J.D. Ford ousted Republican congresswoman Victoria Spartz in Indiana, capturing a district Mr. Trump won by 17 points two years back. Democrats won Georgia's governorship, electing former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as the first Black woman governor in U.S. history.

Republicans had some consolation in Florida, where Trump-backed Byron Donalds became the state's first Black governor and Ashley Moody retained a Senate seat – but only after seeing off surprisingly strong Democratic challenges.

Democratic control of Congress will allow the party to pursue investigations into the Iran war, immigration enforcement and allegations of corruption, while blocking Mr. Trump's agenda and senior appointments.

Democratic Representative Robert Garcia, now expected to lead the powerful House Oversight Committee, warned Republicans on social media: "LAWYER UP."

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries declared Mr. Trump's MAGA movement "on the run from sea to shining sea". Mr. Jeffries could become the first Black Speaker of the House when the new Congress meets in January.

Despite his conciliatory remarks, Mr. Trump also insisted on social media that Republicans would have won "IN A LANDSLIDE" if he had been running.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 4, 12, 13, 14 & 15

How U.S. midterm poll results could shape geopolitical options for India

Republicans have faced losses but it is unclear whether Trump will seek an early exit from the Iran war; the victory of candidates from immigrant families could temper anti-immigrant rhetoric; tariffs and trade deal other areas of interest

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The dramatic results of the U.S. midterm elections will probably have less impact on India-U.S. bilateral relations than on geopolitics and, as a result, India's "operating environment" in the world. The elections gave the Democrats a majority in the House of Representatives and a comfortable edge in the Senate, which means U.S. President Donald Trump will face restraints on both domestic and foreign policy.

In interviews given after the results began to come in, Mr. Trump said he stood by his decision to attack Iran in February 2026, but acknowledged that Iran was "part" of the reason for Republican losses.

It isn't clear whether this means he will give talks with Iran a greater chance and look for an early exit from the war, but New Delhi will watch closely.

Since the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran began, at least 24 Indians have been killed, including 15 seafarers, who died in attacks by the U.S. and Iran on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

The Hormuz blockade has had a choking effect on India's energy and fertilizer imports and goods trade, and any cessation of hostilities would come not a day too soon for India.

"Both an escalatory, costly and unnecessary war as well as inflationary tariffs have been negatively assessed by voters," said Navtej Sarna, a former Indian Ambassador to the U.S. and Israel, who said it was still early to see what "specific aspects" of foreign policy would be affected by the results.



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, had made positive comments on the FTA when he visited Mumbai last month. AFP

The results could have a mixed, or even negative, effect on India's ties with Russia and its import of Russian oil.

Mr. Trump's decision on October 16, 2026, to waive all tariffs on countries importing Russian oil under the Lindsey Graham sanctions Act (SRIA) has given India a temporary reprieve.

However, the SRIA had widespread bipartisan support, and New Delhi will need to work both sides of the aisle if it wants the Act calling for tariffs of up to 100% on Russian oil imports to remain waived.

Ministry of External Affairs officials have said India will not bow to unilateral U.S. sanctions in this case. However, compared with July 2026, when India imported about 51% of its oil needs from Russia, the figure dropped to 44% in August and 33% in September.

FTA negotiations

Another area where India would benefit from constraints on Mr. Trump's "adventurism" is tariffs and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the U.S.

Despite positive comments from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who travelled to Mumbai last month and met top Indian industry leaders, there is some doubt about whether the FTA can be ready in time for Mr. Modi's visit to North America and Europe in mid-December 2026, when he will attend the G-20 summit in Florida.

"The general climate after the midterms is marginally favourable for the conclusion of the deal, which is already done to a great extent," former diplomat Mohan Kumar told *The Hindu*.

"On balance, I see a strong chance of the deal being done by the time or when the PM is in Miami for the G-20 meeting," he predicted, citing rising inflation and mishandling of the economy as election issues.

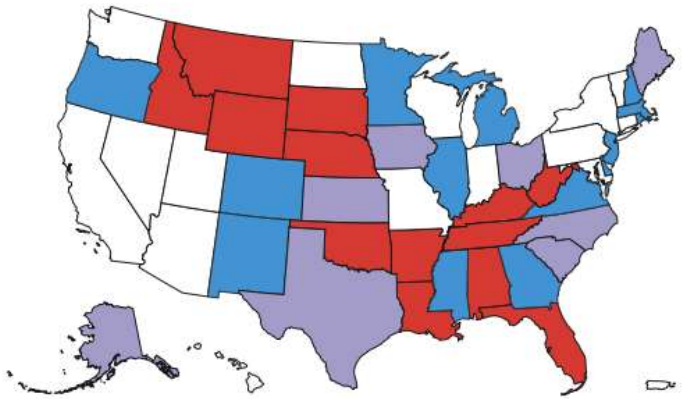
The rise of Democratic governors, senators and Congress members from immigrant families in these elections could mean a reduction in the anti-immigrant rhetoric that has worried Indians and persons of Indian origin (PIOs) in the U.S. over the past few years.

However, it is unlikely to change the administration's stance on curbing visas, restricting the naturalisation of professionals and deporting undocumented migrants, as these have widespread support.

Finally, India will watch closely whether the Republican loss will affect Mr. Trump's Indo-Pacific policy, U.S. ties with China, and his interest in the Quad grouping.

Democrats flipped at least seven Senate seats in ruby-red States and battlegrounds as well

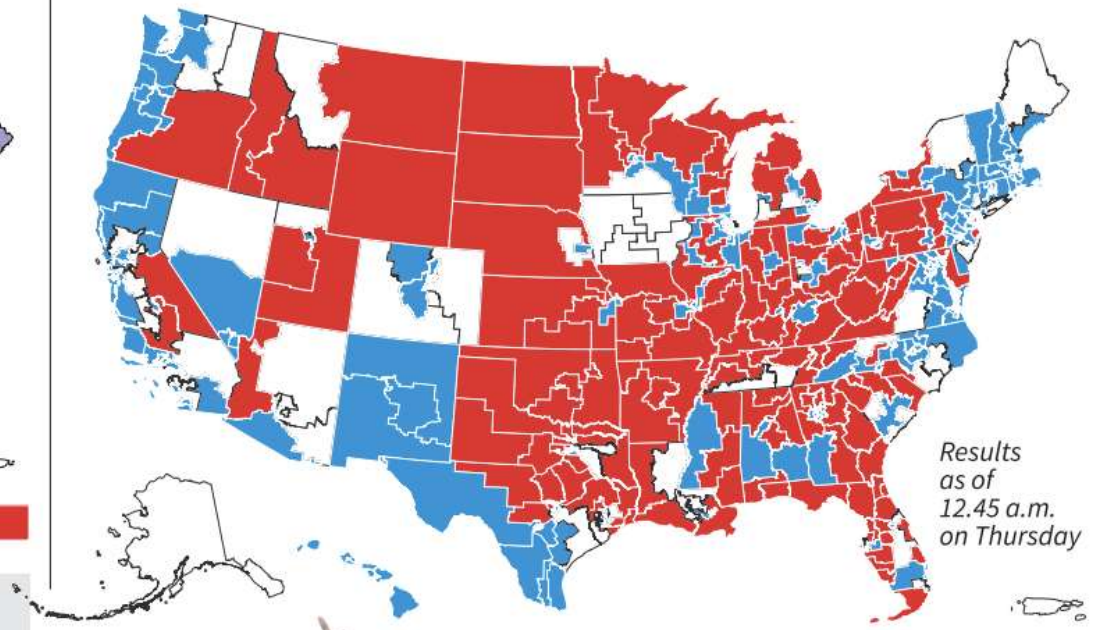
Democrats | Democrats (flipped)
Republicans | No race



Democrats 54 | **Republicans 44**

In the House, Democrats flipped over 30 districts, some that voted for Trump in 2024

☐ Still counting

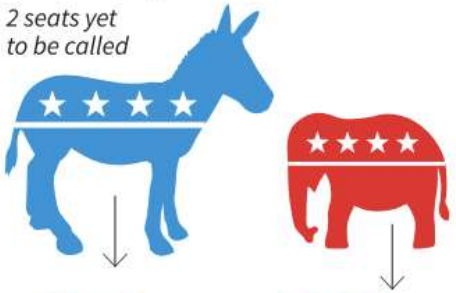


Results as of 12.45 a.m. on Thursday

Democrats 237 | **Republicans 139**

36 States
conducted governor elections

2 seats yet to be called



22
seats
Won by Democrats

12
seats
Won by Republicans

5
States flipped from Republican governors to Democrats

Democrats will control a majority of governors' offices for the first time since 2010

This was the second consecutive election in which the party that spent more lost, after former Vice-President **Kamala Harris lost to Trump** in 2024 presidential polls



The vote reflected deep anger over living costs, tariffs and Trump's war against Iran, which has sent fuel prices soaring and compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular President

The election included many historic firsts, including the first Black female governor in U.S., the first Muslim in the U.S. Senate, and the first openly gay man elected to U.S. Senate

Of the two gubernatorial races yet to be called, Democrats were leading comfortably in Alaska and with a thin margin in Kansas

Republicans lost in southern House districts with 'gerrymandered' maps

TABLE 1: Margins in Senate races in few battleground States, compared with Donald Trump's margins in 2024. Margins are in percentage points

State	2026 Senate Winner	2026 Margin	Trump's Margin in 2024
Texas	James Talarico	12.07	13.7
Minnesota	Peggy Flanagan	10.16	-4.2
Michigan	Abdul El-Sayed	7.04	1.4
Maine	Troy D. Jackson	7.72	-6.9
Kansas	Adam Hamilton	4.87	16.1
South Carolina	Annie Andrews	4.48	17.9
Ohio	Sherrod Brown	4.86	11.2
Iowa	Josh Turek	4.11	13.2
Alaska*	Mary Peltola	0.3	13.1
Mississippi*	Scott Colom	0.01	22.9
Louisiana	Julia Letlow	1.76	22
Florida	Ashley Moody	2.88	13.1
Nebraska	Pete Ricketts	6.7	20.6
Alabama	Barry Moore	9.42	30.5
North Carolina	Roy Cooper	19.63	3.2

*Results not called. Democrats (●), Republicans (●)

CHART 2: Democrats won control of the House of Representatives with their largest majority in nearly two decades



CHART 3A: A Democrat has been elected as Senator from South Carolina for the first time since 1998

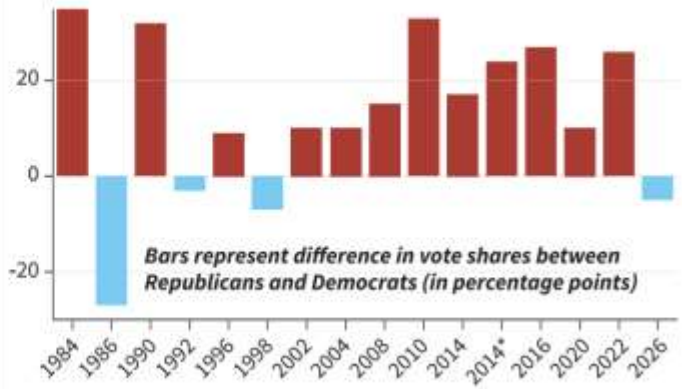


CHART 3B: A Democrat has been elected as Senator from Texas for the first time since 1988

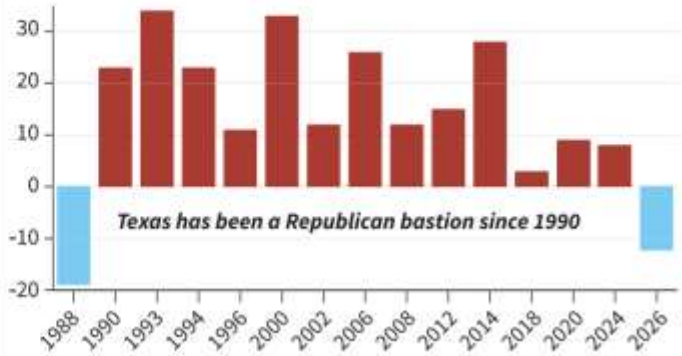
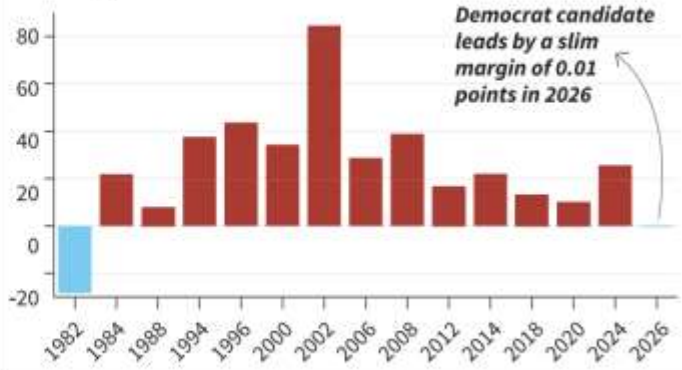


CHART 3C: A Democrat has been elected as Senator from Mississippi for the first time since 1982



Class24

Blow for Trump as Democrats Seize Congress

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव में डेमोक्रेट्स ने प्रतिनिधि सभा और सीनेट दोनों पर नियंत्रण हासिल किया – राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप के कार्यकाल के अंतिम दो वर्षों में उनके एजेंडे पर ब्रेक; भारत के लिए ईरान युद्ध, व्यापार समझौते पर असर

US midterms
मध्यावधि चुनाव

1 The verdict | जनादेश

- A **nationwide rejection** of Trump
  ट्रंप को झटका
- Flips in **Texas, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Maine**, the Carolinas
  सीटें छीनीं
- Driven by **rising living costs**
  महँगाई

2 Historic firsts ऐतिहासिक जीत

- **Abdul El-Sayed** – first Muslim US senator
  पहले मुस्लिम सीनेटर
- **Keisha Lance Bottoms** – first Black woman governor
  पहली अश्वेत महिला गवर्नर
- **James Talarico** – first Texas Democrat statewide since 1994
  टेक्सास

3 Trump's reaction ट्रंप की प्रतिक्रिया

- "**Not a hit on me**"
  मुझ पर वार नहीं
- Warned Democrats against **impeachment**
  महाभियोग चेतावनी
- Said he'd have won "**in a landslide**"
  भारी जीत का दावा

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms — in depth (1/2)

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Democrats' new powers नई शक्तियाँ

- **Block** Trump's bills & appointments
  रोक
- **Investigate** Iran war, immigration raids
  जाँच
- **Hakeem Jeffries** may be first Black Speaker
  हकीम जेफ़्रीज़

5 What it means for India भारत पर असर

- **24 Indians** killed since US-Israel strikes on Iran, incl. 15 seafarers
  24 भारतीय
- **Hormuz blockade** hit oil & fertiliser imports
  होर्मुज़
- Russian oil share fell **51%** → **33%** (Jul–Sep)
  रूसी तेल

6 Trade & people व्यापार व प्रवासी

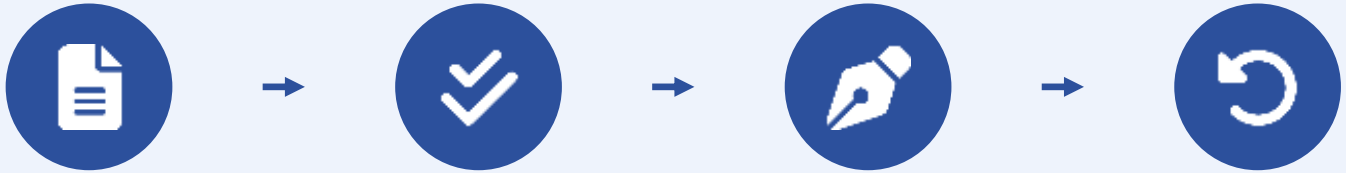
- **FTA** may be ready by the **G-20 in Miami**
  व्यापार समझौता
- Less **anti-immigrant** rhetoric likely
  प्रवासी
- But **visa curbs** likely to stay
  वीज़ा सख़्ती

Area	What could change after the Democratic win	Main limitation
Trump’s power	Democrats can block bills and demand compromises.	Trump retains presidential powers and can veto legislation.
New laws	More negotiation between Congress and the White House; controversial bills may stall.	Democratic control alone does not guarantee a bill becomes law.
Government spending	Democrats gain influence over funding priorities and can resist proposed cuts.	Disagreements with Trump could cause funding standoffs.
Healthcare and living costs	Democrats say they will prioritise lowering costs and reversing cuts to health programmes.	These proposals still need legislation, funding and agreement with the President.
Investigations	More congressional hearings and investigations into the administration are expected.	Investigations do not automatically lead to prosecution or removal.
Judges and senior appointments	The Democratic Senate can reject Trump’s nominees for judges, Cabinet positions and other posts requiring confirmation.	Existing officials and judges are not automatically removed.
Immigration and visas	Democrats could scrutinise enforcement and propose changes to immigration funding or laws.	No automatic easing of H-1B, student visas or green-card rules.
Tariffs and trade	Greater congressional scrutiny and pressure over trade policy are possible.	Existing tariffs do not automatically disappear after an election.
Foreign policy	Congress can challenge funding and scrutinise presidential decisions.	Trump continues to direct diplomacy and exercise presidential authority.
India–US relations	Indian businesses and students should watch subsequent trade, visa and funding decisions.	The election result itself changes no Indian applicant’s visa status or trade terms.
Impeachment	A Democratic House could pursue impeachment.	Removing a President requires a two-thirds Senate vote to convict; a simple majority is insufficient.
2028 election	Democrats gain political momentum; Republicans face pressure to revise their strategy.	Midterm success does not determine the next presidential election.

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms — in depth (2/2)

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a US law is made | अमेरिकी क़ानून



House or Senate
किसी सदन में

Same text
समान पाठ

Sign or veto
हस्ताक्षर/वीटो

2/3 of both
दो-तिहाई

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- House members serve **2 years**; senators **6 years**
  कार्यकाल
- Every state has **two senators**, whatever its size
  दो सीनेटर

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms — background (1/2)

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 US vs India legislature तुलना

Feature विशेषता	US vs India अमेरिका बनाम भारत
Lower House निचला सदन	435 vs 543 seats
Upper House उच्च सदन	100 vs up to 250
Upper-house term कार्यकाल	6 yrs in both
System प्रणाली	Presidential vs Parliamentary

10 US Constitution अमेरिकी संविधान

- Oldest written national constitution in use (**1787**)
  1787
- **Bill of Rights** – first 10 amendments (1791)
  अधिकार पत्र
- Only **27** amendments so far
  27 संशोधन

11 Impeachment | महाभियोग

- **House** impeaches by simple majority
  प्रतिनिधि सभा
- **Senate** tries; **2/3** needed to convict
  सीनेट
- Trump was impeached **twice** (2019, 2021)
  दो बार

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms — background (2/2)

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 What a midterm decides | मध्यावधि में क्या

Timing समय	House प्रतिनिधि सभा	Senate सीनेट	Governors गवर्नर
Mid-presidency कार्यकाल के बीच	All 435 seats सभी सीटें	About one-third एक-तिहाई	Many states कई राज्य

13 India–US ties
भारत–अमेरिका

- **Mission 500** – $500 bn trade by 2030
  मिशन 500
- **TRUST** initiative on critical tech (2025)
  TRUST
- Partners in the **Quad**
  क्वाड

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms — Static GK

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 USA at a glance | अमेरिका

Fact तथ्य	Detail विवरण
Capital राजधानी	Washington DC
States राज्य	50
Largest state सबसे बड़ा	Alaska
Independence स्वतंत्रता	4 July 1776

15 Indian-origin firsts
भारतीय मूल

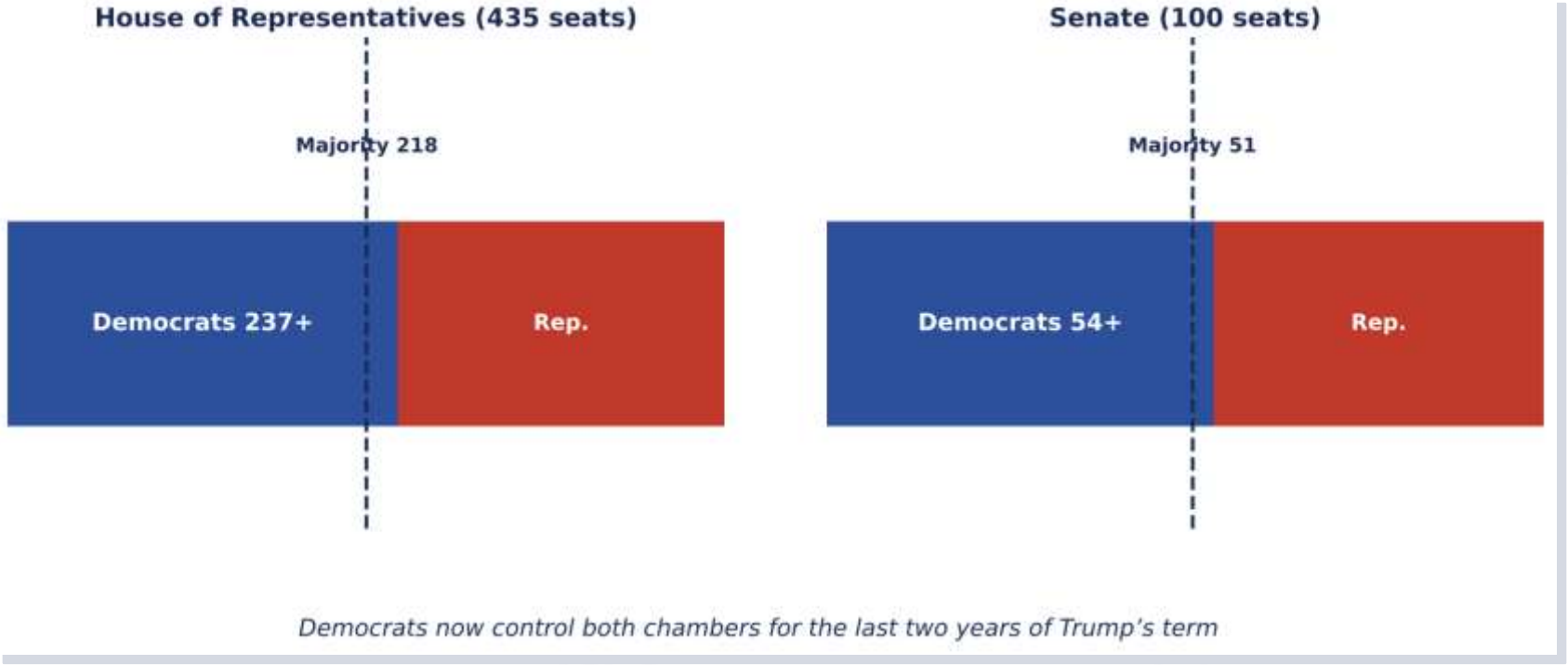
- **Dalip Singh Saund** – first Asian-American in Congress (1957)
  दलीप सिंह सौंद
- **Kamala Harris** – first Indian-origin US Vice-President
  कमला हैरिस
- Indian-American lawmakers: the "**Samosa Caucus**"
  समोसा कॉकस

16 Political terms
राजनीतिक शब्द

- **Lame duck** – leader with weakened power
  लेम डक
- **Filibuster** – Senate delay; 60 votes to end
  फ़िलिबस्टर
- **Gerrymandering** – rigging district maps
  गेरीमैंडरिंग

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms — Map & Diagram

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव — मानचित्र व आरेख

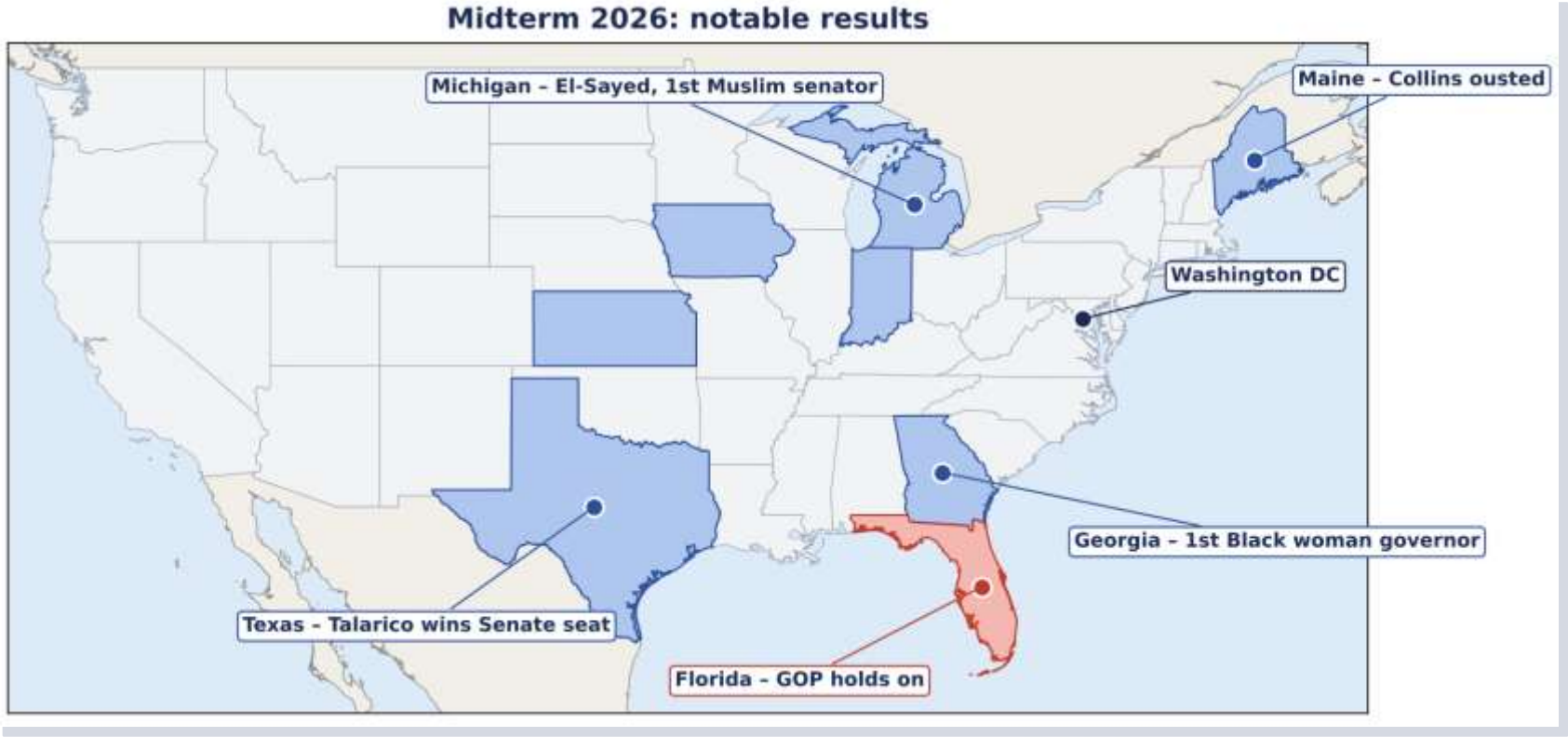


Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Both chambers now **Democrat-controlled**
  दोनों सदन
- Majority marks: **218** (House), **51** (Senate)
  बहुमत
- Trump faces a **divided government** for two years
  विभाजित सरकार

Democrats seize Congress in US midterms — Map & Diagram

अमेरिकी मध्यावधि चुनाव — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Texas** – Talarico ends a 1994-era drought
  टेक्सास
- **Michigan** – El-Sayed, first Muslim senator
  मिशिगन
- **Georgia** – first Black woman governor; **Florida** stays Republican
  जॉर्जिया, फ़्लोरिडा

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service

अग्निपथ में बदलाव

Agniveers get option for extension; pathway to join army as regular soldiers

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved an additional two-year engagement period for a section of Agniveers, creating a pathway for all cadets under the Agnipath scheme to join the armed forces as regular soldiers, subject to their willingness and fulfilment of selection criteria.

The move marks a significant revision of the original Agnipath framework, under which only up to 25% of each batch of Agniveers were eligible for retention in the regular cadre after four years, while the remaining personnel were to be released from service.

Under the revised arrangement, 25% of Agniveers will continue to be offered regular employment while the remaining 75% would be given an opportunity to serve for another two years, following which they would be eligible for consideration for enrolment as regular soldiers, Chief of Defence Staff, General N.S. Raja Subramani, told mediapersons on Wednesday.

Career trajectory

The revised arrangement creates a pathway for all Agniveers to eventually become regular soldiers

- 25% of Agniveers to be offered regular employment on the basis of merit, as envisaged under the Agnipath scheme
- Remaining 75% to get opportunity for a 2-year extension and subsequent enrolment



- Second engagement period to have higher remuneration and seniority benefits

quirements and operational efficiency. The evaluation found that they had demonstrated outstanding performance in skills, motivation, physical fitness, and technological prowess, according to the government, he added.

The additional engagement period was approved on the recommendations of the three services following an elaborate evaluation and feedback process. The objective is to align the aspirations of Agniveers with the operational requirements and organisational efficiency of the

districts, a more standardised and transparent recruitment process, and high levels of physical fitness, morale, motivation, competitive spirit, and discipline among Agniveers.

The scheme has also contributed to enhancing the skills, technological adaptability, and educational qualifications of personnel during their service. It has further enabled the opening up of various branches of the defence forces to women.

Based on the assessment and feedback, the government has decided to

Agnipath review aimed at addressing youth discontent ahead of key polls

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The two-year extension for Agniveers, with the option of being retained thereafter in the armed forces, is the outcome of a review of the Agnipath scheme announced by the National Democratic Alliance government after the 2024 Lok Sabha election, in which the BJP lost its parliamentary majority and suffered losses in States where armed forces recruitment was high.

Soon after the results of the election came in, with the BJP at 240 seats and dependent on its allies to form the government, one of the first things demanded by the Janata Dal (United), the Telugu Desam Party, and the Lok Janshakti Party had been a review of the Agnipath scheme. NDA



Armed forces recruitment is a key issue in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which will soon hold elections. FILE PHOTO

allies had gone on record asking for a review in 2024, and cited ground-level resentment among youngsters aspiring to join the armed forces.

BJP losses

According to one estimate, one of the reasons for the BJP's losses in Rajasthan, Haryana, and parts of Uttar Pradesh was the resentment with regard to the four-year Agnipath scheme, which replaced permanent recruitment into the armed forces below officer ranks. In fact, widespread protests had taken place in western Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan when the scheme was announced in 2022.

For the BJP, which will defend its governments in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the upcoming Assembly elections – States where armed forces recruitment is considered important – the review has come as a relief. "We did get feedback that this was an issue... We are happy that this has been announced before the first batch completes its four-year term," said a senior office-bearer in the BJP.

Rahul's assurance

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, had said that the Congress would be scrapping the scheme altogether if voted to power.

The changes in the Agnipath scheme will, in a way, help the BJP defuse what could have turned out to be a volatile issue for the young people with regard to employment, coming as it does after the Gen-Z protests against the leak of NEET papers and the discontent against the BJP on the University Grants Commission (UGC) social equity regulations.

Agniveers Get Option for Extension;
Pathway to Join Army as Regulars

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने अग्निवीरों के लिए दो वर्ष की अतिरिक्त सेवा अवधि को मंज़ूरी दी – इसके बाद वे नियमित सैनिक बनने के पात्र होंगे; 2024 चुनाव के बाद सहयोगी दलों की माँग और युवाओं की नाराज़गी के बीच अग्निपथ की समीक्षा का परिणाम

Agnipath 2.0
अग्निपथ

1 The decision | निर्णय

- **Cabinet** approves an extra **2-year** engagement
  मंत्रिमंडल
- A path for **all** Agniveers to become regulars
  सभी के लिए रास्ता
- Subject to **willingness & selection criteria**
  शर्तें

2 Who announced it | घोषणा

- **CDS Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani**
  CDS
- Based on recommendations of the **three services**
  तीनों सेनाएँ
- After an **evaluation & feedback** process
  मूल्यांकन

3 What the review found समीक्षा के निष्कर्ष

- Strong **skills, fitness, motivation**, tech know-how
  कौशल
- More **transparent** recruitment
  पारदर्शी भर्ती
- Opened more branches to **women**
  महिलाएँ

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service — in depth (1/2)

अग्निपथ में बदलाव — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 The politics | राजनीति

- After 2024, BJP at **240 seats** needed allies
  240 सीटें
- **JD(U), TDP, LJP** demanded a review
  सहयोगी दल
- Scheme blamed for losses in **Rajasthan, Haryana**, parts of UP
  नुक़सान

5 The timing | समय

- Before the **first batch** finishes 4 years
  पहला बैच
- Ahead of **UP & Uttarakhand** polls
  चुनाव
- After Gen-Z protests over the **NEET** leak
  NEET

6 The Opposition | विपक्ष

- **Rahul Gandhi** promised to scrap the scheme
  राहुल गांधी
- Big **2022** protests in western UP, Bihar, Rajasthan
  2022 विरोध
- Seen as a **volatile jobs issue** for youth
  रोज़गार मुद्दा

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service — in depth (2/2)

अग्निपथ में बदलाव — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 An Agniveer's journey | अग्निवीर का सफ़र

Join भर्ती	Serve सेवा	Seva Nidhi सेवा निधि	Next आगे
Age 17.5–21 आयु	4 years 4 वर्ष	~₹11.71 lakh पैकेज	Regular or +2 yrs नियमित

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- The **first Agniveer batch** joined around **Jan 2023**
  पहला बैच
- Upper age was raised to **23** for the first year only
  23 वर्ष

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service — background (1/2)

अग्निपथ में बदलाव — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Agnipath basics
मूल तथ्य

Item विषय	Detail विवरण
Launched शुरुआत	June 2022
For किसके लिए	Below-officer ranks
All three services सेनाएँ	Army, Navy, IAF
Old system पुरानी व्यवस्था	Long service + pension

10 Help for ex-Agniveers
पूर्व अग्निवीर

- **10% quota** in CAPFs
  CAPF में 10%
- **Age relaxation** in CAPF recruitment
  आयु छूट
- Several States reserve **police** posts
  राज्य पुलिस

11 Why it was brought in
उद्देश्य

- Lower the forces' **average age**
  कम औसत आयु
- Cut the rising **pension bill**
  पेंशन ख़र्च
- A **tech-savvy**, youthful force
  युवा बल

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service — background (2/2)

अग्निपथ में बदलाव — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Who commands whom | रक्षा ढाँचा

President
राष्ट्रपति
Supreme Commander
सर्वोच्च

→

Defence Minister
रक्षा मंत्री
Political head
राजनीतिक

→

CDS
CDS
Heads DMA
सैन्य कार्य विभाग

→

Service chiefs
सेना प्रमुख
Army, Navy, IAF
तीनों

13 Women in the forces | सेना में महिलाएँ

- **NDA** opened to women in **2022**
  NDA
- **Permanent Commission** – SC, Babita Puniya (2020)
  स्थायी कमीशन
- Navy took **women Agniveers** in its first batch
  नौसेना

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service — Static GK

अग्निपथ में बदलाव — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Army facts | थलसेना तथ्य

- **15 Jan** – Army Day (Cariappa, 1949)
  सेना दिवस
- Motto: "**Service Before Self**"
  आदर्श वाक्य
- First Indian C-in-C: **K.M. Cariappa**
  करिअप्पा

15 Famous regiments प्रसिद्ध रेजिमेंट

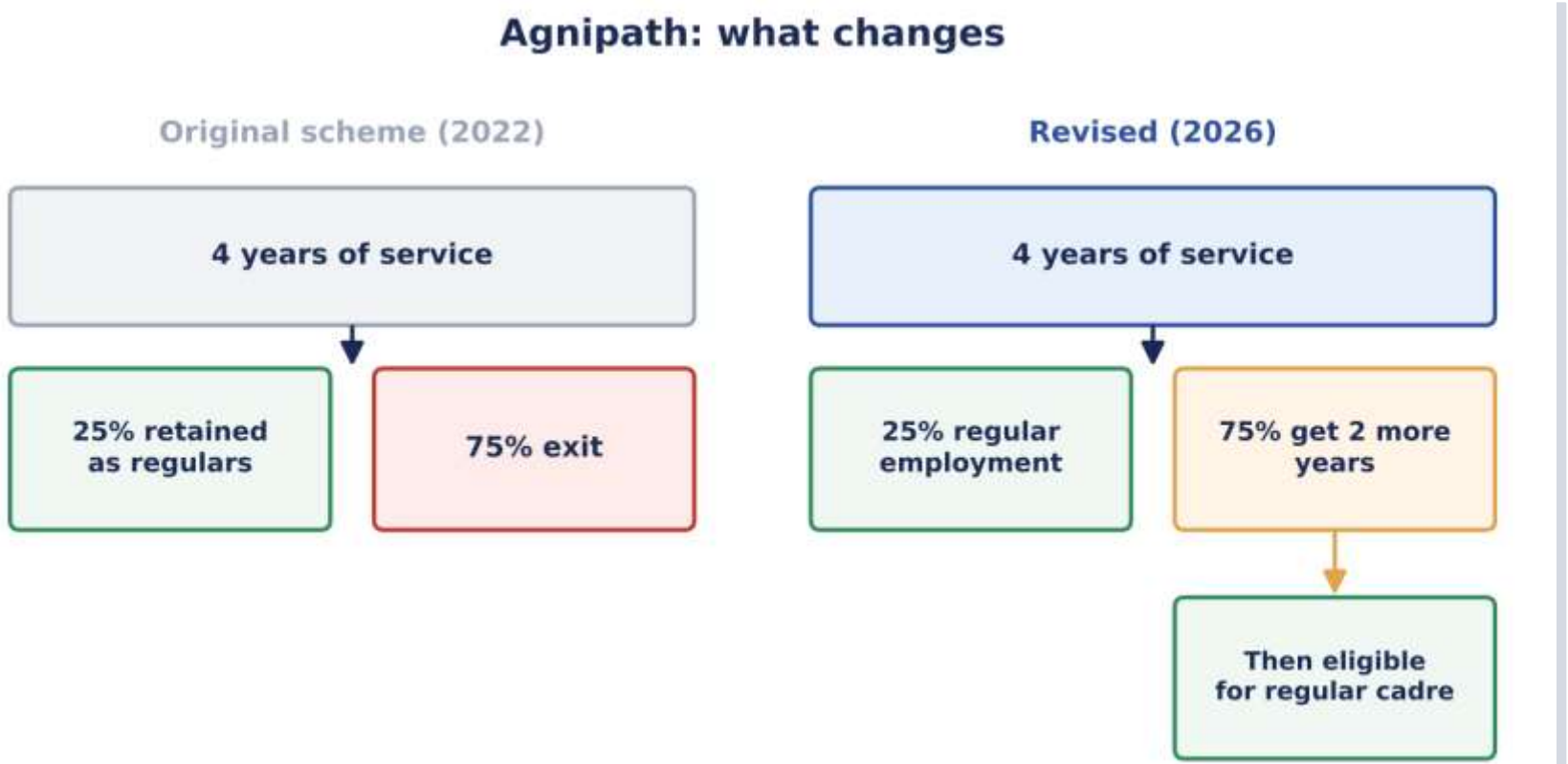
Regiment रेजिमेंट	Known as विशेषता
Madras Regiment मद्रास	Oldest infantry regiment
Rajputana Rifles राजपूताना	Oldest rifle regiment
Sikh Regiment सिख	Highly decorated
Gorkha Rifles गोरखा	"Ayo Gorkhali"

16 Military academies सैन्य अकादमियाँ

- **NDA** – Khadakwasla, Pune
  NDA
- **IMA** – Dehradun (1932)
  IMA
- **OTA** – Chennai & Gaya
  OTA

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service — Map & Diagram

अग्निपथ में बदलाव — मानचित्र व आरेख

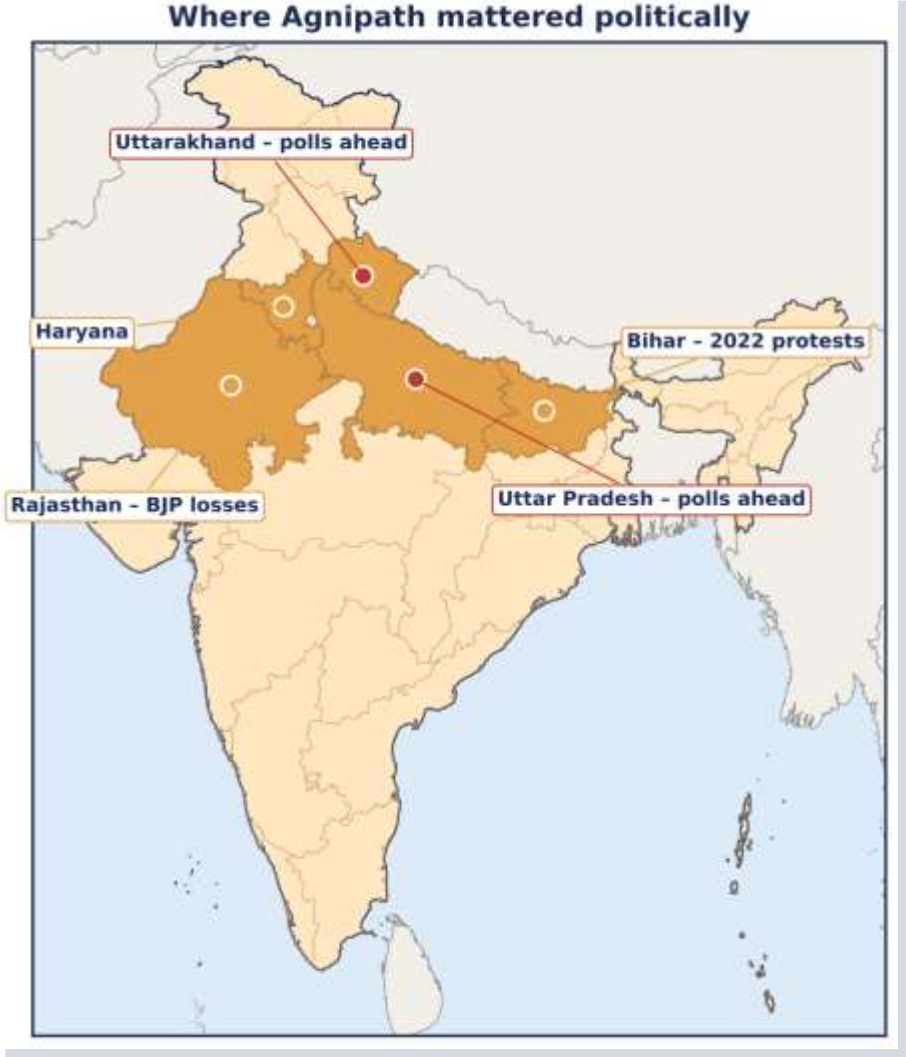


Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- The **75%** who left now get **two more years**
  75% को मौक़ा
- Then a shot at the **regular cadre**
  स्थायी कैडर
- The **25%** direct-retention stays
  25% बरक़रार

Agniveers get extension and a path to regular service — Map & Diagram

अग्निपथ में बदलाव — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **UP & Uttarakhand** vote soon
  आगामी चुनाव
- **Bihar** saw big protests in **2022**
  बिहार
- BJP lost ground in **Rajasthan, Haryana** (2024)
  राजस्थान, हरियाणा


6

News

INBRIEF

Navy puts two officers on trial over 2024 capsize of warship

CBI gets custody of 'kingpin' in Mahadev betting app case

1

ng fertility rate has made -child norm outdated: SC

Fast-track special courts scheme extended till 2031

Cong. slams govt. over new rural jobs scheme norms

CPI(M) opposes linking welfare benefits to voter IDs

Four dead in gunfight between rival armed groups in Manipur

Kedartal trek turns tragic for sisters from Lucknow

THE HINDU • 5 NOV 2026

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पृष्ठ 6 · समाचार

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 **Two-child norm outdated: SC | दो-संतान नियम**

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक

Falling fertility rate has made two-child norm outdated: SC

Top court says its 2003 judgment, which upheld such penal laws, needs a revisit by a larger Bench

India's Total Fertility Rate has fallen from 3.02 to 1.9, going below the 2.1 replacement threshold

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that laws penalising having more than two children have lost their relevance due to the falling fertility rate in India.

"We are of the strong opinion that laws that penalise having more than two children have lost their relevance. The foundation of such laws, that is, the fear of overpopulation, has crumbled due to demographic changes in the past few decades," a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha observed.

The court said its 2003 judgment (in *Javed v. State of Haryana*) which upheld such penal laws, needed a revisit by a larger Bench.

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) had fallen from 3.02 to 1.9. A TFR of 2.1, known as the replacement rate, would allow one generation to completely replace itself.

"Even though India's population is not yet declining, the TFR falling below the replacement rate will soon result in a demographic transition towards an older population with a declining share of the working-age population. Therefore, laws aimed at limiting population growth have now lost their significance," Justice Narasimha observed.

> The foundation of such laws, that is, the fear of overpopulation, has crumbled due to demographic changes in the past few decades... the TFR falling below the replacement rate will soon result in a demographic transition towards an older population with a declining share of the working-age population
>
> SUPREME COURT



The 2003 judgment had referred to the situation that existed in China as of 2000 and drew inspiration from the measures that it had undertaken to control the population.

Healthy growth

"The earlier perception that population has a negative impact on development does not hold water any more. Rather than society and the courts being concerned about the negative consequences of high population, it should instead focus on the need to encourage a healthy growth of population," the judgment, by a Bench including Justice Alok Aradhe, said.

The judgment pointed out that the share of persons aged 60 and above had risen from about 8.3% in 2014 to 9.7% in 2024, and government projections place that share at nearly 15% by 2036.

India's falling fertility rate, the court said, would necessarily mean a smaller proportion of younger persons in the future, and, correspondingly, a larger ageing population. The court said the failure to take notice of demographic changes would lead to only serious consequences. Failure to adapt not only produced injustice, but was also an abuse of power.

The judgment was based on a petition filed by Mangala Bhimrao Ingle, whose election as sarpanch of the Kakoda gram panchayat in Maharashtra was set aside on the ground that she had more than two children.

Justice Narasimha found such laws linking motherhood to political representation a violation of Article 21 (right to life) under the Constitution.

"Allowing such laws to stand excludes an entire class of citizens from political representation on grounds bearing little rational connection to their capacity to hold public office. It compels an unconscionable choice between bearing children and democratic participation, impinging on the right to reproductive autonomy under Article 21," Justice Narasimha observed.

Seeking an immediate re-visitation of the 2003 judgment, the court permitted the appellant to continue in her elected position while staying any proceedings against her.

Falling Fertility Rate Has Made Two-Child Norm Outdated: SC

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा – दो से अधिक संतान वालों को दंडित करने वाले क़ानून अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो चुके हैं क्योंकि भारत की कुल प्रजनन दर 3.02 से घटकर 1.9 रह गई है; 2003 के जावेद फ़ैसले की बड़ी पीठ समीक्षा करेगी

Population & polls
जनसंख्या व चुनाव

1 The ruling | फ़ैसला

- Laws penalising **3+ children** have "lost relevance"
  प्रासंगिकता ख़त्म
- Bench of Justices **P.S. Narasimha & Alok Aradhe**
  पीठ
- 2003 ruling sent to a **larger Bench**
  बड़ी पीठ

2 The case | मामला

- **Mangala Bhimrao Ingle**, sarpanch of **Kakoda** gram panchayat
  सरपंच
- Election set aside for having **more than two children**
  चुनाव रद्द
- Court let her **continue in office**
  पद पर बनी रहें

3 The reasoning | तर्क

- Fear of **overpopulation** "has crumbled"
  अतिजनसंख्या का भय
- Violates **Art 21** – reproductive autonomy
  अनुच्छेद 21
- An "**unconscionable choice**" between children and democracy
  अनुचित विकल्प

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated — in depth (1/2)

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 What the court saw ahead
भविष्य की तस्वीर

- Shrinking **working-age** share
  कार्यशील आबादी घटेगी
- Need to encourage "**healthy growth**" of population
  स्वस्थ वृद्धि
- Ignoring change is an "**abuse of power**"
  शक्ति का दुरुपयोग

5 The 2003 judgment
2003 का फ़ैसला

- ***Javed v. State of Haryana*** upheld the bar
  जावेद मामला
- Drew on **China's** population curbs (2000)
  चीन का उदाहरण
- Now seen as out of step with **demography**
  पुराना

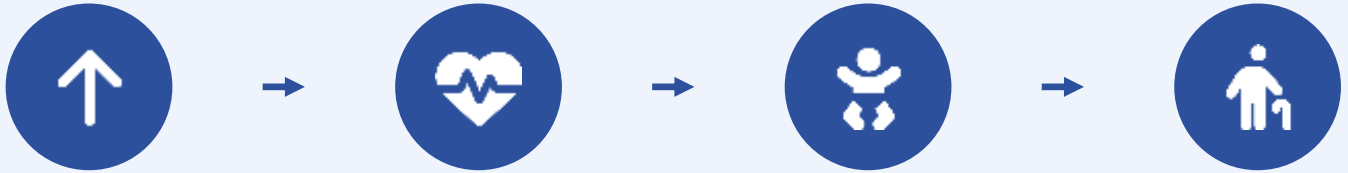
6 Who is affected
किन पर असर

- Candidates in **panchayat & municipal** polls
  स्थानीय चुनाव
- Hits **women** representatives hardest
  महिलाएँ
- States may need to **review** such laws
  राज्य क़ानून

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated — in depth (2/2)

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Demographic transition | जनसांख्यिकीय संक्रमण



Stage 1 चरण 1	Stage 2 चरण 2	Stage 3 चरण 3	Stage 4 चरण 4
High births, deaths उच्च जन्म, मृत्यु	Deaths fall मृत्यु घटी	Births fall जन्म घटे	Low both, ageing वृद्धावस्था

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **China** ended its one-child policy in **2016**; allows three since **2021**
  चीन
- **South Korea** has the world's lowest TFR (~0.7)
  दक्षिण कोरिया

Class24

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated — background (1/2)

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Population data sources आँकड़ों के स्रोत

Source स्रोत	Detail विवरण
Census जनगणना	Every 10 yrs; next 2027
NFHS NFHS	5 rounds; NFHS-5 TFR 2.0
SRS SRS	Registrar General, yearly
UN WPP UN	World Population Prospects

10 Population policy जनसंख्या नीति

- India – **first country** with a family planning programme (1952)
  1952
- **National Population Policy 2000** – aim TFR 2.1
  NPP 2000
- **Mission Parivar Vikas** (2016) – high-TFR districts
  परिवार विकास

11 73rd Amendment 73वाँ संशोधन

- Part IX – **Arts 243 to 243-O**
  भाग IX
- Disqualifications set by **State law** (Art 243F)
  अनु. 243F
- Polls by **State Election Commission** (Art 243K)
  राज्य चुनाव आयोग

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated — background (2/2)

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Life of the two-child rule | नियम का सफ़र

1990s
1990 दशक
States add it
राज्यों ने जोड़ा

→

2003
2003
SC upholds
मान्य

→

2005
2005
MP, Chhattisgarh drop it
हटाया

→

2026
2026
SC: outdated
अप्रासंगिक

13 Ageing India
बूढ़ा होता भारत

- 60+ may be **~20%** of people by **2050**
  2050 तक 20%
- **Senior Citizens Act**, 2007
  वरिष्ठ नागरिक अधिनियम
- **Ayushman Vay Vandana** – health cover for 70+ (2024)
  वय वंदना

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated — Static GK

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Census facts जनगणना तथ्य

- First **synchronous** Census: **1881**
  1881
- Census 2011: **121 crore** people
  121 करोड़
- Census 2027: first **digital**, with **caste** count
  डिजिटल जनगणना

15 Most populous nations सर्वाधिक आबादी

Rank क्रम	Country देश
1 1	India (since 2023)
2 2	China
3 3	United States
4 4	Indonesia

16 Population terms जनसंख्या शब्दावली

- **Sex ratio** (2011): 943 women per 1,000 men
  लिंगानुपात
- **Dependency ratio** – non-working age per working age
  निर्भरता अनुपात
- **11 July** – World Population Day
  विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated — Map & Diagram

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक — मानचित्र व आरेख

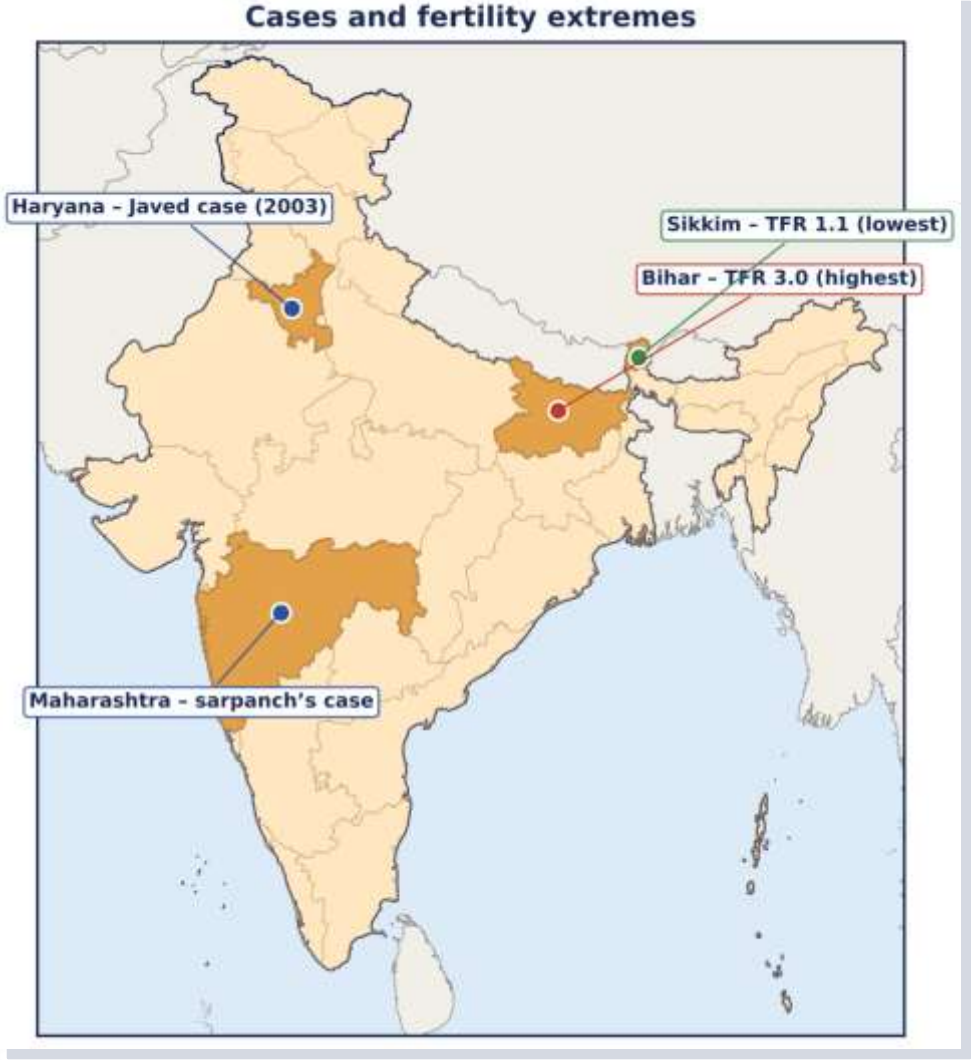


Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- TFR is now **below replacement**
  प्रतिस्थापन से नीचे
- 60+ share heading to **~15% by 2036**
  बुज़ुर्ग आबादी
- Fewer young, **more elderly** ahead
  बढ़ती उम्र

SC: falling fertility makes two-child norm outdated — Map & Diagram

दो-संतान नियम अप्रासंगिक — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Haryana** – home of the 2003 Javed case
  हरियाणा
- **Maharashtra** – the sarpanch whose case led to this ruling
  महाराष्ट्र
- **Bihar** has India's highest TFR (3.0), **Sikkim** the lowest (1.1) – NFHS-5
  बिहार, सिक्किम



SCIENCE

7

Bengaluru exhibition attempts to make the quantum seem human

1

The Amazon is no longer a carbon sink, it is an emitter

THE HINDU • 5 NOV 2026

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पृष्ठ 7 · विज्ञान

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 **Amazon now a carbon emitter | अमेज़न**

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक



In 2024, as much as 38% of deforestation was caused by fire. Here, the Brazilian Amazon burns. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Amazon is no longer a carbon sink, it is an emitter

Divya Gandhi

The world's largest tropical forest, referred to as the 'lungs of the planet,' the Amazon rainforest once acted as a vast carbon sink that helped absorb human-induced CO_2 emissions. But now, a study has found that the Amazon releases more CO_2 than it absorbs from the atmosphere, as it is decimated by deforestation and forest fires.

Scientists measured CO_2 levels at different atmospheric altitudes, using research airplanes, between the years 2010 and 2024 at four Amazonian sites. Their findings indicated that "Amazonia is a net carbon source rather than a sink and cannot offset regional anthropogenic emissions."

Wildfires caused the Amazon to emit 1.17 billion more metric tonnes of carbon than it absorbed, found the study, published in the journal *Nature*.

"Forest loss reduces precipitation, raises temperatures and lengthens the dry season, delaying the onset of the wet season," said the authors. There was a reduction in precipitation by 17% during the dry-season peak period (August-October), from 1979 to 2018 and an increase in annual temperature of 0.9°C during the same period.

Flammable forests

"Climate stress is stronger in more deforested regions, rendering forests progressively more flammable," said the study. This phenomenon is amplified by climate events such as El Niño and a greater frequency of droughts.

In the peak of a strong El Niño in 2024 the highest carbon emissions were recorded. This period was the hottest, driest and most strongly degraded by fire: as much as 38% of deforestation was caused by fire that year. "Most Amazonian wildfires are intentionally set, and severe droughts exacerbate their extent and intensity," said the study.

"The main message of the study is shocking: the problem in the Amazon is human activity," said lead author and climate scientist Luciana Vanni Gatti, in a release. "We're losing the forest because the region's development model has been based on destruction. We need public policies that value the standing forest."

Deforestation accelerated sharply particularly between 2019 and 2022 when the Amazon witnessed a loss of 7,91,835 sq.km. of forests. Between 2010-24, there was a 272% rise in mining area, a 19% increase in pasture area, and a 193% expansion of soybean plantations.

"These results highlight the urgent need to implement a zero-deforestation policy, strengthen controls on biomass burning and prioritize forest restoration programmes," said the authors.

The Amazon, which spans five million sq.km. across nine countries, also happens to be a habitat to no less than 10% of all plant and animal species, and home to 30 million people.

The Amazon forest stores approximately 100 billion tonnes of carbon in vegetation and soils. Meanwhile, a study from India published in *Environmental Research: Climate*, said that the country's forests could nearly double carbon storage by 2100.

Vegetation carbon biomass could increase by 97% under a high-emissions, fossil-fuel-intensive scenario by the end of the century, owing to rising precipitation and elevated atmospheric CO_2. Climate change is indeed morphing India's landscape: the largest increases in vegetation carbon are projected in the arid and semi-arid zones in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the study said.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Class24

The Amazon Is No Longer a Carbon Sink, It Is an Emitter

नेचर पत्रिका में प्रकाशित अध्ययन – वनों की कटाई और आग के कारण दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा उष्णकटिबंधीय वन अमेज़न अब जितना CO_2 सोखता है, उससे ज़्यादा छोड़ रहा है; "समस्या मानवीय गतिविधि है"

Climate study
जलवायु अध्ययन

1 The finding | निष्कर्ष

- Amazon now **releases more CO_2** than it absorbs
  अधिक उत्सर्जन
- Caused by **deforestation & fires**
  कटाई व आग
- Can no longer **offset regional emissions**
  संतुलन नहीं

2 The study | अध्ययन

- Published in *__Nature__*
  नेचर
- **Research aircraft** measured CO_2 at many altitudes
  विमान से माप
- **4 sites**, 2010–2024; led by **Luciana Vanni Gatti**
  4 स्थल

3 Fire & drought आग और सूखा

- Most wildfires are **set on purpose**
  जानबूझकर आग
- **2024 El Niño** – hottest, driest year
  अल नीनो
- **Droughts** make fires bigger
  सूखा

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter — in depth (1/2)

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Human hand | मानवीय कारण

- Deforestation surged **2019–22**
  2019–22
- Development model "**based on destruction**"
  विनाश आधारित विकास
- Call for a **zero-deforestation** policy
  शून्य कटाई

5 Why the Amazon matters महत्व

5 mn km² Area क्षेत्रफल	**10%+** Of all species प्रजातियाँ
3 crore People live there लोग	**~100 bn t** Carbon stored कार्बन भंडार

6 India angle | भारत संदर्भ

- Indian forests could nearly **double carbon storage** by 2100
  दोगुना भंडार
- Vegetation carbon may rise **97%** (high-emission case)
  97%
- Biggest gains in **Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP**
  शुष्क क्षेत्र

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter — in depth (2/2)

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 The vicious cycle | दुष्चक्र

Forest cut
कटाई

Cattle, soy, mining
खेती, खनन

→

Less rain
कम वर्षा

Hotter
गर्मी

→

Fires spread
आग

Drier forest
सूखा वन

→

CO_2 released
CO_2

Warming worsens
तापवृद्धि

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- The **rubber tree** is native to the Amazon
  रबर का पेड़
- Amazon river dolphins are **pink**
  गुलाबी डॉल्फ़िन

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter — background (1/2)

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Earth's carbon sinks कार्बन सिंक

Sink सिंक	Note टिप्पणी
Oceans महासागर	Absorb ~25–30% of CO_2
Forests वन	Store in trees & soil
Soils मृदा	Big, slow store
Peatlands पीटलैंड	2× all forests' carbon

10 India's forests भारत के वन

- Forest + tree cover **25.17%** (ISFR 2023)
  25.17%
- Policy goal: **33%** (Forest Policy 1988)
  33%
- NDC: extra **2.5–3 bn t** CO_2 sink by 2030
  NDC

11 Global forest pledges वैश्विक संकल्प

- **Glasgow Declaration** – end deforestation by 2030
  ग्लासगो
- **REDD+** – pay to keep forests standing
  REDD+
- **Tropical Forests Forever Facility** – launched at COP30
  TFFF

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter — background (2/2)

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Forest carbon cycle | कार्बन चक्र

Photosynthesis प्रकाश संश्लेषण	→	Store भंडारण	→	Burn / decay जलना/सड़ना	→	Release उत्सर्जन
Takes in CO_2 CO_2 लेना		Wood, roots, soil लकड़ी, मृदा		Breaks down विघटन		CO_2 back to air वापस

13 Rainforests of the world वर्षावन

- **Amazon** – the largest
  अमेज़न
- **Congo Basin** – second-largest
  कांगो
- India: **Western Ghats & North-East** evergreen forests
  पश्चिमी घाट

Class24

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter — Static GK

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Brazil | ब्राज़ील

Fact तथ्य	Detail विवरण
Capital राजधानी	Brasília
Language भाषा	Portuguese
Currency मुद्रा	Real
Bloc समूह	BRICS founder

15 River records | नदियाँ

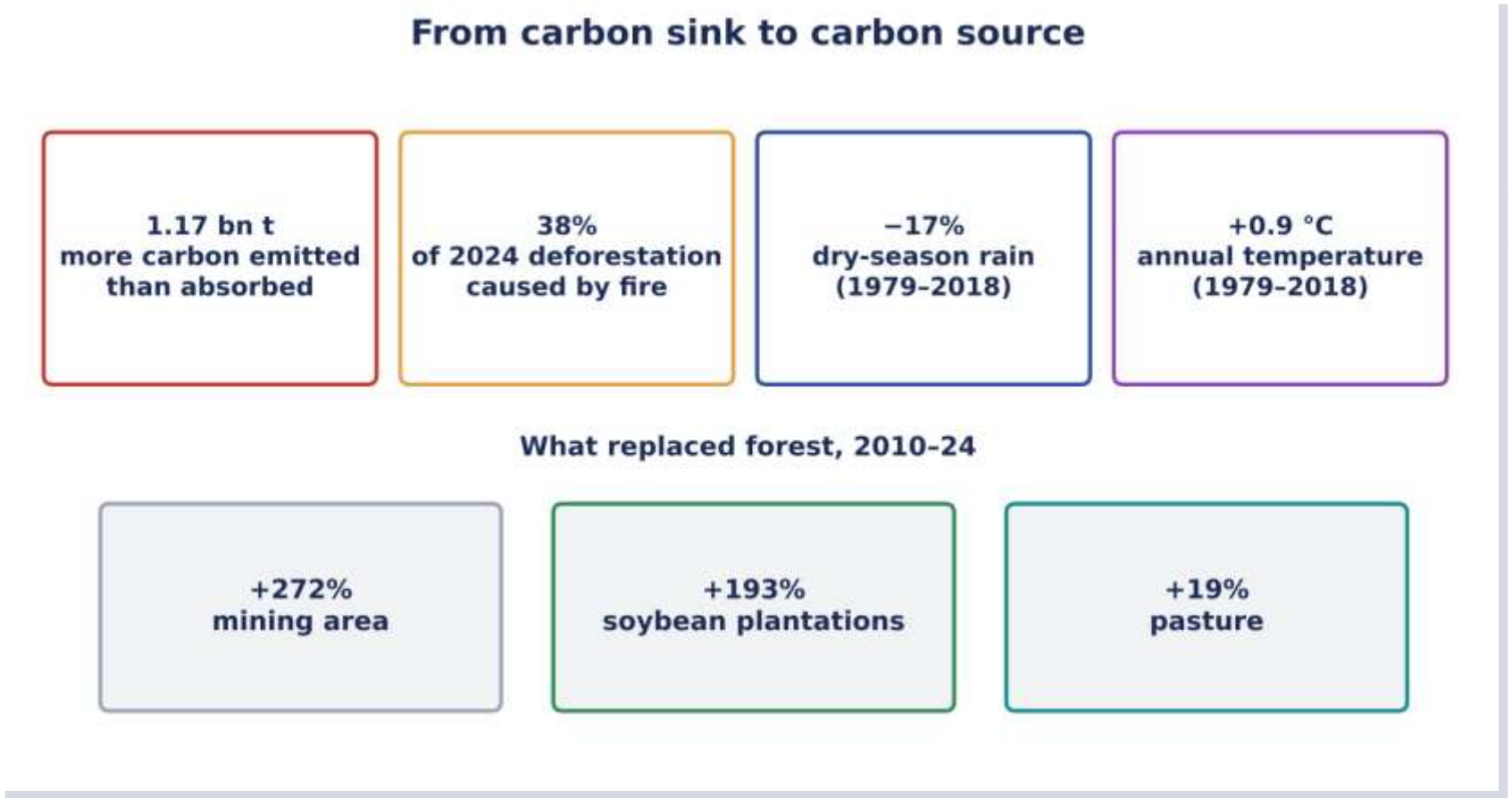
- **Nile** – longest river
  नील
- **Amazon** – largest by water flow
  अमेज़न
- **Ganga** – India's longest (~2,525 km)
  गंगा

16 El Niño & La Niña
अल नीनो

- **El Niño** – warm central-east Pacific
  अल नीनो
- Often **weakens** India's monsoon
  कमज़ोर मानसून
- **La Niña** – the cool opposite
  ला नीना

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter — Map & Diagram

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Fire + drought** turned the sink into a source
  आग और सूखा
- **Mining** expanded fastest
  खनन
- Dry seasons are now **drier and hotter**
  सूखा मौसम

The Amazon is now a carbon emitter — Map & Diagram

अमेज़न अब कार्बन उत्सर्जक — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- The Amazon spans **9 countries**
  9 देश
- **Brazil** holds about **60%** of it
  ब्राज़ील 60%
- **Belém**, at the river's mouth, hosted **COP30**
  बेलेम



THE INDIAN EXPRESS • 5 NOV 2026

Page 5 · Politics

पृष्ठ 5 · राजनीति

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 **Swachh Bharat (G) extended | स्वच्छ भारत**

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन

Flagship rural sanitation scheme extended, to get Rs 7,000 cr in Budget

Harikishan Sharma
New Delhi, November 4

THE CENTRE has extended the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II until March 2028. This will allow the government to allocate around Rs 7,000 crore for its flagship rural sanitation scheme in the Union Budget 2027-28.

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti had approached the Finance Ministry for extension approval, and it was granted on Tuesday. The DDWS must ensure all villages achieve the required 'Open Defecation Free Plus' status, within the programme's overall outlay, by March-end 2028.

An 'ODF Plus' village "sustains its ODF status, ensures solid and liquid waste management and is visually clean".

"The DDWS shall ensure remaining villages get ODF plus certificate by 31st March 2028... No further time extension beyond 31st March 2028 would be considered," the Finance Ministry said in its order.

The Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the scheme's second phase on February 19, 2020. It was scheduled to end in 2024-25, but was extended until the end of the 15th Finance Commission period. It was approved for implementation until March 2027.

In 2020, the Centre approved an outlay of Rs 1,40,881 crore, of which Rs 52,497 crore has to be provided from the DDWS' budget, while the remaining was to be dovetailed from funds being released under the 15th Finance Commission, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, and revenue generation models.

Flagship Rural Sanitation Scheme Extended, to Get ₹7,000 cr in Budget

केंद्र ने स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण) चरण-II को मार्च 2028 तक बढ़ाया – बजट 2027-28 में लगभग ₹7,000 करोड़ मिलेंगे; सभी गाँवों को 31 मार्च 2028 तक "ODF प्लस" बनाना होगा, इसके बाद कोई विस्तार नहीं

SBM (G)
स्वच्छ भारत

1 The decision | निर्णय

- SBM (Grameen) Phase II extended to **March 2028**
  मार्च 2028
- About **₹7,000 crore** in Budget 2027-28
  ₹7,000 करोड़
- Approved by the **Finance Ministry**
  वित्त मंत्रालय

2 The condition | शर्त

- **All villages** must be **ODF Plus**
  सभी गाँव
- Within the **existing outlay**
  मौजूदा बजट में
- "**No further extension**" – FinMin
  आगे विस्तार नहीं

3 Money | धन ₹

₹1,40,881 cr
Phase II outlay (2020)
कुल परिव्यय

₹52,497 cr
From DDWS budget
विभाग

15th FC
Grants dovetailed
वित्त आयोग

MGNREGS
Also dovetailed
मनरेगा

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028 — in depth (1/2)

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 What is ODF Plus
ODF प्लस

- Village **sustains** ODF status
  ODF बरक़रार
- Manages **solid & liquid waste**
  कचरा प्रबंधन
- Is **visually clean**
  दिखने में स्वच्छ

5 Who runs it | संचालन

- **Dept of Drinking Water & Sanitation** (DDWS)
  DDWS
- Under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**
  जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
- Implemented by **States & gram panchayats**
  राज्य, पंचायत

6 ODF Plus grades
श्रेणियाँ

- **Aspiring** – starting waste systems
  एस्पायरिंग
- **Rising** – solid or liquid waste managed
  राइज़िंग
- **Model** – fully clean, all systems in place
  मॉडल

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028 — in depth (2/2)

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Making a village ODF Plus | ODF प्लस कैसे

Toilets शौचालय	Solid waste ठोस कचरा	Grey water गंदा पानी	Verify सत्यापन
For every home हर घर	Segregate, collect पृथक्करण	Soak pits, drains सोख्ता गड्ढे	ODF Plus tag प्रमाणन

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **Swachh Survekshan** ranks cities' cleanliness every year (since 2016)
  स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण
- "**Swachhata Hi Seva**" campaign runs each Sept–Oct
  स्वच्छता ही सेवा

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028 — background (1/2)

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Water & sanitation missions प्रमुख मिशन

Mission मिशन	Launched शुरुआत
Namami Gange नमामि गंगे	2014
Jal Jeevan Mission जल जीवन	2019
SBM-Urban 2.0 SBM-शहरी	2021
AMRUT 2.0 अमृत 2.0	2021

10 Impact so far | प्रभाव

- **10 crore+** household toilets built
  10 करोड़ शौचालय
- WHO: ~**3 lakh** diarrhoea deaths averted (2014–19)
  WHO
- UNICEF: families save ~**₹50,000/yr** on health
  UNICEF

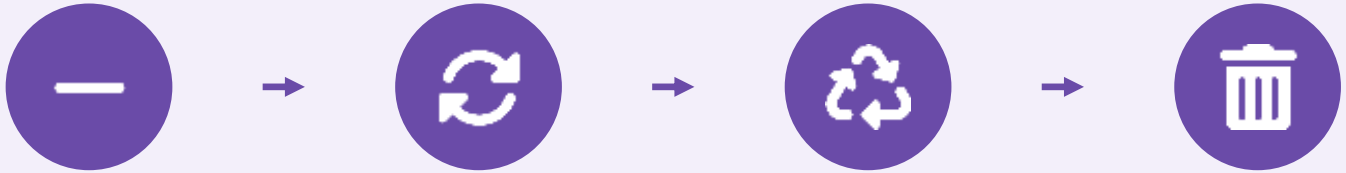
11 Manual scavenging हाथ से मैला ढोना

- Banned by the **2013 Act**
  2013 अधिनियम
- **NAMASTE** scheme for sanitation workers
  नमस्ते योजना
- **Art 17** – abolition of untouchability
  अनुच्छेद 17

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028 — background (2/2)

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Waste hierarchy | कचरा पदानुक्रम



Reduce कम करें	Reuse पुनः उपयोग	Recycle पुनर्चक्रण	Dispose निपटान
Best सर्वोत्तम	Again दोबारा	New products नया उत्पाद	Last resort अंतिम विकल्प

13 GOBARdhan | गोबरधन

- Turns **cattle dung & waste** into biogas (2018)
  बायोगैस
- Supports **compressed biogas** plants
  CBG
- Part of **SBM (G)**
  SBM का हिस्सा

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028 — Static GK

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Ministry of Jal Shakti जल शक्ति मंत्रालय

- Formed in **2019** by merging two ministries
  2019
- **Dept of Water Resources + DDWS**
  दो विभाग
- Runs **Jal Jeevan** & **SBM (G)**
  योजनाएँ

15 Cleanliness days स्वच्छता दिवस

Day दिवस	Date तिथि
World Toilet Day विश्व शौचालय दिवस	19 Nov
Global Handwashing Day हाथ धुलाई दिवस	15 Oct
World Environment Day पर्यावरण दिवस	5 June
Zero Waste Day शून्य अपशिष्ट दिवस	30 March

16 Gandhi & cleanliness गांधी और स्वच्छता

- SBM logo shows **Gandhi's spectacles**
  चश्मा लोगो
- Gandhi: sanitation is "**more important than independence**"
  गांधी का कथन
- Mission launched on **Gandhi Jayanti**
  गांधी जयंती

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028 — Map & Diagram

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन — मानचित्र व आरेख

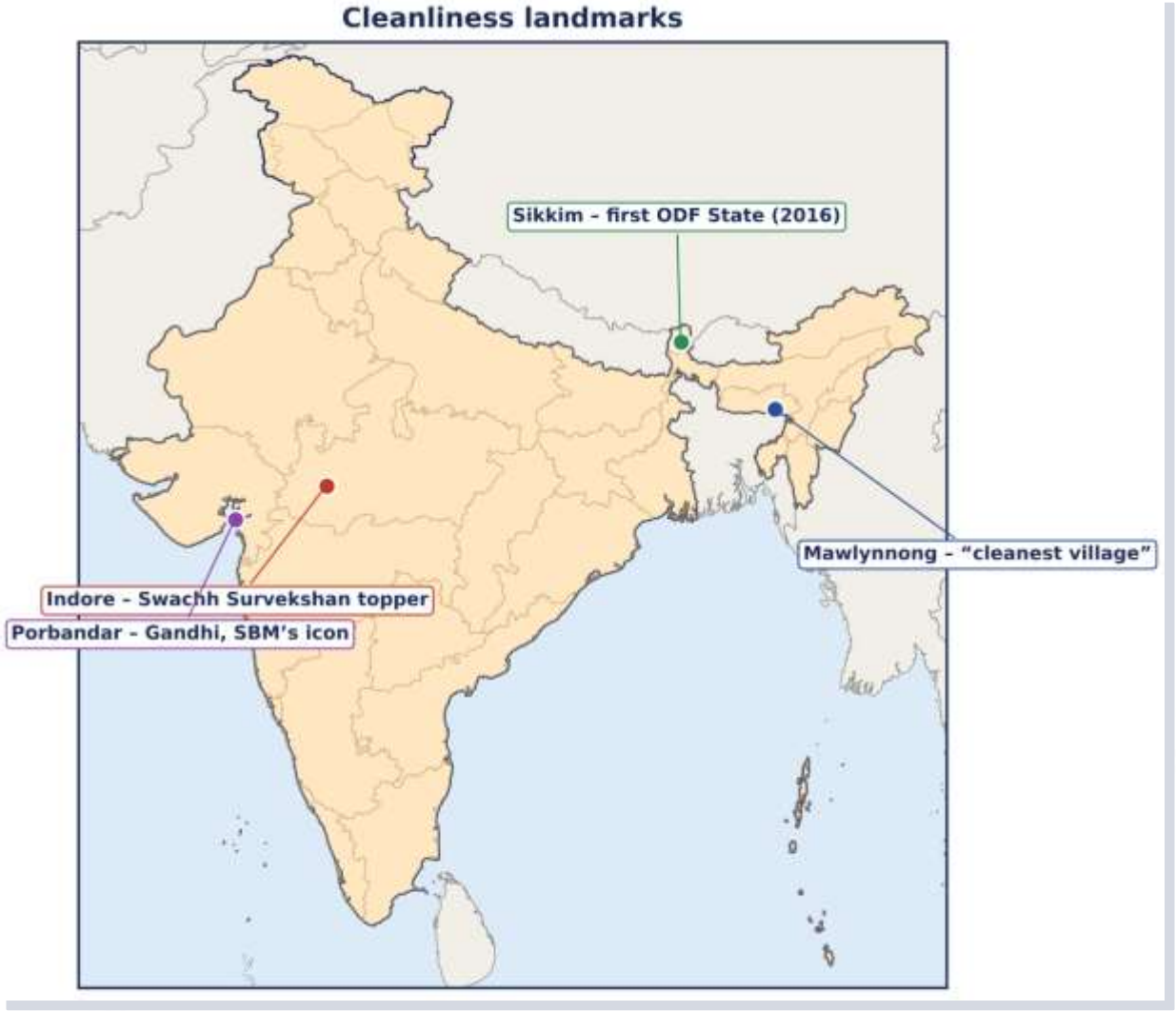


Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- From toilets (**ODF**) to waste management (**ODF Plus**)
  ODF से ODF प्लस
- Deadline pushed **twice**
  दो बार विस्तार
- March 2028 is called **final**
  अंतिम समय-सीमा

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) Phase II extended to 2028 — Map & Diagram

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **Indore** – repeated winner of the cleanest-city survey
  इंदौर
- **Sikkim** – first ODF State (2016)
  सिक्किम
- **Mawlynnong** (Meghalaya) – famed "cleanest village"
  मावलिननॉन्ग
- **Porbandar** – Gandhi, the mission's icon
  पोरबंदर

Asked in Exams — guess the answer! | पहले स्वयं उत्तर सोचें

CUET PG 2026 (Agri-Business Mgmt)

25 Mar 2026 (Shift 2) • Topic: Two-child norm & fertility

Assertion (A): Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children a woman would have over her reproductive years at current age-specific fertility rates. Reason (R): TFR declined in rural and other areas of India between 1970 and 2020. Choose the correct option.

(a) Both A and R are correct and R explains A
(b) Both A and R are correct but R does not explain A
(c) A is correct but R is not correct
(d) A is not correct but R is correct

UPSC CSE Prelims 2025 – GS I

25 May 2025 (Q40) • Topic: Amazon & forests

With reference to the planet Earth, consider the following statements: I. Rain forests produce more oxygen than that produced by oceans. II. Marine phytoplankton and photosynthetic bacteria produce about 50% of world's oxygen. III. Well-oxygenated surface water contains several folds higher oxygen than that in atmospheric air. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and II
(b) II only
(c) I and III
(d) None of the above statements is correct

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

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(a) Both A and R are correct and R explains A

(b) Both A and R are correct but R does not explain A

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(d) A is not correct but R is correct

Answer: (b) — A is a definition; R only describes a trend.
दोनों सही, पर R, A की व्याख्या नहीं।

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(a) I and II

(b) II only

(c) I and III

(d) None of the above statements is correct

Answer: (b) — Ocean microbes make ~half of Earth's oxygen.
केवल II।

Test Yourself — Q1–4 | स्वयं को परखें

Q1 **Javed v. State of Haryana (2003) upheld:**
जावेद बनाम हरियाणा राज्य (2003) ने किसे सही ठहराया?

(a) Reservation for women
(b) Two-child norm for panchayat polls
(c) NOTA
(d) Anti-defection law

Q2 **The replacement-level Total Fertility Rate is about:**
प्रतिस्थापन-स्तर प्रजनन दर:

(a) 1.5
(b) 2.1
(c) 2.5
(d) 3.0

Q3 **Part IX (Panchayats) was added to the Constitution by the:**
भाग IX (पंचायत) किस संशोधन से जुड़ा?

(a) 42nd Amendment
(b) 61st Amendment
(c) 73rd Amendment
(d) 74th Amendment

Q4 **How many members does the US Senate have?**
अमेरिकी सीनेट में कितने सदस्य हैं?

(a) 50
(b) 100
(c) 435
(d) 538

Test Yourself — Q5–8 | स्वयं को परखें

Q5 Members of the US House of Representatives serve a term of:
अमेरिकी प्रतिनिधि सभा का कार्यकाल:

(a) 2 years
(b) 4 years
(c) 5 years
(d) 6 years

Q6 The Agnipath scheme was launched in:
अग्निपथ योजना कब शुरू हुई?

(a) 2019
(b) 2020
(c) 2022
(d) 2024

Q7 The Chief of Defence Staff heads the:
CDS किस विभाग का प्रमुख है?

(a) Department of Defence
(b) Department of Military Affairs
(c) Department of Defence Production
(d) DRDO

Q8 The largest share of the Amazon rainforest lies in:
अमेज़न वन का सबसे बड़ा भाग किस देश में है?

(a) Peru
(b) Colombia
(c) Brazil
(d) Bolivia

Test Yourself — Q9–10 | स्वयं को परखें

Q9 **Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on:**
स्वच्छ भारत मिशन कब शुरू हुआ?

(a) 15 Aug 2014

(b) 2 Oct 2014

(c) 26 Jan 2015

(d) 2 Oct 2019

Q10 **A village is “ODF Plus” when it, besides being ODF, also has:**
ODF प्लस गाँव में ODF के अलावा क्या ज़रूरी है?

(a) Piped water to all homes

(b) Solid and liquid waste management

(c) 100% literacy

(d) A primary health centre

Answer Key — Q1–5 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

1-b **Two-child norm for panchayat polls** — Now sent to a larger Bench.
पंचायत चुनाव में दो-संतान नियम।

2-b **2.1** — India is now at 1.9.
2.1।

3-c **73rd Amendment** — 1992; in force 1993.
73वाँ संशोधन।

4-b **100** — Two per state.
100।

5-a **2 years** — All seats every midterm & general poll.
2 वर्ष।

Answer Key — Q6–10 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

6-c

2022 — June 2022.
2022।

7-b

Department of Military Affairs — Created in 2020.
सैन्य कार्य विभाग।

8-c

Brazil — About 60%.
ब्राज़ील।

9-b

2 Oct 2014 — Gandhi Jayanti.
2 अक्टूबर 2014।

10-b

Solid and liquid waste management — And is visually clean.
ठोस व तरल कचरा प्रबंधन।

Myth Buster of the Day — Society | आज का भ्रम-भंजन

MYTH | भ्रम

"India's population will keep growing forever, so strict population-control laws are still needed."

भारत की आबादी हमेशा बढ़ती रहेगी, इसलिए सख़्त जनसंख्या-नियंत्रण क़ानून अब भी ज़रूरी हैं।

FACT | तथ्य

India's fertility rate has already fallen below the replacement level of 2.1. Population is still rising because of "momentum" – many young people are now of child-bearing age – but UN projections show it peaking around 1.7 billion in the early 2060s and then declining. The bigger coming challenges are an ageing population and a shrinking share of working-age people, which is why the Supreme Court called penal two-child laws outdated.

भारत की प्रजनन दर पहले ही 2.1 के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से नीचे आ चुकी है। आबादी अभी "संवेग" के कारण बढ़ रही है – बहुत-से युवा अभी संतानोत्पत्ति की आयु में हैं – पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अनुमान के अनुसार यह 2060 के दशक की शुरुआत में लगभग 170 करोड़ पर चरम पर पहुँचकर घटने लगेगी। आगे की बड़ी चुनौती बूढ़ी होती आबादी और घटती कार्यशील जनसंख्या है – इसीलिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दंडात्मक दो-संतान क़ानूनों को पुराना बताया।

The challenge is shifting from too many people to an ageing population. | चुनौती अधिक आबादी से हटकर बूढ़ी होती आबादी की ओर जा रही है।

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Thank you ?

