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“

“Being hated by idiots is
the price you pay for not
being one of them.”

— Jean Cocteau



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Today's Current Affairs | 25 October 2026

आज के समसामयिक मुद्दे — The Hindu — 4 articles + exam PYQs + MCQs + Myth Buster

1

CBFC film records leaked
CBFC डेटा लीक

2

Very severe cyclone to hit
A.P.
आंध्र में चक्रवात

3

11 crore farmers get
digital ID
11 करोड़ किसान ID

4

Record Pacific warming:
strong El Niño
अल नीनो

THE HINDU • 22 OCT 2026

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पृष्ठ 1 • मुख पृष्ठ

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

1 CBFC data leak | CBFC डेटा लीक

2 Very severe cyclone | गंभीर चक्रवात



CBFC film records leaked

CBFC डेटा लीक

Film certification records exposed in CBFC data leak

Aroon Deep

NEW DELHI

An alleged data breach at the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) exposed information from applications for more than 500 titles, dozens of which were feature films, *The Hindu* found. The leak appears to have originated from the e-Cinepramaan

Behind the scenes

Certification records of over 500 titles were allegedly exposed through the e-Cinepramaan portal



- Scripts, cut orders, and other certification documents were leaked
- Film distribution agreements revealed licensing fees
- The documents were available for download on the Internet Archive before being taken down
- CBFC is investigating the breach and conducting a security audit

portal, launched nearly a decade ago to digitise the CBFC's work.

The material includes shooting scripts, cut orders and other documents submitted by filmmakers seeking certification for films to be screened in cinemas. The breach did not expose any feature films themselves, which are usually handled separately.

The documents, packaged as datasets that could be freely downloaded from the non-profit Internet Archive website, remained accessible for days. Such documents are not typically published by the censor board. Most were posted earlier this month, but all had been taken down on October 12. The user who uploaded the documents used a display name in Russian corresponding to that of former CBFC chairman Prasoon Joshi. The account has since been deleted. The records date from December 2025 to August.

The CBFC said in response to a query from *The Hindu* that it was looking into the breach.

"CBFC has reviewed the information shared regarding alleged unauthorised access to CBFC's e-Cinepramaan Portal," it said in a

Film Certification Records Exposed in CBFC Data Leak

केंद्रीय फ़िल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC) के ई-सिनेप्रमाण पोर्टल से 500 से अधिक फ़िल्मों/शीर्षकों के आवेदन दस्तावेज़ – स्क्रिप्ट, कट ऑर्डर – इंटरनेट आर्काइव पर लीक



Data breach
डेटा उल्लंघन

1 What leaked | क्या लीक हुआ



- ▶ Records of **500+ titles**, dozens of feature films
500+ शीर्षक
- ▶ **Shooting scripts, cut orders**, distribution deals
स्क्रिप्ट, कट ऑर्डर
- ▶ **Films themselves not exposed**
फ़िल्में नहीं

2 How it surfaced | कैसे सामने आया



- ▶ Posted as datasets on the **Internet Archive**
इंटरनेट आर्काइव
- ▶ Uploader used a **Russian-script name** like ex-chief **Prasoon Joshi**
रूसी नाम
- ▶ Taken down by **12 Oct**; account deleted
12 अक्टूबर

3 Scope | दायरा



500+ Titles exposed शीर्षक	Dec 2025–Aug 2026 Records period अवधि
~10 yrs Portal age पोर्टल की उम्र	Days Publicly downloadable उपलब्ध

CBFC film records leaked — in depth (1/2)

CBFC डेटा लीक — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

CBFC's response
CBFC की प्रतिक्रिया



- ▶ **“Reviewed”** the alleged unauthorised access
समीक्षा
- ▶ **Investigating** the breach
जाँच
- ▶ Running a **security audit**
सुरक्षा ऑडिट

5

Why it matters | महत्व



- ▶ Unreleased **scripts** = creative & commercial value
रचनात्मक मूल्य
- ▶ **Licensing fees** of distributors exposed
व्यावसायिक गोपनीयता
- ▶ Trust in **e-governance** portals hit
ई-शासन पर भरोसा

6

A pattern | लगातार
घटनाएँ



- ▶ **SBI** customer data on dark web (Oct)
SBI
- ▶ **VAHAN/SARATHI** transport data on sale
परिवहन पोर्टल
- ▶ Govt orders **CERT-In** audits
CERT-In

CBFC film records leaked — background (1/2)

CBFC डेटा लीक — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 CBFC basics | CBFC परिचय



Fact तथ्य	Detail विवरण
Law क़ानून	Cinematograph Act, 1952
Ministry मंत्रालय	Information & Broadcasting
Board बोर्ड	Chair + 12–25 members
Old name पुराना नाम	Central Board of Film Censors

10 2023 amendment 2023 संशोधन



- ▶ Split UA into **UA 7+, 13+, 16+**
आयु वर्ग
- ▶ Certificate valid **forever** (was 10 yrs)
स्थायी प्रमाणपत्र
- ▶ Jail & fines for **film piracy**
पायरेसी पर दंड

11 Appeals | अपील



- ▶ **FCAT** (tribunal) abolished in **2021**
FCAT समाप्त
- ▶ Appeals now go to **High Courts**
उच्च न्यायालय
- ▶ Under Tribunals Reforms Act
अधिकरण सुधार

CBFC film records leaked — background (2/2)

CBFC डेटा लीक — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Who regulates what you watch | कौन नियंत्रित करता



Cinema
सिनेमा

CBFC
CBFC



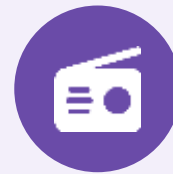
TV
टीवी

Cable TV Act
केबल अधिनियम



OTT
ओटीटी

IT Rules 2021
self-rating
स्व-वर्गीकरण



Radio/AIR
रेडियो

Prasar Bharati
प्रसार भारती

13 Key court rulings प्रमुख फैसले



► **K.A. Abbas (1970):** pre-censorship of films is valid
के.ए. अब्बास

► **S. Rangarajan (1989):**
can't ban over threat of protest
रंगराजन

► Film freedom flows from
Art 19(1)(a)
अनु. 19(1)(a)

CBFC film records leaked — Map & Diagram

CBFC डेटा लीक — मानचित्र व आरेख

How a film gets certified in India



Certificate categories (after 2023 amendment)



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- ▶ Applications go via e-Cinepramaan
ऑनलाइन आवेदन
- ▶ Examining → Revising Committee
समितियाँ
- ▶ 6 categories, incl. new UA 7+/13+/16+
6 श्रेणियाँ
- ▶ S = special audiences like doctors
विशेष

Very severe cyclone to hit A.P.

आंध्र में चक्रवात

'Very severe cyclone likely to cross A.P. on Oct. 28'

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR/VIJAYAWADA

The well-marked low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is very likely to intensify into a "very severe" cyclonic storm and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam by the morning of October 28, the IMD said on Saturday.

Chief Ministers of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh reviewed the situation and directed officials in their States to be vigilant as the weather agency has issued red alerts for October 28.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 5

A.P., Odisha brace for 'very severe' cyclone as IMD issues alerts

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR/VIJAYAWADA

With a well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal likely to intensify into a deep depression on Sunday before "very likely" developing into a "very severe cyclone", governments of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on Saturday stepped up preparedness with disaster response teams on high alert. Educational institutions in five Odisha districts will be closed on October 28 and 29 while fishermen along the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coast have been warned not to venture into the sea as per standard advisory.

The low-pressure area intensified into a depression at about 820 km east-southeast of Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday evening, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

"It is very likely to move nearly southwards, intensify into a deep depression... Continuing to move west-northwestwards, it is very likely to intensify further into a cyclonic storm by October 26, and into a severe cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal by October 27", it said in a post on X.

The weather agency added that the system is very likely to intensify further into a "very severe" cyclonic storm and cross Andhra Pradesh coast bet-



The IMD said the winds could intensify into a severe cyclonic storm. KOBILURI SARENAS

ween Bapatla and Visakhapatnam by October 28 morning with sustained wind speed of 115-125 km per hour, gusting to 140 km per hour. The IMD has issued red alerts for 12 Andhra Pradesh districts and five Odisha districts on October 28.

Reviewing preparedness on Saturday, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, "the State government is fully prepared to achieve zero casualty." He emphasised on moving vulnerable people, including elderly, patients, and pregnant women, to safer locations. Sixty units of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force, 17 units of National Disaster Response Forces have been deployed in the State, he said.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the developing situation on Saturday evening and directed officials remain vigilant and issue advance warnings to the public and alert people in low-lying areas.

‘Very Severe’ Cyclone Likely to Cross A.P. on Oct. 28

बंगाल की खाड़ी में कम दबाव का क्षेत्र “अति गंभीर चक्रवाती तूफ़ान” बनकर 28 अक्टूबर की सुबह बापटला और विशाखापत्तनम के बीच आंध्र तट पार कर सकता है; आंध्र व ओडिशा में रेड अलर्ट



IMD red alert
रेड अलर्ट

1 Forecast | पूर्वानुमान



115–125

Sustained wind
km/h
हवा

140

Gusts km/h
झोंके

28 Oct

Landfall
(morning)
तट पार

12 + 5

Red-alert
districts AP +
Odisha
ज़िले

2 Odisha prepares | ओडिशा



► CM Mohan Charan Majhi: “zero casualty” goal
शून्य हताहत

► **60 ODRAF + 17 NDRF**
units deployed
बल तैनात

► Schools shut in **5**
districts on 28–29 Oct
स्कूल बंद

3 A.P. prepares | आंध्र प्रदेश



► CM Chandrababu Naidu
reviews situation
चंद्रबाबू नायडू

► Advance warnings for
low-lying areas
निचले इलाके

► **Fishermen** told not to go
to sea
मछुआरे

Very severe cyclone to hit A.P. — in depth (1/2)

आंध्र में चक्रवात — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Expected path
संभावित मार्ग



Stage चरण	When कब
Depression अवदाब	Sat, 24 Oct
Deep depression गहरा अवदाब	Sun, 25 Oct
Cyclonic storm चक्रवाती तूफान	By 26 Oct
Severe CS गंभीर	By 27 Oct

5

Who goes first |
प्राथमिकता



- ▶ **Elderly and patients**
बुजुर्ग, रोगी
- ▶ **Pregnant women**
गर्भवती महिलाएँ
- ▶ Moved to **cyclone shelters**
आश्रय स्थल

6

Main dangers | मुख्य
खतरे



- ▶ **Storm surge floods**
coasts
तूफानी लहर
- ▶ **Heavy rain & river floods**
भारी वर्षा
- ▶ Uprooted trees, **power cuts**
बिजली गुल

Very severe cyclone to hit A.P. — in depth (2/2)

आंध्र में चक्रवात — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a cyclone is born | चक्रवात कैसे बनता



Warm sea
गर्म समुद्र

> 26.5°C
26.5°C से अधिक



Air rises
हवा ऊपर

Low pressure
निम्न दाब



Coriolis spin
कोरिऑलिस

Anticlockwise (N)
वामावर्त



Eye forms
आँख बनती

Storm grows
तूफ़ान

8

Did you know?
क्या आप जानते हैं?



► Bay of Bengal gets **more cyclones** than the Arabian Sea

बंगाल की खाड़ी

► **Oct–Dec** is the main post-monsoon cyclone season

अक्टूबर–दिसंबर

Very severe cyclone to hit A.P. — background (1/2)

आंध्र में चक्रवात — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Deadliest past storms प्रमुख चक्रवात

Cyclone चक्रवात	Year & hit वर्ष
Odisha Super Cyclone ओडिशा	1999 – ~10,000 dead
Phailin फ़ैलिन	2013 – Odisha
Hudhud हुदहुद	2014 – Visakhapatnam
Fani फ़ानी	2019 – Odisha

10 Naming cyclones | नामकरण

- ▶ Names from **WMO/ESCAP panel – 13 countries**
13 देश
- ▶ IMD New Delhi = **RSMC** for North Indian Ocean
RSMC
- ▶ Names used **once**, never repeated
एक बार

11 Why Odisha is a model ओडिशा मॉडल

- ▶ After 1999, set up **OSDMA** – first state DM body
OSDMA
- ▶ **800+ cyclone shelters**
आश्रय
- ▶ Phailin 2013: **~10 lakh evacuated**, few deaths
बड़ा निकास

Very severe cyclone to hit A.P. — background (2/2)

आंध्र में चक्रवात — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Early warning chain | चेतावनी तंत्र



Satellites
उपग्रह

INSAT-3D
इनसैट



Doppler radar
डॉप्लर

Coastal
तटीय



IMD bulletins
IMD

Colour alerts
रंग कोड



SMS, sirens
संदेश

Last mile
अंतिम छोर

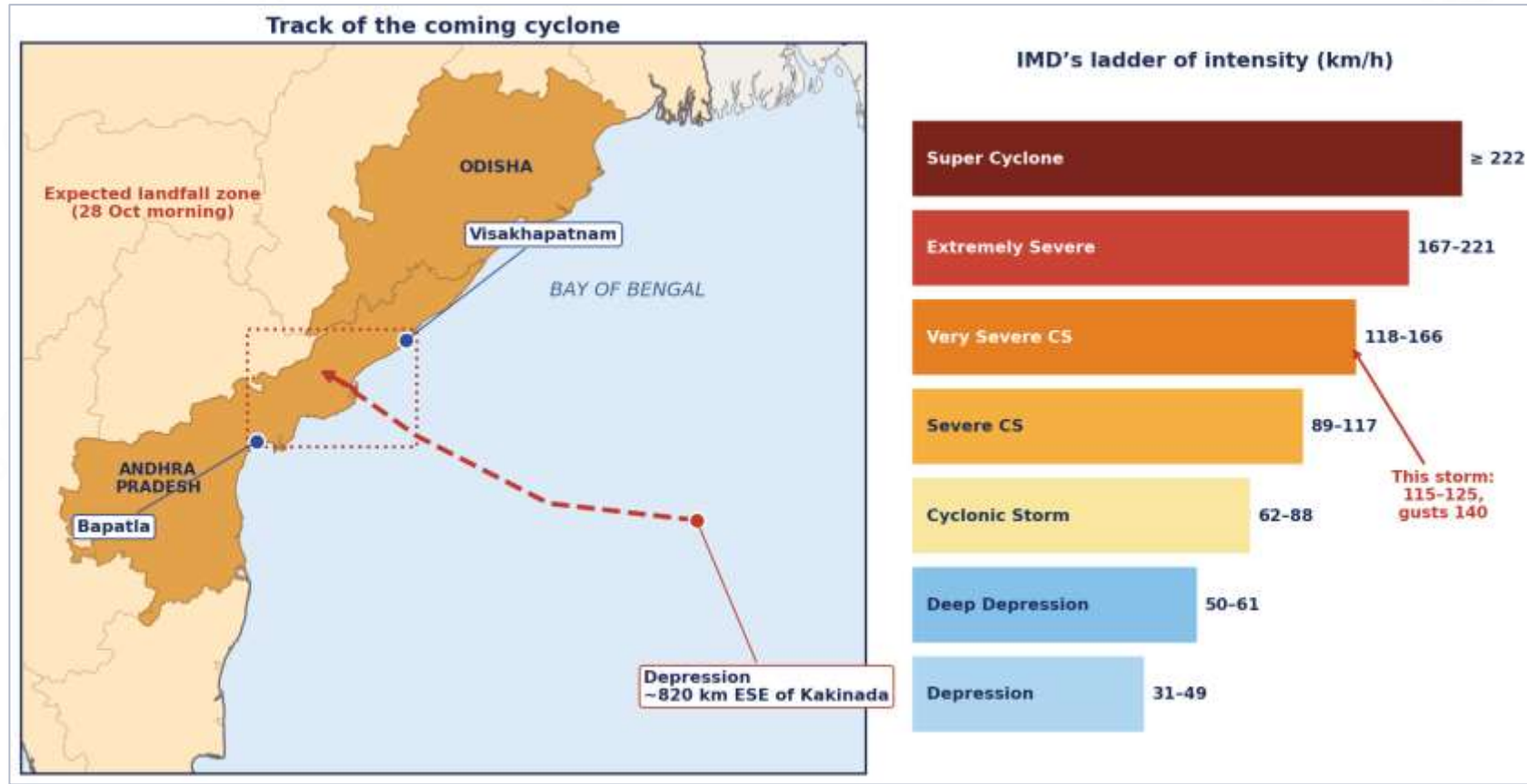
13 IMD colour alerts रंग चेतावनी



- ▶ **Green** – no action
हरा
- ▶ **Yellow** – be aware;
Orange – be prepared
पीला, नारंगी
- ▶ **Red** – take action
लाल

Very severe cyclone to hit A.P. — Map & Diagram

आंध्र में चक्रवात — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Depression ~820 km ESE of Kakinada
काकीनाडा
- Landfall zone Bapatla–Visakhapatnam
तट
- 7 rungs on IMD's intensity ladder
7 श्रेणियाँ
- Expected at very severe level
अति गंभीर

Three Agra Teacher Council seats to go for repoll on Oct. 26

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

Agra (UPI) — The District Commissioner of Agra (DC), on Wednesday, announced that three seats on the Agra Teacher Council will be contested in a by-election on October 26.



The Commissioner, during his visit to the Agra District Teacher's Council, announced that three seats on the council will be contested in a by-election on October 26. The seats are for the Agra District Teacher's Council, which is a statutory body responsible for the regulation and improvement of teacher education in the district.

The Commissioner also announced that the Agra District Teacher's Council will be holding its annual meeting on October 26. The meeting will be held at the Agra District Teacher's Council, Agra.

NEET protest: SC panel will hear case on October 29, 30

Members of the public and university, affected by violence, can walk to court to lodge a complaint or present evidence online portal launched to safeguard vulnerable witnesses.

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

The Supreme Court (SC) will hear a case on October 29 and 30 regarding the NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) protests. The case involves the government's decision to cancel the results of the NEET-UG 2024 exam.



The SC panel will hear the case on October 29 and 30. The case is titled 'Union of Concerned Scientists v. Union of India'. The petitioners are seeking the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 exam results.

The SC panel will also hear the case on October 29 and 30. The case is titled 'Union of Concerned Scientists v. Union of India'. The petitioners are seeking the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 exam results.

1 crore farmers get digital ID to access public schemes

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

The Union Agriculture Ministry has created a crore farmer digital IDs, which will be used to access public schemes. The IDs will be created for all farmers in the country.



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New Delhi condemns church attack in Jordan

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

New Delhi (UPI) — India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has condemned an attack on a church in Jordan. The attack resulted in the death of a person and the injury of several others.

The MEA has condemned the attack and expressed its condolences to the victims and their families. The MEA has also expressed its support for the Jordanian government in its efforts to investigate the attack and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Christian families attacked in Bengal given protection

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

Christian families in Bengal who were attacked by a mob have been given protection by the police. The attack resulted in the death of a person and the injury of several others.

The police have provided protection to the Christian families and are investigating the attack. The police have also expressed its support for the Christian community in Bengal.

'Take firm action against those who incite hatred'

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

The Union Home Minister has called for firm action against those who incite hatred. He said that such actions are a threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

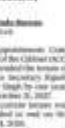


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Defence Secretary gets one-year extension

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

The Defence Secretary has been granted a one-year extension. The extension is for the period from October 2024 to October 2025.



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Arunachal police station set on fire over power project

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

A police station in Arunachal Pradesh was set on fire by a mob. The attack resulted in the death of a person and the injury of several others.

The police have provided protection to the police station and are investigating the attack. The police have also expressed its support for the police station in Arunachal Pradesh.

CPI(M) book stall sales cross ₹1 crore in 12 Bengal districts amid attacks

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

The CPI(M) book stall sales in Bengal have crossed ₹1 crore in 12 districts. The sales are a testament to the popularity of the CPI(M) in Bengal.



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PAC chair seeks action against six Chief Secretaries

By Anand Kumar
12/10/2024

The PAC chair has sought action against six Chief Secretaries. The PAC chair has also expressed its support for the PAC in Bengal.



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पृष्ठ 3 • समाचार

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

1 11 crore Farmer IDs | किसान ID

11 crore farmers get digital ID

11 करोड़ किसान ID

11 crore farmers get digital ID to access public schemes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Agriculture Ministry had created 11 crore unique digital identity cards for farmers as on Friday, five months ahead of a deadline set for March 31, 2027. The IDs are expected to enable “transparent, efficient and timely” access for farmers to government schemes, bank credit, crop insurance, and disaster relief. It will also reduce paperwork and repeated verification, according to the government.

The milestone has been achieved under the Digital Agriculture Mission implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Saturday. The creation of 11 crore Farmer IDs was successfully completed by the night of October 23, he said.

“The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, State governments, and field-level officials worked in coordination to achieve it five months ahead of schedule,” Mr.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Chouhan said, congratulating farmers across the country. The Minister described the Farmer ID as their own digital identity, and an important step towards making agriculture more efficient, transparent and prosperous through modern technology.

“Earlier, farmers often had to provide documents repeatedly to access various benefits, resulting in a loss of both time and money. With Farmer IDs, access to several key services is expected to become simpler and more transparent,” the Minister said in a statement, adding that the initiative intends to improve transparency and accountability in agricultural service delivery.

11 Crore Farmers Get Digital ID to Access Public Schemes

कृषि मंत्रालय ने तय समय-सीमा (31 मार्च 2027) से पाँच महीने पहले 11 करोड़ किसान ID बना लिए – योजनाओं, ऋण, फ़सल बीमा और आपदा राहत तक आसान पहुँच



Digital Agriculture
Mission
डिजिटल कृषि मिशन

1 The milestone | उपलब्धि

11 crore

Farmer IDs
किसान ID

23 Oct

Completed
night of
पूरा

31 Mar 2027

Original
deadline
समय-सीमा

5 months

Ahead of
schedule
पहले

2 What it gives | लाभ

► Access to **schemes & bank credit**
योजनाएँ, ऋण

► **Crop insurance & disaster relief**
बीमा, राहत

► Less **paperwork**, no
repeat verification
कम कागज़ी काम

3 Who did it | किसने किया

► **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**
कृषि मंत्रालय

► **State govts & field officials**
राज्य सरकारें

► Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**
शिवराज सिंह चौहान

11 crore farmers get digital ID — in depth (1/2)

11 करोड़ किसान ID — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Minister's view मंत्री का कथन



► Farmers' "own digital identity"

अपनी डिजिटल पहचान

► Makes farming efficient, transparent, prosperous

पारदर्शी

► Better accountability in service delivery

जवाबदेही

5

Concerns to watch | चिंताएँ



► Tenant farmers without land titles may miss out

बटाईदार

► Data privacy of land & Aadhaar

निजता

► Old, disputed land records

भूमि विवाद

6

Related reforms संबंधित सुधार



► DILRMP – digitised land records

भू-अभिलेख

► SVAMITVA – property cards for villages

स्वामित्व

► Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN) – 14-digit plot ID

भू-आधार

11 crore farmers get digital ID — in depth (2/2)

11 करोड़ किसान ID — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Old vs new way | पहले बनाम अब



Before
पहले

Papers each time
हर बार कागज़



Farmer ID
किसान ID

One-time
एक बार



Auto-verify
स्वतः सत्यापन

Land + Aadhaar
भूमि + आधार



Benefit
लाभ

Direct, faster
सीधा

8

Did you know?
क्या आप जानते हैं?



- **PM-KISAN** gives
₹6,000/yr in 3 instalments
₹6,000
- **23 December is Kisan Diwas** (Chaudhary Charan Singh's birthday)
किसान दिवस

11 crore farmers get digital ID — background (1/2)

11 करोड़ किसान ID — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Digital Agriculture Mission डिजिटल कृषि मिशन



Pillar स्तंभ	Role भूमिका
AgriStack एग्रीस्टैक	Farmer, land, crop data
Krishi DSS कृषि DSS	Weather, soil, crop analytics
Soil profile maps मृदा मानचित्र	1:10,000 scale
Approved स्वीकृत	Sept 2024, ₹2,817 cr

10 India's DPI model डिजिटल सार्वजनिक ढाँचा



- ▶ Aadhaar – identity
आधार
- ▶ UPI – payments
UPI
- ▶ AgriStack – the farm-
sector layer
कृषि परत

11 Indian farming in numbers आँकड़े



- ▶ ~46% of workforce in
agriculture
46% कार्यबल
- ▶ ~86% are small &
marginal farmers
लघु-सीमांत
- ▶ Avg holding ~1.08 ha
औसत जोत

11 crore farmers get digital ID — background (2/2)

11 करोड़ किसान ID — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Benefits that use the ID | लाभ की योजनाएँ



PM-KISAN
पीएम-किसान

Income support
आय सहायता



PMFBY
फ़सल बीमा

Crop insurance
बीमा



KCC
किसान क्रेडिट

Cheap loans
सस्ता ऋण



**Soil Health
Card**
मृदा कार्ड

Advice
सलाह

13 Agriculture is a State subject राज्य सूची



► **Entry 14, State List – agriculture**

प्रविष्टि 14

► **Land records** also a State subject

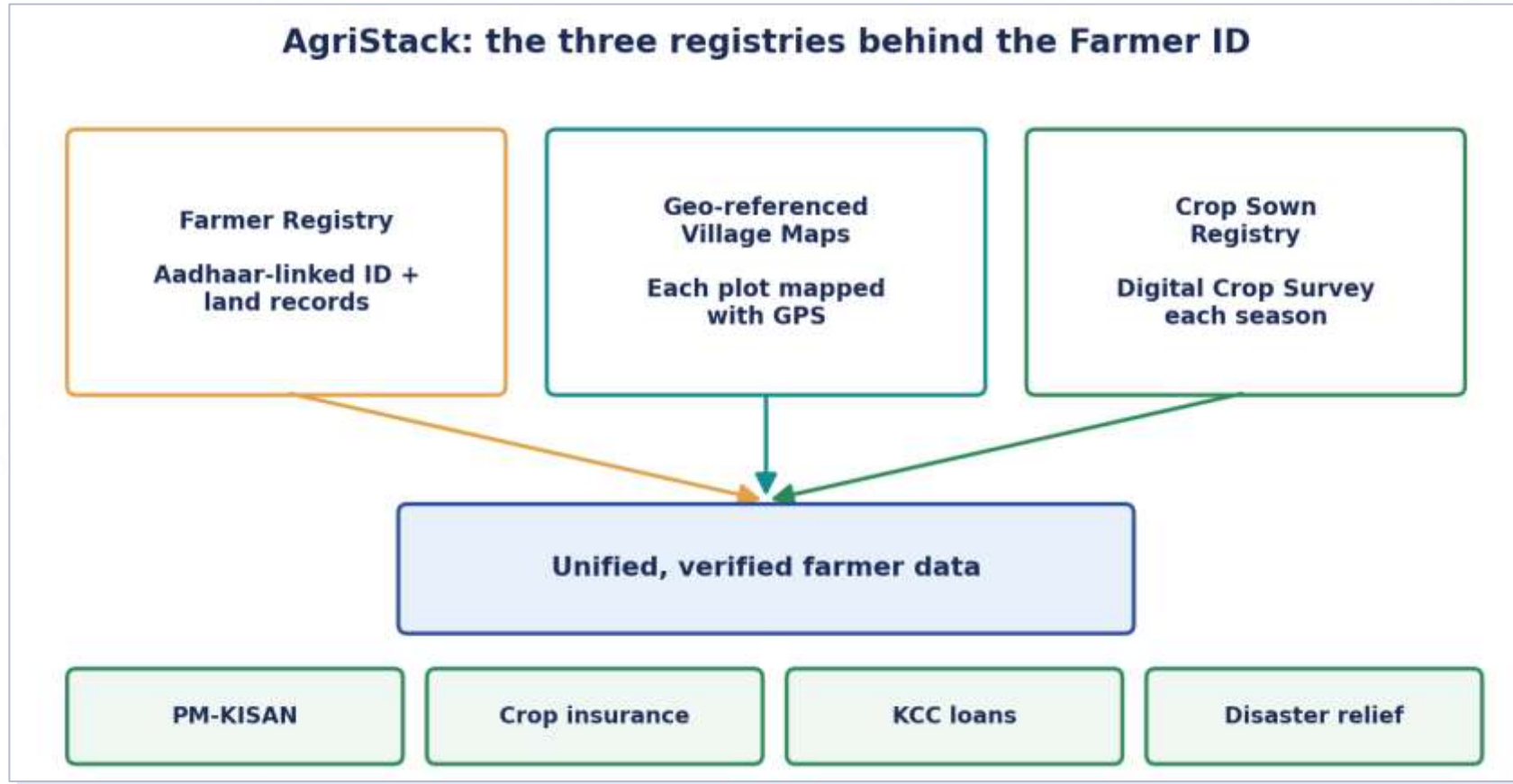
भूमि अभिलेख

► So IDs need **Centre–State** coordination

केंद्र–राज्य

11 crore farmers get digital ID — Map & Diagram

11 करोड़ किसान ID — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

► AgriStack = 3
registries

3 रजिस्ट्री

► Farmer + village maps
+ crops sown

किसान, नक्शे, फ़सल

► Feeds PM-KISAN,
insurance, KCC

योजनाएँ

► One **verified** data
source

सत्यापित डेटा

Two lab experiments bring bleached corals back to luminous life

Breakthrough A staggering 80% of the world's coral reefs experienced massive bleaching last year, with some reefs in southern Australia bleached for the first time in recorded history. But two new lab experiments suggest that some of the world's most resilient corals may be able to recover from the damage. The experiments, which were conducted at the University of Queensland, Australia, show that corals can recover from bleaching if they are given the right conditions. The experiments involved exposing corals to different levels of light and temperature, and then measuring their recovery. The results showed that corals exposed to higher light levels and lower temperatures recovered more quickly than those exposed to lower light levels and higher temperatures. This suggests that corals may be able to recover from bleaching if they are given the right conditions.

and had no full recovery, which is a bad sign. The coral, the researchers found, only recovers between 10 and 20% of its original color. The researchers also found that the coral's recovery was slower if it was exposed to higher temperatures. This suggests that corals may be able to recover from bleaching if they are given the right conditions. The experiments involved exposing corals to different levels of light and temperature, and then measuring their recovery. The results showed that corals exposed to higher light levels and lower temperatures recovered more quickly than those exposed to lower light levels and higher temperatures. This suggests that corals may be able to recover from bleaching if they are given the right conditions.

Predictions suggest that coral recovery will be most likely if the coral is given the right conditions. The researchers found that corals exposed to higher light levels and lower temperatures recovered more quickly than those exposed to lower light levels and higher temperatures. This suggests that corals may be able to recover from bleaching if they are given the right conditions. The experiments involved exposing corals to different levels of light and temperature, and then measuring their recovery. The results showed that corals exposed to higher light levels and lower temperatures recovered more quickly than those exposed to lower light levels and higher temperatures. This suggests that corals may be able to recover from bleaching if they are given the right conditions.

SNAPSHOTS



A July down that may have inspired 'Starry Night'

An historic rainstorm that hit the Netherlands in 1667 may have inspired the Dutch painter J.M.W. Turner's 1866 painting 'Rain, Steam, and Great Bridge'. The painting shows the London Bridge over the River Thames in London, with rain falling and steam rising from the bridge. The painting is a reproduction of a sketch by Turner, who was in London at the time of the storm. The storm was a major event in London's history, and it is believed that it inspired Turner's painting.



Link between moderate cold and lifespan explained

Using the example of the bacterium *Escherichia coli*, researchers have found that moderate cold temperatures can lead to a longer lifespan. The researchers found that *E. coli* bacteria that were exposed to moderate cold temperatures lived longer than those that were exposed to higher temperatures. This suggests that moderate cold temperatures may be beneficial for the lifespan of some organisms. The researchers also found that the bacteria that lived longer had a higher level of antioxidant activity, which may be the reason for their longer lifespan.



Pacing similar buildings together can cool cities

Grouping buildings with similar facades together can help to cool cities, according to a new study. The study found that buildings with similar facades, such as color and texture, can create a more uniform surface that reflects more sunlight. This can help to reduce the amount of heat absorbed by the buildings and the surrounding area. The study also found that buildings with similar facades can create a more uniform surface that reflects more sunlight, which can help to reduce the amount of heat absorbed by the buildings and the surrounding area.

THE HINDU • 22 OCT 2026

Page 10 • Science

पृष्ठ 10 • विज्ञान

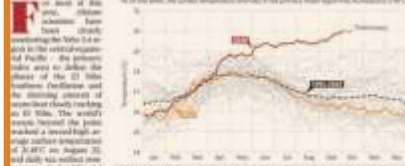
Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 Record Pacific warming – El Niño | अल नीनो

1 Record Pacific warming sets stage for ferocious El Niño

For the first time in recorded history, the Niño-3.4 region has recorded a sea surface temperature exceeding 30°C, after the anomaly increased to 1.8°C on October 18 & dipped this week to 1.2°C.

Daily sea surface temperature at Niño-3.4
At the end of the week, the surface temperature in the Niño-3.4 region was 1.8°C above the long-term average.



Breakthrough and rising sea level at 21 km depth. The relationship between the two is not yet clear, but it is likely that the warming of the sea surface is related to the warming of the deep ocean. The researchers found that the warming of the sea surface was accompanied by a warming of the deep ocean, which is a sign of a more widespread warming of the ocean. This suggests that the warming of the sea surface may be a precursor to a more widespread warming of the ocean, which could lead to a more severe El Niño event. The researchers also found that the warming of the sea surface was accompanied by a warming of the deep ocean, which is a sign of a more widespread warming of the ocean.

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Meta's rewrite of the rules for the open web

Meta's rewrite of the rules for the open web Meta's new privacy policy is a significant departure from its previous policy, which was widely criticized for being overly restrictive. The new policy allows Meta to collect more data from its users, but it also provides more transparency about how the data is used. The new policy is a significant departure from its previous policy, which was widely criticized for being overly restrictive. The new policy allows Meta to collect more data from its users, but it also provides more transparency about how the data is used. The new policy is a significant departure from its previous policy, which was widely criticized for being overly restrictive. The new policy allows Meta to collect more data from its users, but it also provides more transparency about how the data is used.

Question Corner

Seeing through

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Record Pacific warming: strong El Niño

अल नीनो

Record Pacific warming sets stage for ferocious El Niño

For the first time in recorded history, the Niño 3.4 region has recorded a sea surface temperature exceeding 30°C; after the anomaly increased to 3.48°C on October 18, it dipped this week to 3.34°C.

Neelima Vallangi
BENGALURU

For most of this year, climate scientists have been closely monitoring the Niño 3.4 region in the central equatorial Pacific – the primary index area to define the phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation and the alarming amount of ocean heat closely tracking an El Niño. The world's oceans beyond the poles reached a record-high average surface temperature of 21.88°C on August 22, and daily sea surface temperatures in the Niño 3.4 region have been consistently shattering records.

According to the U.S. NOAA's Climate Prediction Centre, a "strong to very strong" El Niño is 83% likely, with a high chance of a historic event exceeding the strength of any previous El Niño since 1950.

The El Niño is a natural climate pattern that emerges every two to seven years and affects global weather and heightens the risk of extreme heatwaves and altered rainfall worldwide. But this year's event has put the world more on edge.

"Even though there is no direct intensity-to-impact relationship, in general we expect stronger El Niño events will have stronger impacts," Raghu Murtugudde, earth system scientist and emeritus professor at the University of

Maryland and visiting professor at IIT Kanpur, said.

The relationship between global warming and El Niño is not easy to tease out and remains an area of active research. A recent study analysing the geochemistry of corals in the last millennium at the Galapagos Islands, which lie in the ocean patch where the El Niño signal is strongest, found there has been a notable amplification of its intensity over the last 40 years. "Our analysis focuses less on individual events and more on the broader pattern of increasing strength of the El Niño system – which is much greater now than in the pre-industrial era," said Julia Cole, professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Michigan, who led the study, recently published in

Science. "But the instrumental record of temperature is clear: this event is well outside the norm."

On October 5, the Niño 3.4 region recorded a sea surface temperature of 30.06°C, the first time in recorded history the region exceeded 30°C. The surface temperature anomaly in the region increased to 3.48°C on October 18 before dipping this week to 3.34°C.

Meteorological agencies classify an El Niño's strength based on the 90-day average of the temperature anomaly in Niño 3.4. Five consecutive months exceeding 0.5°C signify the onset of the warm El Niño phase. Strong events spot an anomaly of 1.5–1.9°C, and very strong ones an anomaly exceeding 2°C. Since the modern era of instrumental records began

in the 1980s, there have been roughly a dozen significant El Niño events, with only three of these being very strong: 2015–16 (2.6°C), 1997–98 (2.4°C), 1982–83 (2.1°C).

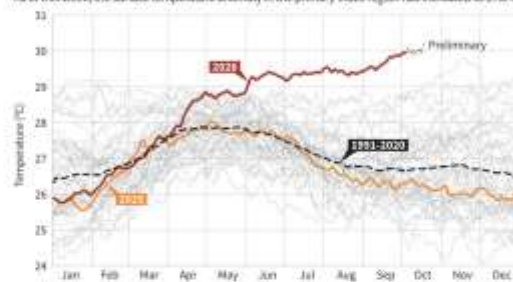
The ongoing 2026–27 El Niño onset was declared on June 6, and it is projected to peak in December with a seasonal anomaly of 3.8°C.

Scientists say no two El Niño events are the same and predicting their effects is not straightforward. However, the relationship between El Niño and global temperatures is quite straightforward: the release of stored ocean heat during these events causes global temperatures to temporarily spike in addition to global warming.

"2027 will be warmer than 2026; that is how El Niño tends to work. It is al-

Daily sea surface temperature at Niño 3.4

As of this week, the surface temperature anomaly in the primary index region has increased to 3.48°C



so likely that 2027 will be the warmest so far, unless a massive La Niña appears and soaks up all the heat. So heat wave season is coming; that is a guarantee," Dr. Murtugudde said.

The relationship with the monsoon is less straightforward, however. While this year's monsoon was 13% below normal, consistent with strong El Niños, severe drought did not materialise as feared. "This monsoon is not completely explained by El Niño," per Dr. Murtugudde. "I think it has a very strong component of global warming."

The Central Water Commission's latest weekly report shows that of 178 reservoirs around India, only 69% of the total storage capacity is filled. The south has the largest deficit, with only 44% storage filled.

The 1982–83 El Niño was the first 'super' event in the modern era and it had devastating consequences for communities on almost every continent. It also triggered scientific enquiry into the phenomenon, leading to widespread improvements in monitoring and prediction. With improved understanding of El Niño mechanisms and advanced forecasting capabilities today, a clearer picture is emerging of how it will evolve over the coming months.

(Neelima Vallangi is an independent climate journalist) Image credit: Climate-Reanalyzer.org

Record Pacific Warming Sets Stage for Ferocious El Niño

इतिहास में पहली बार नीनो 3.4 क्षेत्र में समुद्री सतह का तापमान 30°C से ऊपर गया – विसंगति 18 अक्टूबर को 3.48°C तक पहुँची; अब तक के सबसे शक्तिशाली अल नीनो की आशंका



Climate watch
जलवायु

1

Record numbers |
रिकॉर्ड



30.06°C

Niño 3.4 SST, 5
Oct
तापमान

3.48°C

Peak anomaly,
18 Oct
विसंगति

21.18°C

Record global
ocean avg, 22
Aug
महासागर

83%

Chance strong–
very strong
(NOAA)
संभावना

2

What to expect | क्या
होगा



► Onset declared **6 June**;
peak in **December**

दिसंबर में चरम

► **2027** likely the **warmest**
year yet

सबसे गर्म वर्ष

► “**Heatwave season is**
coming” – Murtugudde

लू

3

India impact so far
भारत पर असर



► Monsoon **13% below**
normal

मानसून कम

► Feared **severe**
drought did not come

सूखा टला

► Reservoirs **69% full**;
south only **44%**

जलाशय

Record Pacific warming: strong El Niño — in depth (1/2)

अल नीनो — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Is warming making it worse?
ग्लोबल वार्मिंग



- ▶ Galápagos **coral study**: El Niño stronger in last 40 yrs

प्रवाल अध्ययन

- ▶ Led by **Julia Cole**, published in **Science**

जूलिया कोल

- ▶ Link still under **active research**

शोध जारी

5

Measuring strength
तीव्रता माप



Class श्रेणी	Anomaly विसंगति
Onset आरंभ	> 0.5°C for 5 months
Strong प्रबल	1.5 – 1.9°C
Very strong अति प्रबल	> 2°C

6

Global effects
वैश्विक असर



- ▶ Drought in **Australia, Indonesia, India**

सूखा

- ▶ Floods in **Peru, Ecuador**

बाढ़

- ▶ Coral **bleaching**; fish catch falls

प्रवाल विरंजन

Record Pacific warming: strong El Niño — in depth (2/2)

अल नीनो — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 ENSO's three phases | ENSO के चरण



El Niño
अल नीनो

East Pacific warm
पूर्व गर्म



Neutral
तटस्थ

Normal
सामान्य



La Niña
ला नीना

East Pacific cool
पूर्व ठंडा



Cycle
चक्र

Every 2–7 yrs
2–7 वर्ष

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► “El Niño” = “the little boy / Christ child” – Peruvian fishermen noticed it near **Christmas**
नाम का अर्थ

► **1982-83** was the first “super” El Niño of the modern era
पहला सुपर

Record Pacific warming: strong El Niño — background (1/2)

अल नीनो — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Key terms | शब्दावली

Term शब्द	Meaning अर्थ
ENSO ENSO	El Niño–Southern Oscillation
Niño 3.4 नीनो 3.4	Central Pacific index box
SOI SOI	Tahiti–Darwin air-pressure gap
SST anomaly विसंगति	Gap from long-term average

10 Indian Ocean Dipole हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव

- ▶ **Positive IOD**: west Indian Ocean warmer → **helps monsoon**
सकारात्मक IOD
- ▶ Can **offset** El Niño (e.g. **1997**)
प्रभाव कम
- ▶ Negative IOD **worsens** deficits
नकारात्मक IOD

11 Who forecasts | पूर्वानुमान

- ▶ **NOAA** Climate Prediction Center (USA)
NOAA
- ▶ **IMD** – monsoon & ENSO outlooks
IMD
- ▶ Australia's **BoM**; WMO updates
BoM, WMO

Record Pacific warming: strong El Niño — background (2/2)

अल नीनो — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 How El Niño weakens India's monsoon | मानसून पर असर



**Trade winds
weaken**
व्यापारिक पवन

Walker cell shifts
वॉकर परिसंचरण



**Rising air
moves east**
पूर्व की ओर

Central Pacific
मध्य प्रशांत



**Sinking air
over India**
भारत पर

Fewer clouds
कम बादल



**Weak
monsoon**
कमज़ोर मानसून

Drought risk
सूखा

13 Economy at stake अर्थव्यवस्था



► ~50% of farmland is
rain-fed

वर्षा-आधारित

► Weak rain → **food
inflation** (pulses, veg)

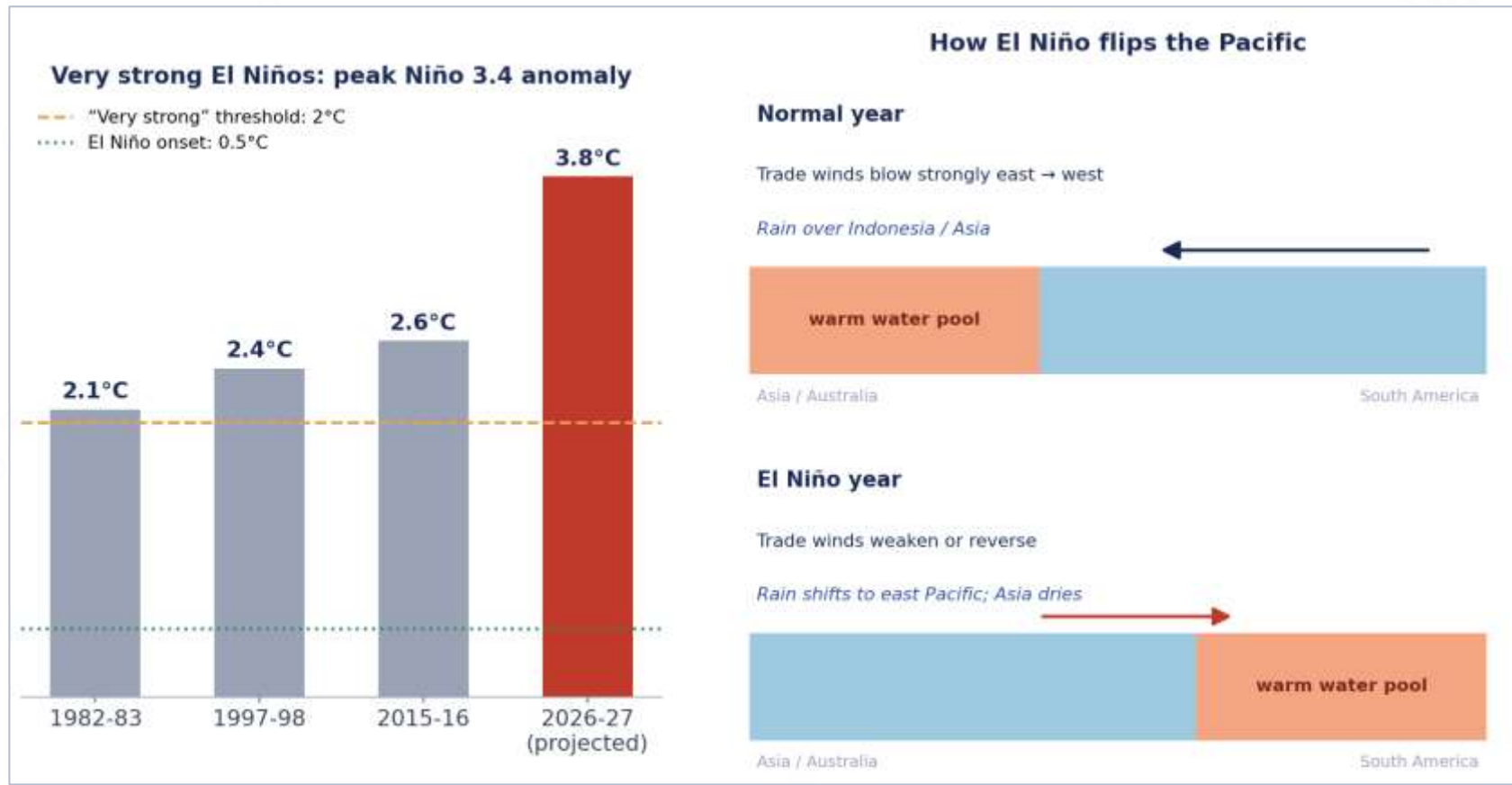
खाद्य महँगाई

► Power demand ↑, **hydro
output** ↓

बिजली

Record Pacific warming: strong El Niño — Map & Diagram

अल नीनो — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

► 2026-27 projected
3.8°C – above every past event

3.8°C

► Past very strong: **1982-83, 1997-98, 2015-16**
पिछली घटनाएँ

► Normal: warm pool near **Asia**

सामान्य वर्ष

► El Niño: warm pool shifts **east**

पूर्व की ओर

| 26 October 2026

आज के समसामयिक मुद्दे — The Hindu • Indian Express • Financial Express — 6 articles + exam
PYQs + MCQs + Myth Buster

1

Govt mulls capital gains
tax cut
पूँजीगत लाभ कर

2

Semiconductor Summit
2026
सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन

3

Hidden cost of credit
cards
क्रेडिट कार्ड की छिपी लागत

4

Vadodara plot “gift” to
Yusuf Pathan
भूमि उपहार

5

Five IPOs to raise ₹2,600
cr
पाँच IPO

6

NPS Central: one portal
for subscribers
NPS सेंट्रल



THE INDIAN EXPRESS • 22 OCT 2026

Page 1 • Front Page

पृष्ठ 1 • मुख पृष्ठ

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

1 On FM table: capital gains tax | पूँजीगत लाभ कर

Govt mulls capital gains tax cut

पूँजीगत लाभ कर

FLAT MARKETS FOR TWO YEARS A CONCERN

On FM table: Slashing capital gains tax rate, dollar-based taxation for foreign investors

Aanchal Magazine
& Anil Sasi
New Delhi, October 25

AS INVESTORS grapple with a flat stock market trajectory for more than two years now, discussions within the government in the run-up to Budget 2027-28 include lowering the long-term capital gains tax from 12.5% now for both domestic and foreign investors, and letting foreign investors pay this tax on capital gains made in dollar terms as opposed to in rupee terms, to boost market sentiments.

Officials say the urgency to act fast is due to two key concerns. One, zero returns or losses in stock markets over the last two years come on top of poor wage growth, and this is a big sentiment dampener. It is

• Stock indices

	Change in %*	YTD change#
Sensex	-7.9	-14.2
Nifty 50	-6.5	-13.6
S&P 500 (US)	31.3	11.2
Nasdaq Composite (US)	40.2	11.7
FTSE 100 (UK)	29.3	7.4
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	12.2	-12.3
Bovespa (Brazil)	57.9	27.7
Kospi (S Korea)	114.9	28.8

*% CHANGE OVER LAST TWO YEARS

#YEAR-TO-DATE CHANGE SINCE JAN 2, 2026

middle class with surging retail participation in markets now.

Post-Covid, stock market investments witnessed a sharp rise



Stock market challenge

For the government, it has been a challenge to explain the robust 7.8 per cent growth rate in April-June this year, especially when stock market indices actually dropped over the last two years, and poor wages growth in the private sector. The Budget may hence explore moves to boost the market.

tors (those holding up to Rs 2 lakh in shares) looking to diversify and supplement their regular income streams. According

On FM table

to data sourced from Prime Infobase in March 2020, retail shareholding in NSE-listed companies was 6.58% valued at Rs 7.23 lakh crore; it jumped to 7.66% in June 2024 valued at Rs 33.16 lakh crore and dropped to 7.12% in March 2026 valued at Rs 28.97 lakh crore.

In terms of demat investor accounts with CDSL, they jumped to 19.34 crore in September 2026 from just 2.12 crore in March 2020.

Two, the confidence that domestic mutual fund inflows would, by and large, counter the impact of any large-scale Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) outflows, has taken a beating. For almost a decade till 2024, domestic funds had always seen every large FPI exit as a buying opportunity.

"We are discussing every option," a senior government official told The Indian Express, when asked if measures for stock markets include a reduction or removal of capital gains tax.

Global investors see the 12.5 per cent LTCG tax as very high compared with similar levies in

other markets. For example, China, Indonesia and Brazil, among others have either nil or very minimal capital gains tax. What also hurts them and compounds their problem is that this tax has to be paid on rupee gains and not on dollar gains (or losses).

Section 72 of the Income-tax Act, 2025 that deals with the 'mode of computation' of tax says that the income chargeable under the head "capital gains" shall be computed from the full consideration of a capital asset after deducting transfer expenses, acquisition costs, and improvement costs. Foreign currency conversion benefits are provided to non-residents under 72 (6) of the Act for transferring unlisted Indian company shares or debentures to prevent notional gains caused by rupee depreciation. However, this relief explicitly applies only to non-residents and excludes domestic investors and FPIs.

The lack of an AI play, the feeling of overvalued stocks despite significant correction, and rising interest rates across developed markets are being seen as

• TAX ON GAINS

LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS

• Uniform 12.5% tax rate (effective July 23, 2024). Holding period for non-debt instruments — 1 year for listed securities, 2 years for other assets.

• Indexation benefit abolished for assets transferred on or after July 23, 2024.

ON DEBT: Capital gains from unlisted bonds, debentures, debt mutual funds and market-linked

debentures, irrespective of holding period, attract tax at applicable income tax slab rates.

SHORT-TERM CAPITAL GAINS

Listed equity shares, equity-oriented MFs, and business trusts units under Section 196 charged 20% tax. Other assets such as gold, real estate taxed at applicable income tax rates. Holding period — less than 1 year for listed securities, less than 2 years for other assets.

holding back large scale FPI inflows. In this backdrop, an ostensibly adverse taxation structure is not seen to be helping.

Earlier this year on June 5, the government scrapped the withholding tax as well as long and short-term capital gains tax on foreign investors' investments in government bonds to attract overseas funds. Before that, foreign investors paid 12.5 per cent tax on long-term capital gains, 30 per cent on short-term capital gains, and around 20 per cent withholding tax on interest income from their government bond holdings.

In its latest research report Ecwrap dated October 12, State Bank of India said the govern-

ment must seriously look into anchoring hot money flows into equity segment by extending the holding period to say 2-3 years and abolishing the long-term capital gains tax for equity.

Earlier this month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the debate on LTCG tax is "healthy" and she is "keen" to hear about it. At the Bloomberg New Economy, she also said that both domestic and foreign investors ask and comment about the Long-LTCG tax and the Securities Transaction Tax (STT). The debate on "tax in the market" and the tax treatment for all asset classes "has been a very well discussed topic", she had said.

On FM Table: Slashing Capital Gains Tax, Dollar-based Taxation for Foreign Investors

दो साल से सपाट शेयर बाज़ार के बीच बजट 2027-28 से पहले सरकार दीर्घकालिक पूँजीगत लाभ कर (12.5%) घटाने और विदेशी निवेशकों पर डॉलर में लाभ के आधार पर कर लगाने पर विचार कर रही है



Budget 2027-28
बजट

1

What's being discussed
विचाराधीन

- ▶ Cut **LTCG** below **12.5%** for all investors

दर घटाना

- ▶ Let FPIs pay tax on **dollar** gains

डॉलर में गणना

- ▶ “Discussing **every option**” – official

हर विकल्प

2

Why the urgency
जल्दबाज़ी क्यों

- ▶ Zero/negative returns + **poor wage growth** hurt sentiment

कमज़ोर वेतन

- ▶ Domestic MF flows **no longer offset** FPI exits

घरेलू सहारा कमज़ोर

- ▶ Hard to square with **7.8% GDP growth** (Apr–Jun)

विरोधाभास

3

Retail shift | खुदरा
निवेशक

2.12 cr → 19.34

cr
CDSL demat
a/cs,
2020→2026
डीमैट

6.58% → 7.12%

Retail share in
NSE firms
हिस्सेदारी

₹28.97 lakh cr

Retail holding,
Mar 2026
मूल्य

7.66%

Peak share,
Jun 2024
शिखर

Govt mulls capital gains tax cut — in depth (1/2)

पूँजीगत लाभ कर — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

FPI grievances

विदेशी निवेशकों की शिकायत



- ▶ **China, Indonesia, Brazil:** nil/very low CGT
अन्य देश
- ▶ No big **AI play** in Indian market
AI कंपनियाँ नहीं
- ▶ Stocks still seen **overvalued**
महँगे शेयर

5

Precedent: bonds

बॉन्ड का उदाहरण



- ▶ **5 June 2026:** tax on FPI govt-bond gains scrapped
बॉन्ड पर छूट
- ▶ Earlier: **12.5% LTCG, 30% STCG**
पहले की दरें
- ▶ **~20%** withholding tax on interest also removed
विदहोलिंग कर

6

Other voices | अन्य मत



- ▶ **SBI Ecowrap:** hold 2–3 yrs, **abolish equity LTCG**
SBI सुझाव
- ▶ **FM Sitharaman:** debate is “**healthy**”
वित्त मंत्री
- ▶ **STT** also under discussion
STT

Govt mulls capital gains tax cut — in depth (2/2)

पूँजीगत लाभ कर — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How capital gain is computed | गणना



Sale value
बिक्री मूल्य

Full consideration
पूरा



Minus costs
घटाएँ

Buy + transfer +
improvement
लागत



= Capital gain
लाभ

Sec 72, IT Act
2025
धारा 72



Tax
कर

12.5% LTCG /
20% STCG
दर

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



- **Sec 72(6)** gives forex relief to non-residents – only on **unlisted** shares/debentures
धारा 72(6)
- LTCG on equity was **exempt** until Budget **2018** reintroduced it
2018

Govt mulls capital gains tax cut — background (1/2)

पूँजीगत लाभ कर — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Current capital gains rules वर्तमान नियम



Item मद	Rule नियम
Listed equity LTCG दीर्घकालिक	12.5% (above ₹1.25 lakh)
Listed equity STCG अल्पकालिक	20%
Long-term if held अवधि	> 1 yr listed, > 2 yrs others
Indexation इंडेक्सेशन	Abolished from 23 Jul 2024

10 Who are FPIs? | FPI कौन



- ▶ Foreign funds buying listed securities
विदेशी फंड
- ▶ Stake < **10%** of a company (else FDI)
10% सीमा
- ▶ Registered with **SEBI** (FPI Regs 2019)
SEBI पंजीकरण

11 Securities Transaction Tax STT



- ▶ Introduced in **2004**
2004
- ▶ Levied on **each trade** on exchanges
हर सौदे पर
- ▶ Collected by **exchanges** for the Centre
एक्सचेंज वसूलते

Govt mulls capital gains tax cut — background (2/2)

पूँजीगत लाभ कर — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Why FPIs move markets | FPI का प्रभाव



FPI selling
बिकवाली

Large outflows
निकासी



Index falls
सूचकांक गिरा

Sentiment ↓
धारणा



Rupee weakens
रुपया कमज़ोर

Dollar demand
डॉलर माँग



Loop
चक्र

More exits
और निकासी

13

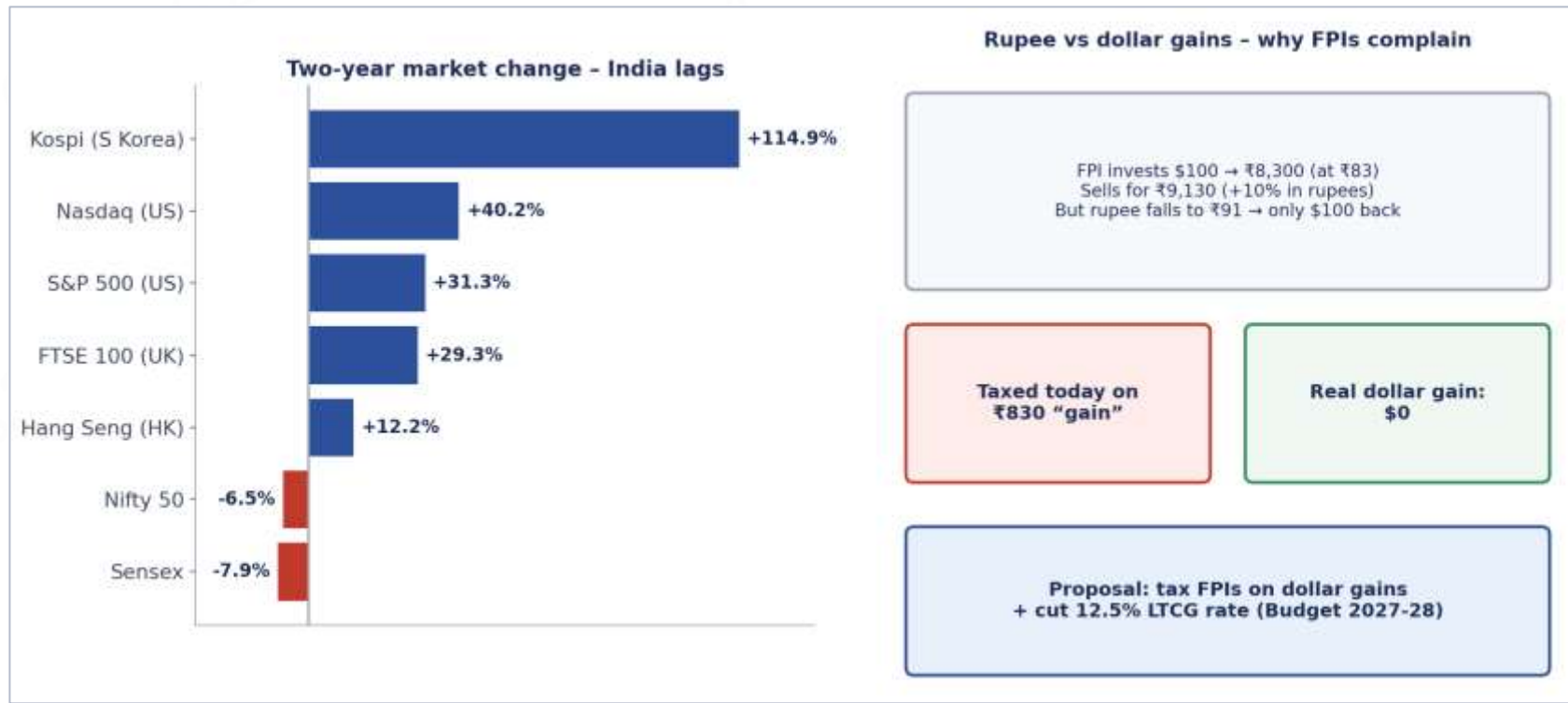
New Income-tax Act नया आयकर अधिनियम



- ▶ **Income-tax Act, 2025** replaced the **1961 Act**
1961 का स्थान
- ▶ “**Tax year**” replaces previous/assessment year
कर वर्ष
- ▶ **Simpler language, fewer sections**
सरल भाषा

Govt mulls capital gains tax cut — Map & Diagram

पूँजीगत लाभ कर — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- Nifty -6.5%, Sensex -7.9% in two years
भारतीय बाज़ार पीछे
- Kospi +114.9%, Nasdaq +40.2%
विदेशी बाज़ार आगे
- Rupee fall can turn **zero dollar gain** into a **taxed rupee gain**
रुपया बनाम डॉलर
- Idea: tax FPIs on **dollar gains**
डॉलर आधारित कर

India slams Pak. at UN, says military is country's 'real ruler'

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

India strongly criticised Pakistan's attempts to isolate India's economy at the United Nations in a bid to 'normalise' relations with Islamabad, saying the move was 'unilateral' and 'unilateral'.

India's foreign minister, S. Jaishankar, said the move was 'unilateral' and 'unilateral'.

India's foreign minister, S. Jaishankar, said the move was 'unilateral' and 'unilateral'.

Cybersecurity emerging as a critical concern: PM

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that cybersecurity is emerging as a critical concern for India and the world.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

'Hindutva reading of Indian history is single and fixed'

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that the Hindutva reading of Indian history is single and fixed.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

PM Modi watches as fighter jets roar across Varanasi skies at IAF air show

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi watched as fighter jets roared across the skies of Varanasi during the IAF air show.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Jamia student protest intensifies amid restrictions, heavy police deployment

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

A day after a student protest at Jamia Millia Islamia, the student body has intensified its demands for the government to withdraw its decision to ban the university.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Padma Shri awardee Chef Damu passes away at 72 in Chennai

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Chef Damu, a Padma Shri awardee, has passed away at the age of 72 in Chennai.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

India exploring challenges, opportunities in semiconductor industry to be held tomorrow

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Kapil Sibal, said on Monday that India is exploring the challenges and opportunities in the semiconductor industry.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Modi said that India is taking steps to strengthen its cybersecurity infrastructure.

Page 4 • News

पृष्ठ 4 • समाचार

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

1

Semiconductor Summit 2026 | सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन

Semiconductor Summit 2026

सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन

Summit exploring challenges, opportunities in semiconductor industry to be held tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), in association with *The Hindu Group*, will organise the Semiconductor Summit 2026 on Tuesday.

Industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, academics and students will participate in the summit to discuss developments in semiconductor technology and the challenges and opportunities shaping India's semiconductor ecosystem.

Chip design, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI), defence applications, geopolitical competition, talent development and next-generation semiconductor technologies will be the focus areas at the summit.

Chief guest Kamaljeet Singh, Director-General of the Semiconductor Laboratory, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, will de-

liver the keynote address on "Overview of New Frontiers in Semiconductors".

Michael Hasper, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, and C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor of SRMIST, will deliver special addresses.

The objective of the Semiconductor Summit 2026 is to encourage dialogue and collaboration among academia, industry and policymakers. The summit will explore ways to bolster India's semiconductor capabilities, address emerging technological challenges and support the development of a skilled workforce for this strategically important industry.

Panel discussions

The first discussion, "The Chip War: Technology, Geopolitics and India's Challenges", will delve into how global semiconductor rivalries, U.S.-China tensions, export controls and supply-chain disruptions affect India's technological



and economic strategies.

Sharat Kaul, Consultant and India Representative, International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative (INEMI); Sandeep Garg, CEO and Board Member, Indichip Semiconductors Limited; Ravi Bhatkal, Vice-President - Strategy, MacDermid Alpha Electronics Solutions; and Yogan Senthilkumar, Chief Technology Officer, IVP Semiconductor, will speak. Aroon Deep, Principal Correspondent, *The Hindu*, will moderate the discussion.

Khyathi Atmakuru, a fourth-year B.Tech. student in Electronics Engineering (VLSI Design &

Technology), and Dhruv John Sebastian, a fourth-year B.Tech. student in Electronics and Communication Engineering at SRMIST, will present their work, "Advancing Semiconductor Paradigms: Student-Driven VLSI and Semiconductor Research Initiatives".

The second panel discussion, "Chips for the Next Battlefield: Semiconductors, AI and the Future of Defence", will focus on the role of advanced chips in AI-enabled defence systems, and next-generation military technologies.

A. Sivathanu Pillai, Sir C.V. Raman Chair Professor, SRMIST; Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Scientist and former Director-General of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO); and Deleep Nair, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras, will take part in the discussion. John Xavier, Science & Technology Editor, *The Hindu*, will moderate the session.

The third panel discussion, "Who Will Build India's Chips? Bridging the Semiconductor Talent Gap", will deliberate on the increasing demand for skilled engineers, chip designers, researchers and specialised professionals.

The fourth panel discussion, "From Design to Fab: Can India Build a Complete Semiconductor Ecosystem?", will look into India's efforts to bring in investments across semiconductor manufacturing, and outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSAT).

It will also delve into the challenges in developing an integrated ecosystem spanning research and development, chip design, fabrication, and packaging.

Times Now is the telecast partner. Entry is by invitation only.

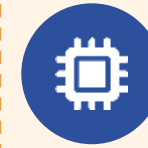
Registration link: newsth.live/SCS2026E or scan the QR.



A 18 X

Summit Exploring Challenges, Opportunities in Semiconductor Industry

SRM संस्थान और द हिंदू समूह चेन्नई में सेमीकंडक्टर समिट 2026 आयोजित करेंगे – चिप डिज़ाइन, उन्नत विनिर्माण, AI, रक्षा, भू-राजनीति और प्रतिभा विकास पर चर्चा



Chips & strategy
चिप रणनीति

1 The summit | सम्मेलन



- ▶ **SRMIST + The Hindu Group, Chennai**
आयोजक
- ▶ Keynote: **Kamaljeet Singh, DG, Semi-Conductor Laboratory**
मुख्य वक्ता
- ▶ On “**New Frontiers in Semiconductors**”
विषय

2 Four panels | चार सत्र



- ▶ “**The Chip War**” – geopolitics
चिप युद्ध
- ▶ “**Chips for the Next Battlefield**” – defence
रक्षा
- ▶ “**Talent Gap**” & “**Design to Fab**”
प्रतिभा, निर्माण

3 Focus areas | मुख्य विषय



- ▶ **Chip design** & advanced manufacturing
डिज़ाइन
- ▶ **AI and defence** applications
AI, रक्षा
- ▶ Skilled **workforce** for a strategic industry
कौशल

Semiconductor Summit 2026 — in depth (1/2)

सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Geopolitics of chips
भू-राजनीति



- ▶ **US–China** rivalry & export controls
अमेरिका–चीन
- ▶ **Taiwan** (TSMC) makes most advanced chips
ताइवान
- ▶ Supply-chain shocks hit India's **economy & security**
आपूर्ति झटके

5

Defence angle | रक्षा
पहलू



- ▶ Chips run **AI-enabled** weapons
AI हथियार
- ▶ Speakers: ex-DRDO chief **V.K. Saraswat, A. Sivathanu Pillai**
वक्ता
- ▶ Need **trusted, indigenous** chips
स्वदेशी चिप

6

Talent gap | प्रतिभा की
कमी



- ▶ Rising demand for **engineers & chip designers**
इंजीनियर
- ▶ Students presenting **VLSI** research
VLSI शोध
- ▶ Industry–academia **collaboration**
सहयोग

Semiconductor Summit 2026 — in depth (2/2)

सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a chip is made | चिप कैसे बनती



Design
डिज़ाइन

EDA software
साफ़्टवेयर



Wafer
वेफ़र

Pure silicon
शुद्ध सिलिकॉन



Fab
फ़ैब

Lithography
लिथोग्राफी



ATMP
पैकेजिंग

Cut, test, pack
परीक्षण

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► Chip size is measured in **nanometres (nm)** – smaller = more powerful

नैनोमीटर

► **Silicon** is made from sand (**SiO₂**)

रेत से सिलिकॉन

Semiconductor Summit 2026 — background (1/2)

सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

India Semiconductor Mission
ISM



Feature विशेषता	Detail विवरण
Launched शुरुआत	Dec 2021
Outlay परिव्यय	₹76,000 crore
Under अधीन	MeitY (Digital India Corp)
Support सहायता	Up to 50% of project cost

10

Four ISM schemes
चार योजनाएँ



- ▶ Semiconductor **fabs**
फ़ैब
- ▶ **Display** fabs
डिस्प्ले
- ▶ Compound semis /
ATMP–OSAT
OSAT
- ▶ Design-Linked
Incentive (DLI)
डिज़ाइन प्रोत्साहन

11

Semi-Conductor Laboratory
SCL



- ▶ At **Mohali**, Punjab
मोहाली
- ▶ Under **MeitY**
MeitY
- ▶ Makes chips for **ISRO**,
strategic uses
ISRO

Semiconductor Summit 2026 — background (2/2)

सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 India's chip timeline | समयरेखा



1984
1984

SCL set up
SCL



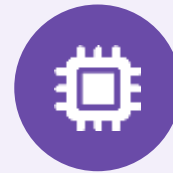
2021
2021

ISM launched
ISM



2024
2024

Dholera fab
approved
धोलेरा



2025
2025

First "Made in
India" chips
पहली चिप

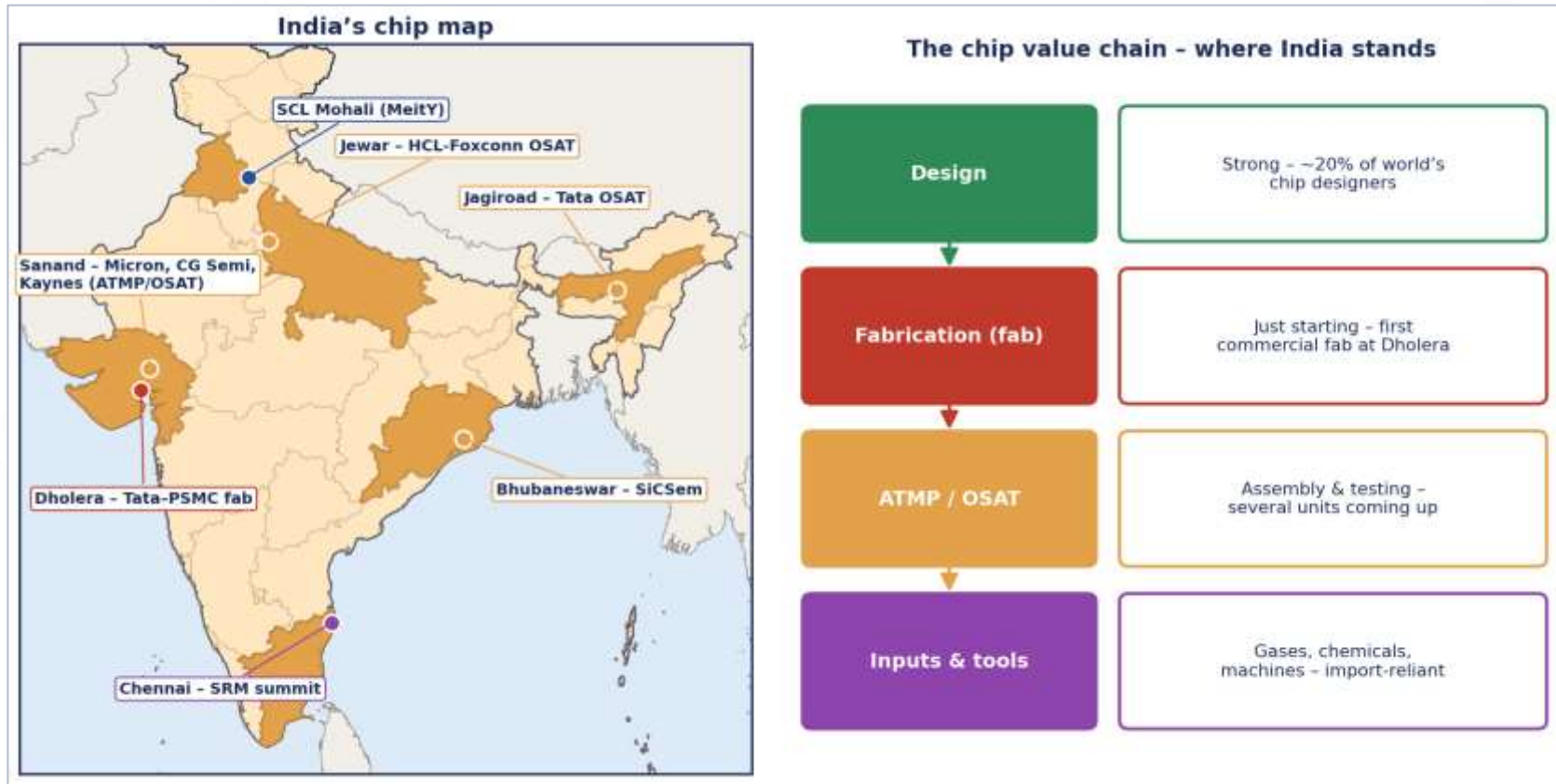
13 Global chip giants वैश्विक कंपनियाँ



- ▶ **TSMC** (Taiwan) – contract fab leader
TSMC
- ▶ **Samsung** (S. Korea), **Intel** (US)
सैमसंग, इंटेल
- ▶ **ASML** (Netherlands) – EUV lithography machines
ASML

Semiconductor Summit 2026 — Map & Diagram

सेमीकंडक्टर सम्मेलन — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- First commercial fab: **Dholera** (Tata-PSMC)
धोलेरा
- **OSAT** units: Sanand, Jagiroad, Jewar
असेंबली
- India strong in **design**, weak in **inputs**
डिज़ाइन बनाम इनपुट
- **SCL Mohali** – govt's own lab
SCL मोहाली

Hidden cost of credit cards

क्रेडिट कार्ड की छिपी लागत

Swiping in dark: The hidden cost of plastic money

It's easy to swipe a card to satisfy a desire and gratify an impulse. However, unmindful swipes can accumulate into a mountain of debt, take a toll on monthly budget, and derail financial goals.

COST OF CONVENIENCE

Yaishali R Venkat

A smartwatch bought on impulse, a costly phone ordered just for the thrill of owning it, a festive sale too tempting to resist. In isolation, each swipe may seem harmless, yet the danger lies in accumulation. Money spent in moments of desire can quietly turn into a burden that outlasts the fleeting gratification. Small indulgences, if they add up to a sizeable bill, can take a toll on the monthly budget and derail carefully planned financial goals.

The litmus test comes knocking much later, after the swipes have ended: a shocking bill. Now, to overcome the shock, cardholders often look for a short-cut: paying just the minimum due.

The minimum due trap
The minimum due loop is one of the most deceptive traps of a credit card. Paying only this negligible fraction may help avert immediate late-payment penalties and default notices. However, it allows the bulk of your debt to linger and compound.

Crucially, carrying a due attracts interest and simultaneously revokes the interest-free grace period for subsequent purchases. Any new spend begins accruing interest charges immediately at typical annual rates of 36% to 42%.



Converting a purchase into equated monthly instalments does not erase the cost; rather, it locks you into a high-margin contract.

pounded monthly, until the entire bill is cleared in full. If the minimum-due route is a slow leak, ignoring the bill payment entirely is an outright rupture. Failing to pay the minimum due carries far more severe consequences.

The bank would immediately flag the account as overdue, levying hefty late-payment penalties on top of the standard charges. If the default crosses a stipulated time, the bank reports the delinquency to CIBIL and other credit bureaus, leaving a long-lasting scar on your score.

When the bill is bulky, cardholders often lean towards another tempting escape hatch: easy EMIs. Converting a purchase into equated monthly instalments does not erase the cost; rather, it locks you in to a high-margin contract.

You forfeit the upfront discounts that are often bundled with full payment, while a relentless 18% GST is slapped onto the interest portion of every single EMI.

By splitting past impulse purchases across future months, you silently mortgage your upcoming cash flows. The bitter truth, the



The minimum-due loop is one of the most deceptive traps of a credit card. It allows the bulk of your debt to linger and compound.

thrill of owning fades fast, but the bill of burden goes on and on.

Paying your bill on time is only half the battle. Even if you are punctual in clearing the bills, it's not a total financial hygiene. When the usage on your card is close to its ceiling, you trigger an alarm button inside credit bureaus. Lenders gauge your financial stability through credit utilisation, and crossing the 30% threshold paints a picture of being cash hungry. Even if you do not default payment, a high usage of credit erodes your CIBIL score rating, transforming routine swipes into a hidden roadblock when you eventually apply for a home or vehicle loan.

Gliding your credit card smoothly into an ATM for quick cash would force you to endure a rough patch with huge money leaks.

On most credit cards, cash withdrawals carry zero grace period, meaning standard interest rates of 36 to 42% begin compounding moments after the currency is dispensed. Even on select promotional cards that tout an interest-free window, the fixed base rate

For instance, banks usually cap single ATM withdrawals at ₹10,000 while levying a flat processing fee of around ₹199 plus GST on every single attempt. Therefore, a requirement of ₹50,000 forces you to glide into the vending tunnel five times, instantly draining roughly over ₹1,000 in raw processing charges alone.

The reward ruse

While disciplined spending yields genuine perks, swiping mindlessly just to earn reward points is a losing strategy. Banks routinely alter redemption ratios, quietly eroding the real value of accumulated points. Furthermore, flat redemption processing fees and GST can easily consume smaller claims.

Swiping your card across international borders or on a few global websites comes with a silent surcharge. Every overseas transaction triggers a forex markup fee, typically between 1.5 and 3.5%, with a relentless 18% GST slapped onto that fee.

Despite the minefield of hidden charges, a credit card isn't an inherent curse. Securing a card with zero annual fees and joining fees, waived forex markups, a generous interest-free window, and substantial reward points can turn routine spending into genuine savings.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module.)

Swiping in Dark: The Hidden Cost of Plastic Money

आवेग में किया गया हर स्वाइप छोटा लगता है, पर मिलकर कर्ज का पहाड़ बन जाता है – न्यूनतम देय राशि, EMI, नक़द निकासी और विदेशी लेनदेन के छिपे शुल्क बजट बिगाड़ते हैं



Moneywise
धन प्रबंधन

1

The minimum-due trap
न्यूनतम देय जाल



- ▶ Avoids late fee, but **bulk of debt compounds**
चक्रवृद्धि
- ▶ Loses the **interest-free grace period**
ब्याज-मुक्त अवधि खत्म
- ▶ New purchases charged **36–42% a year**
ऊँचा ब्याज

2

If you don't pay at all
भुगतान न करने पर



- ▶ Account flagged **overdue** + heavy penalties
जुर्माना
- ▶ Reported to **CIBIL** & credit bureaus
CIBIL
- ▶ Long-lasting **scar on credit score**
स्कोर पर दाग

3

Use a card wisely
समझदारी से



- ▶ **Zero** annual & joining fees
शून्य शुल्क
- ▶ **Waived** forex markup
फॉरेक्स छूट
- ▶ Pay **full bill** within interest-free window
पूरा भुगतान

Hidden cost of credit cards — in depth (1/2)

क्रेडिट कार्ड की छिपी लागत — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

The reward ruse
रिवॉर्ड का भ्रम



- ▶ Swiping just for points = **losing strategy**

घाटे का सौदा

- ▶ Banks quietly **change redemption ratios**

अनुपात बदलते

- ▶ Redemption fees + GST eat **small claims**

शुल्क

5

Psychology of swiping
मनोविज्ञान



- ▶ **Impulse** buys during festive sales

आवेग

- ▶ Each swipe feels **harmless** in isolation

छोटा लगता

- ▶ Thrill fades fast; **bill stays**

बिल बाक़ी

6

Loans get harder | ऋण
कठिन



- ▶ Low score hits **home & vehicle loans**

गृह, वाहन ऋण

- ▶ Lenders read high use as “**cash hungry**”

नकदी की कमी

- ▶ May mean **higher interest** offers

ऊँचा ब्याज

Hidden cost of credit cards — in depth (2/2)

क्रेडिट कार्ड की छिपी लागत — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Credit card billing cycle | बिलिंग चक्र



Spend
खर्च

~30-day cycle
30 दिन



Statement
विवरण

Bill generated
बिल



Grace period
छूट अवधि

~15–20 days
15–20 दिन



Due date
देय तिथि

Pay in full = no
interest
पूरा भुगतान

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► India has ~**11 crore** credit cards vs ~**100 crore** debit cards

कार्ड संख्या

► **RuPay** credit cards can be linked to **UPI** (since 2022)

रुपे-UPI

Hidden cost of credit cards — background (1/2)

क्रेडिट कार्ड की छिपी लागत — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

Credit score basics क्रेडिट स्कोर



Factor कारक	Effect प्रभाव
Payment history भुगतान इतिहास	Biggest weight
Credit utilisation उपयोग	Keep below 30%
Length of history अवधि	Older = better
Range सीमा	300–900; 750+ good

10

Credit bureaus in India क्रेडिट ब्यूरो



- ▶ TransUnion CIBIL (first, 2000)
CIBIL
- ▶ Equifax, Experian, CRIF High Mark
अन्य ब्यूरो
- ▶ Regulated under **CICRA, 2005** by RBI
CICRA

11

RBI card rules (2022) RBI नियम



- ▶ No card issued/upgraded **without consent**
सहमति
- ▶ Close card in **7 days** on request
7 दिन
- ▶ **No compounding** of unpaid fees/charges
चक्रवृद्धि नहीं

Hidden cost of credit cards — background (2/2)

क्रेडिट कार्ड की छिपी लागत — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Plastic vs digital money | भुगतान के तरीके



Cash
नकद

No record
रिकॉर्ड नहीं



Debit card
डेबिट

Own money
अपना पैसा



Credit card
क्रेडिट

Borrowed money
उधार



UPI
UPI

Instant, free
तुरंत

13 Where to complain | शिकायत



► First to the **bank** (30 days)

बैंक

► Then **RBI Integrated Ombudsman** (2021)

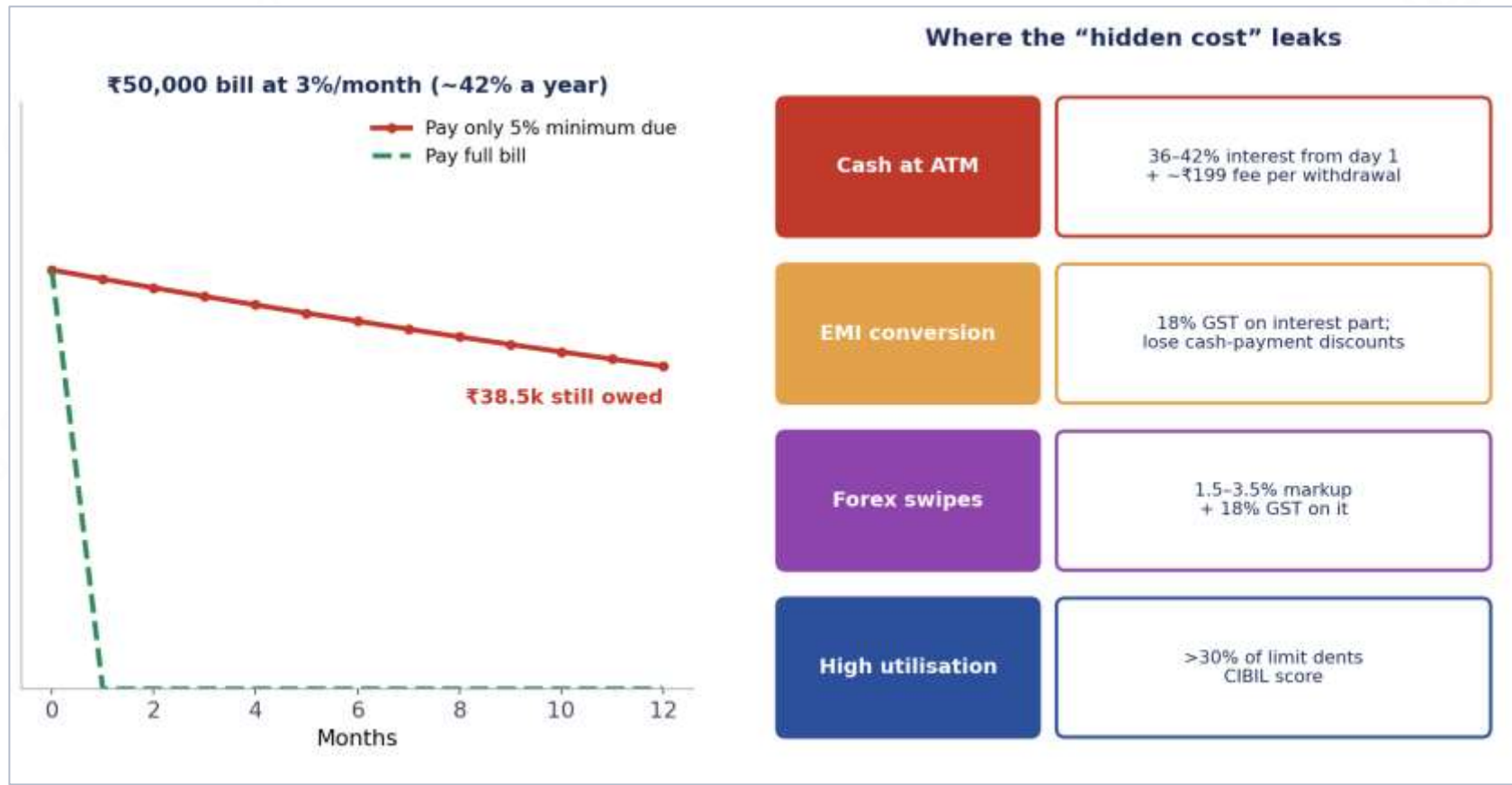
लोकपाल

► Online at
cms.rbi.org.in

ऑनलाइन

Hidden cost of credit cards — Map & Diagram

क्रेडिट कार्ड की छिपी लागत — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- Paying only minimum: **₹38.5k still owed** after a year
कर्ज बाक़ी
- **Cash at ATM** – interest from day 1
ATM निकासी
- **Forex markup + GST** abroad
विदेशी लेनदेन
- **>30% utilisation hurts** score
उपयोग अनुपात

THE INDIAN EXPRESS • 22 OCT 2026

Page 15 • Explained

पृष्ठ 15 • व्याख्या

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

1 Plot “gift” to Yusuf Pathan | भूमि उपहार

1 at 'gifts' plot to ex-cricketer Yusuf Pathan: What law says



Art Eye
October 22

Yusuf Pathan, a former Indian cricketer, is facing a legal battle over a plot of land in Hyderabad. The plot, known as the 'gifts' plot, was allegedly gifted to him by a former Indian cricketer, Yusuf Pathan. The plot is located in the heart of Hyderabad and is valued at around ₹100 crore. The plot was allegedly gifted to Pathan by a former Indian cricketer, Yusuf Pathan, who was a close friend of Pathan. The plot was allegedly gifted to Pathan by a former Indian cricketer, Yusuf Pathan, who was a close friend of Pathan. The plot was allegedly gifted to Pathan by a former Indian cricketer, Yusuf Pathan, who was a close friend of Pathan.

CLIMATE

Why Loss & Damage Fund for Nepal matters beyond it

Developing nations have long pushed for payouts for events worsened by climate change. Nepal could become a template



The climate is a disaster waiting to happen. It's not just the rising temperatures and melting glaciers, but the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Nepal, a country that is highly vulnerable to climate change, is facing a crisis. The country is home to some of the world's highest mountains, and it is also one of the most densely populated countries in the world. The country is facing a crisis because of the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. The country is facing a crisis because of the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

As AI solves complex maths problems, proof lies in the proving

As AI solves complex maths problems, proof lies in the proving



Artificial intelligence (AI) is making significant strides in solving complex mathematical problems. This is a major breakthrough for the field of artificial intelligence. The breakthrough is a result of the increasing power of AI and the growing number of researchers working on the problem. The breakthrough is a result of the increasing power of AI and the growing number of researchers working on the problem.

US POLITICS

Vivek Ramaswamy's attack ad revives a long tradition of US political mudslinging

Vivek Ramaswamy's attack ad revives a long tradition of US political mudslinging



Vivek Ramaswamy, a conservative politician and entrepreneur, has launched a new attack ad against Joe Biden. The ad is a classic example of US political mudslinging, a tradition that has been going on for decades. The ad is a classic example of US political mudslinging, a tradition that has been going on for decades.

Vadodara plot “gift” to Yusuf Pathan

भूमि उपहार

• LAW

Gujarat ‘gifts’ plot to ex-cricketer Yusuf Pathan: What law says



Aditi Raja
Vadodara, October 25

THE STANDING COMMITTEE of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) on Friday unanimously approved the allotment of a plot to Yusuf Pathan, the same land over which it had served the MP and former India cricketer an encroachment notice two years ago. The proposal will now be placed before the VMC's General Board, its top decision-making body, for ratification.

The proposal explicitly states that it is an exception that must not become a precedent. The question of precedent, already been raised by a group opposing the decision, is a concern that the Gujarat government has moved proactively to address even before the transfer is completed.

VMC's proposal

The proposal concerns 978 square metres of land in Vadodara, adjacent to the bungalow owned by Pathan, the former India all-rounder who entered Lok Sabha on a Trinamool Congress ticket in 2024, but left the party after Trinamool supreme Mamata Banerjee lost power in West Bengal this May. Under the proposal, 500 sq m would be given to Pathan as “gift”, while the remaining 478 sq m would be offered at a concessional rate.

The framework for disposing of land and other properties by urban and area development authorities are laid down in the Urban/Area Development Authorities (Disposal of Land and Other Properties) Regulations, 2002.

• THE OPPOSITION

• Officials said that Pathan's case is the first-of-its-kind for the VMC. The civic body has so far never gifted a plot to an individual.

• The citizens' action group Vishwamitri Bachao Samiti submitted a memorandum to the VMC on Thursday, arguing that the fresh proposal effectively seeks to revive a claim that had already been rejected.

Regulation 3(1), under the heading “Manner of Disposal”, identifies three modes of disposal: (i) sale, (ii) a lease for a term not exceeding 99 years against premium or rent or both, and (iii) the grant of development rights.

Government officials told *The Indian Express* that following some amendments to the Regulations, lands are now disposed of as sale instead of the 99-year lease option.

Also, Regulation 3(2) provides for specified disposal procedures, including public auction, tenders through public advertisement, certain offers to or from government and public bodies, and applications invited through public advertisement under prescribed conditions.

The 2002 Rules do not provide for the “gifting” of public land under Regulation 3(1). They also do not list free transfer of land to an individual as a mode of disposal. This is why, officials said, the “gift” is an exception that “cannot be used as precedent”, adding that the transfer has been done using the “discretionary power” of the state.

Past rejection

Regulation 13, titled “Allotment of Land/ Site/ Development Rights for Special Cases”, contemplates proposals from institutions, charitable trusts, educational and research institutions, societies and religious trusts for development that would benefit the public and society at large. It specifically refers to facilities for people with disabilities, sports complexes, and similar public-benefit projects.

The authority is to seek government permission, accompanied by a recommendation for allotment to a particular organisation, and the government's decision will be final.

In this case, the VMC had sought government permission to allot the land to Pathan in 2012. The government had rejected the proposal in 2014.

Gujarat 'Gifts' Plot to Ex-cricketer

Yusuf Pathan: What Law Says

वडोदरा नगर निगम की स्थायी समिति ने पूर्व क्रिकेटर और सांसद यूसुफ पठान को वही भूखंड आवंटित करने को मंजूरी दी, जिस पर दो साल पहले अतिक्रमण नोटिस दिया था – 500 वर्ग मीटर “उपहार”



1 The proposal | प्रस्ताव



978 m²

Total land
कुल भूमि

500 m²

As “gift”
उपहार

478 m²

At concessional
rate
रियायती

**Unanimou
s**

Standing
Committee vote
सर्वसम्मत

2 Next step | अगला कदम →

- ▶ Goes to VMC **General Board** for ratification
सामान्य सभा
- ▶ Labelled an **exception**,
not a precedent
अपवाद
- ▶ Done through state's **discretionary power**
विवेकाधिकार

3 Opposition | विरोध



- ▶ **Vishwamitri Bachao Samiti** memorandum
नागरिक समूह
- ▶ Says it revives an **already-rejected** claim
पुराना दावा
- ▶ VMC has **never** gifted land to an individual
पहली बार



How The Dispute Began



In 2012, Yusuf Pathan applied for a **978-square-metre municipal plot** in **Vadodara's Tandalja area** on a **99-year lease**.

The **Vadodara Municipal Corporation** approved the proposal and forwarded it to the Gujarat government.

In **June 2014**, the state rejected the allotment, saying the land could not be transferred without a public auction.

Despite that, the plot remained under Pathan's possession.



Vadodara plot “gift” to Yusuf Pathan — in depth (1/2)

भूमि उपहार — विस्तार से (1/2)

4

Who is Yusuf Pathan |
कौन



- ▶ Former India **all-rounder**
पूर्व क्रिकेटर
- ▶ Won Lok Sabha seat in **2024** on **TMC** ticket
लोकसभा सांसद
- ▶ Left TMC after Mamata lost power (May 2026)
TMC छोड़ी

5

Regulation 13 | विनियम
13



- ▶ “Special cases” allotment
विशेष मामले
- ▶ For **trusts, institutions, societies**
संस्थाएँ
- ▶ For public benefit:
disability, sports facilities
जनहित

6

Disposal procedures – Reg
3(2)
प्रक्रिया



- ▶ **Public auction**
नीलामी
- ▶ **Tenders** via public advertisement
निविदा
- ▶ Offers to/from **govt & public bodies**
सरकारी निकाय

Vadodara plot “gift” to Yusuf Pathan — in depth (2/2)

भूमि उपहार — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 How a VMC decision is made | निर्णय प्रक्रिया



Proposal
प्रस्ताव

Officials
अधिकारी



Standing Committee
स्थायी समिति

Approves
मंजूरी



General Board
सामान्य सभा

Ratifies
अनुमोदन



State govt
राज्य सरकार

Final say
अंतिम

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► Public land is held in **public trust** – SC’s **public trust doctrine** (M.C. Mehta, 1997)

लोक न्यास सिद्धांत

► **Akhil Bharatiya Upbhokta Congress (2011):** State must allot land **fairly, not arbitrarily**
मनमाना नहीं

Vadodara plot “gift” to Yusuf Pathan — background (1/2)

भूमि उपहार — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9

74th Amendment, 1992
74वाँ संशोधन



Body निकाय	For किसके लिए
Nagar Panchayat नगर पंचायत	Transitional area
Municipal Council नगर परिषद	Smaller urban area
Municipal Corporation नगर निगम	Larger urban area

10

Key Articles
प्रमुख अनुच्छेद



► Part IXA, Arts 243P–
243ZG

भाग IXA

► 12th Schedule – 18
functions

12वीं अनुसूची

► State Finance
Commission (243Y)

वित्त आयोग

11

Urban planning is listed
शहरी नियोजन



► “Urban planning incl.
town planning” – 12th
Schedule

नगर नियोजन

► “Regulation of land
use” also listed

भूमि उपयोग

► Land itself is a **State
subject**

राज्य विषय

Vadodara plot “gift” to Yusuf Pathan — background (2/2)

भूमि उपहार — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Fair allotment of public land | निष्पक्ष आवंटन



Advertise
विज्ञापन

Public notice
सूचना



**Auction /
tender**
नीलामी

Competitive
प्रतिस्पर्धा



Art 14 test
अनु. 14

Non-arbitrary
समानता



Audit
लेखापरीक्षा

CAG, courts
निगरानी

13 Other “special allotment” debates अन्य उदाहरण



► Land for
**sportspersons &
awardees by states**

खिलाड़ी

► Plots to **political party
offices**

दल कार्यालय

► Courts have struck
down **discretionary
quotas**

कोर्ट ने रद्द किया

Vadodara plot “gift” to Yusuf Pathan — Map & Diagram

भूमि उपहार — मानचित्र व आरेख

How public land can be given - and where the “gift” fits



Timeline of the Vadodara plot



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

► 3 legal modes: **sale, lease, development rights**

तीन तरीके

► “Gift” **not in** the 2002 Regulations

उपहार का प्रावधान नहीं

► Govt **rejected** the plan in **2014**

2014 में अस्वीकृत

► **Encroachment notice** in **2024**

अतिक्रमण नोटिस

LENDER STEPS UP CHECKS AS INACTIVE ACCOUNTS EMERGE AS A CYBER FRAUD RISK

SBI moves to shut idle accounts

BY ANUPAM KUMAR, OCTOBER 25

CUTTING FRAUD ROUTES
State Bank of India (SBI) is moving to shut down inactive accounts to curb cyber fraud, a move that could impact millions of customers. The bank is targeting accounts that have been dormant for over a year. SBI is one of the largest banks in India, with over 1.5 billion active accounts. The move is part of a broader effort to enhance security and reduce the risk of fraud. SBI is also looking at other measures to improve its security, such as biometric authentication and two-factor authentication. The bank is also working on improving its customer service and digital banking experience.

INSURANCE REFORM FEEDBACK DEADLINE EXTENDED TO OCT 31
The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has extended the deadline for submitting feedback on the proposed insurance reforms to October 31. The reforms are aimed at improving the insurance sector and protecting the interests of policyholders. IRDAI is also looking at other measures to improve the insurance sector, such as strengthening the regulatory framework and improving the dispute resolution mechanism. The reforms are expected to be implemented in the next few months.

1 IPOs to mobilise 100 cr this week

THE INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF INDIA (IRDAI) has extended the deadline for submitting feedback on the proposed insurance reforms to October 31. The reforms are aimed at improving the insurance sector and protecting the interests of policyholders. IRDAI is also looking at other measures to improve the insurance sector, such as strengthening the regulatory framework and improving the dispute resolution mechanism. The reforms are expected to be implemented in the next few months.

• Y KADYANATHAN, MD & CEO, KPFC FIRST BANK

'Margins expected to recover to 5.8% by Q4'

BY ANUPAM KUMAR, OCTOBER 25

THE FIRST BANK OF INDIA (FBI) IS EXPECTING ITS MARGINS TO RECOVER TO 5.8% BY Q4. The bank is also looking at other measures to improve its performance, such as strengthening its asset quality and improving its customer service. The bank is also working on improving its digital banking experience and expanding its branch network. The bank is also looking at other measures to improve its performance, such as strengthening its asset quality and improving its customer service.

THE FIRST BANK OF INDIA (FBI) IS EXPECTING ITS MARGINS TO RECOVER TO 5.8% BY Q4. The bank is also looking at other measures to improve its performance, such as strengthening its asset quality and improving its customer service. The bank is also working on improving its digital banking experience and expanding its branch network. The bank is also looking at other measures to improve its performance, such as strengthening its asset quality and improving its customer service.



2 Explainer

How will this help subscribers?

THE PERSONAL FINANCE REGULATOR (PFR) HAS LAUNCHED THE NPS CENTRAL PORTAL. The portal is aimed at providing subscribers with a single point of contact for all their NPS-related queries. The portal is also looking at other measures to improve the NPS ecosystem, such as strengthening the regulatory framework and improving the dispute resolution mechanism. The reforms are expected to be implemented in the next few months.

How NPS Central could be a game-changer for subscribers

THE PERSONAL FINANCE REGULATOR (PFR) HAS LAUNCHED THE NPS CENTRAL PORTAL. The portal is aimed at providing subscribers with a single point of contact for all their NPS-related queries. The portal is also looking at other measures to improve the NPS ecosystem, such as strengthening the regulatory framework and improving the dispute resolution mechanism. The reforms are expected to be implemented in the next few months.

HOW CAN AN NPS SUBSCRIBER ACCESS THESE SERVICES?
A subscriber can access these services through the NPS Central portal. The portal is available on the PFR website and through the NPS Central app. The portal is also looking at other measures to improve the NPS ecosystem, such as strengthening the regulatory framework and improving the dispute resolution mechanism. The reforms are expected to be implemented in the next few months.

Page 6 • Markets

पृष्ठ 6 • बाज़ार

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

1 Five IPOs this week | पाँच IPO

2 NPS Central explainer | NPS सेंट्रल

Five IPOs to raise ₹2,600 cr

पाँच IPO

Five IPOs to mobilise ₹2,600 cr this week

FIVE COMPANIES, INCLUDING EAAA India Alternatives, SFC Environmental Technologies, and M K Sons Fine Jewels, are set to launch their initial public offerings (IPOs) next week, seeking to raise close to ₹2,600 crore from the primary market.

BLS Polymers and Bombay Coated and Special Steels would also float their maiden public offerings during the week.

Separately, several other companies, including Gujarat Victory Forging, Milestone Gears, Avaada Electro, Swara Baby Products, Integris Medtech and AGS Health, are in the pipeline for IPO, according to merchant bankers.

These companies are expected to announce price band declarations and launch plans by November 5, ahead of the extended Diwali holiday period in Gujarat, where markets and business activity are likely to be affected by the post-Diwali observance of Labh Pancham from November 6 to 15, they added.

The upcoming issues follow a busy month for the primary market, which saw Jio Platforms launch the country's biggest-ever public issue worth ₹30,213 crore.

The five upcoming IPOs will open for subscription between October 26 and October 29.

—PTI

Five IPOs to Mobilise ₹2,600 Crore This Week

EAAA इंडिया अल्टरनेटिव्स, SFC एनवायरनमेंटल टेक्नोलॉजीज़ और MK सन्स फ़ाइन ज्वेल्स सहित पाँच कंपनियाँ इस सप्ताह IPO लाएँगी – प्राथमिक बाज़ार से लगभग ₹2,600 करोड़ जुटाने का लक्ष्य



Primary market
प्राथमिक बाज़ार

1 In the pipeline आगे की कतार



- ▶ Gujarat Victory Forging, Milestone Gears
गुजरात विक्टरी
- ▶ Avaada Electro, Swara Baby Products
अवाडा
- ▶ Integris Medtech, AGS Health
इंटीग्रिस

2 Why the rush | जल्दी क्यों



- ▶ Beat the **Labh Pancham** break in Gujarat
लाभ पंचम
- ▶ Price bands by 5 Nov
5 नवंबर
- ▶ Ride on **Jio IPO** momentum
जियो का असर

3 Sectors in this batch क्षेत्र



- ▶ Alternative assets (EAAA)
वैकल्पिक निवेश
- ▶ Environment tech (SFC)
पर्यावरण तकनीक
- ▶ Jewellery, polymers, steel
आभूषण, पॉलिमर, इस्पात

Five IPOs to raise ₹2,600 cr — in depth (1/2)

पाँच IPO — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Mainboard vs SME IPO मुख्य बनाम SME



Feature विशेषता	Mainboard SME
Exchange प्लेटफ़ॉर्म	NSE/BSE main NSE Emerge, BSE SME
Post-issue capital पूँजी	> ₹10 cr ≤ ₹25 cr
Min. investors निवेशक	1,000 200

5 Retail checklist निवेशक जाँच सूची



- ▶ Read the **RHP** – risks & use of funds
RHP पढ़ें
- ▶ Check **OFS** vs fresh issue share
OFS बनाम नया
- ▶ Avoid chasing **grey-market premium**
ग्रे मार्केट

6 Why firms go public IPO क्यों



- ▶ Raise **growth capital** / repay debt
पूँजी
- ▶ **Exit** for early investors (PE/VC)
निकासी
- ▶ **Visibility** & credibility
साख

Five IPOs to raise ₹2,600 cr — in depth (2/2)

पाँच IPO — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 After you apply | आवेदन के बाद



Funds blocked
राशि ब्लॉक

UPI/ASBA
UPI



Allotment
आवंटन

Lottery if
oversubscribed
लॉटरी



Demat credit
डीमैट

Shares or refund
शेयर या रिफ़ंड



Listing
सूचीबद्धता

T+3
T+3

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► **Labh Pancham**
(Saubhagya Panchami) –
Gujarati traders reopen
books after Diwali

लाभ पंचम

► India led the world in
number of IPOs in 2024
IPO संख्या

Five IPOs to raise ₹2,600 cr — background (1/2)

पाँच IPO — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Ways to raise equity इक्विटी जुटाने के तरीके



Route मार्ग	Who buys खरीदार
IPO प्रारंभिक	Public, first time
FPO अनुवर्ती	Public, already listed
Rights issue राइट्स	Existing shareholders
QIP QIP	Only QIBs

10 Key IPO terms | शब्दावली



- ▶ **DRHP** – draft filed with SEBI
ड्राफ़्ट
- ▶ **Lot size** – minimum bid quantity
लॉट साइज़
- ▶ **Lock-in** – promoters can't sell for a period
लॉक-इन

11 Who sets the rules | नियामक



- ▶ **SEBI ICDR Regulations, 2018**
ICDR
- ▶ **Merchant bankers** (BRLMs) manage issues
मर्चेन्ट बैंकर
- ▶ **Registrar** handles allotment
रजिस्ट्रार

Five IPOs to raise ₹2,600 cr — background (2/2)

पाँच IPO — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Market cycle & IPOs | बाज़ार चक्र



Bull market
तेज़ी

IPO boom
IPO बाढ़



Hype
उत्साह

High valuations
ऊँचा मूल्यांकन



Correction
गिरावट

Listing losses
घाटा



Lull
ठहराव

Fewer issues
कम IPO

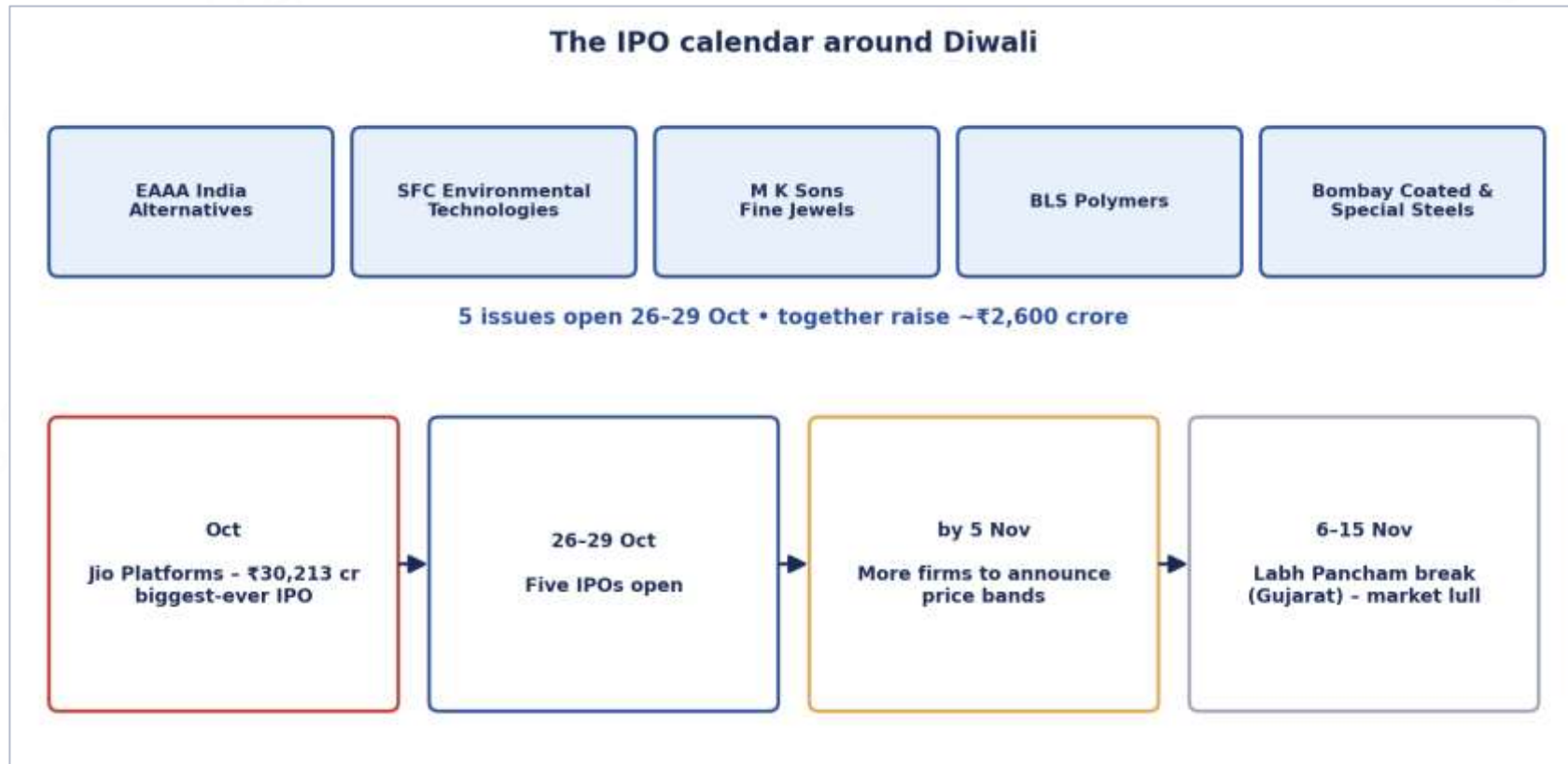
13 Recent big Indian IPOs बड़े IPO



- ▶ **Hyundai India** – ₹27,870 cr (2024)
हुंडई
- ▶ **LIC** – ₹21,008 cr (2022)
LIC
- ▶ **Paytm** – ₹18,300 cr (2021)
पेटीएम

Five IPOs to raise ₹2,600 cr — Map & Diagram

पाँच IPO — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- ▶ 5 issuers this week
5 कंपनियाँ
- ▶ Open 26–29 Oct
तिथियाँ
- ▶ Pre-Diwali rush
before 6–15 Nov lull
दिवाली
- ▶ Follows Jio's
record issue
जियो के बाद

NPS Central: one portal for subscribers

NPS सेंट्रल

Explainer

What is NPS Central?

IT IS A unified digital platform launched by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) which will enable subscribers of National Pension System (NPS) to enrol, invest and manage their account. It is jointly managed by the three central recordkeeping agencies (CRA) under NPS—Protean, KFinTech, and CAMS. Each CRA will continue maintaining its own subscriber records, while NPS Central will access the information required to provide a consolidated experience. They will securely share relevant data with NPS Central through standardised interfaces, enabling interoperability while retaining accountability for their respective records. "The objective is to unify access and service delivery, rather than necessarily merge all three CRAs into one database," says Vishwajeet Goel, head, Pensionbazaar. A useful parallel is MF Central, which brings together mutual fund investments across participating registrars, fund houses and distributors through a common interface. NPS Central has the potential to deliver a similar level of consolidation for NPS investments across CRAs, PoPs, pension fund managers and the employers.

PENSION PORTAL



How NPS Central could be a game-changer for subscribers

The pension fund regulator has launched NPS Central which provides a unified digital experience for subscribers of National Pension System (NPS). **Saikat Neogi** explains how the portal can simplify the NPS lifecycle—from onboarding and contributions to investment decisions, portability, and retirement disbursement.

₹17,40,514 cr
AUM OF NPS WITH 23,142,622 SUBSCRIBERS AS ON SEP 30, 2026

ALL THREE CENTRAL RECORDKEEPING AGENCIES — PROTEAN, KFINTECH, AND CAMS— WILL SHARE THEIR DATA WITH NPS CENTRAL ENABLING INTEROPERABILITY

How can an NPS subscriber access these services?

A SUBSCRIBER CAN log in to NPS Central (www.npscentral.in) with mobile number and date of birth and authenticate it with a one-time password. The subscriber need not remember his PRAN number and will not have to manage separate logins across different CRAs. At present, the account holder has to either log in to their point-of-presence (PoP) interface or CRA interface to manage their NPS account, check their balance, get a statement or switch fund houses. For an employee who has changed jobs multiple times and has a corporate NPS account, the unified platform will make it easier for him to access pension services, irrespective of which CRA maintains the account.

The unified digital platform will also facilitate registration for NPS Swasthya, a health-focused pension initiative introduced by the pension fund regulator recently.

epaper.financialexpress.com

How will this help subscribers?

FOR NEW CUSTOMERS, the unified platform will make onboarding easier. It will help them understand available NPS options before registering, explore scheme features, charges and historical returns before investing. They can resolve queries without navigating multiple service-provider portals.

For existing subscribers, it will simplify access to contributions, profile updates, statements and grievance services. Employees under corporate NPS can monitor contributions and verification of employer remittances.

As the disbursement stage is the most critical part of an NPS subscriber's journey, experts say the portal should enable features that will help subscribers navigate premature and final withdrawals, explore the Retirement Income Scheme, select the annuity option and the provider and the associated documentation and processes. As these functionalities are already available through CRA platforms, bringing them into NPS Central would be the logical next step.

Will it address the need for portability?

THE PLATFORM COULD be a game-changer for corporate NPS subscribers who change jobs multiple times and need to move their accounts from one CRA to another, and help make portability a reality. At present, a subscriber has to submit an inter-CRA subscriber shifting request to change the CRA. Corporate NPS subscribers have grown 2.3 times from 1.4 million in FY22 to 3.2 million in FY27 (till September 30). As more young employees join NPS to build a tax-efficient nest egg, experts say CRA switching should become part of the platform. "An employer may use a different CRA from the one maintaining the employee's existing NPS account. Simplifying this transition would make corporate NPS easier to manage for employees and employers," says Amit H L, founder and CEO, Floatr Wealth. In fact, prior to the introduction of the Universal Account Number by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, subscribers there faced difficulties managing multiple accounts whenever they changed jobs.

How can this be improved further?

IN JULY, THE regulator had launched a digital toolkit — The Pension Fund Returns for Informed Decision & Empowerment (PRIDE-DISHA) to make better-informed retirement planning decisions. It enables investors to decide whether to remain in a higher-equity active choice strategy, move to an auto choice option for automatic age-based rebalancing, or switch between them as they approach retirement in order to optimise long-term risk-adjusted returns. Integrating this with NPS Central would be a logical step towards creating a comprehensive, single-point platform for NPS subscribers. PRIDE-DISHA could provide the analytical capabilities for comparing historical returns and investment outcomes, while NPS Central could serve as the common interface through which subscribers review their options and act on informed decisions. This integration would eliminate the need to navigate separate platforms to compare pension funds and then return to the account portal to act on that information.

New Delhi

How NPS Central Could Be a Game-changer for Subscribers

पेंशन नियामक PFRDA ने NPS सेंट्रल लॉन्च किया – राष्ट्रीय पेंशन प्रणाली के ग्राहकों के लिए एकीकृत डिजिटल मंच, नामांकन से लेकर निवेश, पोर्टेबिलिटी और सेवानिवृत्ति भुगतान तक



1 What changes | क्या बदलेगा

- ▶ No need to remember PRAN
PRAN याद नहीं
- ▶ No separate logins for PoP/CRA
एक लॉगिन
- ▶ Balance, statements, fund switch in **one place**
एक जगह

2 NPS in numbers | आँकड़े

₹17.4 lakh cr

NPS AUM (30 Sep 2026)
प्रबंधित राशि

3

Central record-keeping agencies
CRA

2.3×

Corporate NPS growth
वृद्धि

FY22–27

Period
अवधि

3 New users gain नए ग्राहकों को लाभ

- ▶ Compare **options, charges, past returns** first
तुलना
- ▶ Resolve queries **without hopping portals**
एक पोर्टल
- ▶ Also registers for **NPS Swasthya** (health)
NPS स्वास्थ्य

NPS Central: one portal for subscribers — in depth (1/2)

NPS सेंट्रल — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Portability problem पोर्टेबिलिटी



- ▶ Job-changers must file **inter-CRA shift** request
CRA बदलना
- ▶ Employer may use a **different CRA**
अलग CRA
- ▶ Like pre-**UAN** troubles in EPFO
UAN जैसा

5 Next steps suggested सुझाव



- ▶ Add **premature/final withdrawal** help
निकासी
- ▶ Choose **annuity** provider on the portal
वार्षिकी
- ▶ Merge with **PRIDE-DISHA** toolkit (July)
PRIDE-DISHA

6 Model it follows | आदर्श

- ▶ **MF Central** – one window for mutual funds
MF सेंट्रल
- ▶ **Unify access**, not merge databases
डेटाबेस अलग
- ▶ Standard **APIs** for interoperability
इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी

NPS Central: one portal for subscribers — in depth (2/2)

NPS सेंट्रल — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 An NPS subscriber's journey | NPS यात्रा



Join
जुड़ें

Age 18–70
18–70 वर्ष



Contribute
योगदान

Tier I / II
टियर



Invest
निवेश

Active / Auto
choice
विकल्प



Exit at 60
60 पर

60% lump sum,
40% annuity
वार्षिकी

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?



► NPS started on **1 Jan 2004** for new central govt staff

2004

► Opened to **all citizens** in **2009**

2009

NPS Central: one portal for subscribers — background (1/2)

NPS सेंट्रल — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 India's pension schemes पेंशन योजनाएँ



Scheme योजना	For किसके लिए
NPS एनपीएस	All citizens 18–70
UPS (2025) एकीकृत पेंशन	Central govt staff – assured 50%
Atal Pension Yojana अटल	Unorganised, 18–40
EPS (EPFO) EPS	Private salaried

10 PFRDA basics | PFRDA



- ▶ Statutory under **PFRDA Act, 2013**
2013 अधिनियम
- ▶ Regulates **NPS & APY**
NPS, APY
- ▶ Under **Ministry of Finance**
वित्त मंत्रालय

11 Tax benefits | कर लाभ



- ▶ Extra **₹50,000** deduction (old regime)
₹50,000
- ▶ Employer contribution deductible up to **14%** (new regime)
14%
- ▶ **60%** lump sum at exit **tax-free**
कर-मुक्त

NPS Central: one portal for subscribers — background (2/2)

NPS सेंट्रल — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Who does what in NPS | भूमिकाएँ



PoP
पॉइंट ऑफ़ प्रेज़ेंस

Banks: onboard
बैंक



CRA
CRA

Keeps records
रिकॉर्ड



Pension fund mgr
फ़ंड प्रबंधक

Invests money
निवेश



Trustee bank
ट्रस्टी बैंक

Holds funds
निधि

13 Old vs New pension पुरानी बनाम नई



► **OPS**: 50% of last pay,
no contribution

पुरानी पेंशन

► **NPS**: market-linked,
10% + 14% contribution

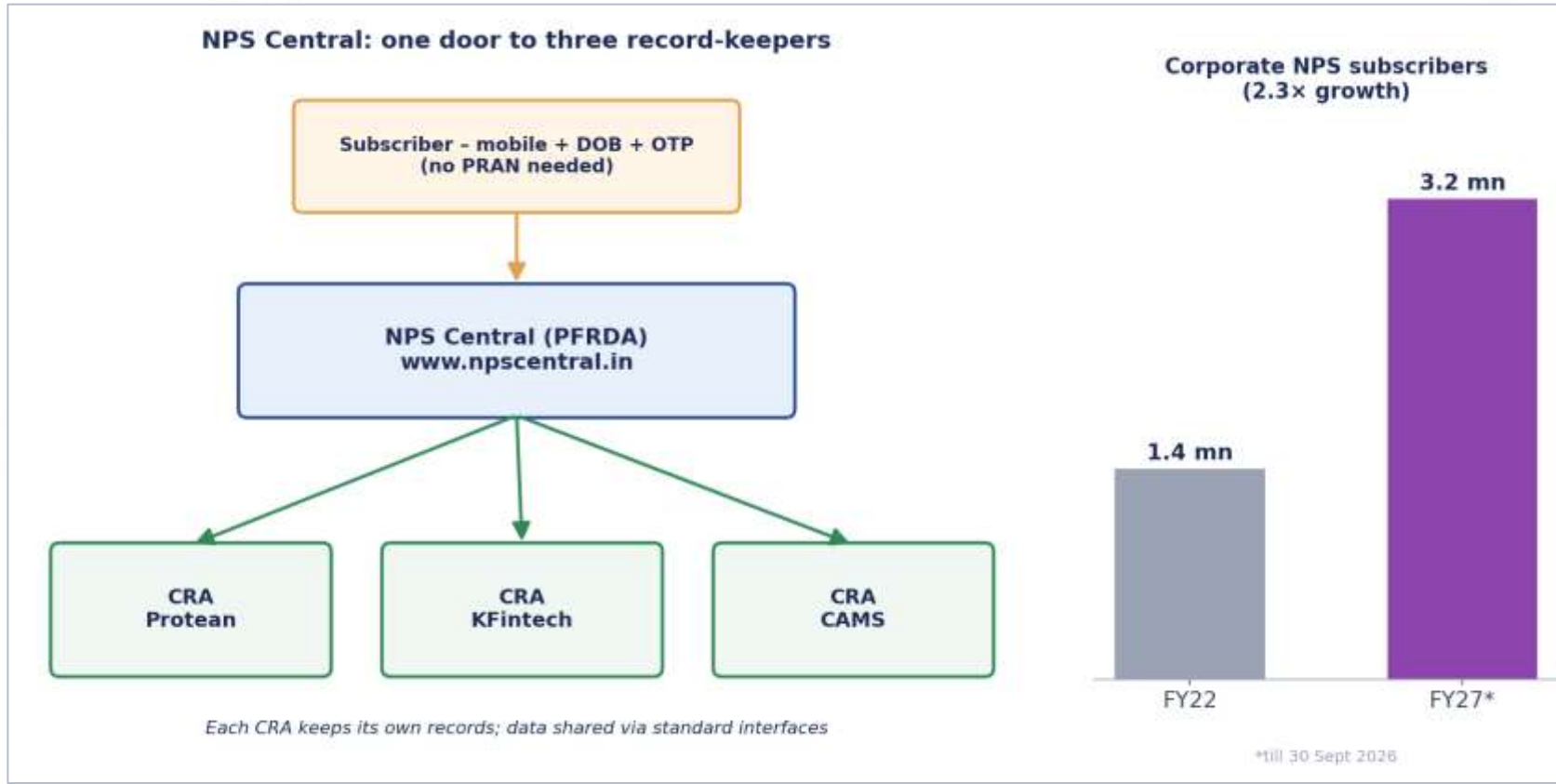
बाज़ार आधारित

► **UPS**: assured pension +
contribution (from Apr
2025)

एकीकृत

NPS Central: one portal for subscribers — Map & Diagram

NPS सेंट्रल — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual चित्र को समझें

- ▶ Login with **mobile + DOB + OTP**
आसान लॉगिन
- ▶ Links **3 CRAs**: Protean, KFinTech, CAMS
तीन CRA
- ▶ Records stay with each CRA
रिकॉर्ड अलग
- ▶ Corporate NPS: **1.4 → 3.2 mn**
कॉर्पोरेट NPS

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

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 – GS I

Exam date: 24 May 2026 (Set D Q48) • Topic: Semiconductor Summit

Which one of the following pairs of semiconductor plants in India and their locations is NOT correctly matched?

- (a) CG Power with Renesas and STARS Microelectronics : Gujarat
- (b) Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test : Assam
- (c) HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture (India Chip Ltd.) : Madhya Pradesh
- (d) SiCSem : Odisha

RRB NTPC 2025 (UG) CBT-2

Exam date: 17 Sep 2026 (Shift 1) • Topic: NPS Central

The Atal Pension Yojana, introduced as a social security measure in the post-1991 reform period, is available for individuals in which age group?

- (a) 18-40 years
- (b) 21-50 years
- (c) 21-60 years
- (d) 18-60 years

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

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- (d) SiCSem : Odisha

Answer: (c) HCL-Foxconn OSAT is at Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.
जेवर, उत्तर प्रदेश।

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- (a) 18-40 years**
- (b) 21-50 years
- (c) 21-60 years
- (d) 18-60 years

Answer: (a) APY: citizens 18–40 with a savings account.
18–40 वर्ष।

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

CUET PG 2026 (Agri-Business Mgmt)

Exam date: 25 Mar 2026 (Shift 2) • Topic: Cyclone in Bay of Bengal

Identify correct statements with reference to tropical cyclones in India. A. More cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal than in the Arabian Sea. B. Almost all storms in the Bay of Bengal have their genesis between the equator and 10°N. C. The October–November months recorded the highest frequency of cyclones (1897–2014). D. Cyclone warning and cyclone shelters are effective means of reducing loss of human lives.

- (a) A and B only
- (b) B, C and D only
- (c) A, B and D only
- (d) A, C and D only

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

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- (a) A and B only
- (b) B, C and D only
- (c) A, B and D only
- (d) A, C and D only**

Answer: (d) B is wrong – genesis is mostly 5°N–15°N.
A, C, D सही।

Test Yourself — Q1–4 | स्वयं को परखें

Q1 The present rate of long-term capital gains tax on listed equity (above the exemption limit) is:
सूचीबद्ध इक्विटी पर दीर्घकालिक पूँजीगत लाभ कर की वर्तमान दर:

- (a) 10%
- (b) 12.5%
- (c) 15%
- (d) 20%

Q2 A foreign investor holding less than 10% of a listed Indian company is classified as:
किसी सूचीबद्ध कंपनी में 10% से कम हिस्सेदारी वाला विदेशी निवेशक:

- (a) FDI
- (b) FPI
- (c) ECB
- (d) NRI deposit

Q3 The Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) of MeitY is located at:
SCL कहाँ स्थित है?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Mohali
- (c) Dholera
- (d) Hyderabad

Q4 India's first commercial semiconductor fab is coming up at Dholera in partnership between Tata and:
धोलेरा फ़ैब में टाटा का साझेदार:

- (a) TSMC
- (b) PSMC (Taiwan)
- (c) Micron
- (d) Samsung

Test Yourself — Q5–8 | स्वयं को परखें

Q5 Credit Information Companies in India are regulated by the RBI under:
क्रेडिट सूचना कंपनियाँ किस क़ानून के तहत विनियमित हैं?

- (a) FEMA, 1999
- (b) CICRA, 2005
- (c) SARFAESI, 2002
- (d) Banking Regulation Act, 1949

Q6 Experts advise keeping credit-card utilisation below roughly what share of the limit?
क्रेडिट उपयोग सीमा का कितना प्रतिशत से कम रखना उचित?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 60%
- (d) 90%

Q7 Urban local bodies were given constitutional status by the:
नगरीय निकायों को संवैधानिक दर्जा किस संशोधन से मिला?

- (a) 73rd Amendment
- (b) 74th Amendment
- (c) 42nd Amendment
- (d) 86th Amendment

Q8 How many subjects are listed in the Twelfth Schedule?
बारहवीं अनुसूची में कितने विषय हैं?

- (a) 11
- (b) 18
- (c) 29
- (d) 22

Test Yourself — Q9–10 | स्वयं को परखें

Q9

Raising capital only from Qualified Institutional Buyers by a listed company is called:

सूचीबद्ध कंपनी द्वारा केवल QIB से पूँजी जुटाना:

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| (a) Rights issue | (b) QIP |
| (c) FPO | (d) OFS |

Q10

The National Pension System is regulated by:

राष्ट्रीय पेंशन प्रणाली का नियामक:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) SEBI | (b) IRDAI |
| (c) PFRDA | (d) EPFO |

Answer Key — Q1–5 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

1-b **12.5%** — Since 23 July 2024; exemption ₹1.25 lakh.
12.5%।

2-b **FPI** — $\geq 10\%$ is treated as FDI.
FPI।

3-b **Mohali** — Punjab; set up 1984.
मोहाली।

4-b **PSMC (Taiwan)** — Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp.
PSMC।

5-b **CICRA, 2005** — Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act.
CICRA 2005।

Answer Key — Q6–10 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

6-b **30%** — Higher usage dents the score.
30%।

7-b **74th Amendment** — Part IXA, 12th Schedule.
74वाँ संशोधन।

8-b **18** — 29 are in the 11th Schedule (panchayats).
18।

9-b **QIP** — Qualified Institutional Placement.
QIP।

10-c **PFRDA** — Under PFRDA Act, 2013.
PFRDA।

Myth Buster of the Day — Finance | आज का मिथक



MYTH | मिथक

“Paying the “minimum due” on a credit card keeps you out of trouble.”

क्रेडिट कार्ड पर “न्यूनतम देय” चुकाने से आप सुरक्षित रहते हैं।



FACT | तथ्य

It only avoids the late fee. The rest of the bill keeps attracting interest of 36–42% a year, compounded monthly, and you also lose the interest-free period on new purchases. A ₹50,000 bill paid only through 5% minimums can still leave about ₹38,000 owed a year later. The safe habit is to pay the full statement amount by the due date.

इससे केवल विलंब शुल्क बचता है। बाक़ी बिल पर 36–42% सालाना ब्याज मासिक चक्रवृद्धि से लगता रहता है, और नई ख़रीदारी पर ब्याज-मुक्त अवधि भी ख़त्म हो जाती है। ₹50,000 के बिल पर केवल 5% न्यूनतम चुकाने से एक साल बाद भी लगभग ₹38,000 बाक़ी रह सकते हैं। सुरक्षित आदत है – देय तिथि तक पूरा बिल चुकाना।



Pay the full bill, not the minimum. न्यूनतम नहीं, पूरा बिल चुकाएँ।



— DIWALI SPECIAL —

25% OFF

FOR FIRST 100 STUDENTS

RAILWAY

FOUNDATION BATCH 2026

GROUP-D | NTPC | ALP

NEW BATCH STARTS



28 OCTOBER 2026



8:00 AM



SCAN TO REGISTER



Location: Tanishka Tower, Sheopur Road, Gaushala, Sanganer, Jaipur



Contact Us: 9057143416 / 9057143417

Thank you ?

