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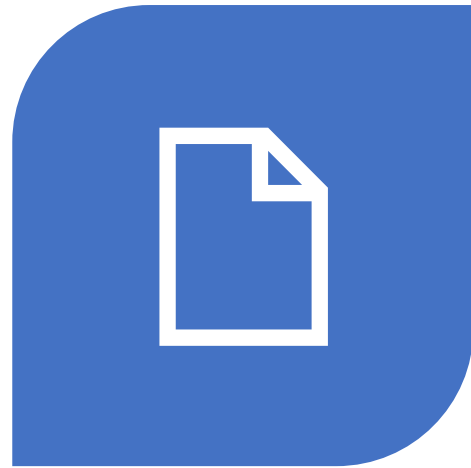
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10 MCQ QUIZ

A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, appearing to be in a meeting or discussion. The scene is brightly lit, likely from large windows, creating a soft, out-of-focus atmosphere. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- What is the purpose of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023?

डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 का उद्देश्य क्या है?

- **A. Protect personal data and ensure user privacy / व्यक्तिगत डेटा की सुरक्षा और उपयोगकर्ता गोपनीयता सुनिश्चित करना**
- **B. Promote data sharing across organizations / संगठनों के बीच डेटा साझा करना बढ़ावा देना**
- **C. Strengthen financial regulations / वित्तीय नियमों को मजबूत करना**
- **D. Encourage cryptocurrency transactions / क्रिप्टोक्यूरेंसी लेनदेन को प्रोत्साहित करना**

- Where will the Flamingo Festival 2025 be held?
फ्लेमिंगो फेस्टिवल 2025 कहाँ आयोजित होगा?
- **A. Pulicat Lake, Andhra Pradesh / पुलिकट झील, आंध्र प्रदेश**
- **B. Chilika Lake, Odisha / चिलिका झील, ओडिशा**
- **C. Sullurpeta, Andhra Pradesh / सुलुरुपेटा, आंध्र प्रदेश**
- **D. Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan / केवलादेव राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, राजस्थान**

- What is the main feature of the AnemiaPhone technology adopted by ICMR?
आईसीएमआर द्वारा अपनाई गई एनीमियाफोन तकनीक की मुख्य विशेषता क्या है?
- **A. Detects anemia using a drop of blood / एक रक्त की बूंद से एनीमिया का पता लगाता है**
- B. Monitors blood pressure / रक्तचाप की निगरानी करता है**
- C. Measures cholesterol levels / कोलेस्ट्रॉल स्तर को मापता है**
- D. Provides glucose level tracking / ग्लूकोज स्तर की निगरानी करता है**

- Which country recently revised its trade data to reflect a lower gold import bill?

किस देश ने हाल ही में अपने सोने के आयात बिल को कम करके व्यापार डेटा को संशोधित किया है?

- **A. China / चीन**
- B. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका**
- C. India / भारत**
- D. Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया**

- What is the main cause of anemia in India?
भारत में एनीमिया का मुख्य कारण क्या है?
- **A. Iron deficiency / आयरन की कमी**
- B. Genetic disorders / आनुवंशिक विकार**
- C. Malnutrition / कुपोषण**
- D. Parasitic infections / परजीवी संक्रमण**

- What percentage of pregnant women in India are affected by iron deficiency anemia?
भारत में कितने प्रतिशत गर्भवती महिलाएं आयरन की कमी से होने वाले एनीमिया से प्रभावित हैं?
- **A. 30-40%**
- **B. 50-70%**
- **C. 80-90%**
- **D. Above 90% / 90% से अधिक**

- What is the Pulicat Lake ecosystem known for?
पुलिकट झील पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए क्या प्रसिद्ध है?
- **A. Migratory bird habitat / प्रवासी पक्षियों का आवास**
- **B. Largest coral reefs in India / भारत के सबसे बड़े कोरल रीफ्स**
- **C. Deep-sea biodiversity / गहरे समुद्र की जैव विविधता**
- **D. Dense mangrove forests / सघन मैंग्रोव वन**

- Which technology supports real-time anemia diagnosis using mobile devices?
कौन सी तकनीक मोबाइल उपकरणों का उपयोग करके वास्तविक समय में एनीमिया निदान का समर्थन करती है?
- **A. AnemiaPhone / एनीमियाफोन**
- **B. GlucoTrack / ग्लूकोट्रैक**
- **C. HealthBot / हेल्थबॉट**
- **D. BioScan / बायोस्कैन**

- How often is the Flamingo Festival held in Andhra Pradesh?
आंध्र प्रदेश में फ्लेमिंगो फेस्टिवल कितनी बार आयोजित होता है?
- **A. Annually / हर साल**
- B. Biennially / हर दो साल में**
- C. Every five years / हर पांच साल में**
- D. Monthly / हर महीने**

- What was Burkina Faso previously known as during French colonial rule?
फ्रेंच औपनिवेशिक शासन के दौरान बुर्किना फासो को पहले किस नाम से जाना जाता था?
- **A. Upper Volta / अपर वोल्टा**
- **B. Ivory Coast / आइवरी कोस्ट**
- **C. Gold Coast / गोल्ड कोस्ट**
- **D. Mali Federation / माली फेडरेशन**

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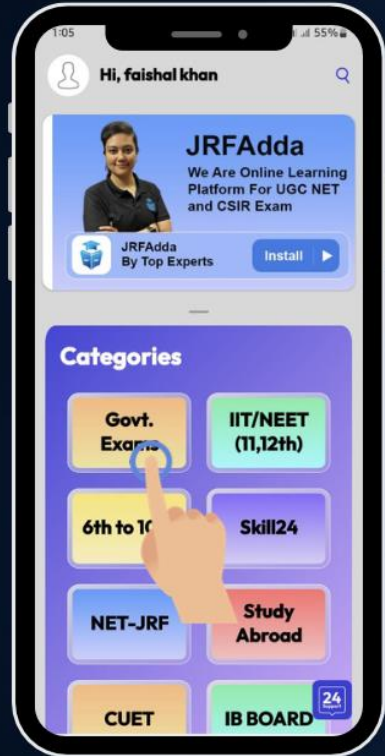
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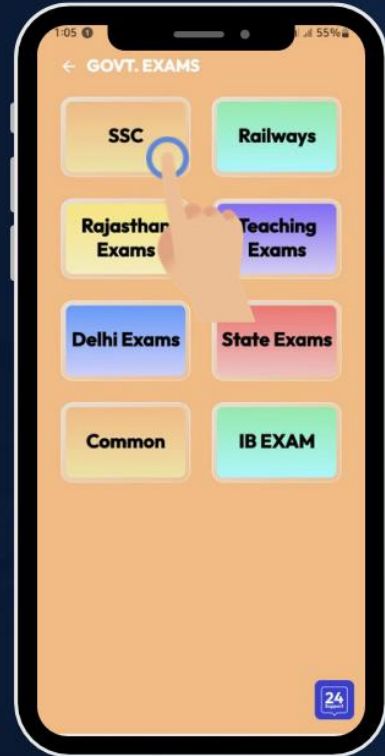
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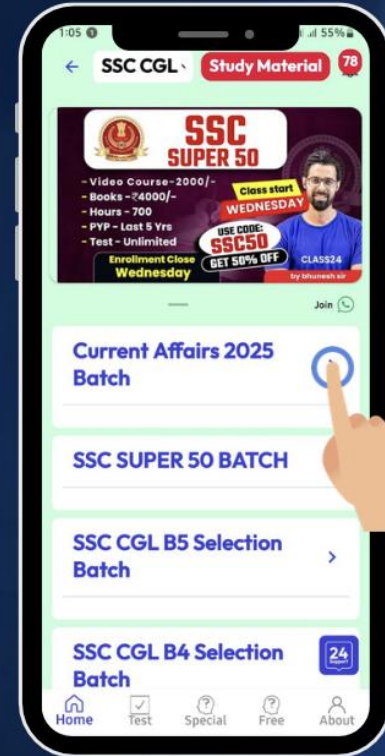
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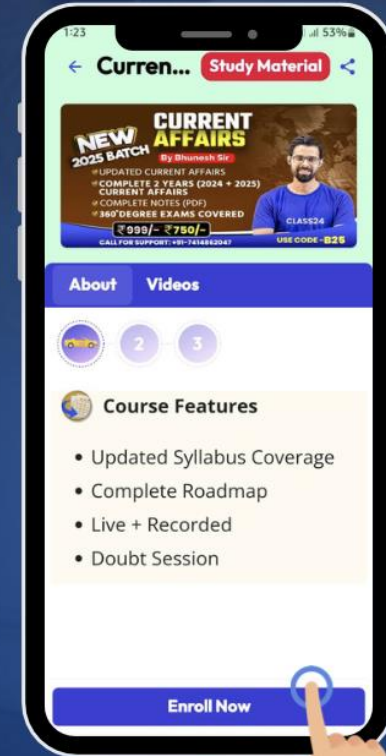
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Theodore Roosevelt

*“Do what you can, with what you have,
where you are.” –*



ASSAM MINING TRAGEDY
Water level affects rescue operation
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TEMPLATE FOR INVESTIGATIONS
Database of 10,000 human genomes released
NEWS ▸ PAGE 6

DEVASTATING ATTACK
Junta air strike kills 40 in Myanmar
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PARLEY
Is India open to the idea of dual citizenship?
Minister's remark spotlights issue
OPINION ▸ PAGE 9

PREP TIME
India-Ireland ODI series from today
SPORT ▸ PAGE 16

INSIDE



Playback singer P. Jayachandran passes away

THIRUVARUR
Playback singer P. Jayachandran, known for his expressive singing and whose magical voice captivated music lovers for over six decades, passed away at a private hospital in Thiruvārur on Thursday. He was 82. ▸ PAGE 3

AAP chief asks EC to raid Parvesh Singh's residence

NEW DELHI
AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday wrote to the CEC, urging to raid BJP's Parvesh Singh's house for allegedly distributing ₹1,100 each to women, violating the Model Code of Conduct. ▸ PAGE 2

Parents charged by CBI in death of Walyar sisters

KOCHI
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has charged the parents of the two minor girls who were found dead hanging at their house in Walyar in 2017 following alleged rape, as accused in the case. ▸ PAGE 3

After two years of vacuum, Lebanon elects new leader

BEIRUT
Lebanon's Parliament on Thursday elected Army commander Joseph Aoun as president, ending a two-year presidential vacuum. Mr. Aoun promised consolidating the state's monopoly on weapons in his speech. ▸ PAGE 12

Wildfires rage out of control near Los Angeles, killing at least two; 70,000 asked to evacuate

Reuters
LOS ANGELES
At least two people were killed as several fast-growing wildfires raged out of control on Wednesday near Los Angeles, destroying hundreds of buildings, scorching hillsides and prompting officials to order some 70,000 people to evacuate their homes.
Pierce winds were hindering firefighting efforts and fueling the fires, which have expanded unimpeded since they began on Tuesday.
The biggest blaze has consumed more than 5,000 acres in Pacific Palisades, a picturesque neighbourhood in west Los Angeles County between the



Smoke billows: A Bank of America building engulfed in flames in Los Angeles on Wednesday. Air

in Altadena, near Pasadena. Two fatalities were reported there, though officials said they did not have further details.
The Hurst fire, in Sylmar in the San Fernando Valley northwest of Los Angeles, had exceeded 500 acres. All three fires were 0% contained, officials said.
A "high number" of significant injuries had occurred among residents who did not heed evacuation orders, Mr. Harrone said. Officials warned that the gusty winds were forecast to persist throughout the day.
"We are absolutely not out of danger yet," Los Angeles City Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said at a press conference on Wednesday.
Another fire
Another fire, the Eaton fire, had grown to more than 2,000 acres as it burned some 50 km inland

and residents began evacuating after the fires broke out on Tuesday, roads were so jammed that some people abandoned their vehicles to escape the fire. Emergency responders were going door to door to press evacuation orders.
California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on Tuesday. President Joe Biden planned to visit a Santa Monica fire station for a briefing from fire officials on Wednesday, the White House said.
President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office in two weeks, blamed Mr. Newsom's environmental policies for the disaster in a post on his Truth Social website.

Modi calls for documenting diaspora history

Addressing Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas event in Bhubaneswar, PM lauds journey of Persons of Indian Origin and speaks about their remarkable achievements; he also highlights country's global role; he emphasises Girmityas, indentured labourers who were sent before Independence to many countries, including Fiji, Seychelles, Malaysia, Mauritius

Satvasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Lauding the journey of Persons of Indian Origin across different eras to various countries, their remarkable achievements, and contributions to the societies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for documenting the history of the Indian diaspora. Addressing the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas here, he said, "The history of the Indian diaspora across the globe, their journeys to various countries, and their remarkable stories of success form a unique part of India's heritage. There are many interesting and inspiring stories which deserve to be told, seen, and documented. They represent our shared legacies and cultural heritage."



Key event: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. An

"The pace at which 21st-century India is advancing and the scale of its development efforts are unprecedented. In just a decade, the country has lifted 25 crore people out of poverty. During the same pe-

riod, India has risen from being the world's fifth largest economy to the 10th largest. It has secured its position as the third largest economy in the world," Mr. Modi said. Underlining the country's growing global role due to its achievements and prospects, the Prime Minister said, "Today's India not only firmly asserts its own point but also strongly amplifies the voice of the Global South. The World patiently listens to what India says."

The Prime Minister emphasised on the Girmityas, indentured labourers, who were sent from pre-independent India to various countries, including Fiji, Mauritius, Seychelles, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana, and Suriname, to work under colonial arrangements.

"Why cannot comprehensive database of Girmityas be created? This could document the villages and States they originated from, the destinations they settled in, and the journeys that shaped their lives. It could also as to how they converted challenges into opportunities. Shared by a wider audience, films and documentaries could be produced," Prime Minister Modi said.

"There should be study

Delhi Assembly elections proving to be a moment of reckoning for INDIA bloc



Rallying support: Arvind Kejriwal addressing the media on the Jat reservation issue in New Delhi on Thursday. 5/2/25. ANIL KUMAR VERMA

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI
A wider problem in the INDIA bloc has come to the fore with the Samajwadi Party and the Trinamool Congress supporting the Aam Aadmi Party over the Congress for the Delhi Assembly election. The Shiv Sena (UBT) is also leaning towards the AAP.

Amid the crisis, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has called for winding up the alliance if it was only meant for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He has said the alliance's agenda, leadership and future strategy are not clear.

On Wednesday evening, AAP co-leader Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Trinamool Congress had extended its support to the AAP for the Delhi election. Within minutes, the Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien, posted on X, queering Mr. Kejriwal's post, and saying, "We have your back @AamAadmiParty."

The Shiv Sena (UBT) castigated the Congress for making personal attacks on Mr. Kejriwal, including calling him a "traitor", but clarified that it is not yet selecting one over the other.

"We have not yet officially declared our support to AAP for the Delhi election. Congress are our friends, but it is true that Arvind Kejriwal is stronger at present," senior party leader Sanjay Saha told *The Hindu*. "We want both of them to resolve this without much mudslinging. Uddhav Thackeray will meet the media tomorrow evening, where he will clarify the party's stand on the issue."

The editorial on the Delhi election in the party's

mouthpiece, *Saamanta*, is critical of the Congress Party despite several rounds of negotiation. The left parties have expressed disappointment that the Congress failed to accommodate them in several consecutive State polls.

Wading into the argument, senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav unequivocally stated that the bloc was only meant for the Lok Sabha election. "It was decided, at the very onset of the INDIA bloc, that it was limited to the Lok Sabha election only. As far as Bihar is concerned, we have been together since the beginning," Mr. Yadav told prespersons in Buxar. Bihar is set to go to the polls at the end of this year.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Polit Bureau member Arinda Karat refused to explicitly choose between the Congress and the AAP. "CPIM is fighting two seats [in Delhi]. We will also extend support to question has been asked whether the Lok Sabha election or will extend to the State elections as well. During the 2023 Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh elections, similar questions had cropped up, since the

Congress had failed to give any seats to the Samajwadi Party. Mr. Yadav said that the Congress had failed to accommodate them in several consecutive State polls.

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With BJP's first list having many turncoats, Nadda seeks to quell rebellion

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

With the Bharatiya Janata Party's first candidate list for the Delhi Assembly polls out and the second expected within a couple of days, party president J.P. Nadda participated in election management meetings at the Delhi BJP office on Thursday.

BJP sources said Mr. Nadda called upon party leaders not getting ticked to ensure support for all its 70 candidates instead of getting disheartened.

This comes as the party's first list featured eight turncoats among the 70 candidates. A source said the party cadre was disheartened by the absence of both the central areas and the outskirts.

The BJP chief raised the issue of migrant voters in MLAs in Delhi and have lost the polls in 2013 and 2020.

Sources present during Mr. Nadda's address said he asked the BJP cadre to pull their full force behind the 70 people who were being targeted by the government in the national capital for 26 years, which



J.P. Nadda being greeted by Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva at a party meeting on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VIJAYA

is why these polls are extremely crucial for the party. The sources said Mr. Nadda reminded the party that Delhi went beyond the 'Lutyens' area, and asked the workers to campaign with full strength in both the central areas and the outskirts.

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PM to open Z-Morh tunnel, a key part of Kashmir-Ladakh corridor

To be inaugurated on January 13, the tunnel in Ganderbal district, is key to keeping the tourist destination of Sonamarg open for visitors around the year; it is touted as a milestone in building the strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh

Poozad Ashita
SHIMLAGAR

The Z-Morh tunnel is set to become the first major milestone in the effort to build a strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh which is open all through the year, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to inaugurate it on January 13.

The tunnel, in Ganderbal district, is key to keeping the tourist destination of Sonamarg open for visitors around the year. Earlier, snowfall and avalanches would cut off the tourist spot every winter.

This will be Mr. Modi's first visit to Kashmir since an elected government took over the reins in the Union Territory. A security assessment of the project was done on Thursday to set up foolproof security arrangements ahead of the PM's visit. Security across the Valley, especially in Srinagar, has been stepped up and additional checkpoints set up on the main roads.

However, the first list of the party does not feature any Purvanchal faces. Additionally, the BJP is expected to roll out a scheme for women on lines similar to Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Bahana Yojana and Odisha's Subhadra Yojana. However, only two women feature on the party's first list.



A view of the Z-Morh tunnel that connects Gagangar and Sonamarg. PEE PHOTO

There is a need to open up new winter destinations in Kashmir given the growing foothold. It would be safe to drive to Sonamarg in winter as done on Thursday to set up foolproof security arrangements ahead of the PM's visit. Security across the Valley, especially in Srinagar, has been stepped up and additional checkpoints set up on the main roads.

Built under the mountain glacier of Thajwas Glacier between Gagangar and Sonamarg, the tunnel bypasses the landslide and avalanche-prone pockets of the road, officials

said. An intelligent traffic management system will take over the reins to control the flow of vehicles and will also open up the Thajwas area for adventure tourism, an official added.

At present, most hotels remain closed because of unreliable road access and infrastructure problems. Built under the mountain glacier of Thajwas Glacier between Gagangar and Sonamarg, the tunnel bypasses the landslide and avalanche-prone pockets of the road, officials

in the valley," Mr. Abdullah said in a post on X.

Strategic route
Built at a cost of ₹2,680 crore, the 6.5-km long two-lane tunnel is a key feature of the strategic access route to Ladakh. The main tunnel is 10.8 metres long, with a modified horseshoe-shaped escape tunnel of 7.5 metres, D-shaped ventilation tunnel of 8.3 metres, two major culverts of 110 metres and 270 metres, and one small culvert which is 30 metres long.

Admit cards and fake OMR sheets of NEET seized in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Bihar Police on Thursday found admit cards and fake OMR sheets of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Postgraduate in a fire-ravaged hostel room on the Patna Medical College and Hospital campus.

Half-burnt ₹100 and ₹500 notes, coming to ₹2.75 lakh, were recovered from the room gutted on Tuesday night.

Ajay Kumar, a post-graduate, was staying in the room. He is suspected of hiring MBBS students and is making them nominate for NEET-PG candidates.

Source said that on Wednesday, Mr. Kumar reached the hostel with many people and was furious over the damage. Several students and junior doctors have complained that he has forcibly occupied many rooms and does not pay heed to the warnings by the college administration.

"A fire had started in the room of Chamakya Hostel and it was illegally occupied by one Ajay Kumar. The room was not allotted to him, and we have sought a report from the warden of the hostel. We have seized all the documents and have sought a detailed report about every document from the college authority, including the admit cards and other documents," Sweetie Saravanan, Superintendent of Police (Central), Patna, said.

Asked about cheating in the test or a paper leak, Ms. Saravanan said, "We cannot say anything at present unless we verify all the documents — whether it is old or for what purpose it was kept inside the room."

In 2024, a leak of the NEET-UG paper in Bihar led to the arrest of 45 people by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Bihar was the epicentre of the scam.

Congress says Union Budget must end 'tax terrorism' and 'looting' of the public

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Union Budget, the Congress on Thursday alleged that the Good and Services Tax (GST) had become a means to "loot" people. The party demanded that the Centre put an end to "tax terrorism".

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the GST could stand for the 'Gabbar Singh Tax' or 'Grobhath Satyansab Tax (Household Destruction Tax)' or 'Give Sitharaman Tax', a reference to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"Whatever name we call BJP's GST, one thing is certain: the Modi government has made GST a means of looting the poor and the middle class," Mr. Kharge

and lower income groups. He alleged that nine different GST rates made the tax "complex and absurd" instead of a "Good & Simple Tax". He noted that the GST regime is a tax on public consumption, arguing that by celebrating record tax collections, the Modi government is "rubbing salt into the wounds of the people". He said income tax collections have increased by 24% in the past five years while GST collections rose 17%.

"Two-thirds of the total GST i.e. 64% comes from the pockets of the poor and the middle class, but only 3% of GST is collected from the billionaires, while the corporate tax rate has been reduced from 30% to 22%. For the first time, GST has been imposed on 36 agricultural products of the farmer," he noted.

Multiple slabs
His criticism came on a day when the Congress held press conferences in a dozen cities to highlight the problems of multiple GST slabs and demand that the government provide relief to the middle class

and lower income groups. He alleged that nine different GST rates made the tax "complex and absurd" instead of a "Good & Simple Tax". He noted that the GST regime is a tax on public consumption, arguing that by celebrating record tax collections, the Modi government is "rubbing salt into the wounds of the people". He said income tax collections have increased by 24% in the past five years while GST collections rose 17%.

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Rattled by GST success, Cong. misleading people: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday accused the Congress of misleading people on the issue of GST. Minister Piyush Garg and Services Tax (GST), BJP national spokesperson and former Rajya Sabha MP Syed Zafar Islam, in a press statement, said the Congress was "rattled by the implementation and success of GST because it no longer has any loopholes, depriving Congress of opportunities for corruption".

"As a result, Congress has been attempting to tarnish the image of GST from the start. Initially, Congress referred to GST as 'Gabbar Singh Tax', and now it is calling it 'Tax Terrorism', despite the fact that it was imposed on 36 agricultural products of the farmer," he noted.

CBI registers a fresh case against Karti Chidambaram for 'bid' to help liquor firm

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a fresh case of corruption against former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram's son P. Chidambaram's son P. Chidambaram and former Rajya Sabha MP Syed Zafar Islam, in a press statement, said the Congress was "rattled by the implementation and success of GST because it no longer has any loopholes, depriving Congress of opportunities for corruption".

"As a result, Congress has been attempting to tarnish the image of GST from the start. Initially, Congress referred to GST as 'Gabbar Singh Tax', and now it is calling it 'Tax Terrorism', despite the fact that it was imposed on 36 agricultural products of the farmer," he noted.

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Diageo Scotland, U.K. used to import duty-free Johnnie Walker whisky. No immediate reaction was available from the suspects named in the FIR.

In April 2005, the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), which had a monopoly over the sale of imported duty-free liquor, was under an embargo on the sale of the Diageo group's duty-free products, which resulted in a huge loss to Diageo Scotland as 70% of its business in India pertained to the sale of Johnnie Walker whisky, the agency alleged.

The CBI FIR stated Diageo Scotland approached Karti Chidambaram, seeking help in lifting the ban and made payments of ₹15,000 to Advantage Strategic Consulting, which took it in the guise of "consultancy fee".

Telcos, Centre gear up to tackle tele density at Kumbh

Axon Deep
NEW DELHI

The last time pilgrims thronged the Maha Kumbh Mela in 2013, 4G had been deployed by Indian telecom operators for just about a year and was far from universally available. The 2025 Kumbh Mela Prayagraj comes at a drastically different time, with 5G connectivity expected to be practically everywhere in India, building up to what will likely be an event with the most tele-density in human history.

The Maha Kumbh is consistently ranked as the largest religious gathering in the world, and this year will be no exception, with the Uttar Pradesh government saying it is preparing for 40 crore devotees over a 44-day period, averaging out to almost 1 crore devotees per day, though some days like Makar Sankranti



Busting venues: Sachus take part in the 'Peshwa' procession, which marks the arrival of members of various sects for the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj on Thursday. ANI

will likely see a spike that is many times that number. While the State government is accustomed to large crowd arrangements, such as a large gathering in the city during the pilgrimage. Telecommunication

companies "have been instructed to gather in a single spot, with sometimes over half a dozen people in a single square metre area, and many trying to use the internet during the pilgrimage. Telecommunication

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Volunteers to get legal training on animal welfare

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a bid to foster a culture of "responsible animal care", the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, have agreed to work together to train animal welfare volunteers in related laws.

A memorandum of understanding was signed on Thursday to provide legal training to civil society members who support the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPA) and State Animal Welfare Boards in their efforts to assist animals. A statement said that the MoU will help in training honorary animal welfare representatives who apply with AWBI.

PM to open Z-Morh tunnel, a key part of Kashmir-Ladakh corridor

To be inaugurated on January 13, the tunnel, in Ganderbal district, is key to keeping the tourist destination of Sonamarg open for visitors around the year; it is touted as a milestone in building the strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Z-Morh tunnel is set to become the first major milestone in the effort to build a strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh which is open all through the year, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to inaugurate it on January 13.

The tunnel, in Ganderbal district, is key to keeping the tourist destination of Sonamarg open for visitors around the year. Earlier, snowfall and avalanches would cut off the tourist spot every winter.

This will be Mr. Modi's first visit to Kashmir since an elected government took over the reins in the Union Territory. A security assessment of the project was done on Thursday to set up foolproof security arrangements ahead of the PM's visit. Security across the Valley, especially in Srinagar, has been stepped up and additional checkpoints set up on the main roads.

Hoteliers are enthusiastic about the tunnel. "It was much needed to have Sonamarg on the winter tourism map of Kashmir.



A view of the Z-Morh tunnel that connects Gagangir and Sonamarg. FILE PHOTO

There is a need to open up new winter destinations in Kashmir given the growing footfall. It would be safe to drive to Sonamarg in winter now," said Sajid Majeed, a hotelier.

At present, most hotels remain closed because of unreliable road access and infrastructure problems.

Built under the mountain glacier of Thajiwas Glacier between Gagangir and Sonamarg, the tunnel bypasses the landslide- and avalanche-prone pockets of the road, officials

said. An intelligent traffic management system will make it easier to control the flow of vehicles and will also open up the Thajiwas Glacier and Sindh River for adventure tourism, an official added.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also welcomed the tunnel. "J&K, especially central Kashmir, looks forward to the inauguration of a vital piece of infrastructure in the coming days. This asset will be a game changer for the expansion of winter tourism

in the valley," Mr. Abdullah said in a post on X.

Strategic route

Built at a cost of ₹2,680 crore, the 6.5-km long two-lane tunnel is a key feature of the strategic access route to Ladakh. The main tunnel is 10.8 metres long, with a modified horseshoe-shaped escape tunnel of 7.5 metres, D-shaped ventilation tunnel of 8.3 metres, two major culverts of 110 metres and 270 metres, and one small culvert which is 30 metres long.

The project faced a major militant attack on October 21 last year, which left seven APCO Infratech workers, including a doctor, dead at the construction site.

The Z-Morh will lead towards the Zojila tunnel, which is being constructed nearby. The Zojila, Asia's longest tunnel will cut through the Himalayan range at Zojila Pass to reach the Kargil district in Ladakh. The 13.14-km long tunnel is coming up at a cost of ₹6,800 crore. Officials said a 7.57-metre long horseshoe-shaped single-tube, two-lane tunnel will pass under the Zojila Pass between Ganderbal in Kashmir and Drass town in Kargil.

"It will bring the travel time from three hours to 20 minutes between Ganderbal and Kargil," officials said. Ladakh is currently cut off during winter, as the Zojila Pass, the only road that connects Kashmir with Ladakh, is closed in December, with its reopening dependent on the melting of snow at mountain passes along its route. At times, the road would stay closed till April.





BI-DIRECTIONAL TUNNEL TO LEH

First survey
1997

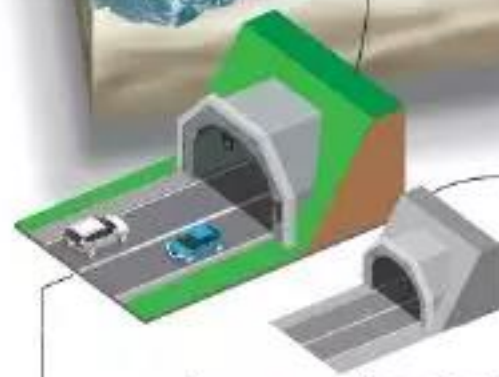
Planning started
1999
(after Kargil war)



Length of tunnel
14.2 km

Cost of Project
₹6,809cr

Completion target
7 years



Parallel
escape
tunnel of
14.2 km

Existing road

Tunnel to be built
400 meters beneath
(more than 5 times
height of Qutub
Minar) the existing
road

Design
speed at
80 kmph

8
ventilation
sections

Pedestrian cross
passage at every 250
meters & vehicle cross
passage at 750 meters

Emergency
telecommunication
system

Peak min
temperature at
-45 degree

Tunnels in Jammu & Kashmir

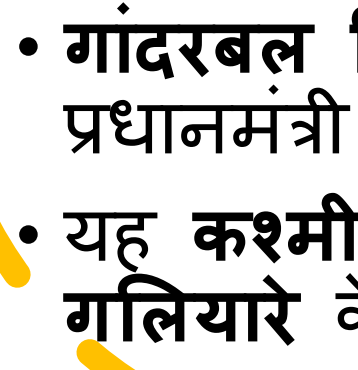
Context: The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways will lay the foundation stone of various National Highway (NH) Projects and will review and inspect Z-Morh and Zojila Tunnel in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

CITY ON LINES OF DAVOS





- **Overview**


- The **Z-Morh tunnel**, located in **Ganderbal district**, is set to be inaugurated on **January 13** by the Prime Minister.
 - It is a major milestone in developing a **year-round strategic corridor** between **Kashmir and Ladakh**.
 - गांदरबल जिले में स्थित जेड-मोर्ह टनल का उद्घाटन 13 जनवरी को प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा किया जाएगा।
 - यह कश्मीर और लद्दाख के बीच सालभर चलने वाले रणनीतिक गलियारे के विकास में एक प्रमुख मील का पत्थर है।
- 



- **Tourism Boost**

- The tunnel will ensure **Sonamarg remains accessible year-round**, overcoming closures caused by snowfall and avalanches.

- **सोनमर्ग** को सालभर पर्यटकों के लिए खुला रखने में टनल मदद करेगी, जो पहले बर्फबारी और हिमस्खलन के कारण बंद हो जाती थी।





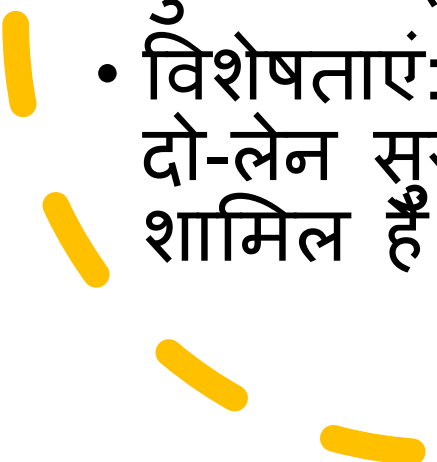
- **Technical Details**

- Total length: **13.14 km.**

- Features: **7.57-meter-wide horseshoe-shaped single tube**, two-lane tunnel with two major culverts and 270 meters of minor culverts.

- कुल लंबाई: **13.14 किमी।**

- विशेषताएं: **7.57-मीटर चौड़ी घोड़े की नाल के आकार की सिंगल ट्यूब**, दो-लेन सुरंग जिसमें दो प्रमुख और 270 मीटर के छोटे कलवर्ट शामिल हैं।



1.Strategic Importance

1. Links to **Zojila Tunnel**, which will improve connectivity between Ganderbal and Kargil.
2. ज़ोजिला टनल से जुड़कर गांदरबल और कारगिल के बीच कनेक्टिविटी में सुधार करेगी।
3. Provides an alternative route bypassing avalanche-prone areas, ensuring safer travel.
4. हिमस्खलन-प्रवण क्षेत्रों को पार करते हुए सुरक्षित यात्रा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए वैकल्पिक मार्ग प्रदान करती है।







- **Challenges and Security**

- The project faced a **militant attack in October 2024**, resulting in casualties.

- अक्टूबर 2024 में इस परियोजना पर आतंकवादी हमला हुआ, जिसमें कुछ लोगों की जान चली गई।

- Enhanced security measures have been implemented in the region ahead of the inauguration.

- उद्घाटन से पहले क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा उपाय बढ़ाए गए हैं।



Economic and Tourism Impact

Economic Investment

- The project cost is **₹2,680 crore**, reflecting significant economic investment in the region.
- परियोजना की लागत **₹2,680 करोड़** है, जो क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक निवेश को दर्शाती है।

Adventure Tourism

- Expected to open access to **Thajiwas Glacier** and **Sindh River** for adventure sports.
- साहसिक खेलों के लिए **थाजिवास ग्लेशियर** और **सिंध नदी** तक पहुंच खोलने की संभावना है।

Travel Time Reduction

- Will cut travel time from **three hours to 20 minutes** between Ganderbal and Kargil during winter.
- सर्दियों में गांदरबल और कारगिल के बीच यात्रा का समय **तीन घंटे से घटाकर 20 मिनट** कर देगा।

IN BRIEF

Record registrations for Pariksha Pe Charcha

More than 2.79 crore students, teachers and parents from the country and abroad have registered for the eighth edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annual programme ahead of the Board examinations, Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC). (The photo shows the event in 2023.) The Union Education Ministry said in a release here on Thursday the turnout is expected to be a record this year and the popularity of the programme to "transform exam-related stress into a festival of learning and celebration" is increasing. "This remarkable response underscores the growing resonance of the programme as a true Jan-Andolan," the Ministry said in the release.

Centre intensifies campaign against TB in prisons

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to all the States and the Union Territories (UTs) to organise a 100-day intensified campaign on tuberculosis (TB) elimination in prisons and correctional institutions as part of the Union government's commitment to eliminating the disease from India. The Home Ministry has asked states and UTs to organise screening camps (Nikshay Shibir) in all prisons, covering all prison inmates in consultation with the state health department, state TB officers and district TB officers. It maintained that inadequate screening and lack of awareness are among the key challenges in controlling TB inside prisons.

The Hindu businessline Agri and Commodity Summit to be held today

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The Hindu Businessline Agri and Commodity Summit, 2025 on "Shaping agriculture and agri business in a changing climate" will be organised in New Delhi on Friday.

With an aim to foster actionable solutions for a thriving, climate-resilient agricultural economy, the summit will bring together policymakers, industry leaders and experts to address challenges and unlock opportunities in agriculture.

While Vivech Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, will inaugurate the summit, a special address will be delivered by Ashish Kumar Bhattacharya, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation.

K.V. Shaji, Chairman, NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), will deliver the keynote address. A session on "Why the monsoon has been raining woes over the past few years" will have expert panelists including D.S. Pal, Scientist G, India Meteorological Department; Nabanus Chattopadhyay, Director, Agricultural Meteorology Division,



World Meteorological Organisation; Ajal Rana, Chairman, FSI and CEO, Savannah Seeds; Pooja Naha Kumar, Head, South Asia Programme, Climate Business Initiative. A session on "Overcoming climate change with new seeds, strategies" will have Venkatram Vasanthadas, Director, FSI and MD & CEO, Seedworks International; Simon Wiesbusch, MD & CEO, Bayer CropScience; S. Soundararajan, CEO, HyFarm; and Sanjiv Kanwar, MD, Yara South Asia as panelists. Interactions with the media and the broadcast partner is NDTV Profit.

To view the live event, visit thl.news/AS2025LS or scan the QR code. Entry is only by invitation for pre-registered participants. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Hotel Leela Palace, Chanakyaपुरi.

India releases compilation of 10,000 human genomes from 83 population groups

The 'Genome India' database will be available to researchers across the world. It will serve as a template for investigations into disease, drug therapy. PM says it will strengthen biotech economy

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

India has completed and made available a year-long compilation of 10,000 human genomes representing 83 population groups, making up about 2% of the country's 4,600 population groups, as a database. This collection will serve as a template for investigations into disease and drug therapy.

The 'Genome India' database, as it is known, will now be available to researchers across the world for investigation and is housed at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), in Faridabad, Haryana.

A first analysis of the genomes estimates around 27 million, low frequency (or relatively rare) variants, with 7 million of them not found in similar reference databases around the world. Certain population groups show higher frequencies of alleles, or different versions of the same gene. Over the last two de-



A major focus of the Indian reference genomes is to have researchers study diseases. GETTY IMAGES

— they held the potential for targeted clinical interventions, advancing precision medicine for better healthcare," said Union Minister of State (Independent charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh, at an event here to announce the project.

Researchers wishing to access the genomes must send in a proposal that will be perused by an independent panel with a commit-

ment that will adhere to data sharing and privacy policies. Though the database stores information on population groups, this data will not be classified by the names of castes or tribes but will be numerically coded, Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, told The Hindu.

Describing the project as "historic", Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a video address, said this paved the way for India strengthening the biotechnology economy as well as manufacturing.

Experts said that while only a small fraction of the genomes of their population were studied, the door was open to expanding the database to a million genomes. "Though costs are a limiting factor, a million would dramatically scale insight into India's genetic diversity," said Kumar.

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Justice B.N. Srikrishna to chair panel for ID verification firm Equal

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The former Supreme Court judge Justice B.N. Srikrishna (retd.) will chair the newly formed Advisory Board of the ID verification and data sharing platform Equal. The firm provides digital identity authentication services for large firms, boasting digital integration with several ID providers.

The appointment comes as the government finalises the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, to implement the DPDP Act, 2023. Justice Srikrishna was the chair of the first committee formed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to formulate a data protection law.

That committee's report, submitted in 2018, was eventually not taken up.

Justice Srikrishna has also headed the Sixth Pay Commission, chaired the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission, and also led the Expert Committee on Arbitration Law to propose reforms to the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996.

The Advisory Board for Equal will counsel the account aggregator, OneMoney, Account aggregators



Justice B.N. Srikrishna

are firms that provide Indians with a consolidated view of their financial data, a key digitisation priority for the government.

The commitment of two firms enable "secure, compliant and consent-driven data sharing aligns closely with my work in safeguarding privacy and fostering trust in technology-based democratisation of products and services," Justice Srikrishna said in a statement provided by Equal.

"Together, we aim to create frameworks that not only drive innovation but also set global benchmarks for ethical data usage and business practices." The Advisory Board includes retired central bankers and bureaucrats who have been key in establishing and maintaining key digitisation priorities.

As Meta shifts away from professional fact-checkers, Indian firms await clarity

Anon Deep NEW DELHI

Indian fact-checking organisations are on tenterhooks as they await the consequences of Meta's decision to abandon its partnerships with the Federation of Fact-checking organisations in favour of a community-led model, starting with the U.S.

The change has accompanied the partisan atmosphere that has enveloped fact-checking in the U.S., where the election of Donald Trump as President has driven an ideological reorientation among Big Tech firms.

Amiabh Kumar, founder of Social and Media Matters, which has worked with social media platforms to help them to keep an open mind on Meta's move. But he said there were concrete reasons that led to the intro-



Partnerships with firms like Meta is a key source of revenue for certain fact-checking firms.

duction of fact-checking on social media platforms. "Cambridge Analytica happened because of Facebook," he said, recalling how the firm's user data were used for behavioural campaigns.

As The Hindu had reported last May, the implementation of Community Notes on X has been impeded by a requirement that people across the ideological spectrum must agree to the inclusion of a fact-check on a post. This requirement has led to pol-

itical misinformation in particular going unchecked frequently. Two senior fact-checking executives contacted by The Hindu declined to comment on the Meta announcement's implications for India, citing uncertainty on immediate consequences. Meta has not released any timeline for if and when such a change will be implemented in other countries. Partnerships with firms such as Meta are a key source of revenue for certain fact-checking firms.

Indian law on fact-checking has been challenged in the Supreme Court as stayed the notification of a fact-check unit of the Press Information Bureau from that people across the ideological spectrum must agree to the inclusion of a fact-check on a post. This requirement has led to pol-

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TH CROSSWORD 14379

Crossword puzzle grid with clues on the right. Clues include: 1. Use belly dance to get a piece of candy (5-3), 2. King cautiously released an eagle (4), 3. King cautiously released an eagle (4), 4. Exceeded good or exceedingly bad object from part of chain (8), 5. Arranging and serving greg in U.P. (8), 6. Distance covered and managed to get keys (5), 7. Route, possibly the type of road skirting town (5), 8. The sort of man you find in devers (5), 9. Salespersons carrying flat slate piece can be cold-blooded creatures (8), 10. Spanish truck initially carries goods transported for French food snare (8), 11. Big cat carrying girl goes around right mechanism activating camera trap (7), 12. Cold from Australia? Curious (5), 13. Pulling 20 things distributed around first of October with love (8), 14. Midwakeny see RAF to attack from aircraft (8), 15. Initiated puss gets employer of mailman in America (1,1,1,1), 16. Powder used in hospital clinic (4), 17. Hidden shooter's cut in service without fault (8), 18. Complain about bad tune for a hundred years (7), 19. Exceedingly good or exceedingly bad object from part of chain (8), 20. Journalist in absence of media (8), 21. Governor's at first half of rapids (6), 22. Limit on primary-leaving (8), 23. Arranging and serving greg in U.P. (8), 24. Wiscrack about minor offence (6), 25. Geographical sketch left, bearing flea jumping around Canadian symbol (5-4), 26. Seal John is with king (4), 27. Use belly dance to get a piece of candy (5-3), 28. "Little power" (4), 29. Processed image covering park shows part of target area (6), 30. Exceeded fast, European sat and died simultaneously (7), 31. Canuso goes around the Spanish merry-go-round (8), 32. Journalist in absence of media (8), 33. Distance covered and managed to get keys (5), 34. Route, possibly the type of road skirting town (5), 35. The sort of man you find in devers (5), 36. Salespersons carrying flat slate piece can be cold-blooded creatures (8), 37. Spanish truck initially carries goods transported for French food snare (8), 38. Big cat carrying girl goes around right mechanism activating camera trap (7), 39. Cold from Australia? Curious (5), 40. Pulling 20 things distributed around first of October with love (8), 41. Midwakeny see RAF to attack from aircraft (8), 42. Initiated puss gets employer of mailman in America (1,1,1,1), 43. Powder used in hospital clinic (4).

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ https://www.thhindu.com/crossword

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9 in some cells. Clues on the right: 1. Use belly dance to get a piece of candy (5-3), 2. King cautiously released an eagle (4), 3. King cautiously released an eagle (4), 4. Exceeded good or exceedingly bad object from part of chain (8), 5. Arranging and serving greg in U.P. (8), 6. Distance covered and managed to get keys (5), 7. Route, possibly the type of road skirting town (5), 8. The sort of man you find in devers (5), 9. Salespersons carrying flat slate piece can be cold-blooded creatures (8), 10. Spanish truck initially carries goods transported for French food snare (8), 11. Big cat carrying girl goes around right mechanism activating camera trap (7), 12. Cold from Australia? Curious (5), 13. Pulling 20 things distributed around first of October with love (8), 14. Midwakeny see RAF to attack from aircraft (8), 15. Initiated puss gets employer of mailman in America (1,1,1,1), 16. Powder used in hospital clinic (4).

FAITH Vaikunta Ekadasi message

All of us pray to God every day for two things. One, to grant one's endless quest for wealth, position and health. The second prayer is to grant one moksha after performing one's duties on earth. These prayers are most fervent on Vaikunta Ekadasi. This day is hallowed, among all the 25 Ekadasis in a year, as it is on this day that Maha Vishnu Himself opens the gates of heaven for devotees, as stated in the Padma Purana and Uttara Kanda (chapters 36, 40), said Damal S. Ramakrishnan. The game of snakes and ladders, played on Vaikunta Ekadasi, teaches one to shed ego and let go of attachments. The ladder signifies devotion to God, climbing which is rendered possible by leading a life of virtue, while the snake symbolises ego that pulls one down in all one's endeavours, moths of all God-god. The legend behind Vaikunta Ekadasi is also one of ego and ultimate surrender to the Lord. Muran, an asura, drunk on the power of his strength gained through prayer and penance, began to harass devas, who began to lose ground to him. Upon hearing the prayers of the devas, Vishnu waged war on Muran who had already secured a boon whereby even Vishnu's powerful chakra would cause him no harm. However, proving that ego can never flourish, a female force sprang from Vishnu's chest. Identifying herself as Ekadasi, she stayed Muran and Vishnu (preventing the portals of heaven to devas. The day came to be celebrated as Vaikunta Ekadasi, with Vishnu granting Ekadasi's wish that anyone fasting, forgoing sleep, chanting Vishnu Sahasranamam, singing bhajans and surrendering to Him be granted heaven.

Justice B.N. Srikrishna to chair panel for ID verification firm Equal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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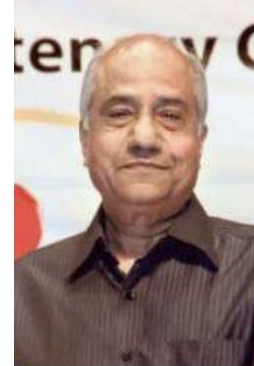
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Justice B.N. Srikrishna

are firms that provide Indians with a consolidated view of their financial data, a key digitisation priority for the government.

The commitment of two firms enable “secure, compliant and consent-driven data sharing aligns closely with my work in safeguarding privacy and fostering trust in technology-based democratisation of products and services”, Justice Srikrishna said in a statement provided by Equal. “Together, we aim to create frameworks that not only drive innovation but also set global benchmarks for ethical data usage and business practices.”


The Advisory Board includes retired central bankers and bureaucrats who have been key in establishing and maintaining key digitisation priorities.

- **Justice B.N. Srikrishna to Chair Panel for ID Verification Firm Equal**
- **Overview**
- **Justice B.N. Srikrishna (Retd.)**, former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the chairperson of the **Advisory Board** for the ID verification and data-sharing platform **Equal**.
- This firm specializes in providing **identity authentication services** for large organizations with **digital integration** capabilities.
- **जस्टिस बी.एन. श्रीकृष्ण (सेवानिवृत्त)** को **ईक्वल** प्लेटफॉर्म के सलाहकार बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है, जो बड़ी कंपनियों के लिए **पहचान प्रमाणीकरण सेवाएं** प्रदान करता है।



- **Advisory Board's Role**

- The board will oversee data-sharing frameworks and ensure **compliance and privacy safeguards** for account aggregators like **OneMoney**.

- सलाहकार बोर्ड डेटा-साझाकरण ढांचे की निगरानी करेगा और एक मनी जैसे खाता एकरकों के लिए **अनुपालन और गोपनीयता सुनिश्चित** करेगा।
- 

- **Justice Srikrishna's Background**

- Headed the **Sixth Pay Commission** and the **Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission**.

- Drafted the **2018 Data Protection Law**, though it was not implemented.

- Chaired the **Arbitration Law Reform Committee** to propose changes to the **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**.

- उन्होंने छठे वेतन आयोग और वित्तीय क्षेत्र विधायी सुधार आयोग का नेतृत्व किया।

- 2018 डेटा संरक्षण कानून का मसौदा तैयार किया, जो लागू नहीं हो सका।

- 1996 के मध्यस्थता और सुलह अधिनियम में सुधार के लिए मध्यस्थता कानून सुधार समिति की अध्यक्षता की।



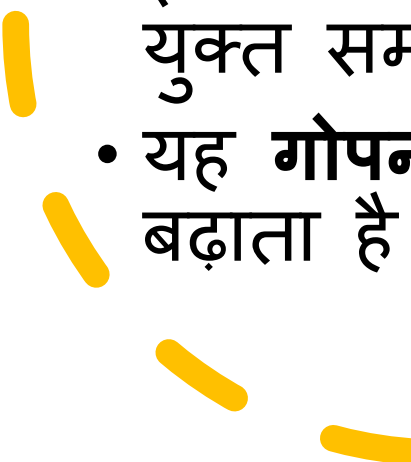
- **Equal's Services and Vision**

- Provides secure and compliant data-sharing solutions for financial data aggregation.

- Safeguards **privacy** and fosters trust in digital services.

- ईकवल प्लेटफॉर्म वित्तीय डेटा एकत्रण के लिए सुरक्षित और अनुपालन-युक्त समाधान प्रदान करता है।

- यह गोपनीयता की सुरक्षा करता है और डिजिटल सेवाओं में विश्वास बढ़ाता है।



Data Protection and Compliance

- Aligns with the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025**, ensuring ethical data usage.
- डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण (DPDP) नियम, 2025 के अनुरूप डेटा के नैतिक उपयोग को सुनिश्चित करता है।

Global Standards

- Aims to set benchmarks for **ethical data usage** and business practices.
- नैतिक डेटा उपयोग और व्यावसायिक प्रथाओं के लिए वैश्विक मानक स्थापित करने का लक्ष्य।

Expert Panel Members

- Includes retired central bankers and bureaucrats with expertise in digitization.
- पैनल में सेवानिवृत्त केंद्रीय बैंकर और डिजिटलीकरण के विशेषज्ञ शामिल हैं।

As Meta shifts away from professional fact-checkers, Indian firms await clarity

Aroon Deep

NEW DELHI

Indian fact-checking organisations are on tenterhooks as they await the consequences of Meta's decision to abandon its partnerships with professional fact-checking organisations in favour of a community-led model, starting with the U.S.

The change has accompanied the partisan atmosphere that has enveloped fact-checking in the U.S., where the election of Donald Trump as President has driven an ideological reorientation among Big Tech firms.

Amitabh Kumar, founder of Social and Media Matters, which has worked with social media platforms, said he was trying to keep an open mind on Meta's move. But he said there were concrete reasons that led to the intro-



Partnerships with firms like Meta is a key source of revenue for certain fact-checking firms.

duction of fact-checking on social media platforms. "Cambridge Analytica happened because of Facebook," he said, recalling how the firm's user data were used for behavioural campaigns.

There was also scrutiny of the firm's role in shaping opinions leading up to Brexit, the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. "Fact-checkers were brought in to counter this," he said. But Mr. Trump's election and the divisive rhetoric

around fact-checking in the U.S., which drew criticism during the COVID-19 pandemic as posts and accounts were being taken down or flagged at a time when there wasn't yet total consensus among scientists on the disease's causes and origins or the risks around its vaccines, have led to resentment towards professional fact-checking by social media platforms.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said fact-checking organisations had behaved in a "partisan" way. He added that the new community system would face fewer accusations of bias.

As *The Hindu* had reported last May, the implementation of Community Notes on X has been impeded by a requirement that people across the ideological spectrum must agree on the inclusion of a fact-check on a post. This requirement has led to pol-

itical misinformation in particular going unchecked frequently.


Two senior fact-checking executives contacted by *The Hindu* declined to comment on the Meta announcement's implications for India, citing uncertainty on immediate consequences. Meta has not released any timeline for if and when such a change will be implemented in other countries. Partnerships with firms such as Meta are a key source of revenue for certain fact-checking firms.

Indian law on fact-checking has been challenged in courts. The Supreme Court has stayed the notification of a fact-check unit of the Press Information Bureau from having the power to flag posts as misinformation and strip social media platforms' immunity from liability under the law.



- **Overview**

- Meta has decided to transition from partnerships with **professional fact-checking organizations** to a **community-led model**, starting in the U.S.

- **Meta ने पेशेवर फैक्ट-चेकिंग संगठनों के साथ साझेदारी को समाप्त करते हुए सामुदायिक मॉडल अपनाने का निर्णय लिया है, जिसकी शुरुआत अमेरिका से हो रही है।**
- 




- **Impact on Fact-Checking**



- Partnerships with Meta are a key revenue source for fact-checking firms globally, including Indian firms.

- **Meta के साथ साझेदारी** फैक्ट-चेकिंग फर्मों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण आय का स्रोत है, जिसमें भारतीय फर्म भी शामिल हैं।



- Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg cited concerns over **partisan behavior** of fact-checkers as a reason for the shift.



- **Meta के CEO मार्क जुकरबर्ग** ने फैक्ट-चेकर्स के **पक्षपातपूर्ण व्यवहार** को बदलाव का कारण बताया।



- **Background**

- The decision follows **criticism during the COVID-19 pandemic**, where posts were flagged despite a lack of scientific consensus.

- यह निर्णय **COVID-19 महामारी के दौरान आलोचना** के बाद आया है, जब वैज्ञानिक सहमति के अभाव में पोस्ट को फ्लैग किया गया।

- Events such as the **2016 U.S. Presidential election** and the **Brexit referendum** also influenced Meta's scrutiny of fact-checking.

- **2016 के अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति चुनाव और ब्रेक्सिट जनमत संग्रह** जैसे घटनाओं ने भी फैक्ट-चेकिंग पर Meta की समीक्षा को प्रभावित किया।



1. Indian Context

1. Indian fact-checking has faced legal challenges.
2. भारत में फैक्ट-चेकिंग को कानूनी चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ा है।
3. The **Supreme Court** has stayed the Press Information Bureau's (PIB) authority to flag posts as misinformation, which shields platforms from liability under the law.
4. **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने PIB को पोस्ट को गलत सूचना के रूप में फ्लैग करने की शक्ति पर रोक लगाई है, जिससे प्लेटफार्मों को कानूनी दायित्व से छूट मिलती है।






- **Uncertainty for Indian Firms**

- Indian fact-checking firms are uncertain about how Meta's decision will impact them.

- भारतीय फैक्ट-चेकिंग फर्मों को यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि Meta का यह निर्णय उन्हें कैसे प्रभावित करेगा।



- Two senior fact-checking executives declined to comment on the implications for India.



- दो वरिष्ठ फैक्ट-चेकिंग अधिकारियों ने भारत के लिए इसके प्रभावों पर टिप्पणी करने से इनकार कर दिया।

1. Legal and Ethical Issues

1. The **requirement for ideological consensus** in Community Notes has raised concerns about bias and effectiveness.
2. सामुदायिक नोट्स में **वैचारिक सहमति की आवश्यकता** ने पूर्वाग्रह और प्रभावशीलता पर चिंताएं बढ़ा दी हैं।

India's ranking drops to 85th in Henley Passport Index



INDIA'S RANKING HAS dropped by five points to 85 this year in a global passport index, topped by Singapore for the second consecutive year. Henley Passport Index is considered the standard reference tool for global citizens and sovereign states when assessing where a passport ranks on the global mobility spectrum.



Indonesia Joined BRICS



- 
- Recently, Indonesia has officially joined the BRICS group as the 10th member, effective from January 2025.
 - BRICS:
 - About: BRICS is an intergovernmental informal grouping of 10 emerging economies of the world.
 - BRICS stands for the original founding members, Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2010.

In 2024, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia also became its members.

Argentina was initially expected to join the group in 2024 but later decided against it.

The first BRIC Summit was held in Russia in 2009.

- Significance:
- Economic Influence: Prior to Indonesia's membership, BRICS represented 35% of global GDP and 46% of the world's population. Counterbalance to
- G7: Aims to strengthen the influence of emerging economies and counter the dominance of the Western-led global financial system like G7.

- 
- Future Agendas for BRICS:
 - Reduce reliance on the US dollar in international transactions, strengthening local currencies and promoting non-dollar transactions, potentially reshaping global trade and finance.
 - It aims to promote greater equity, inclusivity, and reforms in global institutions such as the IMF and UN.
- 

BRICS Expands Footprint in the Global South

G7 and BRICS member countries (as of Jan. 4, 2023)


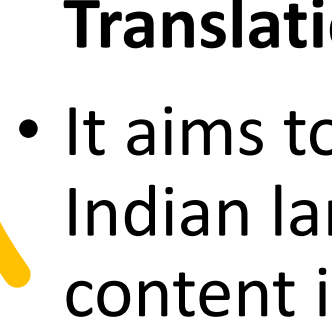


* Formally joined on Jan. 1, 2024

Source: Statista research

Bhashini Project



- 
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Bhashini project has been leveraged to upgrade the **eShram portal with 22 languages.**
 - **Bhashini Project**
 - It was launched in 2022. It is part of the broader **National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).**
 - It aims to enable easy access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access, and help create content in Indian languages.
- 

Future of Jobs Report 2025



The **Future of Jobs Report 2025** is released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.

Key Takeaways

Job Disruption and Creation: By 2030, 22% of jobs are expected to face disruption. 170 million new jobs will be created, driven by technological advancements and other factors.

Fastest Growing Jobs: Employers are increasingly looking to automation and AI to reduce workforce size and upskill employees.

- AI and big data skills will rise by 87%, followed by cybersecurity (70%).

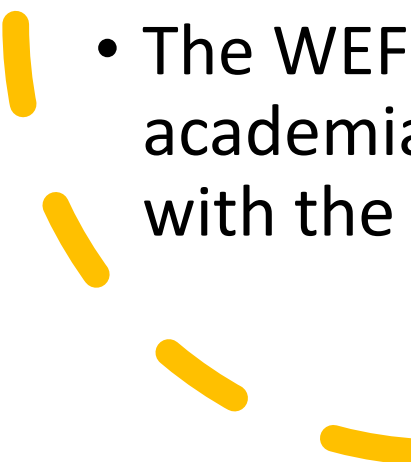
Fastest Declining Jobs: Roles such as postal service clerks, bank tellers, data entry clerks, cashiers, and telemarketers are expected to experience the greatest decline.

India-Specific Insights: Digital access, geopolitical tensions, and climate change efforts will drive job trends in India.

- There is significant investment in AI, robotics, autonomous systems, and energy technologies.



- **About World Economic Forum (WEF)**

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international organization for public-private cooperation.
 - It was founded in 1971 by Professor Klaus Schwab and is headquartered in Davos, Switzerland.
 - The WEF brings together leaders from business, government, academia, and civil society to discuss and address global challenges, with the aim of improving the state of the world.
- 



Miyawaki Technique

WHAT IS THE MIYAWAKI METHOD?

- Named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki who invented it
- It involves planting of several species very close together in a small pit
- Plants draw nutrients from each other and become healthy
- A dense forest, which grows naturally in 300 years is created in 30-35 years
- Trees grow 10 times faster, and absorb 30 times more carbon dioxide
- Density is 30 times that of normal tree plantations



MIYAWAKI FORESTS IN VADODARA

Private farm, Sun Pharma Road

Area | **12,000** square feet

Number of trees planted | **3,500**

VMC's Rajivnagar STP, Harni

Area | **16,000** square feet

Number of trees planted | **4,000**

Bhoj village, Padra

Forest department's demonstration plot

Area | **30 x 10** metre

Number of trees planted | **831**

Miyawaki Forest Layers

Canopy Layer

Tree Layer

Sub-Tree Layer

Shrub Layer



ऐसे समझें मियावाकी जंगल उगाने की तकनीक



-डॉ. अकीरा मियावाकी

- The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation has utilized the Miyawaki technique to transform barren areas into lush green forests.
- **Miyawaki Technique**
- **Origin:** The Miyawaki technique, Often referred to as the '**pot plantation method**', was developed by renowned Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki** in the 1970s.
 - It is a revolutionary method for creating **dense forests in small urban spaces.**
-

Principle: It involves planting trees and shrubs close to one another to accelerate their growth.

- **Plants grow 10 times faster** with this technique, making it a practical solution for urban areas.

Significance: In urban areas, the method is known to have successfully converted barren, polluted lands into thriving green ecosystems, simultaneously managing industrial waste and curbing pollution.

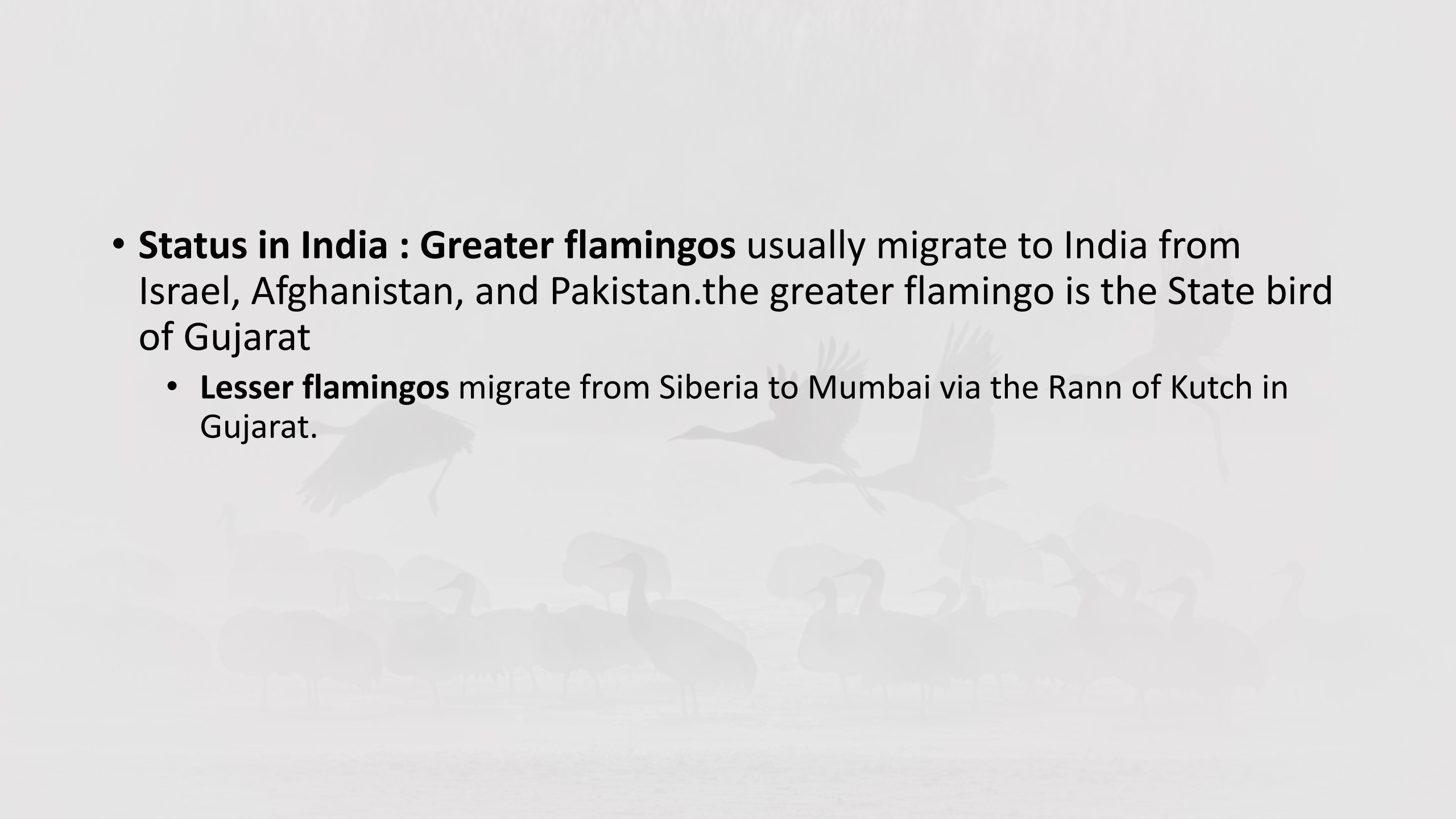


Habitat : Flamingos live in a wide variety of habitats such as lagoons, estuaries, coastal and inland lakes, and mudflats.

Types : The six flamingo species and their IUCN Red List status are

- The greater flamingo, – **Least Concern**
- Chilean flamingo, – **Near Threatened**
- American flamingo – **Least Concern**
- Lesser flamingo – **Near Threatened**
- Andean flamingo – **Vulnerable**
- James's flamingo(puna flamingo) – **Near Threatened**

- **Status in India : Greater flamingos** usually migrate to India from Israel, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.the greater flamingo is the State bird of Gujarat
 - **Lesser flamingos** migrate from Siberia to Mumbai via the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.



Word of the day

Ringer:

a person who rings the church bells (for summoning the congregation); a person who is almost identical to another; a contestant entered in a competition under false pretenses

Synonyms: bell ringer, toller, clone

Usage: *He has established himself as the ringer of the new church.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/ringerpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈrɪŋə(r)/

A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit by large windows, creating a bokeh effect with soft, out-of-focus light spots. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- What is the key significance of the Z-Morh Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir?

जम्मू और कश्मीर में जेड-मोर्ह टनल का मुख्य महत्व क्या है?

- **A. Boosts year-round connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh / कश्मीर और लद्दाख के बीच सालभर की कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा देना**
- B. First underwater tunnel in India / भारत की पहली अंडरवाटर टनल**
- C. Promotes tourism in Leh only / केवल लेह में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना**
- D. Connects India with China / भारत को चीन से जोड़ती है**

- What is the total length of the Z-Morh Tunnel?
जेड-मोर्ह टनल की कुल लंबाई क्या है?
- **A. 11.5 km**
- **B. 13.14 km**
- **C. 15 km**
- **D. 10.75 km**

- What is the strategic importance of the Zojila Tunnel?
ज़ोजिला टनल का रणनीतिक महत्व क्या है?
- **A. Connects Sonamarg with Leh / सोनमर्ग को लेह से जोड़ती है**
- **B. Enhances safety by bypassing avalanche-prone areas / हिमस्खलन-प्रवण क्षेत्रों को पार करते हुए सुरक्षा बढ़ाना**
- **C. Provides shortest route to Srinagar / श्रीनगर के लिए सबसे छोटा मार्ग प्रदान करना**
- **D. Supports military logistics only / केवल सैन्य रसद का समर्थन करना**

- What is the primary focus of the Bhashini Project launched by MeitY?
MeitY द्वारा शुरू किए गए भाषिणी परियोजना का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Promotes internet access in regional languages / क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में इंटरनेट एक्सेस को बढ़ावा देना**
- **B. Provides AI-based healthcare solutions / एआई-आधारित स्वास्थ्य सेवा समाधान प्रदान करना**
- **C. Creates a common digital marketplace / एक सामान्य डिजिटल मार्केटप्लेस बनाना**
- **D. Enables satellite-based communication / उपग्रह-आधारित संचार को सक्षम बनाना**

- In which year was the Bhashini Project launched?
भाषिणी परियोजना किस वर्ष शुरू की गई थी?
- **A. 2020**
- B. 2021**
- C. 2022**
- D. 2023**

- What technique has the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation adopted to create urban forests?
शहरी जंगल बनाने के लिए प्रयागराज नगर निगम ने कौन सी तकनीक अपनाई है?
- **A. Miyawaki Technique / मियावाकी तकनीक**
- **B. Hydroponics / हाइड्रोपोनिक्स**
- **C. Vertical Gardening / वर्टिकल गार्डनिंग**
- **D. Agroforestry / एग्रोफोरेस्ट्री**

- What is the main goal of the Miyawaki Technique?
मियावाकी तकनीक का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Create dense forests in small urban spaces / छोटे शहरी क्षेत्रों में घने जंगल बनाना**
- **B. Increase agricultural yield / कृषि उपज बढ़ाना**
- **C. Reduce carbon emissions from cities / शहरों से कार्बन उत्सर्जन को कम करना**
- **D. Enhance soil quality for farming / खेती के लिए मिट्टी की गुणवत्ता में सुधार करना**

- Which country is the origin of the Miyawaki Technique?
मियावाकी तकनीक का उद्गम किस देश में हुआ?
- **A. China / चीन**
- B. India / भारत**
- C. Japan / जापान**
- D. South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया**

- What new member joined BRICS in January 2025?
जनवरी 2025 में BRICS में नया सदस्य कौन शामिल हुआ?
- A. Indonesia / इंडोनेशिया
- B. Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब
- C. Turkey / तुर्की
- D. UAE / यूएई

- What is the primary focus of BRICS' future agenda?
BRICS के भविष्य के एजेंडे का मुख्य फोकस क्या है?
- **A. Reducing reliance on the US dollar / अमेरिकी डॉलर पर निर्भरता कम करना**
- B. Expanding military alliances / सैन्य गठबंधन का विस्तार करना**
- C. Promoting space exploration projects / अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण परियोजनाओं को बढ़ावा देना**
- D. Developing a common language framework / एक सामान्य भाषा ढांचा विकसित करना**



Fun Fact

No Traffic Lights

- Bhutan has no traffic lights. In Thimphu, the capital city, traffic is managed by **policemen in traditional attire** standing at decorated booths.



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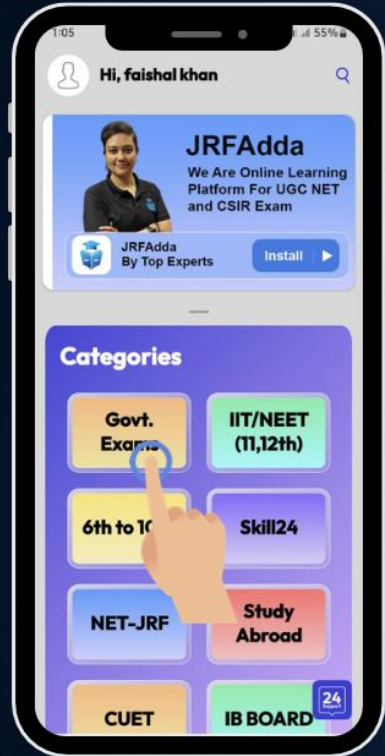
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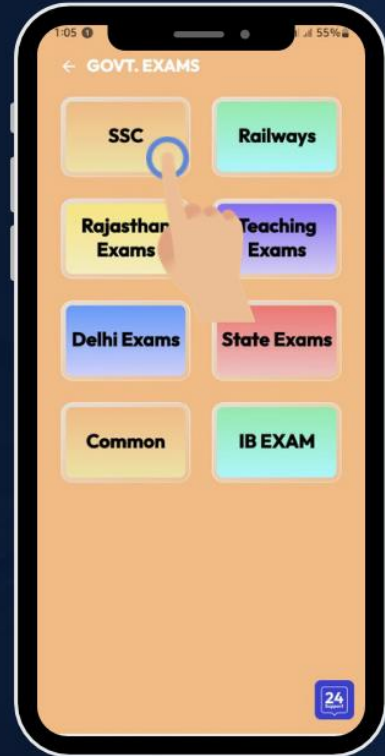
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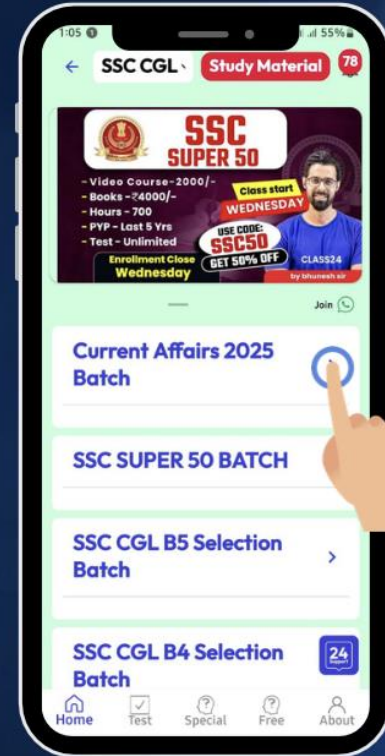
Step 1



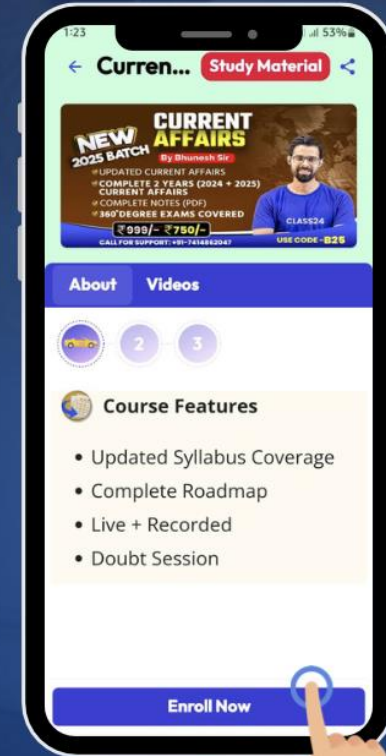
Step 2




Step 3



Step 4



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
