

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



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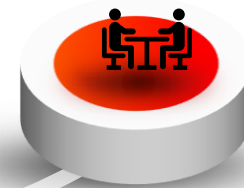
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PIB, PRS & Other newspaper



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The Indian Express



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10 MCQ QUIZ

The mind is
a beautiful servant,
but a dangerous
master.

Osho

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- The Supreme Court recently observed that reservation should not be based solely on which factor?
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हाल ही में कहा कि आरक्षण केवल किस आधार पर नहीं होना चाहिए?
- **A. Economic status / आर्थिक स्थिति**
- B. Religion / धर्म**
- C. Caste / जाति**
- D. Gender / लिंग**

- The Cumbum Tank, recently in the news, is located in which state?
हाल ही में चर्चा में रहा कंबम टैंक किस राज्य में स्थित है?
- **A. Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु**
- B. Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश**
- C. Karnataka / कर्नाटक**
- D. Telangana / तेलंगाना**

- Which ancient dynasty is credited with constructing the Cumbum Tank?
कंबम टैंक के निर्माण का श्रेय किस प्राचीन वंश को जाता है?
- **A. Vijayanagara / विजयनगर**
- B. Chola / चोल**
- C. Satavahana / सातवाहन**
- D. Rashtrakuta / राष्ट्रकूट**

- The Kalika Patrolling Unit, launched in Rajasthan, focuses on which of the following?
राजस्थान में शुरू की गई कालिका पेट्रोलिंग यूनिट का मुख्य ध्यान किस पर है?
- **A. Traffic regulation / यातायात नियमों का पालन**
- **B. Women and child safety / महिलाओं और बच्चों की सुरक्षा**
- **C. Environmental monitoring / पर्यावरण निगरानी**
- **D. Anti-corruption drives / भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी अभियान**

- The Indian Star Tortoise is classified under which IUCN category?
भारतीय तारा कछुआ किस IUCN श्रेणी के तहत वर्गीकृत है?
- **A. Vulnerable / असुरक्षित**
- B. Endangered / संकटग्रस्त**
- C. Critically Endangered / गंभीर संकटग्रस्त**
- D. Near Threatened / निकट संकटग्रस्त**

- Which ministry is responsible for regulating antibiotic use in livestock in India?

भारत में पशुधन में एंटीबायोटिक उपयोग को विनियमित करने के लिए कौन सा मंत्रालय जिम्मेदार है?

- **A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare / स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय**
- B. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying / मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय**
- C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare / कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय**
- D. Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change / पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय**

- Which country is hosting the 20th Manama Dialogue?
20वें मनामा डायलॉग की मेजबानी कौन सा देश कर रहा है?
- **A. Qatar / कतर**
- B. Bahrain / बहरीन**
- C. UAE / संयुक्त अरब अमीरात**
- D. Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब**

- The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established in which year?
नारकोटिक ड्रग्स पर आयोग (CND) की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?
- **A. 1946**
- B. 1950**
- C. 1965**
- D. 1971**

- What is the maximum duration a Schengen Visa allows a traveler to stay within the Schengen Area?
शेंगेन वीजा धारक को शेंगेन क्षेत्र में रहने की अधिकतम अवधि क्या है?
- **A. 30 days**
- **B. 60 days**
- **C. 90 days**
- **D. 120 days**

- The Nallamala Hills, part of the Cumbum Tank's water system, are located in which geographical region?

नल्लमाला पहाड़ियाँ, जो कंबम टैंक के जल प्रणाली का हिस्सा हैं, किस भौगोलिक क्षेत्र में स्थित हैं?

- **A. Western Ghats / पश्चिमी घाट**
- B. Eastern Ghats / पूर्वी घाट**
- C. Satpura Range / सतपड़ा पर्वतमाला**
- D. Aravalli Range / अरावली पर्वतमाला**

INDIA bloc calls for Dhankhar's ouster as Rajya Sabha Chairman

Opposition MPs submit notice alleging 'extreme bias' from the Vice-President, list six-point 'chargesheet' against him; they call out 'unacceptable' remarks made by him 'lowering dignity of the House'; petition unlikely to be taken up this session

A. M. Jigeesh

NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented move, nearly 60 Opposition MPs of the INDIA bloc on Tuesday submitted a notice at the office of the Rajya Sabha Secretary-General, P.C. Mody, seeking the removal of the Chairperson of the Upper House, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. They alleged that Mr. Dhankhar had, since assuming the post in August 2022, conducted the proceedings of the House in an "extremely biased" manner. They also presented a six-point "chargesheet" against him in the notice.

The notice said Mr. Dhankhar made constant interruptions whenever Opposition MPs attempted

to speak. The Chairperson also repeatedly denied legitimate requests made by the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, to "intervene and rebut falsehoods propagated by" Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Leader of the House and BJP president, J.P. Nadda, the MPs noted.

Former Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha and veteran civil servant V.K. Agnihotri told *The Hindu* that he had not in the past witnessed such a request to remove the Chairperson.

He also said that the notice was unlikely to be taken up as a resolution in the House as the Winter Session was to end in less than 14 days (December 20). "It



Troubling stance: MPs have accused Jagdeep Dhankhar of constantly interrupting them whenever they tried to speak. PTI

will not be carried over to the next session. All notices given during a session become invalid once the session is prorogued," he said.

The MPs have used Article 67 of the Constitution to move the notice. A motion for removal of the Vice-President from his office required a 14-day notice of intent on the part of

the members of the Council of States that are in support of the resolution, they noted.

"The present resolution should be regarded as the notice for the purposes of Article 67 of the Constitution," they said.

The Opposition MPs alleged that Mr. Dhankhar had made unacceptable remarks against Mr. Kharge,

"thereby lowering the dignity of the House". The letter also referred to Mr. Dhankhar's statement praising the work of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The Vice-President had recalled his past associations with "so-called cultural organisations" in a manner unbecoming of the high Constitutional position that he occupies, the MPs noted.

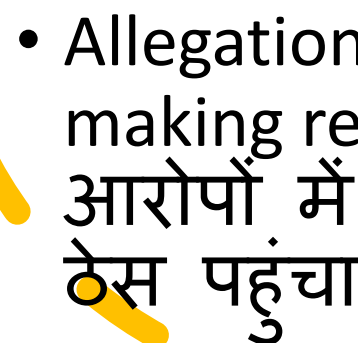
The notice accused him of criticising the statements made by Opposition leaders who were not members of the Rajya Sabha, and said Mr. Dhankhar had taken it upon himself to be an "impassioned spokesperson" of the Union government's policies in public fora across the country.



- **Notice by Opposition MPs / विपक्षी सांसदों का नोटिस**

- Nearly 60 opposition MPs from the **INDIA bloc** submitted a notice for the removal of Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman **Jagdeep Dhankhar**.

INDIA ब्लॉक के लगभग 60 विपक्षी सांसदों ने उपराष्ट्रपति और राज्यसभा के अध्यक्ष **जगदीप धनखड़** को हटाने के लिए नोटिस दिया।

- Allegations include "extreme bias" in conducting proceedings and making remarks that lowered the dignity of the House.
आरोपों में कार्यवाही में "अत्यधिक पक्षपात" और सदन की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाने वाली टिप्पणियां शामिल हैं।
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- **Six-Point Chargesheet / छह-सूत्रीय आरोप पत्र**

- MPs alleged that Mr. Dhankhar interrupted opposition members during speeches and failed to intervene when government leaders made false statements.

सांसदों ने आरोप लगाया कि श्री धनखड़ ने विपक्षी सदस्यों के भाषण के दौरान बाधा डाली और जब सरकारी नेताओं ने झूठे बयान दिए, तब हस्तक्षेप नहीं किया।

- The Vice-President's public praise of organizations like the **RSS** was cited as inappropriate for his Constitutional role.

उपराष्ट्रपति द्वारा **आरएसएस** जैसी संस्थाओं की सार्वजनिक प्रशंसा को उनके संवैधानिक पद के लिए अनुचित बताया गया।

- **Procedural Hurdles / प्रक्रियात्मक अड़चनें**

- The resolution under **Article 67 of the Constitution** requires a 14-day notice, making it unlikely to be taken up during the Winter Session ending December 20.

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 67 के तहत प्रस्ताव के लिए 14 दिन की नोटिस की आवश्यकता होती है, जिससे शीतकालीन सत्र (20 दिसंबर) में इसे उठाना असंभव है।

- Former Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, V.K. Agnihotri, noted such a request is unprecedented in Indian parliamentary history.

राज्यसभा के पूर्व सचिव वी.के. अग्निहोत्री ने कहा कि भारतीय संसदीय इतिहास में ऐसी अनुरोध अभूतपूर्व है।

- The removal process of the **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (Vice President of India) is governed by Article 67 of the Indian Constitution. The steps are as follows:
 - **1. Initiation of the Removal Process**
 - The process for the removal of the Chairman (Vice President) begins with a notice of a resolution.
 - The resolution must be signed by at least **20% of the total members** of the House (Rajya Sabha) where it is initiated.
- राज्यसभा के सभापति (भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति) को हटाने की प्रक्रिया भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 67 द्वारा शासित होती है। चरण इस प्रकार हैं:
 - 1. निष्कासन प्रक्रिया की शुरुआत
 - अध्यक्ष (उपराष्ट्रपति) को हटाने की प्रक्रिया एक प्रस्ताव की सूचना के साथ शुरू होती है।
 - संकल्प को उस सदन (राज्यसभा) के कुल सदस्यों में से कम से कम 20% द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित किया जाना चाहिए जहां इसे शुरू किया गया है।

- **Submission of the Notice**

- The notice is submitted to the **Secretary-General** of the Rajya Sabha.

- **3. Admittance of the Motion**

- The Chairman (Vice President) does not preside over the session when their removal is being discussed.

- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or another member presides over the proceedings.

- नोटिस प्रस्तुत करना

- नोटिस राज्यसभा के महासचिव को सौंपा गया है।

- 3. प्रस्ताव की स्वीकृति

- जब उन्हें हटाने पर चर्चा हो रही हो तो सभापति (उपराष्ट्रपति) सत्र की अध्यक्षता नहीं करते हैं।

- राज्यसभा के उपसभापति या अन्य सदस्य कार्यवाही की अध्यक्षता करते हैं।

- **Discussion and Voting in the Initiating House**

- The motion is taken up for consideration in the Rajya Sabha.
- The resolution must be passed by a **majority of the total membership** of the Rajya Sabha and by a **two-thirds majority of the members present and voting**.
- **5. Transmission to the Lok Sabha**
- If the resolution is passed in the Rajya Sabha, it is then sent to the Lok Sabha for consideration.

- आरंभिक सदन में चर्चा एवं मतदान
- यह प्रस्ताव राज्यसभा में विचार के लिए रखा गया है।
- प्रस्ताव को राज्य सभा की कुल सदस्यता के बहुमत और उपस्थित और मतदान करने वाले सदस्यों के दो-तिहाई बहुमत से पारित किया जाना चाहिए।
- 5. लोकसभा में स्थानांतरण
- यदि प्रस्ताव राज्यसभा में पारित हो जाता है, तो इसे विचार के लिए लोकसभा में भेजा जाता है।

-
- **Approval by the Lok Sabha**
 - The Lok Sabha must also pass the resolution with a **majority of the total membership** and a **two-thirds majority of the members present and voting**.
 - **7. Removal of the Chairman (Vice President)**
 - Once the resolution is passed by both Houses of Parliament with the required majority, the Chairman (Vice President) stands **removed from office**.

 - लोकसभा से मंजूरी
 - लोकसभा को भी कुल सदस्यता के बहुमत और उपस्थित और मतदान करने वाले सदस्यों के दो-तिहाई बहुमत के साथ प्रस्ताव पारित करना होगा।
 - 7. अध्यक्ष (उपराष्ट्रपति) को हटाना
 - एक बार जब प्रस्ताव आवश्यक बहुमत के साथ संसद के दोनों सदनों द्वारा पारित हो जाता है, तो अध्यक्ष (उपराष्ट्रपति) को पद से हटा दिया जाता है।



- **Implications / प्रभाव:**

- The move, even if symbolic, reflects the growing tensions between opposition parties and the ruling government.

यह कदम, भले ही प्रतीकात्मक हो, विपक्षी दलों और सत्तारूढ़ सरकार के बीच बढ़ते तनाव को दर्शाता है।

- 
- Raises questions about the neutrality of Constitutional positions in a polarized political environment.

ध्रुवीकृत राजनीतिक माहौल में संवैधानिक पदों की निष्पक्षता पर सवाल उठाता है।

IN BRIEF



Chief of Air Staff to review passing out parade on Dec. 14

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, will preside as the Reviewing Officer at the Combined Passing-Out Parade of the Air Force in Dandulgaon on the outskirts of Hyderabad on December 14. It will mark the culmination of pre-commissioning training for the flight cadets of Number 234 Course, encompassing various branches of the IAF. The ceremony will feature performances by Su-30 MKI, the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team, and the Sarang helicopter display team.

Survivor in actor rape case seeks President's intervention

The survivor in the 2017 actor rape case in Kerala has reportedly written to the President seeking action against those who illegally accessed the memory card in which the alleged assault was recorded. No information was available on any action taken on the administrative complaint filed before the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and the Kerala High Court in January this year, she reportedly complained.

Telugu associate film director booked for sexual assault

The Hyderabad police have booked Shaik Ghouse Moimuddin, an associate director in the Telugu film industry, for allegedly sexually assaulting a female junior artist on the false promise of marriage. The 27-year-old victim, who was estranged from her husband, was living with Mr. Moimuddin in Jubilee Hills for the past three years. "The accused had sexually assaulted her promising to marry her and later married another woman," a police official said.

Will use WhatsApp to issue caste, income certificates: Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
HYDARABAD

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that WhatsApp could be used for issuing caste and income certificates.

At a review meeting on RTGIS (Real-Time Governance Society) on Tuesday, he said that a new system would be developed where citizens could use WhatsApp to obtain their certificates. "Everything is going digital, and WhatsApp Governance will be the future. The goal is to deliver the best services through WhatsApp Governance"

by collecting and integrating data from each department," he said.

Data integration
Calling for use technologies like AI and deep-tech to quickly resolve public grievances, Mr. Naidu instructed officials at the RTGIS to monitor grievance resolution and public satisfaction levels.

He also asked them to use technology in all departments to provide effective governance. He emphasised collecting real-time data and integrating it with other departments, with overall monitoring by the RTGIS.

Arvind Panagariya says issue of surcharges is complicated

Centre is entitled to collect them under Constitutional provision; however, it is worrisome for many States. Chairman of 16th Finance Commission says after meeting govt. officials in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Arvind Panagariya, Chairman, 16th Finance Commission, on Tuesday termed the grievance of States regarding the Centre's increasing reliance on cesses and surcharges as a "complicated issue."

While it was a worrisome factor for many States, it was also, "in a way," the Centre's response to the reduction of its own fiscal space due to the increase in the share of States in the divisible tax pool over the years, he said, speaking to the media after meeting Kerala officials and other stakeholders at Kovalam.

Cesses and surcharges



Share in the pie: Arvind Panagariya and others arriving for a press conference in Kovalam in Kerala on Tuesday. NIRMAL HANIRAMAN

collected by the Centre need not be shared with the States. Their share in the gross tax revenue has risen over the years, prompting States to demand that the levies should be capped and that anything beyond it should flow into the divisible pool.

Kerala seeks a higher tax share

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has urged the 16th Finance Commission to raise the share of States in the divisible tax pool from the present 41% to 50% and rework the formula used for resource sharing among States.

It has also sought an increased allocation for disaster management. The 16th Finance Commission met at State government offices led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday at Kovalam.

T.N. to hold talks with Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam maintenance

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government would hold talks with Kerala to resolve issues relating to the maintenance of Mullaperiyar dam.

The talks would be held during Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's visit to the neighbouring State, Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan told the Assembly on Tuesday.

Responding to a call attention motion moved by Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Mr. Duraimurugan said the talks would be held with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Stalin is scheduled to take part in the valedictory of the Vaikom Satyagraha centenary celebrations on December 11.

In his speech, Mr. Palaniswami contended that officials from the Tamil Nadu government were being obstructed by the Kerala government from undertaking maintenance work on the dam.

'SC verdict'
Citing Mr. Stalin's scheduled visit to Kerala, Mr. Palaniswami requested him to hold talks with his Kerala counterpart to resolve the issue.

When the CP(M)'s V.P. Nagamma objected to Mr. Palaniswami's contention that Kerala was obstructing maintenance work, Mr. Duraimurugan said the Supreme Court's judgment was in favour of maintenance of the dam.

"What else would you call it if someone is not honouring the Supreme Court's judgment," he asked.

ISRO, Navy carry out recovery trials for Gaganyaan mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with the Navy successfully carried out the well deck trials of the Gaganyaan missions' crew module.

The trials were carried out at Eastern Naval Command on Friday using well deck ship off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

According to the ISRO, the well deck in a ship can be flooded with water so that boats, landing craft,

and recovered spacecraft can be taken inside to dock with the ship.

'Least discomfort'
"Once the crew module touches down in the sea at the end of the mission, the crew have to be recovered in the minimum possible time and with the least discomfort. One of the preferred options is to tow the crew module along with the crew inside the well deck of the ship where the crew can come out comfortably," the agency said on



The ISRO and the Navy carry out the recovery trials of the crew module for the Gaganyaan mission. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Tuesday. It further said that the trials for carrying out well deck recovery were carried out using a mass and shape simulated crew module mock-up. "The sequence of operations for

well deck recovery of crew module was carried out by the Indian Navy and the ISRO during the trials. The sequence includes the attachment of the recovery buoy, towing, entering into the well deck ship, positioning of crew module on the fixture, and draining of the well deck," it said.

It said this trial validated the overall sequence of operations, ground fixtures and will help in fine tuning the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). "This trial is part of the series of recovery

trials being carried out by the Indian Navy and ISRO to finalise the SOPs for recovery operations for nominal as well as off-nominal conditions," the ISRO said.

The Gaganyaan programme envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth by landing them in sea waters.

Winter catch



Fishermen pull the net spread in the sea near Ramakrishna Beach at Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. During winter, net is spread wide at about half a kilometre from the shore. Fishermen believe that fish come close to the shore during the season. K.S. SIVAK

too joined the satyagraha. He was jailed twice for his involvement.

Major renovation
The decision to renovate the memorial site was made by Mr. Stalin when he visited Vaikom in April last year as part of the Vaikom Satyagraha centenary celebrations.

The 70-cent property near Vayalkavala Junction had been officially transferred to Tamil Nadu in the early 1980s. Though a memorial was established in January 1994, it later suffered years of neglect. The Periyar has now undergone an extensive renovation at a cost of ₹8.14 crore. The original museum, which housed paintings and artefacts related

to Periyar, was partially demolished to make way for a two-storey structure. The ground floor now features an upgraded museum, while the upper floor serves as an administrative office.

A grand entrance gate has been constructed near Periyar's statue, with a newly built library adjacent to it. The museum features a wealth of materials, including Periyar's biography, the history of the Dravidian movement, images of his interactions with prominent leaders, and copies of his writings. The Periyar statue, originally installed in 1985 on 84 cents of land provided by the Kerala government, remains a centrepiece of the memorial.

Panchamasalis held during bid to storm Suvarna Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The police had to resort to lathi-charge to disperse members of the Panchamasali Reservation Agitation Committee who tried to storm the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi of Karnataka on Tuesday.

The police stopped several groups, led by community leaders such as Sri Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, Hasannagouda Patil Sarath, Irama Kadadi and Arvind Bellad, that tried to enter the Suvarna Soudha, the winter session of the Legislative Assembly was in progress.

The leaders were taken into custody and the seer was taken away from the site. All the leaders were released later. The protest led to a traffic jam on the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway for over an hour.

The committee members organised a rally in Kondaskoppa village off the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway near the Suvarna Soudha.

The seer announced that the protest will continue till the Karnataka government fulfilled their demand for re-categorisation of the community into Other Backward Classes 2A group from 3B.

Pinarayi, Stalin to come together for launch of Periyar memorial in Vaikom tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BOTTAVAM

Over one-and-a-half years after jointly inaugurating the centenary celebrations of the Vaikom Satyagraha, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin are set to reunite in the backwater town of Vaikom.

According to Cooperation Minister N.N. Vasudev the two will come together at Vaikom on Thursday to inaugurate the renovated memorial of Tamil reformer K.V. Kamaraj Naicker, popularly known as Thanthai Periyar.

While Mr. Stalin will inaugurate the renovated memorial, Mr. Vijayan will preside over a public function in connection with the



Honouring a hero: The renovated memorial of Thanthai Periyar at Vaikom, which will be inaugurated on Thursday. SISEKUR PRASADH

event. K. Veeramani, president, Dravidar Kazhagam, will be the chief guest. An array of Ministers from both States and leaders from Tamil Nadu's Erode and Tirupur districts are likely to participate. Vaikom Satyagraha, recognised as the first organised movement for the rights of the 'untouchable' communities in 1924, was aimed at securing access to public roads leading to the Sri Mahadeva Temple at Vaikom. Periyar, along with his wife Nagamma,

India Skills Report ranks Kerala among top States for employability in India

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala continues to lead as one of the most employable States in India, as indicated by the India Skills Report 2024.

The report, published by talent assessment agency Wheebox in association with various agencies including the All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Association of Indian Universities, reveals that Kerala's workforce maintains a strong employability rate of 71%, placing it on the fifth position after Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka

Kerala joins ranks of T.N., Maharashtra and U.P. as the top States favoured for employment

and Andhra Pradesh. Kerala also joins the ranks of T.N., Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh as the top States favoured for employment in India. The State is especially preferred by female job seekers. The study, which surveyed 6.50 lakh youths through a Global Employability Test, conducted across the country, indicated that the overall em-

ployability in India continued to grow with 54.81% of the assessed youths found to be employable with the required skills.

Kerala's employability figures highlight its significant talent pool, particularly among the youth. In the 22-25 age group, Kerala has an employability rate of 87.47%, making it one of the top contenders in this demographic, while for experienced professionals aged 26-29 Kerala ranked the highest with an employability rate of 68.82%. The State stands out in terms of female employability, ranking third among States with significant opportunities for women.

Arvind Panagariya says issue of surcharges is complicated

Centre is entitled to collect them under Constitutional provision; however, it is worrisome for many States, Chairman of 16th Finance Commission says after meeting govt. officials in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Arvind Panagariya, Chairman, 16th Finance Commission, on Tuesday termed the grievance of States regarding the Centre's increasing reliance on cesses and surcharges as a "complicated issue."

While it was a worrisome factor for many States, it was also, "in a way," the Centre's response to the reduction of its own fiscal space due to the increase in the share of States in the divisible tax pool over the years, he said, speaking to the media after meeting Kerala officials and other stakeholders at Kovalam.

Cesses and surcharges



Share in the pie: Arvind Panagariya and others arriving for a press conference in Kovalam in Kerala on Tuesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

collected by the Centre need not be shared with the States. Their share in the gross tax revenue has risen over the years, prompting States to demand that the levies should be capped and that anything beyond it should flow into the divisible pool.

Dr. Panagariya observed that the share of States in the divisible pool has risen from 32% in the 13th Finance Commission to 42% under the 14th. The Centre, he noted, is entitled to collect cesses and surcharges under a Constitutional provision.

Kerala seeks a higher tax share

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has urged the 16th Finance Commission to raise the share of States in the divisible tax pool from the present 41% to 50% and rework the formula used for resource sharing among States.

It has also sought an increased allocation for disaster management. The 16th Finance Commission met a State government team led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday at Kovalam.


- **Complexity of Surcharges and Cesses / अधिभार और उपकर की जटिलता**
- Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the **16th Finance Commission**, termed the grievances of States regarding the Centre's reliance on surcharges and cesses as a "complicated issue."
16वें वित्त आयोग के अध्यक्ष अरविंद पनगढ़िया ने राज्यों की अधिभार और उपकर पर केंद्र की निर्भरता को "जटिल मुद्दा" बताया।
- The Centre is constitutionally entitled to collect cesses and surcharges, which do not need to be shared with States.
केंद्र संवैधानिक रूप से अधिभार और उपकर वसूलने का हकदार है, जिसे राज्यों के साथ साझा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।



- **Concerns Raised by States / राज्यों की चिंताएं**

- States expressed concerns over their shrinking share in the divisible tax pool, which has risen from 32% under the 13th Finance Commission to 42% under the 14th.

राज्यों ने विभाज्य कर पूल में उनके घटते हिस्से पर चिंता व्यक्त की, जो 13वें वित्त आयोग के तहत 32% से बढ़कर 14वें में 42% हो गया।

- 
- Kerala demanded that cesses and surcharges be capped and anything beyond that should flow into the divisible pool.

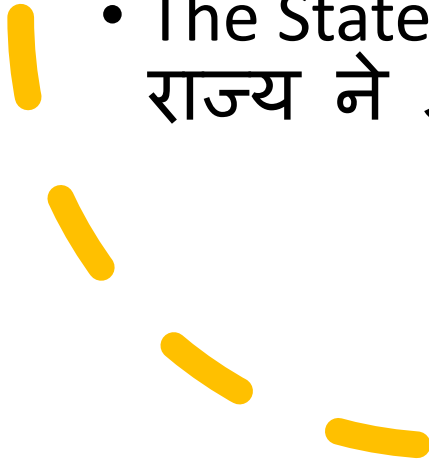
केरल ने मांग की कि अधिभार और उपकर को सीमित किया जाए और अतिरिक्त राशि को विभाज्य कर पूल में डाला जाए।



- **Kerala's Requests / केरल की मांगें**

- Kerala urged the Finance Commission to increase the States' share in the divisible tax pool from the current 41% to **50%**.

केरल ने वित्त आयोग से विभाज्य कर पूल में राज्यों का हिस्सा मौजूदा 41% से बढ़ाकर **50%** करने की अपील की।

- 
- The State also sought higher allocations for disaster management.
राज्य ने आपदा प्रबंधन के लिए अधिक आवंटन की भी माग की।



- **Constitutional Provisions and Fiscal Implications / संवैधानिक प्रावधान और वित्तीय प्रभाव**

- Under the Constitution, cesses and surcharges collected by the Centre do not have to be shared with States, leading to a skewed resource distribution.

संविधान के तहत, केंद्र द्वारा वसूले गए अधिभार और उपकर को राज्यों के साथ साझा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है, जिससे संसाधनों का असंतुलित वितरण होता है।


- The States argue that this practice reduces their fiscal space and autonomy. राज्य तर्क देते हैं कि यह प्रथा उनके वित्तीय क्षेत्र और स्वायत्तता को सीमित करती है।



- **Historical Context / ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ:**

- The practice of collecting cesses and surcharges has increased significantly in recent years, with States demanding greater equity in tax sharing.

हाल के वर्षों में अधिभार और उपकर संग्रहण में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है, जिससे राज्यों ने कर साझाकरण में अधिक समानता की मांग की है।






- **Implications / प्रभाव:**



- The ongoing debate reflects growing fiscal tensions between the Centre and States over resource allocation.

चल रही बहस संसाधन आवंटन को लेकर केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच बढ़ते वित्तीय तनाव को दर्शाती है।

- 
- Any changes in the formula could impact the fiscal autonomy of both the Centre and States.



सत्र में कोई भी बदलाव केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों की वित्तीय स्वायत्तता को प्रभावित कर सकता है।



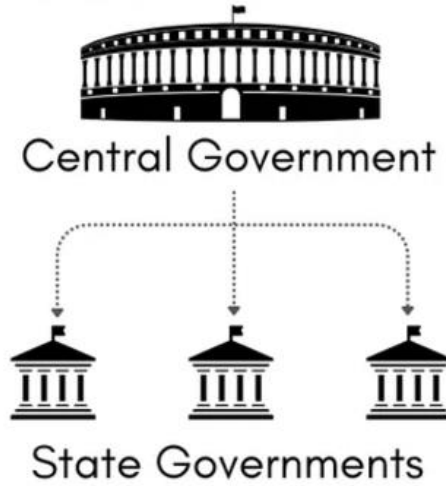
FINANCE COMMISSION OF INDIA

The Government of India has established the 16th Finance Commission (Chairman- Dr. Arvind Panagariya)

Finance Commission is a constitutional body under

ARTICLE 280

that recommends the **distribution of tax revenues** between the Central government and the States.



Central Government Not Bound by



वित्त आयोग
FINANCE COMMISSION INDIA
suggestions made by Finance Commission.

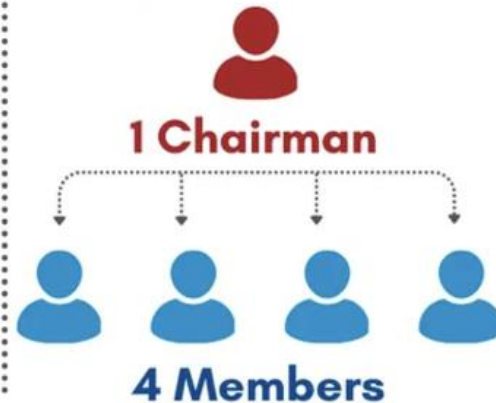


CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMISSION



UNDER ARTICLE 280 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

STRUCTURE

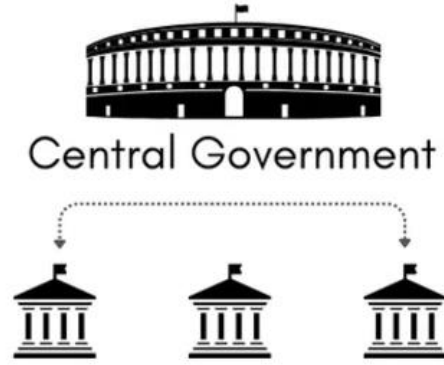


QUALIFICATIONS

FINANCE COMMISSION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1951 specifies the qualifications for the Chairman and other members.

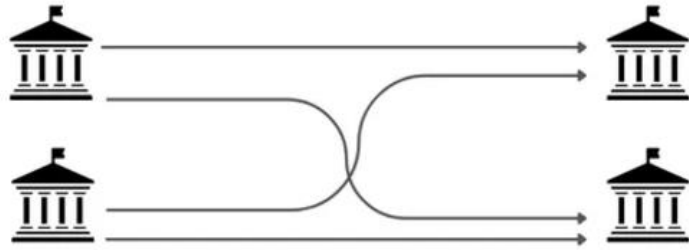
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION

Vertical Devolution



The proportion of the Centre's net tax revenue goes to the **States**.

Horizontal Devolution



How states share is distributed **among various States**. It takes into account a State's population, fertility level, income level, geography, etc.

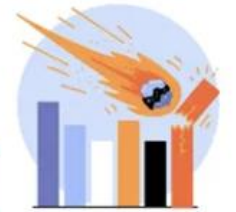
Recommends

Principles for **grants-in-aid** from the **Consolidated Fund** and **Article 275**.



Measures to boost state funds for **panchayats** and **municipalities**.

Reviews and suggests improvements for **disaster financing** under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.



ISSUES



The FC, appointed by the Centre, may be **influenced** by **political factors**.



States claim that Centre often **doesn't share** funds as **recommended** by the Commission.



Cess and **surcharge**, about 23% of gross tax receipts, are not shared with States.



The share of taxes for **southern States** has **decreased** over the last six Finance Commissions.



Industrialized states get less from the Centre than they contribute.



Disagreements persist over tax sharing between the **Centre** and **States**.

Finance Commission	Year of establishment	Chairman	Operational duration
First	1951	K. C. Neogy	1952–57
Second	1956	K. Santhanam	1957–62
Third	1960	A. K. Chanda	1962–66
Fourth	1964	P. V. Rajamannar	1966–69
Fifth	1968	Mahavir Tyagi	1969–74
Sixth	1972	K. Brahmananda Reddy	1974–79
Seventh	1977	J. M. Shelat	1979–84
Eighth	1983	Y. B. Chavan	1984–89
Ninth	1987	N. K. P. Salve	1989–95
Tenth	1992	K. C. Pant	1995–00
Eleventh	1998	A. M. Khusro	2000–05
Twelfth	2002	C. Rangarajan	2005–10
Thirteenth	2007	Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar	2010–15
Fourteenth ^[5]	2013	Dr. Y. V Reddy	2015–20
Fifteenth ^[6]	2017	N. K. Singh	2020-21; 2021-26
Sixteenth	2023	Arvind Panagariya	2026 - 31

Chart 1: The amount in ₹ each State got for every rupee they contributed to Central taxes in 2021-22*

Customs and union excise duties have not been considered in the calculation as State wise data is not maintained

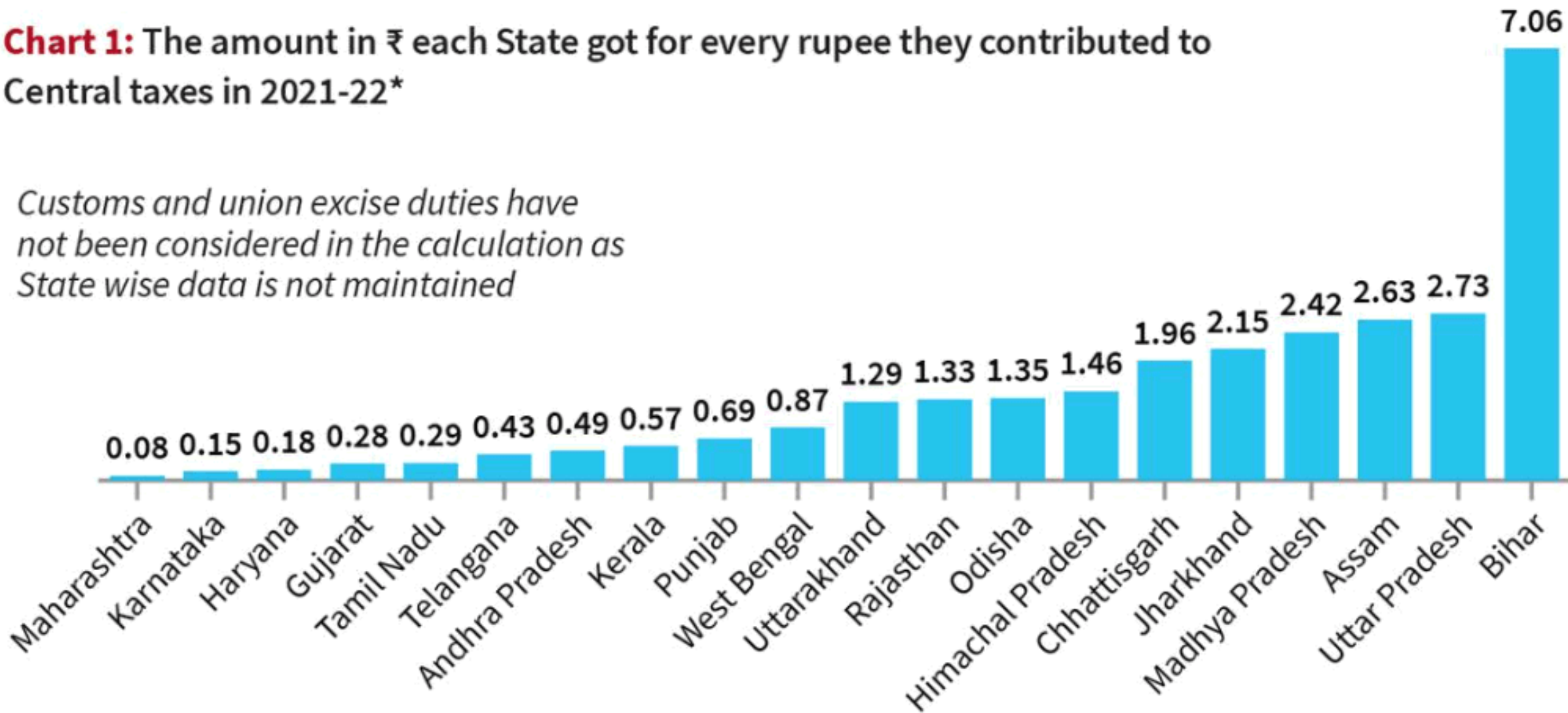
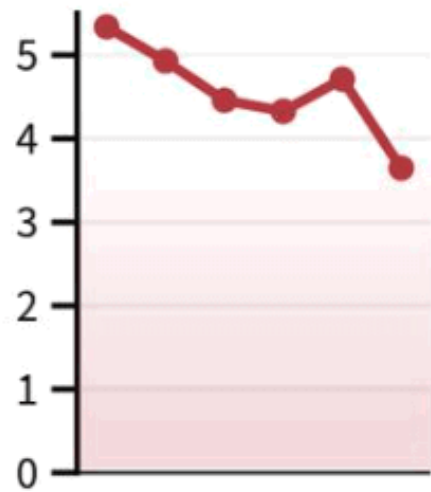
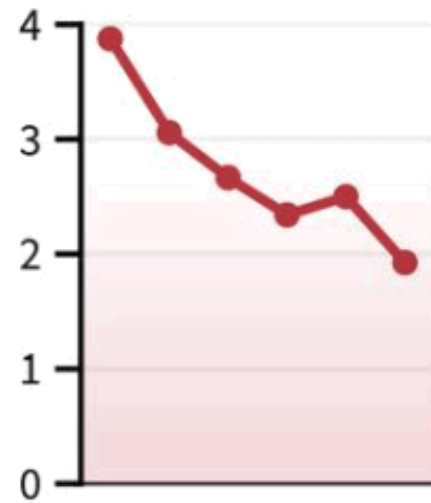


Chart 2: The share of States in the divisible pool of taxes over the last six FCs*

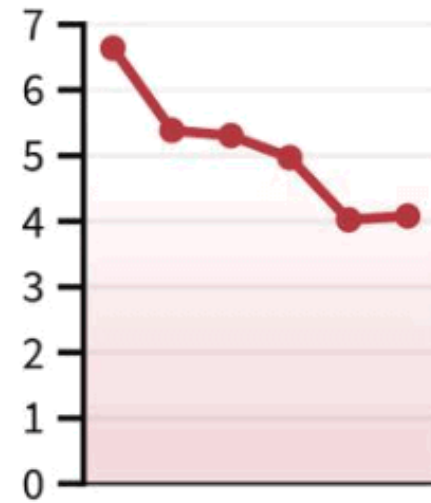
Karnataka



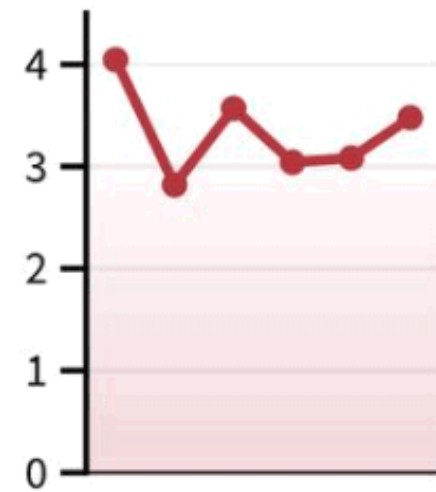
Kerala



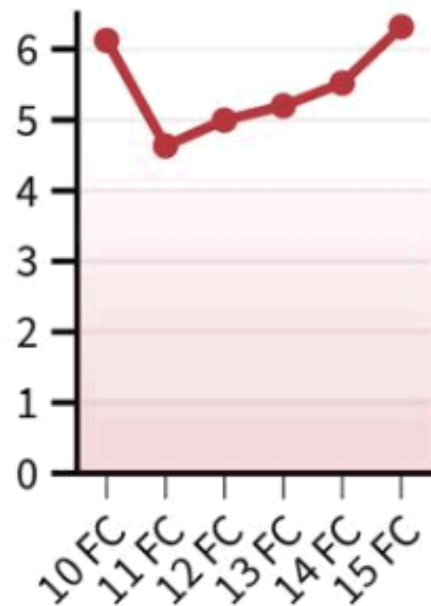
Tamil Nadu



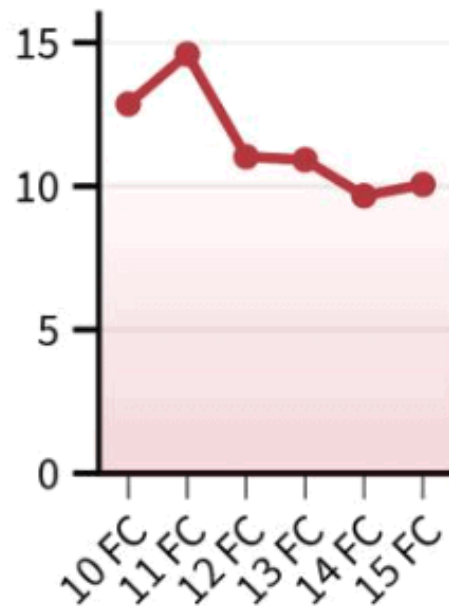
Gujarat



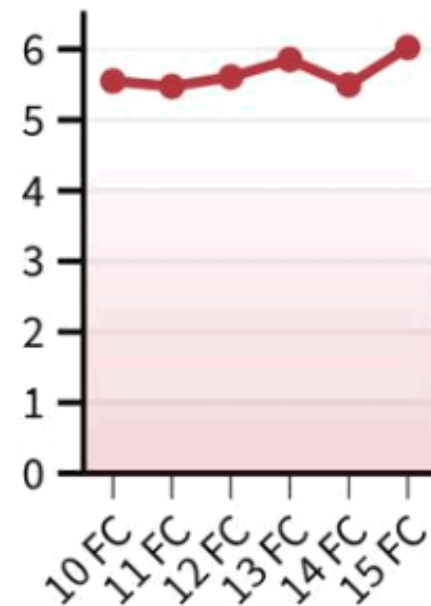
Maharashtra



Bihar



Rajasthan



Uttar Pradesh

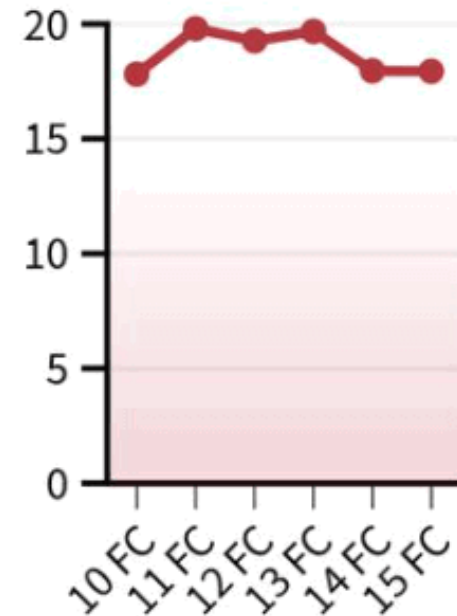


Table 1 : The criteria for horizontal devolution among States over the last five FCs

Criteria	11th FC 2000-05	12th FC 2005-10	13th FC 2010-15	14th FC 2015-20	15th FC 2021-26
Income Distance	62.5	50	47.5	50	45
Population (1971 Census)	10	25	25	17.5	-
Population (2011 Census)	-	-	-	10	15
Area	7.5	10	10	15	15
Forest cover	-	-	-	7.5	-
Forest and ecology	-	-	-	-	10
Infrastructure index	7.5	-	-	-	-
Fiscal discipline	7.5	7.5	17.5	-	-
Demographic performance	-	-	-	-	12.5
Tax effort	5	7.5	-	-	2.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

India Skills Report ranks Kerala among top States for employability in India

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala continues to lead as one of the most employable States in India, as indicated by the India Skills Report 2025.

The report, published by talent assessment agency Wheebox in association with various agencies including the All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Association of Indian Universities, reveals that Kerala's workforce maintains a strong employability rate of 71%, placing it on the fifth position after Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka

Kerala joins ranks of T.N., Maharashtra and U.P. as the top States favoured for employment

and Andhra Pradesh.



Kerala also joins the ranks of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh as the top States favoured for employment across India. The State is especially preferred by female job aspirants.

The study, which surveyed 6.50 lakh youths through a Global Employability Test conducted across the country, indicated that the overall em-

ployability in India continued to grow with 54.81% of the assessed youths found to be employable with the required skills.

Kerala's employability figures highlight its significant talent pool, particularly among the youth. In the 22-25 age group, Kerala has an employability rate of 87.47%, making it one of the top contenders in this demographic, while for experienced professionals aged 26-29 Kerala ranked the highest with an employability rate of 68.82%.

The State stands out in terms of female employability, ranking third among States with significant opportunities for women.

- 
- **Kerala's Leading Position in Employability / रोजगार योग्यता में केरल की अग्रणी स्थिति**
 - Kerala has been ranked as one of the most employable States in India, as per the India Skills Report 2025.
केरल को इंडिया स्किल्स रिपोर्ट 2025 के अनुसार भारत के सबसे रोजगार योग्य राज्यों में से एक के रूप में स्थान दिया गया है।
 - The State maintains a **71% employability rate**, placing it fifth after Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
राज्य का रोजगार योग्यता दर **71%** है, जो इसे महाराष्ट्र, दिल्ली, कर्नाटक और आंध्र प्रदेश के बाद पांचवें स्थान पर रखता है।
- 






- **India Skills Report / इंडिया स्किल्स रिपोर्ट**


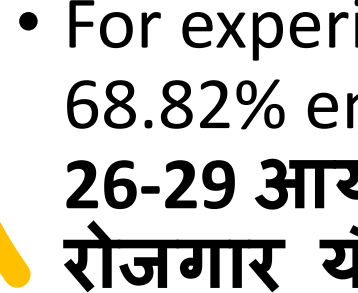
- Published by **Wheebox** in association with AICTE, CII, and other agencies, the report assesses employability through a Global Employability Test conducted across 6.5 lakh youths.

रिपोर्ट को **Wheebox** ने AICTE, CII और अन्य एजेंसियों के साथ साझेदारी में प्रकाशित किया, जिसमें 6.5 लाख युवाओं पर ग्लोबल एम्प्लॉयबिलिटी टेस्ट के माध्यम से रोजगार योग्यता का आकलन किया गया।

- National employability grew to 54.81% of assessed youth having required skills.

राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर 54.81% युवाओं को आवश्यक कौशल के साथ रोजगार योग्य पाया गया।



- 
- **Kerala's Youth Talent Pool / केरल का युवा प्रतिभा पूल**
 - In the **22-25 age group**, Kerala achieved an **87.47% employability rate**, making it a top contender in this demographic.
22-25 आयु वर्ग में, केरल ने 87.47% रोजगार योग्यता दर हासिल की, जिससे यह इस जनसांख्यिकी में शीर्ष प्रतियोगी बन गया।
 - For experienced professionals aged 26-29, Kerala topped with a **68.82% employability rate**.
26-29 आयु वर्ग के अनुभवी पेशेवरों के लिए, केरल ने 68.82% रोजगार योग्यता दर के साथ शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त किया।
- 



- **Female Employability / महिलाओं की रोजगार योग्यता**

- Kerala ranks **third among States** with significant opportunities for women.

महिलाओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण अवसरों के साथ केरल राज्यों में **तीसरे स्थान पर** है।

- 
- The State is especially preferred by female job seekers due to its inclusive workforce policies.

अपनी समावेशी कार्यबल नीतियों के कारण राज्य महिला नौकरी चाहने वालों द्वारा विशेष रूप से पसंद किया जाता है।

1. National Perspective / राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण

1. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi emerged as other top States for employability.
तमिलनाडु, महाराष्ट्र, उत्तर प्रदेश और दिल्ली अन्य शीर्ष रोजगार योग्य राज्यों के रूप में उभरे।
2. The findings underscore the importance of skill development programs across the country.
ये निष्कर्ष देशभर में कौशल विकास कार्यक्रमों के महत्व को उजागर करते हैं।

IN BRIEF



Ecologist Madhav Gadgil gets Champions of the Earth award

The United Nations on Tuesday recognised ecologist Madhav Gadgil with the annual Champions of the Earth award, the UN's highest environmental honour, for his seminal work in the Western Ghats. Mr. Gadgil, the only Indian on the list of this year's award recipients, chaired the government-constituted Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel to study the impact of population pressure, climate change, and development activities on the ecologically fragile region in India. The panel recommended in 2011 that the entire hill range be declared an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) and divided it into three Ecologically Sensitive Zones. ■

CUET revamp: students can appear in any subject

The CUET-UG will return to the computer-based format from 2025, and students will be allowed to appear for any subject irrespective of the subjects studied in Class 12, according to University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Jagdish Kumar. Mr. Kumar said that the exam will be conducted only in a computer-based test (CBT) mode from 2025 as it is much more reliable and secure than other modes. "Candidates will also be allowed to opt for subjects in CUET-UG that they haven't studied in Class 12 to allow the students to cross disciplinary boundaries in higher education," the UGC chief said. ■

Researchers develop AI-based platform to rapidly find age-defying molecules

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Longevity has always been the Holy Grail of medicine, and extending life beyond its conceivable end has driven kings, researchers and pharma companies alike through a roller-coaster ride that invariably stops at ground level; no wonder the search continues. Now, it is an Indian group from the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, that has used a platform based on Artificial Intelligence to discover molecules that promote healthy ageing.

Researchers at IIT-Delhi have developed AgeXtend as a tool to efficiently cut down the time taken to identify viable molecules with geroprotectors, or age-defying properties, through conventional research. The authors who have published the experiment in a recent issue of

AgeXtend also helps in understanding the biological mechanism of compounds, says one of the scientists

Nature Aging, have said that they screened over 1.1 billion compounds, over a period of two years, and the platform had uncovered several promising candidates validated through experiments on yeast, worms (*C. elegans*), and human cell models. A fraction of them, less than 1%, have been identified with anti-ageing properties.

Gautam Ahuja, one of the authors, from the department of Computational Biology, IIT-Delhi, says, "AgeXtend uses AI to predict and identify compounds with anti-ageing properties, assess their safety, and understand their biological effects. It looks

New scheme to triple those with access to top journals

One Nation, One Subscription scheme aims at expanding research literature available to students and faculty, outside privileged Centrally funded institutes, 171 Institutes of National Importance

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Centre's One Nation, One Subscription scheme will more than triple the number of State-affiliated colleges and individuals who can access research papers in the sciences and humanities — from the world's top publishers.

While this will double the Centre's annual spend on subscriptions, it will mean a 62% increase in the number of journals — that make up 95% of published research — available to students.

"In the first phase that will begin on January 1, 2025, such access will be available to all State or government institutions (including State colleges, research bodies), and after a review, we can consider private universities and colleges," Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, said at a press conference here on Tuesday.

The expenditure outlay from 2025 to 2027 for the scheme is ₹6,000 crore. At present, the Centre spends ₹1,000-1,500 crore annually on journal subscrip-



A click away: Under the One Nation, One Subscription scheme, students can read papers even when away from campus, via metro

tions, according to data shared by officials.

Another initiative as part of the scheme would be the creation of an Article Processing Charges (APC) fund of ₹150 crore. These are borne by individual researchers or their institutions to make their peer-reviewed published research papers freely available.

Typically, articles are put behind a paywall and are accessible only to subscribers.

The APC in an apex journal, such as *Nature*, is ₹10,290 (₹1 lakh) — though average APC is

around ₹80,000-₹1,60,000.

"We will set up a project to determine which journals and who can be eligible for this," Mr. Sood said.

The overarching sentiment behind the ONOS was to expand the research literature available to students and faculty, outside privileged Centrally funded institutes and the 171 Institutes of National Importance, said Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology.

"Think of it like getting a cable television package

with access to the full bouquet of channels. This doesn't mean we are discouraging open-access publication or giving a preference to non-Indian publishers. Individual institutions can continue their existing practices," he added.

The nodal agency that will coordinate subscriptions will be the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous inter-university centre of the University Grants Commission. This network covers more than 6,300 institutions, translating into nearly 1.8 crore students, faculty and researchers.

"The student or faculty can register for the service through their institution and read and download papers, even when they are physically present on campus," said P. K. Bader, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education.

The scheme has been in the works since 2019 with India in talks with the European Union to jointly negotiate a deal with major scientific publishers to reduce the cost of access to research literature.

INDIA bloc all set to move SC over alleged EVM manipulation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar late on Tuesday met with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress MP Abhishek Singhvi at Mr. Pawar's Delhi residence, as the INDIA bloc is all set to move Supreme Court over alleged manipulation of EVMs (electronic voting machine) in the recent Assembly election in Maharashtra.

NCP(NP) leader Prashant Jagtap told presspersons after the meeting that INDIA bloc would approach the highest court.

The development came on a day when the Congress urged the Election Commission to make public data related to the Assembly election.

"The Congress has sought Assembly constituency-wise electoral rolls and booth-wise result sheets for both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the State. In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Ranvijay Kumar, the chairperson of the Congress's Data Analytics Department, Pawan Chakravarty, sought all the data to be provided in Excel sheets.

No mismatch found, says EC

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer's office issued a statement on Tuesday clarifying the procedure followed during the counting process. As per the Election Commission's guidelines, it is mandatory to count VVPAT slips from five randomly selected polling stations in each Assembly segment. On November 23, the VVPAT slip count for 1,440 units across 288 Assembly segments in Maharashtra was conducted in the presence of counting observers and candidates.

The development came on a day when the Congress urged the Election Commission to make public data related to the Assembly election.

"The Congress has sought Assembly constituency-wise electoral rolls and booth-wise result sheets for both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the State. In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Ranvijay Kumar, the chairperson of the Congress's Data Analytics Department, Pawan Chakravarty, sought all the data to be provided in Excel sheets.

The letter reiterated that 40 lakh new voters were

enrolled and 75 lakh extra votes polled in the Assembly election compared with the Lok Sabha election held just six months ago. "This increase of 4.3% in voters enrolled and 13% in votes polled is unusually high compared with previous election cycles in Maharashtra or other States under similar election cycles," the party said.

PM POSHAN: Centre to bear additional cost of ₹425.62 cr. due to food inflation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has announced that it will bear the additional cost of ₹425.62 crore on account of inflation in food material cost under the Centrally sponsored PM POSHAN Scheme in the financial year 2024-25.

Under the scheme, one hot cooked meal is served to 11.7 crore students studying in Balvatika and Classes I to 8 in 10.26 lakh government and government-aided schools.

On the basis of the inflation index provided by the Labour Bureau, the Education Ministry has enhanced the material cost of pulses, vegetables and oil by 13.7%.

"The material cost is enhanced from ₹5.45 to ₹6.19 for primary and Balvatika classes and from ₹8.17 to ₹9.29 for upper primary classes with effect from December 1," said a release



On the basis of the inflation index, the material cost of pulses, vegetables and oil have been enhanced by 13.7%. FILE PHOTO

from the Ministry. The material cost could not be revised for the primary student is eligible for 30 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables and seven grams of oil.

The new rates will be applicable across all the districts and Union Territories.

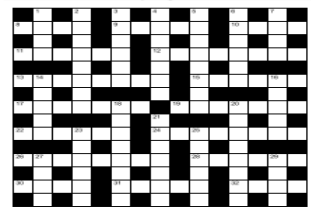
Each Balvatika and primary school student is provided with 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegeta-

mandatory rates; however, States and UTs are free to contribute more than their prescribed share, as some States and UTs have been contributing more than their minimum mandatory share from their own resources for providing meals with augmented nutrition under the PM POSHAN Scheme," the statement said.

The Centre also provides about 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains through the Food Corporation of India for which it bears 100% cost, including subsidy of approximately ₹9,000 crore a year and 100% transportation cost from FCI depots to schools.

"The per meal cost after adding all components including foodgrains cost under the scheme comes to approximately ₹1.54 for the Balvatika and primary classes and ₹16.74 for upper primary classes," the statement said.

CROSSWORD 14353



Across
8 We consumed Indian drink (4)
9 Fully consume American and European Union petroleum at first (2,2)
10 Anglian gal leaves unknown poet (4)
11 A new class animal in capital city (6)
12 Obtained professional treatment on onset of disease (8)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ <https://qrqr.com/page/link/14353>



SUDOKU

1		9	4	7				3
				1	9			
1	2		9	4		6		5
4		6		3	8	1		
	6						2	1
	5	3						
9	7		2				3	
6			9	7				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

8	9	2	4	6	5	3	9	1	7
6	9	2	4	6	5	3	9	1	7
1	2		9	4		6		5	
4		6		3	8	1			
	6						2	1	
	5	3							
9	7		2				3		
6			9	7					

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	4	8	5	3	9	1	2
8	9	2	4	6	5	3	9	1
1	2		9	4		6		5
4		6		3	8	1		
	6						2	1
	5	3						
9	7		2				3	
6			9	7				

FAITH

Adhering to dharma

Upholding dharma (righteousness) is the basis for practicing bhakti (devotion). Bhakti and dharma are co-extensive. Thirukandanthai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that a person cannot excel without following righteous principles. We have to set an example for future generations by practising dharma. Dharma teaches us to be steadfast in treating both pleasure and pain alike. A person can derive peace of mind by treading righteous ways. Chandokya Upanishad says a person gets sitting on a piece of land not knowing that a vast treasure of gold deposits is hidden in it. Likewise, God's ever-happy and peaceful form (*Ananda Swarupa*) resides in our hearts. Still, we do not realise the same and feel loathed over various petty issues, problems and difficulties.

It is said that God will be displeased with those who do not follow dharma. Grandeur Bhisama and Acharya Drona did not curb Duryodhana's devilish act of disrobing Draupadi. As they failed to uphold dharma, they were the ones to be killed before Duryodhana.

The family setup is the most excellent institution for spreading the tenets of righteousness, and it should be fostered. The epic Ramayana contains excellent lessons on the principles of dharma. Swamy Sri Vedanta Desika says allegorically in his work *Sankalpa Suroyodham* that Sri Rama is the Lord, Sita is the soul (*bhavata*), Ravana is the mind, and his ten heads are the faculties. Lanka is surrounded by a sea of births and deaths (*samsara*). Sita is kept captive by Ravana under the influence of the faculties. Hanuman, the Acharya, had retrieved the *bhavata* Sita.



Ecologist Madhav Gadgil gets Champions of the Earth award

The United Nations on Tuesday recognised ecologist Madhav Gadgil with the annual Champions of the Earth award, the UN's highest environmental honour, for his seminal work in the Western Ghats. Mr. Gadgil, the only Indian on the list of this year's award recipients, chaired the government-constituted Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel to study the impact of population pressure, climate change, and development activities on the ecologically fragile region in India. The panel recommended in 2011 that the entire hill range be declared an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) and divided it into three Ecologically Sensitive Zones. PTI



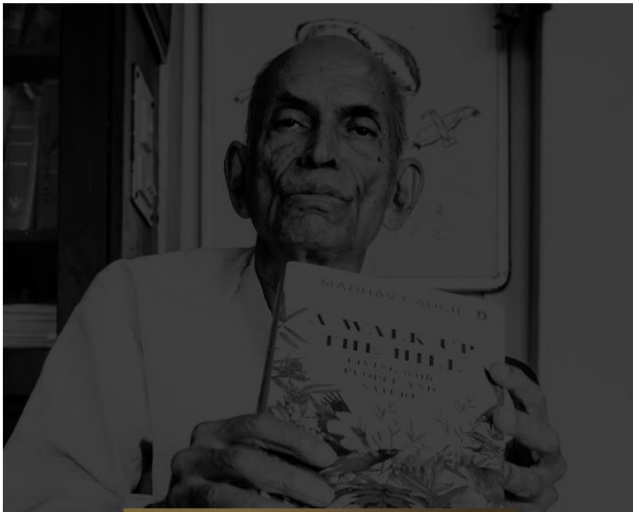
AMY BOWERS CORDALIS
INSPIRATION AND ACTION



GABRIEL PAUN
INSPIRATION AND ACTION



LU QI
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION



MADHAV GADGIL
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



SEKEM
ENTREPRENEURIAL VISION



SONIA GUAJAJARA
POLICY LEADERSHIP

Vinod Khosla



Khosla in 2024

Born	28 January 1955 (age 69) Pune, Maharashtra, India
Education	IIT Delhi (BTech) Carnegie Mellon University (MS) Stanford University (MBA)
Known for	Co-founder of Sun Microsystems Founder of Khosla Ventures
Spouse	Neeru Khosla
Children	4

- Tulsi Tanti





- **1. Narendra Modi (2018)**


- **Category:** Policy Leadership

- **Reason:** Recognized for championing the International Solar Alliance and unprecedented environmental leadership in eliminating single-use plastics by 2022 (a vision set by India).





- **2. Afroz Shah (2016)**

- **Category:** Inspiration and Action



- **Reason:** Honored for spearheading the world's largest beach cleanup at Versova Beach in Mumbai, which inspired a global movement for environmental conservation.






- **Recognition and Award / मान्यता और पुरस्कार**



- Madhav Gadgil has been awarded the **Champions of the Earth**, the United Nations' highest environmental honor.

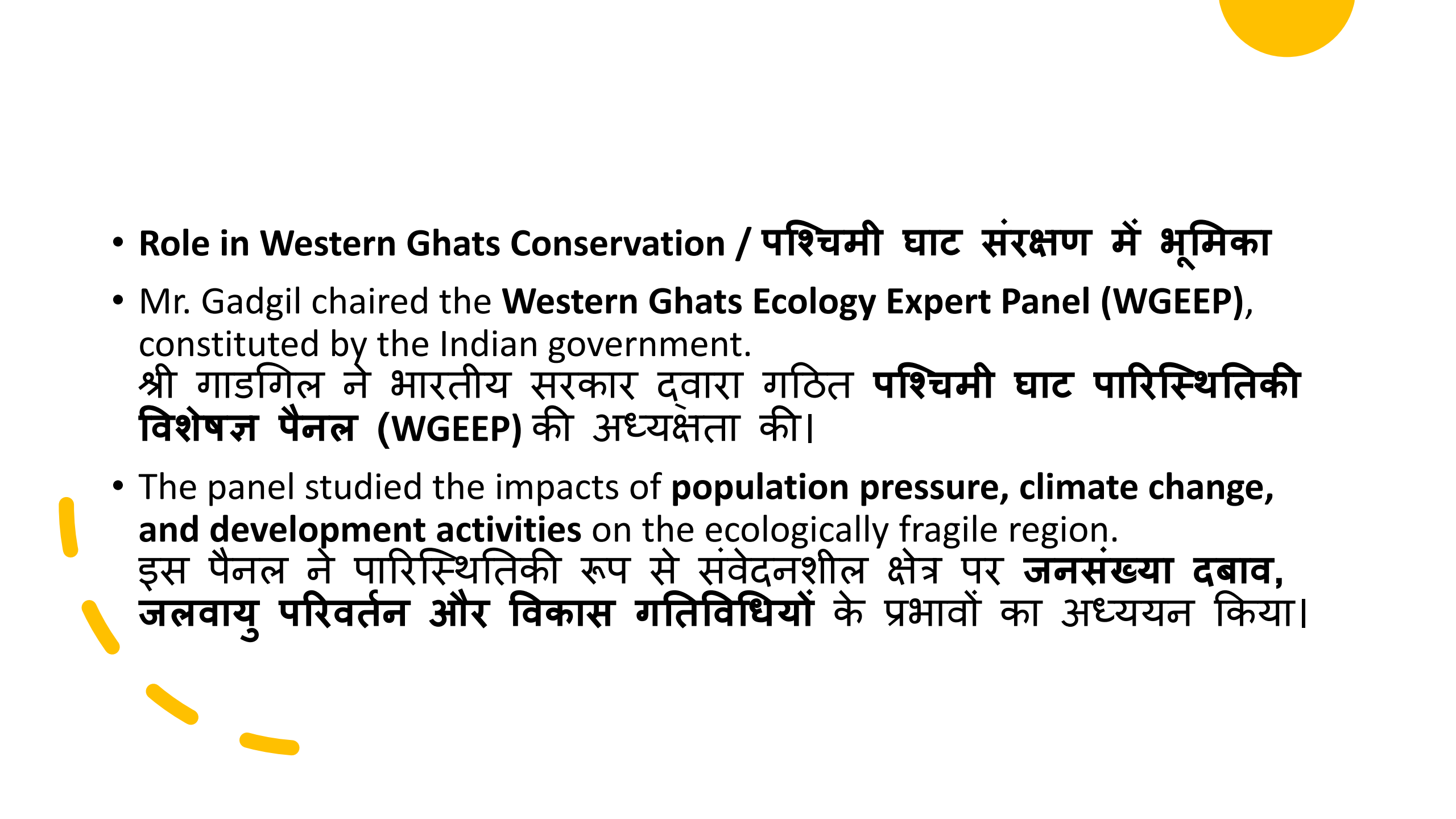
माधव गाडगिल को संयुक्त राष्ट्र का सर्वोच्च पर्यावरण सम्मान चैंपियंस ऑफ द अर्थ प्रदान किया गया है।

- 
- This recognition is for his **seminal contributions to ecological conservation in the Western Ghats.**



यह सम्मान उन्हें पश्चिमी घाट में पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण में उनके महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के लिए दिया गया है।



- 
- **Role in Western Ghats Conservation / पश्चिमी घाट संरक्षण में भूमिका**
 - Mr. Gadgil chaired the **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)**, constituted by the Indian government.
श्री गाडगिल ने भारतीय सरकार द्वारा गठित पश्चिमी घाट पारिस्थितिकी विशेषज्ञ पैनल (WGEEP) की अध्यक्षता की।
 - The panel studied the impacts of **population pressure, climate change, and development activities** on the ecologically fragile region.
इस पैनल ने पारिस्थितिकी रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्र पर **जनसंख्या दबाव, जलवायु परिवर्तन और विकास गतिविधियों** के प्रभावों का अध्ययन किया।




- **Recommendations / सिफारिशें**

- In 2011, the panel recommended declaring the entire hill range as an **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)**.

2011 में, पैनल ने पूरे पहाड़ी क्षेत्र को पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्र (ESA) घोषित करने की सिफारिश की।

- The area was divided into **three Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** to regulate developmental activities.



विकासात्मक गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए इस क्षेत्र को **तीन पारिस्थितिक संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों (ESZs)** में विभाजित किया गया।

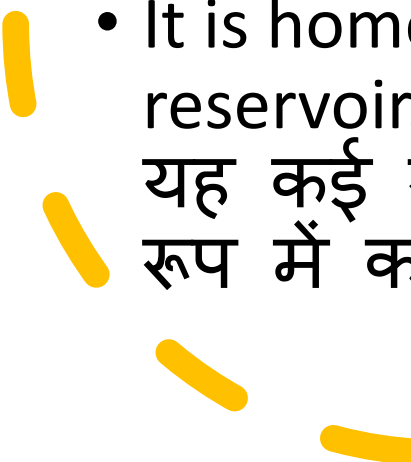


- **Significance of Western Ghats / पश्चिमी घाट का महत्व**

- The Western Ghats is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, known for its biodiversity and critical ecological balance.

पश्चिमी घाट एक **यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल** है, जो अपनी जैव विविधता और महत्वपूर्ण पारिस्थितिक संतुलन के लिए जाना जाता है।

- It is home to several endemic species and acts as a natural water reservoir.




यह कई स्थानिक प्रजातियों का घर है और एक प्राकृतिक जलाशय के रूप में कार्य करता है।



- **About Champions of the Earth Award / चैंपियंस ऑफ द अर्थ पुरस्कार के बारे में**

- The award recognizes outstanding leaders and advocates in the field of environmental protection.

यह पुरस्कार पर्यावरण संरक्षण के क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट नेताओं और समर्थकों को मान्यता देता है।

- Previous Indian recipients include *Narendra Modi* for the International Solar Alliance and sustainable energy initiatives.
पूर्व भारतीय प्राप्तकर्ताओं में *नरेंद्र मोदी* शामिल हैं, जिन्हें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सोलर अलायंस और सतत ऊर्जा पहलों के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।
- 

PM POSHAN: Centre to bear additional cost of ₹425.62 cr. due to food inflation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has announced that it will bear the additional cost of ₹425.62 crore on account of inflation in food material cost under the Centrally sponsored PM POSHAN Scheme in the financial year 2024-25.

Under the scheme, one hot cooked meal is served to 11.7 crore students studying in Balvatika and Classes 1 to 8 in 10.24 lakh government and government-aided schools.

On the basis of the inflation index provided by the Labour Bureau, the Education Ministry has enhanced the material cost of pulses, vegetables and oil by 13.7%.

“The material cost is enhanced from ₹5.45 to ₹6.19 for primary and Balvatika classes and from ₹8.17 to ₹9.29 for upper primary classes with effect from December 1,” said a release



On the basis of the inflation index, the material cost of pulses, vegetables and oil have been enhanced by 13.7%. FILE PHOTO

from the Ministry. The material cost could not be revised during 2023-24; therefore, the inflation value of items under PM POSHAN basket for both 2022-23 (6.45%) and 2023-24 (6.74%) has been considered for enhancement of cost.

Each Balvatika and primary school student is eligible for 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegeta-

bles and five grams of oil. Similarly, each upper primary student is eligible for 30 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables and seven grams of oil.

State contribution

The new rates will be applicable across all the States and Union Territories.

“These rates of material cost are the minimum

mandatory rates; however, States and UTs are free to contribute more than their prescribed share, as some States and UTs have been contributing more than their minimum mandatory share from their own resources for providing meals with augmented nutrition under the PM POSHAN Scheme,” the statement said.

The Centre also provides about 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains through the Food Corporation of India for which it bears 100% cost, including subsidy of approximately ₹9,000 crore a year and 100% transportation cost from FCI depots to schools.

“The per meal cost after adding all components including foodgrains cost under the scheme comes to approximately ₹11.54 for Balvatika and primary classes and ₹16.74 for upper primary classes,” the statement said.

History

- The Midday Meal Scheme has been implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry under the French Administration since 1930.
- In post-independent India, the Midday Meal Scheme was first launched in Tamil Nadu, pioneered by the former Chief minister K. Kamaraj in the early 1960s.
- By 2002, the scheme was implemented in all of the states under the orders of the Supreme Court of India. [



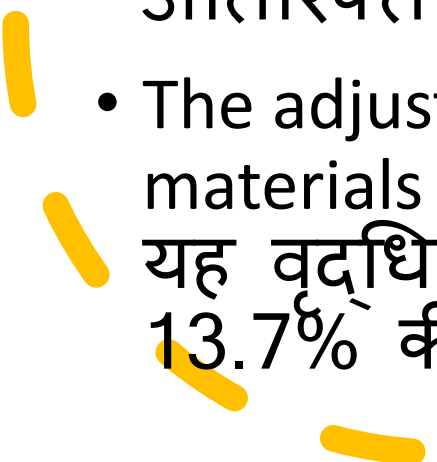
- **Inflation-Driven Cost Adjustment / महंगाई के कारण लागत समायोजन**

- The Central Government will bear an additional cost of ₹425.62 crore for the PM POSHAN Scheme in 2024-25.

केंद्र सरकार पीएम पोषण योजना के लिए 2024-25 में ₹425.62 करोड़ अतिरिक्त खर्च उठाएगी।

- The adjustment is due to a 13.7% increase in the cost of food materials such as pulses, vegetables, and oil.

यह वृद्धि दालों, सब्जियों और तेल जैसे खाद्य सामग्री की लागत में 13.7% की वृद्धि के कारण हुई है।



- **About PM POSHAN Scheme / पीएम पोषण योजना के बारे में**

- Provides **hot cooked meals** to 11.7 crore students in Balvatika and Classes 1 to 8 in government and government-aided schools.


यह योजना सरकारी और सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त स्कूलों में बालवाटिका और कक्षा 1 से 8 के 11.7 करोड़ छात्रों को गर्म पका हुआ भोजन प्रदान करती है।

- Each primary school student is entitled to 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables, and 5 grams of oil per meal.

प्रत्येक प्राथमिक विद्यालय के छात्र को प्रति भोजन 20 ग्राम दाल, 50 ग्राम सब्जियां और 5 ग्राम तेल का हकदार बनाया गया है।

- For upper primary students, the entitlement is 30 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables, and 7 grams of oil.

उच्च प्राथमिक छात्रों के लिए 30 ग्राम दाल, 50 ग्राम सब्जियां और 7 ग्राम तेल निर्धारित किया गया है।




- **Revised Cost Per Meal / प्रति भोजन संशोधित लागत**



- For Balvatika and primary classes, the cost has been increased from ₹5.45 to ₹6.19 per meal.


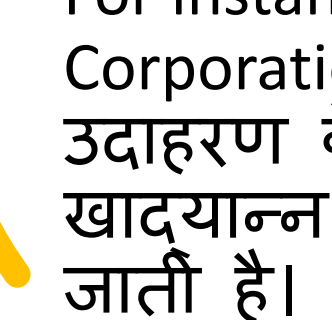
बालवाटिका और प्राथमिक कक्षाओं के लिए लागत ₹5.45 से बढ़ाकर ₹6.19 प्रति भोजन कर दी गई है।

- 
- For upper primary classes, the cost has been increased from ₹8.17 to ₹9.29 per meal.



उच्च प्राथमिक कक्षाओं के लिए लागत ₹8.17 से बढ़ाकर ₹9.29 प्रति भोजन कर दी गई है।



- 
- **State and UT Contributions / राज्य और संघ शासित प्रदेशों का योगदान**
 - States and UTs can contribute more than their mandatory share to enhance nutritional value.
राज्य और संघ शासित प्रदेश पोषण मूल्य बढ़ाने के लिए अपने अनिवार्य हिस्से से अधिक योगदान कर सकते हैं।
 - For instance, 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are provided by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), with the Centre covering 100% of the cost.
उदाहरण के लिए, भारतीय खाद्य निगम (FCI) द्वारा 26 लाख टन खाद्यान्न प्रदान किया जाता है, जिसकी 100% लागत केंद्र द्वारा वहन की जाती है।
- 



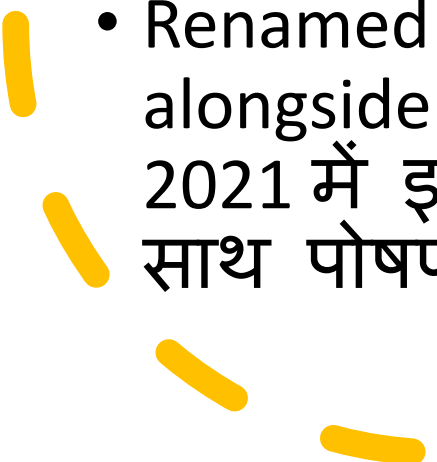
- **Historical Background / ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि**

- Initially introduced as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 1995 to tackle classroom hunger.

इसे 1995 में मिड-डे मील योजना के रूप में शुरू किया गया था, ताकि कक्षा में भूख की समस्या से निपटा जा सके।

- Renamed as PM POSHAN Scheme in 2021 to emphasize nutrition alongside education.

2021 में इसे पीएम पोषण योजना का नाम दिया गया, ताकि शिक्षा के साथ पोषण पर भी जोर दिया जा सके।






- **Geographical Spread / भौगोलिक विस्तार**

- Implemented across all States and Union Territories, benefiting students in rural and urban areas alike.

यह सभी राज्यों और संघ शासित प्रदेशों में लागू की जाती है, जिससे ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों के छात्रों को समान लाभ मिलता है।



1. Significance / महत्व

1. Helps in improving **student attendance, retention rates, and nutritional standards.**

यह छात्रों की उपस्थिति, ठहराव दर, और पोषण मानकों में सुधार करने में मदद करती है।

2. Acts as a safety net for food security among economically disadvantaged students.

यह आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर छात्रों के लिए खाद्य सुरक्षा के रूप में कार्य करती है।



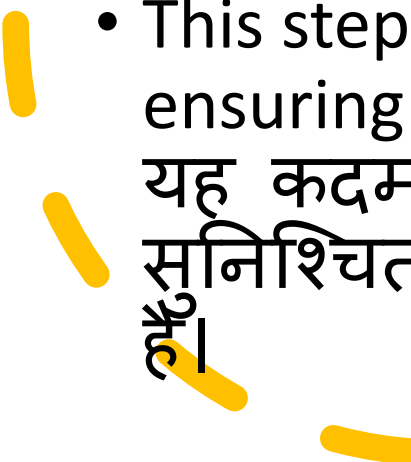
- **Global Context / वैश्विक संदर्भ:**

- Similar initiatives like the **School Lunch Program in the USA** aim to combat child hunger and improve learning outcomes.

अमेरिका में **स्कूल लंच प्रोग्राम** जैसी पहलें बाल भूख से निपटने और सीखने के परिणामों में सुधार करने का लक्ष्य रखती हैं।

- This step by the Indian Government reinforces its commitment to ensuring both **education and nutrition** for school-going children.

यह कदम स्कूल जाने वाले बच्चों के लिए **शिक्षा और पोषण** सनिश्चित करने की भारत सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को मजबूत करता है।



HIGH PRAISE

Gilchrist says Australia was 'stung' by criticism following their loss in Perth, but have returned to their best, driven by captain Pat Cummins' controlled aggression. "You could see just through his Cummins' celebrations that... every wicket that he took he was more aggressive in his celebration," Gilchrist said.



Adam Gilchrist believes Australia was "stung" by the criticism following their loss in Perth, but have returned to their best, driven by captain Pat Cummins' controlled aggression. "You could see just through his Cummins' celebrations that... every wicket that he took he was more aggressive in his celebration," Gilchrist said.

JAM-PACKED

Day one of the Boxing Day Test between India-Australia sold out



Tickets for the opening day of the fourth Test between India and Australia at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground have been sold out, underlining the strong interest in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The strong demand for tickets comes a couple of days after host Australia made a stunning comeback to level the series 1-1.

GREATER GLORY

Sabalenka wins WTA Player of the Year prize; Navarro bags an award



Aryna Sabalenka received the WTA Player of the Year award for the first time on Monday after winning two Grand Slam titles and finishing 2024 at No. 1 in the rankings. In other results of voting by tennis media, Emma Navarro was honoured as Most Improved Player and Paula Badosa was named Comeback Player.

ON THE PROWL

Pink Panthers cruise past Giants; Warriorz post comfortable win



Jaipur Pink Panthers posted a 42-29 win over Gujarat Giants in Pune on Tuesday as the race for the playoffs in the PKL heated up with skipper Arjun Deshadwaj doing the bulk of the scoring. Raid machine Deshadwaj scored 13 points. Bengal Warriorz defeated Bengaluru Bulls 44-29 in the other match of the day.

Little to choose between Ding, Gukesh as title race goes down to the wire

The last two games, to be played over the next two days, are expected to be keenly fought; the defending champion may not mind if the contest heads into the tie-breaker



Action zones: Spectators have turned up in large numbers to watch the World championship match. PK, AJITH KUMAR

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

How quickly fortunes change! Ding Liren was pushed to the brink on Sunday. He lost to D. Gukesh in Game 11. And there was very little time for him to make a comeback if he wanted to retain the crown he won in the Kazakhstan capital of Astana last year. He understandably looked disappointed at the press conference. But, for a fleeting moment, that disarming smile returned to his face. He spoke of how he fought back from a similar situation last year, to beat Ian Nepomniachtch in Game 12. He fought back against Gukesh, too.

Not only did Ding win Game 12, he won authoritatively, besting a World



champion. He didn't give the young challenger much of a chance, coming up with one superb move after another.

Battling back But it is not just Ding who has shown pluck and come back from behind in this World championship. Gukesh had gone down in the opening game itself, but after drawing the second, he defeated the defending champion in the third game.

He did it in the most convincing of styles, mak-

ing a series of best moves. He was playing to his strengths — impeccable calculation. If we get Gukesh to play like that again, and Ding to play like he did in Game 12, we should be in for a treat for the last two games. The players return to their arena behind the glass wall at Equarius Hotel, World Resorts Sentosa, on Wednesday, after the last rest day of the match.

This championship has gone the distance — there will be no winner until the last move is made in the

last classical game on Thursday. And if the scores are still level — one needs 7.5 points to claim the crown — tie-breakers will be played on Friday.

And it was in the tie-break that Ding won his maiden World championship last year. Until he won the fourth tie-breaker, he had been behind Nepomniachtch three times in the classical games, and three times he had equalised. This dragon is surely a fighter.

Ding may not mind the match going into the tie-break. He has faced much better than Gukesh in the shorter formats, rapid as well as blitz, and he could also rely on his experience.

Gukesh, on the other hand, has been clearly the better player in classical format for quite some while, and he should be keen on settling the issue before the tie-breaks.

So whom will fortune favour?

Gukesh feeling the effects of a high-pressure environment



P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

At the Chennai Chess Olympiad, Singapore's first ever Grandmaster Kevin Goh Wei Ming watched, like everybody else, in awe D. Gukesh posting one victory after another on the top board for the India-2 team. The teenager went on to post an incredible eight wins in a row and led India to the bronze medal.

That wasn't the first time Goh was coming across Gukesh, though. It happened some four years earlier, at the Bangkok Chess Open tournament. The Chennai lad didn't even have a GM norm, then you need a cert-

tain number of points for a norm from a tournament featuring Grandmasters). Goh flashes that smile of his — which reaches all the way to his eyes — as he tells *The Hindu* about his own contribution towards Gukesh's stunning journey as the youngest challenger for the World championship in history. He lost to the boy, in the penultimate game.

That's when Gukesh clinch his maiden GM norm. Goh then was seeking his final norm, which he would get another couple of months later.

"I remember that game vividly and the opening was London System," he says. "I had white, but he easily equalised in the



move. He had clearly come to do battle. Ding responded sensibly, though his time management (an hour to make his fourth and fifth moves, five to make his sixth and seventh moves) was clearly not ideal at the end of the game) has been simply a handicap.

After an inaccuracy on the ninth move, Gukesh was in some trouble. He admitted at the press conference that he was angry at himself for ending up in trouble. He spent an astonishing hour on his 11th move, clearly not wanting to feel too comfortable in the unusual position.

Ding now had a good opportunity but it required precision. He missed his chance on the 15th move and let Gukesh back into the game. After two fine moves on 16 and 17, Gukesh was out of danger and even slightly better.

Ding could have defended, but he no longer seemed the player who de-

fended so well earlier in the match. He missed his best chance on the 25th move (Nc7) and his position deteriorated. Gukesh only had to make the most natural moves and a final blunder on the 28th move ended the game early. So finally there was a breakthrough for Gukesh. His courage in provoking Ding paid off.

With only three games remaining, Ding had to go all out in Game 12. He has done it before, but this time

he had to change his approach suddenly. And Ding struck back.

He managed to get Gukesh into unfamiliar territory, a tactic both players are having success with in this match. Gukesh started drifting. Especially Ding's 12th and 13th moves seemed harmless but were making it hard for Black to ease his position with exchanges.

As often happens in positions where one side has too many choices on every move, but no clear plan, Gukesh erred with 16...Nd7 and after 17.Qd2, Ding was clearly better.

He played the rest flawlessly, with relentless accuracy. A very impressive performance by Ding, showing once again that he is most dangerous when pushed to the wall. In the last two games, the loser has collapsed under pressure and it is clear the accumulated fatigue of the match is beginning to show.

"Being a neutral venue helped," says Goh. "I had thought about it back in April when Gukesh won the Candidates tournament. I thought Singapore could be an ideal venue with its multicultural society and we have a large number of people of Chinese and Indian origins."

Goh, Gukesh and the GM norm

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

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"I remember that game vividly and the opening was London System," he says. "I had white, but he easily equalised in the



opening. I reached some unpleasant isolated Queen's pawn position and he just grinded, you know, the whole endgame."

Indian players get into training mode after the reverse in pink ball Test

INDIA IN AUS

R.C. Vijaya Kumar

ADDELAIDE In these days of two-Test series and instant noodles, a long drawn contest spread over several weeks can be draining. India last played five Tests in Australia during the summer of 1991-92.

It was a series that reiterated the rise of Sachin Tendulkar; the twilight of Dilip Vengsarkar; the renaissance of Ravji Shastri; the promise of Javagal Srinath; the second wind of Kapil Dev; the magic of Moham-mad Azharuddin; at Adelaide, which inspired a headline writer to dish out 'Ah-Czar'; the forgettable debut of Shane Warne, and

yet it was Australia that prevailed 4-0. Tendulkar's stunning 114 at Perth's WACA is still considered one of his finest tons; and that too when lack of his age would be worrying about acne and curious about after-shave lotions. Still, this series was a constant tango with defeat, the kind that tries the spirit, even if the philosophical ruminations about it just being a sport offer a crutch.

Cut to the present, it is not so traumatic for India as after two Tests, the 1-1 stalemate in the current Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, hints at a duel between equal rivals. Over the last decade, India has performed reasonably well past the seas, made evident by the triumphs



Dejected: Left: The Indians, who lost in Adelaide, will look to turn things around at the Gabba. REUTERS

Down Under in the 2018-19 and 2020-21 sojourns, while South Africa remains a daunting landscape to

conquer. India's latest defeat here at the Adelaide Oval, early on Sunday afternoon, can

either be a spur that goads Rohit Sharma's men to launch a counter attack right from the third Test at

Brisbane, or it could embed the Aussies to wing back into contention. Having rested on Monday, the

Indians were back to training on Tuesday morning, a day which would have been the climax of the second Test but for the inept batting dished out by the visitors.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, K.L. Rahul, Shubman Gill, Kohli, Virat Kohli and Washington Sundar had long sprints with the bat against a medley of throwdowns, pace and spin. Even as spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj focused on their eyes on Australia, the other bowlers were busy at their hotel rooms. The red ball was back in vogue while the recent failed tryst with pink was cast aside.

"There are no scars as such," Rohit had recently said and he gets Brisbane to prove that later this

week. The nets were all about settling down, strengthening defensive shots and launching the odd attack, the last being a trait that Jaiswal indulged in even though he was left stranded once while giving the charge to R. Ashwin, and the off-spinner laughed.

Kohli, all sweat and rippling muscles, had a long chat with coach Gautam Gambhir while chief selector Ajit Agarkar and bowling coach Morne Morkel exchanged notes. Soon it was time to walk back to work. Importantly, the red wind. Workload management is critical in an extended tour and surely India has come a long way since that 1991-92 visit. The next few weeks should offer a hint.

GREATER GLORY

Sabalenka wins WTA Player of the Year prize; Navarro bags an award



REUTERS

▲ Aryna Sabalenka received the WTA Player of the Year award for the first time on Monday after winning two Grand Slam titles and finishing 2024 at No. 1 in the rankings. In other results of voting by tennis media, Emma Navarro was honoured as Most Improved Player and Paula Badosa was named Comeback Player.



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आज के बिजनेस में एक ही बात है—पैसे का खेल।

Maharashtra: No mismatch in VVPAT & EVM data, says EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 10

WITH THE Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alleging discrepancies in the recent Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Election Commission on Tuesday said no mismatch was found between the votes polled on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the corresponding tally of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in random counting.

The State Election Commission said that as per the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DHANKHAR BIASED AS CHAIRMAN, SAYS OPP, IT'S FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

Calling him Govt voice, Opp for no-trust against V-P; Chair is disrespected: BJP

Move is symbolic as Opp doesn't have numbers; YSRCP, BJD, BRS keep distance

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

ACCUSING RAJYA Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar of being "explicitly partisan" in conducting the proceedings of the House and acting as an "impassioned spokesperson" of the government's policies at public

fora, the Opposition INDIA bloc on Tuesday submitted a notice for bringing a resolution for removal of the Vice-President from office, making it the first such action in India's parliamentary history.

The Opposition move is seen as a symbolic exercise to make a political point since they don't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar in RS Tuesday.

IN PARLIAMENT
PAGE 7

Opp optics, key question: Will motion be accepted?

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

THE NOTICE given by Opposition INDIA bloc MPs Tuesday to move a no-confidence motion against Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar

seems more to make a symbolic statement than set in motion any parliamentary process.

Unlikely to yield any result given that the Opposition does not have the numbers, if the motion is taken up in the House, and the Opposition's grievances are debated, it will be hard for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PROPOSED DEFENCE ENCLAVE

Two new buildings in Central Vista won't have Patel's design stamp

Tenders invited for Central Sectt 6, 7; Govt prefers contractor to build, do design detail



The two buildings are to be built at the site of the old Vice-President's residence.

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

IN A first for the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, the Union Government has opened bidding for two Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings that will not be designed by

Bimal Patel's firm, Ahmedabad-based HCP Design — the architect behind the project's master plan and several key buildings, including the new Parliament.

On November 28, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) invited tenders for these two CCS buildings (6 and 7) to be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Uproar over Judge speech targeting minorities, SC seeks details from HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

TAKING NOTE of reports on a speech by Allahabad HC judge Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



FORMER KARNATAKA CM, UNION MINISTER S M KRISHNA DIES

PAGE 9


IIT researchers take rare look inside foetal brain — one slice at a time

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

ON DECEMBER 10, researchers at IIT Madras unveiled a cutting-edge tool — a detailed 3D map of five developing foetal brains

from the second trimester of pregnancy. This map — the most detailed high-resolution 3D representation of the foetal brain so far — provides cellular-level information between weeks 14 and 24, when the human brain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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'Misleading': 11 yrs after complaint against its 'Fair And Handsome' cream, Emami told to pay Rs 15 lakh fine

NIRBHAY THAKUR

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

NIKHIL JAIN claims he was influenced by Shah Rukh Khan's advertisements when he started using Emami's Fair and Handsome cream. "I was sold by the promise that looking fair would mean looking handsome," he said. However, with no results as promised by the company, he took matters to the consumer commission.

After 11 years, a consumer commission in Delhi Monday directed Emami Limited to pay Rs 15 lakh in damages for its misleading claims about the cream. "... crystal clear that the OP (Emami) is offering the product — Fair and Handsome cream — with few, negligible and limited instructions on the packaging and labeling that its regular use for three weeks will result in fairness in the skin of



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

man, despite knowing that instructions mentioned are incomplete instructions and for want of following the other requirements, it will not give the result claimed," the order stated.

Taking into account the company's market size, the commission said damages should be to the extent that they "pinch" Emami.

The consumer commission

ordered Emami to pay Rs 14.5 lakh to the Delhi State Consumer Welfare Fund and Rs 50,000 as compensation to Jain who had filed the case in 2013. It also ordered the firm to pay Rs 10,000 to the complainant as litigation costs.

In 2015, too, the same consumer commission ruled in favour of Jain and Emami was directed to pay a fine of Rs 15 lakh.

The order was, however, set aside after an appeal. The ruling issued Monday followed the case being sent back to the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (central district) for a fresh hearing.

In his complaint, Jain said despite rigorously following all instructions mentioned on the packaging, he did not see any encouraging results, even as the company promised that "fairness can be achieved in three weeks".

Emami, on its part, argued before the Commission that its product was backed by scientific research and manufactured under strict quality controls. It also said getting the desired results from the use of the cream depended on other factors such as a proper nutritious diet, exercise, healthy habits, hygienic living conditions, and so on.

However, Emami's arguments

were rejected, noting that the packaging and advertisements of Fair and Handsome were misleading since other conditions required to achieve the promised results were not mentioned on the packaging or advertisements.

Paras Jain, Nikhil's counsel and brother, said, "Not getting the desired results caused him immense mental trauma."

"I think there is a lot of external pressure to look a certain way. Advertisements like this always create a mental pressure on society to look fair," Jain said.

Paras recalled how, in 2017, he had moved an application before a district consumer forum for cross examining Shah Rukh Khan (brand ambassador of the product). "Unfortunately, our application was dismissed by the District Forum, State Commission and National Commission...but we didn't give up," he added.

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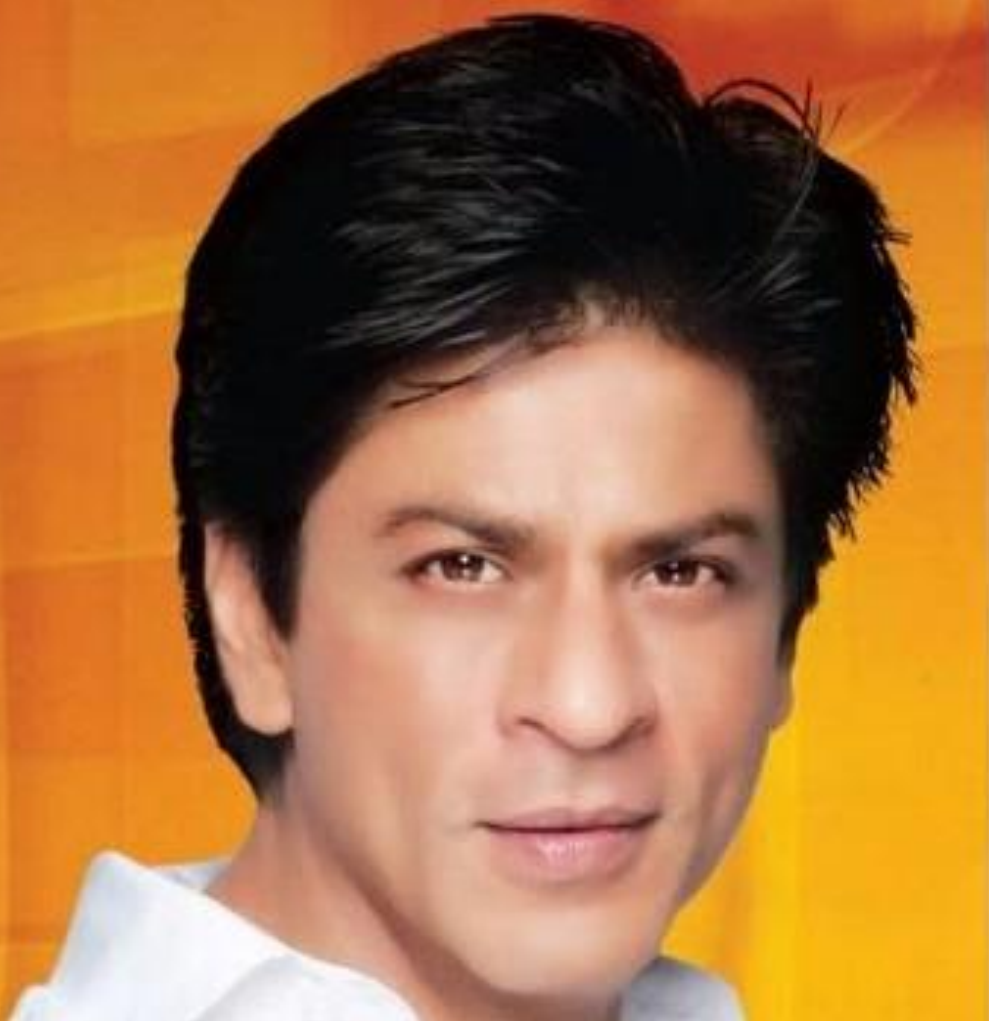
After

NEW *Fair &
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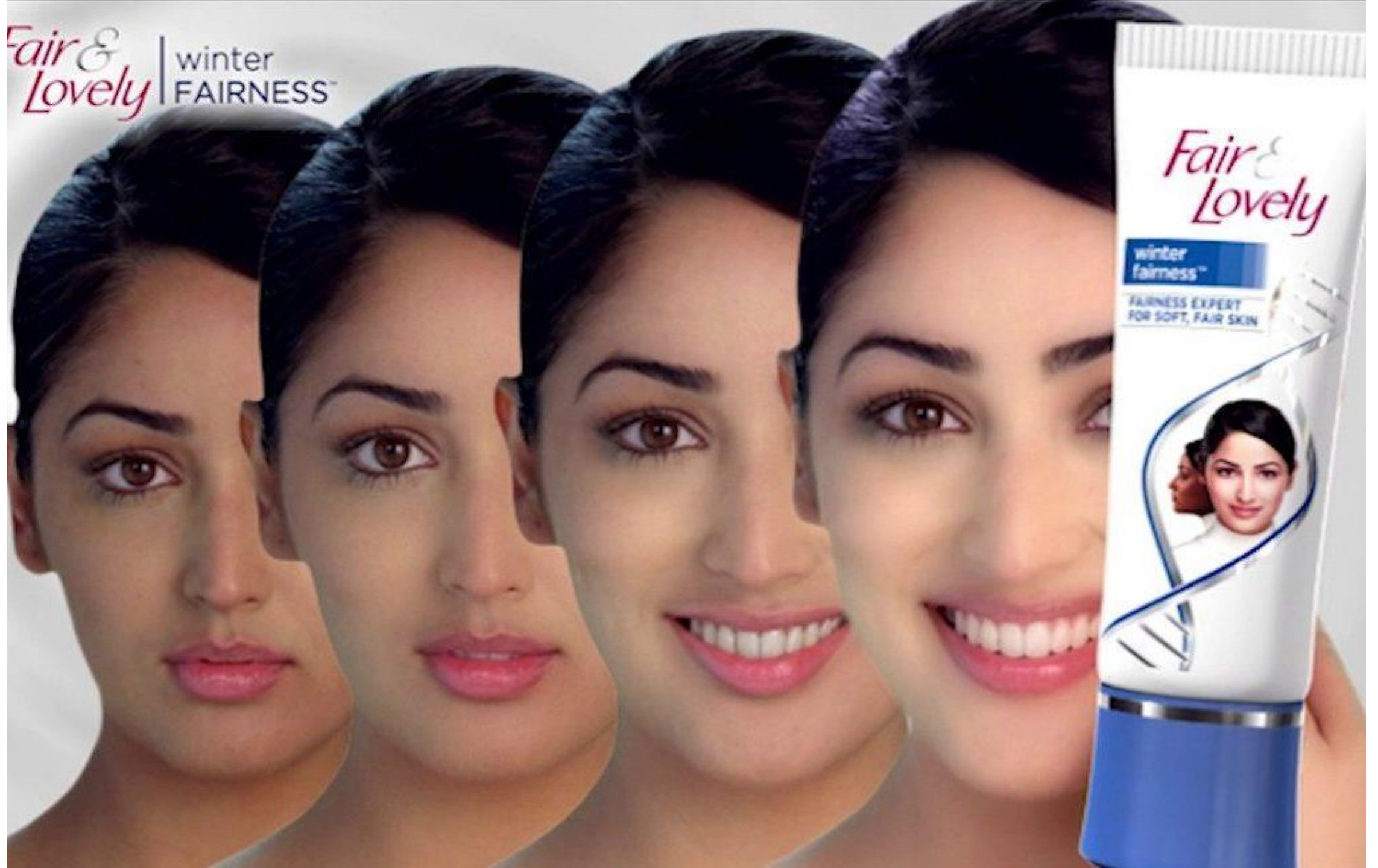
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Fair & Lovely | winter
FAIRNESS™



- **Background of the Case / मामले की पृष्ठभूमि**
- **Complainant Nikhil Jain** alleged he was misled by advertisements featuring Shah Rukh Khan endorsing "Fair and Handsome" cream. शिकायतकर्ता निखिल जैन ने आरोप लगाया कि वह "फेयर एंड हैंडसम" क्रीम का विज्ञापन देखकर गुमराह हुए, जिसमें शाहरुख खान ब्रांड एंबेसडर थे।
- Jain claimed the product failed to deliver the promised results of "fairness and handsomeness" even after regular use. जैन ने दावा किया कि नियमित उपयोग के बावजूद उत्पाद "गोरेपन और आकर्षक दिखने" के वादे को पूरा करने में असेफल रहा।



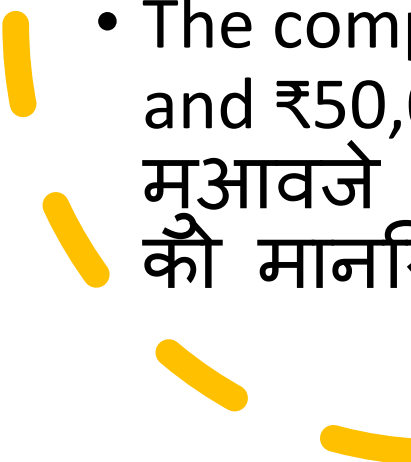
- **Consumer Commission Ruling / उपभोक्ता आयोग का निर्णय**


- After 11 years, the Delhi State Consumer Commission directed Emami to pay ₹15 lakh for misleading claims.

11 साल बाद, दिल्ली राज्य उपभोक्ता आयोग ने एमामी को भ्रामक दावों के लिए ₹15 लाख का जुर्माना भरने का निर्देश दिया।

- The compensation includes ₹14.5 lakh to the Consumer Welfare Fund and ₹50,000 to Jain for mental trauma.

मआवजे में ₹14.5 लाख उपभोक्ता कल्याण निधि और ₹50,000 जैन को मानसिक आघात के लिए दिए गए।






- **Reason for Fine / जुर्माने का कारण**



- The commission noted inadequate instructions and missing disclaimers on the packaging and advertisements.

आयोग ने पैकेजिंग और विज्ञापन में पर्याप्त निर्देशों और अस्वीकरणों की कमी को जिम्मेदार ठहराया।

- 
- The company's claims of "fairness in three weeks" were deemed unrealistic and misleading.



कंपनी के "तीन सप्ताह में गोरेपन" के दावे को अवास्तविक और भ्रामक करार दिया गया।






- **Previous Ruling / पूर्व निर्णय**

- In 2015, the Consumer Forum ruled in favor of Jain and imposed a ₹15 lakh fine on Emami.

2015 में, उपभोक्ता फोरम ने जैन के पक्ष में निर्णय देते हुए एमामी पर ₹15 लाख का जुर्माना लगाया था।







- **Statements by Paras Jain / पारस जैन के बयान**



- Jain's counsel highlighted the mental pressure advertisements create to conform to societal standards of fairness.

जैन के वकील ने बताया कि ऐसे विज्ञापन समाज के गौरेपन के मानकों का पालन करने का मानसिक दबाव बनाते हैं।

- 
- He recalled filing a petition in 2017 against Shah Rukh Khan for cross-examination, but it was dismissed.



उन्होंने 2017 में शाहरुख खान के खिलाफ याचिका दायर करने की बात याद की, जिसे खारिज कर दिया गया था।





- **Company's Defense / कंपनी का बचाव**

- Emami argued that the product was backed by scientific research and strict quality controls.

एमामी ने तर्क दिया कि उत्पाद वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान और कड़े गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण पर आधारित था।

- 
- The company claimed achieving fairness depends on external factors like diet, exercise, and lifestyle.



कंपनी ने कहा कि गोरेपन की प्राप्ति आहार, व्यायाम और जीवनशैली जैसे बाहरी कारकों पर निर्भर करती है।









- **Implications and Public Awareness / प्रभाव और सार्वजनिक जागरूकता**

- This case emphasizes the need for transparency in advertising and responsible marketing practices.

यह मामला विज्ञापन में पारदर्शिता और जिम्मेदार विपणन प्रथाओं की आवश्यकता को उजागर करता है।

- Consumers are encouraged to critically evaluate claims made by beauty and cosmetic products.

उपभोक्ताओं को सौंदर्य और सौंदर्य प्रसाधनों द्वारा किए गए दावों का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाता है।





- **Historical Context / ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ:**

- The issue of fairness creams and their advertisements has been controversial in India due to societal biases towards fair skin.

भारत में गोरेपन क्रीम और उनके विज्ञापन सामाजिक पूर्वाग्रहों के कारण विवादास्पद रहे हैं।

- 
- Regulatory bodies have tightened guidelines for cosmetic advertising to prevent misleading claims.

नियामक निकायों ने भ्रामक दावों को रोकने के लिए सौंदर्य प्रसाधन विज्ञापन के लिए दिशानिर्देश कड़े कर दिए हैं।

Female labour force participation rate rose during 2017-18 to 2022-23

Bihar, Punjab record low female LFPR, N-E states improve: EAC-PM paper

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

FEMALE LABOUR force participation rate (LFPR) increased in almost all states in India during 2017-2018 to 2022-2023, with rural areas seeing larger gains than urban areas, a new working paper released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) stated. States such as Bihar, Punjab, and Haryana have consistently reported very low levels of female LFPR, the paper stated, underlining that this inter-state variation is important in the context that Haryana and Punjab are among the richest states within India, while Bihar is the poorest.

Rural female LFPR rose to 41.5 per cent from 24.6 per cent during 2017-18 to 2022-23, while urban LFPR rose to 25.4 per cent from 20.4 per cent, the paper titled 'Female Labour Force Participation Rate: An Observational Analysis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 to 2022-23', co-authored by EAC-PM member Shamika Ravi and EPU, ISI-Delhi's Mudit Mapoor, said.

It pointed out even after excluding all those who worked as

unpaid family workers or helpers in household enterprises from 2004-05 until 2022-23, the overall trends for increase in female LFPR remain the same as before. "In fact, we find that there has been a consistent rise in female LFPR post 2017-18 (even before the pandemic); and this rise is more pronounced in rural areas than in urban areas across India."

The paper said married men consistently exhibit higher LFPR across states and age groups, while marriage significantly reduces female LFPR, especially in urban areas. In terms of age, female LFPR forms a bell-shaped curve, peaking at 30-40 years of age and declining sharply after. The male LFPR, on the other hand, remains high (nearly 100 per cent) from ages 30-50, declining gradually thereafter, the paper said.

Among the eastern states, rural Bihar had the lowest LFPR in the country, the paper said, adding it has shown improvements in recent years, especially for married women. In the northeast, there has been improvement in female LFPR in rural areas with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh leading among the states of the region. In northern states, Punjab and Haryana have recorded low female LFPR.




- **Increase in Female LFPR / महिला LFPR में वृद्धि:**

- Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) rose across most states in India.

भारत के अधिकांश राज्यों में महिला श्रम शक्ति भागीदारी दर (LFPR) में वृद्धि हुई।

- Rural areas saw larger gains compared to urban areas.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शहरी क्षेत्रों की तुलना में अधिक वृद्धि देखी गई।



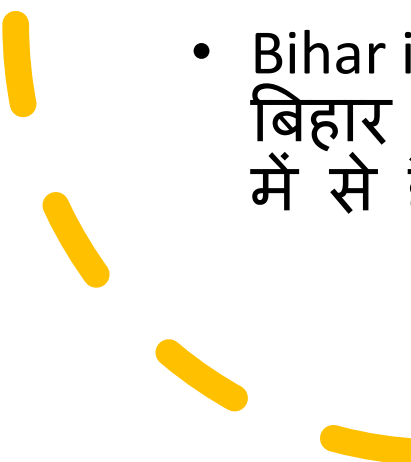




- **State-wise Insights / राज्य-वार विश्लेषण:**

- **Lowest Female LFPR / सबसे कम महिला LFPR:**

- Bihar, Punjab, and Haryana recorded consistently low female LFPR despite economic differences.

बिहार, पंजाब और हरियाणा में आर्थिक अंतर के बावजूद लगातार कम महिला LFPR दर्ज की गई।

- Bihar is the poorest state, while Haryana and Punjab are among the richest.
बिहार सबसे गरीब राज्य है, जबकि हरियाणा और पंजाब सबसे समृद्ध राज्यों में से हैं।
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- **Improved Female LFPR / सुधारित महिला LFPR:** Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh led gains in rural LFPR among northeastern states. नागालैंड और अरुणाचल प्रदेश ने पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में ग्रामीण LFPR में नेतृत्व किया।
- 

• **Statistical Trends / सांख्यिकीय प्रवृत्तियां:**

1. Rural and Urban Gains / ग्रामीण और शहरी लाभ:

1. Rural female LFPR rose from **24.6% to 41.5%** between 2017-18 and 2022-23.
ग्रामीण महिला LFPR 2017-18 और 2022-23 के बीच **24.6% से बढ़कर 41.5%** हो गई।
2. Urban female LFPR increased from **20.4% to 25.4%** during the same period.
शहरी महिला LFPR इसी अवधि में **20.4% से बढ़कर 25.4%** हो गई।

1. Age Group Insights / आयु वर्ग के अनुसार:

1. Female LFPR peaked at ages **30-40 years**, followed by a sharp decline.

महिला LFPR **30-40 वर्ष** की आयु में चरम पर पहुंचती है और उसके बाद तेजी से गिरावट होती है।

2. Male LFPR remained high (~100%) in the **30-50 years age group**, declining gradually thereafter.

पुरुष LFPR **30-50 वर्ष** की आयु समूह में उच्च (~100%) बनी रहती है और उसके बाद धीरे-धीरे गिरावट होती है।

- **Factors Affecting Female LFPR / महिला LFPR को प्रभावित करने वाले कारक:**

- 1. Marriage and Rural Impact / विवाह और ग्रामीण प्रभाव:**

1. Married women exhibited higher LFPR across states, particularly in rural areas.
विवाहित महिलाओं ने राज्यों में, विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में, उच्च LFPR प्रदर्शित की।
2. Marriage significantly reduced urban female LFPR.
विवाह ने शहरी महिला LFPR को काफी हद तक कम कर दिया।

- 2. Excluded Workforce / अपवर्जित कार्यबल:**

1. Data excluded unpaid family workers and helpers in household enterprises.
डेटा में अवैतनिक पारिवारिक कार्यकर्ता और घरेलू उद्यमों में मददगारों को शामिल नहीं किया गया।




- **Regional Trends / क्षेत्रीय प्रवृत्तियां:**

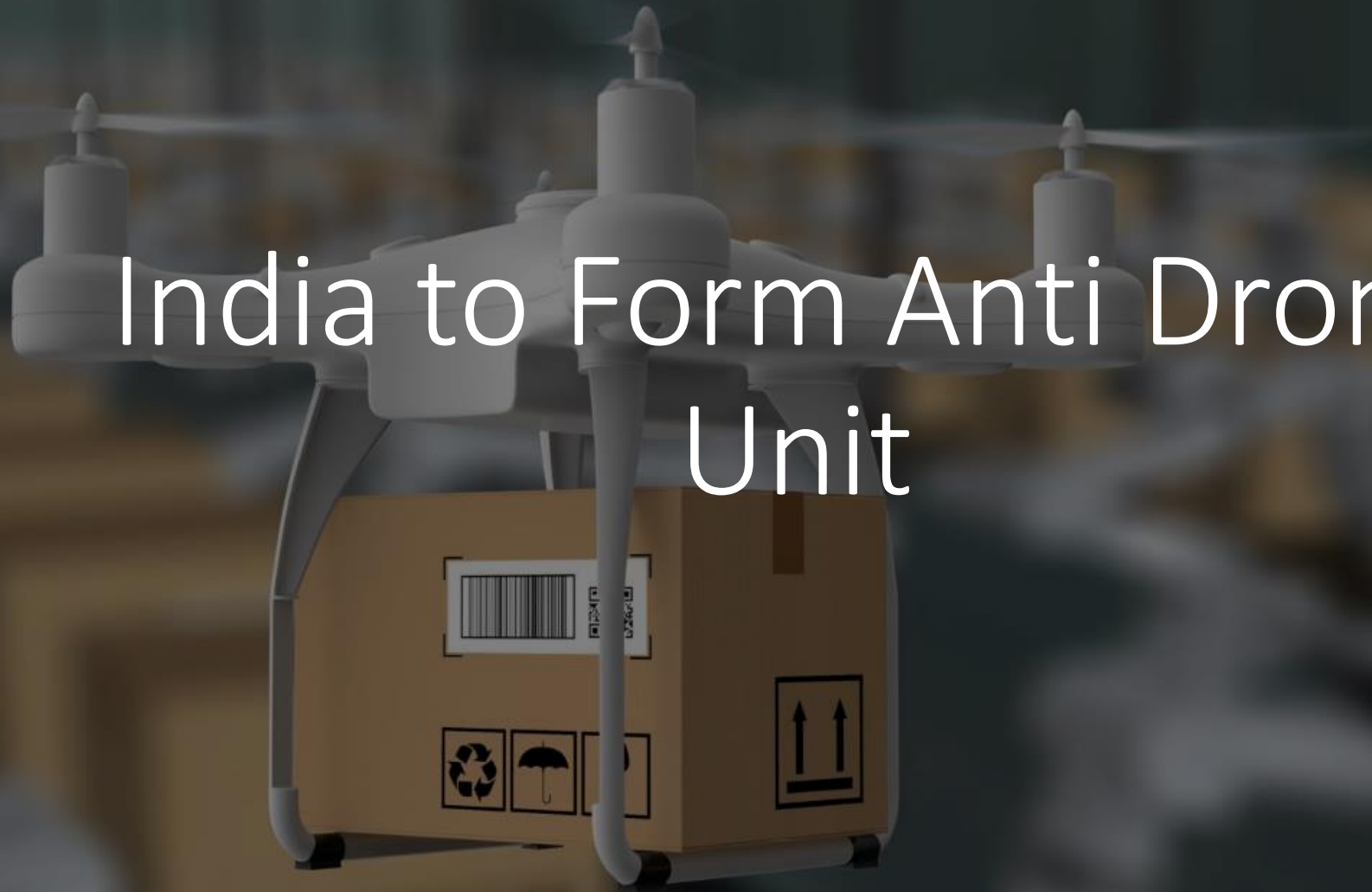
- 1. North-eastern States / पूर्वोत्तर राज्य:**


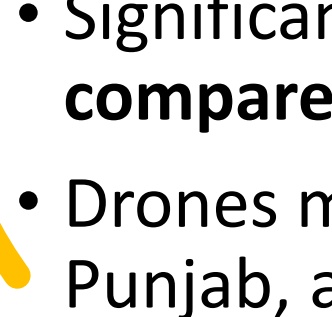
1. Consistent improvement in rural LFPR in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
नागालैंड और अरुणाचल प्रदेश में ग्रामीण LFPR में लगातार सुधार।

- 2. North States / उत्तरी राज्य:**

1. Punjab and Haryana recorded very low female LFPR.
पंजाब और हरियाणा में बहुत कम महिला LFPR दर्ज की गई।
- 

India to Form Anti Drone Unit



- 
- A comprehensive anti-drone unit to be established, involving **Defence Ministry, MHA, DRDO, and other agencies**.
 - Deployment of **laser-equipped anti-drone systems** increased interception success from 3% to 55% in Punjab.
 - **Rising Drone Threat**
 - Significant increase in **drone interceptions in 2024 (260+ incidents) compared to 110 in 2023**.
 - Drones mainly **used for smuggling arms and drugs**, with hotspots in Punjab, and fewer incidents in Rajasthan and Jammu.
- 







- **Why are Drones a Growing Menace?**

- **Accessibility and Affordability:** Drones are becoming increasingly accessible and affordable, making them attractive tools for non-state actors and criminal elements.

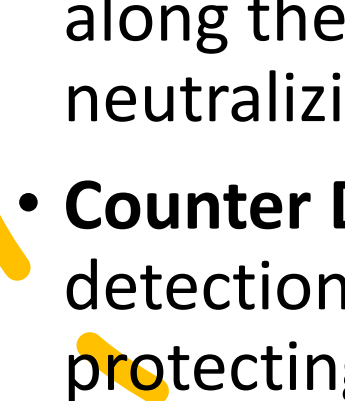
- **Versatility:** Their versatility allows for diverse malicious uses, from smuggling contraband and weapons to conducting surveillance and even carrying out attacks.

- **Difficult to Detect and Intercept:** Small drones are difficult to detect and intercept with traditional radar systems, posing a challenge for security agencies.





- **Examples of Anti-Drone Systems**

- **DRDO's Soft Kill and Hard Kill Systems:** These represent a two-pronged approach, with soft kill jamming drone communication links and hard kill using lasers to destroy them.
 - **Laser-equipped anti-drone gun-mounted mechanism:** Deployment along the India-Pakistan border has shown promising results in neutralizing drone threats.
 - **Counter Drone System (D4 System):** This system provides real-time detection, tracking, and neutralization capabilities, crucial for protecting critical infrastructure and public events.
- 



Smuggling in India – Report 2023-24

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has released the annual 'Smuggling in India – Report 2023-24' report.

Major Highlights



Cocaine trafficking has seen a marked increase in India, particularly through direct routes from South America and via African countries.

- The agency recorded 47 cases in 2023-24 of smuggling of cocaine through the air route, against 21 cases the previous year.

Hydroponic marijuana is being smuggled in from the US, Thailand and other countries.

Black Cocaine: An alarming trend is the emergence of “black cocaine,” a new variety of drug that is difficult to detect using standard detection methods.

- It is chemically masked with substances like charcoal or iron oxide, creating a black powder that can evade drug-sniffing techniques.

- 
- **Porous Eastern Borders:** Smuggling through India's porous eastern borders, particularly with Bangladesh and Myanmar, has also emerged as a major concern for law enforcement agencies
 - It indicates an uptick in methamphetamine smuggling, particularly in northeastern states like Assam and Mizoram.
- 

- **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** are misused by traders through misclassification of imports and fake letters.
- **Environment and Wildlife Crime:** The black-market demand for elephant tusks, continues to fuel illegal poaching.
 - Due to increasing demand in South East Asian countries, there is a potential for an increase in smuggling of star tortoise from India.
 - Peacocks, Pangolins and Leopards are hunted for the illegal trade.
-



Various Dimensions of Environmental Crime



Narco Trafficking Routes

The Death Crescent (Golden): It includes **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan**, is a primary source of heroin trafficked into India.

- This heroin is routed to India mainly through African and Gulf regions, in addition to traditional routes through India-Pakistan border and maritime routes.



- 
- **The Death Triangle (Golden):** It includes the regions of **Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand**, a significant source of synthetic drugs and heroin.
 - Drugs enter India through the northeastern states, where difficult terrain, and porous borders makes trafficking easier at multiple entry points.
- 



- **Maritime Routes:** The vast coastline of India presents opportunities for drug traffickers, cases of drugs being smuggled through concealment in shipping containers and fishing vessels have been noticed.
- **Air Routes:** It has become a potent method for smugglers due to the speed and increasing volume of international air traffic.
 - Drugs are often concealed in luggage, courier packages or ingested by carriers (known as “mules”).

New National Manuscripts Mission



- 
- The committee of experts has recommended the continuation of the **National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)** with broader reach and direct oversight by the Ministry.
 - **About**
 - **Ministry:** Ministry of Culture
- 



Established in: 2003 (10th Five Year Plan)


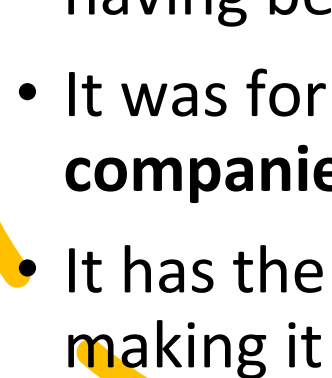
Aim: To conserve, and promote access to Indian manuscripts.

- It functions as a unit under the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts**, for which funds are provided to the organization.
- It uses technology for preservation and digitization of manuscripts.
- Training is offered for various aspects of preventive conservation




LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana

- 
- The Prime Minister has launched the '**Bima Sakhi Yojana**' of Life Insurance Corporation in Haryana.
 - **About**
 - It is designed to **empower women aged 18-70 years**, who are **Class X pass**.
 - They will **receive specialized training** and a **stipend for the first three years** to promote **financial literacy and insurance awareness**.
- 

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- **They can serve as LIC agents and the graduate Bima Sakhis** would have the opportunity to qualify for being considered for Development Officer roles in LIC.
 - **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**
 - It is the **largest life insurance company in India** and one of the oldest, having been established in **1956**.
 - It was formed by the **merger of more than 200 private life insurance companies** and provident societies,
 - It has the objective of spreading life insurance across the country and making it accessible to every segment of the population.
- 



Bamboo Shoots

- 
- The discovery of **anti-obesity properties in Melye-Amiley** highlights the potential of India's rich biodiversity and traditional food systems in addressing modern health challenges.
 - The findings suggest that Melye-Amiley can help **reduce lipid accumulation** and **promote fat burning**, making it a potential natural solution for weight management and metabolic health.

About Melye-Amiley

Definition: Traditional fermented bamboo shoot from Tripura, known for its unique flavor and health benefits.

Region: Indigenous to Tripura, a state in North East India.

Source: Derived from locally fermented bamboo shoots, reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage.


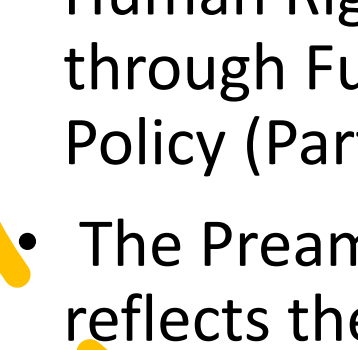
Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day, observed every year on 10th December highlights the importance of human rights as a foundation for justice, peace, and equality.

2024 Theme: "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now" emphasizes the relevance of human rights in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future.

Historical Significance: Human Rights Day was established in 1950 to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations on 10th December, 1948, which outlined fundamental human rights for all.

The UN Human Rights Council, established in 2006, promotes global human rights protection through its 47 member States (including India) and works on addressing violations and emergencies.

- 
- The Council's secretariat is the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**, based in Geneva, **Switzerland**.
 - Advocacy and Action: The day calls for collective action to counter hate speech, misinformation, and human rights abuses, while promoting equality and non-discrimination.
 - Human Rights and India: The Indian Constitution enshrines human rights through Fundamental Rights (Part III) and Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV).
 - The Preamble's commitment to justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity reflects the spirit of the UDHR.
- 

- 
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), established in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), oversees human rights adherence in India.
- 

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1 Equality

Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and with rights.



2 Freedom from Discrimination

You should never be discriminated against for any reason.



3 Life, Liberty and Security

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security.



4 Freedom from Slavery

No-one shall be held in slavery or servitude.



5 Freedom from Torture

No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading treatment.



6 Recognition as Person Before Law

You have the right to be treated as a person in the eyes of the law.



7 Equality Before the Law

You have the right to be treated by the law in the same way as everyone else.



8 Remedy by Tribunal

You have the right to remedy by competent tribunal.



9 Freedom from arbitrary arrest

No-one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.



10 Fair Public Hearing

You have the right to a fair public hearing.



11 Innocent until Proven Guilty

You have the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.



12 Privacy

No-one has the right to interfere with your privacy, family, or home.



13 Freedom of Movement

You have the right to freedom of movement in and out of the country.



14 Asylum

You have the right to seek asylum in other countries from persecution.



15 Nationality

You have the right to a nationality.



16 Marriage and Family

You have the right to marriage and to raise a family.



17 Property

You have the right to own property.



18 Freedom of Belief

You have the right to freedom of belief and religion.



19 Freedom of Opinion

You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression.



20 Freedom of Assembly

You have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.



21 Take Part in Government

You have the right to take part in the government of your country.



22 Social Security

You have the right to social security.



23 Work

You have the right to desirable work and to join trade unions.



24 Rest and Leisure

You have the right to rest and leisure.



25 Adequate Living Standard

You have the right to a decent life, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care.



26 Education

You have the right to education.



27 Participate in Cultural Life

You have the right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community.



28 Social Order

You have the Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document.



29 Mutual Responsibility

We all have a responsibility to the people around us and should protect their rights and freedoms.



30 Freedom from State or Personal Interference

There is nothing in this declaration that justifies any person or country taking away the rights to which we are all entitled.



GI Tag Products

- Ashtalakshmi 2024 showcased the North East region's rich heritage, highlighting its GI-tagged products, which reflect its unique cultural and agricultural traditions.



<u>GI Product Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Speciality</u>
AdiKekirGinger	Arunachal Pradesh	Grown in Dibang Valley; medicinal properties aiding digestion and menstrual pain relief.
Wakro Orange	Arunachal Pradesh	High nutritional value; cultivated using traditional farming methods.
Monpa Maize	Arunachal Pradesh	Nutrient-rich crop; showcases traditional agricultural practices.
DalleKhursani	Sikkim	Fiery red chili; used in pickles, pastes; known for pungency and medicinal benefits.
NagaKing Chili	Nagaland	Among the world's hottest chilies; integral to Naga cuisine.
Chak Hao Rice	Nagaland	Aromatic black rice; highlights agricultural diversity.
Naga Cucumber	Nagaland	Nutrient-rich, distinctive cucumber variety.
Kaji Nimu	Assam	Large lemon variety; known for sharp tang, size, and aroma.
Tezpur Litchi	Assam	Juicy litchis; significant to Assamese heritage.
Joha Rice	Assam	Aromatic rice variety; reflects rich Assamese agricultural traditions.

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- The removal of the Vice-President in India requires a resolution under which Article of the Constitution?
भारत में उपराष्ट्रपति को हटाने के लिए किस अनुच्छेद के तहत प्रस्ताव की आवश्यकता होती है?
- **A. Article 56 / अनुच्छेद 56**
- B. Article 61 / अनुच्छेद 61**
- C. Article 67 / अनुच्छेद 67**
- D. Article 68 / अनुच्छेद 68**

- What percentage of members must sign the resolution to initiate the removal of the Vice-President in Rajya Sabha?
राज्यसभा में उपराष्ट्रपति को हटाने के प्रस्ताव को प्रारंभ करने के लिए कितने प्रतिशत सदस्यों के हस्ताक्षर आवश्यक हैं?
- **A. 10%**
- **B. 15%**
- **C. 20%**
- **D. 25%**

- Which state demanded an increase in its share of the divisible tax pool to 50%?
किस राज्य ने विभाज्य कर पूल में अपने हिस्से को 50% तक बढ़ाने की मांग की?
- **A. Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु**
- B. Kerala / केरल**
- C. Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश**
- D. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र**

- The India Skills Report 2025 ranks which state fifth in employability rate?
इंडिया स्किल्स रिपोर्ट 2025 के अनुसार रोजगार योग्यता दर में किस राज्य को पांचवां स्थान प्राप्त हुआ है?
- A. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- B. Delhi / दिल्ली
- C. Kerala / केरल
- D. Karnataka / कर्नाटक

- Madhav Gadgil was awarded the Champions of the Earth award for his contributions in conserving which ecological region?
माधव गाडगिल को चैंपियंस ऑफ द अर्थ पुरस्कार किस पारिस्थितिक क्षेत्र के संरक्षण में उनके योगदान के लिए प्रदान किया गया?
- A. Himalayas / हिमालय
- B. Western Ghats / पश्चिमी घाट
- C. Sundarbans / सुंदरबन
- D. Andaman Islands / अंडमान द्वीपसमूह

- The **PM POSHAN Scheme** provides meals to students in which classes?
पीएम पोषण योजना किस कक्षा के छात्रों को भोजन प्रदान करती है?
- **A. Balvatika to Class 8 / बालवाटिका से कक्षा 8**
- B. Class 1 to Class 5 / कक्षा 1 से कक्षा 5**
- C. Class 6 to Class 10 / कक्षा 6 से कक्षा 10**
- D. All Classes / सभी कक्षाएँ**

- The LIC Bima Sakhi Yojana is targeted at which demographic group?
एलआईसी बीमा सखी योजना किस जनसांख्यिकीय समूह को लक्षित करती है?
- A. Women aged 18–70 years / 18–70 वर्ष की महिलाएं
- B. Senior citizens / वरिष्ठ नागरिक
- C. Farmers and rural workers / किसान और ग्रामीण श्रमिक
- D. Students / छात्र

- The **Golden Triangle** in drug trafficking refers to which regions?
मादक पदार्थों की तस्करी में **गोल्डन ट्राइंगल** किन क्षेत्रों को संदर्भित करता है?
- A. Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan / अफगानिस्तान, ईरान, पाकिस्तान
- B. Myanmar, Laos, Thailand / म्यांमार, लाओस, थाईलैंड
- C. Nepal, Bhutan, India / नेपाल, भूटान, भारत
- D. Sri Lanka, Maldives, India / श्रीलंका, मालदीव, भारत

- The **Bamboo Shoots Study** highlights which health benefit?
बांस के अंकुरों का अध्ययन किस स्वास्थ्य लाभ को उजागर करता है?
- A. Improved cardiovascular health / बेहतर हृदय स्वास्थ्य
- B. Anti-obesity properties / मोटापा विरोधी गुण
- C. Enhanced immunity / बढ़ी हुई प्रतिरक्षा
- D. Better digestion / बेहतर पाचन

- Human Rights Day is celebrated annually on which date?
मानवाधिकार दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?
- **A. December 8 / 8 दिसंबर**
- B. December 10 / 10 दिसंबर**
- C. December 15 / 15 दिसंबर**
- D. December 20 / 20 दिसंबर**

Word of the day

Genuflection:

the act of bending the knees in worship or reverence

Usage: *They genuflected before the altar in the church.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/
genuflectionpro


**International Phonetic
Alphabet:** /ˈdʒɛn.jʊ.flɛkt/

Fun Fact



Myth: You need to stretch before exercising to prevent injury

- **Burst:** Static stretching before exercise doesn't significantly prevent injury and might even reduce performance. Dynamic warm-ups are better for preparing your body.

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.
