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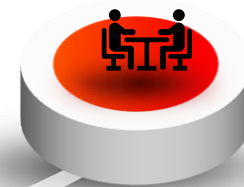


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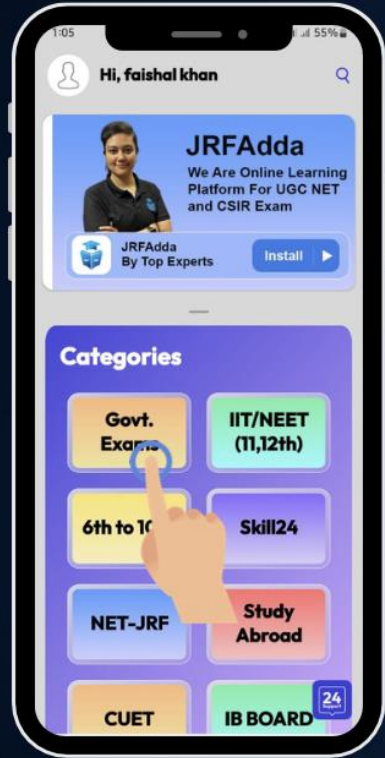
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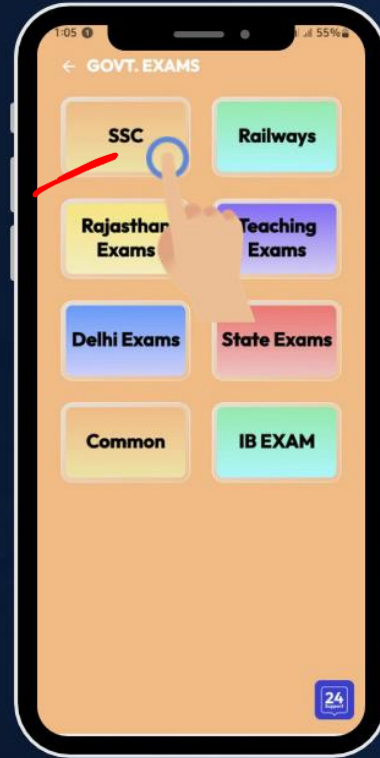
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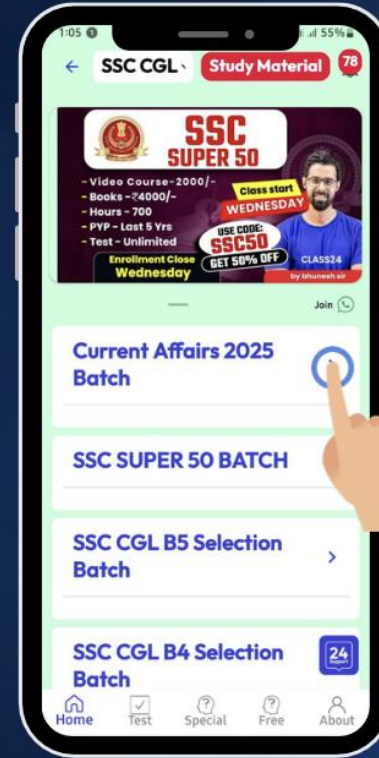
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INSIDE
Vijaya Singh
Rahul Karmakar
New Delhi: SUWASHTI
Maharashtra
voter surge is
not unusual
CHENNAI
The net addition of close to 40 lakh electors in about seven months before the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election is not unusually high, past data show. The numbers had sparked controversy with the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi questioning the "disproportionate rise". However, past data show that elector surge in brief periods are par for the course in Maharashtra. Data for Delhi also show such surges.
DATA POINT
» PAGE 9

Manipur crisis drags on as BJP weighs options

Centre will wait a few more days before taking formal decision on imposing President's Rule, says an official. Governor has not summoned the House though the six-month period within which an Assembly should meet ends today. BJP in-charge holds meetings with Biren, NDA legislators for second successive day without reaching consensus

Vijaya Singh
Rahul Karmakar
New Delhi: SUWASHTI

The Manipur administration remained in a state of uncertainty on Tuesday evening as the Union government waited for an alternative leadership to emerge within the State's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two days after N. Biren Singh stepped down as Chief Minister.

The Manipur Assembly's last session was on August 12, 2024, meaning that the six-month period within which an Assembly shall meet lapses on Wednesday.

However, the Centre will wait a few more days before any formal decision

Leadership struggle
BJP appears to be
facing internal
division over N. Biren
Singh's successor

No consensus has been reached on selecting Biren Singh's successor, as Sambit Patra held closed-door meetings with BJP-based NDA legislators for the second consecutive day.

Patra's separate meetings — first with Biren Singh and later with the Governor, accompanied by State BJP chief A. Sharda Devi and some legislators — had a divide within the party lines.

The Congress and the constitutional committee hold consecutive sessions within six-month gap to be successful.

However, the official noted that the provision does not explicitly state that the Assembly must be dissolved in case the six-month period has lapsed. According to a 2002 Supreme Court judgement in

the **Bharatbhai Bhagwanjibhai vs State of Gujarat** case, "Merely because the time schedule fixed under Article 174 cannot be adhered to, that per se cannot be a ground for bringing into operation Article 356 (President's Rule)."

After Mr. Singh resigned on February 9, none of the parties in the State — neither the ruling BJP nor the Opposition parties, including the Congress — had staked their claim to form the government till late on Tuesday night.

Another senior official said the next step would be the Governor submitting a report to the President on the constitutional crisis in the State.

Mr. Singh continues as the State's caretaker Chief Minister.

"The President may seek legal opinion and Article 74 of the Constitution says that the office is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the

Prime Minister. Since the PM is travelling abroad, it is unclear when the Union Cabinet will meet. The decision on President's Rule may be taken after his return," the official said.

Internal chaos
Sambit Patra, in charge of the BJP's affairs in the northeast, held separate closed-door meetings with all Imphal-stationed legislators of the BJP and other NDA constituents for the second successive day. No consensus has been reached on Mr. Singh's successor.

Along with State BJP president A. Sharda Devi and some legislators, Mr. Patra met Mr. Bihalla in the afternoon after a meeting with Mr. Singh, indicating

that the party is divided into pro- and anti-Biren Singh camps.

Amid the political drama, the Army's Nagaland-based 3 Corps Chief, Lt Gen. Abhijit S. Pendharkar visited Imphal to review the "operational preparedness of formations and units" in Manipur.

Journalist released
Meanwhile, Imphal-based journalist Yambem Laba was abducted by a group of about 20 gunmen from his residence around 3.30 a.m. on Tuesday. His abductors released him at around 1 p.m.

Mr. Laba, a former member of the Manipur Human Rights Commission, has been a critic of Mr. Singh.

Full-moon tradition
Riverside melas
Thousands of people take a dip in the Sangam and perform rituals on the eve of 'Magh Purnima' festival as part of the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Tuesday. PTI (REUTERS) ON PAGE 21

Government frameworks
for artificial intelligence
are "not just about managing
risks and rivalries"
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday, calling for a collective approach to set standards for AI that benefit everyone, especially the Global South. India is co-chairing the summit with France this year.

Mr. Modi acknowledged the fear of widespread job losses from AI, but asserted that "history has shown that work does not disappear due to technology. New types of jobs are created". Reskilling workers was important to pre-

History shows that technology won't cause job loss, says PM at AI summit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Government frameworks for artificial intelligence are "not just about managing risks and rivalries", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday, calling for a collective approach to set standards for AI that benefit everyone, especially the Global South. India is co-chairing the summit with France this year.

Mr. Modi acknowledged the fear of widespread job losses from AI, but asserted that "history has shown that work does not disappear due to technology. New types of jobs are created". Reskilling workers was important to pre-

pare it for the changes AI would bring about, he said.

"Global efforts needed"
"There is... a deep interdependence across borders" when it comes to AI, Mr. Modi said. "Therefore

there is a need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks, and build trust. Governance is also about ensuring access to all, especially in the Global South.

It is where the capabilities are most lacking, be it compute, power talent, data, or financial resources."

Mr. Modi called for pooling together of resources and talent, and developing open source systems for improving trust in AI systems. "We must build quality datasets, free from biases," he said, referring to the data on which AI models are trained.

He also brought up the issue of energy intensity of AI, in a reference to the high electricity consumption by AI data centres. Green energy would need to be pursued, Mr. Modi said, pointing to the most significant Indo-French collaboration on this matter, the International Solar Alliance.

Sensex trips amid trade war fears; Adani stocks hold up

Lalatu Mishra
MUMBAI

India's stock markets tripped for the fifth straight day on Tuesday, as U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff pronouncements and the fear of a growing trade war continued to spook stock markets, with the benchmark indices BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty tumbling over 1.3%.

The shares of small and mid-cap firms took an even more severe beating, with a decline of around 3%, and the NSE Nifty Midcap index falling to its lowest level since June 4, 2024. The BSE Smallcap index slumped 3.8%. The Sensex plunged 1,018 points to close at 76,293.6 points, a two-week low, with foreign portfolio investors exiting in haste. While all sectoral indices ended in the red, the BSE Metal index

Downward spiral
The Sensex has plunged 2,215.29 points or 2.82% in the past five days to close at 76,293.6 points on Tuesday.

fell 2.23%, in light of the 25% import tariffs announced by the U.S. on all steel and aluminium imports.

However, shares of several Adani Group companies, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Adani Power, gained by 1.3%, 0.34% and 1.39% respectively after Mr. Trump signed an executive order pausing the enforcement

Trump suspends foreign bribery law in possible reprieve for Adani, others charged by U.S. SEC

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order pausing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) of 1977 for a period of at least 180 days, until the Attorney General completes a review of the legislation.

The move may come as a reprieve to the conglomerate Adani Group, its billionaire founder Gautam Adani and other executives, who, in November, were charged by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York in connection with an alleged bribery scheme.

The law prohibits the bribing of foreign governments, political parties and others to secure business.

It is unclear how Mon-

day's order would impact any investigations into the Adani Group.

New guidelines
While it pertains only to new investigations, enforcement actions already initiated would be subject to the new guidelines the Justice Department develops.

The order says the pause can be extended beyond the initial suspension of 180 days. During this time, Attorney General Pam Bondi, a Trump loyalist, is required to cease any FCPA investigations and review existing ones.

After the new guidelines are in place, the Attorney General could institute "re-tic measures" with respect to "inappropriate" investigations.

Charges for violating the FCPA were central to the allegations of bribery amounting to \$250 million (\$2,100 crore) that allegedly took place between 2020 and 2024. Mr. Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and another executive Vinesh S. Jaan, while not charged for violating the FCPA directly, were charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud.

Five other individuals associated with the alleged bribery scheme were charged with conspiring to violate the FCPA.

The two companies at the heart of the allegations had raised funds from U.S. investors who had traded on the New York Stock Exchange during the alleged scheme.

Mr. Trump had objected to the FCPA during his first term as well. "It's going to mean a lot more business for America," he told reporters on Monday as he signed the order.

"The President's foreign policy authority is inextricably linked with the global economic competitiveness of American companies," the order read, adding that American national security depended substantially on U.S. companies gaining strategic business advantages in areas such as critical minerals, deep-water ports and infrastructure assets. FCPA enforcement against American citizens and businesses has been "overexpansive" and "unpredictable," the order said. The FCPA has been "stretched beyond proper bounds" and was harming U.S. interests, the order noted.

The President has signed around 80 executive orders since he returned to power last month.

IN BRIEF

Om Birla to be chief guest at programme for Haryana MLAs

A two-day orientation programme for the members of the Haryana Legislative Assembly will begin on February 14, an official statement said on Tuesday. The programme will be organised under the guidance of Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalwan, it said. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be the chief guest, it added. "Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will be the special guest and Assembly Speakers of various States will be present," the statement said. The training of MLAs will be held in the House of the Legislative Assembly and special arrangements are being made, it said.

Maharashtra CM orders strict measures for board exams

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Tuesday has issued directives to ensure a fair and transparent conduct of the upcoming Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations. During a review meeting, he said any examination centre found involved in mass copying will face permanent de-recognition. Additionally, teachers and staff aiding in malpractice will face immediate suspension. The Class 12 board exams are scheduled from Tuesday until March 18 across 3,373 centres, while the Class 10 exams will take place from February 21 to March 17 at 5,130 centres. Mr. Fadnis ordered strict implementation of Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita in and around examination centres.

Suvendu demands NIA probe into factory blast in Bengal, offers 'higher' aid to families

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly and Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday offered monetary compensation to the illegal firecracker factory blast victims' families in Kalyani.

He also demanded a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the incident. On February 7, four persons, including three women, were killed in a blast at an illegal firecracker factory in Kalyani, West Bengal's Nadia district.

Visiting the site, Mr. Adhikari offered ₹2.01 lakh



The Opposition can manage to give more than the State government, says the LoP.

compensation to the family of each victim, and said that the Opposition can manage to give more than the State government.

The sum was a response to the Trinamool Congress government, offering ₹2

Madiga delegation calls on the langana CM over 'lapses' in SC categorisation report

MRPS president Manda Krishna requests A. Revanth Reddy to categorise Scheduled Castes into four groups proportionate to their population, committed to justice, says Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Madiga Reservation Porata (MRPS) founder-president Manda Krishna has urged the A. Revanth Reddy-led Congress government in Telangana to "rectify lapses" in the report accepted for categorisation of Scheduled Castes to ensure equitable justice to all sub-castes within the category.

Key recommendations

The Telangana government on February 4 accepted three key recommendations of the judicial commission appointed by it for implementation of SC categorisation, while rejecting another suggestion to exempt the creamy layer from reservations.

Welcoming the government's initiative to categorise Scheduled Castes in line with the verdict of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, he requested the government to categorise SCs into four groups in proportion to their population ratio. He said if the government intends to clas-

sify SC sub-castes on the basis of their backwardness, the same principle should be applied for the three groups into which the government proposes to classify them.

Mr. Krishna, who led a delegation of the Madiga community to call on the CM on Tuesday, submitted a memorandum seeking "rectification of lapses" that went into the report. He recalled that the government proposed to provide 1% reservation to 15 sub-castes in Group-1, 9% to 18 sub-castes in Group-2 and 5% to 26 sub-castes in Group-3 out of the 15% quo-

ta for the Scheduled Castes. However, he said the categorisation of these sub-castes was not unbiased and not done scientifically leading to some lacunae. He said injustice was being done to the Madiga sub-caste, which was highest in terms of population at 62% (22.32 lakh) and in contrast, Malas comprising 29% of the SC population (15.27 lakh) and "developed on all fronts" were given more reservation.

The Madiga leader said steps should be taken to place the most socially, economically, educationally and politically backward sub-castes like Madiga, who have already benefited in terms of education, employment and finances should be classified as Group-4.

'Approach panel'

The Chief Minister in turn asked members of the Scheduled Caste community, the Madigas in particular, to take their objections and problems on the categorisation to the Cabinet subcommittee constituted for the purpose well as the judicial commission.

He asserted that the State government was committed to render justice to the Madiga community and other sub-castes under SC without any political considerations. He briefed the delegation about the dis-

After postponement of polls, Rajasthan set to reorganise its village panchayats

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

After the postponement of elections in 6,750 village panchayats, Rajasthan government is set to reorganise all 11,283 panchayats as well as 352 panchayat samitis in the State. The Panchayat Raj Department has issued a notification laying down the norms for determining the number of wards in the rural local bodies based on their population.

The State government had last month deferred elections in the village panchayats, whose tenure was about to end, and appointed the sitting sarpanches as panchayat administrators. The move was seen as a step toward the state, on



Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar

election policy, allowing all Panchayati Raj institutions to go to simultaneous polls. The BJP government had announced the plans to adopt this policy in the 2024-25 State Budget to reduce election-related expenses and streamline governance at the grassroots. The State Election Commission reportedly intends to conduct all civic body polls by the middle of this year.

Bhishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

A transgender woman from West Bengal, who fought poverty, neglect, and discrimination, has cleared the State government-conducted test that makes her eligible to be an assistant professor at a university college.

Krishnagar-based Sumana Pramanik, who always dreamt of being a mathematics teacher, has been appearing for the State Eligibility Test (SET) since 2019, but success finally came this year. "Something, she feels, will send a strong message to the society as well as men and is fit only for certain transgender people are not only about begging at traffic intersections. "My success sends out the message that a transgender person has intellect

'OPS bought land meant for SC/STs'

Mohamed Inramullah S.
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has found that former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam purchased a piece of land that could be owned only by those belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs), and also obtained a patta for it in his name.

The commission's Third Bench, comprising advocate S. Kumaradevan and social worker K.M. Leela-vathi Dhanraj, said it could not be denied that Mr. Panneerselvam had obtained a patta using his political influence and ordered its cancellation.

After holding quasi-judicial proceedings on a complaint lodged by M. Balakrishnan and M. Muthumani of Theni district, the commission found that the State government had originally assigned the land to the first complainant's father M. Moolan, belonging to a Scheduled Caste, in 1991. As per the conditions, the assignee should not transfer land ownership for a period of 15 years. Even thereafter, the land could be transferred only to a person belonging to SC/STs.

In violation of the as-



Former TN Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam.

signment condition, Moolan had entered into a deed of exchange with one K. Harishankar, who did not belong either to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, in 2008. Thereafter, Moolan went missing in 2015 and could not be traced till date, though an FIR was registered regarding that.

Subsequently, Mr. Panneerselvam bought the land from Mr. Harishankar and also transferred the patta to his name in 2023. The commission called for status reports from the Theni Tahsildar, the District Ad Officer and Tribal Welfare Officer, and other officials.

Stating that the purchaser of a property must be vigilant and thoroughly check the mother documents, the commission recommended the transfer of the patta in the name of the original assignee.

Maharashtra reports 5 new cases of GBS

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Another Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) suspected death was reported in Maharashtra's Pune district, raising the count to seven. However, four deaths are confirmed as GBS, while three are reported to be the suspected deaths, health officials said.

Total number of suspected patients with GBS reached 197, with 172 confirmed cases. A Pune-based 37-year-old driver died from GBS.

On Tuesday, five new cases were reported. Among them, two new GBS cases were from today, and the remaining three cases were from previous days.

She was born into abject poverty, facing neglect as long as she can remember. She was the eldest of six, who was packed off to an orphanage, she did her schooling at Jagannath High School and later Kabi Bijoylal H.S. makes her eligible to be an assistant professor at a university college.

Krishnagar-based Sumana Pramanik, who always dreamt of being a mathematics teacher, has been appearing for the State Eligibility Test (SET) since 2019, but success finally came this year. "Something, she feels, will send a strong message to the society as well as men and is fit only for certain transgender people are not only about begging at traffic intersections. "My success sends out the message that a transgender person has intellect

Sumana Pramanik says her success is a slap on the face of the rejection, she said earlier and just because she is out of the man-woman mix does not mean that she is not capable of anything and is fit only for certain transgender people are not only about begging at traffic intersections. "My success sends out the message that a transgender person has intellect

Fertility clinic in Assam pulled up over woman's bid to conceive past age of 50

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The High Court of Meghalaya has pulled up a fertility clinic in Assam over a Meghalaya woman's bid to conceive past the age of 50.

A few weeks ago, the woman approached the Guwahati-based Institute of Human Reproduction to undergo a procedure to become pregnant.

The institute told her that the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act of 2021 bars women over the age of 50 to undergo the procedure unless they had a court order permitting them to do so.

The woman then filed a writ petition at the High Court of Meghalaya challenging the portion of the Act that does not allow women over 50 years to avail of ART, and for directions to the institute to carry out



The Meghalaya High Court will hear the case next on February 20. ISTOCKPHOTO

the procedure.

The court subsequently asked the institute to form a medical board to let it know whether the said procedure could be carried out safely on the petitioner. It also directed the Union and the State governments to take instructions on the matter.

On Monday, a Division

Bench of Chief Justice I.P. Mukerji and Justice W. Diengdoh said it was “shocked” to note the institute’s failure to constitute the medical board as it lacked a multi-speciality team. The institute had informed the court on February 5 about its inability to form the board.



Flip-flop noted

Taking a serious view of the matter, the court said: “At one point of time, the hospital is telling the patient to get a court order...Now, they say that they cannot form a medical board. This tantamounts to saying that they cannot even opine whether the procedure is safe or reasonably free from risk for the writ petitioner. This kind of an attitude cannot be tolerated by the court.”

The court directed the institute to file an affidavit

after due consultation with the specialist in this procedure attached to this hospital whether this procedure can be performed on the writ petitioner or not, how safe the procedure is and what the risks are.


“If no satisfactory response is received, we shall have to presume that the hospital does not want to take any care of or responsibility towards its patients or its medical professionals simply do not have the competence to carry out the procedure under the said Act. If either of the two is established in public interest, we would have to pass necessary orders restraining this institute to perform any kind of procedure under the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021,” the court said. The court fixed February 20 as the next date of hearing in the case.

- 
- A fertility clinic in **Assam** was **pulled up by the Meghalaya High Court** for denying a **50-year-old woman** assisted reproductive technology (ART) treatment.
 - असम में एक फर्टिलिटी क्लिनिक को मेघालय हाईकोर्ट ने फटकार लगाई क्योंकि उसने 50 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र की महिला को सहायक प्रजनन तकनीक (ART) उपचार देने से इनकार कर दिया।
- 

-
- ◆ The **Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021** prohibits women above **50 years** from undergoing ART procedures unless a court order permits.
 - ◆ महिला ने कानून के उस प्रावधान को चुनौती देते हुए हाईकोर्ट में याचिका दायर की जो 50 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र की महिलाओं को ART उपचार से रोकता है।
 - ◆ The court asked the institute to form a medical board to determine whether the procedure is safe for her.
 - ◆ अदालत ने संस्थान को एक मेडिकल बोर्ड बनाने के निर्देश दिए ताकि यह तय किया जा सके कि महिला के लिए यह प्रक्रिया सुरक्षित है या नहीं।


•  Legal Standpoint | कानूनी दृष्टिकोण

 ART Regulation Act, 2021: Prohibits ART for women above 50 years of age.

 Right to Parenthood: Whether denying ART violates the fundamental right to reproduction.

 Medical Ethics: Risk assessment for late pregnancies.


•  सहायक प्रजनन तकनीक (ART) विनियमन अधिनियम, 2021: 50 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र की महिलाओं को ART प्रक्रिया से रोकता है।

 माता-पिता बनने का अधिकार: क्या ART से इनकार करना प्रजनन के मौलिक अधिकार का उल्लंघन है?

 चिकित्सकीय नैतिकता: देर से गर्भावस्था के संभावित स्वास्थ्य जोखिम।


-  Ethical Concerns | नैतिक चिंताएँ


-  Health Risks | स्वास्थ्य जोखिम – Late pregnancies have **higher chances of complications.**

-  Child Welfare | बच्चे का कल्याण – Older parents may not be able to **provide long-term care.**

-  Women's Reproductive Rights | महिलाओं के प्रजनन अधिकार – Should age limit **restrict women's choice?**


-  स्वास्थ्य जोखिम – देर से गर्भावस्था में जटिलताओं की संभावना अधिक होती है।

-  बच्चे का कल्याण – बुजुर्ग माता-पिता लंबे समय तक देखभाल करने में सक्षम नहीं हो सकते।





-  महिलाओं के प्रजनन अधिकार – क्या आयु सीमा महिलाओं की पसंद को सीमित करती है?

The MTP Act 1971 and The MTP Act Amendments 2020

	Present Law	Proposed Amendments
Indications (Contraceptive failure)	Only applies to married women	Unmarried women are also covered
Gestational Age Limit	20 weeks for all indications	24 weeks for rape survivors Beyond 24 weeks for substantial fetal abnormalities
Medical practitioner opinions required before termination	One RMP till 12 weeks Two RMPs till 20 weeks	One RMP till 20 weeks Two RMPs 20-24 weeks Medical Board approval after 24 weeks
Breach of the woman's confidentiality	Fine up to Rs 1000	Fine and/or Imprisonment of 1 year

-
-  **Historical Perspective | ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण**
 - **Traditional Indian Society preferred early marriages and childbirth.**
 - **Modern medicine & ART technology have expanded reproductive choices.**
 - **Legal Reforms – The MTP Act (1971) and ART Bill (2021) regulate reproductive rights.**
 - **पारंपरिक भारतीय समाज में जल्दी विवाह और मातृत्व को प्राथमिकता दी जाती थी।**
 - **आधुनिक चिकित्सा और ART तकनीक ने प्रजनन के विकल्पों को बढ़ाया।**
 - **कानूनी सुधार – गर्भपात अधिनियम (MTP Act, 1971) और ART विधेयक (2021) को लागू किया गया।**

-
- **Economic Aspects | आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण**
 - **ART industry in India is a multi-billion dollar sector.**
 - **High cost of ART treatments makes it inaccessible for lower-income groups.**
 - **Healthcare burden – Late pregnancies increase medical expenses.**
 - **भारत में ART उद्योग एक मल्टी-बिलियन डॉलर सेक्टर है।**
 - **ART उपचार की उच्च लागत इसे निम्न-आय वर्ग के लिए दुर्गम बना देती है।**
 - **स्वास्थ्य सेवा का बोझ – देर से गर्भावस्था चिकित्सा खर्चों को बढ़ा सकती है।**

- 
- **Geographical Aspects | भौगोलिक दृष्टिकोण**
 - **Urban areas have better access to ART clinics than rural areas.**
 - **Northeast India lacks specialized fertility centers.**
 - **Regional disparities in medical infrastructure affect ART accessibility.**
 - **शहरी क्षेत्रों में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की तुलना में अधिक ART क्लीनिक उपलब्ध हैं।**
 - **पूर्वोत्तर भारत में विशेषज्ञ प्रजनन केंद्रों की कमी है।**
 - **क्षेत्रीय असमानता के कारण ART सुविधाओं तक पहुंच प्रभावित होती है।**
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- **Social Aspects | सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण**
 - **Changing family structures – More working women delay pregnancies.**
 - **Social stigma around infertility still exists in rural India.**
 - **Population policies encourage early pregnancies.**
 - **परिवार संरचना में बदलाव – कामकाजी महिलाएँ गर्भावस्था में देरी कर रही हैं।**
 - **बांझपन को लेकर सामाजिक कलंक अभी भी ग्रामीण भारत में मौजूद है।**
 - **जनसंख्या नीति में जल्दी गर्भधारण को प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।**

IN BRIEF



YouTube blocks comedy show episode after row

Social media platform YouTube has blocked an episode of the comedy show India's Got Latent featuring Ranveer Allahbadia following a notice from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Captain among 2 soldiers killed in IED blast near LoC

Two soldiers, including a Captain, were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants along the Line of Control (LoC) exploded in Jammu's Akhnour sector on Tuesday, officials said.

Unnatural sex by husband not an offence: Chhattisgarh HC

The Chhattisgarh High Court (HC) has said that sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife is not rape and therefore, if any unnatural sex as defined under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is committed by the husband with his wife, it too cannot be treated as an offence.

HC permits Adani Electricity to cut mangroves for project

The Bombay High Court has granted permission to Adani Electricity Mumbai Infra Ltd. (AEMIL) to cut 209 mangroves for the construction of a high-voltage transmission line that is proposed to increase electricity supply in the city and suburbs.

India, 57 countries call for inclusive and sustainable AI

U.S. and U.K. have not signed the joint statement at the Paris summit; U.S. Vice-President Vance rails against 'excessive regulation' of the AI sector

The Hindu Bureau New Delhi



Fifty-eight countries, including India, China, Brazil, France, and Australia, signed a joint statement on "Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet" at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday.

The statement was not signed by the U.S. and the U.K. The statement calls for promoting accessibility of AI and ensuring trust and safety in deploying the technology.

14 get perfect score in JEE-Main; five of them are from Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau New Delhi

Fourteen candidates from across the country have bagged perfect score in the first edition of the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main, 2025.

Five of the toppers are from Rajasthan, two from Delhi, two from Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Telangana, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Tuesday.

Thirteen toppers are men while one is a woman. Two of the top scorers belong to the OBC and SC categories, while the rest belong to the general category. A total of 12,58,116 candidates had appeared for the exam.

Cannot monitor from Delhi, SC says on mob lynching prosecutions

Krishnasdas Raigopal New Delhi



The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it cannot "micro-manage" criminal prosecutions of mob lynchings and violence in "different areas of different States" across the country.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, hearing a petition filed by National Federation of Women, disapproved a plea for payment of "uniform" amount of compensation to victims of mob lynchings.

Justice Gavai, in the order, reasoned that injuries would be different from case to case. Ordering otherwise under the new criminal law, he said, would be unjust to the victims.

The 2018 judgment in the Tehseem Phonsomda case had issued a series of guidelines to the States and their police forces to take steps to prevent communal violence and lynchings.

Modi degree row: DU challenges CIC order

The Hindu Bureau New Delhi

Challenging a directive which would disclose Prime Minister Narendra Modi's academic record, Delhi University on Tuesday argued in the Delhi High Court that mere "interest to public" is not the same as matters of "public interest", which warrant a disclosure under the Right to Information (RTI).

The University made this submission while challenging a December 21, 2016 order of the Central Information Commission (CIC), allowing inspection of the records of all students who cleared the BA exam in 1978, the year that Mr. Modi also passed it.

The answer in the facts of this case is: no. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said, representing DU, claiming that DU held the information in a fiduciary capacity, he said that "mere curiosity" did not entitle anyone to seek private information under the RTI law.

Ahead of Magh Purnimabath, Maha Kumbh area declared 'no-vehicle zone'

Mavank Kumar Lucknow

With chaos and congestion prevailing in Prayagraj as lakhs of devotees descend on the city for the Maha Kumbh, the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday declared the entire fair area as a "no-vehicle zone" till the Magh Purnima Snan on Wednesday.

The entire mela area has been declared a "no-vehicle zone" starting from 4 a.m. on February 11, with entry restricted only to essential and emergency services.

Earlier, the administration accepted that the congestion in the city and adjacent ghats conveniently on foot.

Angry passengers attack express train in Bihar

Patna

A group of angry people trying to reach the Maha Kumbh attacked the Swatantra Senani Express in Bihar's Madhubani railway station on Monday night, throwing stones and breaking windows as they were unable to board the train.

maximum capacity, making delays in traffic movement inevitable not due to mismanagement, but due to the sheer volume of devotees, Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police Prashant Kumar said.

For the Magh Purnima Snan, the State government has implemented comprehensive measures to ensure the safety and health of devotees.

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Solution to previous puzzle

9x9 grid showing the solution to the previous Sudoku puzzle.

FAITH

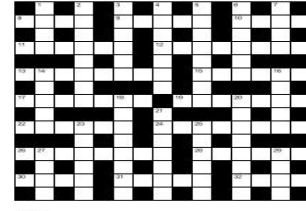
Lessons birds teach us

Nature gives us many teachers. These teachers do not speak. They lead by example. Animals and birds are these silent teachers, said Malayaman in a discourse.

Birds know when to attack another bird, and when to withdraw, to avoid getting injured. Owls see well only at night. So they attack crows when darkness falls. But owls see poor sighted during the day.

The turkey is not an Indian bird, but there is a reference to it in Mooradul. Mooradul says that when a person who is not well-read thinks of himself as a scholar, it remains one of a turkey trying to dance like a peacock.

Crossword puzzle header with title 'TH CROSSWORD' and a QR code.



- 15 Demand inclusion of little sister in Indian team at first (6)
17 Unfriendly one accommodated in broken down heist? (7)
19 Fish photographer (7)
22 Sky cop may be a mutcase (6)
24 Inform about article value (8)
26 Winter precipitation at present between beginning of September and autumn (6)
28 Before final word in prayer, saint produces part of flower (6)
30 Insult leaping felines? Not me! (4)
31 Criminal head gets gold for philanthropist (5)
32 Nent to Royal Navy (4)
Down
1 Bachelor at King University? Capital! (4)
2 Woman to speak about think in one's armour (4,4)
3 Note about a rule in African country (6)
4 Large amount for part of music (7)
5 Mathematician's cross? (4,4)
6 Husband gets answer: "Pieces for sisters' clothes" (6)
7 Report from center containing nitrogens (4)
14 Gets rid of doctor before operations (5)
16 10 in captivity of paramilitary organisation making guns (5)
18 Spotted cats mauling older asp (8)
20 Round seeds with insects for agricultural labourers (8)
21 Brave 6-footer follows girl student (7)
23 Milling crowd surrounds a person without coverage (8)
25 Father's attempt to make baked dish (6)
27 Flower mentioned in Hinduism legend (4)
29 Lugs organs for hearing (4)

- Across
8 Nurse's vehicle has engine at the rear (4)
9 A charge to use road in a ring of islands (5)
10 One container's open to some extent (4)
11 Possibly soldier of Nepali origin in Ugur Khaganate (6)
12 Getback about distinctive kind of wood (8)
13 American daughter gets choice for approval (8)

India, 57 countries call for inclusive and sustainable AI

U.S. and U.K. have not signed the joint statement at the Paris summit; U.S. Vice-President Vance rails against 'excessive regulation' of the AI sector

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fifty-eight countries, including India, China, Brazil, France, and Australia, signed a joint statement on “Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet” at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday, with more signatories possible after the summit ends.

The statement was not signed by the U.S. and the U.K. The statement calls for promoting accessibility of AI and ensuring trust and safety in deploying the technology.

India and France are co-chairing the summit. The statement calls for making “innovation in AI thrive by enabling conditions for its development and avoiding market concentration driving industrial recovery and development”, and fostering the tech in a way that “positively shapes the future of work and labour markets”.

This is the third such international statement,



United effort: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron at the AI Action Summit in Paris on Tuesday. AP

with previous ones being issued after the summits in the U.K. and South Korea. It calls for AI “to be human rights based, human-centric, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy while also stressing the need and urgency to narrow the inequalities and assist developing countries in artificial intelligence capacity-building so they can build AI capacities”.

The U.S. did not immediately explain its reasons for not signing the statement.

Earlier in the day, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance struck a defiant tone

against the themes highlighted in the statement. “I’m not here this morning to talk about AI safety, which was the title of the conference a couple of years ago,” Mr. Vance said. “I’m here to talk about AI opportunity.”

“...We believe that excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry just as it’s taking off, and we’ll make every effort to encourage pro-growth AI policies, and I’d like to see that de-regulatory flavour making its way into a lot of the conversations at this conference,” Mr. Vance said.

• Objectives | उद्देश्य

- Promote **accessibility** of AI.
- Ensure **trust and safety** in AI deployment.
- Prevent **monopolization of AI by big companies**.
- Encourage AI to **shape the future of work and labor markets positively**.
- एआई की **सुलभता** को बढ़ावा देना।
- एआई के **सुरक्षित और विश्वसनीय** उपयोग को सुनिश्चित करना।
- **बड़ी कंपनियों** द्वारा एआई के **एकाधिकार** को रोकना।
- एआई को **रोजगार बाजार और श्रम व्यवस्था** के लिए **सकारात्मक रूप से** उपयोग करना।

- **2. Countries That Did Not Sign | किन देशों ने हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए?**
- **✗ The U.S. and the U.K. did not sign the agreement.**
- **✗ U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance opposed excessive AI regulations, calling them a threat to innovation.**
- **✗ अमेरिका और यूनाइटेड किंगडम (यू.के.) ने इस समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए।**
- **✗ अमेरिकी उपराष्ट्रपति जे.डी. वॉस ने एआई के अधिक विनियमन (अत्यधिक नियंत्रण) का विरोध किया, इसे औद्योगिक नवाचार के लिए खतरा बताया।**



- **India and France's Role | भारत और फ्रांस की भूमिका**

- **IN India and France co-chaired the summit.**

- IN Advocated for AI policies that narrow inequalities and assist developing nations in AI capacity-building.**

- IN Emphasized human rights, safety, security, and ethics in AI use.**

- **IN भारत और फ्रांस ने इस शिखर सम्मेलन की सह-अध्यक्षता की।**

- IN एआई नीतियों को असमानता कम करने और विकासशील देशों को एआई क्षमताओं में मदद करने के लिए आगे बढ़ाया।**

- IN मानवाधिकार, सुरक्षा, नैतिकता और विश्वसनीयता पर ज़ोर दिया।**



Historical Context of AI Regulations | एआई विनियमन का ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य

1950s: AI was developed as a computational model.

2010s: Growth of deep learning, neural networks.

2019: OECD AI Principles emphasized **inclusive and transparent AI**.

2021: UNESCO AI Ethics Framework for **human-centric AI**.

1950 के दशक: एआई को गणनात्मक मॉडल के रूप में विकसित किया गया।

2010 के दशक: डीप लर्निंग और न्यूरल नेटवर्क में उछाल आया।

2019: ओईसीडी एआई सिद्धांतों ने समावेशी और पारदर्शी एआई पर ज़ोर दिया।


2021: यूनेस्को एआई नैतिकता रूपरेखा बनाई गई।

• 2. Economic Implications | आर्थिक प्रभाव


•  AI could contribute **\$500 billion+** to the global economy.

 Excessive AI regulations could **slow down** innovation.



 **India's AI sector** is expected to contribute **\$450–500 billion** to GDP by 2025.

•  एआई वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था में **\$500 बिलियन** से अधिक योगदान कर सकता है।

 अधिक नियंत्रण से नवाचार धीमा हो सकता है।

 **भारत का एआई क्षेत्र** 2025 तक जीडीपी में **\$450-500 बिलियन** का योगदान देगा।

- 3. Geographical Perspective | भूगोलिक दृष्टिकोण
- 🌍 Global North (U.S., Europe, Japan) leads in AI innovation.
- 🌍 Global South (India, Africa, Latin America) faces challenges in AI infrastructure.
- 🌍 वैश्विक उत्तर (यूएस, यूरोप, जापान) एआई नवाचार में आगे हैं।
- 🌍 वैश्विक दक्षिण (भारत, अफ्रीका, लैटिन अमेरिका) एआई अवसंरचना (इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर) में चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है।

- 
- **Social Impact | सामाजिक प्रभाव**
 - **Bias in AI models can lead to discrimination.**
 - **Surveillance & data privacy concerns.**
 - **Impact on jobs, education, and skill development.**
 - **एआई में पूर्वाग्रह (Bias) भेदभाव को बढ़ावा दे सकता है।**
 - **निगरानी और डेटा गोपनीयता की चिंताएँ।**
 - **नौकरियों, शिक्षा और कौशल विकास पर प्रभाव।**
- 

Chennai gets second beach pathway for persons with disabilities

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday launched a pathway for persons with disabilities near the Karl Schmidt Memorial at the Edward Ellice's Beach, Besant Nagar in Chennai. This is the second beach pathway to come up in the city. The first such facility in the city was launched at the Marina Beach.

"The project cost was ₹1.6 crore, under the Singara Chennai 2.0 scheme for 2023-24. The pathway is 100 metres long and 2 metres wide. Signages and markings have been put up. Designated parking area for persons with disabilities has also been provided, with five slots earmarked. The pathway was made using red meranti, babool wood, and Brazilian ipé wood," an official said. In six months, Thiruvanniyur Beach will also get a similar facility. "Once CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) clearance is obtained for Thiruvanniyur Beach, a pathway for disabled persons will be set up there," an official said.

Meanwhile, officials with disabilities urged the Greater Chennai Corporation to post personnel at the beach pathways to ensure safety. "The Madhya Bench had planned to procure beach wheelchairs, but the risk of drowning by the sea waves was a concern. We will take measures for the safety of the visitors," an official said.

CBU uncovers deceit in Tirumala ghee case

Probe reveals that Vaishnavi Dairy supplied ghee to TTD using forged documents and laboratory reports, after being disqualified by TTD in 2022. Directors of the company offered commission to AR Dairy to participate in tendering process to secure contract for ghee supply on their behalf

G.P. Shukla
TIRUMALA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is probing the Tirumala ghee adulteration case, has reportedly uncovered a web of deceit involving multiple entities.

The demand report filed by the CBI, following the arrest of four key accused in the case on Sunday, details the large-scale fraud. Investigation revealed that AR Dairy, the prime accused in the case, had signed a contract with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to supply 10 lakh kg of ghee to AR Dairy procured it from Bhoke Baba Organic Dairy Private Limited, a

Roorkee-based company. The ghee was then transported in tankers to Vaishnavi Dairy located near Srilalahasti, which in turn, supplied the stock to the TTD on the basis of fake GST invoices, forged documents, counterfeit laboratory reports, and fabricated warranty certificates.

The alleged fraud traces back to March 2022, when the TTD invited tenders for the supply of ghee to prepare laddies. The representatives of Vaishnavi Dairy manipulated the documents and secured the contract in the name of AR Dairy.

Vaishnavi Dairy had earlier supplied ghee to TTD. However, the TTD disqualified the firm by June 2022 after discovering



Quality check: In mid-2023, the TTD rejected several consignments of substandard ghee supplied by AR Dairy. G.P. Shukla

the substandard quality of the ghee and its failure to provide records of procurements, payments to suppliers, and other relevant documents.

Bhoke Baba Dairy directors Ponnul Jain and Vipin Jain — who were also indicted — organised the firm by June 2022 after discovering

by 4, 2023, the TTD received multiple ghee consignments which were found to be substandard. The TTD then sent the samples for testing to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Gujarat, which confirmed the presence of animal-origin fat in the samples.

The TTD rejected several consignments in July which, instead of being returned to AR Dairy's facility in Coimbatore, was redirected to Vaishnavi Dairy. Further investigation revealed that the Bhoke Baba Dairy had earlier supplied ghee to the TTD at ₹291 per kg in 2019.

The company later collaborated with Vaishnavi Dairy, enabling it to take part in the tenders

with an assurance of supply and a commission of 2% to 3%.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the CBI, which arrested the four key accused in the case, has sought their custody, suspecting insider involvement in the scam.

The investigators have searched the residences of the jains in Dehradun, and are learnt to have seized several crucial documents.

Once the scandal came to light, Mr. Ponnul and Mr. Vipin resigned as directors of Vaishnavi Dairy, in a bid to cover their tracks and appointed their drivers Surendra Singh and Sourabh Kashyap in their place. They also reportedly destroyed their mobile phones.

Kerala school facing closure gets SC aid

Kishanadas Rajanapal
BENGALURU

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the rescue of a 26-year-old Kerala school threatened with closure in Kerala.

"We are not thinking of closure," Justice K.V. Viswathanthran, leading a bench with Justice N.K. Singh, observed. The Bench directed the Ministry of Education to arrange a meeting with State and Central authorities on "war foot-

ing." The case of the school was taken up by Congress MLA Ramesh Chennithala. The story of the school began when it was sponsored by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at its project site at Kayamkulam in 1999.

At present, only 18 children of NTPC employees study at the school. However, the court noted that there were over 500 other students plus teaching and non-teaching staff here. The case was listed for hearing on March 25.

Mahindra Percussion Festival to pay homage to legacy of Zakir Hussain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The third edition of the Mahindra Percussion Festival, in association with 'The Hindu', will be back in Bengaluru on March 1 and 2 at the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts.

"We are not thinking of closure," Justice K.V. Viswathanthran, leading a bench with Justice N.K. Singh, observed. The Bench directed the Ministry of Education to arrange a meeting with State and Central authorities on "war foot-

ing." The case of the school was taken up by Congress MLA Ramesh Chennithala. The story of the school began when it was sponsored by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at its project site at Kayamkulam in 1999.

At present, only 18 children of NTPC employees study at the school. However, the court noted that there were over 500 other students plus teaching and non-teaching staff here. The case was listed for hearing on March 25.

and mesmerising musical endeavours, Ustad Zakir Hussain helped Indian classical music gain global recognition, and the third edition of the festival will celebrate this.

The first day of the festival will feature virtuoso percussionist Trilok Gaurti. Having collaborated with legends such as L. Shankar, John McLaughlin, Usk

Zakir Hussain, and others, Mr. Gurtu will bring a world-class set of different rhythms from around the world to his concert.

The Mahindra Percussion Festival aims to put percussion on a centre-stage. It explores the multitude of percussive instruments and styles — labored, some are known but many of which remain relatively unknown.

line with all of our Cultural Outreach programmes, this festival, too, discovers, inspires and celebrates artists and art forms." Jay Shah, vice-president, cultural group, Mahindra Group, said.

"Mahindra Percussion is more than a festival; it's a journey into the soul of rhythm," V.G. Jairam, founder, Hyperlink Brand Solutions, said. Tickets for the festival are available on BookMyShow.



Rhythmic delights: Thousands of people throng to witness the colourful Kuvayyottam during the Thapposayam festival at the Sree Maheshwara Temple in Thrissur on Tuesday. K.K. NARESH

Faith and festivity



Rhythmic delights: Thousands of people throng to witness the colourful Kuvayyottam during the Thapposayam festival at the Sree Maheshwara Temple in Thrissur on Tuesday. K.K. NARESH

IN BRIEF



7 Maha Kumbh pilgrims from Hyderabad killed in accident

Seven persons from Hyderabad, returning from Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, were killed and two sustained injuries when a truck rammed the mini-bus they were travelling in, at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. The injured were shifted to the Government Medical College in Jabalpur. The police took the truck driver into custody. The Madhya Pradesh authorities are making arrangements to shift the bodies to Hyderabad. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock. Senior leaders from the BRS and the BJP expressed condolences.

Situation normal after crowd swarms Mysuru police station

A day after an angry crowd indulged in stone pelting outside Udayagiri police station in Karnataka's Mysuru on Monday night, the situation was returning to normal on Tuesday. The crowd had been protesting a derogatory social media post containing semi-nude images of political leaders — Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, and Arvind Kejriwal, with Arabic words on their bodies. Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) R. Hirenrao said, protesters had gathered after rumours spread that the accused who had been arrested, may be released on bail.

Provide all govt. services on WhatsApp, Naidu tells officials

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday instructed officials to make all government services accessible through WhatsApp so that people need not visit the government offices. He said, "Explore the possibility of expanding this to 500 services within the next 45 days. The entire government service system should be available to the people via WhatsApp within the next three to six months."

Kerala govt. faces flak after back-to-back elephant attacks

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Two back-to-back fatal wild elephant attacks in Idukki and Wayanad districts of Kerala have reignited public concerns about the effectiveness of the Forest department's measures to address the increasing occurrences of human-wildlife conflict in rural localities with large settler-farmer and plantation worker populations.

A wild elephant fatally trampled Kappad Unnathil Manu, a farmer, in Wayanad on Monday. His body was found on Tuesday morning. Another rampaging wild elephant gored Sofia Ismail, a plantation worker, to death in Idukki on Monday.

Forest Minister A.K. Sa-

seendran on Monday applied for the State Assembly measures adopted by the government to check the intrusion of wildlifers to human habitations for water and forage which often peaked during summer.

On February 1, the government initiated a campaign to supply food, fodder, and water for wild animals in their natural habitat, aiming to reduce the frequency of incursions into populated areas and farmlands, he said.

The measures involve excavating some 1,434 artificial ponds, establishing waterholes, maintaining 574 wetlands, and constructing check-dams. Additionally, the Forest department has commenced planting fruit trees



Jumbo issue: The government has initiated a campaign to supply food and water to wild animals in their natural habitats. FILE PHOTO

within forests. It has restored 1,583.85 hectares of acacia, Manchyram, teak, and eucalyptus plantations to natural forests.

Controlled burning The government has begun controlled burning of forests to restore grasslands. It has also started trees and shrubs growth along elephant

IIT Madras develops indigenous Shakti semiconductor chip

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Indian Space Research Organisation have developed an indigenous aerospace quality Shakti-based semiconductor chip.

IIT Madras director V. Kamakoti led the Shakti microprocessor project at Prithviya Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PSCDSIA) in the institute's Computer Science and Engineering department.

Shakti is backed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under its Digital India

Data show rise in crimes against SC/ST communities in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu recorded a rise in crimes against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) between 2020 and 2022, according to data submitted by the Home Ministry in the Lok Sabha.

A total of 1,274 cases registered under crimes against the SCs in 2020, and 1,377 cases in 2021. In 2022, there was a spurt in crimes against the SCs, resulting in the registration of 1,761 cases.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar presented the data to a question raised by DMK member S. Jagathathagan, who wanted to know whether the government was aware of the increase in crimes committed against the SCs and the STs in the country, as per the National Crime Records Bureau.

As per the data, there was a rise in crimes committed against the SCs/STs in all the States, and Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 15,368 cases, up from 12,774 cases in 2020 and 13,146 cases in 2021.

In Tamil Nadu, the crimes against the STs also increased. In 2020 there were 23 cases and increased to 30 in 2021 and 67 in 2022. Cases of rape of SC women were 116 in 2020, 123 in 2021 and 166 in 2022. In the case of ST women, cases of rape were 3 in 2020, 6 in 2021 and 14 in 2022.

RISCV initiative (DIRV), it aims to promote indigenous development of microprocessor-based products that offer best-in-class security and visibility for users adopting RISCV technology.

The indigenous RISCV controller for space applications chip was developed from Shakti processor baseline. It can be used in diverse domains from IoT and computer systems for strategic needs.

ISRO chairman V. Narayanan said, the end-to-end indigenous manufactured chip with Indian resources, marked a milestone in the Make in India efforts in semiconductor design and fabrication.

Wildlife raids on farmlands have dealt a death blow to the State's rural agrarian economy and created an atmosphere of fear in agricultural communities, he said.

The Forest department has also put snare catchers, chiefly trained volunteers, in place to restrict the intrusion of wildlifers from populated localities. The government has engaged licensed shooters and declared panchnayat president, municipal and corporation chairpersons as honorary wildlife wardens to shoot down wild boars that trespass on human habitations, he added.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Sartheshan blamed the government for the death of people in wildlife attacks.

Wildlife raids on farmlands have dealt a death blow to the State's rural agrarian economy and created an atmosphere of fear in agricultural communities, he said.

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RISC-V initiative (DIRV). It aims to promote indigenous development of microprocessor-based products that offer best-in-class security and visibility for users adopting RISC-V technology.

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Cabinet Decisions: 15 Dec, 2021

MAKE IN INDIA

SEMICONDUCTORS FOR THE WORLD

Scheme for holistic development of Semiconductor
& Display manufacturing ecosystem



To contribute to US \$1 trillion digital economy as a part of US \$5 trillion GDP by 2025 - 2026



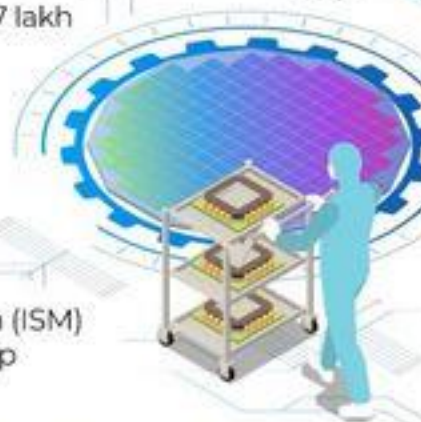
Production target worth ₹9.57 lakh crore over the next 20 years



Exports expected to touch ₹5.15 lakh crore over the next 20 years



India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) to implement policy roadmap



Global Semiconductors Manufacturing

Dominant regions in the semiconductor industry

- United States, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, China, and Europe
- No single region possesses the entire production stack

Specialization within the semiconductor value chain

- Different companies specialize in various processes and technologies
- Design, fabrication, and assembly are examples

Lack of strategic autonomy

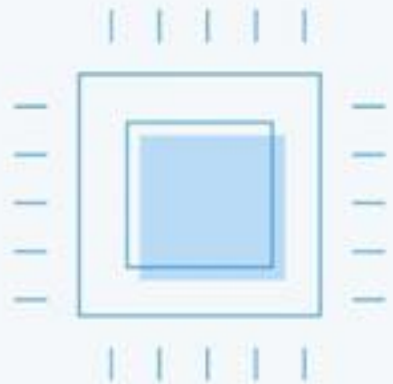
- No region has achieved self-sufficiency in the industry
- Dependency on other regions for manufacturing processes

Emergence of specialized players

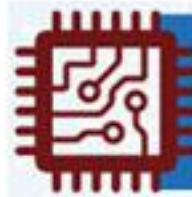
- Numerous players with specific business models
- Focus on specialized layers of the semiconductor value chain

Intel und Samsung Lead Global Semiconductor Production

Market shares of the world's biggest semiconductor producers in 2020



Source: Gartner



Wide Band Gap Semiconductor Market

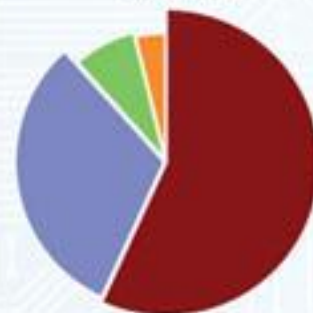
2019-2027

~22% CAGR (2019-2027)
Market Value, 2027 -US\$ 3 Bn

Market Revenue and Y-o-Y Forecast 2019 - 2027



Material



2019

- Silicon Carbide (SiC)
- Gallium Nitride (GaN)
- Diamond
- Others

Application



Key Market Strategies

- Increase Development of New Materials for High Power and High Temperature Electronics
- Manufacture Optoelectronics Using Gallium Nitride for Better Conductivity

North America



Europe



Asia Pacific



Middle East & Africa






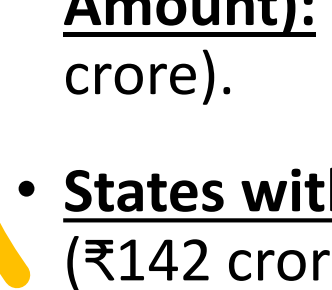
South America

Market by Region, 2019

The image features a blurred background of a library with bookshelves. In the foreground, an open book is placed on top of a stack of three closed books. The text 'NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education' is centered in white. Various mathematical symbols like pi, infinity, and numbers, along with icons of a microscope and a hand, are scattered around the text.

NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education

- 
- The NITI Aayog report, “Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities,” highlights disparities in state-wise spending on higher education, urging increased public investment, especially in State Public Universities (SPUs)
- 

- 
- **States Allocating the Most to Higher Education (% of GDP):** Jammu & Kashmir (8.11%), Manipur (7.25%), Meghalaya (6.64%), Tripura (6.19%).
 - **States with the Lowest Higher Education Expenditure (% of GSDP):** Telangana (0.18%), Gujarat (0.23%), Rajasthan (0.23%).
 - **States with the Highest Higher Education Budget (Absolute Amount):** Maharashtra (₹11,421 crore), Bihar (₹9,666 crore), Tamil Nadu (₹7,237 crore).
 - **States with the Lowest Higher Education Budget (Absolute Amount):** Sikkim (₹142 crore), Arunachal Pradesh (₹155 crore), Nagaland (₹167 crore).
- 

-
- **Growth in Per Youth Spending on Higher Education:** Increased from ₹2,174 (2005-06) to ₹4,921 (2019-20), with widening disparities among states.
 - **States with Consistently High Per Youth Spending:** Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana.
 - **States Lagging in Higher Education Investment:** Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh.

- **Policy Recommendations:**

- The recommendations are divided into short-term (0-2 years), medium-term (2-5 years), and long-term (5+ years) goals:

- **Key Recommendations:**

- **Enhancing Quality of Education & Research:**

- **Governance & Autonomy of State Public Universities:**
- **Internationalization of Higher Education:**
- **Digitalization of Higher Education:**
- **Improving Pedagogy and Curriculum:**

Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)



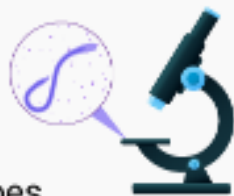
- 
- India has launched a nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign covering 111 endemic districts across 13 states, with the goal of eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) by 2027.
- 



DISEASE

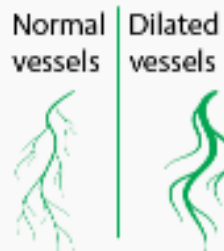
Infection

Filarial parasites spread by mosquitoes



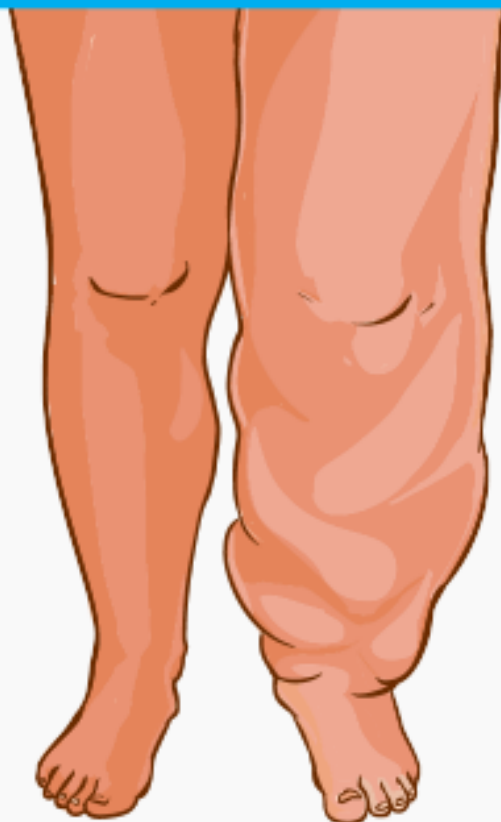
Disease

Impairs function of lymphatic vessels



856 Million people

AT RISK



ELIMINATION



Large-scale treatment of all at-risk populations can stop spread of infection



Vector control can supplement impact of large-scale treatment



Morbidity management & disability prevention to alleviate suffering due to disease

- **6.7 billion** treatments delivered (2000-2016)
- **499 million** people no longer require treatment
- Prevented or cured more than **97 million cases**
- **US\$ 100 billion** averted lifetime economic loss

Lymphatic Filariasis eliminated as a public health problem in 10 countries



- **What is Lymphatic Filariasis?**


- Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), also called **Elephantiasis**, is a **parasitic disease** caused by filarial worms that infect the human lymphatic system, leading to severe swelling and disability.

- **India's Status:**

- **India is among the highest-burden countries** for LF, contributing significantly to the global caseload.
 - Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha are among the states with the highest number of LF cases



- **Causes and Transmission:**

- Caused by **Wuchereria bancrofti** (most common), **Brugia malayi**, and **Brugia timori** parasites.
 - Transmitted through **mosquito bites** (Anopheles, Culex, Aedes species).
 - Requires **repeated mosquito bites over months or years** for infection to establish.
- 

Bombay Blood Group




-
- India has successfully performed its first-ever cross-blood kidney transplant for a patient with the rare Bombay (hh) blood group.
 - **About Bombay Blood Group:**
 - **What is the Bombay Blood Group?**
 - **A rare blood type (hh phenotype) first discovered in Mumbai (Bombay) in 1952 by Dr. Y.M. Bhende.**
 - Lacks the **H antigen**, which is the base structure for **A and B antigens** in the ABO blood group system
 -

Blood group	Antibody	Antigen	Compatibility
A	B	A	Blood group A and O
B	A	B	Blood group B and O
AB	Nil	AB	Blood group A, B, AB and O
O	AB	Nil	Only group O
HH	ABH	Nil	HH



- **Unique Characteristics**

- Individuals with this blood type **cannot receive blood from any ABO group, including O-negative**, as it contains the H antigen.
 - Can **only receive blood from another Bombay blood group donor**, making transfusions highly difficult.
 - **Prevalence:** 1 in 10,000 in India, 1 in 1 million globally.
- 



- **Challenges in Blood Transfusion:**

- Routine blood tests often misidentify **Bombay blood group** as **O-type**, leading to **misdiagnosis and transfusion complications**.
- Receiving blood with the **H antigen** can trigger an **acute hemolytic transfusion reaction**, causing **severe immune responses**.



-

- **Recent Medical Significance:**

- In **mid-2024**, Chennai doctors at MIOT International successfully performed a **cross-blood kidney transplant** using a special **plasmapheresis technique** to remove antibodies.
- **India's first successful Bombay blood group kidney transplant** was also reported at Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai, in **February 2025**, setting a medical precedent.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science

- 
- The year 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS), observed annually on 11th February.
 - This day promotes the full and equal participation of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM
- 

ABOUT

- Celebrated **every year on February 11** since 2015
- Observed by the United Nation **to promote the full and equal access and participation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.**

THEME 2023

- Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance.
Sustain (I.D.E.A.S.)

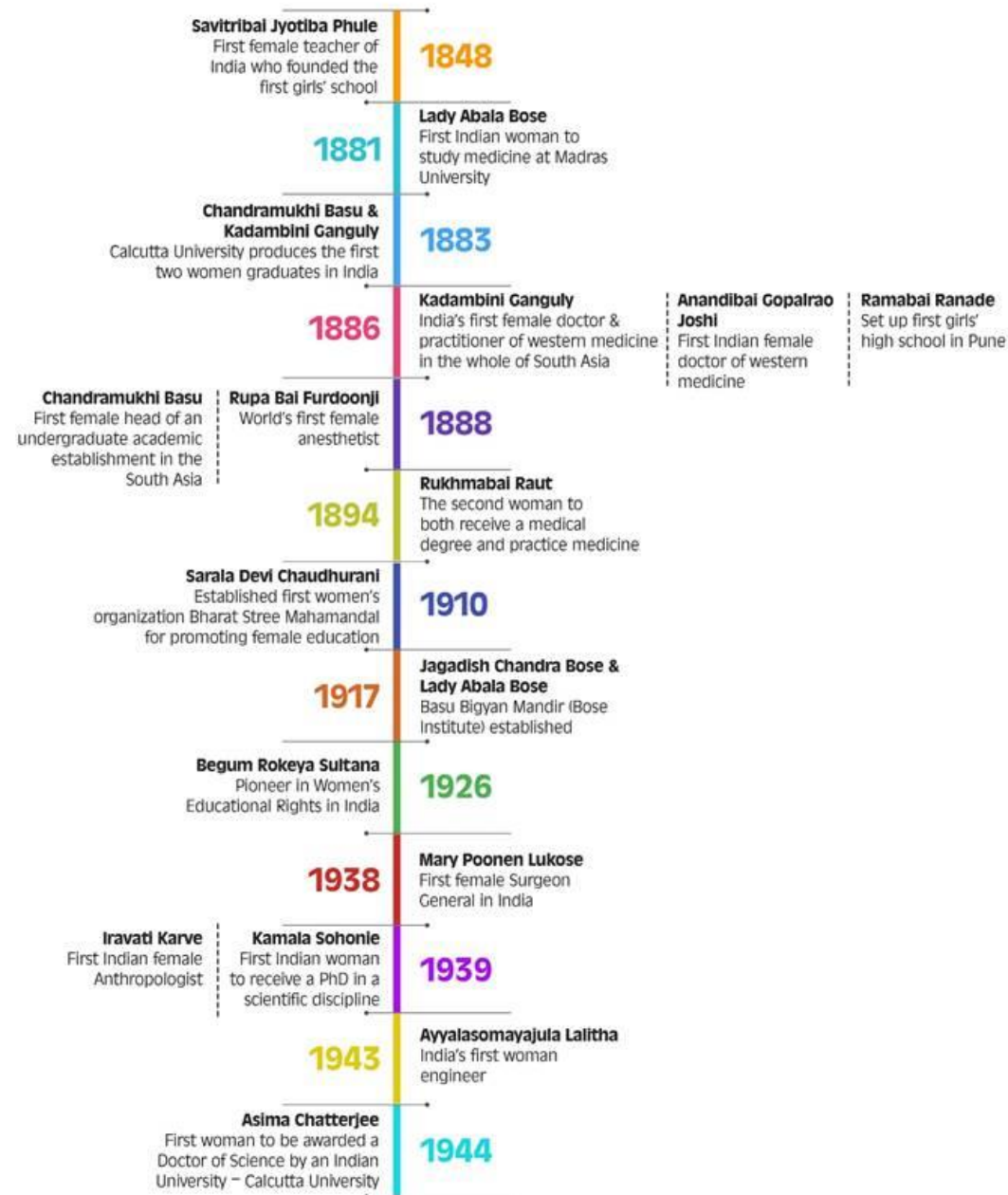
STATUS OF WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN THE SCIENCE SECTOR

- According to the All India Survey on Higher Education 2020-2021, number of science researchers in India has **doubled from 30,000 in 2014 to over 60,000 in 2022.**
- Women's participation is the **highest in biotechnology at 40% and medicine at 35%.**

INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

- **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI):**
 - To develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM.
- **Vigyan Jyoti Scheme:**
 - To create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue STEM in their higher education.
- **Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM (WISTEMM) program:**
 - Women scientists can work in research labs in the US.
- **Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme:**
 - Improving R&D infrastructure and establishing state-of-the-art research facilities in order to create excellence in S&T in women universities.

Milestones of Women in Indian Science



What is the Status of Women in STEM?

■ Global Scenario:

- **Women in STEM:** According to **UN data**, globally, women remain underrepresented in **STEM education and careers**, constituting only **35% of STEM graduates**.
- Between **1901 and 2024**, only **26 out of 650 Nobel laureates in Physics, Chemistry, and Physiology or Medicine** have been women.

Facts & figures



Only 1 in 3 scientists worldwide is a woman

Despite some progress in recent years, gender equality in science remains elusive



Less than 2/5 STEM graduates are women

The gender gap varies across scientific disciplines. Some fields, such as physics, tend to attract more men than women



Only 12% of national academies of science members are women

At the upper levels of scientific hierarchies, the proportion of women scientists declines



Not all countries have reliable data on gender and science

98 countries have not supplied data for 2018-2021 (dataset of the UNESCO Institute of Statistics)



What are India's Initiatives Related to STEM?

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations

Vigyan Jyoti

Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)

WISE-KIRAN Scheme



विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

सत्यमेव जयते



THREE NEW PROGRAMMES ANNOUNCED UNDER

Women in Science & Engineering (WISE)-KIRAN

SCHEME TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE



INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN:
Brings opportunity for young women researchers to work in the industry for short & long duration



OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN:
Provides exposure to research scholars and young women scientists to upgrade their skills in various countries



SENIOR WOMEN SCIENTIST'S FELLOWSHIP:
Brings dignity to senior women scientists who are performing well in research but are not in regular employment due to various circumstances

Fun fact

A vintage silver microphone with a mesh grille, set against a black background. The microphone is positioned vertically on the left side of the frame. The text "Top 10 MCQ from the session" is overlaid in white, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the microphone's grille.

Top 10 MCQ from the session

- **Consider the following statements regarding AI governance:**

1. The **OECD AI Principles (2019)** emphasize inclusive, transparent, and accountable AI.

2. The **UNESCO AI Ethics Framework (2021)** aims to regulate AI in all member nations.

3. The **Paris AI Summit (2024)** was co-chaired by India and the U.K.

- **Which of the statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 1 only

- (d) 1 and 3 only

- **What are the key concerns raised at the Paris AI Summit?**
- (a) The need for stronger AI monopolization policies.
- (b) Encouraging a **human-centric AI approach**.
- (c) Regulating **AI completely** to prevent any usage in military sectors.
- (d) Reducing AI investments globally.

- **What are the concerns regarding ART regulation in India?**
- **(a) Ethical concerns about late pregnancies.**
- **(b) Economic burden of ART procedures.**
- **(c) Need for uniform regulations.**
- **(d) All of the above.**

- **Consider the following statements regarding Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) in India:**

1. The **ART Regulation Act, 2021** allows women above 50 years to undergo ART procedures without restrictions.
2. The Act aims to **regulate ART clinics and ensure ethical practices.**
3. ART is **only available in government hospitals** in India.

- **Which of the statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

- Which country recently launched the 'Green Hydrogen Production Initiative' with India?
- हाल ही में किस देश ने भारत के साथ 'ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन पहल' शुरू की?
- A. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
B. United Kingdom / यूनाइटेड किंगडम
C. Germany / जर्मनी
D. Japan / जापान

- What is the primary goal of India's 'National Hydrogen Mission'?
- भारत के 'राष्ट्रीय हाइड्रोजन मिशन' का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Achieving energy security through hydrogen production / हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन के माध्यम से ऊर्जा सुरक्षा प्राप्त करना
- B. Reducing coal dependency / कोयले पर निर्भरता कम करना
- C. Promoting electric vehicles / इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों को बढ़ावा देना
- D. Developing new nuclear power plants / नए परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र विकसित करना

- **What percentage of India's total energy mix is planned to be from renewable sources by 2030?**
- **2030 तक भारत के कुल ऊर्जा मिश्रण का कितना प्रतिशत नवीकरणीय स्रोतों से होगा?**
- **A. 30%**
- **B. 40%**
- **C. 50%**
- **D. 60%**

- Which Indian organization is leading the AI-powered governance reforms?
- कौन सा भारतीय संगठन एआई-समर्थित शासन सुधारों का नेतृत्व कर रहा है?
- A. NITI Aayog / नीति आयोग
- B. Election Commission of India / भारत का चुनाव आयोग
- C. Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) / इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आईटी मंत्रालय (MeitY)
- D. Reserve Bank of India / भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक

- Which Indian city hosted the 'G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting' in 2025?
- 2025 में 'G20 डिजिटल इकोनॉमी मंत्रियों की बैठक' की मेजबानी किस भारतीय शहर ने की?
- A. Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
B. Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
C. New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
D. Mumbai / मुंबई

Word of the day

Wrangle:

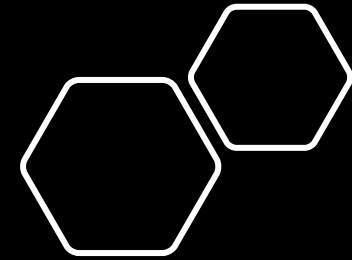
an instance of intense argument (as in bargaining); an angry dispute; to quarrel noisily, angrily or disruptively

Synonyms: haggle, brawl

Usage: *The wrangle over ownership of the house dragged on for years.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/wranglepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈræŋɡl/



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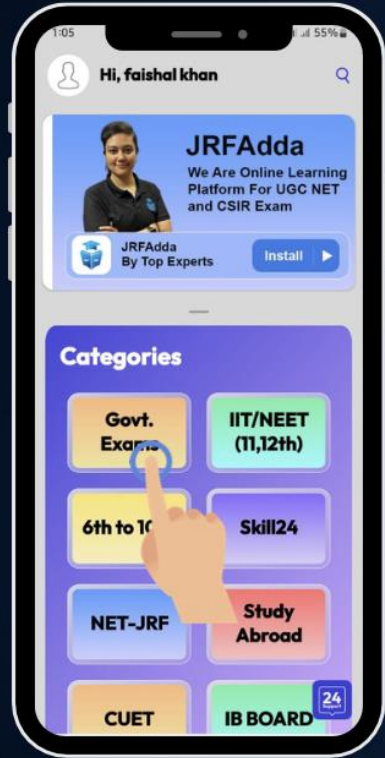
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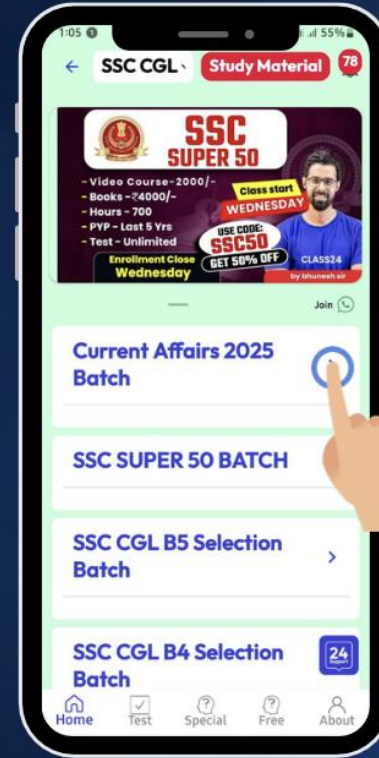
Step 1



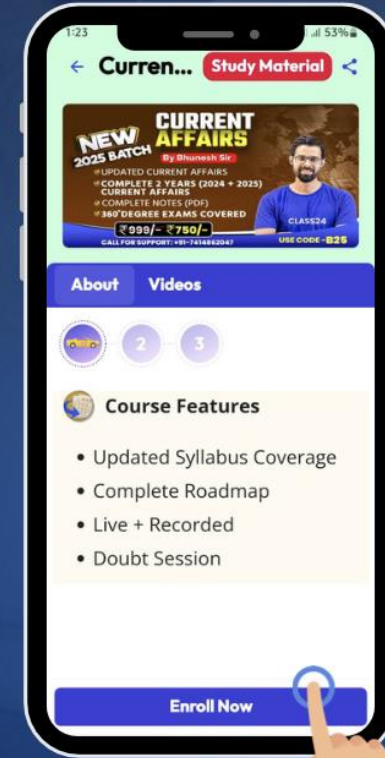
Step 2




Step 3



Step 4



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is low, with a warm orange glow from the left side. There are some red dots scattered in the upper left area.

Thank you
guys.
