

# Daily Current Affairs



**जनसत्ता**



**The Indian EXPRESS**

**THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS**



6  
**The Hindu**



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**PIB, PRS & Other  
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1  
**The Indian  
Express**



0  
**Jansatta**



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**Financial  
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PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ





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



Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

Class24

# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट)-1

- ▶ सामान्य जागरूकता
- ▶ गणित
- ▶ सामान्य बुद्धि और तर्कशक्ति

20 OMR SHEETS सहित

— विशेषताएँ —

- ▶ परीक्षा की दृष्टि से अतिमहत्वपूर्ण प्रश्नों का व्याख्या सहित हल
- ▶ नवीनतम पाठ्यक्रम पर आधारित प्रश्नों का समावेशन
- ▶ विगत वर्ष के प्रश्नपत्रों के विश्लेषण पर आधारित प्रश्न



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Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

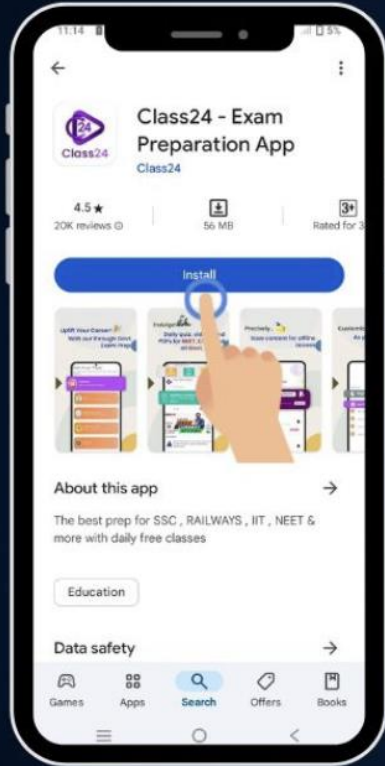
# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 मॉडल पेपर्स

Price  
Rs 199

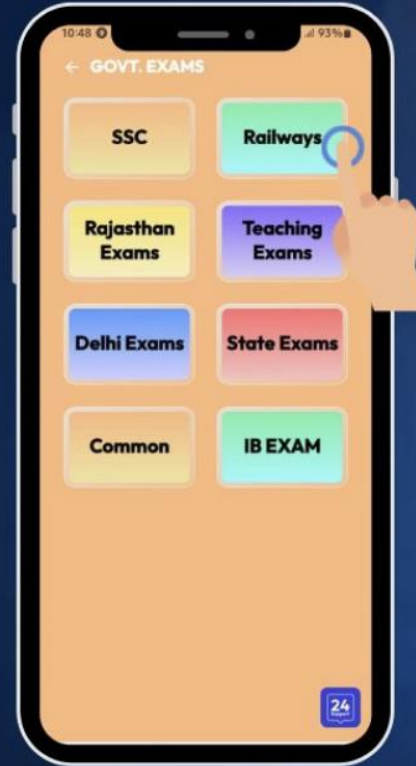
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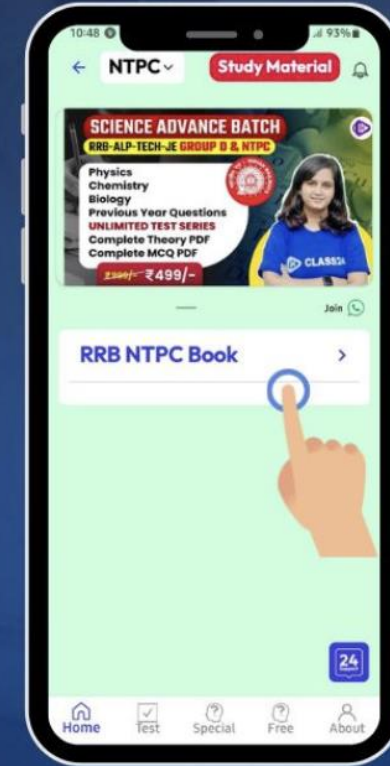
# Step 2



# Step 3



# Step 4







**MOSCOW VISIT**  
Putin invites Trump to discuss Ukraine  
WORLD ▢ PAGE 24



**AERO INDIA**  
We should catch up with new trends, says CDS  
NEWS ▢ PAGE 5



**'PARASITIC EXISTENCE'**  
Justice Gaval questions freebies for the poor  
NEWS ▢ PAGE 6



**UNDERMINING SAFETY**  
Dangerous concessions on nuclear liability  
Proposed amendments a matter of concern  
EDITORIAL ▢ PAGE 8



**SWEEPING SUCCESS**  
Dominant Men in Blue complete demolition  
SPORT ▢ PAGE 16

**INSIDE**

**Nursing students held in Kerala on ragging charges**

**Over 19 million take holy dip at Maha Kumbh**

**SC to hear pleas against law on CEC next week**

**Flu check**

**Committee asks Centre to review NH toll tax rules**

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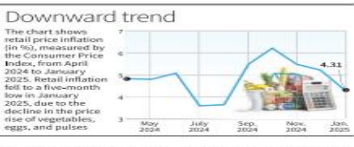
**Committee asks Centre to review NH toll tax rules**

# India's retail inflation cools to five-month low of 4.31% in Jan.

The rise in food prices slows for the third straight month to 6% in January; inflation for urban consumers drops to 3.87%, below the RBI's 4% median target for inflation but edible oils spike; the RBI has already cut interest rates by 0.25 points

Vikas Dhoest  
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation cooled to a five-month low of 4.31% in January, from 5.22% in December 2024, and 5.1% a year ago. The rise in food prices has decelerated for the third successive month to 6%, from 8.4% in the preceding month, but the prices of edible oils and fruits flared up sharply. The price rise faced by urban consumers in January dropped to 3.87%, below the Central bank's 4% median target for inflation. For rural consumers, price rise remained above the median target at 4.64%, but down from December's 5.8% rise. The latest inflation figures were reported just days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) move to slash interest rates by 0.25



percentage points last Friday on the premise that inflation is declining and will soften to 4.2% in 2025-26 which greatly needs are more pressing. The RBI has projected inflation to average 4.4% between January to March, which could imply mild inflation in 2025. The pace over this month and the next. Economists have

**At 3.2% in Dec., IIP growth skids to 4-month low**

Growth in India's index of Industrial Production (IIP) dipped to a four-month low of 3.2% in December, with manufacturing and mining sectors rising just 3% and 2.6%, respectively.

flagged worries about its price," cautioned Dharma-kirti Joshi, chief economist at Crisil. Although non-food inflation inched up to a 13-month high of 3.2%, this month's growth is mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, egg, pulses and products, cereals and products, education and health. Inflation spiked to 12.22%, and edible oils became 15.6%

costlier than a year ago, marking a 33-month high. Vegetables cheaper The five items that recorded the highest inflation in January were coconut oil (54.2%), potatoes (49.6%), coconut (38.7%), garlic (30.7%), and peas (29.5%). Kerala and Odisha reported the highest inflation rates in the country at 6.76% and 6.05% respectively, while Delhi (2.02%) and Telangana (2.22%) recorded the mildest price pressures for their residents. A significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of January is mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, egg, pulses and products, cereals and products, education and health. Inflation spiked to 12.22%, and edible oils became 15.6%

# IMEC project gains traction as PM holds talks with Macron

Statement said officials from both sides signed a letter of intent on production of small and advanced modular reactors. The two leaders described nuclear energy as an "essential part of the energy mix".

Kajali Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

India and France on Wednesday announced that they would continue to work closely to implement the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) project. The project proposes to connect India to Europe through sea and land routes. A discussion on the project was held during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to France, where he spoke at the Paris AI Action summit and held talks with President Emmanuel Macron. "The two leaders recalled the launch of the IMEC on the margins of the G20 Summit in Delhi in September 2023 and agreed to participate more closely on implementing the initiative," said a joint statement issued after the visit. IMEC, which involves the participation of Israel, had failed to make headway because of the Gaza conflict. The French and Indian leadership highlighted the importance of the project for the prosperity of India and Europe. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misra told the media that after the AI summit, Mr. Modi reached Marseille on Tuesday. "Marseille will be the entry point for the whole European market, and IMEC will channel a lot of energy to Marseille," Mr. Misra said. The two sides also agreed to develop nuclear reactors jointly. The joint

**Cong. slams Centre over Adani project near border**

**The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI**

The Congress party on Wednesday asked the Narendra Modi-led Union government to clarify claims made in a news report that it will build a renewable energy park in Gujarat's Rajkot district. The Congress leaders called on the Prime Minister and Defence Minister to explain why such a drastic step to compromise our national security was taken.

**FULL REPORT ▢ PAGE 4**

## Flu check



A worker cleans a poultry farm in NTR district on Wednesday after bird flu cases were reported in Andhra Pradesh. G. N. RAO (REPORT; PAGE 3)

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**FULL REPORT ▢ PAGE 4**

# SC asks Senthilbalaji whether he intends to continue as a Minister

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked Tamil Nadu Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise V. Senthilbalaji to give an answer in 'yes or no' whether he intends to continue as a Minister while facing trial in money laundering proceedings. "Do you want to continue as a Minister? Answer 'yes' or 'no'... We know this will be a very difficult question for you to answer," Justice A.S. Oka, heading a Bench, addressed senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and advocate Ram



the Metropolitan Transport Corporation of Chennai and Tamil Nadu State Corporation during his tenure as Transport Minister. "I was in jail for one year. Cases were piled upon me when I was in jail. After imposing stringent conditions on me (for bail), I have been appearing every alternate day before the court," Mr. Rohatgi submitted. The court was hearing the allegations raised by both the Directorate of Enforcement, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehra and K. Vidhya Kumar, an alleged victim of the scam - through senior ad-

**The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI**

A Delhi court on Wednesday convicted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a dual murder case stemming from the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The 79-year-old faces a maximum of death penalty and a minimum of life term in prison. "Prosecution has been able to prove its case against the accused (Kumar) beyond reasonable doubt," special judge Kaveri Baweja said, convicting Kumar for the offences of murder, rioting, dacoity, and arson. The judge post-

ed the arguments for the sentencing on February 13. The judgment was produced in court from the Tihar jail. The court convicted Kumar for the killing of S. Jaswant Singh and his son S. Tarundeep Singh, both residents of Raj Nagar, Delhi, at the hands of a mob on the evening of September 14, 1984. They had killed thousands of persons during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. "He led the mob" The prosecution argued that Kumar was leading the mob and by instigating and abetting that the mob burnt alive the two persons, damaged and looted their household

special investigation team later took over the probe. The judge noted that the evidence, both oral and documentary, led a record in the course of trial, "the prosecution has been able to bring home the guilt of the accused". "It has further been established that accused Sajjan Kumar, being a member of the mob at the assembly, is guilty of having committed the murder of S. Jaswant Singh and S. Tarundeep Singh, the husband and son of the complainant PW-13, during the incident of rioting which occurred on November 01, 1984," the court said.



## Clauses in new Immigration Bill may bar foreigners' entry

Yliatha Singh  
NEW DELHI

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, which is expected to be introduced in the current session of Parliament, is likely to introduce for the first time, threat to national security and sovereignty as grounds to deny entry or stay to a foreign national in the country. It may also have provisions to bar the entry of a foreigner on basis of relations with a foreign state.

The proposed law could make the decision of the Immigration Officer final and binding. Earlier, too, foreigners were denied entry but the clause was not explicitly mentioned in any legislation or Rules.

The Bill is likely to repeal and replace the Foreigners Act, 1946; Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1929 — the three laws brought close to the First and Second World Wars. The migration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000 will also be repealed.

The four Acts had overlapping provisions and a necessity to repeal the Acts and enact a new comprehensive law was felt.

The proposed legislation was also framed to avoid overlapping of laws with relation to passports or other documents of persons entering or exiting India.

**The legislation could propose jail term of five years, or fines up to ₹5 lakh or both, for entering India without valid documents**

The Bill may also define functions of the Immigration Officer, Obligations of universities and other educational institutions, and those of medical institutions with regard to admitting foreigners may also be covered by the Bill. It is likely that the Bill will include provisions on burden of proof upon such persons to prove that they are not foreign national.

Although the Bureau of Immigration already exists, with the passing of the Bill, Immigration Officers and the bureau may get adequate legal backing.

The legislation could provide for imprisonment of five years, or fines up to ₹5 lakh or both, for entering India without valid documents.

It may also provide for imposing or distributing fraudulent travel documents which may invite punishments such as two years imprisonment, which may be extended to five years. A fine of not less than ₹1 lakh, which may stretch to ₹10 lakh, may also be proposed.

## Congress slams Centre over Adani project near border

Party asks PM to explain if rules were changed to allow infrastructure projects in border areas; he endangered security to benefit billionaires, rules relaxed on other border areas too, says Kharage

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI



**Boom or bane?** Solar panels installed at the Adani Green Renewable Energy plant at Khavda in Kutch district of Gujarat. AP

The Congress on Wednesday asked the Narendra Modi-led Union government to make clean on the claims made in a news report that it had changed the rules regarding land allocation near international borders to help the Adani Group build a renewable energy park in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch at the India-Pakistan border.

Reacting to an investigation by *The Guardian*, Congress leaders said the government's move jeopardised national security and asked the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister to "explain why such a drastic step to compromise our national security was taken".

Neither the government nor the Adani Group has responded to the news reports and the comments made by the Opposition party.

**Protocols changed** The investigation by *The Guardian* said the Adani Group is setting up a solar plant and building the world's largest renewable energy park at Khavda in Kutch, barely a kilometre from the Pakistan border. Earlier security protocols did not allow any construction in the area, but the Gujarat government wrote to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) before April 2023, seeking permission for infrastructure projects to be built on the land near the border, reported the British newspaper. Its report claimed that a "confidential meeting" was convened in Delhi on April 21, 2023 to discuss the matter. At that time, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) was in possession of the land that was leased out by the Gujarat government.

"Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the pseudo-nationalistic face of the ruling BJP has once again become unmasked. "Endangered security" "Narendra Modi, you have endangered national security at our borders in a sitting duck against our adversaries. Is it true that you have gifted precious strategic land, just 1 km near the international border with Pakistan, to your 'dear friend' by relaxing the border security rules?" Mr. Kharge asked in a post on X.

"Is it not true that your government has relaxed such rules, not just at the India-Pakistan border, but also on the land adjoining Bangladesh, China, Myanmar and Nepal, thereby jeopardising our strategic security?" Mr. Kharge asked.

"Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the pseudo-nationalistic face of the ruling BJP has once again become unmasked."

**'PM must explain'** Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal asked the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister to explain the need for a change in the rules. "Are we trying to make our energy system a sitting duck against our adversaries? Are military experts warning us of the need for more than an hour's notice to speak to journalists after emerging from the Raj Bhawan."

However, BJP legislator Karam Shyam dismissed speculation about the imposition of the 'Frustrator Rule' in the ethnic conflict-ridden States. "Contrary to the hypotheses, there will be no constitutional crisis. We have gifted precious strategic land, just 1 km near the international border with Pakistan, to your 'dear friend' by relaxing the border security rules?" Mr. Kharge asked in a post on X.

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The House panel is headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal. The panel will review the existing rules that decide the toll tax on National Highways.

The panel began deliberations on the subject of "Levy and regulation of fees, tariffs, user charges etc. on infrastructure structure and other public utilities".

The current toll taxes are levied based on the base rate of ₹10 per kilometre as prescribed by the NH Fee Rules, 2008. Since vehicular traffic on the road has exponentially increased since 2008, the panel directed the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport

and the panel members said. The members also flagged that many of the concessionaires do not keep their side of the agreement, which includes maintenance of the road, identifying high-risk intersections, managing black spots, and providing passenger amenities, including rest stops, and medical help in case of accidents.

The long traffic jams at the toll gates, despite the introduction of FASTags, were also discussed. The example of Paliyekkara Toll Plaza at the Thiruvananthapuram section of National Highway 544 was also cited, as the concessionaire was not following the agreement.

The Centre has said it is now running a pilot project with "Automatic Number Plate Recognition" at select highways.

**Govt. set to introduce new Income Tax Bill today**

The Union government is all set to introduce a new Bill to reform the income tax laws on Thursday, the last day of the first part of the Budget Session.

The report of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqt (Amendment) Bill is also likely to be tabled on Thursday.

The panel has already submitted the report on the Bill to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

## Stalemate continues in Manipur over successor to Biren

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI



N. Biren Singh

The BJP in Manipur struggled to select a successor to erstwhile Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh for the third straight time on Wednesday. Sambit Patra, the MP in charge of the party's affairs in the Northeast, met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla for the third time in three days. Neither the Raj Bhawan nor the BJP issued any statement on what transpired during their meeting for more than an hour.

Mr. Patra, who continued his one-to-one meeting with the legislators of the BJP and its allies, declined to speak to journalists after emerging from the Raj Bhawan.

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## Illegal mining continues in Meghalaya, says report

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

A single-member committee set up by the High Court of Meghalaya to check illegal rat-hole coal mining said such activities continue in six coal-rich districts of the State.

The Justice (retired) B.P. Katakey panel, in its 27th interim report compiled after drone videography of the mines and volumetric assessment of coal, apart from the extracted coal inventoried by authorised private firm, provides fresh evidence of unauthorised mining despite seizures under the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act of 1957. He underlined the mismatch of coal figures in the East Jaintia, West Khasi Hills, and South Garo Hills between 2022 and February 4, 2025.

## Duty and sacrifice



Last tributes: Lieutenant-General Navin Sachdeva, General Officer-Commanding of the Jammu-based White Knight Corps, on Wednesday lays a wreath on the mortal remains of two soldiers killed in an IED blast near the Line of Control in Jammu on Tuesday. PTI



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## HC seeks Centre's reply over women's reservation

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to respond to a plea challenging the validity of Article 334A(B) of the Constitution, which prescribes delimitation as a prerequisite to give effect to reservation of seats for women in Parliament.

The court issued notices to the Ministry of Law Minister Justice as well as Attorney General, the highest law officer in the country, on a plea questioning why women's reservation should be deferred until the delimitation is complete.

## AI a dangerous tool, be it in Chinese or American hands: HC

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to clarify its artificial intelligence (AI) is "a dangerous tool" in anybody's hand, whether Chinese or American.

The observation came while hearing a petition seeking a direction to the Centre to block access to DeepSeek, a Chinese AI chatbot promoting the use of the alleged "inappropriate and unlawful operations". DeepSeek, saying it posed "instant and emerging threats that are prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India".

very well aware," a Bench led by Chief Justice D.K. Jindal and Justice Tuskar Rao Gedela said. The Centre's counsel said the issue requires consideration and urged the court to grant some time to get instructions in the matter. The court listed the matter for February 20.

## Average of ₹57 lakh spent by each candidate on LS poll campaign: data

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Candidates in the 2024 Lok Sabha election each spent an average of ₹57.23 lakh for campaigning, according to an Atlas on last year's general election released by the Election Commission of India on Wednesday.

While the Congress's Shashi Tharoor reported the highest individual expenditure of ₹94.89 lakh, the Trinamool Congress's Pratima Mondal spent only ₹12,500.

**Maximum limit of poll expenses was revised in 2022, considering a rise in total electors, cost inflation index, and virtual campaigns**

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar reiterated that the polling data system was robust, with in-built checks to ensure that "nothing can go wrong".

"Inbuilt red flags" Speaking at the release of the Atlas, Chief Election

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, asked the government to review the existing rules that decide the toll tax on National Highways.

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## 'Inbuilt red flags'

Speaking at the release of the Atlas, Chief Election

## Maximum limit of poll expenses was revised in 2022, considering a rise in total electors, cost inflation index, and virtual campaigns

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar reiterated that the polling data system was robust, with inbuilt "red flags" to ensure that "nothing can go wrong".

Lakhs of officials, including booth-level officers, feed data into the system. "As a design, nothing can go wrong... The system throws up red flags," he said, adding that this

makes the EC "extremely confident" that nothing can go wrong. If someone makes an error, the system will not accept it, he said.

The Opposition, led by the Congress, has been raising concerns about unusual numbers of additions and deletions in voters lists in some States like Maharashtra.



## **Highs and lows**



According to the Atlas, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi spent ₹92.82 lakh on his campaign trail in Wayanad.



Three Karnataka MPs – Sunil Bose, B.Y. Raghavendra and E. Tukaram – were on the list of 15 MPs with

the highest campaign expenditure. DMK MP from Coimbatore, Ganapathy Rajkumar P., was in the ninth position, having spent ₹92.96 lakh on his campaign. Those who kept their expenditure low, included Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid, who spent ₹2.10 lakh, and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, who spent ₹20.67 lakh.

The amount of money candidates are permitted to spend on their campaigns is subject to a ceiling. The maximum limit of election expenses was revised in 2022, owing to a rise in the number of electors, cost inflation index, and virtual campaigns.

-  **Election Commission (EC) report reveals:**
  - ✓ Candidates in **2024 Lok Sabha elections** spent an **average of ₹57.23 lakh** on their campaigns.
  - ✓ **Shashi Tharoor (Congress)** reported the **highest individual expenditure of ₹94.89 lakh**.
  - ✓ **Pratima Mondal (TMC)** spent the least – only **₹12,500**.
-  **निर्वाचन आयोग (EC) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार:**
  - ✓ **2024 लोकसभा चुनाव में उम्मीदवारों ने औसतन ₹57.23 लाख खर्च किए।**
  - ✓ **कांग्रेस के शशि थरूर ने सबसे अधिक ₹94.89 लाख खर्च किए।**
  - ✓ **तृणमूल कांग्रेस की प्रत्याशी प्रतिभा मंडल ने सबसे कम ₹12,500 खर्च किए।**


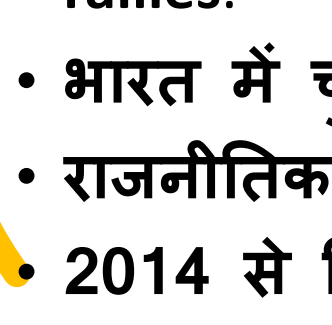
-  **Highest Expenditures | सबसे अधिक खर्च करने वाले**
  - ✓ **Rahul Gandhi (Congress) spent ₹92.82 lakh on his campaign in Wayanad.**
  - ✓ **Ganapathy Rajkumar (DMK) from Coimbatore spent ₹92.96 lakh.**
  - ✓ **Three Karnataka MPs (Sunil Bose, B.Y. Raghavendra, and E. Tukaram) among top spenders.**
-  **सबसे अधिक खर्च करने वाले उम्मीदवार:**
  - ✓ **राहुल गांधी (कांग्रेस) ने वायनाड में अपने चुनाव प्रचार पर ₹92.82 लाख खर्च किए।**
  - ✓ **डीएमके के गणपति राजकमार (कोयंबटर) ने ₹92.96 लाख खर्च किए।**
  - ✓ **कर्नाटक के तीन सांसद (सुनील बोस, बी.वाई. राघवेंद्र, ई. तुकाराम) भी शीर्ष खर्च करने वालों में शामिल।**


-  **Lowest Expenditures | सबसे कम खर्च करने वाले**
  - ✓ Engineer Rashid (Baramulla MP) spent only ₹2.10 lakh.
  - ✓ Union Minister Kiren Rijiju spent ₹20.67 lakh.
-  **सबसे कम खर्च करने वाले उम्मीदवार:**
  - ✓ बारामूला के सांसद इंजीनियर राशिद ने केवल ₹2.10 लाख खर्च किए।
  - ✓ केंद्रीय मंत्री किरेन रिजिजू ने ₹20.67 लाख खर्च किए।



- **Maximum Limit of Election Expenses | चुनाव खर्च की अधिकतम सीमा**
  - ✓ EC revised spending limit in 2022 due to increase in total electors, cost inflation index, and virtual campaigns.
  - ✓ New limit for Lok Sabha candidates: ₹95 lakh (big states) & ₹75 lakh (small states).
- **📌 निर्वाचन खर्च की अधिकतम सीमा:**
  - ✓ 2022 में EC ने खर्च सीमा बढ़ाई – कल मतदाताओं की संख्या, मुद्रास्फीति और डिजिटल प्रचार को ध्यान में रखते हुए
  - ✓ लोकसभा उम्मीदवारों के लिए नई सीमा:
    - बड़े राज्यों में ₹95 लाख
    - छोटे राज्यों में ₹75 लाख

- Election Monitoring & Transparency | चुनाव निगरानी और पारदर्शिता
- 📌 EC's 'Red Flag' System | निर्वाचन आयोग की 'रेड फ्लैग' प्रणाली
  - ✓ Election Commission uses a **data-driven system** to monitor **spending anomalies**.
  - ✓ **Booth-level officers feed real-time data** for tracking expenses.
  - ✓ **Automated alerts ('Red Flags')** raised for discrepancies.
- 📌 निर्वाचन आयोग की 'रेड फ्लैग' प्रणाली:
  - ✓ डेटा-आधारित प्रणाली से चुनाव खर्च पर नज़र रखी जाती है।
  - ✓ बथ-स्तरीय अधिकारी वास्तविक समय में खर्च की रिपोर्टिंग करते हैं।
  - ✓ यदि खर्च में विसंगति होती है, तो स्वचालित अलर्ट (Red Flags) जारी किए जाते हैं।

- 
- **Historical Perspective | ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण**
  - **Election funding has evolved since the Representation of the People Act (1951).**
  - **Political parties in India rely heavily on corporate donations and Electoral Bonds.**
  - **Increased digital campaigning since 2014 has reduced traditional spending on rallies.**
  - **भारत में चुनावी फंडिंग 1951 के जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम से विकसित हुई है।**
  - **राजनीतिक दल बड़े पैमाने पर कॉर्पोरेट दान और इलेक्टोरल बॉन्ड पर निर्भर हैं।**
  - **2014 से डिजिटल प्रचार बढ़ने के कारण पारंपरिक रैलियों पर खर्च कम हुआ है।**
- 

-  Geopolitical Angle | भू-राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण
- Comparisons with Global Election Spending (e.g., U.S., U.K.).
- India has one of the highest election costs globally, with increasing use of tech-based campaigns.
- Debates on state-funding of elections to curb financial misuse.
- अन्य देशों (जैसे, अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन) की तुलना में भारत में चुनावों पर अत्यधिक खर्च।
- तकनीक-आधारित प्रचार के बढ़ते उपयोग के साथ भारत में चुनावी लागत विश्व में सबसे अधिक।
- चुनावी खर्च में पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिए राज्य-प्रायोजित चुनावों पर बहस।





# SC to hear pleas on CEC appointment law next week

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday shifted the hearing on petitions challenging the legality of a new law which gives a dominant role to the Union government in the appointment process of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners to February 19.

Incumbent CEC Rajiv Kumar is scheduled to retire from office on February 18.

Advocate Prashant

Bhushan, appearing for the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, which is one of the petitioners, indicated to a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N.K. Singh that the case was time-sensitive due to the impending retirement of Mr. Kumar.

Justice Kant, however, assured Mr. Bhushan that the “consequences” of the court’s decision on the validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Of-



The petitions against the new law will be heard on February 19. FILE PHOTO

vice) Act of 2023 would inevitably follow even if something had happened in the interregnum.

The petitioners had told the court that they ideally wanted a decision on the law before the appointment of the next CEC.





## **Court’s authority**

In January, when the case came up, Justice Kant had highlighted that the test regarding the validity of the 2023 Act would hinge on whether the court’s authority to pronounce binding decisions under Article 141 of the Constitution could be circumvented or diluted by a law. “The real test here is between the court’s

opinion and exercise of legislative powers,” he had said.

The petitions raise the pivotal legal question whether Parliament possessed the authority to promulgate a gazette notification or Ordinance to nullify or amend a Constitution Bench judgment.

Petitioners, including activist Jaya Thakur, have claimed that the law was introduced in December 2023 to dilute a Constitution Bench judgment in the *Anoop Baranwal* case on March 2, 2023.

-  **Supreme Court to hear petitions on February 19** regarding the new law that gives the **Union Government a dominant role** in appointing the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners**.
-  **सुप्रीम कोर्ट 19 फरवरी को उन याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई करेगा, जो मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया में केंद्र सरकार की भूमिका बढ़ाने वाले नए कानून को चुनौती देती हैं।**
-  **Incumbent CEC Rajiv Kumar to retire on February 18.**  
 **वर्तमान CEC राजीव कुमार 18 फरवरी को सेवानिवृत्त होंगे।**

- 📌 Petitioners argue that the law passed in December 2023 undermines the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench judgment (Anoop Baranwal case, March 2, 2023).

📌 याचिकाकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि दिसंबर 2023 में पारित कानून सुप्रीम कोर्ट के संविधान पीठ के फैसले (अनूप बरनवाल मामला, 2 मार्च 2023) को कमजोर करता है।

- 📌 The new law allows the Central Government to have more control over the appointment process of election commissioners, potentially reducing Election Commission's independence.

📌 नया कानून केंद्र सरकार को चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया में अधिक नियंत्रण देता है, जिससे चुनाव आयोग की स्वतंत्रता प्रभावित हो सकती है।



- 📄 Supreme Court's Stand | सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख
- 📌 Justice Surya Kant-led Bench has assured that the "consequences" of the verdict will apply even if a decision is made post-February 18.  
📌 न्यायमूर्ति सुर्यकांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने आश्वासन दिया कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला 18 फरवरी के बाद भी लागू होगा।
- 📌 Key Legal Question: Can Parliament override a Constitution Bench judgment via law or ordinance?  
📌 मुख्य कानूनी प्रश्न: क्या संसद एक संवैधानिक पीठ के फैसले को कानून या अध्यादेश द्वारा बदल सकती है?

- 🏛️ **Supreme Court's Authority vs Parliament's Power | न्यायिक अधिकार बनाम संसदीय शक्ति**
- **◆ Article 141 of the Indian Constitution:** Supreme Court's judgments are binding on all courts.  
**◆ भारतीय संविधान का अनुच्छेद 141:** सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले सभी अदालतों के लिए बाध्यकारी होते हैं।
- **◆ Petitioners argue that Parliament cannot dilute a Constitution Bench ruling through legislation.**  
**◆ याचिकाकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि संसद एक संवैधानिक पीठ के फैसले को कानून बनाकर कमजोर नहीं कर सकती।**
- **◆ The government maintains that the law is constitutional and within Parliament's legislative powers.**  
**◆ सरकार का दावा है कि यह कानून संवैधानिक है और संसद के विधायी अधिकारों के अंतर्गत आता है।**

- Historical Background | ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि
- 📌 Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India Case (2023)
  - ✓ Before 2023, CEC and ECs were appointed by the President on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
  - ✓ 2023 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसला सुनाया कि CEC और ECs की नियुक्ति
- प्रधानमंत्री, CJI और लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता की समिति द्वारा होनी चाहिए (to ensure independence).
  - ✓ Government's 2023 law changed this, making it a committee dominated by the ruling party.
- 📌 अनूप बरनवाल बनाम भारत संघ (2023)
  - ✓ 2023 से पहले, CEC और चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति राष्ट्रपति, मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह पर करते थे।
  - ✓ 2023 के सुप्रीम कोर्ट फैसले में प्रधानमंत्री, CJI और विपक्ष के नेता की समिति द्वारा नियुक्ति की व्यवस्था की गई।
  - ✓ लेकिन 2023 का नया कानून सत्तारूढ़ सरकार को अधिक शक्ति देता है।

- ✘ **Constitutional & Democratic Impact | संवैधानिक और लोकतांत्रिक प्रभाव**
- ◆ **Concerns Over Election Commission's Independence**
  - ✓ If the government controls the appointment process, the **Election Commission may not function independently.**
  - ✓ यदि सरकार नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को नियंत्रित करती है, तो चुनाव आयोग की स्वतंत्रता प्रभावित हो सकती है।
- ◆ **Potential for Bias in Elections**
  - ✓ A government-controlled EC could **favor ruling parties**, impacting **free & fair elections.**
  - ✓ एक सरकारी नियंत्रित चुनाव आयोग, सत्तारूढ़ दलों के पक्ष में काम कर सकता है, जिससे स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।
- ◆ **Comparative Perspective | अन्य देशों की तुलना**
  - ✓ U.S., U.K., Canada – Election Commissions have **independent selection panels.**
  - ✓ भारत में भी इसी तरह की स्वतंत्र चयन समिति होनी चाहिए।





# SIDBI, AFD sign pact to lend \$100 million to Indian MSMEs

**M. Soundariya Preetha**

COIMBATORE

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and AFD, France, have signed a \$100 million credit facility agreement to scale up green finance solutions for Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).


According to a press release, the partnership aims to support sustainable growth and drive the transition towards a low-carbon economy. Lise Breuil, AFD country director, India, said in a release that

the “initiative also complements our work on the Greening Indian Financial System Platform, which focuses on integrating sustainability and a climate-perspective into Indian financial stakeholders strategies, starting with development finance institutions in the public sector”.


By leveraging this credit facility, SIDBI aims to provide long-term financial solutions that enable MSMEs to adopt cleaner technologies, improve energy efficiency, and reduce carbon footprint,” said CMD Manoj Mittal.

- **Context & Significance | संदर्भ और महत्व**







-  **The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France have signed a \$100 million credit facility agreement to promote green finance solutions for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.**







 **भारतीय लघु उद्योग विकास बैंक (SIDBI) और फ्रांस की एजेंसी AFD ने भारतीय MSMEs के लिए \$100 मिलियन का ऋण समझौता किया है, जिसका उद्देश्य हरित वित्त समाधान (Green Finance Solutions) को बढ़ावा देना है।**

- 
-  This initiative aims to **support sustainable economic growth** and **transition towards a low-carbon economy**.

 इस पहल का उद्देश्य **स्थायी आर्थिक विकास (Sustainable Economic Growth) को बढ़ावा देना और कम कार्बन अर्थव्यवस्था (Low-Carbon Economy) की ओर बढ़ना है।**



- 
-  Long-term financial support for MSMEs to adopt green and sustainable business models.  
 MSMEs को हरित और स्थायी व्यापार मॉडल अपनाने के लिए दीर्घकालिक वित्तीय सहायता।
  -  Focus on energy efficiency, cleaner technologies, and reduced carbon footprint.  
 ऊर्जा दक्षता (Energy Efficiency), स्वच्छ प्रौद्योगिकियों (Cleaner Technologies) और कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी (Carbon Footprint Reduction) पर जोर।
- 

-  **Part of the Greening Indian Financial System Platform, integrating climate and sustainability in financial strategies.**
-  **"ग्रीनिंग इंडियन फाइनेंशियल सिस्टम प्लेटफॉर्म" का हिस्सा, जो वित्तीय रणनीतियों में जलवायु और स्थिरता को एकीकृत करता है।**
-  **Collaboration with development finance institutions in the public sector.**
-  **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में विकास वित्त संस्थानों के साथ सहयोग।**
-  **Helps India's MSMEs transition to a greener economy.**
-  **भारत के MSMEs को हरित अर्थव्यवस्था में परिवर्तित करने में मदद।**

- 
-  **India's Green Growth Strategy** 
  - Aligns with **India's net-zero carbon emission target for 2070.**
  - Part of India's **commitment under the Paris Agreement (2015).**
  - Supports **sustainable MSME growth**, which is a **key contributor to GDP.**
  -  **SIDBI's Role in MSME Development**
  - Provides financial and non-financial support to small businesses.
  - Helps MSMEs adopt **sustainable production practices.**
- 

## India ranked sixth in extreme weather from 1993 to 2022

**INDIA RANKED AS** the sixth-most severely-affected country by extreme weather events from 1993-2022, recording 80,000 fatalities and economic losses of around \$180 billion, as per a report. Globally, the report by Germany-based NGO Germanwatch said more than 9,400 extreme weather events led to over 7.65 lakh deaths and direct losses of nearly \$4.2 trillion. India experienced more than 400 extreme weather events in the three decades, causing losses of nearly “\$180 billion and 80,000 fatalities, it said. **PTI**



**GAZA HOSTAGE SWAP**  
**Committed to honouring truce: Hamas**

**WAGP BILL REPORT**  
**Opposition protests censorship of dissent**

NEWS » PAGE 5

**PROTESTS IN M.P.**  
**Unloading of Union Carbide waste begins**

NEWS » PAGE 6

**PARLEY**  
**Will ad-hoc HC judges help reduce backlog?**

**SC move gives rise to numerous questions**

OPINION » PAGE 9

**FIVE TEAMS, ONE GOAL**  
**WPL Season 3 gets under way today**

SPORT » PAGE 16

**INSIDE**

**adani**

**Adani Green exits energy project in Sri Lanka**

**COLOMBO**  
Adani Green on Wednesday withdrew from a controversial \$442-million renewable energy project in northern Sri Lanka, amid fierce opposition from locals and a legal battle over its approval and potential environmental impact. The move amounts to a win for new government. » PAGE 34

**Bird flu: 4 areas in A.P. declared as biosecurity zones**

**AMARAVATI**  
The Andhra Pradesh government has declared four areas as biosecurity zones, where restrictions have been imposed in view of the avian influenza (bird flu) outbreak in some parts of State. » PAGE 3

**President's Rule imposed in Manipur days after CM's exit**

President Murmu issues proclamation after receiving report from the Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla; Assembly is under suspended animation, not dissolved, says State govt; State BJP failed to find an alternative leadership to replace Biren

**Repeating history**  
Manipur is among States with highest instances of President's Rule

- This marks the 11th time President's Rule has been imposed
- The latest instance was 277 days from June 2, 2001, to March 6, 2002
- The first was for 66 days from January 12 to March 19, 1967
- The longest was for 2 years and 157 days from October 17, 1969, to March 22, 1972

■ **Reshaping** Reshaping of the Congress became the first Chief Minister to complete his full term

■ **Open** Open House of Congress was the first Chief Minister to finish term in three terms

On an alternative leadership to replace Mr. Singh, more than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people displaced in the ethnic violence between the tribal Kukizho and the Meitei people in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023. Minutes before the order was issued, Mr. Singh posted in a message on X stating that illegal immigration continues to be on the rise.

"Our land and identity are under threat. With a small population and limited resources, we stand vulnerable. After the tragic events of 1st May, 2023, our state machinery has struggled to respond effectively. An unguarded 308 km border with Myanmar and the Free Movement Regime (FMR) were rapidly shifting Manipur's demographic balance. This is not speculation, it is hap-

**Tariffs, immigration may take centre stage in Modi-Trump talks**

Washington DC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard on Wednesday in Washington DC.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Washington on Wednesday evening (early Thursday Indian time) for bilateral talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, presumably with the objective of managing the relationship with the newly re-elected President, whose style revolves around an America First ethos and a trademark unpredictability.

Mr. Modi, who flew into Washington after a visit to France, is one of the early visitors - the fourth foreign leader - to visit the White House since Mr. Trump returned to power on January 20.

Tariffs, trade in defence and energy, immigration, and the Indo-Pacific are on the menu for the bilateral talks at the White House. The days and hours in the run up to the meeting were not without drama. Last week, the government faced a lack in Parliament after the Trump administration deported 104 Indian citizens to India shacking many of them.

On Thursday morning, Mr. Trump announced that he would be signing an order on reciprocal tariffs in the afternoon - three hours before the meeting with Mr. Modi. Mr. Trump has already shocked the world by reinstating 25% tariffs on steel and aluminium, imposing tariffs on China, announcing - and then pausing - tariffs on Mexico and Canada.

The government had announced some tariff reductions and elimination as part of the Union Budget on February 1. Reports also suggest that India is considering tariff cuts on other U.S. imports. These steps were "well received" by the Trump administration, a senior White House official said, calling them "early" but modest "moves". The official was one of several who spoke to reporters on a Thursday morning briefing.

"The 'tax year' will be the unit period for taxation and shall be referred in respect of all transactions and income for that period, while 'financial year' will be used for compliance in complex and procedural issues.

Multiple provisions relating to tax deduction at source (TDS) and tax collected at source (TCS) have also been brought together in one place.

**Caste Hindus attack SC youth in T.N. for riding two-wheeler**

**L. Srikrishna**  
SIVAGANGA

A 20-year-old Scheduled Caste college student in Sivaganga district in south Tamil Nadu was attacked by a three-member gang of caste Hindus on Wednesday for riding a motorcycle.

The victim suffered multiple injuries and was hospitalized.

The three persons were arrested on Thursday and the Manamadurai SIFCOOT police registered a complaint under various sections, including attempt to murder, of the BNS, and the 27/2F (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, based on a complaint from the victim's mother Chellammal.

A preliminary inquiry revealed that Ayyasami, a resident of Melapidavoor near Manamadurai, and a third-year Mathematics student in the Raja Duraimangalam Government College of Arts and Science, was returning home on his bike around 6 p.m. when the three persons - Kumar, 21, Adiswaran, 22, and Vallarasi, 21 - intercepted and questioned him for riding the bike in front of them.

An altercation ensued and one of the attackers pulled out a vein (wood-shaped weapon) and attacked Mr. Ayyasami in which he suffered multiple injuries on the hands.

A terrified Mr. Ayyasami ran from the spot to his house. His mother rushed him to hospital. After first aid, he was taken to the Sivaganga Government Medical College.

Subsequently, doctors

**Sacred night**

Shia Muslims light candles at the grave of their family members and relatives to mark Shaab-e-Baraa, in Srinagar on Thursday.

**FM unveils Income Tax Bill 2025 in LS that seeks to simplify compliance**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the new Income Tax Bill of 2025 in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, aimed at simplifying and revamping the 1961 Income Tax Act, which has been amended over 4,000 times since it came into force in April 1962, and is viewed as complex and cumbersome by taxpayers as well as accountants.

Ms. Sitharaman, who had announced a comprehensive review of the 1961 law to make it concise, and easy to understand while

providing tax certainty and bring down litigation, in her 2024-25 Budget presented last July, said the proposed bill will be sent for a review to a select committee of Parliament.

The new bill nearly halves the current direct tax law's 8,1 lakh-odd word count, as well as the number of chapters from 47 to 23.

Multiple terms such as

**Trump's priorities**

On whether Mr. Trump would raise the issue of an alleged Indian government plot to kill an India-born Khalistani separatist, Gurpreet Singh Panesar, who is a U.S. citizen, an official said that Mr. Trump "prioritises nothing more than the safety of every American, and that is the continued position of this administration".

Echoing the words of the Biden administration, one of the officials described the India-U.S. bilateral partnership as "one of the most critical, if not the most critical" bilateral relationship in the 21st Century.

Prior to the talks, the Prime Minister had meetings with key Trump allies and officials. Mr. Modi met with U.S. National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, Trump ally and former Republican presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy, and Trump donor and special government employee, Elon Musk.

Shortly after he arrived, Mr. Modi met with Tulsi Gabbard, who had just been sworn in as Director of National Intelligence.

There is strong potential for cooperation in sectors like AI, semiconductors, space and more," Mr. Modi tweeted after his conversation with Mr. Waltz, which focused on defence technology and security, as per the Prime Minister.

"Had a very good meeting with @elonmusk in Washington DC." With Mr. Musk the Prime Minister said he had discussed innovation, space, mobility and technology.

**First draft**

The table shows the key quantitative differences between the Income Tax Bill, 2025, and the Income Tax Act of 1961, as it is intended to replace.

Item	Existing Income Tax Act, 1961	Proposed in the Income Tax Bill, 2025	Change (Reduction/Addition)
Words	512,535	259,676	Reduction: 252,859 words
Chapters	47	23	Reduction: 24 chapters
Sections	819	538	Reduction: 283 sections
Tables	1	4	Addition: 3 tables
Formulae	6	46	Addition: 40 formulae



# President's Rule imposed in Manipur days after CM's exit

President Murmu issues proclamation after receiving report from the Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla; Assembly is under suspended animation, not dissolved, says State govt.; State BJP failed to find an alternative leadership to replace Biren

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

**F**our days after Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned, President's Rule was imposed on Thursday in the northeastern State that has been affected by ethnic violence for the past two years.

President Droupadi Murmu issued a proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution on Thursday after receiving a report from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

The order said she was satisfied that a situation had arisen that the "governance of that State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India".

A statement by the Manipur government said the "Manipur Legislative Assembly will be under sus-

## Repeating history

Manipur is among States with highest instances of President's Rule

- This marks the 11th time President's Rule has been imposed
- The latest instance was 277 days from June 2, 2001, to March 6, 2002
- The first was for 66 days from January 12 to March 19, 1967
- Rishang Keishing of the Congress became the first Chief Minister to complete his full term. Okram Ibobi Singh of Congress was the first Chief Minister to finish not one but three terms
- The longest was for 2 years and 157 days from October 17, 1969, to March 22, 1972



pended animation". The Assembly has not been dissolved, a government official said.

Ms. Murmu issued the proclamation on Thursday, an hour after both the Houses of Parliament were adjourned till March 10 at the conclusion of the first half of the Budget session.

Article 356 (3) of the Constitution states that the proclamation shall be laid before each House of Par-

liament and shall cease to operate at the expiration of two months unless approved by resolutions of both the Houses of Parliament.

A political crisis had emerged in the State since Mr. Singh stepped down on February 9 after a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah.

The State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership failed to reach a consensus

on an alternative leadership to replace Mr. Singh.

More than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people displaced in the ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023.

Minutes before the order was issued, Mr. Singh posted in a message on X stating that illegal immigration continues to be on the rise.

"Our land and identity are under threat. With a small population and limited resources, we stand vulnerable...After the tragic events of 3rd May, 2023 our state machinery has struggled to respond effectively. An unguarded 398 km border with Myanmar and the Free Movement Regime (FMR) were rapidly shifting Manipur's demographic balance. This is not speculation, it is hap-

pening before our eyes. Since our government took charge in March 2017, the challenge has only intensified. After the May 3, 2023 incident, the situation has become even more critical," Mr. Singh said.

He urged all authorities concerned to take serious note and intensify efforts to detect and deport illegal immigrants from Manipur, adding that he will continue this fight with unwavering commitment.

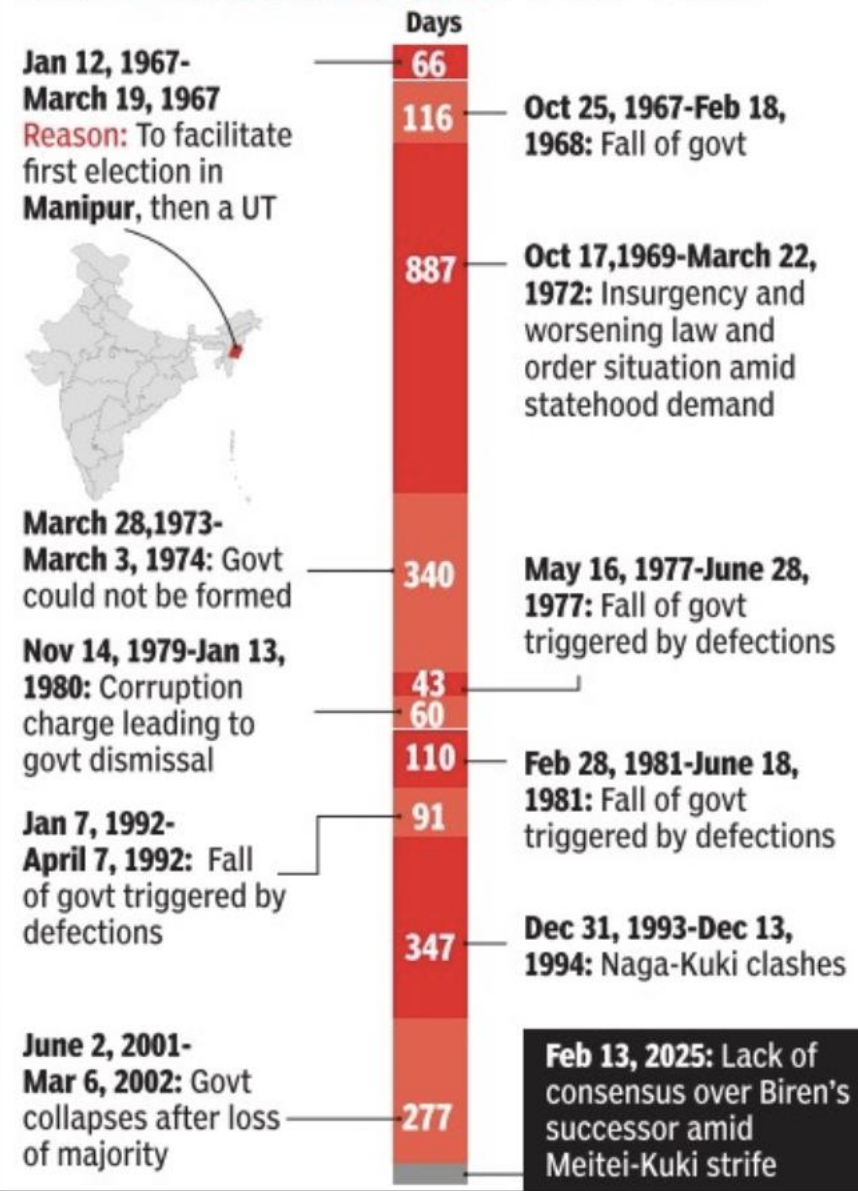
Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Indian National Congress had been demanding President's Rule for almost 20 months and it finally happened.

Ginza Vualzong of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), a Kuki-Zo body, said President's Rule (PR) was preferable than a change of Chief Minister.

**SEVERELY DAMAGED**


» PAGE 4

# 11th President's Rule In 57 Years




- **Context & Significance | संदर्भ और महत्व**


-  Four days after Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned, President's Rule was imposed on February 15, 2024.

 मणिपुर के मुख्यमंत्री एन. बीरेन सिंह के इस्तीफे के चार दिन बाद, 15 फरवरी 2024 को राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया।







-  The decision was made due to ongoing ethnic violence and the inability of the BJP-led state government to find an alternative leader.

 जातीय हिंसा और भाजपा सरकार द्वारा नए नेतृत्व की नियुक्ति में असफलता के कारण यह निर्णय लिया गया।

-  President Droupadi Murmu issued a proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution after receiving a report from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.




 राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने संविधान के अनुच्छेद 356 के तहत मणिपुर में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया।







- **What is President's Rule? | राष्ट्रपति शासन क्या है?**
-  **President's Rule is imposed under Article 356 when a state government fails to function as per the Constitution.**  
 **अनुच्छेद 356 के तहत, जब किसी राज्य सरकार का संवैधानिक रूप से कार्य करना असंभव हो जाता है, तो राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया जाता है।**
-  **The state government is dismissed, and the Governor administers the state directly under the President's guidance.**  
 **राज्य सरकार को भंग कर दिया जाता है, और राज्य का प्रशासन राज्यपाल राष्ट्रपति के निर्देश पर संभालते हैं।**
-  **The proclamation must be approved by Parliament within two months.**  
 **राष्ट्रपति शासन की घोषणा को संसद में दो महीने के भीतर मंजूरी लेनी होती है।**

- **Why Was President's Rule Imposed in Manipur? | मणिपुर में राष्ट्रपति शासन क्यों लगाया गया?**
- **✓ Ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities since May 2023 has led to over 250 deaths and 60,000 people being displaced.**  
**✓ मई 2023 से ककी-जो और मेइती समुदायों के बीच जातीय हिंसा में 250 से अधिक लोगों की मौत और 60,000 लोग विस्थापित हुए।**

- ✓ Repeated demands from opposition parties like Congress for President's Rule.  
✓ विपक्षी दलों (जैसे कांग्रेस) की लंबे समय से राष्ट्रपति शासन लगाने की मांग।
- ✓ Concerns over illegal immigration from Myanmar and rising demographic imbalance.  
✓ म्यांमार से अवैध प्रवासन और जनसांख्यिकीय असंतुलन को लेकर चिंता।

-  This is the 11th time President's Rule has been imposed in Manipur.
-  यह 11वीं बार है जब मणिपुर में राष्ट्रपति शासन लगाया गया है।
-  Previous Instances | पिछले उदाहरण:
- **First instance (1967):** Imposed for 66 days from January 12 to March 19, 1967.
- **Longest instance (1969-1972):** Lasted for 2 years and 157 days.
- **Most recent instance (2001-2002):** Lasted for 277 days from June 2, 2001, to March 6, 2002.

-  Rishang Keishing of the Congress was the first CM to complete a full term.  
 रिशांग केशिंग (कांग्रेस) पहले मुख्यमंत्री थे जिन्होंने अपना कार्यकाल पूरा किया।
-  Okram Ibobi Singh was the first CM to complete three full terms.  
 ओक्राम इबोबी सिंह तीन बार मुख्यमंत्री बनने वाले पहले नेता थे।



# The problematic globalisation of medical education

## Shared understanding

### The Modi visit to France held broader strategic implications.

**D**uring his visit to France this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India and France could be the force for a “global transformation”. This statement carried significant geopolitical context for both him and his host, French President Emmanuel Macron. The visit took place just before Mr. Modi’s scheduled trip to Washington, where the Trump administration’s unpredictability has reshaped global dynamics. This was Mr. Modi’s sixth visit to France as Prime Minister, while Mr. Macron has travelled to India three times, fostering their visible rapport. In Paris, they co-chaired the AI Action Summit, before travelling to Marseille. There, they inaugurated a new Indian consulate, visited a multilateral thermonuclear reactor project, and toured a shipping company. Their discussions focused on strengthening the defence partnership, reviewing deals on missiles, helicopter and jet engines. India also offered Indian-made rocket launchers. Days after the Modi government announced amendments to India’s nuclear liability laws, both countries agreed to develop small modular reactors and advance the long-stalled civil nuclear deal. The leaders discussed global conflicts, including those in Ukraine and Gaza. They also reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, an initiative in which both countries play a key role that is contingent on West Asian stability. Mr. Modi’s visit to France is seen as a key to two great powers that are closely aligned, emphasising that while they seek stronger engagement with the United States, their relationship will be dependent on any one power.

Beyond bilateral ties, Mr. Modi’s visit had broader strategic implications. The leaders addressed global challenges such as climate change, trade disruptions, and the evolving risks posed by AI. However, a key issue both sides remained discreet about was how to navigate relations with Washington. While both leaders seek to maintain positive ties with Mr. Trump, they are wary of his unpredictable policies, including his approach to tariffs, economic measures, and his unilateral stance on global conflicts. Mr. Macron, in an interview after Mr. Modi’s departure, did not hold back in criticising U.S. policy on Gaza, asserting that what is needed there is a humanitarian operation, not a “real-estate operation”. Mr. Trump’s independent dealings with Russia and China, often made without consulting allies in Europe or the Indo-Pacific, and his disregard for the multilateral system, have become a longer-term subject of discussion between Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron. In the months ahead, India and France will likely find greater alignment as they pursue their shared understanding of global challenges and their pursuit of collaborative solutions.

## Engaging Russia

### Trump’s overtures to Putin have spurred both hopes and fears

**P**resident Donald Trump has opened the door to negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin over ending the war in Ukraine, in equal measure spurring hopes for peace and fears that Moscow would take the opportunity to manipulate the situation to its advantage against a beleaguered Kyiv. While Mr. Trump wrote on social media that on the 90-minute call both leaders concurred on their desire to “stop the millions of deaths taking place and that Washington and Moscow would “work together”, Russian media claimed that Mr. Putin had “expressed readiness to receive American officials in Russia regarding areas of mutual interest, including, of course, the topic of Ukrainian settlement”. Mr. Trump’s call, including specifics on a ceasefire and the possibility of their meeting in Saudi Arabia, represents a break from the status quo, which, since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, has seen the Kremlin face diplomatic isolation and crippling western/NATO sanctions. Although Mr. Trump’s predecessor, Joe Biden, had in this context manifested a similar desire to see Mr. Putin clear when he described the Russian President as “murderous dictator” and a “pure evil”. Mr. Trump had promised, even during the campaign leading to the 2024 presidential election, that he would end the war within “24 hours” after being sworn into office.

On the one hand, if Mr. Trump’s efforts come to fruition, it would mark a breakthrough in terms of bringing Mr. Putin to the negotiating table, an outcome that has so far appeared impossible, given Moscow’s resolve to press on with its war plans. On the other, the terms of the negotiation hinted at so far by the Trump administration make it likely that Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will have to accept an undesirable outcome. This appears inevitable given that U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested that the U.S. future would be committed to Ukraine in any troops security arrangement, that Ukraine would not be invited to join NATO, and that the option of Ukraine reverting to pre-2014 borders, as per the 2014 Minsk agreements, would be virtually ruled out. Indeed, Mr. Zelenskyy would not be wrong to assume that the U.S.’s promise to sustain NATO support for Ukraine “for as long as it takes” has been unequivocally betrayed by the Trump administration’s stance on the subject. This deterioration is likely to have a profound — and damaging — impact on the security and economy of not only Ukraine but also of the EU, given that the White House has de facto made Russian territorial aggression a European problem, and sees Mr. Putin as a less concerning threat than undocumented migration and trade deficits.

**S**trange things are going on worldwide in the area of medical education. On the one hand, there appears to be a shortage of medical doctors, while at the same time governments, and in many cases also medical doctors themselves, oppose increased access to the study of medicine. As a result, there has been an increase in international mobility of medical students from high-, mid- and low-income countries. While once medical education was international, now it is nationally regulated, but at the same time becoming increasingly globalised. Because of national health needs, it is worth examining this particular global medical environment.

No one knows how many international students are studying in medical schools outside their home countries, but a conservative estimate might put the number to be more than 2,00,000 many of them in institutions and countries with questionable quality of medical preparation. To give an indication, Ukraine, before the Russian invasion, had 24,000 medical students from abroad, mainly, but not exclusively, from India.

**The India crisis**  
India is an interesting example. The country has a severe shortage of doctors. The demand for places in medical colleges is considerable and, as a result, competition for places is intense. Annually, approximately 2.3 million students sit for the national medical school entry examination in India, but only one in around 22 successful candidates is able to enter the country’s 700-plus medical colleges.

The fierce competition for medical seats in India has compelled many students to explore opportunities abroad. It is estimated that more than 20,000 Indian medical students go abroad to study. With limited government medical seats and high tuition fees, private institutions studying medicine abroad has emerged as an “affordable” and practical alternative for Indian aspirants. Countries such as Russia, pre-war Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Nepal have become attractive destinations.

Interestingly, some of the institutions in foreign

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countries are controlled by Indians. One such institution is the Manipal College of Medical Sciences in neighbouring Nepal, the country’s first private medical college which was established in 1999. It is owned by the Center for Education and Medical Group (MEMG), Bengaluru. The American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine, a Caribbean medical school, is also a division of Manipal. This reflects a broader global strategy of medical education expanding their footprint overseas to meet the growing demand from Indian students.

Medical education abroad also comes with its own challenges, particularly for those who wish to practise in India. Indian students who complete their programmes from foreign institutions must clear the national licensing examination to qualify for medical practice in India. They are also required to complete a medical internship upon their return. Similarly, Indians wishing to practise medicine in other countries must satisfy licensing and other requirements of those countries and one can find Indian doctors throughout the world. This illustrates that governments are aware of the varying standards of medical education around the world.

A significant announcement during the Union Budget speech in February 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the government’s achievements in medical education. She stated that the government had approved 10,000 additional seats for undergraduate and postgraduate medical education seats over the past decade, an increase of 130%. She also revealed plans for further increases in the medical education sector by announcing that an additional 10,000 seats would be added to medical colleges and hospitals in 2026. This initiative is part of a broader five-year goal to add 20,000 seats to the medical sector to address the growing demand for qualified medical professionals.

**Not just a Global South phenomenon**  
The medical education crisis illustrates the problematic phenomenon of students leaving the Global South, in particular South Asia and

Africa, to study medicine in other mid-income countries — and often to remain abroad. But the trend is broader.

For many years, students from western countries such as France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway, have been going to neighbouring countries for their medical studies, due to a lack of access at home. Romania, Hungary and Poland are common host countries, with Hungary and Poland also receive medical students from the United States. Thousands of U.S. students study medicine in these two countries as well as in Ireland, the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

Medical programmes in central and eastern Europe, as well as in Central Asia, cater to diaspora students and teach in English. The Medical University of Warsaw, for instance, has medical study programmes in both Polish and English. Currently, due to a lack of national funding for places at their home universities, about 3,000 Norwegian medical students receive scholarships to study abroad, mainly in central and eastern Europe.

In other words, the phenomenon of foreign medical education is widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated. Where entire medical schools are devoted to international enrolments, they are almost exclusively for-profit institutions. Medical schools established in non-English speaking environments, such as Poland and Ukraine, offer English-medium medical curricula to attract high-fee-paying international students.

**Balancing demand and quality concerns**  
As global medical education expands, the government is starting to see the problem, but solutions are expensive and meet opposition from inside the medical establishment, which fears a deterioration of their privileges and elite status. Yet, with an aging population, the need for quality medical doctors is only increasing. The growing number of students looking for medical education abroad illustrates a potential, but there is an overall lack of quality control. More attention is needed on this key challenge.

# China’s dam project opens the floodgates of concern

**T**he planned construction by China, of a massive hydroelectric dam on the lower section of the upper stream of the Yarlung Zangbo river in Tibet has become a matter of concern for India due to its potential impact on the local environment, and spillover, the flow of water downstream, and bilateral relations. Originating in Tibet, the Yarlung Zangbo is called the Brahmaputra after it reaches the Indian State of Assam where it meets its important tributaries. In India’s Arunachal Pradesh, it is called the Siang.

The Brahmaputra is a part of the everyday life of millions of people from India’s northeastern States and Bangladesh. China’s decision to plan a dam on the Yarlung Zangbo is a part of its broader strategy to transition from coal to renewable energy sources, particularly hydroelectric power. As outlined in its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025), China aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. While this transition is commendable, the reliance on large-scale hydroelectric projects raises significant concerns. While the dam project aligns with China’s ambitious energy transition goals, its serious implications for India cannot be understated.

**The legal dimensions**  
The construction of the dam raises critical legal issues under international water law. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1978 Convention on Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention) 1997 emphasises the principles of equitable and reasonable utilisation, the obligation to prevent significant harm, and the duty to cooperate. These principles are essential in ensuring that shared water resources are managed sustainably and equitably.

However, China and India are not signatories to the UN Watercourses Convention. Nor do they adhere to a robust framework of domestic laws governing transboundary rivers. The official

documents on water published by the Chinese government maintain that Beijing is a benevolent upper riparian that follows: first, the principle of equal cooperation; second, the principle of people orientation; third, the principle of mutual benefit; and fourth, the principle of equal emphasis on development and protection.

However, many of China’s lower riparian states accuse it for using water as a “powerful tool”. India, which is one of the lower riparian states, depends on rivers that originate in Tibet for one-third of its river water supply. Due to the increasing securitisation of water and the rise of assertive military nationalism, a number of Indian political analysts say that China poses a serious water threat to the lower riparian South Asian states vulnerable to unilateral actions. India has regularly expressed its concerns about the projects on the transboundary rivers. The memoranda of understanding between India and China on the sharing of water data about the Sutlej and Brahmaputra rivers have expired now.

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While the project aligns with China’s ambitious energy transition goals, it has serious implications for India, which cannot be understated

brutality that first year students undergo the name of “ragging” has been under the purview of Kerala and in many parts of India. The government must take concrete steps to curb such practices. **Kurian Mathew, Kochi**

**Medical college staff woes**  
The fact that the government administration has not taken any steps to address pay anomalies for hundreds of non-gazetted employees of medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir is shocking. **M. Pradyumn, Jammu**

**Medical college staff woes**  
The fact that the government administration has not taken any steps to address pay anomalies for hundreds of non-gazetted employees of medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir is shocking. **M. Pradyumn, Jammu**

**Ragging again**  
The fact that some first-year students in the Government College of Nursing in Kottayam, Kerala, in the north ragging was terrible to read (February 13). It is appalling that the authorities in feign ignorance. The

the river basin region. The potential environmental damage extends to the loss of habitats for aquatic and terrestrial species and increased riverbank erosion. Such a dam would also have an impact on Bangladesh which the Brahmaputra enters from India. However, Bangladesh has not expressed any serious concerns over the hydroproject. The main reason for the growing divide between Dhaka and New Delhi ever since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024 and the level of ties Bangladesh has with China.

**A ‘water alliance’ and hurdles**  
But this is an issue that will not just affect Bangladesh. Water-related activities in Tibet will affect the other lower riparian South Asian states such as Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan. To deal with this situation, it is better to have a water negotiation plan for the region.

However, given the political situation in South Asia, it is tough to imagine a water alliance between the countries receiving water from Tibet. An absence of an active regional organisation hampers South Asia from developing a collective strategy to manage transboundary rivers and conduct negotiations with the upper riparian country. Bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh are in a state of flux, with a good shape and see fluctuations frequently.

The water issue between India and China cannot be de-linked from their day-to-day political relations because of the influence of politics on water-related issues. The recent India-China diplomatic engagements raise hopes for renewing lapsed dialogues on water. However, the information-sharing on Tibet-origin rivers.

China has reiterated that the dam on the Yarlung Zangbo will not affect water flow to India. However, New Delhi has expressed its concerns. To clear any doubts or concerns that the lower riparian states might have, the ELM would be a better platform.

occasion to recollect those golden days when radio sets and radio programmes filled our homes. The Department face similar issues. The pay scales, recruitment rules and even recruitment rules at the grassroots level in the colleges in Udhampur and Handwara differ from these five colleges. Employees are even worried that without service contracts, they will be dismissed at the end of time-bound promotions. The framing of rules for all five colleges will be a good step towards new medical colleges in the Jammu region, must be done as soon as possible. **Vishav Mohan Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir**

**Tuning in**  
For the 100th Day (February 13) has passed but it was an

occasion to recollect those golden days when radio sets and radio programmes filled our homes. The Department face similar issues. The pay scales, recruitment rules and even recruitment rules at the grassroots level in the colleges in Udhampur and Handwara differ from these five colleges. Employees are even worried that without service contracts, they will be dismissed at the end of time-bound promotions. The framing of rules for all five colleges will be a good step towards new medical colleges in the Jammu region, must be done as soon as possible. **Vishav Mohan Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir**

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.



# The problematic globalisation of medical education

Strange things are going on worldwide in the area of medical education. On the one hand, there appears to be a shortage of medical doctors, while at the same time governments, and in many cases also medical doctors themselves, oppose increased access to the study of medicine. As a result, there has been an increase in international mobility of medical students from high-, mid- and low-income countries. While once medical education was international, now it is nationally regulated, but at the same time becoming internationalised. Because of national and global health needs, it is worth examining this particular global medical environment.

No one knows how many international students are studying in medical schools outside their home countries, but a conservative estimate might put the number to be more than 2,00,000 – many of them in institutions and countries with questionable quality of medical preparation. To give an indication, Ukraine, before the Russian invasion, had 24,000 medical students from abroad, mainly, but not exclusively, from India.

## The India crisis

India is an interesting example. The country has a severe shortage of doctors. The demand for places in medical colleges is considerable and, as a result, competition for places is intense. Annually, approximately 2.3 million students sit for the national medical school entry examination, but only one in around 22 successful candidates is able to enter the country's 700-plus medical colleges.

The fierce competition for medical seats in India has compelled many students to explore opportunities abroad. It is estimated that more than 20,000 Indian medical students go abroad to study. With limited government medical seats and high tuition fees in private institutions, studying medicine abroad has emerged as an “affordable” and practical alternative for Indian aspirants. Countries such as Russia, pre-war Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, China, Mauritius, and Nepal have become attractive destinations.

Interestingly, some of the institutions in foreign

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The phenomenon of foreign medical education is widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated

countries are controlled by Indians. One such institution is the Manipal College of Medical Sciences in neighbouring Nepal, the country's first private medical college which was established in 1994. It is operated by the Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG), Bengaluru. The American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine, a Caribbean medical school, is also a division of Manipal. This reflects a broader strategy of Indian education groups expanding their footprint overseas to meet the growing demand from Indian students.

However, studying medicine abroad comes with its own challenges, particularly for those who wish to practise in India. Indian students who complete their programmes from foreign institutions must clear the national licensing examination to qualify for medical practice in India. They are also required to complete a medical internship upon their return. Similarly, Indians wishing to practise medicine in other countries must satisfy licensing and other requirements of those countries – and one can find Indian doctors throughout the world. This illustrates that governments are aware of the varying standards of medical education around the world.

In a significant announcement during the Union Budget speech in February 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the government's achievements in medical education. She stated that the government had successfully added nearly 1.1 lakh undergraduate and postgraduate medical education seats over the past decade, an increase of 130%. She also revealed plans for further expansion in the medical education sector by announcing that an additional 10,000 seats would be introduced in medical colleges and hospitals in 2026. This initiative is part of a broader five-year goal to add 75,000 new seats, aimed at addressing the growing demand for qualified medical professionals.

## Not just a Global South phenomenon

The case of medical education in India illustrates the problematic phenomenon of students leaving the Global South, in particular South Asia and

Africa, to study medicine in other mid-income countries – and often to remain abroad. But the trend is broader.



For many years, students from western countries such as France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway, have been going to neighbouring countries for their medical studies, due to a lack of access at home. Romania, where medical study is provided in French, Hungary, and Poland are common host countries. Hungary and Poland also receive medical students from the United States. Thousands of U.S. students study medicine in these two countries, as well as in Ireland, the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.





Medical programmes in central and eastern Europe, as well as in Central Asia, cater to diaspora students and teach in English. The Medical University of Warsaw, for instance, has medical study programmes in both Polish and English. Currently, due to a lack of national funding for places at their home universities, about 3,000 Norwegian medical students receive scholarships to study abroad, mainly in central and eastern Europe.



In other words, the phenomenon of foreign medical education is widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated. Where entire medical schools are devoted to international enrolments, they are almost exclusively for-profit institutions. Medical schools established in non-English speaking environments, such as Poland and Ukraine, offer English-medium medical curricula to attract high-fee-paying international students.

## Balancing demand and quality concerns



As the recent Budget speech shows, the government is starting to see the problem, but solutions are expensive and meet opposition from inside the medical establishment, which fears a deterioration of their privileges and elite status. Yet, with an aging population, the need for quality medical doctors will only increase. The growing number of students looking for medical education abroad illustrates a potential, but there is an overall lack of quality control. More attention is needed on this key challenge.

- **Context & Significance | संदर्भ और महत्व**
-  **Medical education is becoming increasingly globalised, with many students from low and middle-income countries, including India, pursuing degrees abroad due to limited seats in domestic medical institutions.**
-  **चिकित्सा शिक्षा तेजी से वैश्विक हो रही है, जहाँ भारत सहित कई निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों के छात्र सीमित घरेलू सीटों के कारण विदेशों में मेडिकल डिग्री प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।**

-  This trend raises concerns about the quality of education, licensing requirements, and regulation of foreign medical institutions.  
 इस प्रवृत्ति ने चिकित्सा शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता, लाइसेंसिंग आवश्यकताओं और विदेशी मेडिकल संस्थानों के नियमन को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ा दी हैं।
-  Countries like Ukraine, Russia, China, the Philippines, and Nepal have become major destinations for Indian medical students.  
 युक्रेन, रूस, चीन, फिलीपींस और नेपाल जैसे देश भारतीय मेडिकल छात्रों के प्रमुख गंतव्य बन गए हैं।



- **The Indian Medical Education Crisis | भारत में चिकित्सा शिक्षा का संकट**
-  India has a severe shortage of doctors, and competition for medical seats is extremely high.  
 भारत में डॉक्टरों की भारी कमी है और मेडिकल सीटों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा अत्यधिक कठिन है।
- ✓ Annually, approximately 2.3 million students appear for medical entrance exams, but only 22,000 successful candidates get into government medical colleges.  
✓ हर साल लगभग 23 लाख छात्र मेडिकल प्रवेश परीक्षा देते हैं, लेकिन केवल 22,000 ही सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेजों में जगह बना पाते हैं।



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- ✓ This leads to more than 20,000 Indian students seeking medical education abroad every year.  
✓ इसके कारण हर साल 20,000 से अधिक भारतीय छात्र विदेश में मेडिकल शिक्षा प्राप्त करने जाते हैं।
  - ✓ Foreign medical education is often cheaper than private medical colleges in India, making it a more attractive option.  
✓ विदेश में मेडिकल शिक्षा भारतीय निजी कॉलेजों की तुलना में सस्ती होती है, जिससे यह एक आकर्षक विकल्प बन जाता है।
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- ✓ However, students face licensing and regulatory challenges upon returning to India, such as clearing the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE).


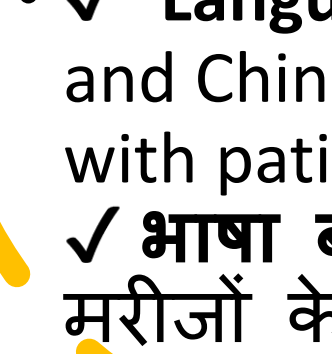
✓ हालांकि, छात्रों को भारत लौटने पर लाइसेंसिंग और नियामक चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, जैसे कि विदेशी मेडिकल स्नातक परीक्षा (FMGE) पास करना।

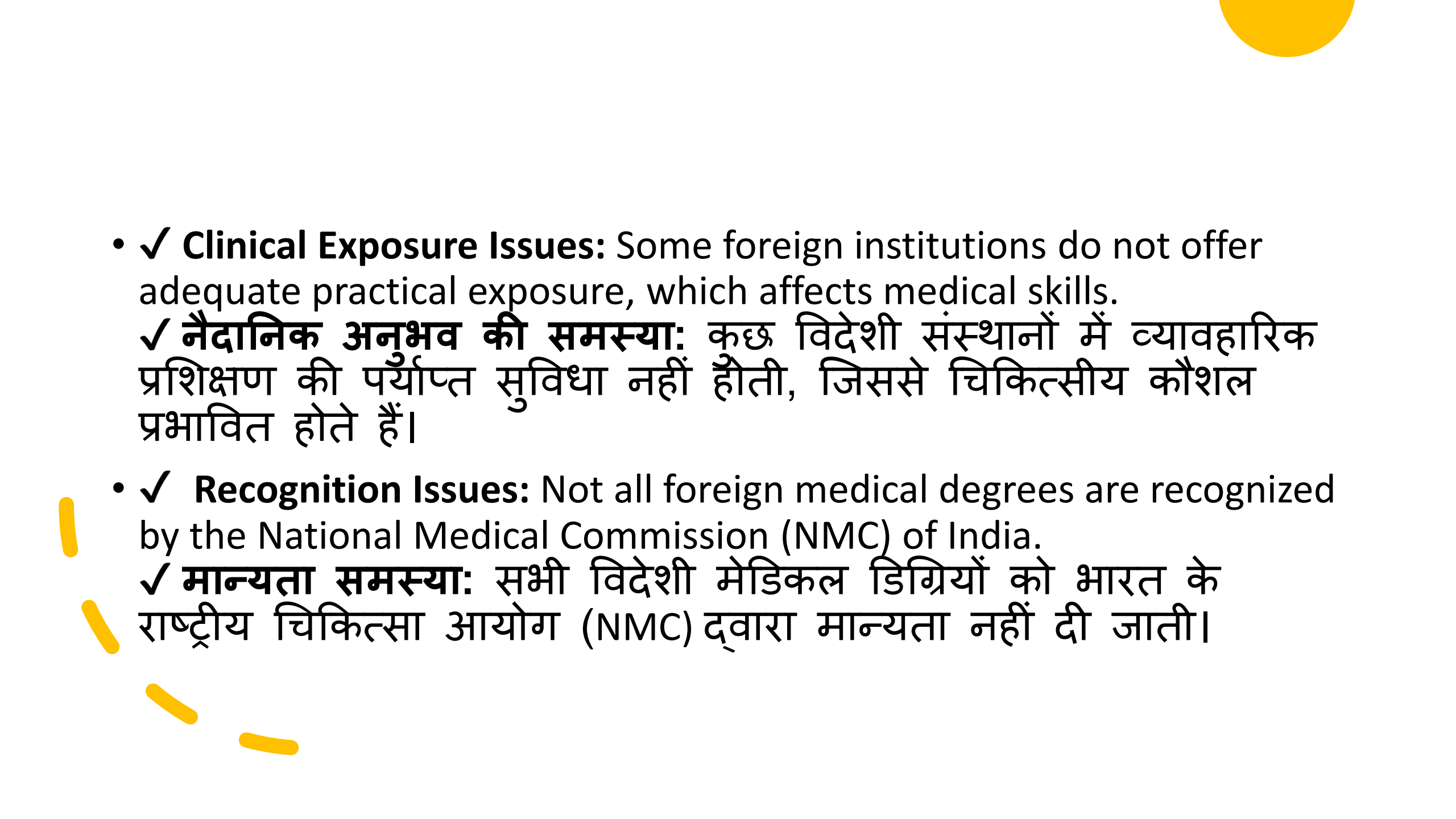
- Globalisation & Foreign Medical Institutions | वैश्वीकरण और विदेशी मेडिकल संस्थान
-  Foreign medical education is expanding rapidly, with international private medical colleges targeting students from low and middle-income countries.
-  वैश्विक स्तर पर विदेशी मेडिकल शिक्षा तेजी से बढ़ रही है, जहाँ अंतरराष्ट्रीय निजी मेडिकल कॉलेज निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों के छात्रों को आकर्षित कर रहे हैं।

- ✓ Caribbean nations such as Antigua and Barbuda have medical schools that serve Indian students but are often not recognized by the Indian Medical Council.  
✓ एंटीगुआ और बारबुडा जैसे कैरिबियाई देशों में मेडिकल स्कूल हैं, लेकिन इन्हें भारतीय मेडिकल काउंसिल द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त नहीं है।
- ✓ Eastern European countries like Romania, Hungary, and Poland are also becoming popular due to their relatively lower costs.  
✓ रोमानिया, हंगरी और पोलैंड जैसे पूर्वी यूरोपीय देश भी कम लागत के कारण लोकप्रिय हो रहे हैं।

- Challenges of Studying Medicine Abroad | विदेश में चिकित्सा शिक्षा की चुनौतियाँ
- 📖 While studying abroad offers opportunities, it also presents several challenges.  
📖 विदेश में पढ़ाई करने से अवसर मिलते हैं, लेकिन कई चुनौतियाँ भी सामने आती हैं।
- ✓ **Licensing Issues:** Indian students must clear the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) to practice in India.  
✓ **लाइसेंसिंग समस्या:** भारतीय छात्रों को भारत में अभ्यास करने के लिए FMGE परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करनी होती है।



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- ✓ **Quality Concerns:** Many foreign institutions lack infrastructure and faculty, leading to poor training quality.  
✓ **गुणवत्ता संबंधी चिंताएँ:** कई विदेशी संस्थानों में उचित बनियादी ढाँचा और शिक्षक नहीं होते, जिससे प्रशिक्षण की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होती है।
  - ✓ **Language Barriers:** In non-English speaking countries like Russia and China, students must learn the local language to communicate with patients.  
✓ **भाषा बाधा:** रूस और चीन जैसे गैर-अंग्रेजी भाषी देशों में छात्रों को मरीजों के साथ संवाद करने के लिए स्थानीय भाषा सीखनी होती है।
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- ✓ **Clinical Exposure Issues:** Some foreign institutions do not offer adequate practical exposure, which affects medical skills.  
✓ **नैदानिक अनुभव की समस्या:** कुछ विदेशी संस्थानों में व्यावहारिक प्रशिक्षण की पर्याप्त सुविधा नहीं होती, जिससे चिकित्सीय कौशल प्रभावित होते हैं।
  - ✓ **Recognition Issues:** Not all foreign medical degrees are recognized by the National Medical Commission (NMC) of India.  
✓ **मान्यता समस्या:** सभी विदेशी मेडिकल डिग्रियों को भारत के राष्ट्रीय चिकित्सा आयोग (NMC) द्वारा मान्यता नहीं दी जाती।

-  **Government Measures & Reforms | सरकारी उपाय एवं सुधार**
-  **Recognizing the challenges, the Indian government is expanding medical education opportunities domestically.**  
 **चनौतियों को समझते हुए, भारत सरकार घरेलू मेडिकल शिक्षा के अवसरों का विस्तार कर रही है।**



- ✓ Budget 2025 Announcement:

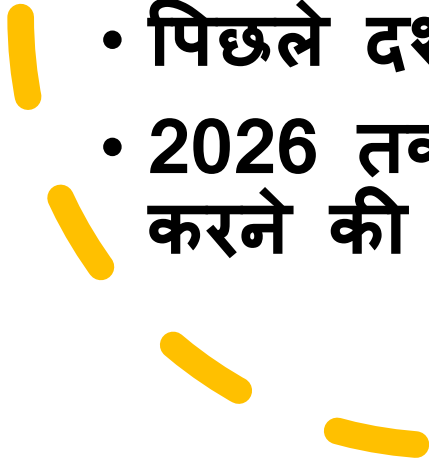
- 14,000 new medical seats added in the last decade.

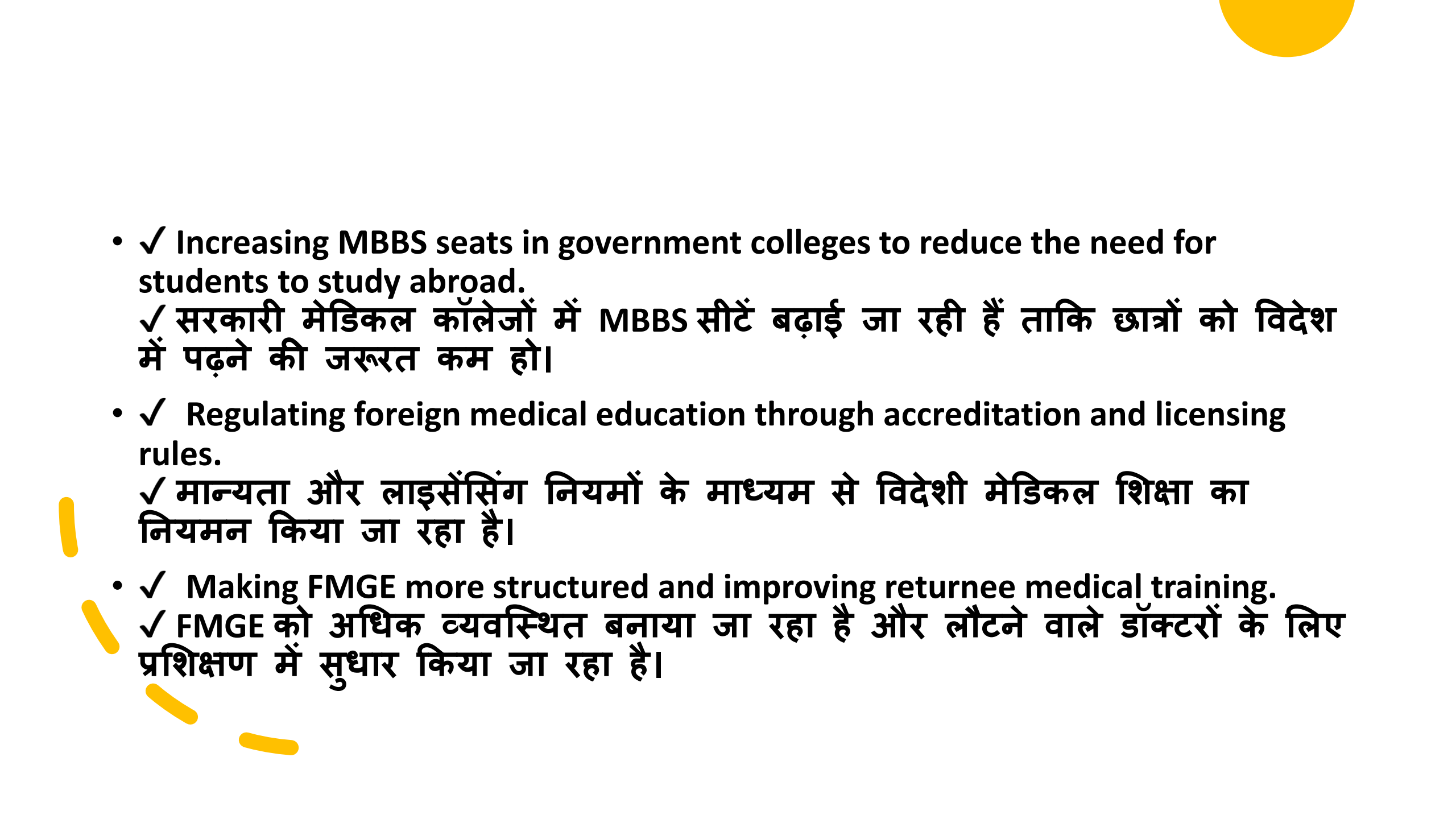
- 2026 तक 10,000 नए मेडिकल कॉलेजों और अस्पतालों की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव।

- ✓ 2025 के बजट में घोषणा:

- पिछले दशक में 14,000 नई मेडिकल सीटें जोड़ी गईं।

- 2026 तक 10,000 नए मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल स्थापित करने की योजना।



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- ✓ Increasing MBBS seats in government colleges to reduce the need for students to study abroad.  
✓ सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेजों में MBBS सीटें बढ़ाई जा रही हैं ताकि छात्रों को विदेश में पढ़ने की जरूरत कम हो।
  - ✓ Regulating foreign medical education through accreditation and licensing rules.  
✓ मान्यता और लाइसेंसिंग नियमों के माध्यम से विदेशी मेडिकल शिक्षा का नियमन किया जा रहा है।
  - ✓ Making FMGE more structured and improving returnee medical training.  
✓ FMGE को अधिक व्यवस्थित बनाया जा रहा है और लौटने वाले डॉक्टरों के लिए प्रशिक्षण में सुधार किया जा रहा है।



# 'Tax Year' Concept

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- The Income-Tax Bill, 2025, introduces a new 'Tax Year' concept, replacing the existing Assessment Year, aiming to simplify tax reporting.
  - What is the 'Tax Year' Concept?
  - The Tax Year refers to a 12-month period starting from April 1, during which income will be assessed and taxed in the same financial year.
  - It replaces the Assessment Year system, where income was taxed in the year following the financial year in which it was earned.

- Key Differences from the Old Regime:

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Old Regime (Assessment Year)</u>	<u>New Regime (Tax Year)</u>
Definition	Income taxed in the following year	Income taxed in the same year
Reporting System	Delayed assessment process	Real-time tax reporting
Flexibility	Rigid compliance structure	More adaptable tax reporting
Clarity	Complex cross-referencing	Simplified, structured taxation

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- **Features of the 'Tax Year' Concept:**

- **Synchronizes Income & Taxation:** Ensures taxes are paid in the **same year** income is earned.
- **Simplifies Compliance:** Reduces confusion regarding **financial year and assessment year**.
- **Modernized Tax Framework:** Makes **tax filing more transparent and efficient**.
- **Enhances Revenue Collection:** Reduces tax evasion by enabling **real-time assessment**.
- **Improves Clarity:** Tax deductions, rates, and exemptions presented in a **tabular format** for better understanding.

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- **Significance of the New Tax Year System:**

- **Aligns with Global Practices:** Brings India closer to international taxation standards.
- **Eases Taxpayer Burden:** Simplifies tax filing and assessment for individuals and businesses.
- **Reduces Litigation & Disputes:** Transparent assessment minimizes **errors and delays in tax processing.**
- **Enhances Government Efficiency:** Streamlines tax administration for **faster refunds and revenue collection.**



## HERE'S A QUICK COMPARISON

	I-T Act, 1961	I-T Bill, 2025
Word count	5.1L	2.6L
Chapters	47	23
Sections	819	536
Tables	18	57
Formulae	6	46

## NO. OF WORDS CUT ON:

	I-T Act, 1961	I-T Bill, 2025
Exemptions	30,000	13,500
TDS/TCS	27,453	14,606
Non-profit organisation	12,800	7,600

A close-up photograph of an Ongole Breed Cattle head, showing its brown fur, large ears, and dark nose. The background is a blurred green field with other cattle visible in the distance.

# Ongole Breed Cattle

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- Viatina-19, an Ongole breed cow, recently set a world record by selling for \$4.82 million (~₹41 crore) in Brazil, surpassing Japan's Wagyu and India's Brahman breeds.
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- About Ongole Breed:

- What is the Ongole Breed?

- **Ongole cattle** is a native Indian **Bos Indicus** breed known for its **high strength, disease resistance, and heat tolerance**.
- It has been historically used for **agriculture, dairy, and breeding purposes**, contributing to livestock economies.

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- **Native Region & Distribution:**

- **Native to:** Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- **Found in:** Villages around **Guntur, Vinukonda, Narasaraopet, Ongole, Kandukur** and along the **Gundlakamma and Alluru rivers**.
- Also known as the **Nellore breed** due to its historical association with **Nellore district**.

-



- **Global Recognition:**

- Highly valued in **Brazil, USA, and Australia** for **crossbreeding and dairy farming**.
- **Brazilian-developed Ongole cow, Viatina-19, became the world's most expensive cow** in 2025.

- **Historical Significance:**

- Traces of **Zebu (Bos Indicus) cattle**, including Ongole breed, date back to Indus Valley Civilization (3000 BC).
- **Rigvedic texts** mention cattle as an essential part of socio-economic life.

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# Dorka Metal Craft

- Prime Minister of India gifted a Dokra artwork to French President Emmanuel Macron during the AI Summit in Paris, showcasing India's rich handicraft traditions.



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- About Dokra Metal Craft:

- What is Dokra Metal Craft?

- **Dokra (Dhokra) is a non-ferrous metal casting technique, using the lost-wax casting method, which has been in practice for over 4,000 years.**
- It is known for its **primitive simplicity, unique folk motifs, and handcrafted designs** without any joints.

Region Found In:  
Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh,  
Odisha, West Bengal,  
Telangana, Madhya  
Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil  
Nadu.

Adilabad Dokra (Telangana)  
received the Geographical  
Indicator (GI) tag in 2018.

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- **Features of Dokra Art:**

- **Handcrafted Metalwork:** Made mainly from **brass and copper-based alloys**.
- **Intricate Designs:** Figures of **elephants, horses, religious deities, lamps, jewellery, and tribal motifs**.
- **Two Casting Methods:**
  - **Solid casting** (South India) – Uses a single wax piece to create the mould.
  - **Hollow casting** (Central and Eastern India) – Uses a clay core and wax overlay.
- **No Reproduction:** Each piece is **unique**, as the mould is destroyed in the process.



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- **History & Cultural Significance:**

- **Origins:** Dates back to the **Indus Valley Civilization** (Mohenjo-daro's "Dancing Girl" figurine is an early example).
- **Traditional Practitioners:** **Dhokra Damar tribes**, originally from **Odisha and West Bengal**, later migrated across India.

# Tobin Tax

# Tobin Tax

Tobin tax is basically a tax that is levied on short term currency transactions in order to discourage the volatility and speculation.



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- Origin and Economic Theory:

- Proposed in **1972 by James Tobin**, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, in response to currency market fluctuations after the collapse of the Bretton Woods system.
- Aimed at “**throwing sand in the wheels**” of currency speculation to stabilize exchange rates.



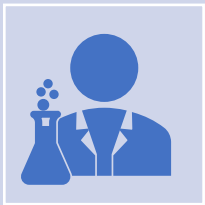
# World's 1st Hybrid Quantum Supercomputer

- 
- Engineers in Japan have successfully activated **Reimei**, the **world's first hybrid quantum supercomputer**.
  - **About**
  - The **20-qubit quantum computer** has been seamlessly integrated into **Fugaku**, the **world's sixth-fastest supercomputer**, marking a significant milestone in high-performance computing





Unlike most quantum computers that rely on superconducting qubits, Reimei utilizes **trapped-ion qubits**—a technology that isolates charged atoms (ions) in an electromagnetic ion trap and uses lasers to precisely manipulate their quantum states.



The integration of Reimei into Fugaku aims to tackle complex calculations that traditional supercomputers struggle with, particularly in physics and chemistry research.



# India's Rank in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024



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What is the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)?

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Impact of Corruption



Developed by

Transparency International



Measures perceived levels of public sector corruption in different countries.



Scale 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).



Published annually to track corruption trends globally.



Based on expert opinions & surveys from business leaders and analysts

- data sources from 12 independent institutions

- Institutions World Bank, World Economic Forum, Economist Intelligence Unit, Bertelsmann Foundation

# Key parameters considered



## Factors influencing CPI Score

- Bribery and public sector corruption.
- Diversion of public funds.
- Effectiveness of anti- corruption laws and policies.
- Government transparency in decision- making.
- Protection of whistleblowers & journalists.
- Independence of judiciary and its role in fighting corruption.
- Corrupt activities in political financing.



# India's performance



India ranks 96th out of 180 countries.



Score 38/100 (declined from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022).

## Rank & Score Details



Declined from 93rd rank in 2023 and 40 score in 2022.



Indicates increasing public perception of corruption in India.

# Least corrupt countries

Top performers

01

Denmark (1st)

02

Finland (2nd)

03

Singapore (3rd)



# Corruption trends



## Global statistics

More than two-thirds of countries score below 50, highlighting a global corruption crisis.



# Regional rankings

## Comparisons



China – 76th



Sri Lanka – 121st



Pakistan – 135th



Bangladesh – 149th



South Asian nations struggle with high corruption levels.

# Key issues



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Contributing factors

# Economic effects

Economic impact



Discourages foreign investment.



Increases cost of doing business.



# Social consequences

Social impact



Weakens public services like healthcare and education.



Increases inequality & poverty.

# Environmental impact

Environmental consequences



Corruption in climate policies leads to misallocation of funds.



Illegal activities like deforestation & pollution remain unchecked.

10 MCQ

- Which country has become India's top trading partner in 2024-25?
- 2024-25 में भारत का शीर्ष व्यापारिक साझेदार कौन सा देश बन गया है?
- A. China / चीन
- B. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
- C. United Arab Emirates / संयुक्त अरब अमीरात
- D. Russia / रूस

- What is the main objective of the 'Digital Public Infrastructure' (DPI) initiative in India?
- भारत में 'डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर' (DPI) पहल का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Promoting digital banking and financial inclusion / डिजिटल बैंकिंग और वित्तीय समावेशन को बढ़ावा देना
- B. Expanding the telecom sector / दूरसंचार क्षेत्र का विस्तार करना
- C. Strengthening cybersecurity measures / साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों को मजबूत करना
- D. Increasing foreign direct investment (FDI) / प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) बढ़ाना
- Answer

- . What is India's projected economic growth rate for FY 2025-26 as per the latest budget report?
- नवीनतम बजट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, FY 2025-26 के लिए भारत की अनुमानित आर्थिक वृद्धि दर क्या है?
- A. 5.5%
- B. 6.2%
- C. 7.0%
- D. 8.1%

- What does the newly launched 'PM Awas Plus Scheme' focus on?
- नई शुरू की गई 'पीएम आवास प्लस योजना' किस पर केंद्रित है?
- A. Urban housing for middle-class families / मध्यवर्गीय परिवारों के लिए शहरी आवास
- B. Rural electrification / ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण
- C. Affordable healthcare for all / सभी के लिए सस्ती स्वास्थ्य देखभाल
- D. Increasing agricultural productivity / कृषि उत्पादकता बढ़ाना
- Answer



- Which international organization recently praised India's 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative?
- हाल ही में किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन ने भारत की 'LiFE' (पर्यावरण के लिए जीवनशैली) पहल की सराहना की?
- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (UNEP)  
B. World Trade Organization (WTO) / विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO)  
C. International Monetary Fund (IMF) / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF)  
D. World Bank / विश्व बैंक

- What is the primary focus of the 'Agri-Tech Mission 2025' in India?
- भारत में 'एग्री-टेक मिशन 2025' का प्राथमिक फोकस क्या है?
- A. Use of AI and drones in farming / कृषि में एआई और ड्रोन का उपयोग
- B. Doubling farmers' income / किसानों की आय दोगुनी करना
- C. Banning chemical fertilizers / रासायनिक उर्वरकों पर प्रतिबंध लगाना
- D. Increasing minimum support price (MSP) for crops / फसलों के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) बढ़ाना

- Which Indian state topped the 'Ease of Doing Business' index in 2025?
- 2025 में 'व्यवसाय करने में सुगमता' सूचकांक में कौन सा भारतीय राज्य शीर्ष पर रहा?
- A. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- B. Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- C. Gujarat / गुजरात
- D. Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु

- Which new government policy aims to regulate e-commerce platforms in India?
- भारत में ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफार्मों को विनियमित करने के लिए कौन सी नई सरकारी नीति लागू की गई है?
- A. Digital Commerce Regulation Act, 2025 / डिजिटल वाणिज्य विनियमन अधिनियम, 2025
- B. E-Commerce Consumer Protection Act / ई-कॉमर्स उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम
- C. Online Marketplaces Governance Bill / ऑनलाइन मार्केटप्लेस गवर्नेंस बिल
- D. Consumer Rights and E-Commerce Act / उपभोक्ता अधिकार और ई-कॉमर्स अधिनियम

- Which space agency successfully tested a nuclear-powered spacecraft for deep-space missions?
- कौन सी अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी ने गहरे अंतरिक्ष अभियानों के लिए एक परमाणु-संचालित अंतरिक्ष यान का सफल परीक्षण किया?
- A. NASA / नासा
- B. ISRO / इसरो
- C. Roscosmos / रोसकोसमोस
- D. CNSA (China National Space Administration) / सीएनएसए (चीन राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष प्रशासन)





**Visual question:**

What is the title of the first-ever uploaded YouTube video and who uploaded it?



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# Word of the day

## **Juggernaut:**

a massive inexorable force that seems to crush everything in its way

---

**Synonyms:** steamroller

---

**Usage:** *The new show was hardly the ratings juggernaut that the studio had thought it would be.*

---

## **Pronunciation:**

newsth.live/juggernautpro

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## **International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /ˈdʒʌg.ənɔːt/

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# Word of the day

## **Wrangle:**

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

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**Synonyms:** haggle, brawl

---

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

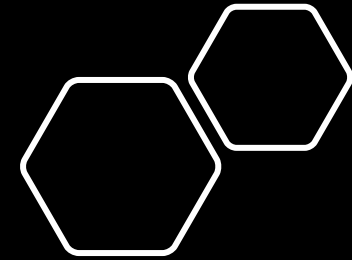
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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/wranglepro](http://newsth.live/wranglepro)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ˈræŋɡl/

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Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

Class24

# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट)-1

- ▶ सामान्य जागरूकता
- ▶ गणित
- ▶ सामान्य बुद्धि और तर्कशक्ति

20 OMR SHEETS सहित

— विशेषताएँ —

- ▶ परीक्षा की दृष्टि से अतिमहत्वपूर्ण प्रश्नों का व्याख्या सहित हल
- ▶ नवीनतम पाठ्यक्रम पर आधारित प्रश्नों का समावेशन
- ▶ विगत वर्ष के प्रश्नपत्रों के विश्लेषण पर आधारित प्रश्न



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व्याख्यात्मक हल YouTube चैनल पर उपलब्ध

Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

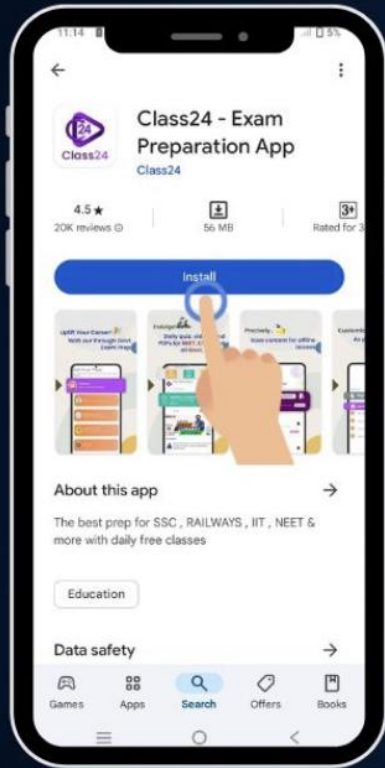
# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 मॉडल पेपर्स

Price  
Rs 199

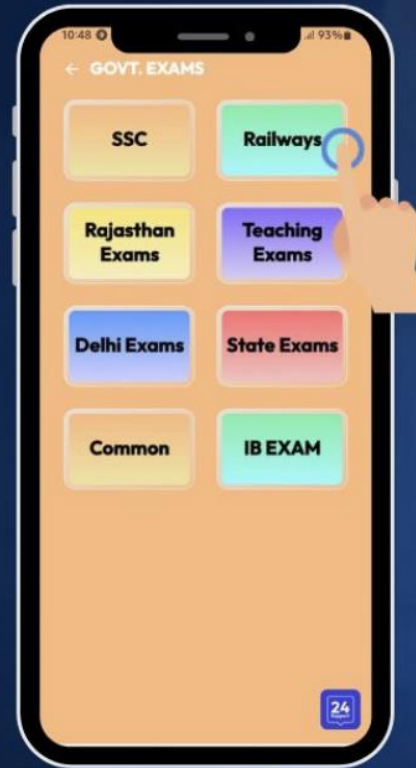
# Step 1



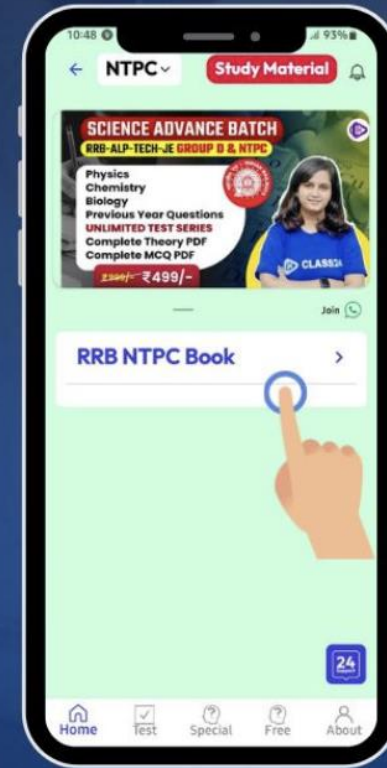
# Step 2




# 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 some highlights on the hands and clothing. There are some red dots and an orange bar in the top left corner, which appear to be decorative elements.

Thank you  
guys.

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