# Daily Current Affairs

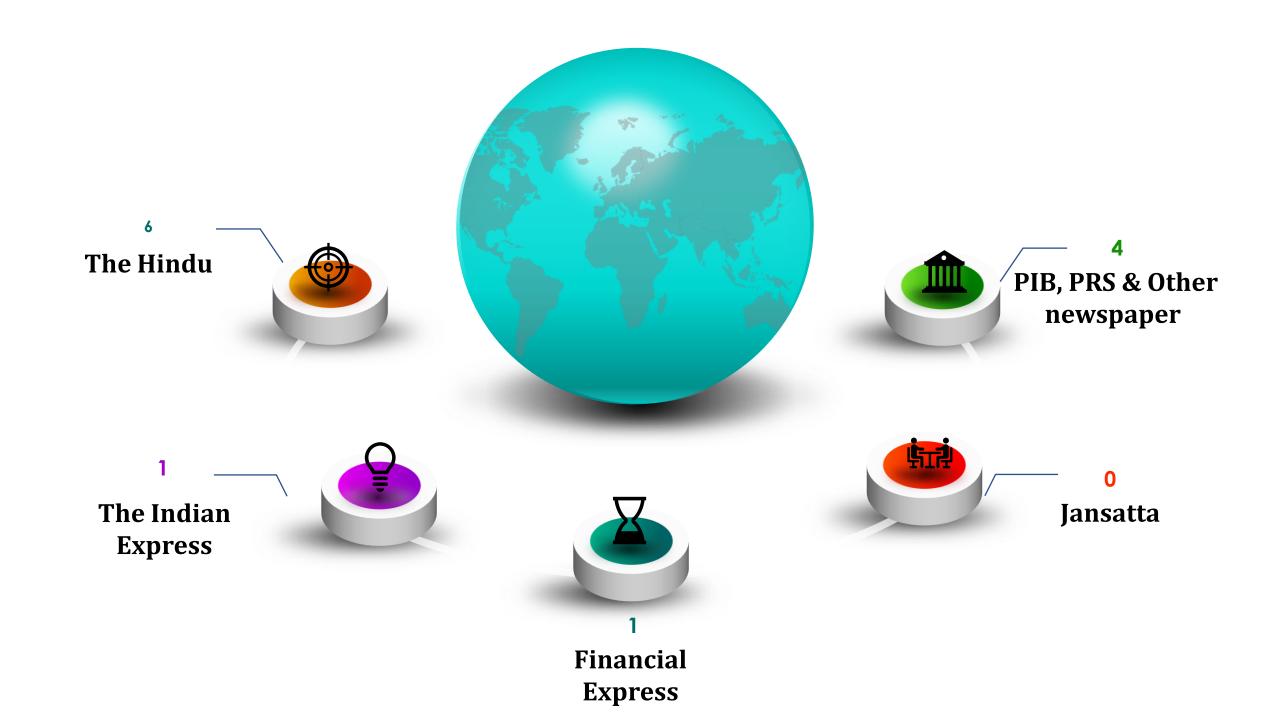












# Download class24





**PDF** 

10 MCQ QUIZ



- 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 Al 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 Al 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) / इलॅक्ट्रॉनिक्स 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





# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 HĬSM

CBT (कंप्युटर आधारित टेस्ट)- 1

- सामान्य जागरकता
- गणित
- > सामान्य बुद्धि और तर्कशक्ति



# 20 OMR SHEETS सहित

# - विशेषताए -

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



व्याख्यात्मक हल 🕒 YouTube चैनल पर उपलब्ध

Scan QR Code and Watch Playlist

# Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

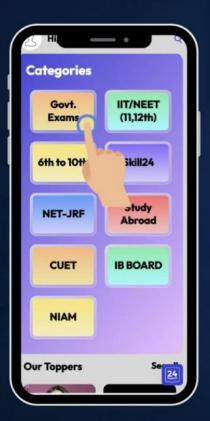
Price Rs 199

न जिस्ति चेपस

# Step 1



# Step 2



# Step 3



# Step 4









**Putin invites Trump** to discuss Ukraine WORLD » PAGE 14





Dangerous concessions on nuclear liability Proposed amendments ITORIAL » PAGE 8



Dominant Men in Blue complete demolition

#### INSIDE



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

KOTTAVAM KOTTAYAM
The Gamdhinagar police in
Kottayam on Wednesday
arrested five third-year nursing
students for ragging after three
first-year students filed nudity. 30 PAGE 3

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

More than 19 million people took a dip in the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mythical the occasion of Maghi Purnim as part of the Maha Kumbh in

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

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Wednesday postponed the hearing on petitions challenging the law giving the Union government a domin role in appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and February 19. to PAGE 5

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

#### NEW DELBI

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament on Wednesday, directed the ment to review toll tax National Highways.

# 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

ported inflation as the ru-pee's depreciation could weigh on the cost of items like edible oils, fertilizers,

and petroleum.
"Over the past few months, edible oil has

emerged as a major pres-sure point for food infla-tion, impacted by high glo-bal prices and import

duties. Since around 60% of edible oil is imported, the weakening currency al-

ndia's retail inflation cooled to a five-month low of 4.31% in Janu-Jow of 4.31% in January, from 5.22% in December 2024, and 5.1% a year ago. The rise in food prices had decelerated for the food of the foo

urban consumers in Janu-ary dropped to 3.87%, be-low the Central bank's 4% median target for inflation. For rural consumers, price rice remained above the median target at 4.64%, but down from Decem-ber's 5.8% rise.

The latest inflation figures were reported just days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) move to

# Downward trend

July 2024 Sep. Nov. 2024

percentage points last Friday on the premise that in-flation is declining and will soften to 4.2% in 2025-26 while growth needs are more pressing.

Rupee depreciation The RBI has projected in-flation to average 4.4% between January to March, which could imply mild spikes in the price rise pace over this month and the next. Economists have

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

NEW DILLHI
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. 39 PAGE 12

so adversely impacts its price," cautioned Dharma-kirti Joshi, chief economist at Crisil.

Although non-food in-

flation inched up to a 13-month high of 3.2%, this was still within the comfort

zone, Mr. Joshi said. Vegetables inflation more than halved to 11.3% in January from 26.6% in December, but fruits infla-tion spiked to 12.22%, and edible oils became 15.6%

Vegetables cheaper The five items that record-ed the highest inflation in ed the highest inflation in January were coconut oil (\$4.2%), potatoes (49.6%), coconut (38.7%), garlic (20.7%), and peas (20.2%), ed the highest inflation rates in the country at 6.76% and 6.05% respec-tively, while Delhi (2.02%) and Telangana (2.22%) re-

corded the mildest price pressures for their idents. The significant decline

in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of January is mainly attributed to decline in in attributed to decline in in-flation of vegetables, egg, pulses and products, ce-reals and products, educa-tion, clothing and health," the National Statistics Of-fice said.

# traction as PM holds talks with Macron



IMEC project gains

India and France on Wed-nesday announced that they would continue to work closely to implement the India-Middle East-Eu-rope 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

thanke, whether he spoked at the second second second second second second the second second second second second the second sec

conflict. The French and Indian

leadership highlighted the importance of the project for prosperity of India and Europe.
Foreign Secretary Vik-ram Misri told the media that after the Al summit, Mr. Modi reached Marseille on Tuesday.
"Marseilles will be the

leaders described nuclear energy as an "essentia part of the energy mix" The small modular reac tors are factory-fabricated nuclear reactors that are smaller in size and capacity than the conventional

Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron jointly inaugurated the new Indian Consulate General in Marseille oul wednesday, Marseille will edition of the flagahip discussion event of the Ministry of External Affairs - Raina Dialogue - this year multiple sectors are expected to participate.

After the inauguration After the inauguration Marseille, Mr. Modi recounted India's ties with Marseille as Indian soldiers were based their during were based their during dent Earnmanuel Macron dent Earnmanuel Macron dent Earnmanuel Macron cron jointly inaugurated

dent Emmanuel Macron and I inaugurated the In-dian Consulate in this vibrant city, marking a new chapter in India-France ties. This consulate will

ties. This consulate will serve as an important bridge, strengthening our people-to-people connections," said Mr. Modlafter the Bauguration. Her to-cognised the "strategic location" of Marseille in the role that the port city will play in supporting "connectivity, sustainable costs to deen enemy."

#### Flu check



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

#### The Hindu Bureau

The Congress party Wednesday asked the Na-rendra Modi-led Union government clarify clai made in a news report that it altered land allocation rules near international borders to aid the Adani

borders to aid the Adani Group in building a renew-able energy park in Guja-rat's Rann of Kutch. The Congress leaders called on the Prime Minis-ter and Defence Minister to explain explain why such a drastic step to compromise our national security was

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

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked Tamil Wednesday asked Tamil T

question for you to answ-er," Justice A.S. Oka, head-ing a Bench, addressed senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and advocate Ram

CM CM



Sankar, appearing for Mr. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for the State, said the Minister had been gi-ven a 'Hobson's choice'. Mr. Senthilbalaji is ac-cused of playing a 'central

the Metropolitan Transport Corporation of Chensport Corporation of ChenCorporation during his tenure as Transport MinisterCorporation during his tenure as Transport Ministeryear. Cases were piled
upon me when I was in jail.
The conditions on me [for bail],
I have been appearing evconditions on me [for bail],
I have been appearing evgry alternate day before
submitted. The Could be a consubmitted. The Court case
the Directorate of Enforcement, represented by Solta and K. Vidhya Kumarta and K. Vidhya Kumaran alleged victim of the

and pivotal role" in receiv-ing kickbacks for jobs in scam - through senior ad-

vocate Gopal Sankarana-rayanan and advocates Ne-ha Rathi and Pranav Sachdeva, that Mr. Senthibalaji was trying to 'derali' Senthilibalaji was appoint-ed Minister soon after his release on bail last year. On December 2, the top court had voiced strong to be the beautiful and the senthilia jis return as Minister. There are serious charges

"There are serious charges against him, and he straightaway becomes a Minister! People would be justified now for their apprehension that witnesses would come under pres-sure," Justice Oka had remarked.

# Former Congress MP convicted of dual murder in anti-Sikh riots case

### The Hindu Bureau

A Delhi court on Wednes day convicted former Con-gress MP Sajjan Kumar in a dual murder case stem-ming from the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

The 79-year-old faces a maximum of death penalty and a minimum of life term in prison.

in prison.

"Prosecution has been able to prove its case against the accused [Kumar] beyond reasonable doubt," Special Judge Kave-it Bestin Branch Special Judge Kave-it Bestin Branch Special Judge Kave-it Branch Special Sp ri Baweja said, convicting Kumar for the offences of murder, rioting, dacoity, and arson. The judge post-

ed the arguments for the sentencing on February 18. The court from the Tibar pal. The case relates to the killing of S. Jaswant Singh and his son S. Tarundeep and his son S. Tarundeep Nagar, Delhi, at the hands of an unruly mob compris-ing thousands of persons the 1984 and-Sikh riots.

the two persons, damaged and looted their household

'He led the mob' 'He led the mob'
The prosecution argued
that Kumar was leading the
mob and it was upon his
instigation and abetment
that the mob burnt alive

articles and burnt down their house, and also in-flicted severe injuries on

their family members and relatives. The complainant is the Bagh police station regis-tered the case initially, a

later took over the probe.
The judge noted that the
evidence, both oral and
cord in the course of trial,
"the prosecution has been
able to bring home the
"it has further been established that accused Sapber of such unlawful
assembly, is guilty of having committed the murder
Tarundeev Singh, the husTarundeev Singh, the hus-

Tarundeep Singh, the hus-band and son of the com-plainant PW-13, during the incident of rioting which occurred on November 01, 1984," the court said.

40000

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

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

The Immigration and Fo-reigners Bill, 2025, which is expected to be intro-duced in the current sesduced in the current ses-sion of Parliament, is likely to introduce for the first time, threat to national se-sion of the country of taylot of coreign national in the country. It may also have provisions to bar the entry of a foreigner on ba-sis of relations with a fo-sion of the country.

reign state.

The proposed law could make the decision of the Immigration Officer final and binding. Earlier, too, foreigners were denied en-try but the clause was not

try 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, 1939 – the three laws brought close to the Was and Section of the Control of the Control of the Pass of the Control of Carriers' Liabilization (Carriers' Liabilization). migration (Carriers' Liabili-ty) Act, 2000 will also be

The four Acts had overlapping provisions and a necessity to repeal the Acts and enact a new compre-

and enact a new compre-hensive law was felt. The proposed legisla-tion was also framed to avoid overlapping of laws with relation to passports or other documents of per-sons entering or exiting In-

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

dia, including the require-ment of visa and registration.

The Bill may also define

functions of the Immigra-tion Officer. Obligations of universities and other educational institutions, and those of medical instituthose of medical institu-tions with regard to admit-ting foreigners may also be covered by the Bill. It is likely that the Bill will in-clude provisions on bur-

clude provisions on bur-den of proof upon such persons to prove that they are not foreign nationals. Although the Bureau of Although the Bureau of Immigration already ex-ists, with the passing of the Bill, Immigration Officers and the bureau may get adequate legal backing. The legislation could

five years, or fines up to ₹5 lakh or both, for entering India without valid docu-

Using or distributing fraudulent travel docu-ments may invite punishments such as two years' ments such as two years' imprisonment, which may be extended to seven years. A fine of not less than ₹1 lakh, which may stretch to ₹10 lakh, may al-so 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 Kharge

he Congress on Wednesday asked the Narendra Modithe Narendra Modi-led Union government to come clean on the claims made in a news report that it had changed the rules re-garding 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

Reacting to an investiga-Reacting to an investiga-tion by *The Guardian*, Con-gress leaders said the go-vernment's move jeopardised national securjeopardised national secur-ity, and asked the Prime Minister and the Defence ity, and asked the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister to "explain why such a drastic step to com-promise our national se-curity was taken". Neither the government nor the Adani Group has responded to the news re-ports and the comments

ports and the comments made by the Opposition

Protocols changed The investigation by The Guardian said the Adami 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 proto-



Congress president Mal-likarjun Kharge said the

'Endangered security'
"Narendra Modiji, v

"Narendra Modiji, you have endangered national security at our borders in order to benefit private bil-lionaires. Is it true that you

have gifted precious stra-tegic land, just 1 km near the International Border

the International Border with Pakistan, to your 'dear friend' by relaxing border security rules?" Mr. Kharge asked in a post on

"Is it not true that you

"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, Myan-mar and Nepal, thereby je-opardising our strategic and border security?" the Congress chief asked.

pseudo-nationalistic face of the ruling BJP has once again been unmasked.

Energy plant at Khavda in Kutch district of Gujarat, AFF

cols did not allow any construction in the area, but the Gujarat government wrote to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) before April 2023, seeking per-mission for infrastructure mission for infrastructure projects to be built on the land near the border, re-ported the British newspaper. Its report claimed that a "confidential meating" was

"confidential meeting" was convened in Delhi on April 21, 2023 to discuss the mat-Energy Corporation of In-dia (SECI) was in posses-sion of the land that was leased out by the Gujarat

wernment. The Guardian further reported that by May 8, 2023. the Centre had changed the protocols to allow inthe concerns of defence of-ficials quoted in the news report about the possible need "to lay mines or put in place anti-tank and anti-

in place anti-tank and anti-personnel mechanisms:

"Why would you allow a huge private project within easy striking distance of the India-Pakistan border, thereby increasing the de-fence responsibilities of our armed forces and reducing their strategic ad-vantages?" he asked.

'PM must explain'

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal asked the Prime Minister and the De-fence Minister to explain the need for a change in the need for a change in the rules. "Are we trying to make our energy system a sitting duck against our ad-versaries? Are military ex-perts who have spent de-cades protecting our nation mere puppets who can be sidelined? The Modi government's cronyism is a threat to our national se-curity," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X.

Congress general secre-tary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked: "Has the process of handing over all the resources of the country to the Prime Minister's resources of the country to the Prime Minister's 'friend' reached such a point that even the border security rules are being changed?"

# successor to Biren The BIP in Manipur strug gled to select a successor to caretaker Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren

Stalemate continues

in Manipur over

Sambit Patra, the MP in charge of the party's affairs in the Northeast, met Go-vernor Ajay Kumar Bhalla for the third time in three days. Neither the Raj Bha-van nor the BJP issued any statement on what transpired during their meet-ing for more than an hour. Mr. Patra, who conti-

Singh for the third straight day on Wednesday. Sambit Patra, the MP in

The Hindu Bureau

nued his one-to-one meet

nued his one-to-one meeting with the legislators of the BIP and its allies, declined to speak to journalists after emerging from the best of the BIP and the speculation about the imposition of the President's Rule in the ethnic conflict scarred State. "Contrary to be no constitutional crisis. be no constitutional crisis. We have reasons to believe our central leaders will re-solve the matter in consul-tation with the party's State unit" the MLA renge senting the Langthabal constituency said.

A senior BIP leader in

A senior BJP leader in Imphal said the party's central leadership, includ-ing Home Minister Amit Shah and national presi-dent J.P. Nadda, could meet the State's legislators in Delhi soon to finalise a

consensus candidate for the Chief Minister's post. In the 60-member Mani-pur Assembly, the BJP has 32 MLAs, including seven

from the Kuki-Zo con ity who have stayed away from the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley since vio-

lence broke out on May 3, 2023, claiming at least 250 lives and displacing some

Warning note Amid the political crisis, pressure groups have be-gun to show their frustra-tion. Ph. Nando Luwang, the president of the in-fluential All Manipur Unit-ed Clubs' Organisation, said the imposition of President's Rule or keeping the State Assembly in sus-pended animation would not make any difference to

"However, we will not remain passive if there is any threat to Manipur's terany threat to Manipur's ter-ritorial integrity," he said, obliquely referring to the demand for a separate ad-ministration by the Kuki-Zo organisations.

#### Illegal mining continues in Meghalava.

### says report The Hindu Bureau

A single-member commit-tee 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

districts of the State. The Justice (retired) B.P. Katakey panel, in its 27th interim report com phy of the mines and vol metric assessment of coal, metric assessment of coal, apart from the extracted coal inventoried by an authorised private firm, provides fresh evidence of unauthorised mining des-pite 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**



## **Public Accounts Committee** asks Centre to review toll tax + rule for National Highways

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, head-ed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, at a meeting held on Wednesday, directed the government to 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

fees, tariffs, user charges etc. on public infrastruc-ture and other public utilities."

The current toll taxes are levied based on the base rate of fee per kilo-metre as prescribed by the metric on the vehicular traffic on the road has exponentially inroad has exponentially in-creased since 2008, the pa-nel directed the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport



by Congress leader K.C.

and Highways, V. Umash-ankar; National Highways Authority of India Chair-person Santosh Kumar Ya-dav, and other officials who deposed before the panel, to review the rules. The lowered considering be lowered considering there are more whicles

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, managine black

sections, managing black spots, and providing pas-senger 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 were also example of Paliyekkara Toll Plaza at the Thrissur-Edapally section of Nation-al Highway 544 was also cited, as the concession and the concession of the concession naire was not following the agreement. The Centre has said it is

now running a pilot pro-ject with "Automatic Num-ber Plate Recognition" at

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

#### The Hindu Bureau

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to respond to a plea challenging the validity of Article 334A(I) of the Constitution, which prescribes delimitation as a prerequi-site to give effect to reser-vation of seats for women

vation of seats for women in Parliament.

The court issued notice to the Ministry of Law and Justice as well as Attorney General, the highest law officer in the country, on the plea questioning why women's reservation should limitation was normalized.

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

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday observed that artificial intelligence (AD is a "dangerous tool" in any-body's hand, whether Chinese or American.

The observation came The observation came while hearing a petition seeking a direction to the Centre to block access to DeepSeek, a Chinese Al chatbot providing services free of cost in India. It is not a continuous tool in anybody's hand, whether Chinese or American, it does not make any diffe-

does not make any diffe-rence. It is not that the go-vernment is unaware. It is

very well aware," a Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upad-hyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said.

The Centre's counse said the issue requires consideration and urged the court to grant some time to get instructions in the mat-ter. The court listed the

ter. The court listed the matter for February 20. The petitioner's advo-cate Bhavus Sharma, along with advocate Nilit Dal-the alleged "inappropriate and unlawful operations" of DeepSeek, saying it posed "instant and emer-gent threats that are pre-judicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India".

## The Hindu Bureau Candidates in the 2024 Lok

Sabha election each spent an average of ₹57.23 lakh for campaigning, accord-ing to an Atlas on last year's general election re-leased 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

'Inbuilt red flags'
Speaking at the release of the Atlas, Chief Election the Atlas, Chief Election said, adding that this

#### poll expenses was revised in 2022. considering a rise in total electors, cost virtual campaigns

Average of ₹57 lakh spent by each

candidate on LS poll campaign: data

Commissioner Rajiv Ku-mar reiterated that the polling data system was ro-bust, with inbuilt "red flags" to ensure that "noth

flags" to ensure that "noth-ing can go wrong". Lakhs of officials, in-cluding booth-level offic-ers, feed data into the sys-tem. "As a design, nothing can go wrong. The system

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 in some Maharashtra.

Highs and lows According to the Atlas, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi spent ₹92.82 lakh on his campaign trail in Wayanad. Three Karnataka MPs – Sunil Bose, B.Y. Raghaven-dra and E. Tukaram – were on the list of 15 MPs with

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

The amount of money candidates are permitted candidates are permitted to spend on their cam-paigns is subject to a ceil-ing. The maximum limit of election expenses was re-vised in 2022, owing to a rise in the number of elec-tors, cost inflation index, and virtual campaigns.

#### Govt, set to introduce new Income Tax Bill today

Bill to reform the income tax laws on Thursday, the last day of the first part of

Finance Minister Nirma-la Sitharaman had men-tioned it during her Budget speech on February I.
The report of the Joint

Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is also likely to be ta-bled on Thursday. The panel has already submitted the report on the Bill to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

# 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.

# '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: √ राह्ल गांधी (कांग्रेस) ने वायनाड में अपने चुनाव प्रचार पर ₹92.82 लाख खर्च

  - √ डीएमके के गणपित राजकुमार (कोयंबटूर) 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: √ बाराम्ला के सांसद इंजीनियर राशिद ने केवल ₹2.10 लाख खर्च
  - √ 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).
- क्रे निर्वाचन खर्च की अधिकतम सीमा: √ 2022 में EC ने खर्च सीमा बढ़ाई कुल 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.
- क्रे निर्वाचन आयोग की 'रेड फ्लैग' प्रणाली: ं डेटा-आधारित प्रणाली से चुनाव खर्च पर नज़र रखी जाती है।
  ं ब्थ-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 पारंपिरक 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 techbased 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।

Army has to evolve new

concepts to align with

emerging trends: CDS

## Navy eyes fleet of 400 planes to boost maritime security

The Hindu Bureau

Charting a future course to strengthen its air capabili-ty, the Indian Navy has out-lined plans for a fleet of 400 aircraft to boleter ma 400 aircraft to bolster mar-time security and enhance its capability in both com-bat and civilian roles. Over the next two de-cades, the Navy aims to in-duct a range of indigenous-

developed light dium, and heavy-lift air craft into its Naval Air Arm

The "Atmanirbhar In dian Naval Aviation Tech-nology Road map, 2047" envisions a modernised fleet, including a fifth-gen-eration twin-engine deck-based fighter aircraft to replace the current fighter

et. The document also long-range maritime re-connaissance aircraft to monitor the Indian Ocean Region, medium and short-range maritime connaissance aircraft, aircraft carrier-borne air borne early warning and control aircraft, and am-

phibious aircraft.
Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tri-pathi and Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth re-leased the document at Ae-ro India here.
While Hindustan Aero-



Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi with Union Minister Sanjay Seth.

Maritime (UHM) pro gramme, the Navy says it is exploring options for other original equipment manuoriginal equipment manufacturers to design and de-velop the helicopter inde-pendently or through joint copters, heavy-lift helicop-ters, and uncrewed aerial systems, including UAV platforms, will be the areas of focus.

induct into its fleet the me dium-range maritime re connaissance aircraft C-295 indigenously manu-factured by TATA Advanced System Ltd.

vanced System Ltd..
"New non-state actors
have been deploying capa-bilities in the sea for the
past four to five years and
there is a need to address

rguing that aligning technology with fu-ture warfare is not the only way forward, Chief of Defence Staff Gen-eral Anil Chauhan on Wednesday said the Army has evolve new concepts doctrines, organisations (theatre command), culture, and processes to align

trends in warfare and battleground.

"Warfare has become complex and multi-dimen-sional. Aligning technology to the future warfare is not the only answer but it is a part of the answer, he said at a seminar on "Aligning technologies to future conflicts", organised as part of Aero India here.

Aero India here.
"Application of emerging technologies in combat is still some distance away," he said. that these technologies are going to influence warfare in future but in what shape we may not be able to understand duby, he of the the company of the property of the company of the compa

# General Anil Chauhan calls for investing in technology and ideas if 'we want to compete' with the Western countries or align with them: says warfare has become complex and multi-dimensional

cial intelligence with autonomous weapons and sixth-generation aircraft in future warfare that are yet to be known.

"Adapt and adjust"
"Army has to adapt, adjust, and accommodate the emerging technologies. You have to evolve new concepts, doctrines, organisations, culture, and processes," he said.
General Chauhan em-

change the processes that are made to acquire the product and said, "By acquiring a product you are actually behind five or 10 actually behind five or 10 years because that product already exists. We have to invest in technology and ideas if we want to compete with the West."

General Chauhan also referred to the disruptive technologies such as quant

"Earlier, war was ration al because it was a thought ful decision and finite, as negotiations and politic would take over after the war. Now, it has become irwar. Now, it has become ir-rational and perpetual. Combat earlier was seen between humans that could change to humans against machines or ma-chines against machines. Technology can drive tac-tics and vice versa," he

## India may revive plan to procure six more P-8I aircraft from U.S.

india is looking to revive the proposal to procure six more P-81 long-range mari-time patrol aircraft from time patrol aircraft from the U.S. and the matter is expected to figure in the talks between Prime Minis-ter Narendra Modl and U.S. President Donald Trump, sources in the know said. Other big-ticket deals in

the pipeline with the U.S. that could figure in the talks are the co-production of General Electric F414 jet engines and Stryker infa try combat vehicles in In-dia under technology

surveillance and has be-come particularly critical as the Chinese naval presence has significantly expanded in the Indian

Ocean Region. India is keen to procure india is keen to procure six additional P-81s and preliminary discussions have commenced regard-ing pricing and other as-pects, two sources in the know confirmed. There is a possibility that the intent between Prime Minister Modi and U.S. President Trump

could find mention among

could find mention among the outcomes of Mr. Modi's visit, the sources added. India has contracted 12 P-8Is in two batches, eight under a \$2.2-billion deal in 2009 and four more in 2016, under the optional clause in a deal worth over

Deal in 2021

was keen on 10 more air-craft but that got truncated later and in November 2019, the Defence Acquisi-tion Council approved the procurement of six air-craft. In May 2021, the U.S. State Department ap-proved the possible sale of six additional P-81 aircraft and related equipment, a deal then estimated to cost \$2.42 billion.

Complementing the P-8Is will be the MQ-9B Sea Guardian High Altitude Long Endurance UAVs that Long Endurance UAVs that the Niny will begin receiving from January 2029. Last October, India signed a nearly \$3.5-billion con-tract for 31 MQ-9B, under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme of the U.S. government.

# SC to hear pleas on CEC appointment law next week

The Supreme Court on Wednesday shifted the Wednesday shifted the hearing on petitions chal-lenging the legality of a new law which gives a do-minant role to the Union government in the ap-pointment process of the Chief Election Commis-sioner and Election Com-missioners to Electron Com-missioners to Electron Com-

missioners to February 19. Incumbent CEC Rajiv Kumar is scheduled to retire from office on Febru-

Democratic Reforms, which is one of the peti-

due to the impending re-tirement of Mr. Kumar. Justice Kant, however, assured Mr. Bhushan that the "consequences" of the (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Of-

court's decision on the validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners

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

fice) Act of 2023 would inevitably follow even if so-mething had happened in the interreguum.

# the court that they ideally wanted a decision on the law before the appoint-

Court's authority In January, when the case came up, Justice Kant had highlighted that the test re-garding 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

Mohamed Imranullah S.

The Madras High Court on Wednesday permitted the Election Commission (EC) to find out if there were riv-

d groups staking claim ov-er the AIADMK, and decide

which of those groups was actually entitled to be re-

the interim orders passed

**Madras HC allows Election** 

Commission to inquire into

gislative powers," he had said.

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

Petitioners, including activist Jaya Thakur, have introduced in December introduced in December.

introduced in December 2023 to dilute a Constitution Bench judgment in the Anoop Baranwal case on March 2, 2023.

# BEL, Safran announce venture for precision guided weapon

The Hindu Bureau

Defence public sector un-dertaking Bharat Electron-ics Limited (BEL) and Sa-fran Electronics & Defense of France announced a partnership to create a joint venture for the manu joint venture for the manu-facturing, customisation, sale, and maintenance of HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extendpon in India. The HAM-MER is mounted on the Ra-fale of the Indian Air Force. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by K. V. Suresh Kumar, Di-rector (Marketing), BEL.

and Alexandre Ziegler, Ex-ecutive Vice President, Sa-fran Electronics & Defense.

fran Electronics & Defense. The collaboration will facilitate technology transf-er, create opportunities for Indian industries, especial-ly SMEs and position India as a global hub for smart

ammunitions production, Manoj Jain, Chairman and Managing Director, BEL, said in a statement.

As part of this partner-ship, BEL and Safran Elec-tronics & Defense also plan to establish a Centre of Excellence aimed at enhanc-ing India's defence capabilities, a release from the companies said. This centre will bolster joint industrial activities for the

## 'Modi must bring up tariffs, deportations in talks with Trump'

The Hindu Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi must raise the issue of "2Ts – tariffs and trau-matic deportation" during his talks with U.S. Presi-dent Donald Trump, Con-gress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednes-day. Mr. Modi will visit the White House for a bilateral meeting with Mr. Trump on Thursday.
On tariffs, Mr. Kharge said that President

said that President Trump's recent announce-ment of a 25% tariff on alu-minium and steel imports with "no exemptions, no exceptions" for any coun-try, had serious repercus-sions for India's manufacturing sector. The U.S. is

Steel tariff woes According to Steel Secre-tary Sandeep Poundrik, India only exports a small proportion of the total steel produced here to the steel produced here to the U.S. Out of 145 million tonnes of steel produced in India last year, just 95,000 tonnes was exported to the U.S. The fear, though, is that the U.S. tariffs will in-



Mallikarjun Kharge

acerbate oversupply in other steel producing "We must build close "We must build closer trade ties for both coun-tries with a mutually benef-icial framework, given that the U.S. is one of our big-gest trading partners," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X. The Congress chief also noted that the recent de-portation of Indian mi-

portation of Indian mi-grants – who were sent back to India in a military aircraft in handcuffs and chains – had raised strong concern among all Indians "Mr. Modi must stress that any Indian national must any Indian national must not be humiliated and not be humiliated and must be treated with ut-most dignity," he said. All Indians recognise the valuable comprehen-sive global strategic part-nership with the U.S., he said.

#### Pranab Mukherjee's son returns to Congress

The Hindu Bureau

Former President Pranab Mukherjee's son Abhijit Mukherjee returned to the Congress on Thursday af-ter a four-year stint in the

Trinamool Congress.

"This is like a second birthday for me in the Congress and in politics. As the randson of a freedom ighter [Kamada Kinkar fighter [Kamada Kinkar Mukherjee], it was a bad decision to quit the Con-traction of the Con-traction of the Con-traction of the Con-said at his formal induction ceremony here. After formally signing his membership, the form and the Contraction of the Con-traction of the Contraction of the Market Contraction of the Con-traction of the Contraction of the Contraction of the Contraction of the Market Contraction of the Contraction of the Market Contraction of the Contraction of th

party flag in the presence of West Bengal Congress president Subhankar Sar-kar, AICC general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir. and

'Ignored in Trinamool' During his stint in West Bengal's ruling party that began in 2021, Mr. Mukher-jee was not given any im-portant role and was hard-ly seen at events. He was ignored during the selecignored during the selec-tion of candidates for the Rajya Sabha election.



it cannot take in its sweep

It told EC to find out if rival groups were staking claim to the AIADMK. FILE PHOTO ognised as the party. Third Division Bench of Justices R. Subramanian and G. Arul Murugan held that the EC could not be [the AIADMK], in its writ that the EC could not be prevented from exercising its powers under para graph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Ithe AIADMK], in its write petitions, that there will be an attempt to overreach the orders of the civil court are not justified. We, ho-wever, make it clear that the incurrence become the graph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968 just because a few civil suits were pending against resolutions passed by the the inquiry to be conduct-ed [by the EC] would have to be within the four walls of Para 15 of the Election party's general council. In the same breath, the udges made it clear that

any other matter, which is the subject matter of the cithe High Court in those ciproceedings." the High Court in those ci-vil suits would be binding upon the EC and recorded the latter's submission, made by way of a counter affidavit, that it would cer-tainly abide by the court orders passed in the civil Bench ordered. Authoring the verdict for the Bench, Justice Subfor the Bench, Justice Sub-ramanian pointed out that paragraph 15 of the 1968 order enabled the EC to conduct an inquiry and take a call whenever it came across instances of rival sections or splinter proceedings.
"Therefore, the appre-hensions of the petitioner

# groups staking claim over a political party. Though a senior coun-

sel, representing the AIADMK, had argued that there was no question of rival sections or splinter groups in the party since 2,539 of the 2,665 general council members and 61 of the 65 MLAs were backing the incumbent general se-cretary, Edappadi K. Pala-niswami, the Division Bench left those issues to be decided by the EC.

Separate complaints
The Bench took note that
as many as seven individuals, who had been reportedly expelled from the
party, had lodged separate complaints regarding the party affairs before the EC between April 20, 2023 and December 4, 2024.

They also recorded the ion of EC's co submission of EC's counsel Niranjan Rajagopal that it was yet to decide whether it even had jurisdiction to entertain those complaints but even before that, the AIADMK had rushed to the High Court by way of six writ petitions and obtained an interin stay against the an interim stay against the commission on December 24, 2024.

# denied passport over family's militant links

HC gives relief to man

Peerzada Ashiq

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday directed the Criminal In-vestigation Department (CID) and the Regional Passport Officer to consid-er Issuing passport based on "uninfluenced report" in favour of a local, after he was denied the same be-cause his brother is a slain militant and his father an overground worker.
"This court is of the con-

"This court is of the con-sidered opinion that there is no reason to not recom-mend the case of the pett-topic to the pett-port just for the involvement of his brother in militancy activities in the year 2011 when he was killed and the listing of his father as an OGW for grant of passport in his favour," i held. It directed the Addi-Police, CID, "to re-submi the report uninfluenced by the conduct or activities of

the conduct or activities of the brother of the petition-er as well as his father." It directed the Regional Passport Officer to consid-er the case within four weeks on the report of the CID and pass "an appro-priate order in favour of

# Re-submit report uninfluenced by the conduct or activities the petitioner, it says

Search for a job

the petitioner, within two weeks thereafter". The court was hearing a petition filed by Mohammad Amir Malik, 29, a resi-dent of Shagan, Khari teh-

Search for a job
The petitioner, Mr. Malik, a
diploma engineer, "desired to go abroad in
search of a good job and
applied for issuance of a
passport" but was denied
the document with the remore "more likely to missee."

mark "may likely to misuse the passport".
The court direction was widely welcomed

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said the court's deci-

sion "is certainly a step in the right direction". Rulling National Confe-rence (NC) leader and Tan-vir Sadiq said it was "a sig-nificant affirmation of individual rights and

# 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

fice) 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.
- श्रे सुप्रीम कोर्ट 19 फरवरी को उन याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई करेगा, जो मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति प्रिक्रिया में केंद्र सरकार की भूमिका बढ़ाने वाले नए कानून को चुनौती देती हैं।
- 🕨 🍂 Incumbent CEC Rajiv Kumar to retire on February 18. द्री 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).

श्री यांचिकाकर्ताओं 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.

के नया कानून केंद्रं 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
- Dustice Surya Kant-led Bench has assured that the "consequences" of the verdict will apply even if a decision is made post-February 18.
  - के न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत 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 सूप्रीम 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 सरकारं नियुक्तिं 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.
  - √ एकं सरकारी नियंत्रित चुनाव आयोग, सतारूढ़ 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.
  - √ भारतं में भी इसी तरह की स्वतंत्र चयन समिति होनी चाहिए।



#### RBI lifts business restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBD on Wednesda lifted the business restrictions placed on Kotak Mahindra Bank, following satisfactory remedial action. In April 2024, the regulator had restrained the bank from onboarding new customers via online and mobile banking channels, and issuing fresh credit cards. The bank subsequently initiated remedial measures to address the supervisory concerns and submitted compliances, the RBI said.

#### Ashok Leyland Q3 net profit grows 36% to ₹762 crore

Ashok Leyland Ltd. reported 36% growth in Q3 Ashok Leyland Ltd. reported 36% growth in Q3 consolidated net profit to 5762 crore compared consolidated net profit to 5762 crore compared for the consolidation of the consolidation of the consolidation of the Ferral was supported to the consolidation of 4.151 units of 4.151 units possible of the consolidation of 4.151 units up 33%. During the quarter, it turned cash positive with net cash of 5958 crore as against net debt of 14,747 crore in the same period last year.

#### Bharat Forge Q3 net profit slides 16% to ₹213 crore

Bharat Forge Ltd. reported 16% decline in Q3 consolidated net profit to ₹2/3 crore from ₹254 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated revenue from operations for the period ended December 31, 2024 slid 10% to ₹3,476 crore from 53,866 crore in the same period last year. On a standalone basis, net profit fell 8% to 6346 crore from 6378 crore a year earlier. Standalone revenue from operations fell 7% to 26,096 crore from 62,663 crore in the same period last year.

# As PM Modi lands in U.S., Musk's Starlink steals a march into Bhutan

U.S. satellite-based internet service provider announces availability in Bhutan, expected to be used by institutions in remote mountainous regions: officials say future of Starlink's plans for India could come up for discussion during the PM's U.S. visite

ven as all eyes are on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington for talks with U.S. President Donald with U.S. President Donald Trump and his key advi-sors, Elon Musk's Starlink has stolen a march into South Asia by setting up in neighbouring Bhutan first. The announcement came as the U.S. satellite-

pased services company Starlink updated its product availability map on world to join its footprint. India has thus far not

India's industrial output growth dropped to a four-month low of 3.2% in De-cember, with manufactur-ing and mining sectors ris-

ing just 3% and 2.6%, respectively, and consum-er non-durables' produc-tion slipping 7.6% from a

year ago. Electricity generation

was up 6.2% year-on-year and 4.7% over November 2024 levels. The National Statistics Office (NSO) also

Statistics Office (NSO) also downgraded the industrial production growth assess-ment for November 2024 to 5% from 5.2% estimated



IIP growth skids to four-month low of 3.2%

operate over security concerns, as well as pricing issues. AP provided Starlink permis-

sion to operate, mainly ov-er security and privacy concerns, as well as pricing issues and concerns from

the local telecom and satel-Washington for a 24-hour visit, officials said the fu-

frastructure and construc-tion goods rose 6.3, while intermediate goods and primary goods grew 5.9%, and 3.8%, respectively, Consumer non-durables remained a worry, with production shrinking 7.6%,

in December and the mere 0.6% growth estimated for

November being revised downward to 0.4%. Ho-wever, output levels for these consumption-linked

items were at an II-month high in December and 5.1% over November. In fact, the Index of Industrial Produc-

tion (IIP) was at a nine-month high of 157.3 points, 6.1% over November. The Manufacturing as well as

India could come up for scussion.
Thus far, telecom offi-

Thus far, telecom offi-cials have said they are re-viewing the "security ar-rangements in place for which Starlink traffic would flow to users in In-dia, and regulatory pro-while optical fibres would be the primary me-dium for global connectivi-ty, with geographical inter-sibutant being landlocked,

Bhutan being landlocked, and technologies for global

the Mining sectors record-ed their best index reading in this fiscal year. "This casts a doubt on a material recovery of indus-

trial activity in the second half of the current fiscal. The 7.6% contraction in

consumer non-durables outlines the continued weakness in household de-

mand and consumption

noted Suman Chowdhurs

executive director and chief economist at Acuité

cauer economist at Acuite Ratings & Research. ICRA's chief economist Aditi Nayar said the De-cember IIP growth was lower than expected, and it could moderate further

opens that possibility to be globally connected and we are excited to have the Starlink connection in Bhutan," Bhutan's top tech innovator, Ujjwal Deep Da-hal, CEO of Druk Holding and Investments Ltd., the Bhutanese Government's commercial arm told The

tional communications in

(With inputs from Aroon Deep in New Delhi)

# fraudulent ITC

Press Trust of India

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has unearthed fraudulent input Tax Credit (ITC) transactions amounting to tl,196 crore and arrested a person. After searches at multiple locations in Pune, Delhi, Noida and Muzaffar-nagar, the DGGI probe showed the accused had set up shell entities that generated fake invoices and away bills.

## DGGI detects transactions worth ₹1,196 cr.

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Snort ell	75.82	-1.64
NIFTY 50		
W	PRICE	CHANCE
Adam Enter	2353.45	21.76
Adami Perts	1120.55	-11.15
Spello Hesp	6174.55	57.24
Rollen Palets	2228.25	-32.68
led's Beetle	1000.50	0.58
Rojej Auto	NT11.60	-50.48
tajaj Finsery	1789,73	43.65
Sole) Finance	8224.05	22.88
Strange Elec		-5.99
Evars Airsel	1711.55	35.66
apo.	355.60	0.45
Srittamnia tend	4915.34	
Sefe	1449.23	-5.99
oal tedia	360.35	1.15
or Beeldyn Lab	1315.65	6.05
Schor Martons	48.49.45	-122.98
Drappins limit	2484.95	45.74
Ci. Tuch	1717.30	5.00
DEC Bank	1796.60	5.46
OFC Life	629.15	20.55
lere MetoCero		.02.55
Indiales		3.05
ind Unitever	2333.55	37.35
CCCBerk	1151.00	-0.99
shoted Bank	1009.65	-25.56
rfosus	1863:15	-32.58
ar .	489.98	-8.46
SW Street		1.90
otali Barik	1945.95	25.55
&T	3289.65	\$0.00
MAN	2597.38	99.75
Seruti Suguiti	12655.55	-65.00
estletedie		-1.79
TOC	386.35	0.65
MGC	237.40	-1.55
lower Grid Corp.	257.05	-9.40
toliance Indi	1210.55	38.58
ISS LIFe		33.15
tate Bank	733.15	2.05
briram finance		
84	247.12	8.68
on Pharma	1693.65	
ataConsumerPro-		
Aug.	1009.75	25.55
eta Motoro	684.35	0.00
ata Steel	132.78	2.17

EXCHANGE RATES				
Indicative direct rates in repres a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on february 12				
CUMPERCY	TT MAY	TT BELL		
US Dollar	86.69	97.61		
Cury	89.93	90.35		
British Found	107.61	306.38		
Jaganese Ven (206).	55.41	56.62		
Chinese Num	11.86	11.91		
Sering France	99.13	25.42		
Singapore Switer	64.05	64.30		

#### Need to improve liquidation outcomes: IBBI chairman

Sanjay Vijayakumar

there is a growing need to improve liquidation out-comes under the Insolven-cy and Bankruptcy (IBC) Code, 2016. "It is observed that till

December 2024, in the December 2024, in the completed liquidation cases, the amount realised by claimants has been very low as compared to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), and in some cases it has been even lower than the liquidation value," he said in the IBBI's quarterly newsletter for October-Decemsletter for October-De

tressed companies. Ho-wever, when all attempts resolve the company fail, the next alternative is liquidation of the company involving sale of assets of the company and distribution of the proceeds thereon among the stakehol-ders, Mr. Mital said in the

"In 2017-18 for every "In 2017-18, for every company that was re-solved, five companies would go into liquidation. However, in 2024-25 [till December 2024] for every company that is resolved, 1.3 companies go into liquidation. In the company that is resolved, in the companies of the companies of the companies of the companies of the companies are some companies. the number of companies going into liquidation un-der the code," he said.

While the liquidation process has undergone important course corrections over the years, there is scope for further improve-ment, Mr. Mital added.

## SIDBI, AFD sign pact | Natco Pharma O3 profit to lend \$100 million to Indian MSMEs

M. Soundariya Preetha

The Small Industries Deve-lopment Bank of India (SIDBI) and AFD, France, have signed a \$100 million credit facility agreement to scale up green finance so-lutions for Indian micro, small, and medium enter-prises (MSMEs).

According to a press re-The Small Industries Deve

According to a press re-lease, the partnership aims to support sustainable growth and drive the transistion towards a low-car-bon economy. Lise Breuil, AFD country director, in-dia, said in a release that

the "initiative also comple ments our work on the Greening Indian Financial System Platform, which fo-cuses on integrating sus-tainability and a climate-perspective into Indian fi-nancial stakeholders strategies, starting with de-velopment finance incrin-

justed EBITDA margins

stood at 38.7%.
"Suven Pharma has reaf-firmed its growth trajecto-ry in Q3 FY25... we gear to deliver our \$1 billion reve-nue guidance with higher stood at 38.7%.

our strategic vision," exec-utive chairman Vivek Shar-ma said.

velopment finance institu-tions in the public sector". By leveraging this credit facility, SIDBI aims to pro-vide long-term financial so-lutions that enable MSMEs to adopt cleaner technolo

# net falls 38% to ₹132 crore

Generic drugmaker Natco Pharma's consolidated net profit for the December quarter declined 37.7% to \$132.4 crore a year earlier-tion of the control of the tions export slumped. The lower net profit came on 37.41% decline in revenue from operations at \$474.8 crore. Sequentially, or and revenue from oper-Seneric drugmaker Natco

earlier. This brings the av-

erage factory output growth in the third quarter of 2024-25 to 3.95% from

of 2024-25 to 3.95% from 2.73% in the second quar-ter. Five of six industrial segments based on the end-use of products, re-corded an uptick in De-cember, led by capital goods (up 10.3%) and con-sumer durables (8.3%). In-

er and revenue from operations fell 65%.

ations fell 65%,
In the second quarter
ended September, the
Hyderabad-based company had reported 676.5

was expected, it said in a
reduction of the second quarter
the company has declared an interim dividend
of tl.50 per equity share

export formulation business during the lower, Natco said

crore net profit and ₹1,371.1 crore revenue from opera-tions. Contribution from ma said. However, a healthy growth of business in the ensuing quarters was expected, it said in a

(of ₹2 each). Previously, dends of ₹3 and ₹1.50 per share for the June and Sep-

share for the June and Sep-tember quarters, respectively.

On the segmental reve-nue split, for the quarter ended December, it said formulations export to-talled \$285.8 crore, while demostric formulations also domestic formulations also declined, albeit marginally, to ₹96.1 crore. Revenue from active pharmaceutical ingre-dients rose to ₹66.6 crore.

Other operating and non-operating income in-creased sharply to ₹187.5 crore from ₹30.2 crore a

## Despite volatile markets, equity MFs see ₹39.688 cr. inflow

Press Trust of India

Investors' confidence in equity mutual funds re-mains strong with the seg-ment attracting ₹39,688 crore in January, driven by sharp inflow in small cap and flexi-cap schemes, even as market volatilities continued. However, this was 3.56% lower than the net inflow of ₹41,155 crore registered investors' confidence in

in December. The latest fund infusion by investors also marks the 47th con-



ing to data released by As-sociation of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on

Wednesday. Moreover, inflows into systematic investment plans (SIP) came at £26,400 crore, a tad lower

## Suven Pharma Q3 net rises 78% to ₹83.29 cr.

Global private equity major Advent International firm Suven Pharmaceuticals reported consolidated net profit in December quarter rose more than 78% to ₹83.29 crore from 78% to ₹83.29 crore from 246.75 crore a year earlier. Sequentially, it was a tad better. The contract deve-lopment and manufactur-ing organisation (CDMO) had posted ₹81.98 crore net profit in the September quarter. The higher net profit in the third quarter came on a nearly 38% in-crease in total income to crease in total income to ₹322.86 crore from ₹234.16

crease in total income to 232.86 crore.

The company said on a proforma merged basis, along with Cohance, which has 2 pipeline.

#### | CX automation | Shorter time gap between two tariff firm Verint opens centre in Bengaluru

Mini Tejaswi BENGALURU

Verint, a New York-based customer experience (CX) automation firm, has opened its global innovation centre in Bengaluru to support its over 10,000 global clients including 80

nue guidance with higher CDMO and niche technolo-gy share. We continue to make business develop-ment efforts and remain focused on high-value CDMO offerings and ex-pansion in niche technolo-gy platforms in line with our strategic vision? execglobal clients including 80 Fortune 100 brands. Verint's chief technolo-gy officer Rob Scudiere said the company would hire 1,000 Al experts, data scientists, researchers, cloud experts and people with DeepTech expertise in India by the end of 2026. The company's team at Bengaluru would work in

partnership with the global The company said of a proforma merged basis, robust late-stage pipeline. along with Cohance, which is also an Advent entity, the revenue increased 40% year on year to 676 crors. Prasada Raju said.

# hikes justified, need of the hour: VIL

NEW DELHI Vodafone Idea CEO Aksh-

day said that current re-turn on capital metrics in Indian telecom sector justifies shorter, even nine-month time gap between two rounds of tariff hikes, two rounds of tariff hikes, against an "ideal" 12-month duration between two such rounds. The comment assumes significance as the three

private operators in India

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel
and Vodafone Idea – had
raised tariffs in July last

raised tariffs in July uses year.

During post-earnings to all, the VII. top boss said that given where the industry is today, the faster tariff change is probably "a possibility" and "the need of the hour".



"In a normal scenario, I would have said that a time gap of one year is ideal between two tariff increases. However, I would add to that, that given the place where the telecom industry in India is today...where the return on capital is...whether you take the market leader or you take

could be nine months also I would say," Mr. Moondra said in an analyst call. He added: "I would say in a normal situation, a 12-month period is ideal to

month period is ideal to make any changes on ta-riffs. But given where the industry is today, the fister tariff change is probably a the bour."

Mr. Moondra also ex-pressed optimism that a solution for the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) issue "As we have been saying that post dismissal of cura-tary of the control of the post of the that post dismissal of cura-

that post dismissal of cura-tive petition where judicial route was closed...we have been actively engaged with the government to find a the government to find a solution. As far as converanyone else...nobody is re-turning their cost of capi-tal. And in that scenario, I would say it is fairly justi-wold say it is fairly justi-

ment's option, but the fact that the reforms package in 2021 it was provided th done after the moratorium of period of four years tha clearly shows the intent ...government has provid ed that in the reform pack ed that in the reform pack-age to support the industry, where this need arises," he said. The government, he said, is very cognizant of the fact that support is

needed this time.
"We have made inves ment, we have started th investment cycle. We are seeing positive result coming out of that. And go largest stakeholder in thi entire exercise. So they ar cognizant of this fact. And am confident that they will find a solution," he said.

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

# M. Soundariya Preetha

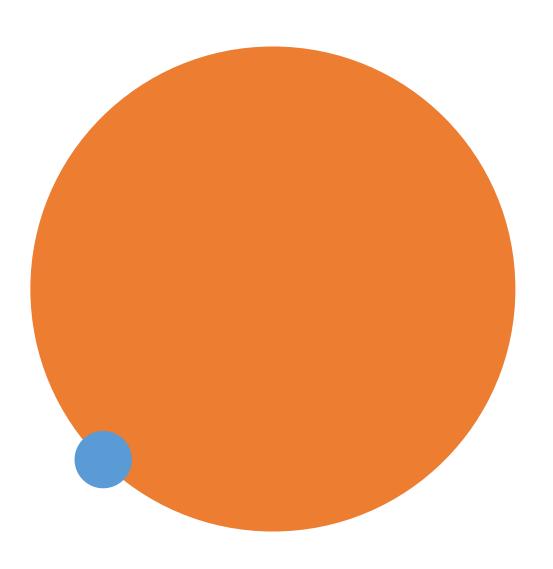
COIMBATORE

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 Manoi 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.
  - श्री 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 वित समाधान (Green Finance Solutions) को बढ़ावा देना है।



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

श्रेम पहल का उद्देश्य स्थायी आर्थिक विकास (Sustainable Economic Growth) को बढ़ावा देना और कम कार्बन अर्थव्यवस्था (Low-Carbon Economy) की ओर बढना 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 वितीय सहायता।
- Focus on energy efficiency, cleaner technologies, and reduced carbon footprint.
  - र्जा 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.
  - climate and sustainability in financial strategies.

    "ग्रीनिंग इंडियन फाइनेशियल 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।
- Value Helps India's MSMEs transition to a greener economy.

  अभारत 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 sixthmost 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.

pening before our eyes. Since our government took charge in March 2017, the challenge has only intensi-fied. After the May 3, 2023 incident, the situation has

become even more criti-cal," Mr. Singh said. He urged all authorities

concerned to take serious note and intensify efforts to detect and deport illegal immigrants from Manipur,



Opposition protests censorship of dissent





Unloading of Union Carbide waste begins Will ad-hoc HC judges help reduce backlog: SC move gives rise to



WPL Season 3 gets under way today

#### INST DE

adani

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

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 14

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

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 uspended animation, not dissolved, says State govt.; State BJP failed to find an alternative leadership to replace Biren

our days after Mani-pur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh re-signed, 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 proclama-tion under Article 356 of the Constitution on Thursday after receiving a report from Governor Ajay Kumar

The order said she was The order said she was satisfied that a situation had arisen that the "gover-nance of that State cannot be carried on in accor-dance with the provisions of the Constitution of India".

#### Repeating history

Manipur is among States with The first was for 66 days from January 12 to March 19, 1967

pended animation". The Assembly has not been dis-solved, a government offi-

cial 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 Parliament of Parliament and Parliament of Par

liament and shall cease to operate at the expiration of liament and shall cease to operate at the expiration of two months unless ap-proved by resolutions of both the Houses of Parliament. A political crisis had

A political crisis had emerged in the State since Mr. Singh stepped down on February 9 after a meet-ing with Home Minister Amir Shab

on an alternative leader-ship to replace Mr. Singh. More than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people dis-placed in the ethnic vio-lence between the tribal kuki-Zo and the Meirei pe-ople in the State that erupt-sed on May 3, 2023.

ed on May 3, 2023. Minutes before the order was issued, Mr. Singh posted in a message on X stating that illegal immi-

adding that he will conti-nue this fight with unwa-"Our land and identity are under threat. With a small population and limit-ed resources, we stand vul-Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Indian Na-Ramesh said the Indian Na-tional Congress had been demanding President's Rule for almost 20 months and it finally happened. Ginza Vualzong of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (TLF), a Ruki-Zo body, said President's Rule (PR) was preferable than a change of Chief Minister. ed resources, we stand vul-nerable. After the tragic events of 3rd May, 2023 our state machinery has struggled to respond effec-tively. An unguarded 398 km border with Myanmar and the Free Movement Regime (FMR) were rapidly shifting Manipur's demo-graphic balance. This is not speculation, it is hap-

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



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

#### Sriram Lakshman

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Washing-ton 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 dent, whose style revolves around an 'America First' around an 'America First' ethos and a trademark unpredictability. Mr. Modi, who flew into

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 after the Trump administration deported 104 Indian, citizens to India, shackling many of them. On Thursday morning, the would be signing an order on reciprocal tariffs in talks at the White House.

der 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 alumini-

tariffs on steel and alumini-um, imposing tariffs on China, announcing – and then pausing – tariffs on Mexico and Canada. The government had an-nounced some tariff reduc-tions and elimination as tions and elimination as part of the Union Budget on February I. Reports also suggest that India is consi-dering tariff cuts on other U.S. imports. These steps were "well received" by the Trump administration, a senior White House offi-cial said, calling them "ear-ly but modest" moves. The official was one of several official was one of several who spoke to reporters on a Thursday morning briefing call.

'Fair' agreement likely The official suggested that there would be an announcement around what they described as a "fair" India-IIS bilateral trade agree-

broad framework technology partnership signed by the Modi government and Biden administration, the official said he expected technology collaboration to continue under the

India was designated a Major Defence Partner of the U.S. in 2016, during the first Trump administration and the two sides are "moving towards signing a new defence framework", one of the officials said. The U.S. was discussing new defence procurement, the official added, linking this to bringing down the trade deficit.

Trump's priorities
On whether Mr. Trump
would raise the issue of an
alleged Indian government
plot to kill an India-born
Khalistani separatist, Gur-patwant Singh Pannum,
who is a U.S. citizen, an onfficial said that Mr. Trumpf
ficial said that Mr. Trumpf American, and that is the continued position of this administration".

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

L. Srikrishna

A 20-year-old Scheduled Caste college student in Si-vaganga district in south Tamil Nadu was attacked by a three-member gang of caste Hindus on Wednes-day for riding a motorcy-

cle. The victim suffered multiple injuries and was

hospitalised.
The three persons were arrested on Thursday and the Manamadurai SIPCOT police registered cases under various sections, including attempt to murder, of the BNS, and the SC/ST (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 was returning home on his bike around 6 p.m. when the three persons - Vinod Kumar, 21, Adiswaran, 22, and Vallarasu, 21 - inter-cepted and questioned him for riding the bike in front of them.

and one of the attackers pulled out a vaal (sword-shaped weapon) and at-tacked Mr. Ayyasami, in which he suffered multiple

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 Si-vaganga Government Med-

CM (CM)

'Rattled society'
Condemning the incident,
People's Watch Madurai
executive director and advocate Henri Tipaghne told
The Hindu that the Tamil Nadu government had not been able to end such vio-lence.

Such repetitive cases against the marginalised people would lead to a so-cial turmoil, he said. When a group of youths used weapons casually, it rattled society. The government, society. The government, irrespective of whoever was in power, should deal with such attacks with an iron hand and ensure that

attack on a college student was baffling. The govern-ment, which claimed to

protect social justice, did not appear to be serious. A fact-finding team from Evidence Madurai, a nongovernmental organisa-tion, visited Manamadurai on Thursday and its executive director A. Kathir said one among the accused had teased the victim Mr. Ayyasamy in a similar fash-

Ayyasamy in a similar fash-ion in April 2024.
When the issue was re-ported to the police, the mother of the accused had apologised to the authori-ties on behalf of her son. Now, the same accused had committed the crimi-nal offence.

#### Sacred night



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

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 complicated and cumber-some by taxpayers as well as accountants. Ms. Sitharaman, who had announced a compre-hensive review of the I-T law to make it concise, and easy to understand while came into force in Apri

First draft

All I

providing tax certainty and bring down litigation, in her 2024-25 Budget pre-sented 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 5.1 lakh-odd word count, as well as the num-ber of chapters from 47 to 23.

Multiple terms such as

year" that taxpayers and practitioners had to keep track of, will now be replaced by "tax year" and "financial year". The "tax year" will be the unit period for taxation and shall be referred in res-pect of all transactions and income for that period. while "financial year" will

be used for compliance ti-melines and procedural is-

melines and procedural is-sues.

Multiple provisions re-lating to tax deduction at source (TDS) and tax col-lected at source (TCS) have also been brought together in one place.

Echoing the words of the Biden administration, one of the officials de scribed the India-U.S. bilat eral partnership as "one of the most critical, if not the

most critical" bilateral rela-tionship in the 21" Century. Prior to the talks, the Prime Minister had meet-ings with key Trump allies and officials. Mr. Modi met with U.S. National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, Trump ally and former Re-publican presidential presidential my, and Trump donor and Special everyment em-

"There is strong poten tial for cooperation in sec-tors like AI, semiconducversation with Mr. Waltz, which focused on defence,

U.S. bilateral trade agreement in 2025. Mr. Trump can be called a control of the U.S. defended and scarling and scarling trade surpluses with America as taking advantage of the U.S. advantage of the U.S. advantage of the India U.S. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (GET). a said he had discussed innovation, space, mobility and technology.

# 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

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 ■ The latest instance was President's Rule has **277 days** from June 2, 2001, to March 6, 2002 been imposed ■ Rishang Keishing of the ■ The first was for Congress became the 66 days from January MANIPUR first Chief Minister to 12 to March 19, 1967 complete his full term. ■ The longest was for Okram Ibobi Singh of 2 years and 157 days Congress was the first Chief from October 17, 1969, to

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

March 22, 1972

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

Minister to finish not one but

three terms

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 Bharativa Janata Party (BIP) 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 eves. 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.

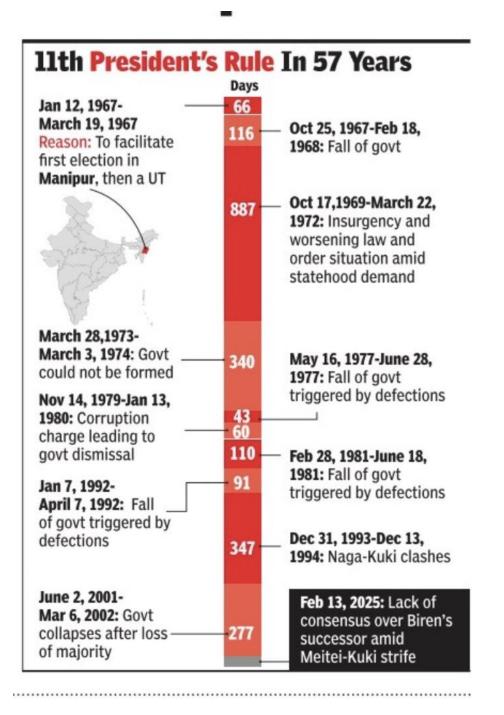
He urged all authorities concerned to take serious note and intensify efforts to detect and deport illegal immigrants from Manipur, adding that he will continue this fight with unwavering commitment.

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



- Context & Significance | संदर्भ और महत्व
- Pour days after Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned, President's Rule was imposed on February 15, 2024.
  - क्रें 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.
  - र्ण 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. आनुच्छेदं 356 के तहत, जब किसी राज्य सरकार का संवैधानिक रूप से कार्य करना असंभव हो जाता है, तो राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया जाता है। • Left 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। Interproclamation 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 कुकी-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.
  - √ म्यामार 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. अंक्राम इबोबी सिंह तीन बार मुख्यमंत्री बनने वाले पहले नेता थे।



#### Shared understanding

The Modi visit to France held broader strategic implications

STRUCGE IIIIDIGENORS

Uring his visit to France this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India transfend France could be a force for "global cant geopolitical context for both him and his host, French President Ermanuel Macron. The visit took place just before Mr. Modi's scheduled trip to Washington, where the Trump administrative to Washington, where the Trump administration's unpredictability has reshaped global dy-namics. This was Mr. Modi's sixth visit to France tion's unpredictability has reshaped global dynamics. This was Mr. Modi's sixth visit to France as Prime Minister, while Mr. Macron has travelled port. In Paris, they co-chaired the Al Action Summit, before travelling to Marseille. There, they inaugurated a new indian consultate, visited a nour dealer of the control of

trade disruptions, and the evolving risks posed by Al. However, a key issue both sides remained discreet about was on how to navigate relations with Washington. While both leaders seek to 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 unlateral 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 key aland China, often made without consulting key al-lies in Europe or the Indo-Pacific, and his disre-gard for the multilateral order, could become a longer-term subject of discussion between Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron. in the months ahead, in-dia and France will likely find greater alignment in their shared understanding of global challeng-es and their pursuit of collaborative solutions.

#### Engaging Russia Trump's overtures to Putin have

spurred both hopes and fears spurred Botth Ropes and Tears

resident Donald Trump has opened the
door to negotiations with Russian Presin Ukream Vidaliniar Puttin over ending the war
in Ukream Vidaliniar Puttin over ending the war
peace and fears that Moscow would use the oppeacet and fears that Moscow would use the opportunity to manipulate the situation to its advantage against a beleaguered kylv. While Mr.
Trump worde on social media that on the 90-mimute call both leaders concurred on their desire
and that Weshington and Moscow would "work" to "stop the millions of deaths taking place...", and that Washington and Moscow would "work together, very closely". Russia noted that Mr. Put had "expressed readiness to receive American est, including, of course, the topic of Uhrainian estilement". Mr. Trump's call, including specifics on a ceasefire and the possibility of their meet in Saudi Arabia, represents a break from the status quo, which, since Russia invaded Ukraine 2022, has seen the Kremlin face diplomatic isola-2022, has seet the Neman face upportain; sout-tion and crippling western/NATO sanctions. Alth-ough Mr. Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden, had in this context made his administration's view on Mr. Putin clear when he described the Russian Mr. Putti caear when he described the Russian President as "murderous dictator" and a "pure thug", Mr. Trump had promised, even during the campaign leading to the 2024 presidential elec-tion, that he would end the war within "24

campaign leading to the 2024 presidential electhours after being swort in the 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 tasible, 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
hinted at so far by the Trump administration
come. This appears inevitable given that U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested that no
any future security arrangement, that Ukraine
would not be invited to Join NATO, and that the
option of Ukraine reverting to pre-2014 borders,
office of the present of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
subject of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the present of the
turn of the present of the pre and damaging – impact on the security and eco-nomy of not only Ukraine but also of the EU, gi-ven 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.

CM (SIN)

#### The problematic globalisation of medical education

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

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 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

India total transiting example. The country has a severe shortage of doctors. The demand for places in medical colleges is considerable and, as a Annually, approximately 2.3 million students sit for the national medical school entry examination, but only one in around 22 examination, but only one in around 22 examination, but only one in around 23. The fierce competition for medical seast in India has compelled many students to explore that 20,000 indian medical students to explore than 20,000 indian medical students go abroad to study. With limited government medical seast and of the medical students of the studen structions.
Interestingly, some of the institutions in foreign Philip G. Altbach is Professor Emeritu: and Distinguished Fellow at the Cente for International Higher Education (CIHE), Boston

#### College, U.S. Hans de Wit

s Professor Emeritu and Distinguished Fellow at the Cente

#### Eldho Mathews is Programme Office

phenomenon foreign medical education is widespread, almost

completely unknown, and unregulated

Amit Ranjan

is Research Fellow

Nabeela Siddiqu is Assistant Profess Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) Vinayaka Missions

Research Foundati (VMRF)-Deemed University, Chenna

examination to qualify for medical practice in India. They are also required to complete a medical internship upon their return. Similarly 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. at the Kerala State Higher Education Council, India

varying distinction of medical education around but a significant announcement during the Union Budget speech in February 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighed the education. She stated that the government had successfully added nearly 1.1 lakh undergraduate and postgraduate medical education seats over revealed plans for further expansion in the medical education sector by announcing that an additional 10,000 seats would be introduced in 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.

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 EUrope, as well as in Central Asia, caref 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 received scholarships to study abroad, mainly in central

scholarships to study abroad, mainly in central and eastern Europe. In other words, the widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated. Where entire medical schools are devoted to international enrollments, they are almost international enrollments, they are almost enternational enrollments, they are almost enternational enrollments, they are almost enrollments, such as Poland and Ukraine, offer English-medium medical curricula to attract high-free paying international students.

Ingin-ree-paying international students.

Balancing demand and quality concerns.

As the recent Budget speech shows, the
solutions are expensive and meet opposition
from inside the medical establishment, which
room inside the medical establishment, which
status. Yet, with an aging population, the need for
quality medical doctors will only increase. The
growing number of nutdents looking for medical
growing number of nutdents looking for medical
status that is not a support of the second of the second

### China's dam project opens the floodgates of concern

he planned construction by China, of a massive hydroelectric dam on the lower section of the upper stream of the Yarlun Zangbo river in Tibet, has become a matter of Zangbo river in Tibet, has become a matter of concern for India due to its potential impact on the local environment and spillower, the flow of water downstream, and bilateral relations. Originating in Tibet, the Yarling 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

In India's Arunachal Pradesh, it is cased the Siang.

Siang.

James and the severyday 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 renewable energy sources, particularly hydroelectric power. As outlined in its 14th Prevetur Pan (2021 2025), China aims to reduce Prevetur Pan (2021 2025), China aims to reduce neutrality by 2060. While this transition is commendable, the reliance on large-scale commendable, the reliance on large-scale while the dam project aligns with China's ambitious energy transition goals, its serious. 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
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 ever. China and India are not signatories

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Project near border The issue raised by the Congress party ("Congress slams Centre over Adani project near border". project near border", February 13, is likely to be dismissed by a large section of the public as yet another example of the periodic Adani batting indulged in by the Opposition parties. However, the subterfuge used by the government to hand over the land and properties of the sever-prince construction near exercising construction near governing construction near the border were relaxed or bent is shocking. The issue smacks of favouritism and raises serious security concerns along the Pakistan border. The government has

project aligne with China's ambitious energy transition goals it has serious implications for India, which cannot be understated

While the

documents on water published by the Chinese documents on water published by the Chinese government maintain that Beiling is a benevolent government maintain that Beiling is a benevolent international cooperation; second, the principle of people orientation; third, the principle of sharing rights and obligations, and fourth, the principle of equal emphasis on development and

principle of equal emphasis on development and protection, 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 increasing securifisation of water and the rise of assertive military nationalism, a number of Indian political analysis say that China poses a Indian political analysis say that China poses a vulnerable to unilateral actions. India has regularly expressed its concerns about the projects on the transboundary rivers. The dianal china on the sharing of water data about the China on the sharing of water data about the states on the sharing of water data about the Sutles and Brahmapurta rivers have expired now there is a possibility that the MoUs could also be renewed. There is an expert level mechanism (ELM) to deal with water-related matters that meets regularly. In the absence of a concrete agreement, the ELM's role in managing water-related matters between India and China is

Significant environmental concerns The proposed dam is being constructed in one of the world's most seismically active regions. The risk of earthquakes poses a significant threat to the stability of the structure, with the possibility of catastrophic consequences for both upstream and downstream areas. For instance, the earthquake in Tibet in January 2025 led to the death of more than 120 people while over 150 were injured. Additionally, the construction of

the river basin region. The potential merion mental Banaga es eneds to the loss of habitats for aquatic and terrestrial species and increased riverbrank erosion. Such a dam would also have an impact on Bangladesh which the Bangladesh has not expressed any serious concerns over the hydroproject. The main reason behi 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
Burdles will water-related activities in Tiber will
Bangladesh, Water-related activities in Tiber will
straight as the states
such as Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan. To deal with
the situation, it is better to have a water
negotiation plan for the region.
However, given the political situation in South

Asia, it is tought to imagine a water aliance between the countries receiving water from Tibet. An absence of an active regional organisation halfs south Asia from developing a collective strategy to manage transboundary rivers and conduct negotiations with the upper riparian country. Bilateral ties between India and many of its neighbouring countries are not in 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 decisions. The recent India-China diplomatic

engagements raise hopes for renewing lapsed MoUs and improving trust through 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.

# such a massive dam disrupts river ecosystems alters sediment flow, and threatens biodiversi

# to the UN Watercourses Convention. Nor do the adhere to a robust framework of domestic laws governing transboundary rivers. The official

The investigation by The Guardian only goes to repeat the Guardian only goes to repeat the the Guardian only goes to repeat the goes to repeat the goes to repeat the goes to repeat the goes the goes to repeat the goes to repeat the goes to repeat the goes allowed this monopoly in several critical infrastructure sectors, the protocols which can potentially compromise potentially compromise national security is a move that must be resisted. S.K. Choudhury, Judge on freebies The days when political parties fought elections on policies and ideologies have

long passed. It is now the age of freebies and rical outbidding (Inside pages, "Because of freebies, peopl don't want to works C5. judge", February 13), When selfless and think of putting in place opportunities for people to thrive by D. Sethuraman, Chemnal

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

brutality that first year students undergo in the name of "ragging" has been a recurring problem in Kerala and in many parts of India. The government must end cruelty on campuses. Kurian Mathew, Kochi Baramulla and Anantnag. Gazetted employees of the Health and Medical

Medical college staff woes The Jammu and Kashmir administration has not addressed the issue of pay anomalies for hundreds of non-gazetted employees of fine. five new government medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir. The Cabinet, vide its order number 175/11/2017 dated October 3, 2017, had sanctioned 3,375 posts for the establishment of the five colleges — 675 each for Kathua, Rajouri, Doda,

similar issues. The pay scales, nomenclature and even recruitment rules at the government medical colleges in Udhampur and Handwara differ from these worried that without service rules, they will be deprived of time-bound promotions.

of time-bound promotions The framing of rules for all medical colleges, especially new medical colleges in the Union Territory, must be done as soon as possible. Vishav Mohan Sharma, occasion to recollect those golden days when radio sets and radio programmes and radio programmes with Joy. There was hardly any house that did not have a bush, Murphy, Philips, or the brands that ruled the radio market. One wonders whether today's Al the brands that ruled the radio market. One wonders whether today's Al radio offered. The average left of the radio offered the radio offered the radio offered the representation of the programming by Radio Ceylon' One also had RJs. who still has no match. occasion to recollect those who still has no match.

M. Pradyu, Thalikavu, Kannur, Kerala

must carry the postal address

Tuning in World Radio Day (February 13) has passed but it was an

# The problematic globalisation of medical education

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 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

#### Philip G. Altbach

is Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow at the Center for International Higher Education (CIHE), Boston College, U.S.

#### Hans de Wit

is Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow at the Center for International Higher Education, Boston College, U.S.

#### **Eldho Mathews**

is Programme Officer (Internationalisation) at the Kerala State Higher Education Council, India

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.
  - कित्सा 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।

- क्रे 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. क्रे यूक्रेन, 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.
  - 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।

- ✓ 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।

• ✓ 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.
  - विश्वक 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 पोलेंड 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।

- **Quality Concerns:** Many foreign institutions lack infrastructure and
  - faculty, leading to poor training quality. **√ गुणवत्ता संबंधी चिंताएँ:** कई विदेशी संस्थानों में उचित बुनियादी 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 मुरीजों के साथ संवाद करने के लिए स्थानीय भाषा सीखनी होती है।

- **Clinical Exposure Issues:** Some foreign institutions do not offer adequate practical exposure, which affects medical skills. **√ नेदानिक 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 समस्याः सभी विदेशी मेडिकल डिग्रियों को भारत के राष्ट्रीय चिकित्सा आयोग (NMC) द्वारा मान्यता नहीं दी जाती।

- 🔷 Government Measures & Reforms | सरकारी उपाय एवं स्धार
- Recognizing the challenges, the Indian government is expanding

medical education opportunities domestically.

[] चुनौतियों 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।

- ✓ 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 लाइसंसिंग 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

- 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.

# • <u>Key Differences from the Old Regime:</u>

<u>Feature</u>	Old Regime (Assessment Year)	New Regime (Tax Year)
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

## • Features of the 'Tax Year' Concept:

- Synchronizes Income & Taxation: Ensures taxes are paid in the same year income is earned.
- <u>Simplifies Compliance:</u> 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.

## • Significance of the New Tax Year System:

- <u>Aligns with Global Practices:</u> Brings India closer to international taxation standards.
- <u>Eases Taxpayer Burden:</u> 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 NO. OF WORDS CUT ON: I-T Bill, I-T Act, I-T Act, 1-T Bill, 1961 2025 1961 2025 Word count 5.1L 2.6L Exemptions 30,000 13,500 Chapters 47 23 TDS/TCS 27,453 14,606 Sections 536 819 57 **Tables** 18 Non-profit 12,800 7,600 organisation Formulae 6 46



 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.



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.

#### • Native Region & Distribution:

- Native to: Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- <u>Found in:</u> Villages around <u>Guntur</u>, <u>Vinukonda</u>, <u>Narasaraopet</u>, <u>Ongole</u>, <u>Kandukur</u> and along the <u>Gundlakamma and Alluru rivers</u>.
- 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.

#### • <u>Historical Significance:</u>

- 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.

## Dorka Metal Craft

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



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.

#### • 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.

- History & Cultural Significance:
  - Origins: Dates back to the Indus Valley Civilization (Mohenjo-daro's "Dancing Girl" figurine is an early example).
  - <u>Traditional Practitioners:</u> <u>Dhokra Damar tribes</u>, originally from <u>Odisha</u> and <u>West Bengal</u>, 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.





#### 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.



• 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.



## CONTENTS

What is the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)?

105 India's Position Among Neighboring Countries

100 How is the CPI Score Calculated?

Factors Contributing to India's Corruption Perception

1 India's Rank & Score in CPI 2024

07 Impact of Corruption

04 Global Comparisons

### Developed by

Transparency International

Measures perceived levels of public sector corruption in different countries.

Scale0 (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

InstitutionsWorld 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.

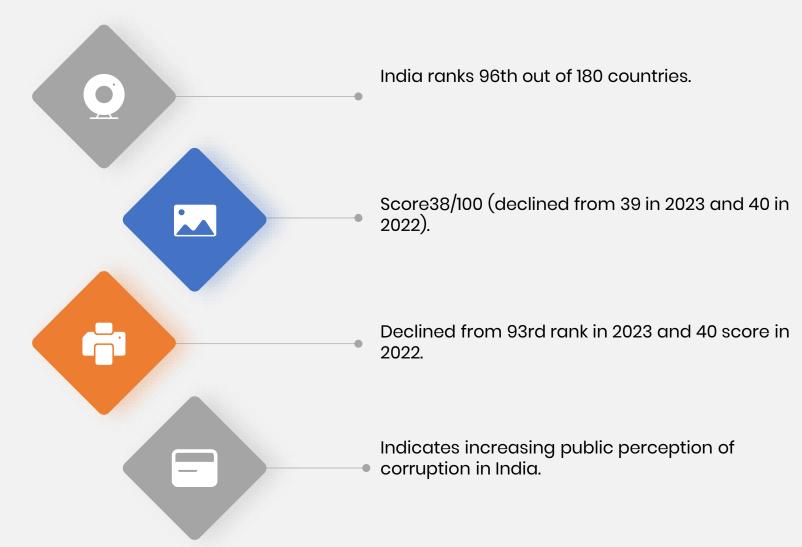
Government transparency in decision- making.

Protection of whistleblowers & journalists.

Independence of judiciary and its role in fighting corruption.

Corrupt activities in political financing.

### India's performance



Rank & Score Details

### Least corrupt countries

Top performers

Denmark (1st)

Finland (2nd)

Singapore (3rd)



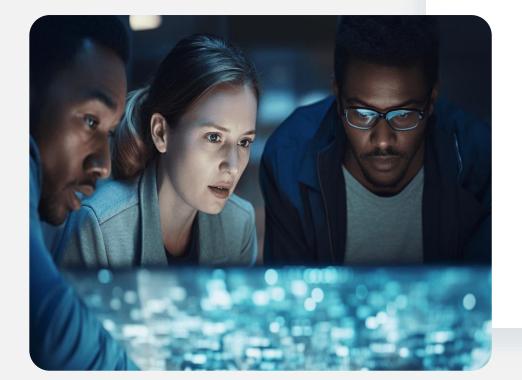
## Corruption trends







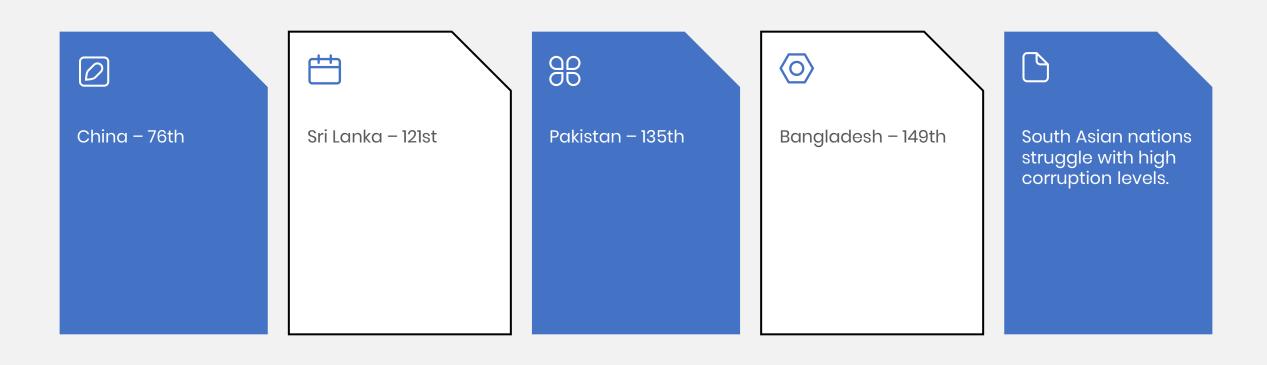




More than two-thirds of countries score below 50, highlighting a global corruption crisis.

## Regional rankings

#### Comparisons



### Key issues

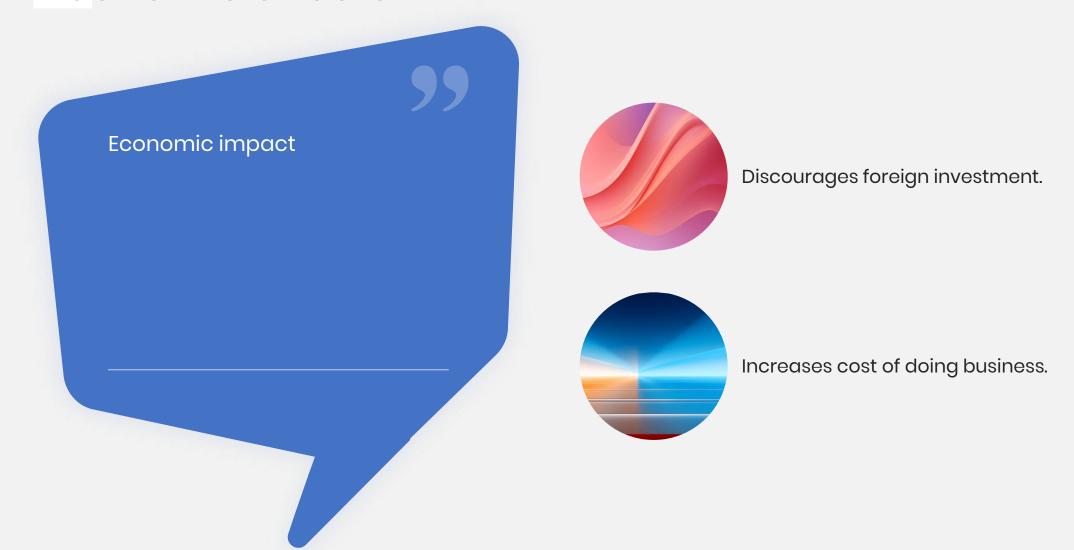
Weak enforcement of anti- corruption laws. High- level political and bureaucratic corruption.

Delays in judicial proceedings for corruption cases.

Lack of transparency in public procurement. Issues in corporate governance & political funding.

Contributing factors

#### Economic effects



## Social consequences

Weakens public services like healthcare and education.

Social impact

Increases inequality & poverty.

### Environmental impact

Corruption in climate policies leads to misallocation of funds.

Environmental consequences

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 वितीय समावेशन को बढ़ावा देना

  - B. Expanding the telecom sector / दूरसंचार क्षेत्र का विस्तार करना C. Strengthening cybersecurity measures / साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों को मजब्त 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) / सयुक्त राष्ट्र पयावरण कार्यक्रम (UNEP)
  - B. World Trade Organization (WTO) / विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) C. International Monetary Fund (IMF) / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय 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 स्गमता' 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 गवर्नेस 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?

## 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

## International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈd͡ʒʌg.ə.nɔːt/

## Word of the day

#### Wrangle:

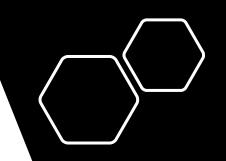
an instance of intense argument (as in bargaining); an angry dispute; to quarrel noisily, angrily or disruptively

Synonyms: haggle, brawl

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

Pronunciation: newsth.live/wranglepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɹæŋgl/







# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 HĬSM

CBT (कंप्युटर आधारित टेस्ट)- 1

- सामान्य जागरकता
- गणित
- > सामान्य बुद्धि और तर्कशक्ति



#### 20 OMR SHEETS सहित

#### - विशेषताए -

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



व्याख्यात्मक हल 🕒 YouTube चैनल पर उपलब्ध

Scan QR Code and Watch Playlist

### Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

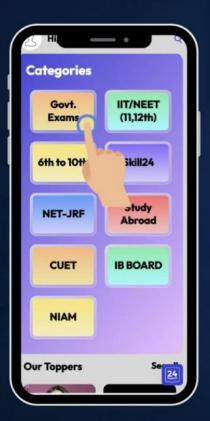
Price Rs 199

न जिस्ति चेपस

## Step 1



## Step 2



## Step 3



## Step 4







