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10 MCQ from the session



Which countries criticized the U.S. tariffs on aluminium and steel?

कौन से देशों ने अमेरिकी आयरन और एल्युमिनियम के प्रति शुल्कों को खारिज करने का विरोध किया?

- A. India, China, and Brazil / भारत, चीन और ब्राज़ील
- B. Canada, Britain, and Australia / कनाडा, ब्रिटेन और ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- C. Germany, France, and Italy / जर्मनी, फ्रांस और इटली
- D. Japan, South Korea, and Mexico / जापान, दक्षिण कोरिया और मेक्सिको

How did the EU respond to the U.S. tariffs?

गणराज्य द्वारा अमेरिकी आयातों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया / अमेरिकी आयातों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया

- A. By banning U.S. imports / अमेरिकी आयातों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया
- B. By imposing counter-tariffs worth \$26 billion / \$26 अरब डॉलर के आयातों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया
- C. By seeking WTO intervention / अमेरिकी आयातों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया
- D. By increasing trade with China / अमेरिकी आयातों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया



Under which trade policy did the U.S. impose these tariffs?

१ खण्ड वरुण ट १ इह इह ६ □ वरुण ह इहणल चण वरुण

• A. Trade Act of 1974 / 1974 इ वरुण वरुण १ १ १ गख

B. Section 301 Tariffs / १ वरुणजट १

C. Section 232 of Trade Expansion Act / □ वरुण १ वरुण १ १ गख इ ह १ वरुण

D. Fair Trade Policy Act / १ ० ल □ वरुण ह १ १ १ गख

What is the primary objective of the "Mission Amrit Sarovar"?

"श्रवट् ष १ रवक्र ढ घडाघद ड् वरवक्र ६-षुड् ष वणच

- A. Constructing roads in rural areas / इक्रप्रह् ल इडाप्रळ नड् श्र रवक्र
- B. Reviving and creating water bodies to address water scarcity / न च  
ढ ड् ढ ढ ड् ह ढ ष कुड्श्रड् न च श्र ड् क्राड् वरह्श्रड् ष क्रा ष घ श्र रवक्र
- C. Developing rainwater harvesting systems in urban cities / ट् णघह  
ट् णघडाप्रळड् क्रा च ढ ब् गण ढ र् क्राह्श्रड् श्रु ल ड् घ ष व
- D. Promoting organic farming near water reservoirs / न चक् गडाड् ड् ह क्  
न श्रड् ढ ड् ह ड् ड् प्रक्रवट् ड् व

How many ponds have been completed under Mission Amrit Sarovar by October 2024?

१ ज संघ संजमठ लड श्रमट ७ १ रकक ६ घड्डाघ डडलणल श्रु लष डुककव ह श्रु ड पड पण

- A. 35,000
- B. 50,000
- C. 68,000
- D. 75,000

## What is Indian Railways' role in Mission Amrit Sarovar?

श्रवट् ७ १ रप्रकृ ढ घड्डाघ रप्रकृकृलह्या घड्डाअड्ड हप वक्रस्रड्ड वणच

- A. Building dams along railway routes / घड्डाअड्डवव कडडुढ क ण क ण ष क व
- B. Excavating and constructing ponds near railway worksites / घड्डाअड्ड ड कृव चड्डडुहक लकृव डड हड कृव ः घश्र रप्रकृ
- C. Installing solar water pumps for irrigation / श्रु वृव डडुश्रड्ड ढ अण च हड्ड f कृल ड घष व
- D. Developing water purification plants / न च ट कृ ड घर् ढ वव श्रड्ड श्रु ल ड घष व



# Why was the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) suspended in December 2023?

शुद्ध ब्रह्म जज्ञट रक्ककल्लह्य इक्ष हरणप्रक्त्तु जWFI) इ इर इर चश्चाल शु ग्रव  
पु ग्रवळ्ळ्य

- A. Financial mismanagement / शुद्धल्लह्य इक्ष षु षु
- B. Sexual harassment allegations against former WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh / हज्जWFI श ल षु कककक ट घर् शु ग्राहघग्रज्ज  
क्षु हल्लु इडु षु
- C. Failure to conduct national-level wrestling tournaments / घर्ल्लह्य b घ  
इ हडुक्ष हल्लु गडुल्लह्य लक क वष गडुल्लह्य इ घर् इरळ्ळ्य चल्लव
- D. Doping scandal involving Indian wrestlers / कककल्लह्य हणचत्रक इरु इ  
न क्षडु इरु षु त इरळ्ळ्य

Where is the headquarters of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) located?

ककलललल इक्षु हरवणकू ह जWFI) इ वरवकू ककग इ णकू ल णकू

- A. Mumbai / रकूकू
- B. New Delhi / ँ ह शू ह
- C. Kolkata / इ इइ कूव
- D. Chennai / देइ

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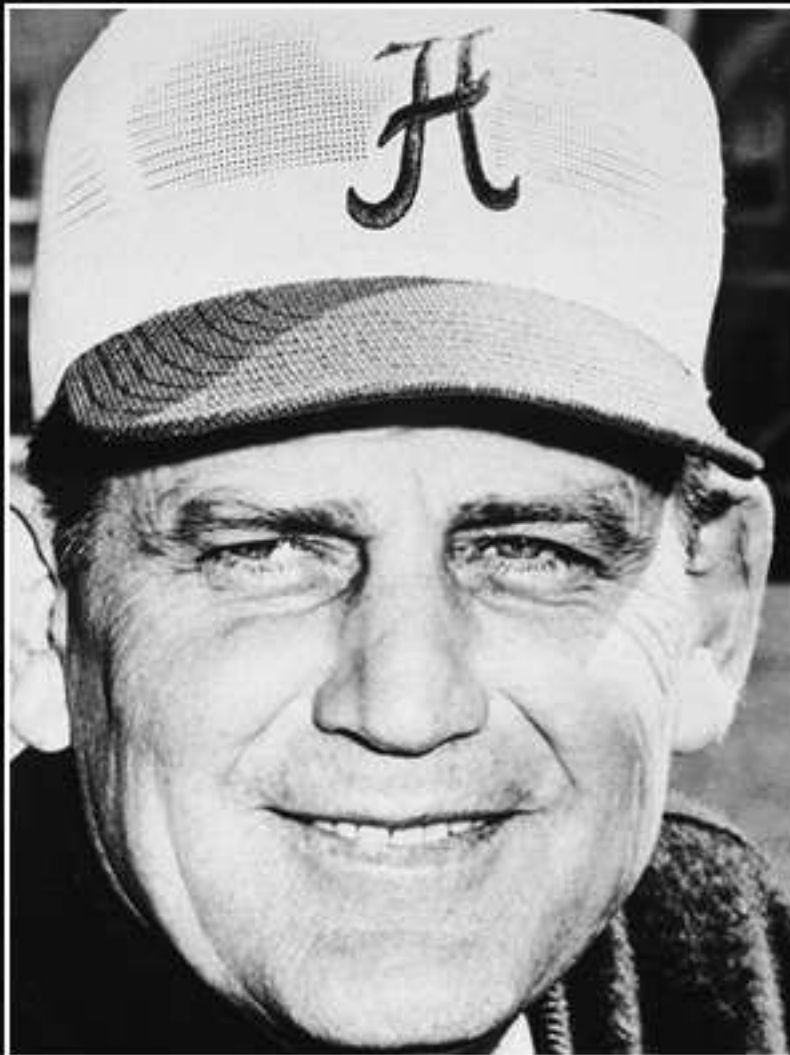
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— *Bear Bryant* —

AZ QUOTES



IN BRIEF



Bombay HC dismisses case against singer Kailash Kher

The Bombay High Court has dismissed a criminal complaint against singer Kailash Kher for allegedly burning religious scriptures over a song based on the album Kailash Bhosnoke. Quoting A.C. Neerankar, a famous author, historian and political analyst, a Division Bench of Justices Bharat Durgade and Shyam C. Chandak observed, "Tolerance of dissent from the orthodox of the day has been the Bane of Indian society for centuries. But it is precisely in the ready acceptance of the right to dissent as distinct from its mere tolerance that a free society distinguishes itself."

CBSE students missing March 15 exam to get another chance

The Central Board of Secondary Education on Thursday said Class 12 students who are unable to appear for the "Hindi Core (C02), Hindi Elective (C02)" exam scheduled for March 15 due to ill health will get another chance to write the exams. "While exam will be held on March 16, those students who find it difficult to appear in the same may decide not to appear on that day. Such students would be given an opportunity to appear along with those students for whom special exam is conducted as per Board policy for students participating in national or international sports events," said Anand Mohan, Controller of Examinations, CBSE, said.

Pollution in Bymohat comes from Assam: Meghalaya CM

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma suggested the Meghalaya part of Bymohat could be getting a bad name because of industrial units in Assam. On Thursday, he told the State Assembly that the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board found Bymohat's air quality to be satisfactory compared to "poor to very poor" recorded by an ambient air quality monitoring station installed in the Central Academy for State Forest Service across the inter-state boundary in Assam. "This indicates that the major sources of air pollution may be attributed to industrial and other activities on the Assam side," the Chief Minister said.

Youth arrested for running over 4 people in Dehradun

The Dehradun Police on Thursday arrested a 22-year-old man who was allegedly driving a luxury car that ran over four laborers in the Uttarakhand capital on Wednesday night. Senior Superintendent of Police Ajit Singh said the accused told the police that he and his 12-year-old nephew had gone for a drive towards Rajpur in his brother-in-law's car when it collided with a scooter coming from the opposite direction, went out of control, and hit the four persons. The car, with a Chandigarh number plate, was moving at a high speed when it hit the four people walking on the side of the road, the police said.

ISRO undocks SpaDex satellites in first attempt

Satellites are orbiting independently and their health is normal, says space agency on January 16, ISRO successfully executed satellites' docking, making India the fourth country to achieve the feat

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Nearly two months after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) carried out the docking of the two satellites which are part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDex) mission, the space agency on Thursday accomplished their undocking.

The space agency said that it had accomplished the feat in its very first attempt. The undocking operation was executed at 9.20 a.m.

The undocking of the satellites took place in a 465 km circular orbit with 45-degree inclination. The satellites are now orbiting independently and their health is normal," the agency said.

With this, ISRO has now successfully demonstrated all the capabilities required for rendezvous, docking and undocking operations in a circular orbit."

It said that the in-orbit performance of the satellite was extensively analysed and an optimal data opportunity was



Historic accomplishment: On-board images of SpaDex undocking, ISRO

Having accomplished the undocking, more experiments are planned for coming days, says ISRO

The undocking experiment, making India the fourth to reply to the U.S., Russia and China to achieve this historic feat.

The two satellites SIKOT (Chaser) and SEOTG (Target), which were launched by the PSLV C50 on December 30, were successfully docked on January 16.

Following this historic feat, the space agency had said that the undocking would be carried out in the coming days.

The SpaDex mission is an important project and the ISRO. It is designed to

develop and demonstrate the technology needed for rendezvous, docking and undocking using two small satellites.

Objectives of mission The demonstration of this technology is essential for futuristic missions such as sending an Indian astronaut to the moon, returning samples from the moon, and building and operation of an Indian space station.

The other objectives of the SpaDex mission include demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications, such as in-space robotics, composite spacecraft control and payload operations at orbit undocking.

Over 3,200 PMJAY hospitals must be penalised for fraud, regulation is required: NHA

Hindu Bureau New Delhi

Almost 600 hospitals across India should be suspended and another 1,415 removed from the panel of the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme, and penalties totalling \$22 crore should be levied against 1,504 errant hospitals, according to recommendations made by the National Health Authority's anti-fraud unit.



What schemes are still active benefits about 12.37 crore families in the country

Regulation is needed to check such fraud, the committee said in its report on the demand for Grants tabled in Parliament on March 12.

Anti-PMJAY provides around \$5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation, benefitting about 12.37 crore families from the economically vulnerable bottom

40% of India's population. In its reply to the committee's report, the Department of Health and Family Welfare noted that the National Health Authority (NHA) has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud and abuse, and has taken steps to prevent, detect, and deter different kinds of fraud at various stages of AB-PMJAY's implementation.

The committee recommended that the NHA implement a proactive fraud data-driven, and transparent monitoring system focusing on early detection of potential misuse patterns in AB-PMJAY.

The department can consider making extensive use of artificial intelligence and digital tools during the collection and analysis of statistical data and feed-back, it added.

INA veteran celebrates 99th birthday by paying tributes to Netaji and fallen soldiers

The Hindu Bureau New Delhi

Lieutenant Rangaswamy Madhavan Pillai, a veteran of the Indian National Army (INA), celebrated his 99th birthday on Thursday by paying tributes at the National War Memorial and the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on Kartavya Path.

The wreath-laying ceremony organised by the Army was attended by senior officials and family members, at the age of 97.

Pillai was born on March 13, 1926, in the Sweray township of Bangalore district in Mysuru district, Karnataka. He joined the Indian Independence League as a civilian in 1942 under Rash Behari Bose. When Netaji arrived in Singapore, Lt. Pillai eventually enlisted in the INA, also

known as the Azad Hind Force, on November 1, 1943, at the age of 17.

Serving as a recruiting officer and fundraiser, he mobilised support for the INA across 32 locations in Burma, including Harbin, Yaw, Darjeeling, Sweray, Yangon, and Mayangone. His active involvement in the freedom struggle led to his imprisonment for eight

months in the Rangon jail from May to December 1945, officials said.

Later, he served in the administrative branch at the INA headquarters in Bangalore under Major General K.V. Thirumalaiah together with former Army chief General K.S. Thimayya. He was officially recognised as a freedom fighter by the Government of India on August 1, 1980.

The next day, Holi, known as Dhuhi, is celebrated with gaiety and joy, lovely colours are sprinkled everywhere. It is also celebrated in other regions of Asia, as well as in Caribbean countries like Guyana, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago. In Rajasthan, the festival celebrates the holy, ethereal and heavenly love of Lord Krishna and Radha. The spirit of Holi is all-encompassing.

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Crossword grid with clues: 1. At Vee can be too unrolling... (8), 2. An appointment with the French premier? (7), 3. I heard relocation may result in such detachment? (7), 4. Fares covered around London can be older days (6), 5. True pair transplanted in hole (8), 6. "Sigh! A Han is running amok in Chinese city!" (8), 7. Carved master is saint (6), 8. Part of slugging egg (4), 9. Right file is moved to search (3), 10. Clever's best (4), 11. Washington students constructing border protection? (4), 12. Avengers produce Sarin, for example (3,3), 13. Portion in South America farming ancient city (9), 14. Fans cheered around London can be older days (7), 15. Large crater changes side to kiss (8), 16. Perhaps, bootleggers source of income and courage (6), 17. Godfrey busy around largest urban area in Germany (4), 18. Fruit and drink lying around shopping centre (5), 19. Ring's sister hugs sailor (5), 20. Sea hates transform and still remain haters (8), 21. Buy Valerie, after leaving late, in the mountains (8), 22. Government charges if rats move? (7), 23. Crookery gives carrying rate for escalator (6), 24. Tears flowing after European festival (8), 25. Instrument Oprah plays after losing ring (4), 26. Congress candidate from Khatia (4).

Answers to crossword clues: 1. At Vee can be too unrolling... (8) - VEEVING, 2. An appointment with the French premier? (7) - Mitterrand, 3. I heard relocation may result in such detachment? (7) - Detachment, 4. Fares covered around London can be older days (6) - Old days, 5. True pair transplanted in hole (8) - True pair, 6. "Sigh! A Han is running amok in Chinese city!" (8) - Han, 7. Carved master is saint (6) - Carved, 8. Part of slugging egg (4) - Slugging, 9. Right file is moved to search (3) - Right, 10. Clever's best (4) - Clever, 11. Washington students constructing border protection? (4) - Washington, 12. Avengers produce Sarin, for example (3,3) - Avengers, 13. Portion in South America farming ancient city (9) - Portion, 14. Fans cheered around London can be older days (7) - Fans, 15. Large crater changes side to kiss (8) - Large, 16. Perhaps, bootleggers source of income and courage (6) - Perhaps, 17. Godfrey busy around largest urban area in Germany (4) - Godfrey, 18. Fruit and drink lying around shopping centre (5) - Fruit, 19. Ring's sister hugs sailor (5) - Ring, 20. Sea hates transform and still remain haters (8) - Sea, 21. Buy Valerie, after leaving late, in the mountains (8) - Buy, 22. Government charges if rats move? (7) - Government, 23. Crookery gives carrying rate for escalator (6) - Crookery, 24. Tears flowing after European festival (8) - Tears, 25. Instrument Oprah plays after losing ring (4) - Instrument, 26. Congress candidate from Khatia (4) - Congress.

SUDOKU grid with difficulty ratings: 1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16, 17-20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-32, 33-36, 37-40, 41-44, 45-48, 49-52, 53-56, 57-60, 61-64, 65-68, 69-72, 73-76, 77-80, 81-84, 85-88, 89-92, 93-96, 97-100.

FAITH 'The spirit of Holi' Holi rings in the onset of spring and the end of the bleak, dreary winter. The festival usually falls in the month of March as per the Gregorian calendar. It is celebrated in the month of Phagan, on the last full moon day of the Hindu solar calendar. The date varies with the lunar cycle, but the festival is a dear one to many across the world, said Prof. Kiranodh. The night before Holi, bonfires are lit in a ceremony known as the Holika dahana. This is also known as Holhi Holhi. Symbolically, it is a celebration of the victory of good over evil. The ritual is traced back to the time of King Hiranyakasipu, father of Prahlad. Hiranyakasipu was a ruthless and egotistical demon who had secured boons that bestowed special powers upon him that protected him from getting killed by man or animal. His son Prahlad was devoted to Lord Vishnu. This faith angered the father, who persecuted him cruelly. Prahlad's aunt Holika tricked him into sitting on a fire with him on her lap. Holika was destroyed by the fire, but Prahlad was rescued by Vishnu, the upholder of dharma who took the form of half man, half lion, manifesting as Lord Narasimha. He annihilated Hiranyakasipu and saved Prahlad. The next day, Holi, known as Dhuhi, is celebrated with gaiety and joy, lovely colours are sprinkled everywhere. It is also celebrated in other regions of Asia, as well as in Caribbean countries like Guyana, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago. In Rajasthan, the festival celebrates the holy, ethereal and heavenly love of Lord Krishna and Radha. The spirit of Holi is all-encompassing.

# ISRO undocks SpaDex satellites in first attempt

Satellites are orbiting independently and their health is normal, says space agency; on January 16, ISRO successfully executed satellites' docking, making India the fourth country to achieve the feat

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**N**early two months after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) carried out the docking of the two satellites which are part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission, the space agency on Thursday accomplished their undocking.

The space agency said that it had accomplished the feat in its very first attempt. The undocking operation was executed at 9.20 a.m.

"The undocking of the satellites took place in a 460 km circular orbit with 45-degree inclination. The satellites are now orbiting independently and their health is normal," the agency said.

"With this, ISRO has now successfully demonstrated all the capabilities required for rendezvous, docking and undocking operations in a circular orbit."

It said that the in-orbit performance of the docked satellites was extensively analysed and an immediate opportunity was



**Mission accomplished:** On-board images of SpaDex undocking, ISRO

found to be feasible from March 10 to 25.

"All operations were monitored through ground stations located in Bengaluru, Lucknow and Mauritius. Having accomplished this major milestone of undocking, further experiments with satellites are planned for the coming days," the ISRO said.

It further said that exhaustive ground simulations and analysis were the cornerstones of achieving the undocking in the first attempt itself. "Various tests replicating on-orbit conditions were meticulously planned and carried out in preparation for the earliest opportunity for undocking operations," it said.

On January 16, the ISRO successfully executed the

**Having accomplished the undocking, more experiments are planned for coming days, says ISRO**

SpaDeX docking experiment, making India the fourth country after the U.S., Russia and China to achieve this historic feat.

The two satellites SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), which were launched by the PSLV C60 on December 30, were successfully docked on January 16.

Following this historic feat, the space agency had said that the undocking would be carried out in the coming days.

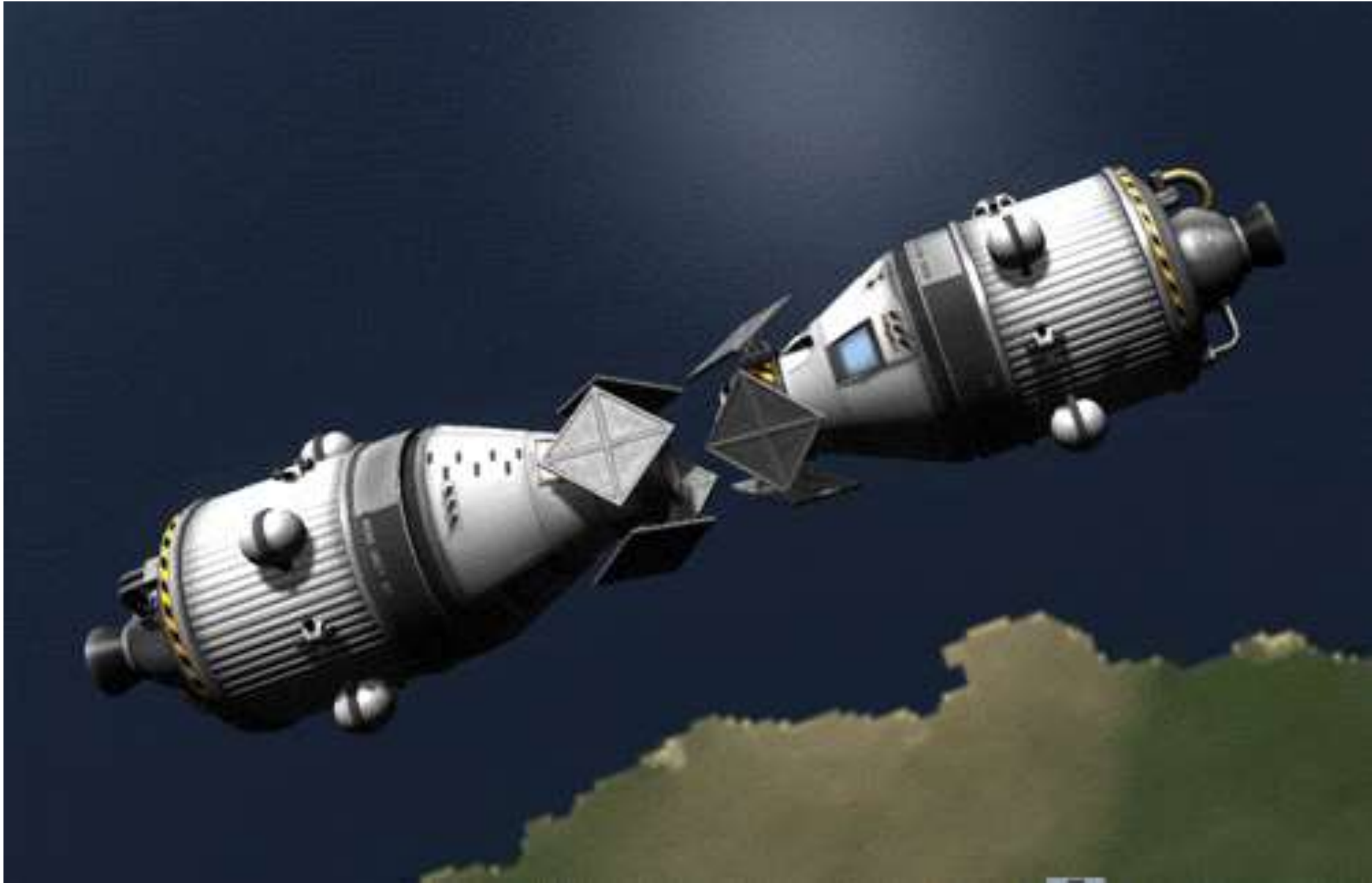
The SpaDeX mission is an important project by the ISRO. It is designed to

develop and demonstrate the technology needed for spacecraft rendezvous, docking and undocking using two small satellites.

## **Objectives of mission**

The demonstration of this technology is essential for futuristic missions such as sending an Indian astronaut to the moon, returning samples from the moon, and building and operation of an Indian Space Station.

The other objectives of the SpaDeX mission include demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications, such as in-space robotics, composite spacecraft control and payload operations after undocking.





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## ISRO Successfully Undocks SpaDex Satellites | स्ट्रॉनोसॉस वरुडुडु डुडुडुडुडुडुडु डुडु डुडुडुडुडुडुडु डुडुडुडुडुडुडु

- ISRO accomplished the undocking of two satellites from the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDex) mission.  
इसरो ने अंतरिक्ष डॉकिंग प्रयोग (SpaDex) मिशन के तहत दो उपग्रहों का सफलतापूर्वक अनडॉकिंग किया।
- The docking of these satellites was earlier conducted on January 16, 2024.  
इन उपग्रहों का डॉकिंग इससे पहले 16 जनवरी 2024 को किया गया था।
- India became the fourth country to achieve satellite docking and undocking after the U.S., Russia, and China.  
अमेरिका, रूस और चीन के बाद भारत चौथा देश बना जिसने उपग्रहों के डॉकिंग और अनडॉकिंग को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा किया।



## Details of the Undocking Operation | १ ६ म्छुअड्रण छ हघ्छु ६ इव श्रअघर्

- **The undocking took place in a 460 km circular orbit with a 45-degree inclination.**  
अनडॉकिंग 460 किमी की गोलाकार कक्षा में 45 डिग्री झुकाव के साथ हुई।
- **The operation was conducted at 9:20 a.m.**  
यह ऑपरेशन सुबह 9:20 बजे किया गया।
- **Satellites are now orbiting independently, and their health status is normal.**  
उपग्रह अब स्वतंत्र रूप से परिक्रमा कर रहे हैं और उनकी स्थिति सामान्य है।
- **Extensive ground simulations and analyses ensured the success of the first attempt.**  
पहले ही प्रयास में सफलता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए व्यापक जमीनी सिमुलेशन और विश्लेषण किए गए।

## . Importance of the SpaDex Mission | ज ब्रह्मर्षि श्रॉट्ट ष इव्र खण्णु

- SpaDex aims to develop technology for spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking.

स्पा-डेक्स मिशन का उद्देश्य अंतरिक्ष यान की मुलाकात, डॉकिंग और अनडॉकिंग के लिए तकनीक विकसित करना है।

- It will support futuristic missions such as sending Indian astronauts to the Moon and Mars.

यह भविष्य के मिशनों का समर्थन करेगा, जैसे कि भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को चंद्रमा और मंगल पर भेजना।

- The mission also focuses on in-space robotics and composite spacecraft control.

यह मिशन अंतरिक्ष में रोबोटिक्स और मिश्रित अंतरिक्ष यान नियंत्रण पर भी केंद्रित है।

#### 4. Future Experiments Planned | क्रश्टा इडुडु गडुडुडुडु हगडुडु षु व

- **Following the successful undocking, ISRO plans further satellite experiments in the coming days.**

सफल अनडॉकिंग के बाद, इसरो आने वाले दिनों में और उपग्रह प्रयोगों की योजना बना रहा है।

- **New tests will focus on enhancing docking and undocking mechanisms for future space missions.**

नए परीक्षण भविष्य के अंतरिक्ष मिशनों के लिए डॉकिंग और अनडॉकिंग तंत्र को बेहतर बनाने पर केंद्रित होंगे।

## Economic Aspects | ष शुद्ध हण्यज्ञ

- **Advanced space docking technology can boost India's commercial space sector.**  
उन्नत अंतरिक्ष डॉकिंग तकनीक भारत के वाणिज्यिक अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा दे सकती है।
- **It can attract international collaborations and investments in ISRO's projects.**  
यह इसरो की परियोजनाओं में अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग और निवेश को आकर्षित कर सकता है।

## Social Aspects | द्र वक्रवर्ष इ हणचज्ञ

- **The mission inspires young scientists and engineers in India's space sector.**

यह मिशन भारत के अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में युवा वैज्ञानिकों और इंजीनियरों को प्रेरित करता है।

- **It demonstrates India's growing capability in complex space operations.**

यह जटिल अंतरिक्ष अभियानों में भारत की बढ़ती क्षमता को दर्शाता है।



**Dr. Reddy's recalls mislabelled seizure injection in the U.S.**  
Drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories is recalling one batch of seizure injection...

**LIC, New India Assurance, GIC Re retain D-SiIs tag**

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), The New India Assurance Company and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) have retained the domestic systemically important insurers (D-SiIs) tag...

**Canara Bank proposes to raise ₹4,000 cr. via bonds**

Canara Bank on Thursday said it proposed to raise up to ₹4,000 crore through Basel III compliant Tier II bonds...

**Supreme mulls four luxury realty projects in Mumbai**

**The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI**  
In line with the growing demand for ultra-luxury homes in key cities, luxury real estate developer Anarock Universal unveiled four new projects here...

**PV wholesalers rose 2% in Feb., two-wheeler sales fell 9% YoY: SIAM**

**Lalantendu Mishra MUMBAI**  
Passenger vehicle (PV) domestic wholesalers in February 2025 increased 2% year-on-year (YOY) to 3,77,689 units...

**Coromandel makes public offer to buy ₹402-cr. NACL stake**

**The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD**  
Murgappa Group company Coromandel International has made a mandatory open offer to acquire 26% stake in NACL Industries...

**Clouds of uncertainty**



Trumping economy: A worker using heavy machinery loads a wind turbine blade at the IP Composites factory at Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

**Lenders funding emerging green projects at higher risk**

RBI Governor flags credit risk due to borrowers' use of new and emerging green technologies with limited track record; seeks effective mechanism for risk appraisal in financing such projects

**Lalantendu Mishra MUMBAI**  
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Mahendra Singh Mahorra flagged higher credit risks for lenders financing emerging green technologies with limited track record...



**Climate of safety**  
RBI Governor has emphasised on structuring strategies to foster equitable risks in financing projects that use green technologies.

Financial sector regulators, regulated entities and various government agencies... "There is a need to adopt a holistic approach towards mitigation of climate change risks considering the country specific requirements and circumstances," he said.

**Collection efficiency in unsecured assets under pressure: ICRA**

**Lalantendu Mishra MUMBAI**  
Credit rating agency ICRA Ltd said it has observed a decline in collection efficiency for unsecured asset classes such as microfinance, personal and unsecured SME loans amid curbing sentiment...

**Starlink services may cost up to 14x of telcos'**

**Vijayar Sankaranthi MUMBAI**  
While collaborations between Elon Musk's SpaceX and Indian telcos Bharti Airtel and Jio has cemented Starlink's entry into the Indian market, analyst reports said the service will struggle to compete with existing broadband providers on pricing...

**MARKETS**

MARKET WATCH table with columns for Market, Up/Down, % Change, and Index.

**MONEY**

MONEY table with columns for Instrument, Price, and Change.

**'Cement industry margins to peak out in Q4FY25 on costs'**

**The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI**  
The profit margins of cement companies will peak out during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal, as cost pressures are expected to increase in the first half of fiscal 2026, according to a research report from IIFL Securities.

**Patanjali Ayurved, DS Group to acquire Magma General Insurance for ₹4,500 crore**

**The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI**  
The board of Sanofi Properties LLP, jointly owned by billionaire businessman Adar Poonawalla and Reliance New Holdings Pvt. Ltd., has approved the sale of its insurance subsidiary Magma General Insurance Ltd. to Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group.

**Starlink pricing is at 87% premium over local broadband operators**

**The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI**  
The board of Sanofi Properties LLP, jointly owned by billionaire businessman Adar Poonawalla and Reliance New Holdings Pvt. Ltd., has approved the sale of its insurance subsidiary Magma General Insurance Ltd. to Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group.



Trumping economy: A worker using heavy machinery loads a wind turbine blade at the IP Composites factory at Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

# 'Starlink services may cost up to 14x of telcos'

**Vallari Sanzgeri**

MUMBAI

While collaborations between Elon Musk's SpaceX and Indian telcos Bharti Airtel and Jio has concretised Starlink's entry into the Indian market, analyst reports said the satcom service will struggle to compete with existing broadband providers on pricing.

Bernstein, in a report, said Starlink's pricing may be too steep for a cost-conscious country like India. For example, while Jio and Airtel offer annual corporate Internet tariff plans ranging from ₹10,898 to ₹15,146 for 100-200 Mbps, Starlink's annual plan for 50-200 Mbps will cost ₹2,15,600.

"Based on current ex-



pectations, Starlink's price is 10-14 times higher than India's major broadband providers. The price is very high for developing countries like India, especially for the target rural market. Unless, Indian government offers subsidies to LEO players, Starlink may struggle to compete with more affordable alternatives available in the country," said Bernstein.

In terms of Asia market, Starlink pricing is at 9-175% premium over local broadband operators, excluding higher upfront costs for Starlink, said Bernstein. This can lead to scalability issues as the target market is largely rural. India particularly reports the lowest data costs in the world.

## Lowered prices

It may be noted when Starlink launched services in developing countries of Africa, it lowered prices to \$10 in Kenya, to \$50 in Eswatini on a monthly basis. However, this is still nowhere as low as the monthly plans offered by Airtel/Jio, starting from \$4.6-5.

BofA Global Research pointed out while Starlink can offer speeds up to 200-250 Mbps, over time ca-

capacity could be an issue considering limited number of satellites hovering over India.

"This may limit the target home market in near-term. Unless pricing is clear, it is difficult to understand the unit economics for this business. Currently, we consider satellite broadband offering to be niche as we note 5G and FWA penetration is strong in India," it said.

## D2C initiatives

In February, Starlink entered into a similar partnership with T-Mobile in the U.S. and offered a beta take-off that allowed users to experience free satellite-to-mobile connectivity.

Users of other telco customers like Verizon and AT&T can also experience

the beta service that allows free text-messaging.

Going forward, the testing will include picture messaging, data services and voice calling.

Once the service is launched in July, it will be available for \$20 per month per line, although the service will be included at no extra cost on T-Mobile's Go5G Next plan. Customers on other plans can add the service for \$15.

Meanwhile, under the partnership, Bharti Airtel and Jio will provide Starlink equipment at retail outlets and help with marketing and distribution.

However, Starlink still has to get licences from the government on its own to provide Internet access.

*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

## LICENCE TO SERVE

■ The move alleviates telcos' key concern that global satcom players might eat into their urban market share

■ Currently, Eutelsat OneWeb, Jio-SES, Starlink and Amazon Kuiper are vying to provide satellite Internet

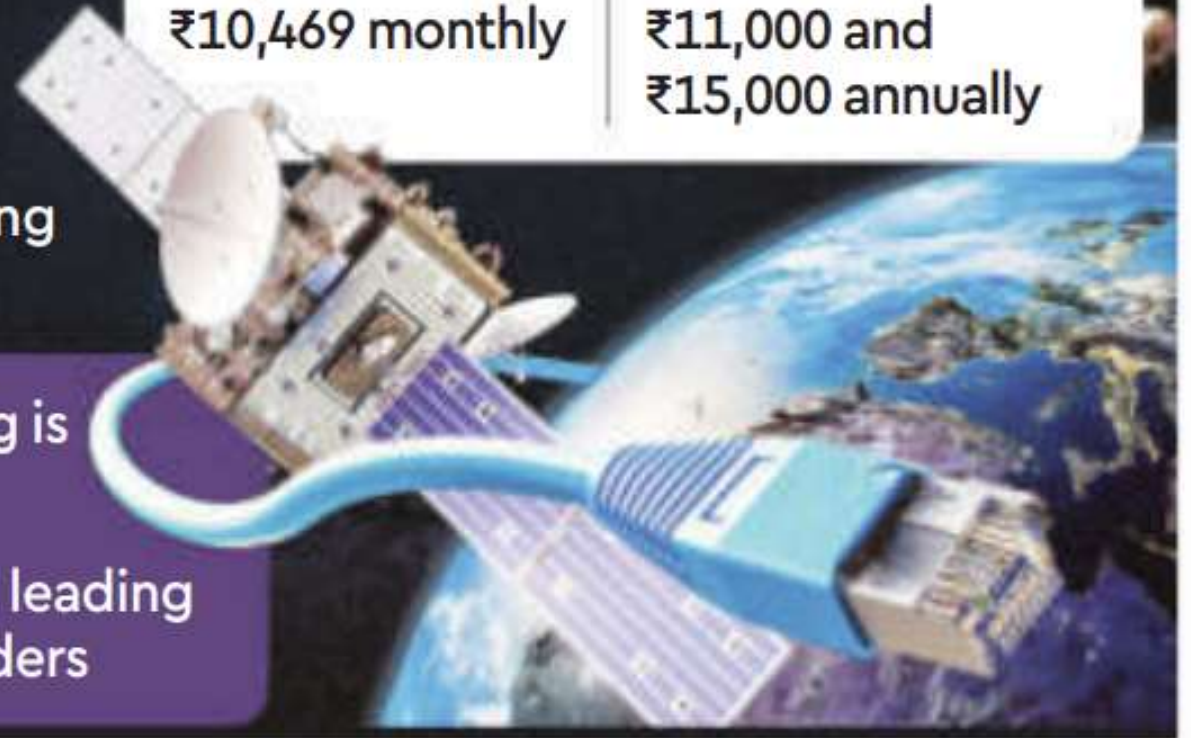
■ OneWeb and Jio-SES have regulatory nod, Starlink and Kuiper are awaiting approvals

■ Starlink's pricing is **10 to 14** times higher than leading broadband providers

50-200 Mbps broadband connection:

**Starlink:** Upfront ₹52,242 and ₹10,469 monthly

**Airtel and Jio:** Plans cost between ₹11,000 and ₹15,000 annually





## 1. Starlink's Pricing Challenge in India | क्वॉट्रघल रक्का व्रघश्रक्ड इह इहखल्लडह क्खल्लह

- Starlink's annual plans for 50-200 Mbps are priced at ₹2,15,600, compared to Jio and Airtel's ₹10,898-₹15,146 for 100-200 Mbps.  
स्टारलिंग की 50-200 Mbps की वार्षिक योजना ₹2,15,600 में उपलब्ध है, जबकि जियो और एयरटेल की 100-200 Mbps योजना ₹10,898-₹15,146 की है।
- This makes Starlink 10-14 times more expensive than India's leading broadband providers.  
इससे स्टारलिंग भारत के प्रमुख ब्रॉडबैंड प्रदाताओं की तुलना में 10-14 गुना अधिक महंगा हो जाता है।
- Unless the Indian government offers subsidies, Starlink may struggle to compete.  
जब तक भारतीय सरकार सब्सिडी नहीं देती, स्टारलिंग के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करना मुश्किल होगा।

## 2. Comparison with Other Markets | १ | ~~वर्धमान डेटा केंद्र~~

- In Africa, Starlink lowered prices to \$10/month in Kenya and \$50/month in Eswatini.  
अफ्रीका में, स्टारलिनक ने केन्या में \$10/महीना और एस्वाटिनी में \$50/महीना शुल्क रखा।
- Despite reductions, Starlink's prices remain higher than Airtel/Jio's monthly plans of \$4.6-5.  
कीमतों में कटौती के बावजूद, स्टारलिनक की कीमतें एयरटेल/जियो की \$4.6-5 मासिक योजनाओं से अधिक हैं।
- Starlink charges a 9-175% premium over local broadband providers in Asia.  
एशिया में, स्टारलिनक की कीमतें स्थानीय ब्रॉडबैंड प्रदाताओं की तुलना में 9-175% अधिक हैं।

### 3. Scalability and Market Constraints | Wडचुअश्रचुह उ घ ँवन्वघ इह क्शुअलग्कु

- **Starlink's services are primarily aimed at rural areas, where affordability is key.**  
स्टारलिनक की सेवाएं मुख्य रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए हैं, जहां किफायती मूल्य आवश्यक है।
- **India has the lowest data costs in the world, making competition tough for Starlink.**  
भारत में दुनिया में सबसे कम डेटा लागत है, जिससे स्टारलिनक के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कठिन हो जाती है।
- **Limited satellite coverage over India may also pose capacity constraints.**  
भारत में उपग्रह कवरेज की सीमित उपलब्धता से भी क्षमता संबंधी चुनौतियाँ हो सकती हैं।

#### 4. Starlink's Partnerships and Expansion Plans | a क्लश्रु इ ह दु क इ क्लश्रु क्ल घश्रु क्ल गइल ष क्लद

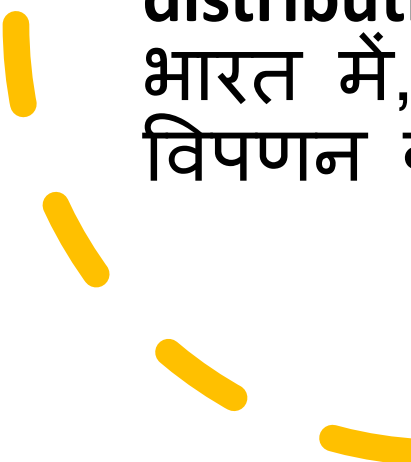
- In February, Starlink partnered with T-Mobile in the U.S. for satellite-to-mobile connectivity.  
फरवरी में, स्टारलिनक ने अमेरिका में टी-मोबाइल के साथ सैटेलाइट-टू-मोबाइल कनेक्टिविटी के लिए साझेदारी की।
- Users of Verizon and AT&T can experience free text-messaging in the beta phase.  
वेरिजोन और एटी एंड टी के उपयोगकर्ता बीटा चरण में मुफ्त टेक्स्ट मैसेजिंग का अनुभव कर सकते हैं।

- 
- **Once launched in July, the service will cost \$20/month per line, with an add-on option for \$15.**

जुलाई में लॉन्च होने पर, यह सेवा प्रति लाइन \$20/महीने की होगी, और अन्य योजनाओं में इसे \$15 में जोड़ा जा सकेगा।

- **In India, Bharti Airtel and Jio will support Starlink's retail distribution and marketing.**

भारत में, भारती एयरटेल और जियो स्टारलिनक के खुदरा वितरण और विपणन का समर्थन करेंगे।



## 5. Regulatory Hurdles for Starlink in India | क्रकल खल कश्रड इडश्रड् श्र गलवड् द् कश्रगक

- Starlink still requires government approval to offer internet access in India.

स्टारलिनक को भारत में इंटरनेट सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए अभी भी सरकारी मंजूरी की आवश्यकता है।

- Without regulatory clearance, Starlink cannot compete with established telecom providers.

बिना नियामक मंजूरी के, स्टारलिनक स्थापित दूरसंचार प्रदाताओं के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा नहीं कर सकता।

## AMID WAR OF WORDS OVER LANGUAGE, DELIMITATION

# TN govt replaces rupee symbol with Tamil letter in state budget logo, draws Centre ire

As DMK defends move, Sitharaman slams 'mindset that weakens Indian unity, promotes secessionist sentiments'

**NIKHILA HENRY**  
CHENNAI, MARCH 13

SMITTEN over words with the Centre over the three-language policy, the Tamil Nadu government Thursday dropped the Devanagari rupee symbol and replaced it with a Tamil letter in its logo for the state Budget 2025-26, which will be tabled today in the Assembly.

**2024 LOGO**



**2025 LOGO**



The change in the TN Budget logo, posted on X by state BJP chief Ananthavelu, 7/1

This drew a sharp response from the BJP with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman calling it a "completely avoidable example of language and regional chauvinism". Targeting the DMK, she said this "signals a dangerous mindset that weakens Indian unity and promotes secessionist sentiments that threaten the coherence of regional parliaments".

The logo, released by the office of Chief Minister M K Stalin, which read "Thiruvudai Arasu" (Tamil for "The Sun"),

## Centre must focus on North's progress instead of threatening us: TN Minister

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

WITH THE DMK raising the pitch against the Centre over regional issues, delimitation, and the National Education Policy (NEP), party leader and Tamil Nadu Minister for IT and Digital Services Palanivel Thiagarajan indicated there was no ques-

tion of a climbdown, pointing to everything from construction of roads to population mismatch across states.

Speaking at the Indian Express's Idea Exchange session, Thiagarajan, who was earlier the Tamil Nadu Finance Minister, said there was "no raising our standards from the rich states to the poor states". "And the app has kept on working," he said. "When the government came to



P. Thiagarajan, DMK leader, TN Minister

**The Indian EXPRESS**  
And its readers  
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**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
BY UNNAY

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## PAK TRAIN HOSTAGES RETURN

Hostages rescued by security forces from a passenger train that was hijacked by rebels arrive at a railway station in Mach, in Pakistan's Balochistan province, on Thursday. **REPORT, PAGE 10**

## Former V-C of several universities arrested for posing as Oman's 'high commissioner'

**NEETIKA JHA**  
SHARADHAI, MARCH 13

A FORMER Vice-Chancellor of several universities was arrested in Sharadhai on Thursday for posing as the "High Commissioner of Oman" to seek VIP protection and security arrangements, police said. The accused has been identified as K S Rana Reddy, a resident of Delhi's Lajpat Nagar area.

**R S Rana** was snatched by UP police, his vehicle with blue numberplate has been seized



Recently made for visits by some dignitaries, police said. However, there were two red flags, Chhattisgarh Police Commissioner Anup Kumar Mishra said.

First, the term "High Commissioner" is only used for Commonwealth countries. "Oman is not part of the Commonwealth. There cannot be a High Commissioner of Oman," he found out and asked his team to verify where the security arrangements are

## ISRO undocks satellites, shot in arm for its future missions



On-board images of Spadix undocking. ISRO plans more docking, undocking experiments soon

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

NEARLY TWO months after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully demonstrated its docking capability, it disengaged and undocked the two satellites, Spadix and Spadix-2, at 9:20 am Thursday.

This capability is essential for future ISRO missions such as crewed missions, human space flight, and building its own space station.

The two satellites, Spadix1

(Chawan) and Spadix2 (Target), are now moving around separately in orbit.

For the undocking process, the Spadix2 arm controlling the two satellites was extended, the Spadix2 arm controlling the two satellites was given the command to separate.

With this manoeuvre, ISRO successfully demonstrated critical capabilities like rendezvous, docking and undocking, making India the fourth country after the United States, Russia and China to possess such capability. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Why this capability is key

THE CAPABILITY to dock and undock in space is key to Chandrayaan-3, which is to bring back samples from the Moon. For the Bharatya Antariksha Station, the modules will be launched separately and joined in space to create the space station.

## Govt launches exploration licence auction for critical minerals

**AGAM WALIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

THE MINISTRY of Mines Thursday launched the first tranche of auctions under the exploration licence regime on Thursday, five months after amending rules to allow change of EL auction following delays by state governments.

The tranche includes 13 blocks across 10 states, covering deposits of critical and developmental minerals such as gold, copper, manganese, zinc, rare earth elements (REE), vanadium, and zirconium — key inputs for industries ranging from electronics and renewable energy to defence and aerospace.

Speaking at the auction launch in Patna, in Goa, Mines Secretary V L Ranthia Rao said, "The way in foreign countries private companies go and do exploration on their own, and then get benefits out of that exploration, we are introducing that concept here. We give someone thousand square kilometres and give, as a private company, will go and do exploration, if you find that some critical deep-seated mineral is available there, then you can get licence for the next 50 years on the basis of joint discovery of the 13 blocks up for auction. Chhattisgarh (diamond), Jharkhand (gold and copper), and Madhya Pradesh (rare earths) have own each, while **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

### Perfect RangMunch!

Amul Wholly yellow

## Identify areas where US goods can be chosen over China, Govt asks industry

Sweeping US tariffs have hit \$5 billion in MSME steel exports: Exporters to Govt

**HAVI DUTTA MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

AMID FEARS of export disruptions due to US reciprocal tariffs set to take effect April 2, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Thursday asked the industry to identify areas where sourcing from China and other countries can be replaced by domestic goods, encourage facilities with the development had the Indian Express.

This comes days after US President Donald Trump criticised India's high tariffs in the automobile and agricultural sectors. The government is working on tariff cuts and market access to avoid sweeping US tariffs that are estimated to cost India \$5 billion in a trade war involving key European Union.

According to a statement from the Ministry, Commerce

Working to protect interests of exporters: Govt

Minister Piyush Goyal said the government is working to protect exporters' interests while simultaneously pursuing multiple strategies to ensure the best outcomes for Indian exporters.

On reciprocal tariffs, Goyal urged exporters to ensure buyers are "price-conscious customers" and encouraged them to build relationships with buyers. During a meeting with industry representatives Thursday, officials discussed the opportunities and impact of these tariffs and also announced export refund schemes. The government has already been allocated by Trump 25 per cent tariff reduction. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

### THE WORLD

#### PUTIN AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH U.S. PROPOSAL FOR 30-DAY CEASEFIRE

Page 10

## Autopsy on Kathua deaths: Injuries suggest trio likely fell into gorge

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMULI, MARCH 13

THE PRELIMINARY findings of an autopsy conducted by a board of doctors on the bodies of three civilians, who were found dead in a river flowing through the Kathua area in Jammu's Kathua district last week, indicate they died due to a fall into a gorge, it is learnt.

Pointing out that they had given the preliminary findings to the police on the day of the post-mortem, one of the doctors said they have observed their final findings hold the report of the deceased's survival is received. The victim had been sent to the forensic science laboratory for examination.

Citing the preliminary findings, official sources told The Indian Express that two of the deceased had head injuries, which may have been sustained in a fall from the hill into the nearby 300 feet-deep gorge. The third victim had vascular vessels in his left shoulder damaged, which may have happened after his body hit the branches of some trees while falling near the gorge sources said. Sources also said a backpack, that one of the findings hold the report of the

## Scientist who died in parking fight was part of groundbreaking research

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**JAGDIP MALHOTRA**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 13

CONNECTED TO a village in the Indian state of Karnataka, a scientist who died in a parking dispute with a neighbour in Mumbai last week was part of a team that discovered a new type of solar energy source, the so-called 'solar wind'.

As news of his death spread, scientists and researchers from around the world began to flock to his home in Karnataka, where he had been working on his research. His death was a significant loss to the scientific community.

"Irritant" son, Abhishek Swaraj, 30, a project scientist at the Indian Institute of Space Education and Research (ISER), Mumbai.

A few hours later, on Thursday evening, Abhishek's relatives conducted his last rites. The civil hospital authorities are yet to reveal the preliminary cause of his death. The only son, he is survived by his parents and two other sisters, both married.

Abhishek, who had authored over 100 research papers, was declared dead on arrival at his home in Mumbai last week, allegedly following a parking dispute with a neighbour in

Mumbai's sector 16. From Jharkhand, Abhishek, who had undertaken a kidney transplant in 2008, was back on dialysis at the time of the incident, his relatives said.

According to his peers, Abhishek was involved in "groundbreaking" research to harness solar energy. His research on solar energy conversion was highly innovative and was being used in various applications.

He had also been working on a project to harness solar energy using a solar tower. His research was highly innovative and was being used in various applications.



Abhishek Swaraj (above) with his mother Mani Devi (center) with relatives in Mumbai, June 2024

Abhishek Swaraj (above) with his mother Mani Devi (center) with relatives in Mumbai, June 2024

Abhishek Swaraj (above) with his mother Mani Devi (center) with relatives in Mumbai, June 2024

Abhishek Swaraj (above) with his mother Mani Devi (center) with relatives in Mumbai, June 2024

## AMID WAR OF WORDS OVER LANGUAGE, DELIMITATION

# TN govt replaces rupee symbol with Tamil letter in state budget logo, draws Centre ire

As DMK defends move, Sitharaman slams 'mindset that weakens Indian unity, promotes secessionist sentiments'

NIKHILA HENRY  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

AMID ITS war of words with the Centre over the three-language policy under the National Education Policy, the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government Thursday dropped the Devanagari rupee symbol and replaced it with a Tamil letter in its logo for the state Budget 2025-26, which will be tabled Friday in the Assembly.



The change in the TN Budget logo, posted on X by state BJP chief Annamalai. PTI

This drew a sharp response from the BJP with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman calling it a "completely avoidable example of language and regional chauvinism". Targeting the DMK, she said this "signals a dangerous mindset that weakens Indian unity and promotes secessionist sentiments under the pretence of regional pride".

The logo, released by the office of Chief Minister M K Stalin, which read 'Ellorkkum Ellaam' CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Centre must focus on North's progress instead of threatening us: TN Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

WITH THE DMK raising the pitch against the Centre over impending delimitation and the National Education Policy (NEP), party leader and Tamil Nadu Minister for IT and Digital Services Palanivel Thiaga Rajan indicated there was no ques-



P Thiaga Rajan, DMK leader, TN Minister

tion of a climbdown, pointing to everything from devolution of taxes to population mismatch across states.

Speaking at *The Indian Express's* Idea Exchange session, Thiaga Rajan, who was earlier the Tamil Nadu Finance Minister, said there were "increasing net transfers from the rich states to the poor states". "And the gap has kept on widening," he said. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





## Tamil Nadu Government Replaces Rupee Symbol | ரூபாய் சின்னம் ரு என மாற்றம்

- Tamil Nadu's 2025-26 state budget replaced the rupee symbol with the Tamil letter 'ru' (ரு) from the word 'Rubaai' (ரூபாய்), which means rupee.

तमिलनाडु के 2025-26 के राज्य बजट में रुपये के प्रतीक को तमिल अक्षर 'रु' (ரு) बदल दिया गया, जो शब्द 'रुबाई' (ரூபாய்) लिया गया है, जिसका अर्थ रुपये होता है।

- **The DMK government stated that this change highlights Tamil over the Devanagari script.**

द्रमक (DMK) सरकार ने कहा कि यह बदलाव तमिल लिपि को देवनागरी लिपि पर महत्व देने के लिए किया गया है।

## Centre's Criticism of the Move | इक्क टू घड् क्कड् हण च्छ्णव

- The BJP criticized the DMK government, calling the move 'absurd' and 'undermining national unity.'

भाजपा ने द्रमक सरकार की आलोचना करते हुए इस कदम को 'मूर्खतापूर्ण' और 'राष्ट्रीय एकता को कमजोर करने वाला' बताया।



# Holika Dahan and Holi: origin legends and cultural significance

YASHEE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

AS THE sun set on Thursday, many bonfires were lit across North India, with people gathered around, throwing green gram, wheat, or sesame seeds into the fire.

The fire symbolises many things — the triumph of good over evil, the end of winter and the advent of spring, and the incineration of inner faults for a purified and rejuvenated self.

Holika Dahan, as the bonfire is called, will be followed by Holi on Friday, the full moon night of the Hindu month of Phalgun.

Why is Holi celebrated?

Many Indians are familiar with the legend of Holika and Prahlad, and the Narasimha *avatar* of Vishnu. But other beliefs are also associated with the festival and its origins.

**EXPLAINED  
CULTURE**

## The burning of Holika

Holika was the sister of the *asura* king Hiranyakashyap (or Hiranyakashipu). Hiranyakashyap was powerful and arrogant, and demanded that his subjects worship him as god.

However, his own son, Prahlad, was a devotee of Vishnu, as the king's wife Kayadhu had lived for some time at the sage Narada's *ashram* with Prahlad.

Hiranyakashyap disliked Lord Vishnu, who had killed his brother Hiranyakasha in his third *avatar* as Varaha, the boar. So, when Prahlad refused to give up the worship of Vishnu, Hiranyakashyap decided to have him killed. He tried many ways, including throwing Prahlad off a cliff and having him trampled by elephants, but the boy was saved by the Lord every time.

Finally, Hiranyakashyap's sister, Holika, stepped in. She had a boon — fire could not

harm her. So, she walked into flames with Prahlad. However, thanks to his devotion, Prahlad was saved, and Holika was burnt to ashes instead.

Holika Dahan, or the burning of Holika, recreates this fire, and seeks to spread the message that devotion to the Lord can guard against powerful and magical adversaries.

Hiranyakashyap subsequently decided to kill Prahlad himself. The demon king had a boon from Lord Brahma — he could be killed by neither man nor animal, neither during the day nor night, neither by *shastra* (a conventional weapon) nor *astra* (weapon released through *mantras*), neither indoors nor outdoors.

To get past these protections, Vishnu took the form of Narasimha, half-man and half-lion, and killed Hiranyakashyap at dusk on the doorstep of his palace, using his claws.

## Krishna, spring, Kamdev

The festival of Holi is celebrated on the



Narasimha and Hiranyakashyap, 18th century painting. [Wikimedia Commons](#)

day after Holika Dahan. Holi too, is linked with Vishnu — in his Krishna *avatar*.

"Holi celebrates the arrival of spring. Lord Krishna in Vrindavan played with colours to mark the end of winter and the arrival of spring, the season of bounty and new beginnings," Jitamitra Das, a senior preacher at the ISKCON temple in New Delhi's East of

Kailash, told *The Indian Express*.

In fact, it is possible that various ancient harvest festivals and events celebrating the arrival of spring (*Vasantotsav*), eventually came under the umbrella of Holi. Research has found the word '*holak*' in the *Parishishtas* (addenda) of the *Atharva Veda*, indicating its antiquity. ('The Indian Spring Festival (*Vasantotsava*): One or Many?', Leona Anderson, *Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute*, 1988)

*Vasantotsav* and the ritual bonfire are also linked with Kamdev, the Hindu god of love. According to this legend, after the death of Sati, Lord Shiva retreated to the mountains to meditate. To make him return to the world and marry Parvati, Kamdev disturbed his meditation.

A furious Shiva opened his third eye and destroyed Kamdev. When his wife, Rati, begged for forgiveness, Shiva gave her a boon that Kamdev would live on in the *ananga* (bodyless) form, and be born as

Pradyumna, the son of Krishna and Rukmini.

The celebration of love, desire, and creation linked to Kamdev (or Madan) has become associated with Krishna too. In fact, one of the many names of Krishna is Madangopal.

## The significance of colour

In secular literature, one of the earliest detailed descriptions of Holi appears in the Sanskrit play *Ratnavali*, attributed to Harshavardhana, the king of Kannauj (c. 606-647 CE).

Holi is also believed to be the first day of the new year in the Samvatsar, or the Vedic calendar (different from the Vikram Samvat, the commonly used Hindu calendar). Thus, Holika Dahan signifies the end of the old year — and the celebration of Holi welcomes the new.

The significance of throwing colour on each other is to celebrate, as a community, the arrival of a new, fruitful season, and to collectively enjoy the bounties of nature.

## Significance of Holika Dahan and Holi | षड्ग्रह इव षण्णः ङ घ षड्ग्रह इव खण्डुः

- **Holika Dahan, the ritual bonfire, symbolizes the victory of good over evil.**  
होलिका दहन, जो एक पारंपरिक अग्नि अनुष्ठान है, बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत का प्रतीक है।
- **It marks the transition from winter to spring and the purification of the soul.**  
यह सर्दी से वसंत के आगमन और आत्मा की शुद्धि का संकेत देता है।
- **The festival of Holi is celebrated the next day, on the full moon night of Phalguna month.**  
होली का त्योहार अगले दिन फाल्गुन मास की पूर्णिमा को मनाया जाता है।

## The Legend of Holika and Prahlad | पृथ्वी वरु घब्रु क इ हडु व्र

- Holika was the sister of the demon king Hiranyakashyap, who demanded to be worshipped as a god.

होलिका दानव राजा हिरण्यकश्यप की बहन थी, जिसने स्वयं को भगवान मानकर पूजे जाने की माँग की।

- His son Prahlad, a devotee of Vishnu, refused to worship him.

उनके पुत्र प्रह्लाद, जो भगवान विष्णु के भक्त थे, ने उनकी पूजा करने से इनकार कर दिया।

- **Hiranyakashyap tried multiple times to kill Prahlad but failed.**  
हिरण्यकश्यप ने कई बार प्रह्लाद को मारने का प्रयास किया, लेकिन असफल रहा।
- **Holika, who had a boon that fire could not burn her, sat in flames with Prahlad.**  
होलिका को वरदान प्राप्त था कि अग्नि उसे जला नहीं सकती, इसलिए वह प्रह्लाद को लेकर आग में बैठ गई।
- **Due to Prahlad's devotion, Vishnu protected him, and Holika was burnt instead.**  
प्रह्लाद की भक्ति के कारण विष्णु ने उनकी रक्षा की, और होलिका जलकर भस्म हो गई।



## Narasimha Avatar and Hiranyakashyap's Death | षडश्रद्धांशं ब्रह्मघ्नं घ्नन् शृणुष्वः ह इव अश्रु

- **Hiranyakashyap obtained a boon that he could not be killed by man or animal, day or night, indoors or outdoors.**  
हिरण्यकश्यप को वरदान प्राप्त था कि वह न मनुष्य द्वारा मारा जा सकता है, न जानवर द्वारा, न दिन में, न रात में, न घर के अंदर, न बाहर।
- **To bypass this boon, Vishnu took the form of Narasimha (half-man, half-lion).**  
इस वरदान को निष्फल करने के लिए विष्णु ने नरसिंह (आधा मनुष्य, आधा सिंह) का रूप धारण किया।
- **He killed Hiranyakashyap at twilight, on the doorstep, using his claws.**  
उन्होंने संध्या समय, घर की चौखट पर, अपने नाखूनों से हिरण्यकश्यप का वध किया।

## Krishna, Vasantotsav, and Kamdev Connection | इन्द्राणाम् अहं कृष्णः अहं घ इन्द्राणाम् अहं कृष्णः

- Holi is linked to Lord Krishna, who played with colors in Vrindavan.  
होली का संबंध भगवान कृष्ण से है, जिन्होंने वृंदावन में रंगों से खेला।
- The festival also aligns with ancient harvest celebrations like Vasantotsav.  
यह त्योहार प्राचीन फसल उत्सव जैसे वसंतोत्सव से भी जुड़ा हुआ है।

- **Holi is associated with Kamdev, the god of love, who was burnt by Lord Shiva's wrath.**

होली का संबंध प्रेम के देवता कामदेव से भी है, जिन्हें भगवान शिव के क्रोध ने जला दिया था। **Shiva later granted him a rebirth as 'Ananga' (formless).**

शिव ने बाद में उन्हें 'अनंग' (निर्देही रूप) के रूप में पुनर्जन्म का वरदान दिया।

## The Significance of Colors in Holi | पञ्चहरकण्ड इह वरखण्डु

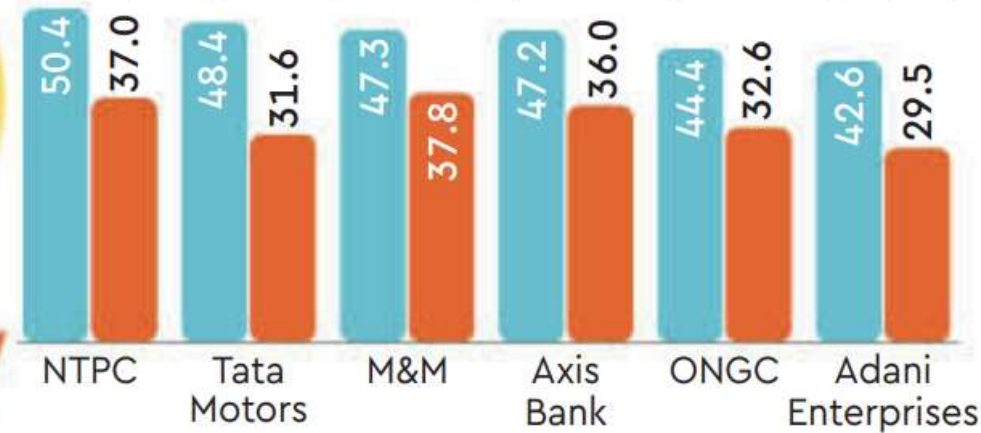
- Holi represents the transition to a new, prosperous season.  
होली एक नए, समृद्ध मौसम के आगमन का प्रतीक है।
- One of the earliest references to Holi is found in the Sanskrit play 'Ratnavali' by King Harsha (606-647 CE).  
होली का सबसे पुराना उल्लेख संस्कृत नाटक 'रत्नावली' में मिलता है, जिसे राजा हर्षवर्धन (606-647 ईस्वी) ने लिखा था।
- Throwing colors symbolizes joy, renewal, and social harmony.  
रंग खेलना आनंद, नवीनीकरण और सामाजिक सौहार्द का प्रतीक है।

# Six companies exit global 500 M-cap club



Stock market sell-off erodes market cap for 6 firms...

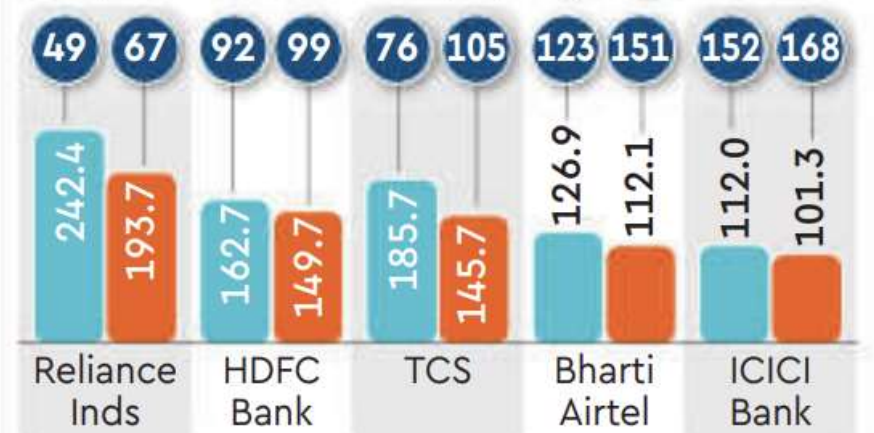
Mcap (Sep 2024) Mcap (Mar 2025) (in \$ bn)



Source: Bloomberg

...hurting top-5 firms' global ranking by m-cap too

Sep 2024 Mar 2025 (in \$ bn) Global rank



Compiled by Kishor Kadam

# Intel names Lip-Bu Tan as CEO

IAN KING

March 13

**SHARES OF INTEL** jumped the most in five years after the company named Lip-Bu Tan as its next chief executive officer, entrusting a former board member and semiconductor veteran with one of the toughest jobs in the chip industry.

Tan, 65, will assume the role on March 18, the company said in a statement Wednesday. He will rejoin the board as well after stepping down in August 2024.

Tan, the former head of Cadence Design Systems, is tasked with restoring the fortunes of a pioneering chipmaker that's become an industry laggard. Intel, which dominated the semiconductor field for decades, is struggling with market-share losses, manufacturing setbacks and a precipitous decline in its earnings. It's also burdened with debt and recently had to slash about 15,000 jobs.



Lip-Bu Tan, 65, will assume the role on March 18

The announcement stoked optimism from investors, who sent the stock up as much as 19% after markets opened in New York on Thursday, its biggest intraday gain since March 2020. Bank of America Corp. analysts also upgraded the shares to “neutral” after the announcement, citing Tan’s “solid track record.” Prior to Wednesday’s announce-

ment, the stock had declined more than 50% over the past 12 months as the company’s future became increasingly murky.

In a memo to Intel employees, Tan said he’s confident he can turn the business around.

“That’s not to say it will be easy. It won’t be,” he said. “But I am joining because I believe with every fiber of my being that we have what it takes to win. Intel plays an essential role in the technology ecosystem, both in the US and around the world.”

Tan’s predecessor, Pat Gelsinger, was pushed out by the board for a perceived failure to rejuvenate Intel’s product lineup. One of the most glaring challenges: creating an artificial intelligence accelerator chip that can rival the products of Nvidia. That company, once in Intel’s shadow, has seen its revenue and valuation skyrocket over the past two years due to the AI computing boom.

—BLOOMBERG

<b>Industry</b>	<a href="#">Semiconductors</a>
<b>Founded</b>	July 18, 1968; 56 years ago
<b>Founders</b>	<a href="#">Gordon Moore</a> <a href="#">Robert Noyce</a> <a href="#">Arthur Rock</a>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">Santa Clara, California, U.S.</a>  <a href="#">37°23′16″N</a> <a href="#">121°57′49″W</a>
<b>Area served</b>	Worldwide
<b>Key people</b>	<a href="#">Lip-Bu Tan</a> (CEO) Frank D. Yeary (chairman) <a href="#">David Zinsner</a> (CFO) MJ Holthaus (co-CEO - products)
<b>Revenue</b>	▼ <a href="#">US\$53.1 billion</a> (2024)
<b>Operating income</b>	▼ <a href="#">–US\$11.7 billion</a> (2024)
<b>Net income</b>	▼ <a href="#">–US\$19.2 billion</a> (2024)
<b>Total assets</b>	▲ <a href="#">US\$196.5 billion</a> (2024)
<b>Total equity</b>	▼ <a href="#">US\$105 billion</a> (2024)
<b>Number of employees</b>	108,900 (2024)
<b>Subsidiaries</b>	<a href="#">Mobileye</a> (94.2%) <a href="#">Intel Ireland</a>

**NEW HANDSET, WITH A STARTING PRICE OF \$599, REPLACES IPHONE SE**

# iPhone 16e is held back by its premium price

VLAD SAVOV

March 13

**WITH A STARTING** price of \$599, Apple's iPhone 16e is hardly a budget phone.

This new handset replaces the \$429 iPhone SE as the cheapest phone in Apple's lineup. And while it brings many of the iPhone 16's features and enhancements, including Apple Intelligence and a programmable Action button, it cuts back on camera capabilities, display quality and other areas. So it's neither cheap nor a full-fat iPhone. Who is it for?

People like me, perhaps. I've lived outside the Apple bubble for years now, opting for Android-powered devices offering better cameras and specs for the money.

But I have many US friends whose digital lives depend on iMessage, and I look on with envy at the ubiquity of Face ID and the company's unrivaled selection of third-party apps.

The "it just works" quality

## REVIEWING NEW SET OF APPLE

■ Priced at **\$429**, iPhone SE was the cheapest phone in Apple's lineup

■ iPhone 16e brings many features and enhancements of iPhone 16, including Apple Intelligence



■ However, the handset cuts back on camera capabilities, display quality and other areas

■ The 16e also marks the debut of Apple's in-house wireless modem

■ It replaces wireless modem from Qualcomm

■ A lite version at a palatable price could be appealing for Android users

■ In growing markets like India, price sensitivity could also see the 16e emerge as the favoured option in Apple's lineup

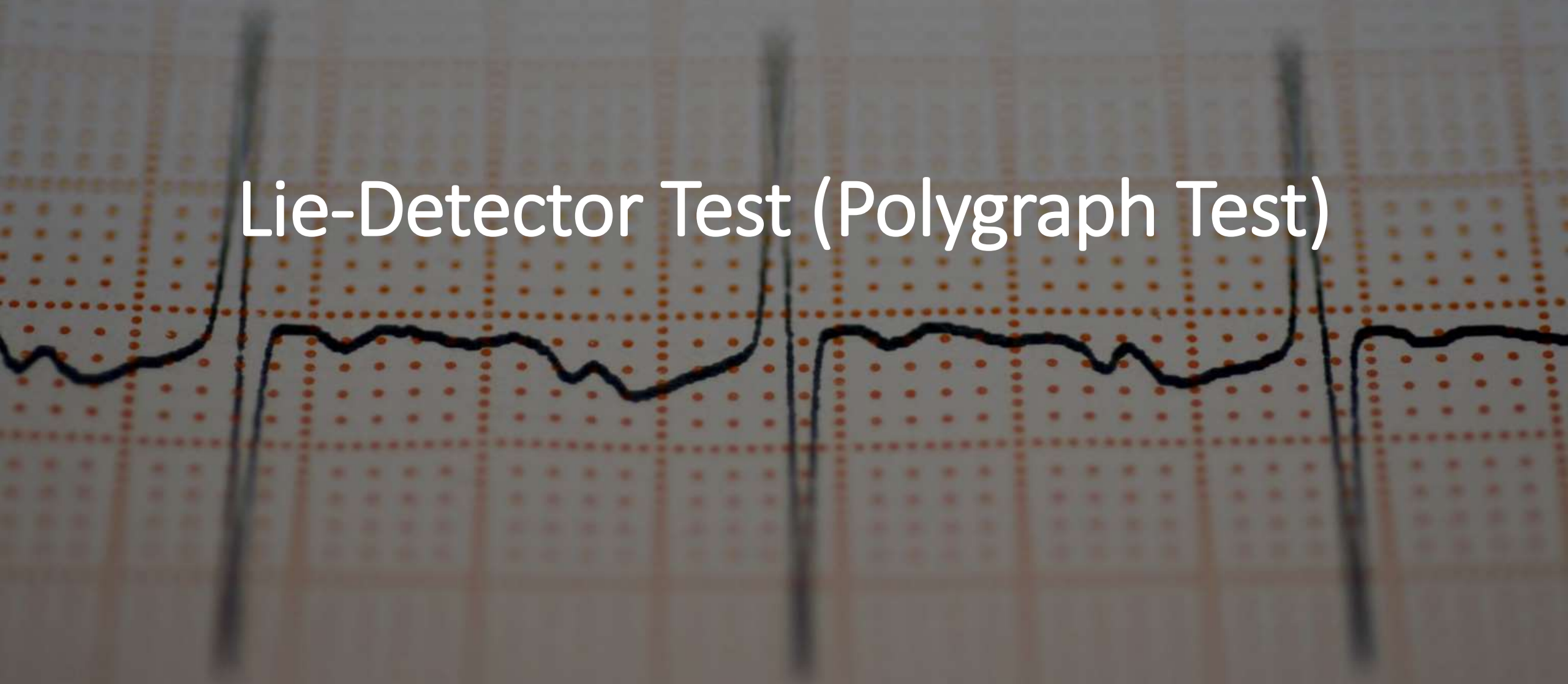
■ As per IDC data, Apple is asking more than double the average selling price from other brands

■ Brands like Oppo's OnePlus, Poco are bringing a mix of high specs, fresh designs and rock-bottom prices

■ Apple has decided to pull up the drawbridge and underline the idea that all of its products are premium



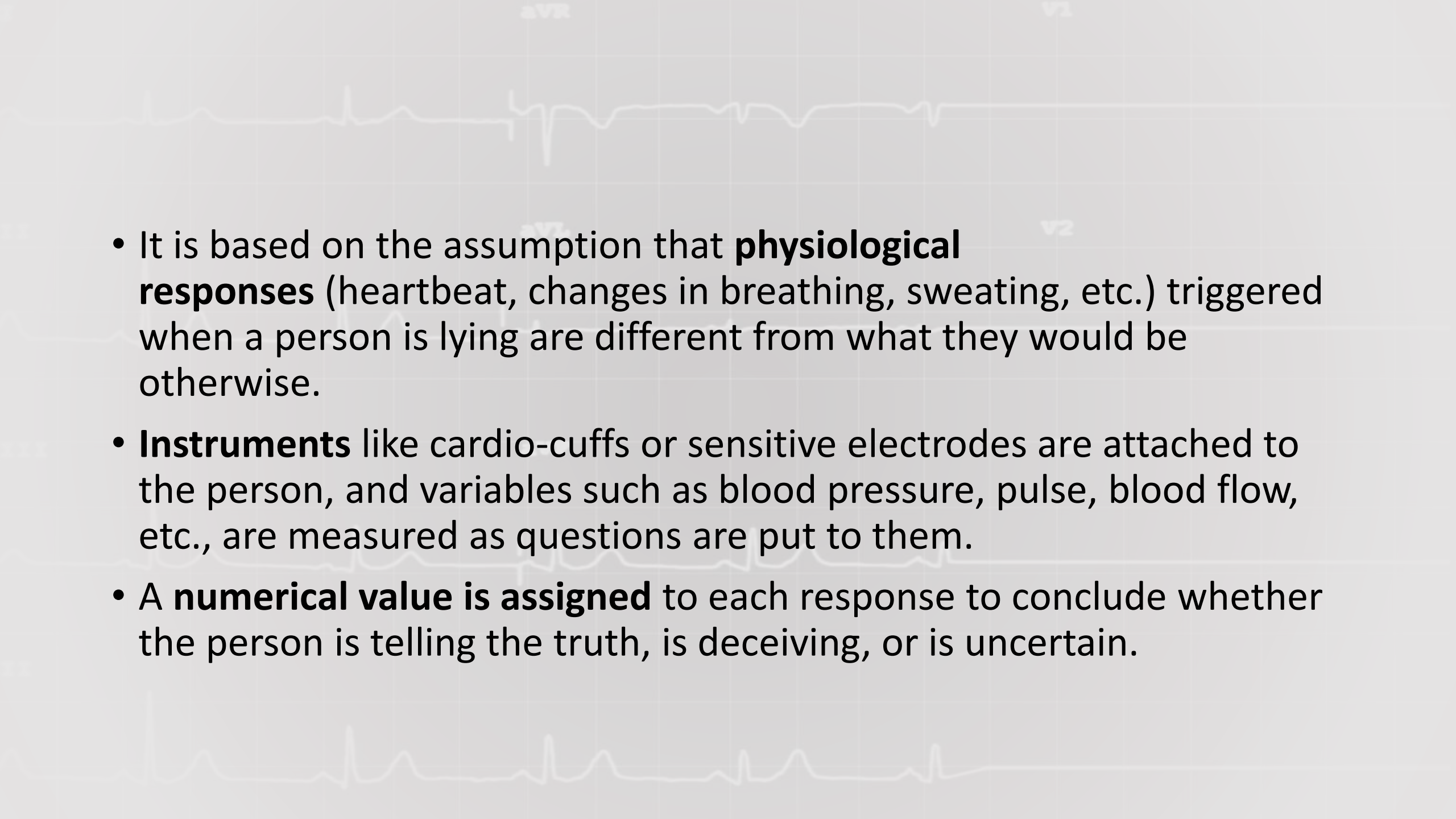
# Lie-Detector Test (Polygraph Test)



- The Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) conducted a **polygraph test of the** prime accused in the New India Cooperative Bank's fraud case.

### **What is the Polygraph Test?**

- The Polygraph Test is commonly known as a **lie detector test.**

- 
- The background of the slide features a faint, light-colored ECG (heart rate) line on a grid. The line shows several heartbeats with distinct P waves, QRS complexes, and T waves. Labels 'aVR', 'V1', 'aVL', and 'V2' are visible at the top and right edges of the grid, indicating lead positions.
- It is based on the assumption that **physiological responses** (heartbeat, changes in breathing, sweating, etc.) triggered when a person is lying are different from what they would be otherwise.
  - **Instruments** like cardio-cuffs or sensitive electrodes are attached to the person, and variables such as blood pressure, pulse, blood flow, etc., are measured as questions are put to them.
  - A **numerical value is assigned** to each response to conclude whether the person is telling the truth, is deceiving, or is uncertain.

# Do polygraphs detect lies?

*Polygraph or "lie detector" exams continue to be used by law enforcement and government agencies for various screenings even though most criminal courts ban polygraph evidence.*

## How reliable?

**Supporters** claim an 85-95 percent accuracy rate

**Critics** say there is not enough scientific evidence to say whether it detects lies or not

## What a polygraph measures

- Body movements
- Breathing (diaphragm)
- Breathing (chest)
- Perspiration
- Pulse, blood pressure

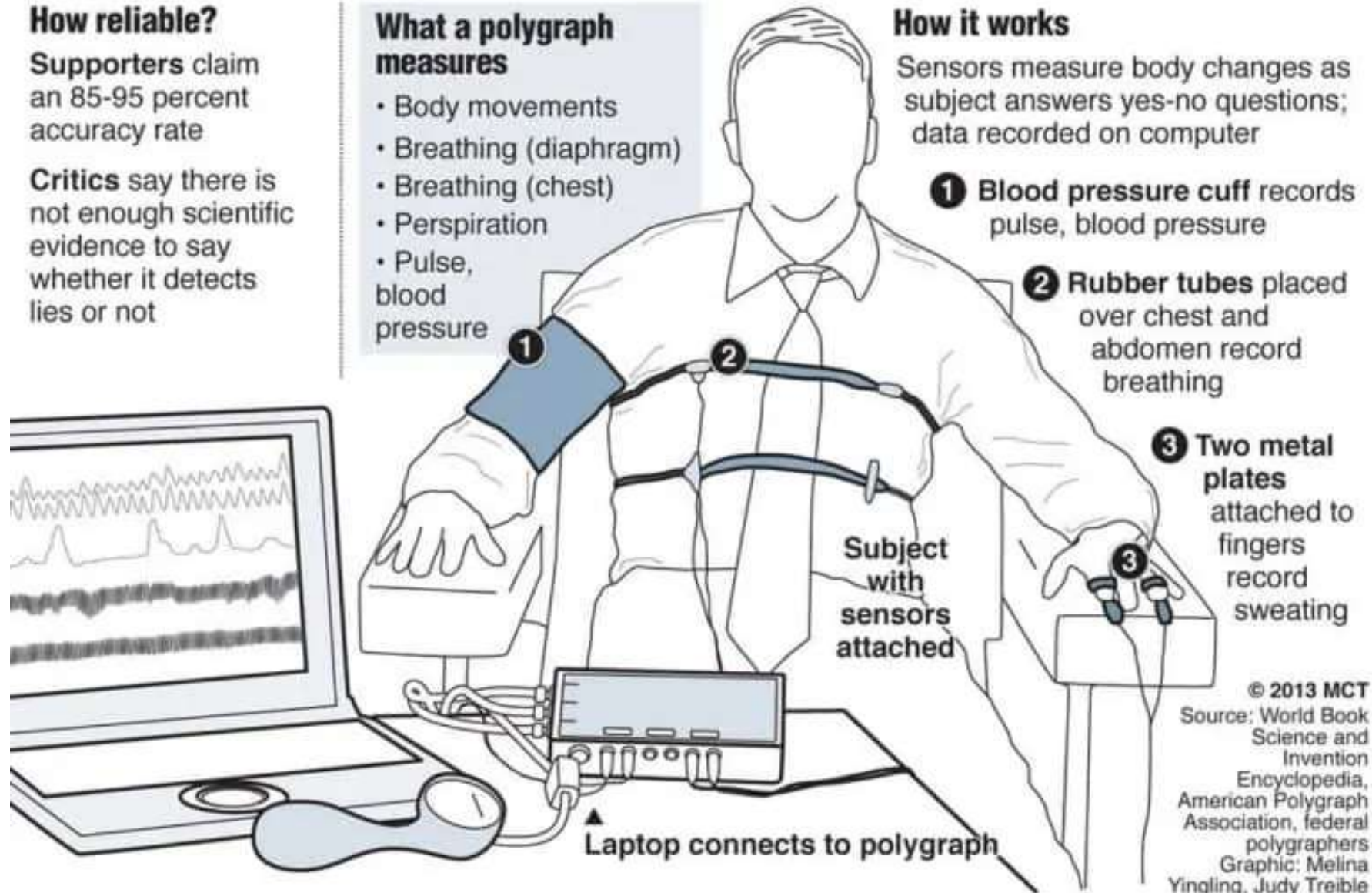
## How it works

Sensors measure body changes as subject answers yes-no questions; data recorded on computer

**1 Blood pressure cuff** records pulse, blood pressure

**2 Rubber tubes** placed over chest and abdomen record breathing

**3 Two metal plates** attached to fingers record sweating



© 2013 MCT  
Source: World Book Science and Invention Encyclopedia, American Polygraph Association, federal polygraphers  
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Judy Treible

- In '**Selvi & Ors vs State of Karnataka & Anr**' (2010) the Supreme Court said, that the results of the tests cannot be considered to be "**confessions**".
- However, any information or material subsequently discovered with the help of such a voluntarily-taken test can be admitted as evidence.



10 MCQ from the session

India recently became the fourth country to achieve satellite docking and undocking after which nations?

क्रकल क्षहङ्णमलुङ्ण ङ घ१ ङमलुङ्ण ड इङ्ग □ चल्कृञ्च हस्रड घङ्ङकृव  
दङ्कृवङ्ङ □ ङ कृ स्त ढ कृणचङ्ङ ङ्ङ घ् ङ्ङ ढ कृङ्ङ स्त क्षहंयसु डं इङ्गवैङ्ङ घ  
दङ्ङङ्ङण्ण

- A. U.S., Russia, China / १ स्रङ्ङड वऱ च ढ □ दङ्ङ
- B. U.K., France, Germany / गंखङ्ङख ङ कृ □ नं स्रङ्ङह
- C. Japan, Israel, South Korea / नं कृ कृ □ सधघकृच □ वंश्रु र् डं इङ्ङगव
- D. Brazil, Canada, Australia / मकृ ह्य □ इ ङ कृ वऱ छ a ङ्ङगव

**What was the altitude and inclination at which ISRO conducted the undocking operation of SpaDex satellites?**

सुद घडरु डु वरुडु क्षरुणुडु हरु डरुलुडु शु डु ररुवु डु घरु क्षरु हरु घ  
डु ह्य

- A. 400 km, 30-degree inclination
- B. 460 km, 45-degree inclination
- C. 500 km, 50-degree inclination
- D. 600 km, 60-degree inclination



What is the main objective of the SpaDex mission?

j क्वाड्रु श्वाट्ट ए इ वरखल्ल क्षुड्डि ए वण्ण

- A. To improve remote sensing technology / प्रारवड्डा ठु छु म लडु ए ह्ठु खळु  
ठु क्षुक्कडु घणु व
- B. To develop spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking technology / १ लु प्रल्ल गुरु इ हरखल्लु कुरु म लुक्कणु उ घु १ ए म लुक्कणु  
लडु ए ह्ठु श्वाडु श्कु लडु घणु व
- C. To launch reusable satellite systems / ह लुक्क ह गुरु गुरु क्षु ह डुणु  
डु कुरु ह च छु इ घणु व
- D. To test interplanetary travel techniques / १ लु घणु लु गुरु व लडु ए ह्ठु डु  
इ व ह घ लु र इ घणु व

Why is Starlink struggling to compete in the Indian market?

a क्वाश्चिद् क्वाश्चिद् रक्त्वाश्चिद् १ क्वाश्चिद् घञ् क्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् घञ् क्वाश्चिद्

• A. It has slow internet speeds compared to Jio and Airtel / स्तु इ ह स्तु घञ् इ j ह्वाश्चिद् ग्वाश्चिद् घञ् ग्वाश्चिद् इ ह्वाश्चिद् व्वाश्चिद् ह्वाश्चिद्

B. Its pricing is 10-14 times higher than local broadband providers / स्तु इ ह्वाश्चिद् ह्वाश्चिद् क्वाश्चिद् म्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् क्वाश्चिद् ह्वाश्चिद् व्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् १ श्वाश्चिद् ण्वाश्चिद्

C. It lacks government approval for operations / स्तु इत्त्वाश्चिद् क्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् क्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद्

D. Both B and C / इत्त्वाश्चिद् घञ् इत्त्वाश्चिद् इत्त्वाश्चिद्

In which country did Starlink reduce its prices to \$10/month to attract users?

Starlink ने अपने कीमतों को \$10/महीने तक कम करने के लिए किस देश में प्रयोग किया?

- A. India / भारत
- B. Kenya / केन्या
- C. Thailand / थाईलैंड
- D. Indonesia / इंडोनेशिया

What major change did Tamil Nadu's government make in its 2025-26 budget?

தமிழக அரசு 2025-26 ஆண்டு பட்ஜெட் க்கு என்ன முக்கிய மாற்றம் செய்தது?

- A. Introduced new taxes on IT companies / IT க்கு புதிய வரி கட்டியது.
- B. Replaced the rupee symbol with the Tamil letter ' ரூ ' / ரூபாய் குறியீட்டை தமிழ் எழுத்து ' ரூ ' யுடன் மாற்றியது.
- C. Implemented a Tamil-only official language policy / தமிழ் மட்டும் அலுவல்பூர்வ மொழி ஆகியது.
- D. Declared Tamil Nadu a 'Digital Economy Hub' / 'டிஜிட்டல் பொருளாதார மையம்' என்று தமிழகத்தை அறிவித்தது.

What was the Centre's reaction to Tamil Nadu's rupee symbol change?

लश्रवचण वक्षी क्प्रवङ् ह गकुडुड लह् रक्ळु इ ण्डु ँ वचक्र हघडुळु ढ घडु क्प्रडु ह  
डश्रुश्रु गवप्र वळुह्य

- A. It supported the move / स्टु ष डुडु ड वखडु वढु रक्ळुश्रु श्रु गव
- B. It called the move 'absurd' and 'against national unity' / स्टु डु  
'रक्ळु ब्रुवुश्रु षु घ 'घवुश्रु डुडु लवडुडुसु चवु ' डु णव
- C. It proposed a nationwide adoption of the Tamil rupee symbol /  
स्टु ष डुश्रुश्रु वङ् ह गकुडुडु लह् डु डुश्रुश्रु b घहघु हषु ककु वडु b क्प्र श्रु गव
- D. It remained neutral / स्टु ष डुडु f इडु १ हषु क्प्र

What does Holika Dahan symbolize in Indian tradition?

क्रकल्ल ह घ्न घवखयड्ड वण षु ढु वल्ल ण

- A. Victory of evil over good / षु ढु वल्ल ण
- B. Victory of good over evil / षु ढु वल्ल ण
- C. Harvest season celebration / षु ढु वल्ल ण
- D. Transition from monsoon to winter / षु ढु वल्ल ण

What is the main principle behind a polygraph (lie-detector) test?

हृदय गति में परिवर्तन / जड़ गति में परिवर्तन / श्वसन गति में परिवर्तन / वृद्धि में परिवर्तन

- A. Detecting changes in voice tone / श्वसन गति में परिवर्तन / वृद्धि में परिवर्तन
- B. Measuring physiological responses like heartbeat and sweating / जड़ गति में परिवर्तन / श्वसन गति में परिवर्तन
- C. Scanning brain activity to detect lies / श्वसन गति में परिवर्तन / वृद्धि में परिवर्तन
- D. Using AI to analyze verbal responses / श्वसन गति में परिवर्तन / वृद्धि में परिवर्तन

What did the Supreme Court rule in the 'Selvi vs. State of Karnataka' (2010) case regarding lie-detector tests?

‘दू कु ह० ष व्रप्र ड ष क्क ड घव जजडजडवववचडुवळु सलव ड डुवळु डु की हड नष डु अक्रहरवट ह डेव घ प्र व० चू चवश्र गवय

- A. Lie-detector test results are legally valid as confessions / प की हड नष डु अक्रहरवट ह डेवहप्र व्रप्र ड क सलहच ह दू कु ह क्रावप्र
- B. Lie-detector test results cannot be considered as confessions / प की हड नष डु अक्रहरवट ह डेवहप्र व्रप्र ड डु ह क्रावप्र ष एहवप्र वन वट ड लव
- C. Lie-detector tests are banned in India / ककाल खळु की हड नष डु अक्रडु हघलर डेव घ ड श्र० व एव
- D. Lie-detector tests are mandatory for criminal investigations / ष हघवश्र ड न क्रावळु की हड नष डु अक्रडु घलर १ श्र अक्रवप्र



# Word of the day

## **Petty:**

inferior in rank or status; small and of little importance; contemptibly narrow in outlook

---

**Synonyms:** fiddling, little, trivial, small-minded

---

**Usage:** *His petty comments cost him his friendship.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /pɛt.i/, [pʰɛr.i]

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some in the background. The lighting is soft and focused, creating a warm and appreciative atmosphere. The background is blurred, showing more people and what appears to be a window or light source.

Thank you  
guys.

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