

# Daily Current Affairs



**जनसक्ता**



**The Indian EXPRESS**

**THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS**



7  
**The Hindu**



4  
**PIB, PRS & Other  
newspaper**



3  
**The Indian  
Express**



0  
**Jansatta**



3  
**Financial  
Express**

# Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

MCQ

- . India and the U.S. are enhancing cooperation in Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) through which initiative?
- भारत और अमेरिका पानी के नीचे डोमेन जागरूकता (UDA) में सहयोग किस पहल के माध्यम से बढ़ा रहे हैं?
- A. QUAD Naval Pact / क्वाड नौसेना संधि
- B. Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA) / स्वायत्त प्रणाली उद्योग गठबंधन (ASIA)
- C. Strategic Indo-Pacific Maritime Accord / रणनीतिक इंडो-पैसिफिक समुद्री समझौता
- D. Maritime Defense Initiative (MDI) / समुद्री रक्षा पहल (MDI)

- Which Indian state has topped the Devolution Index (DI) ranking of the Panchayati Raj system?
- किस भारतीय राज्य ने पंचायत राज प्रणाली के विकेंद्रीकरण सूचकांक (DI) में पहला स्थान प्राप्त किया है?
- A. Kerala / केरल
- B. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- C. Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- D. Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु

- . Russia has developed a personalized mRNA-based vaccine for which disease?
- रूस ने किस बीमारी के लिए एक व्यक्तिगत एमआरएनए-आधारित वैक्सीन विकसित की है?
- A. Tuberculosis / क्षय रोग
- B. Diabetes / मधुमेह
- C. Cancer / कैंसर
- D. HIV/AIDS / एचआईवी/एड्स

- The 'Bima Vistaar' model proposed by IRDAI aims to provide coverage for which of the following?
- IRDAI द्वारा प्रस्तावित 'बीमा विस्तार' मॉडल निम्नलिखित में से किन क्षेत्रों को कवर करता है?
- A. Life insurance and pension plans / जीवन बीमा और पेंशन योजनाएँ
- B. Death, personal accident, property loss, and hospitalization / मृत्यु, व्यक्तिगत दुर्घटना, संपत्ति की हानि और अस्पताल में भर्ती
- C. Crop and livestock insurance / फसल और पशुधन बीमा
- D. Only health insurance / केवल स्वास्थ्य बीमा



- The Cook Islands recently signed an 'action plan' to strengthen ties with which country?
- कक आइलैंड्स ने हाल ही में किस देश के साथ संबंध मजबूत करने के लिए 'एक्शन प्लान' पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?
- A. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका  
B. Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया  
C. China / चीन  
D. United Kingdom / यूनाइटेड किंगडम

- The U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) recently canceled a \$21 million grant meant for what?
- अमेरिकी सरकारी दक्षता विभाग (DOGE) ने हाल ही में \$21 मिलियन की अनुदान राशि किस उद्देश्य के लिए रद्द की?
- A. Defense modernization in India / भारत में रक्षा आधुनिकीकरण
- B. Infrastructure projects in Africa / अफ्रीका में बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाएँ
- C. Voter turnout programs in India / भारत में मतदाता मतदान कार्यक्रम
- D. Educational scholarships for Asia / एशिया के लिए शैक्षिक छात्रवृत्तियाँ

- The 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) is being hosted in which city?
- 8वां हिंद महासागर सम्मेलन (IOC) किस शहर में आयोजित हो रहा है?
- A. New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- B. Singapore / सिंगापुर
- C. Muscat / मस्कट
- D. Jakarta / जकार्ता

- The J. C. Bose Grant (JBG) is launched by which Indian research foundation?
- J. C. बोस अनदान (JBG) किस भारतीय अनुसंधान फाउंडेशन द्वारा शुरू किया गया है?
- A. Indian Council of Scientific Research (ICSR) / भारतीय वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान परिषद (ICSR)  
B. Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) / अनुसंधान राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान फाउंडेशन (ANRF)  
C. Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) / भारतीय उन्नत अध्ययन संस्थान (IIAS)  
D. Technology Innovation and Research Board (TIRB) / प्रौद्योगिकी नवाचार और अनुसंधान बोर्ड (TIRB)

- The India-U.S. TRUST Initiative focuses on cooperation in which sector?
- भारत-अमेरिका TRUST पहल किस क्षेत्र में सहयोग पर केंद्रित है?
- A. Defense technology / रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी
- B. Critical minerals and strategic technology / महत्वपूर्ण खनिज और रणनीतिक प्रौद्योगिकी
- C. Renewable energy / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा
- D. Cybersecurity and digital infrastructure / साइबर सुरक्षा और डिजिटल बुनियादी ढांचा

- The India-U.S. 123 Agreement of 2007 is related to which sector?
- भारत-अमेरिका 123 समझौता 2007 किस क्षेत्र से संबंधित है?
- A. Bilateral trade / द्विपक्षीय व्यापार
- B. Civil nuclear energy cooperation / नागरिक परमाणु ऊर्जा सहयोग
- C. Defense and military collaboration / रक्षा और सैन्य सहयोग
- D. Space exploration and satellite technology / अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण और उपग्रह प्रौद्योगिकी

Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

Class24

# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट)-1

- सामान्य जागरूकता
- गणित
- सामान्य बुद्धि और तर्कशक्ति

20 OMR SHEETS सहित

— विशेषताएँ —

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



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Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

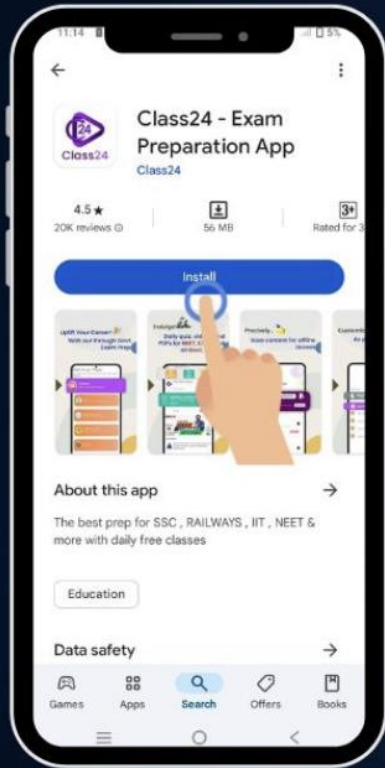
# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 मॉडल पेपर्स

Price  
Rs 199

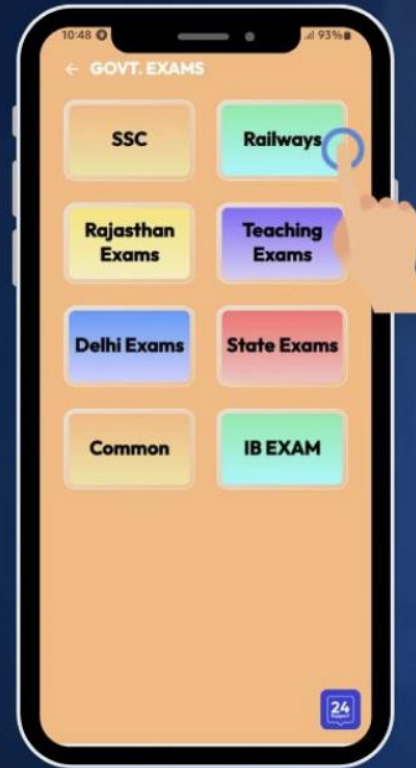
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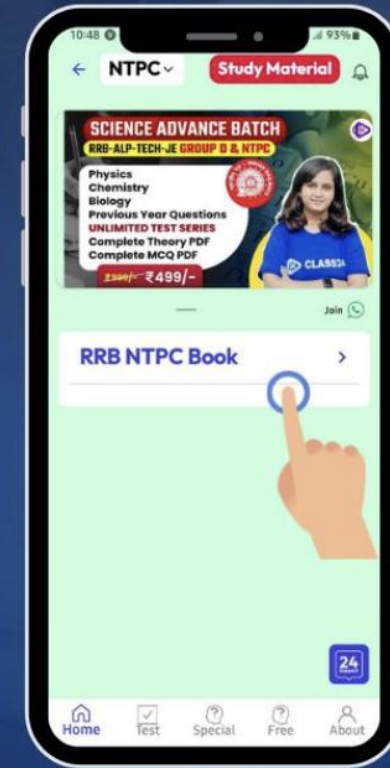
# Step 2



# Step 3



# Step 4





**We don't  
remember days,  
we remember  
moments.**

**Cesare Pavese**



Familiar: Self Care Companion



**CPCE REPORT**  
High levels of microbes  
in Kumbh river water  
NEWS » PAGE 6



**ABANI EXIT FROM PROJECT**  
Can't justify  
tariff, says  
Dissanayake  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**STUDENTS PROTEST**  
Odisha varsity in a fix  
after Nepal girl's death  
NEWS » PAGE 6



**DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS**  
A proposed  
solution taking  
the States along  
DMK MP seeks to redraw  
framework for disbursal  
OPINION » PAGE 9



**THE ORCHESTRATOR**  
Smriti powers RCB  
to big win over DC  
SPORT » PAGE 16

**INSIDE**



**Army responding  
appropriately on  
the border: Sinha**

**SEENAGAR**  
Jammu and Kashmir  
Lieutenant-Governor Manoj  
Sinha on Monday said "the  
Indian Army was giving a  
beating response" to the  
growing incidents of skirmishes  
on the Line of Control (LoC)  
panda a fresh challenge to  
security agencies. » PAGE 4

**Manipur MLAs  
get hoax calls in  
Jay Shah's name**

**NEW DELHI**  
After President's Rule was  
imposed in Manipur, legislators  
from the State has received  
calls from a person who  
allegedly identified himself as  
Jay Shah, son of Union Home  
Minister Amit Shah, offering  
them ministerial positions,  
police officials said. » PAGE 4

**60 stations will  
get holding areas:  
Railway Minister**

**NEW DELHI**  
Railway Minister Ashwini  
Vaishnaw told The Hindu that  
up to 60 railway stations across  
India, including NDLS, which  
handle heavy crowds had been  
identified and permanent  
holding areas would be built  
there to handle the extra  
rush. » PAGE 5

**Top Russian, U.S.  
officials prepare  
to begin talks**

Top Russian officials will hold  
talks with U.S. counterparts on  
restoring ties, negotiating an  
end to the war in Ukraine, and  
preparing a meeting between  
Russian President Vladimir  
Putin and U.S. President  
Donald Trump, the Kremlin  
said on Monday. » PAGE 14

**Finance Ministry likely to increase  
deposit insurance limit from ₹5 lakh**

**Ashokamithran T.**  
MUMBAI  
The Finance Ministry is  
considering raising the cur-  
rent limit of ₹5 lakh for de-  
posit insurance. M. Nagaraju,  
Secretary to the Department of Financial  
Services, said at a post-  
Budget press briefing here on  
Monday.  
"That increasing deposit  
insurance is under ac-  
tive consideration. As and  
when the government ap-  
proves, we will notify it,"  
he said. Finance Minister  
Nirmala Sitharaman, along  
with Secretaries of various  
departments, was present  
at the briefing.  
The official's statement  
comes days after the Re-  
serve Bank of India placed



curbs on the Mumbai-  
based New India Coopera-  
tive Bank for lack of liquid-  
ity. The bank's General  
Manager and Head of Ac-  
counts, Hitesh Mehta, was  
later found to have embezzled  
₹122 crore over a year and  
was remanded in police  
custody for five days on  
February 16.  
Money deposited by bank  
customers is insured

Wednesday as the case is  
before the court.  
Mr. Gyanesh Kumar, a  
1988-batch former Indian  
Administrative Service of-  
ficer belonging to the Ker-  
la cadre, retired as Union  
Cooperation Secretary on  
January 31, 2024. On  
March 14, 2024, he was ap-  
pointed as Election  
Commissioner.  
While the Prime Minis-  
ter leads the selection pa-  
nel, Home Minister Amit  
Shah and Leader of the Op-  
position in the Lok Sabha  
Rahul Gandhi are its  
members.  
"Paritisan mechanism"  
Congress sources said Mr.  
Gandhi left the meeting at  
the Prime Minister's of-  
ficial residence, after sub-  
mitting his objections in  
writing.  
Mr. Gandhi was not pre-  
sent when the names were



**New release:** Gyanesh Kumar was the senior-most Election  
Commissioner under his predecessor Rajiv Kumar. FILE PHOTO

vs Union of India declared  
that the CEC and the ECs  
should be appointed by a  
committee comprising the  
Prime Minister, the LoP  
Leader of the Opposition  
and the CJ (Chief Justice of  
India). Congress leader  
Abhishek Manu Singhvi  
said.  
While maintaining that  
the Leader of the Opposi-  
tion participated in the  
meeting, Mr. Singhvi said:  
"What he said, what hap-  
pened, what he discussed,  
etc., is not for me to try to  
speculate upon. We can't  
say anything. What hap-  
pened you will come to  
know in the next 24-48  
hours."  
Congress treasurer Ajay  
Maken, who was present at  
the meeting, said, "We  
cannot say more. We  
must not stand for  
ward. What happened in a  
secret meeting, we cannot

say as we respect secrecy."  
This is the first time that  
a CEC is selected under  
provision of the Chief  
Election Commissioner  
and other Election Com-  
missioners (Appointment,  
Conditions of Service and  
Term of Office) Act, 2023.  
Before this, Mr. Kumar and  
Sudhir Singh Sandhu had  
been selected as Election  
Commissioners under the  
new law.  
Earlier, the CEC and  
Election Commissioners  
were appointed by the Pre-  
sident after recommenda-  
tions of the government.  
The new law came into ef-  
fect after the Supreme  
Court in its ruling in  
March 2023, mandated  
that a selection panel be  
formed with the Prime Mi-  
nister, the Leader of the  
Opposition in the Lok Sa-  
ha, and the Chief Justice of  
India.

The court had said the  
order would hold good un-  
til a law was made by Par-  
liament. The Centre  
though replaced the Chief  
Justice of India with a Un-  
ion Minister on the panel  
when the law was passed,  
giving a dominant role to it  
in the appointment  
process.  
"Consensus needed"  
Mr. Kumar was the senior-  
most Election Commis-  
sioner after CEC Rajiv Ku-  
mar. In a farewell address,  
Mr. Rajiv Kumar said it was  
high time that NRIs were  
empowered to vote from  
their locations and a con-  
sensus was needed for re-  
more voting mechanisms  
to facilitate crores of mi-  
grant voters.  
He batted for biometric  
authentication at polling  
booths to tackle impero-  
nation.

**Going underground**



**Subterranean transit:** Workers in a tunnel built for the Mahatma Gandhi Road Metro station that is coming up on the Pink Line of the  
Bengaluru Metro network on Monday. The station will be an interchange transit point between the pink and purple lines. FILE PHOTO K.

**SC puts off cases challenging  
Places of Worship Act with  
Centre yet to file a response**

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on  
Monday saw the Centre  
maintain a strict silence by  
not filing a counter-affidavit  
putting on record its re-  
sponse to a challenge to  
the validity of the Places of  
Worship Act (Special Pro-  
visions) Act, 1991, a law that  
protects the identity and  
character of religious sites  
since independence Day,  
even as protesters and in-  
terveners raised multifa-  
rious viewpoints and legal  
questions before the court.  
The case has been pend-  
ing for over four years.  
Eight orders of the court  
from October 2022 to De-  
cember 2024, variously re-  
cord the court either grant-  
ing the government time to  
file an affidavit or the go-  
vernment promising the  
court that it was preparing  
a "comprehensive" one.  
The case, which was  
due to be heard on Mon-  
day, was adjourned to the  
week starting on April 1 by  
a Bench headed by Chief  
Justice of India Sanjay  
Kumar Reddy.

minority organisations,  
political parties and emi-  
nent individuals. The  
Centre is represented by  
solicitor-General Tushar  
Mehta and advocate Kanu  
Agrawal.  
Mr. Raj said interven-  
tions were bound to hap-  
pen in a case involving a fun-  
damental constitutional  
question. Mr. Singh, ap-  
pearing for petitioner-adv-  
ocate Ashwini Kumar  
Upadhyay, said the court  
had issued notice in the  
initial petitions as way back  
as in 2021. "Please direct  
the Centre to file its coun-  
ter-affidavit at least in these  
petitions," he submitted.  
Earlier in the day, senior  
advocate Indira Jaising, ap-  
pearing for one of the peti-  
tioners, orally mentioned  
the case before the three-  
judge Bench combination  
headed by Chief Justice  
Karnan and Justices  
Kamath and Justice Sanjay  
Kumar.  
However, the third  
judge on the Bench, Justice  
K.V. Viswanathan, was un-  
available as he was heading  
another Bench headed by  
Chief Justice Karnan and  
Justice Sanjay Kumar.  
It may not be taken up  
today," Chief Justice Kar-  
nan had indicated to Ms.  
Jaising in the morning. She  
had reminded the court  
that legal issues to be ad-  
dressed in the case were  
yet to be framed.  
Parties in support of the



Parties that support the 1991 law say that local courts were in  
violation of the Act while ordering surveys of mosques. FILE PHOTO

1991 law described it as a  
bastion against the mush-  
rooming suits which ul-  
timately intended to pave  
the way towards retrogres-  
sion and communal ten-  
sions.  
**Violation of the Act**  
They highlighted that va-  
rious local courts, by or-  
dering surveys of mosque  
premises in civil suits  
were in direct violation of  
Section 3 of the Act prohib-  
iting the conversion of any  
place of worship and Sec-  
tion 4, which impose a  
positive obligation to main-  
tain the religious character  
of every place of worship  
as it existed on August 15,  
1947.  
On the other hand,  
those who have challenged  
the legality of the 1991 Act  
blame it for barring Hin-  
dus, Jains, Buddhists and  
Sikhs from approaching  
courts to "reclaim" their  
places of worship which  
were "invaded" and "en-  
croached" upon by "fun-  
damentalist barbaric in-  
vaders".  
On December 12, the top  
court barred civil courts  
from registering fresh suits  
or passing orders in pend-  
ing ones seeking to "re-  
claim" temples destroyed  
by Mughal "invaders" in  
the 16th century.

**'Ensure  
Hasina stops  
incendiary  
remarks'**

**Suhasini Halder**  
MUSCAT  
India-Bangladesh ties were  
"very tense" when the in-  
terim government came to  
power in August 2024, but  
have improved since, par-  
ticularly on normalising  
trade, Bangladesh's For-  
eign Affairs Adviser Tou-  
hid Hossain said on Mon-  
day.  
Speaking to The Hindu,  
Mr. Hossain defended the  
regulatory action should  
be taken on it. But it is not  
right to take a decision on  
the whole sector with the  
action of one bank. Coop-  
erative banks are working  
very well in various  
States", he said.  
**INTERVIEW ON**  
» PAGE 5

# Gyanesh Kumar named CEC after panel meeting

The former IAS officer who was serving as an Election Commissioner is to assume office tomorrow; Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi appointed Election Commissioner; Congress had sought adjournment of the PM-led panel's meeting as the Supreme Court is set to hear a challenge to the new law under which the selection had been made

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

**E**lection Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed Chief Election Commissioner after a meeting of a three-member committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. He will assume office on Wednesday, when the Supreme Court will hear the challenge to a new law under which the selection has been made.

The Law Ministry notified the appointment late on Monday. Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi has been appointed an Election Commissioner.

Mr. Kumar's appointment came even as the Congress asked the government to "adjourn" the meeting of the panel till

Wednesday as the case is before the court.

Mr. Gyanesh Kumar, a 1988-batch former Indian Administrative Service officer belonging to the Kerala cadre, retired as Union Cooperation Secretary on January 31, 2024. On March 14, 2024, he was appointed Election Commissioner.

While the Prime Minister heads the selection panel, Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are its members.

## 'Partisan mechanism'

Congress sources said Mr. Gandhi left the meeting at the Prime Minister's official residence, after submitting his objections in writing.

Mr. Gandhi was not present when the names were



**New role:** Gyanesh Kumar was the senior most Election Commissioner under his predecessor Rajiv Kumar. FILE PHOTO

discussed. At a press conference after the meeting, the Congress said the new law under which the committee had been constituted created a "partisan" and "non-neutral" mechanism for the selection of Election Commissioners. The party asked the government to seek an ear-

ly hearing and early disposal of the application in the court.

"At the outset, we cannot ignore that this committee is in clear and direct violation of the Supreme Court's judgment of March 2, 2023 where a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in *Anoop Baranwal*

*vs Union of India* declared that the CEC and the ECs should be appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the LoP [Leader of the Opposition] and the CJI [Chief Justice of India]," Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said.

While maintaining that the Leader of the Opposition participated in the meeting, Mr. Singhvi said: "What he said, what happened, what he discussed, etc., is not for me or you to speculate upon. We can't say anything. What happened you will come to know in the next 24-48 hours."

Congress treasurer Ajay Maken, who was present at the press conference, said, "We cannot say more. We have put our stand forward. What happened in a secret meeting, we cannot

say as we respect secrecy."

This is the first time that a CEC is selected under provisions of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. Before this, Mr. Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu had been selected as Election Commissioners under the new law.

Earlier, the CEC and Election Commissioners were appointed by the President after recommendations of the government. The new law came into effect after the Supreme Court, in its ruling in March 2023, mandated that a selection panel be formed with the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India.


The court had said the order would hold good until a law was made by Parliament. The Centre though replaced the Chief Justice of India with a Union Minister on the panel when the law was passed, giving a dominant role to it in the appointment process.

## 'Consensus needed'


Mr. Kumar was the senior-most Election Commissioner after CEC Rajiv Kumar. In a farewell address, Mr. Rajiv Kumar said it was high time that NRIs were empowered to vote from their locations and a consensus was needed for remote voting mechanisms to facilitate crores of migrant voters.


He batted for biometric authentication at polling booths to tackle impersonation.


-  Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) following a panel meeting led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

 चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में पैनल बैठक के बाद मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) नियुक्त किया गया।


-  He will assume office on Wednesday as the Supreme Court is set to hear a challenge against the new law under which his selection was made.





 वे बुधवार को पदभार ग्रहण करेंगे, जब सुप्रीम कोर्ट उस नए कानून को लेकर सुनवाई करेगा जिसके तहत उनकी नियुक्ति की गई है।





-  The selection panel included Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. However, Congress sources said Rahul Gandhi submitted objections in writing and walked out of the meeting.

 चयन समिति में गृह मंत्री अमित शाह और विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी शामिल थे। हालांकि, कांग्रेस के सूत्रों के अनुसार, राहुल गांधी ने लिखित में आपत्तियां दर्ज कराकर बैठक छोड़ दी।

-  Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi has been appointed as an Election Commissioner.

 हरियाणा के मुख्य सचिव विवेक जोशी को चुनाव आयुक्त नियुक्त किया गया है।

-  This is the first time a CEC has been appointed under the provisions of the new Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.  
 यह पहली बार है जब मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त की नियुक्ति नए 'मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त (नियुक्ति, सेवा शर्तें और कार्यकाल) अधिनियम, 2023' के तहत हुई है।
-  Under this law, the Chief Justice of India was replaced with a Union Minister in the selection panel, giving the government a dominant role in appointments.  
 इस कानून के तहत, चयन समिति में भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश की जगह एक केंद्रीय मंत्री को शामिल किया गया, जिससे सरकार को नियुक्तियों में प्रमुख भूमिका मिली।

-  The Congress has called the new law "partisan and non-neutral" and a violation of the Supreme Court's March 2023 judgment in the Anoop Baranwal case.  
 कांग्रेस ने इस नए कानून को "पक्षपाती और गैर-तटस्थ" बताते हुए इसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मार्च 2023 के अनुरोध बरनवाल मामले के फैसले का उल्लंघन करार दिया है।
-  Outgoing CEC Rajiv Kumar emphasized the need for NRIs to vote remotely and advocated biometric authentication at polling booths.  
 निवर्तमान सीईसी राजीव कुमार ने प्रवासी भारतीयों (NRIs) के लिए दूरस्थ मतदान और मतदान केंद्रों पर बायोमेट्रिक प्रमाणीकरण की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

- **Constitutional & Governance Aspects | संवैधानिक और शासन संबंधी पहलू**
- **✓ Election Commission of India (ECI) and Its Autonomy | भारत का चुनाव आयोग और इसकी स्वायत्तता**
- Article 324 of the Indian Constitution vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission.
- भारतीय संविधान का अनुच्छेद 324 चुनाव आयोग को चुनावों की निगरानी, दिशा और नियंत्रण की शक्ति प्रदान करता है।



- **Significance of the Supreme Court's Judgment in Anoop Baranwal Case | अनुरोध बरनवाल मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले का महत्व**
- The SC ruled that the CEC and ECs should be appointed by a committee comprising the PM, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India.
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसला दिया कि सीईसी और चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति प्रधानमंत्री, विपक्ष के नेता और भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश की समिति द्वारा की जानी चाहिए।

- **Concerns Over Government's Dominance in Appointments | सरकार के दबदबे को लेकर चिंताएं**
- Critics argue that replacing the CJI with a Union Minister in the panel undermines the independence of the ECI.
- आलोचकों का मानना है कि पैनल में सीजेआई की जगह केंद्रीय मंत्री को शामिल करना चुनाव आयोग की स्वतंत्रता को कमजोर करता है।
- **✓ Need for Consensus in Selection Process | चयन प्रक्रिया में सहमति की आवश्यकता**
- Experts believe a broad-based consultation is required to maintain neutrality in CEC appointments.
- विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि सीईसी नियुक्तियों में निष्पक्षता बनाए रखने के लिए व्यापक परामर्श की आवश्यकता है।

# Finance Ministry likely to increase deposit insurance limit from ₹5 lakh

**Ashokamithran T.**

MUMBAI

The Finance Ministry is considering raising the current limit of ₹5 lakh for deposit insurance, M. Nagaraju, Secretary to the Department of Financial Services, said at a post-Budget press briefing here on Monday.

“That [increasing deposit insurance] is under active consideration. As and when the government approves, we will notify it,” he said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Secretaries of various departments, was present at the briefing.

The official’s statement comes days after the Reserve Bank of India placed



M. Nagaraju

curbs on the Mumbai-based New India Cooperative Bank for lack of liquidity. The bank’s General Manager and Head of Accounts, Hitesh Mehta, was later found to have embezzled ₹122 crore over a year and was remanded in police custody for five days on February 16.

Money deposited by bank customers is insured

under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation under the Finance Ministry.





When a bank fails and the RBI steps in to stop withdrawals, the corporation acts as a guard to secure the money of depositors. The corporation has been in existence since January 1968. The deposit insurance limit was increased to ₹5 lakh in 2020 from ₹1 lakh fixed in 1993, following the failure of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.





Mr. Nagaraju declined to comment on the scam at the Mumbai bank, saying the RBI had taken action



on the issue.

Asked about the safety of deposits in cooperative banks, Ajay Seth, Secretary to the Department of Economic Affairs, maintained that it was the job of the regulator, and cooperative banks were working well in many States.

“The cooperative banks in the country today are under investigation. If there is any weakness in this, then it is the work of the regulator. If there is any weakness in this, then regulatory action should be taken on it. But it is not right to take a decision on the whole sector with the action of one bank. Cooperative banks are working very well in various States”, he said.

-  The Finance Ministry is considering increasing the deposit insurance limit from ₹5 lakh to a higher amount.  
 वित्त मंत्रालय ₹5 लाख की जमा बीमा सीमा को बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहा है।
-  M. Nagaraju, Secretary to the Department of Financial Services, confirmed that the proposal is under active consideration and will be notified once approved by the government.  
 वित्तीय सेवा विभाग के सचिव एम. नागराज ने पष्टि की कि यह प्रस्ताव सक्रिय विचाराधीन है और सरकार की मंजूरी के बाद अधिसूचित किया जाएगा।

-  The announcement follows RBI's imposition of restrictions on the New India Cooperative Bank due to liquidity issues.  
 घोषणा भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) द्वारा तरलता की समस्याओं के कारण न्यू इंडिया को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के बाद की गई।
-  The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), under the Finance Ministry, insures bank deposits under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.  
 वित्त मंत्रालय के तहत डिपॉजिट इंश्योरेंस एंड क्रेडिट गारंटी कॉर्पोरेशन (DICGC) बैंक जमा को 1961 के डिपॉजिट इंश्योरेंस एंड क्रेडिट गारंटी कॉर्पोरेशन अधिनियम के तहत बीमा करता है।

-  The deposit insurance limit was last increased to ₹5 lakh in 2020 from ₹1 lakh (fixed in 1993) after the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank crisis.
-  जमा बीमा सीमा को आखिरी बार 2020 में ₹1 लाख (1993 में तय) से बढ़ाकर ₹5 लाख कर दिया गया था, जब पंजाब और महाराष्ट्र को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक संकट सामने आया था।

- ✓ **What is Deposit Insurance? | जमा बीमा क्या है?**
- Deposit Insurance is a system that protects bank depositors by ensuring their deposits up to a certain limit in case of bank failure.
- जमा बीमा एक प्रणाली है जो बैंक विफलता की स्थिति में बैंक जमाकर्ताओं को एक निश्चित सीमा तक उनकी जमा राशि की सुरक्षा प्रदान करती है।

- ✓ **Role of DICGC | डीआईसीजीसी की भूमिका**
- The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a subsidiary of the RBI that provides insurance coverage for bank deposits.
- डिपॉजिट इंश्योरेंस एंड क्रेडिट गारंटी कॉर्पोरेशन (DICGC) भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) की एक सहायक इकाई है जो बैंक जमाओं के लिए बीमा कवरेज प्रदान करती है।



- ✓ **Why Increase the Insurance Limit? | बीमा सीमा बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता क्यों?**
- Rising bank failures have made depositors wary.
- बढ़ते बैंक विफलताओं ने जमाकर्ताओं को चिंतित कर दिया है।
- Inflation and economic changes demand higher coverage.
- मुद्रास्फीति और आर्थिक परिवर्तनों के कारण अधिक कवरेज की आवश्यकता है।
- To ensure public confidence in the banking sector.
- बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में जनता का विश्वास बनाए रखने के लिए।

- ✓ **Concerns Over Cooperative Banks | सहकारी बैंकों को लेकर चिंताएं**
- Several cooperative banks have faced liquidity crises in recent years, leading to concerns about depositor safety.
- हाल के वर्षों में कई सहकारी बैंकों ने तरलता संकट का सामना किया है, जिससे जमाकर्ताओं की सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंताएं बढ़ गई हैं।
- Regulatory lapses and fraudulent activities have worsened the situation.
- नियामक चूक और धोखाधड़ी गतिविधियों ने स्थिति को और खराब कर दिया है।

## IN BRIEF



## Prime Minister receives Emir of Qatar at airport

Extending a rare gesture of hospitality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday went to the airport to receive the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, who arrived here on a two-day visit to India. The Emir is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Droupadi Murmu and hold talks with Mr. Modi on Tuesday. His visit comes at the invitation of the Prime Minister. This will be the second state visit of the Emir of Qatar to India. He last visited India in 2015. The Ministry of External Affairs had earlier said. The ties between the two countries, including in the areas of trade, investment, energy and culture have continued to strengthen in the recent years. ■

## SC to hear plea against Bhopal waste disposal in Pithampur

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine a plea challenging a Madhya Pradesh High Court decision to transport 337 metric tonnes of chemical waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy site for disposal in Pithampur. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih listed the case for next week. Senior advocate Devdatt Kamat, appearing for Chinmay Mishra, the petitioner, said the local population in Pithampur were "up in arms" against bringing the waste to their neighbourhood.

## Delhi rocked by second strongest earthquake in three decades

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

The 4-magnitude earthquake that originated in Delhi early on Monday was the strongest since a 4.6-magnitude tremor in 2007.

While of a "moderate" intensity, the latest earthquake, accompanied by a distinct rumble, served as a rude, earth-shaking awakening to denizens of the city at the broader National Capital Region. In Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram because it was "shallower" than a mere five kilometres from the surface.

The 4.6-magnitude quake in November 2007 barely registered with many because it was at a 10-km depth, meaning that most of the energy dissipated by the time that seismic waves reached the surface.

O.P. Mishra, Director, National Centre for Seismology (NCS), told *The Hindu*.

An analysis by the insti-



Strong impact: A man stands near an uprooted tree at Dhaula Kuan's Jheel Park, the epicentre of the earthquake, on Monday. ■

It is the continuation of seismic activity in a 50-km radius of Monday's earthquake says that from 1993 to 2025, 446 earthquakes ranging in magnitude from 1.1 to 4.6 have been reported. The highest magnitude (M 4.6) of an earthquake was reported on November 25, 2007, which is about six kilometres north-west of Monday's earthquake, which originated at Jheel Park, in Delhi, according to the agency.

## Border Guard Bangladesh delegation lands in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

A high-level delegation of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGD) reached New Delhi on Monday for the bi-annual Director-General-level talks with the Border Security Force (BSF).

The talks will take place between Tuesday and Thursday. The BSF is likely to raise the attack on its personnel by armed militants.

The 55th Director-General-level Border Coordination Conference between the two forces will be held at the BSF headquarters. The Bangladesh delegation may also call on some senior Union Home Ministry authorities, a BSF official said.

The Indian delegation is led by BSF Director-General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, while the visiting Bangladesh team is headed by BGCB D-G Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui.

The BSF said in a statement last week that the conference is being organised to discuss border-related issues and improve coordination between the border guarding forces.

Satyasundar Barik  
BHUBANESWAR

More than 500 students from Nepal were forced to leave the campus of a private university in Bhubaneswar on Monday as tensions mounted following the death of a girl student from the neighbouring country.

The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), a deemed-to-be-university, closed for all students from Nepal. It left behind busloads of students at the Cuttack railway station, 30 km from the institute. Additionally, arrangements have been made to ensure they are not stranded at the railway station, with several agencies to return home, based on the KIIT's request. The university is closed *sine die* for all the international students from Nepal. They are here-by directed to vacate the university campus immediately today on February 17, 2025.

The incident evoked sharp reactions from the Nepal government. "Our Embassy in New Delhi has



Railing demands: A video grab of Nepal students protesting at the KIIT in Bhubaneswar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dispatched two officers to counsel Nepali students affected in Odisha. Additionally, arrangements have been made to ensure they are not stranded at the railway station, with several agencies to return home, based on the KIIT's request. The university is closed *sine die* for all the international students from Nepal. They are here-by directed to vacate the university campus immediately today on February 17, 2025.

The incident evoked sharp reactions from the Nepal government. "Our Embassy in New Delhi has

## Odisha university evicts 500 Nepal students after protests on campus

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology forced students to vacate campus after they staged protests over death of a girl; they were later told to return as Nepal PM intervened; Oil says embassy has despatched two officers to assist the students

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Accordingly, the temporary suspension of the academic classes and hostels is immediately withdrawn," the institute said.

According to the police, Prakriti Lamsal, a third-year B.Tech student, ended her life in her hostel room on Sunday afternoon following a suspected strained relationship with a male student. Following this, students, particularly those from Nepal, staged protests demanding the arrest of the boy.

"We had received a police complaint about the reported suicide of a Nepali girl student on February 16. We rushed to the hostel room and tried to pacify students to return to their respective places voluntarily with the help of local students until the local inquiry is completed."

## High levels of microbes found in river water at Kumbh, says CPCB report

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

High levels of faecal coliform (microbes from human and animal waste) were found in river water in which people took holy dip during Maha Kumbh Mela Prayagraj, according to a report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

"River water quality was not conforming with the primary water quality for bathing with reference to Faecal Coliform (FC) at all the monitored locations on various occasions. Huge number of people taking bath at Prayagraj during Maha Kumbh Mela including on auspicious bathing days, eventually led to increase in faecal concentration," an NGT order quoted the report. The CPCB report was submitted to the green



Big crowd: Devotees taking a dip at the Sangam during Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj earlier this month. SPECIAL SOURCE

court on February 3. The Principal Bench of the NGT comprising Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A. Senthil Vel was hearing a plea about the quality of Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Prayagraj.

"So far as the UPPCB (Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board) concerned no comprehensive action taken report as di-

rector, Public Relations, KIIT, in a statement, said, "Police had taken a male student - believed to have been in a relationship with the deceased - into custody for questioning."

Racist remarks Students criticised the university for its alleged high-handedness. They were set to appear for examinations starting in the last week of February.

They alleged that the university passed racist remarks during the student protest. "We cannot reveal her identity. But one of the authorities said the amount spent by the university on students' welfare was more than the national budget of Nepal. The statement has been captured in the video," said a student, who was snatched at the Cuttack station.

Those in distress or having mental tendencies can seek help and counselling by calling Sanjivini Society for Mental Health, telephone: 01-40769002, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

## CBSE warns against false exam paper leak claims

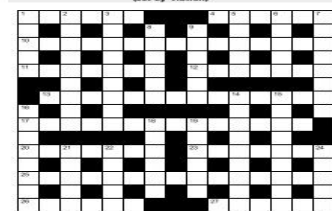
Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday asked parents and students to remain vigilant against social media claims about Class 10 and 12 Board exam paper leaks.

Officials said the Board was actively monitoring and talking action against those guilty of spreading rumours.

"It has come to the Board's attention that certain unscrupulous elements are spreading rumours on YouTube, Facebook, X, and other social media platforms regarding paper leaks or claiming access to the 2025 examination question papers," a senior official said. "The CBSE is actively monitoring and taking action against those responsible for spreading false information," the official added. Class 10 and 12 Board exams began on Saturday.

## CROSSWORD 14411



Across

- Discerner of most charming part of workplace (6)
- Small, baby-like divers (6)
- Mysterious figure from the Caribbean? (7,8)
- Kind of coal that is having right energy count (7)
- Women mostly are tired after killing a bird? (7)

To solve this puzzle online, go to <https://www.puzzle-link.com/>

- One coming in for a test runs into division like 1/2 or 1/4 (6,8)
- Metaphor is one form of address? (6,2,6)
- Regularly turns to liquor to open up (7)
- With smile, Commie returned to mill? (7)
- Part of a book - story about black huster in much hollowed times (5,2)
- Firm to redo works (6)
- Work with nervy, wobbly dragon (6)
- Down
- Solidly built beginner starts to idolise coach (5)
- Exciting short period of time invested in farming (9)
- Female parlous, magical crystal (9)
- Position of a professor, one involved with housemaid (5)
- Bold generation! Learner's winning all games in the set (5)
- Controlling, exuding power from high ground (8)
- English men in contest about floral arrangement (6)
- One produces seed mostly without fuss (6)
- Attraction of a counterculture icon, most want to taste (9)
- Nice start to day? Nice start to occasion (9)
- Trembling, awful at times, say (8)
- Need is involved (3,3)
- Employ beats in song (4,2)
- Unduly involved a British ban (5)
- Girl kept hostage by their enemies (5)
- Control over society? Japan is an example! (5)

## SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

## FAITH

## Lessons from Ramayana

We learn dharma from Lord Rama, but we also get valuable lessons from other characters in the Ramayana, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. Even the negative characters such as Soorpanakha and Mareecha have something to offer by way of messages. Manthara is an example of what happens when a husband and wife allow a third person to dictate the equation between them. Who was Manthara to advise Kaikeyi, and turn her against Dasaratha and Rama? Had Kaikeyi not paid heed to her, then Dasaratha would not have died, Rama would not have gone to the forest. Bharata would not have spoken harsh words to her. The citizens of Ayodhya would not have lost their respect for her. But she took Manthara's advice, with the result that there was sorrow in the kingdom. Kaikeyi is an example of what happens when we listen to wrong advice. It is an example of what happens when we are overambitious. So from Kaikeyi we learn what not to do, and how not to behave. Sumitra shows us that we must react calmly to disastrous situations. From Lakshmana and Bharata, we learn of how important it is to serve the Lord. Through Hanuman we learn of the power of Rama bhakti. From Vibhishana we learn that if people in our family do something wrong, we must ask them to mend their ways. And if they do not, we should turn away from them. From the end that Valli meets, we learn that those who break dharmic codes, will come to a sorry end. From Ravana we learn where pride and despicable desires will lead us. From Sugreeva's life, we learn that we must place our trust in Rama, and that if we do, He will never let us down.

# Delhi rocked by second strongest earthquake in three decades

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

The 4-magnitude earthquake that originated in Delhi early on Monday was the strongest since a 4.6-magnitude temblor in 2007.

While of a 'moderate' intensity, the latest earthquake, accompanied by a distinct rumble, served as a rude, early-morning awakening to denizens of the city at the broader National Capital Region in Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram because it was 'shallow,' or a mere five kilometres from the surface.

"The 4.6-magnitude quake in November 2007 barely registered with many because it was at a 10-km depth, meaning that most of the energy dissipated by the time that seismic waves reached the surface," O.P. Mishra, Director, National Centre for Seismology (NCS), told *The Hindu*.

An analysis by the insti-



**Strong impact:** A man stands near an uprooted tree at Dhaula Kuan's Jheel Park, the epicentre of the earthquake, on Monday. PTI

tution of seismic activity in a 50-km radius of Monday's earthquake says that from 1993 to 2025, 446 earthquakes ranging in magnitude from 1.1 to 4.6 have been reported. The highest magnitude (M 4.6) of an earthquake was reported on November 25, 2007, which is about six kilometres north-west of Monday's earthquake, which originated at Jheel Park, in Delhi, according to the agency.

"(The quake) occurred due to normal faulting that supported the concept of hydro fracturing as the principal cause of seismogenesis of varying strengths," an NCS report on the event noted. In other words, below Delhi's surface lie vast water channels of aquifers, ancient rivers and rivulets, and over aeons, they erode the underlying rocks causing various "fractures", triggering seismic waves in the

process. Mr. Mishra noted that the earthquake conformed with patterns previously reported in Delhi and that it was "highly unlikely" the city, and its surrounding suburbs, would ever experience a quake bigger than a 6 magnitude. While there were 'faults' – fissures and rifts beneath the earth that release vast stores of energy in the Delhi region, the Mahendranagar fault, or the Sohana fault among them – they were not large enough to release energy beyond a 6 magnitude.

## 'Shallow quake'

"In fact, the latest quake has shown that a shallow quake of magnitude 4 has not caused any serious structural damage or casualty anywhere in Delhi. This underlines that ensuring new buildings conform to the latest building codes and old ones adequately retrofitted, can insure against even serious quakes," Mr. Mishra said.

- **Magnitude & Origin (तीव्रता और उत्पत्ति)**
- A 4.0-magnitude earthquake struck Delhi early morning on Monday.
- It was the strongest earthquake since the 4.6-magnitude tremor in 2007.
- The epicenter was **Jheel Park, Delhi**.
- **Shallow Depth Impact (छोटे गहराई का प्रभाव)**
- The earthquake was **shallow**, occurring just 5 km below the surface, leading to a stronger felt impact.
- Previous significant earthquake in the region was recorded at 4.6-magnitude on **November 25, 2007**.

- **Scientific Explanation (वैज्ञानिक व्याख्या)**
- The quake was caused by **normal faulting** due to hydro-fracturing, a process where water channels beneath Delhi's surface erode the rock over time, leading to cracks.
- The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) confirmed that Delhi has **multiple faults** (Mahendragarh Fault, Sohana Fault) but lacks energy reserves large enough to produce a **6+ magnitude earthquake**.

## 1. Safety & Preparedness (सुरक्षा और तैयारी)

1. The "**shallow nature**" of the earthquake ensured no major damage.
2. Experts emphasized **upgrading old buildings and enforcing seismic-resistant infrastructure** to mitigate future risks.

- **Historical Perspective (ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण)**

- 1.Past Earthquakes in Delhi (दिल्ली में पिछले भूकंप)**

1. November 25, 2007 – 4.6 magnitude.
2. 1993-2025: **Over 446 small earthquakes** recorded in the region.
3. Delhi lies in **Seismic Zone IV**, indicating high seismic activity.

- 2.Major Earthquakes in India (भारत में बड़े भूकंप)**

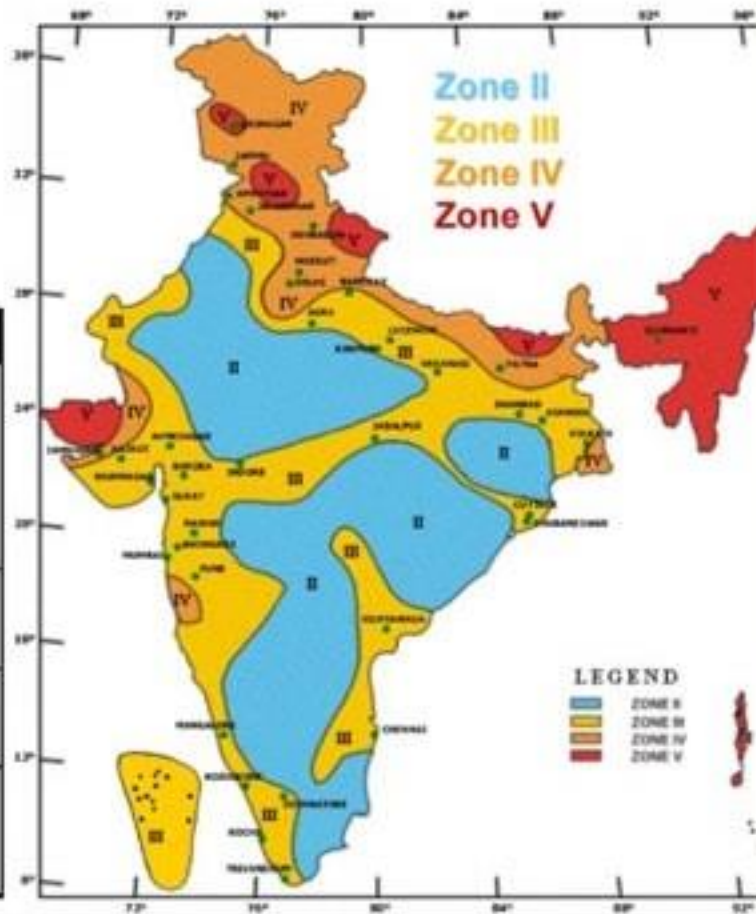
1. 2001 Bhuj Earthquake (7.7 magnitude) – **20,000+ deaths**.
2. 2015 Nepal Earthquake – affected **Bihar & UP**, causing massive destruction.



## Seismic Zone Map of India: -2002

About 59 percent of the land area of India is liable to seismic hazard damage

Zone	Intensity
Zone V	<b>Very High Risk Zone</b> Area liable to shaking Intensity IX (and above)
Zone IV	<b>High Risk Zone</b> Intensity VIII
Zone III	<b>Moderate Risk Zone</b> Intensity VII
Zone II	<b>Low Risk Zone</b> VI (and lower)



# Seismic Zones in India

- **Geographical Impact (भौगोलिक प्रभाव)**

- 1. Seismic Activity in Delhi (दिल्ली में भूकंपीय गतिविधि)**

1. Delhi falls under **Seismic Zone IV** (high damage risk).
2. Fault lines like **Mahendragarh Fault, Sohana Fault** increase vulnerability.

- 2. Urbanization and Risk (शहरीकरण और जोखिम)**

1. Delhi's **dense population** and **high-rise buildings** make it prone to damage.
2. Need for **seismic-resistant construction techniques**.

## Tighten the pollution burden of thermal power States

### Mela and meele

People's safety should be prioritised over football at Maha Kumbh

The Maha Kumbh Mela that is ongoing in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, has showcased what the gapting maw between the Centre and the State's plans for such a large event and why they believe are sufficient resources to conduct it. Ahead of the mela, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and their cabinet colleagues had touted the special arrangements made for the mela, including a surveillance system equipped with artificial intelligence to track crowds, water filters to keep the rivers clean, a makeshift town replete with hospitals and special-purpose trains and buses. But they have not sufficed. There have been numerous reports of people being frustrated at the venue and during journeys to and from there. The mela's under-management, simmering just below the surface, was transformed to outright mismanagement by the deaths of people in a crowd crush on January 29. The confused response by the Indian Railways to another crush at the New Delhi railway station, on February 15, indicated the Centre's unwillingness to co-ordinate the disaster, on the back of an expense of ₹7,500 crore for the mela and its various hi-tech preparations. Such preparations, however, cannot make up for changes that need to be made over time, such as redeveloping a local railway station.

Officials were reluctant to confirm that people had died even as local hospitals were reporting deaths. In one particularly unfair statement, a Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) blamed "unnecessary" rush at the New Delhi railway station for the "catastrophe". The consensus among fire safety experts worldwide is that such events occur when there is external cause for a group to panic, whether lacking the money to buy another ticket should they miss a train or suffering injuries due to unsafe pedestrian conditions. A preliminary probe revealed that the train ways had sold 2,600 additional tickets, and an announcement at the station of the arrival of a different train rendered this a source of confusion and panic for passengers to attempt to reach the wrong platform. The Railways had now said that the special trains for the mela will depart from one fixed platform at the station. Such interventions that are already well-known to experts including clear, multilingual communications, restricted ticketing, and proactive crowd control — could have mitigated the tragedy. Many less prominent gathering places still lack attention vis-à-vis public safety. Both the Centre and States should eliminate these risks, post-haste, if the Centre's plans to increase football at places of worship are not to lead to more catastrophe. While encouraging spiritual tourism, the hype around hosting 45 crore people at the Maha Kumbh Mela, absurdly impossible as it sounds, should be toned down so as not to feed a political frenzy. The government must be careful that the cost of fulfilling political aspirations is not paid for in terms of human lives.

### End of intrigue

India and Pakistan must reach a broader consensus on sports

In a cricket calendar packed with international fixtures and domestic T20 leagues, the ICC Champions Trophy has managed to attract the ODI and T20 World Cup. The ICC World Test Championship, remain the marquee global events, and the Champions Trophy once seemed expendable. However, the desire for an ICC-branded tournament almost every year, coupled with its commercial appeal, has ensured its survival. Now, the ninth edition kicks off in Karachi on Wednesday, with host Pakistan facing New Zealand. The tournament, which is nearly derailed by the ever-present political tensions between India and Pakistan, India initially refused to tour Pakistan, jeopardising the event, but a compromise was reached: India's matches will be played in Dubai, while the final will be played at their Group A fixtures in the UAE, and if they reach the final, the title clash will also be held there. Once again, a global cricket tournament has been tainted by geopolitical disputes, an issue that will persist until India and Pakistan's leadership arrive at a broader consensus, including on sports. India begins its campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai on Thursday.

After a disappointing T-3 Test series loss in Australia, India is seeking redemption in the Champions Trophy through the ODI format. A recent 3-0 home sweep against England provided momentum, but the real challenge awaits India under the West Asian skies. Rohit, under scrutiny for his form, found some respite with a century against England, but he and his team will need to deliver more to get to the end stage of the tournament. Beating Pakistan, technically the tournament host, at a neutral venue, will add some drama to the political intrigue. The absence of injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will be felt, though Mohammed Shami's return offers some relief. Adding to the national spotlight on this tournament is the possibility that it could be the final ICC event for Rohit, Virat Kohli and Randeep Jadeja. Having won the ICC T20 World Cup last year, India is determined to reclaim the Champions Trophy, last won in 2013. Beyond India-Pakistan intrigue, Australia remains a strong contender, despite missing its pace-bowling trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, and Josh Hazlewood. Meanwhile, the absence of West Indies and Sri Lanka from the tournament is another indicator of the shifting balance in international cricket.

In its first updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in August 2022, India has committed to first, adopting a climate-friendly and cleaner path to economic development; second, reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from the 2005 level; and third, achieving about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030 along with other strategic commitments. Currently, thermal power has the dominant share in India's electricity basket. Under the new regime, thermal power will also have a 50% share.

**Agency of emissions**  
Thermal power production results in a huge amount of carbon emission. The power-producing States bear the burden of all this pollution to provide electricity to the consuming States, so, who should pay for the pollution burdens of thermal power plants? This article looks at thermal power production under the central sector and recommended compensation mechanisms for thermal power producing States. India has a total installed capacity of 4,56,757 MW in which the central sector has 22.6% share, the State sector has 21.7% and the private sector, a 55.4% share. 60% of the total electricity generation capacity from thermal power plants (2,37,268.91 MW), private sector power plants have a capacity of 85,890.095 MW. The State sector has 75,991.905 MW (23.03%), and the central sector has the capacity of 75,237.91 MW (31.77%). Central sector power plants which are located in several States, have 31.77% of the total electricity generation capacity. NITI Aayog data show that India accounts for 20,794.38 kg of carbon emission from electricity generation.

According to the Ministry of Coal, Government of India (April 1, 2023), the total reserves of coal in India are 378.21 billion tonnes, of which Odisha alone accounts for 94.52 billion tonnes. Around 80.12% of the total energy supply in India is from coal. In India, around 73.08% (1,80,42.9 million units) and 1.48% (23,885.04 million units) of electricity are generated from coal, oil and natural gas, respectively, in 2022-23. Thus, the thermal power sector remains a major contributor to carbon emissions in India.

According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Maharashtra had the highest non-renewable electricity generation capacity (3,510.08 MegaWatt or MW), followed by Uttar Pradesh (28,729.374 MW) and Gujarat (26,073.41 MW) in 2022-23. Rajasthan had the highest renewable electricity generation capacity in India at 22,398.05 MW of installation capacity. Despite



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Thermal power producing States need to be well compensated for bearing the burden of pollution while supplying electricity to power consuming States

## Georgia and the resurrection of the colour revolutions

With the dawn of the 21st century, post-Soviet States experienced a wave of uprisings known as the "colour revolutions". The movements were associated with specific colours and were largely peaceful protests to replace pro-Moscow governments with a pro-West government in the name of democratic reforms. Though they were non-violent, peaceful and democratic, the Russian elites often perceived them to be western-backed strategies in order to weaken Moscow's sphere of influence.

The most notable examples include Georgia's Rose Revolution (2003), Ukraine's Orange Revolution (2004), and Kyrgyzstan's Tulip Revolution (2005). These protests, on the face of it, appeared peaceful and democratic. Still, these movements received active help from governments and organisations such as the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), formed during the Cold War to support and promote American social and political values.

**The Russian view**  
British strategist B.H. Liddell Hart's concept of "fighting 'on the other side of the hill'" aptly describes such an approach which prioritised destabilisation and political subversion over confrontation. Russia viewed such movements as threats to its influence in neighbouring States and as a model that could inspire similar challenges within its borders. This perspective extended beyond former Soviet space, with Russia and other powers, including China, seeing these revolutions as a blueprint for low-cost, high-impact interventions in regions such as West Asia, Africa, Central Asia and South Asia. Since the face of these "colour revolutions" was not up to the expectations for which they were brought about — that is, transforming these States into most of them with primordial loyalties, into a corruption-free western ally. Very soon the changes that resulted failed to ameliorate the situation on the ground. One set of corrupt people was replaced by another set of corrupt people owing their allegiance and political ideas

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Transparency and the judge**  
It is rather surprising that Harish Salve has taken exception to former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud's interview to the BBC on sensitive matters. If judges are to speak only through their judgments — as Mr. Salve has said so — it should equally apply to lawyers. Their arguments should be confined within the four

walls of the court. If Mr. Salve's argument was accepted seriously, it would mean the end of democracy in India. Media through whom people raise questions and demand answers. We have seen in recent times how many judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court express their views on judgments after their retirement. This is but

having the highest electricity generation capacity, some States consume more than their generation.

Thermal electricity generation by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) also shows that the States producing the maximum electricity do not consume most of it — Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh consume 40%, 38.43%, and 29.92%, respectively, of the electricity produced by NTPC in their respective States. Gujarat is the highest consumer of NTPC produced electricity (4,612 MW) despite the State's own generation of 17.7 MW by the NTPC. Gujarat and Maharashtra purchase electricity from different States from what is produced by the central sector and in other sectors.

Thermal electricity-producing States bear a disproportionate pollution burden when compared to the consuming State. Data from the CEA show that Tripura has the highest (98.56%) share of thermal power in the total electricity generation capacity, followed by Bihar (95.57%), Chhattisgarh (94.35%), Jharkhand (92.69%), Delhi (87.96%), West Bengal (87.72%), and Uttar Pradesh (81.84%). Not all the electricity generated in the State is being utilised inside the State. Bihar sold 16,525.66 MW of electricity in 2022-23.

NITI Aayog data show that Chhattisgarh is the highest net seller of electricity among all Indian States with 65.28 MW in 2022-23. It is followed by Madhya Pradesh (379.19 MW), Himachal Pradesh (353.43 MW), Rajasthan (335.14 MW), Odisha (325.46 MW), and Meghalaya (320.89 MW). These are the States where the central sector produces maximum electricity. Punjab is the highest importer of electricity (528.17 MW), followed by Haryana (212.63 MW), Maharashtra (187.50 MW), Delhi (160.82 MW), Punjab (160.82 MW), and Tamil Nadu (128.37 MW) in the year 2022-23.

**No compensation**  
The environmental and environmental regulatory structures do not compensate States that generate electricity from central sector thermal plants. Therefore, net exporting States of central sector power producers bear the burden of all pollution, and net importing States of clean electricity. Central sector thermal power is mainly produced in coal-rich States such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. Even though coal-rich States produce the maximum amount of electricity, per capita electricity consumption remains substantially lower than other economically better-off States. Thus the coal-rich States face a new form of economic consumption remains substantially lower than other economically better-off States. Thus the coal-rich States face a new form of economic consumption remains substantially lower than other economically better-off States. Thus the coal-rich States face a new form of economic consumption remains substantially lower than other economically better-off States.

Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme, although thermal power-producing States need to be well compensated for bearing the burden of pollution while supplying electricity to power consuming States

to the West. The people gradually became frustrated and disillusionment over unfulfilled expectations also arose. The long-term failures of these patterns of transitions have highlighted the limits of externally-driven democratic experiments.

**The Rose Revolution 2.0**  
Georgia's Rose Revolution is a pivotal example of this phenomenon. This movement replaced the then President Eduard Shevardnadze with a pro-West President, Mikheil Saakashvili, initially celebrated as a victory for democratic values. It became increasingly evident that the revolution was not a genuine western backing, and the movement was given financial and logistical support by patrons in the West, especially the United States. After the election, the Saakashvili regime became synonymous with corruption, authoritarianism and undemocratic practices, further maligning the movement's character.

Two decades later, a similar scenario is unfolding in Georgia. Recent parliamentary and presidential elections were marred by western backing, and the movement was given financial and logistical support by patrons in the West, especially the United States. After the election, the Saakashvili regime became synonymous with corruption, authoritarianism and undemocratic practices, further maligning the movement's character. Two decades later, a similar scenario is unfolding in Georgia. Recent parliamentary and presidential elections were marred by western backing, and the movement was given financial and logistical support by patrons in the West, especially the United States. After the election, the Saakashvili regime became synonymous with corruption, authoritarianism and undemocratic practices, further maligning the movement's character.

Whether soft power strategies are promoting democracy through the colour revolutions are still effective is the question

power-producing companies spend a small amount of funds to develop the periphery, this is far from compensating for environmental damage. The National Clean Energy and Environment Fund was created to promote renewable energy, and to assist States with cleaner technology.

Electricity is a Concurrent subject (Entry 38 of List III of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution) which allows both the Central and State governments to legislate on electricity matters. States are constitutionally permitted to levy taxes on electricity consumption and sale, but not on its generation. Similarly, the central government does not impose any specific tax on electricity production.

In October 2023, the Ministry of Power issued a directive that prohibits State governments from levying additional taxes or duties on electricity generation, clarifying the electricity transmission boundaries. As a commodity, electricity is exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST). Services related to electricity transmission or distribution by utilities are also GST-exempt.

Therefore, the consuming States receive the electricity duty levied on electricity sales. The electricity-producing States do not get any tax revenue from the burden of pollution. A formulation to pursue Electricity produced and consumed within the State internalises all the benefits and costs. However, when the electricity is produced in one State and consumed in another, it creates a pure negative externality for the producing State. In such a situation, the States producing thermal power under the central sector should be compensated for all the electricity consumed by other States.

This can be done in two ways. States where central sector power plants are located can tax thermal power generation. Otherwise, the Union government can collect and transfer the generation tax to the producing State. The other mechanism would be a compensation mechanism through the Finance Commission of India. The last three Finance Commissions have recommended a formula to transfer funds to States under environmental and climate change concerns. This has been done through grants and horizontal devolution criteria. The Sixteenth Finance Commission should seriously consider India's international climate commitments and develop a fiscal road map to achieve those goals. Whatever the mechanism, thermal power-producing States under the central sector should be compensated adequately for carrying the burden of their States' electricity consumption.

interferences in Georgia's internal matters. This has long been a battleground for competing geopolitical agendas, with western-backed movements challenging Moscow-aligned regimes.

There is a relative downgrade in the position that Russia held prior to its war with Ukraine, at least in the short term. Russia is more focused on its ties with the "Near Abroad", but this narrative often underestimates Russia's enduring resilience as a significant power in the post-Soviet space. Protests in Georgia have also coincided with a period of heightened global anxiety over the role that the U.S. might play with Donald Trump as the American President. Internal challenges have limited Washington's capacity to engage effectively in Georgia. As a result, the effectiveness of soft power strategies such as promoting democracy through colour revolutions, is waning.

**The importance of Georgia**  
Georgia's strategic positioning, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, makes it a focal point for major power struggles. Its geography and historical vulnerabilities have left it susceptible to external influences, positioning it as a pawn in broader geopolitical contests. Georgian politics illustrates the challenges of balancing domestic governance with external pressures in an increasingly complex world. As the U.S. grapples with its diminishing global influence, and Russia continues to assert its role as a regional power, Georgia is deftly managing its relationships with both East and West.

The broader implications of this struggle extend beyond Georgia, shaping the political trajectories of other post-Soviet States that are caught in the crossfire of competing geopolitical agendas. Whether the colour revolution model remains a viable tool for political change or fades into history as a relic of early 21st-century geopolitics will depend on the evolving dynamics of international relations, testing the resilience of States navigating these turbulent times.

unfortunate. I do not know what the MP hopes to achieve thereby. He must know that the Sanskrit language originated from Vedic times, and Sanskrit has several refinements till the time of Sage Yasa. Sanskrit has been the source of knowledge in very many fields including science, medicine, physiology and musicology, to name only a

few. It is also the source of public life. I am an Indian and European languages. I earnestly hope that the MP stops expressing biased views as he should be made aware of the glory that adorns the Sanskrit language. Y. Srikanth, Chennai

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

# Georgia and the resurrection of the colour revolutions

With the dawn of the 21st century, post-Soviet States experienced a wave of uprisings known as the “colour revolutions”. The movements were associated with specific colours and were largely peaceful protests to replace pro-Moscow governments with a pro-West government in the name of democratic reforms. Though they were non-violent, peaceful and democratic, the Russian elites often perceived them to be western-backed strategies in order to weaken Moscow’s sphere of influence.

The most notable examples include Georgia’s Rose Revolution (2003), Ukraine’s Orange Revolution (2004), and Kyrgyzstan’s Tulip Revolution (2005). These protests, on the face of it, appeared peaceful and democratic. Still, these movements received active help from western governments and organisations such as the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), formed during the Cold War to support and promote American social and political values.

## The Russian view

British strategist B.H. Liddell Hart’s concept of fighting “on the other side of the hill” aptly describes such an approach which prioritised destabilisation and political subversion over confrontation. Russia viewed such movements as threats to its influence in neighbouring States and as a model that could inspire similar challenges within its borders. This perspective extended beyond former Soviet space, with Russia and other powers, including China, seeing these revolutions as a blueprint for low-cost, high-impact interventions in regions such as West Asia, Africa, Central Asia and South Asia.

The fate of these ‘colour revolutions’ was not up to the expectations for which they were brought about – that is, transforming these States, most of them with primordial loyalties, into a corruption-free western ally. Very soon the changes that resulted failed to ameliorate the situation on the ground. One set of corrupt people was replaced by another set of corrupt people owing their allegiance and political ideas



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Whether soft power strategies such as promoting democracy through the colour revolutions are still effective is the question

to the West. The people gradually became frustrated and public disillusionment over unfulfilled expectations also arose. The long-term failures of these patterns of transitions have highlighted the limits of these externally-driven democratic experiments.

## The Rose Revolution 2.0

Georgia’s Rose Revolution is a pivotal example of this phenomenon. This movement replaced the then President Eduard Shevardnadze with a pro-West President, Mikheil Saakashvili. Initially celebrated as a victory for democratic values, it became increasingly evident that the ‘revolution’s’ success was facilitated by western backing, and the movement was given financial and logistical support by patrons in the West, especially the United States. Soon after the election, the Saakashvili regime became synonymous with corruption, authoritarianism and undemocratic practices, further maligning the movement’s character.

Two decades later, a similar scenario is unfolding in Georgia. Recent parliamentary and presidential elections have reignited passions, with the ruling Georgian Dream party securing a decisive and clear victory. One of the outcomes of these elections was the change of guard in the presidential office. The Georgian Dream Party candidate, Mikheil Kavelashvili, a former footballer, was elected President.

The former President, Salome Zourabichvili, who had initially refused to vacate the office and the presidential palace in favour of the incumbent President, agreed to leave, calling herself the ‘only legitimate President’. She also alleged that the parliamentary and presidential elections were marred by electoral malpractices and corruption, and hence ‘illegitimate’. Ms. Zourabichvili was empathetic towards the protests against the ‘illegitimate’ elections and joined in the street protests.

The ruling party alleged that these protests were organised at the behest of the West through non-governmental organisations funded by them – proving their contention about external

interferences in Georgia’s internal matters. This is not without precedent. The post-Soviet space has long been a battleground for competing geopolitical agendas, with western-backed ‘movements’ challenging Moscow-aligned regimes.

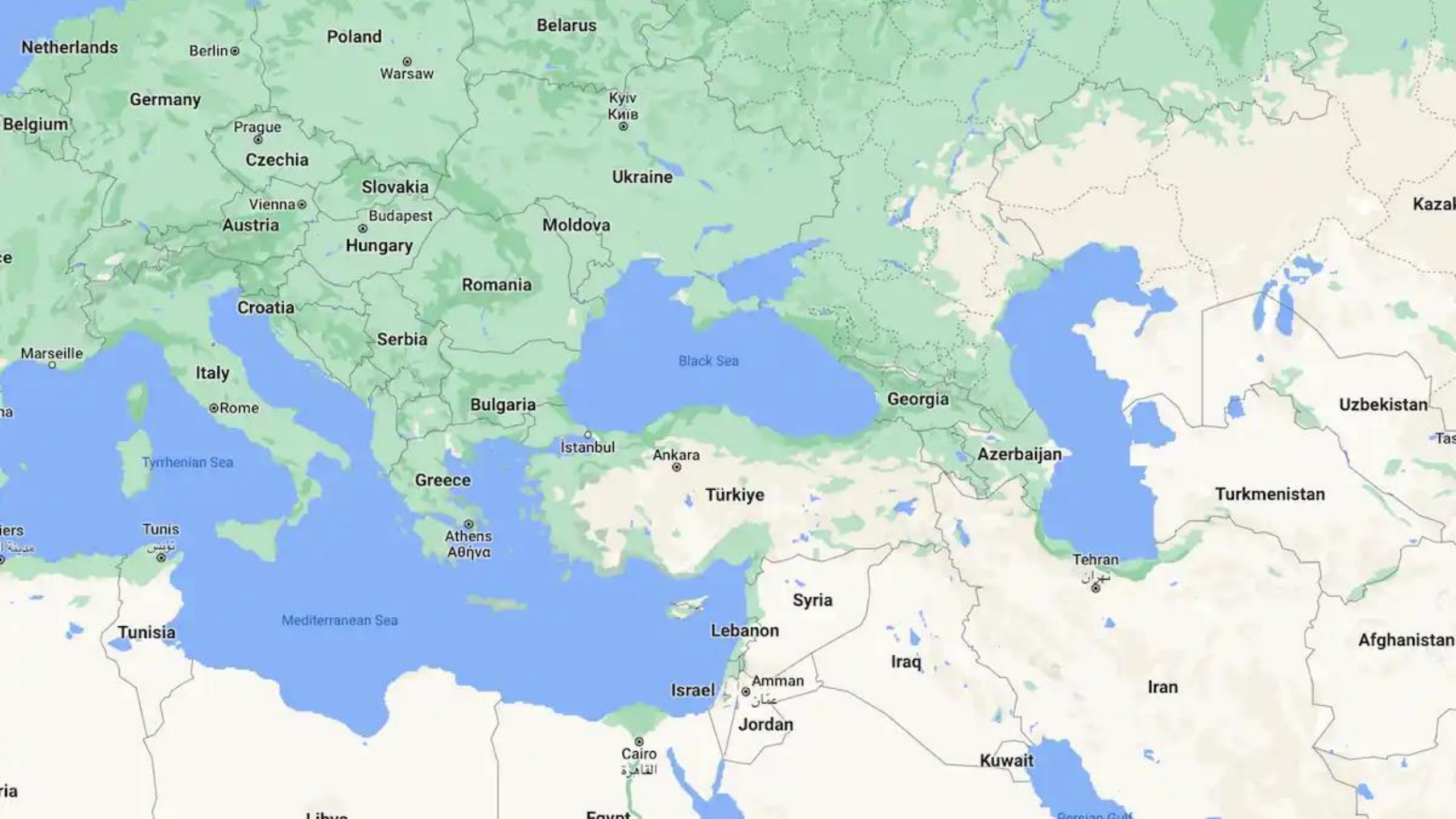
There is a relative downgrade in the position that Russia held prior to its war with Ukraine, at least in the short term. Russia is more focused on its ties with the ‘Near Abroad’, but this narrative often underestimates Russia’s enduring resilience as a significant power in the post-Soviet space.

Protests in Georgia have also coincided with a period of heightened global anxiety over the role that the U.S. might play, with Donald Trump now the American President. Internal challenges have limited Washington’s capacity to engage decisively in Georgia. As a result, the effectiveness of soft power strategies such as promoting democracy through colour revolutions, is waning.

## The importance of Georgia

Georgia’s strategic positioning, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, makes it a focal point for major power struggles. Its geography and historical vulnerabilities have left it susceptible to external influences, positioning it as a pawn in broader geopolitical contests. Georgian politics illustrates the challenges of balancing domestic governance with external pressures in an increasingly complex world. As the U.S. grapples with its diminishing global influence and Russia continues to assert its role as a regional power, Georgia is deftly managing its relationships with both East and West.

The broader implications of this struggle extend beyond Georgia, shaping the political trajectories of other post-Soviet States that are caught in the crossfire of competing geopolitical agendas. Whether the colour revolution model remains a viable tool for political change or fades into history as a relic of early 21st-century geopolitics will depend on the evolving dynamics of international relations, testing the resilience of States navigating these turbulent times.



Netherlands

Berlin

Poland

Warsaw

Belarus

Kyiv  
Київ

Germany

Prague

Czechia

Slovakia

Vienna

Austria

Budapest

Hungary

Moldova

Ukraine

Romania

Croatia

Serbia

Marseille

Italy

Rome

Bulgaria

Ankara

Türkiye

Georgia

Azerbaijan

Uzbekistan

Tyrrhenian Sea

Black Sea

Greece

Athens  
Αθήνα

Turkmenistan

iers

Tunis

تونس

Tehran  
تهران

Afghanistan

Mediterranean Sea

Syria

Lebanon

Iraq

Iran

Tunisia

Israel

Amman

عمان

Jordan

Kuwait

ria

Libya

Egypt

Cairo  
القاهرة

Persian Gulf



RUSSIA

ABKHAZIA

◦ Sukhumi

Black Sea

SOUTH OSSETIA

◦ Tskhinvali

GEORGIA

◦ Tbilisi

TURKEY

ARMENIA

AZERBAIJAN

BBC NEWS

- In the 21st century, several post-Soviet states have witnessed "**colour revolutions**", aimed at replacing **pro-Moscow governments** with democratic ones. The **most notable examples** include: **Rose Revolution (2003) – Georgia**
- **Orange Revolution (2004) – Ukraine**
- **Tulip Revolution (2005) – Kyrgyzstan**
- Though these movements appear democratic, **Russia perceives them as Western-backed strategies** to reduce Moscow's geopolitical influence.

- **Historical Perspective (ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण)**
- The **Cold War era** witnessed competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union for global influence.
- **Western-backed organisations like the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)** have supported political transitions in former Soviet states.
- **B.H. Liddell Hart's theory of "On the Other Side of the Hill"** describes how external destabilization is used for regime change.
- The **long-term impact** of colour revolutions often **leads to political instability rather than democratic consolidation.**



- **Economic Impact (आर्थिक प्रभाव)**

- 1. Foreign Investments (विदेशी निवेश)**

1. Political instability in Georgia can **reduce investor confidence**, impacting economic growth.
2. **Western economic aid and IMF loans** are often provided post-revolution, but long-term benefits remain uncertain.

- 2. Sanctions & Trade Disruptions (प्रतिबंध और व्यापार में रुकावटें)**

1. Countries undergoing **political upheaval** (like Ukraine and Georgia) face potential **economic sanctions from Russia**.
2. Economic **dependence on the EU and the U.S. increases** post-revolution.

- **Geographical & Geopolitical Aspects (भौगोलिक और भू-राजनीतिक पहलू)**

### **1.Strategic Importance of Georgia (जॉर्जिया का रणनीतिक महत्व)**

1. Georgia is located at the **crossroads of Europe and Asia**, making it vital for geopolitical struggles.
2. It is part of the **Caucasus region**, where **Russia, the U.S., and the EU compete for influence**.
3. The country holds **critical energy pipelines** supplying Europe, making it a **battleground for energy geopolitics**.

## 1. Russian Response (रूस की प्रतिक्रिया)

1. Russia considers these revolutions a **threat to its influence** in post-Soviet states.
2. The **2008 Russo-Georgian War** highlighted Moscow's **hardline approach** to Georgia's pro-Western shift.

- **Social Impact (सामाजिक प्रभाव)**

- 1. Political Divisions (राजनीतिक विभाजन)**

1. Colour revolutions **create deep ideological divides** within the population.
2. Some groups **support Western democracy**, while others remain **pro-Russian**.

- 2. Democratic Challenges (लोकतांत्रिक चुनौतियाँ)**

1. While these movements claim to promote **democracy**, they often lead to **political instability and authoritarian tendencies**.
2. Example: In Georgia's recent election, the opposition candidate **Mikheil Kavelashvili** won but faced **protests and disputes over legitimacy**.

# Trump and the new gilded age for billionaires

Donald Trump's first administration was the wealthiest in American history, his second one has spectacularly beaten it. Its total worth is around \$460 billion and 16 of its members are billionaires.

A democratic polity in which 0.0001% of its population has vastly disproportionate control over its political and economic decisions displays tendencies of an oligarchy. This is in a society in which the top 1% already controls 38% of its wealth.

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The super wealthy in a democracy often influence public policy indirectly, by lobbying and by sponsoring other candidates. The wealthiest families contributed around \$2 billion to the 2024 U.S. elections. But when the ultra-rich become a direct part of the administration, it gives political power a different magnitude. For instance, Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, after contributing \$250 million to the Trump campaign, is now leading the Department of Government Efficiency. His research establishes a negative relationship between political power and billionaire wealth and democracy.

**The impact on the people**  
Wealth in itself should not prevent a citizen from joining government, but the problem is in the potential conflicts of interests despite measures such as American ethics laws and financial disclosures. In the Trump administration, the Commerce Secretary and the head of a financial services firm, the Treasury Secretary is the owner of an investment fund management firm; the NASA Administrator is a professor in private space exploration; and the "White House AI and Crypto czar" former senior executive of PayPal.

There is a fundamental disjuncture between public interest and the market. As a researcher asks, "Will someone who earns \$18 million per year be able to appreciate how important is \$75,000 (the average monthly social security payment) is to

millions of Americans?" When Mr. Musk, who has promised to cut \$2 trillion off the \$6.75 trillion U.S. budget, says that budget cuts involve "some temporary hardship," it is painfully ironic. While Mr. Musk holds 100 business contracts with the American government, Mr. Trump's firms are stalling over 30 investigations into Mr. Musk's companies by 11 federal agencies. Studies show there are significant differences between the views of the top 1% of U.S. wealth-holders and the public on taxation, economic regulation, and social welfare programmes. While 87% of the general citizenry agree that the government should fund good public schools, only 35% of the top 1% think so. The influence of the wealthy elite on public policy is often disastrous. Mr. Trump's slogan during the campaign trail was "drill, baby, drill" and the U.S. duty workers from the Paris Climate Agreement. In his first term, the Tax Cuts and Job Act gave 60% of tax benefits to corporations and high-net-worth individuals. It also exacerbated racial income and wealth inequalities besides increasing the government deficit. The first Trump term diluted the Affordable Care Act in health, leading to a rise in uninsured Americans.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trump is only a catalyst of socioeconomic changes heralded since the inauguration of neoliberalism (President Ronald Reagan), with unbridled market powers. The results are staggering. As the complexity scientist Peter Turchin points out: the number of billionaires (households worth \$10 million) exploded from 100 in 1983 to 6,93,000 in 2019. This led to an "overproduction of wealth" and the number of the wealthy seeking political power. According to the Economic Policy Institute, if from 1945 to 1973, the wages of most workers had risen with productivity, from 1973 to 2013,

compensation of a typical worker rose 9% while productivity rose 74%. In the same period, middle-class wages remained stagnant, low-wage workers' wages declined by 5%, and those of very high-wage workers rose by 41%. If in 1965, the CEOs of the 350 largest public U.S. firms earned 20 times that of the typical worker in those firms, by the early 2000s, they were earning 380 times of the typical worker's pay. The federal minimum wage, in real terms, was lower in 1969 compared to 2013.

**Bipartisan issue**  
The imposition of the working classes and wealth concentration is a phenomenon that spans governments of both parties. If 14 billionaires donated to the Trump campaign, 21 did to the Kamala Harris campaign; if Trump's first cabinet was worth \$6.2 billion, Barack Obama's second cabinet was worth \$2.8 billion; and if corporate profits touched \$2 trillion (after hovering around \$1.8 trillion since 2012) under Mr. Trump, they skyrocketed to \$3.17 trillion in 2024 under Joe Biden. The majority of the working classes voted for Mr. Trump while a majority of the college graduates voted for Ms. Harris.

What Mr. Trump has managed to do is, ironically, tap into the anger of the economically dispossessed. This anger combines with existing racial hatred and is made to coagulate into fascist political imaginations. The philosopher Richard Rorty had predicted in 1998: "...the nonsuburban electorate will decide that the system has failed and start looking around for a strongman to vote for... the gains made in the past 40 years by black and brown Americans, and by cosmopolites, will be wiped out." In the U.S., only 3.5% of billionaires have entered politics unlike China (36%) and Russia (21%). Yet, the plutocratization of the oldest democracy and the world's most powerful nation has deleterious implications beyond the shores of America.

# A proposed solution involving the States

A DMK MP is seeking to redraw the framework for disbursal of disaster relief funds

**STATE OF PLAY**  
**D. Suresh Kumar**  
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The disbursal of funds by the Union government to help States tackle the devastation caused by natural disasters continues to be mired in controversy. Tamil Nadu had urged the Union government to release ₹6,675 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) so that the State can carry out the relief and restoration work required after Cyclone Fengal affected 14 districts, claimed 40 lives, and caused widespread destruction in the State last December. This demand was not heeded in the Union Budget.

In the past couple of years, Tamil Nadu has been facing back-to-back disasters, starting from Cyclone Michaung and floods in the southern districts in December 2023. "The intensity and frequency of these weather systems have significantly increased, with some areas receiving an entire year's rainfall within 24 hours in planning and preparation, these climatic anomalies have led to considerable economic strain, draining the State's exchequer. The funds under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) have proven inadequate to meet the immediate relief and long-term restoration needs," the State Finance Minister, Thangam Thennarasu, had said at a meeting held before the presentation of the Union Budget.

The Centre had earlier released ₹944 crore, but Mr. Thennarasu contended that this was only a delayed disbursal of the Union government's regular 75% share in the SDRF. He said that the Union govern-

ment had released "nothing under the NDRF", as sought by the Tamil Nadu government in the aftermath of Cyclone Fengal. Previously, the Centre had responded to the State's requirement of ₹37,907 crore after Cyclone Michaung by disbursing just ₹276 crore.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has denied that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to Tamil Nadu. She argued that the 14th Finance Commission had created a formula for allocating funds through the NDRF and SDRF. "The Central government cannot tweek it in favour of or against any State. The Finance Commission made it an institutional arrangement for States to receive funds upfront for disaster relief," she pointed out.

Against the backdrop of this conflict between the Centre and States, particularly those ruled by parties that are not part of the National Democratic Alliance, DMK Rajya Sabha MP, P. Wilson, has moved a Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005, seeking to tweek its structure and composition. The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, seeks to replace the National Disaster Management Authority with a National Disaster Management Council, the oldest body chaired by the NDMC is chaired by the Prime Minister or a nominated Minister, with each State

government nominating a Minister as a member. To ensure balance in its decisions, the Bill has proposed the requirement of a simple majority, with the Prime Minister or his/her nominee getting 15% of the total votes, while the remaining 85% is distributed among State representatives based on their representation in the Council of States (i.e. Rajya Sabha). To illustrate, if a State has 10% of the total seats of the Council of States, then its respective vote in the Council shall be worth 8.5% of the total vote of the National Council. The proposed NDMC will set guidelines for the NDRF to ensure fair distribution of emergency funds and timely disbursement on the disbursal of funds.

According to Mr. Wilson, the amendment aims to ensure that "the process is structured, transparent, and equitable mechanism for the broad distribution of emergency funds dedicated to disaster management," thereby ensuring that States severely affected by disasters are not left underfunded or neglected. Such a NDMC would prioritise funding based on the severity of disaster impact and the needs of affected States.

Although Mr. Wilson's proposed legislation is only a Private Member's Bill and its broad contours would require wider debate and fine-tuning, it is bound to find resonance among elected representatives from States which, like Tamil Nadu, believe that there is a gap between the disaster relief funds they expect and the actual amount disbursed by the Centre. It is worth noting here that last year, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu had knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to release funds sought by them to cover natural calamities.

# Most deportees from the U.S. are from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat

While the latest wave of deportations to India from the U.S. has grabbed a lot of attention, it is not a new phenomenon

**DATA POINT**  
**Sambavi Parthasarathy**

Of the 332 undocumented Indian immigrants who have been deported from the U.S. in 2025, people from Punjab accounted for the highest share (38%), followed by people from Haryana (33%), and Gujarat (22%), as shown in Chart 1. The remaining deportees were from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and other States and U.T.s. A recent research published by Johns Hopkins University also found that between October 2021 and November 2022, 66% of those who sought asylum in the U.S. were Punjabi speakers. Nearly 14% were Hindi speakers, 8% were English speakers, and 7% were Gujarati speakers. The research showed a sharp spike in asylum seekers in the U.S. from India after 2016, with Punjabi speakers making up the majority.

In fact, all the three flights carrying Indian deportees from the U.S. this year landed at the Amritsar International Airport, leading to a controversy. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh said that the Centre is doing this intentionally to defame the State. The Centre argued that Amritsar is the closest international airport for flights entering India from the U.S. While the latest wave of deportations has grabbed headlines since the deportees were handcuffed and chained during their journey, this is not a phenomenon that has emerged after U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed crackdown on illegal immigrants. Since 2009, 15,887 undocumented Indian immigrants have been deported from the U.S. (Chart 2). Most deportations occurred in 2019 (2,042), followed by 2020 (1,889), and 2024 (1,368). It is also important to note that the number of Indians attempting to enter the U.S. illegally has surged in recent years. A decade ago, U.S. border

authorities stopped not more than 1,500 Indian illegal migrants. This figure rose sharply to 96,917 in 2023 and 90,415 in 2024.

News reports have also highlighted how most Indian immigrants were deceived by fraudulent agents who promised them better prospects in exchange for hefty sums of money. The sum paid by Indians to illegally enter the U.S. ranged anywhere between ₹20 lakh and ₹1.25 crore.

A total of 3,042 illegal agents have been identified till June 2024 (Chart 3), with the highest number of agents in Andhra Pradesh, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra. In the last four years, 4,361 complaints have been lodged against illegal agents for luring Indians with false recruitment offers.

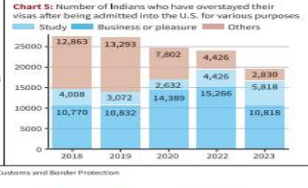
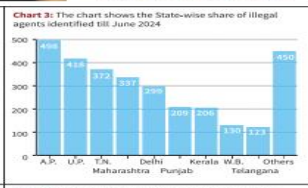
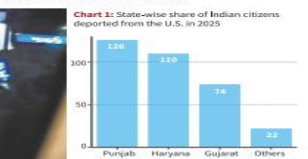
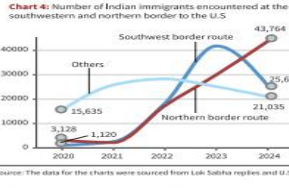
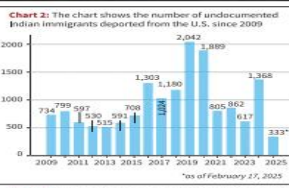
Interviews with the deportees have shed light on the perilous journeys they undertake in search of a better life. A popular way of getting to the U.S. is through what is known as the "donkey route". This refers to the arduous journey across countries, forests, and seas, often without proper food and water. A section of the immigrant trail end up at the south-western border of the U.S., after travelling across dangerous routes such as the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia, while others go via the northern border of the U.S.

Chart 4 shows that Indians prefer both the Canadian (northern) and south-western (Mexican) borders to enter the U.S. illegally. A New York Times report shows that the sharp spike in illegal crossings from the Canadian border was majorly fuelled by Indians.

Apart from those attempting to enter the U.S. illegally, there are also many who have overstayed their visas after being admitted to the U.S. either for business studies, or other purposes (Chart 5). While such overstays have declined after the pandemic, close to 17,000 people overstayed every year, with most of them having entered the U.S. for business or pleasure.

# American nightmare

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha replies and U.S. Customs and Border Protection



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu  
FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 18, 1975

# Palar groundwater for Madras

New Delhi, Feb. 17: The Tamil Nadu Government is likely to seek a loan of Rs. 2 crore from the Life Insurance Corporation for tapping the groundwater resources of the Palar river for relieving the acute water scarcity Madras is now suffering from.

It is understood that the State Government wanted to seek Central assistance for this purpose, but the Union Finance Ministry seems to have pointed out that the project was in the nature of a capital-intensive scheme and could not be accommodated within the scope of any drought relief assistance. A suggestion was, therefore, made that the State Government should seek funds from the LIC. The State Government is trying to speed up the scheme for the tapping of Palar groundwater resources by April this year by which time the water scarcity in Madras is bound to worsen.

The Palar groundwater project was to have been executed along with the Veeramam water supply scheme involving the laying of prestressed concrete pipes which are being manufactured by two factories at Panruti and Tirukalukundram, over a distance of about 135 miles. This scheme is already under execution but in view of the emergency arising out of the grave water shortage in Madras, the Tamil Nadu government wants to complete the tapping of groundwater from the Palar river and pump the water to the city over a distance of about 50 miles.

The Centre and the Planning Commission are as much concerned over the acute drought conditions and water scarcity in Tamil Nadu as the State Government. In fact it is for this reason that the Planning Commission has eventually agreed to fix Tamil Nadu's 1975-76 Annual Plan outlay at Rs. 142 crores.

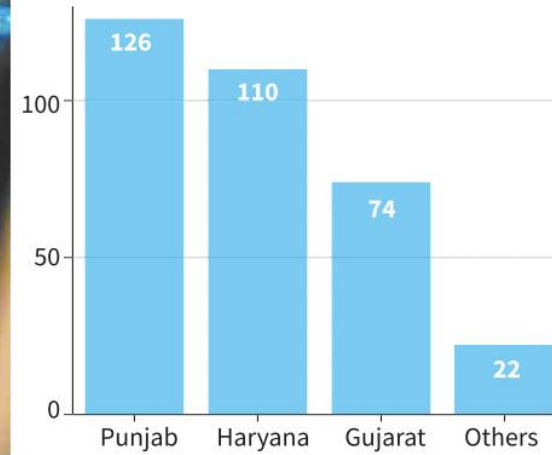
**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 18, 1925**  
**Empire wireless**  
Montreal, Feb. 16: Within a few months, Montreal will be directly connected with Australasia by Marconi's new system of radio transmission. Marconi's at present erecting three additional towers at Drummondville for Canada-Australasia service. The Drummondville station will be operated in conjunction with the British Post Office, receiving messages from Great Britain and relaying them direct to Australia.

# American nightmare

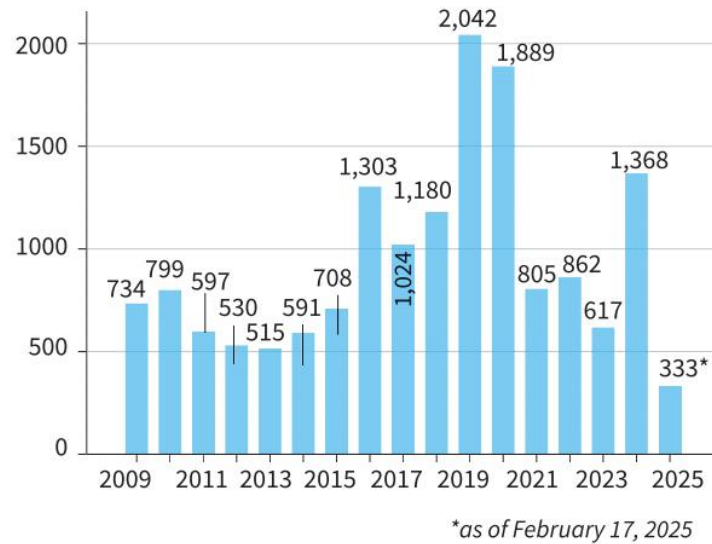
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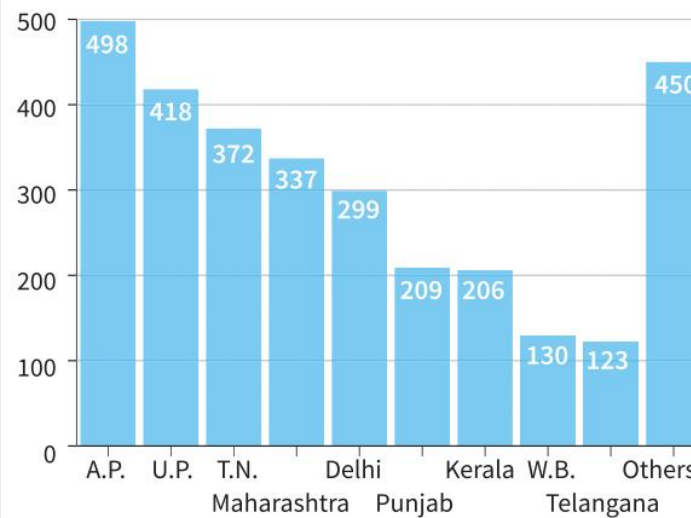
**Chart 1:** State-wise share of Indian citizens deported from the U.S. in 2025



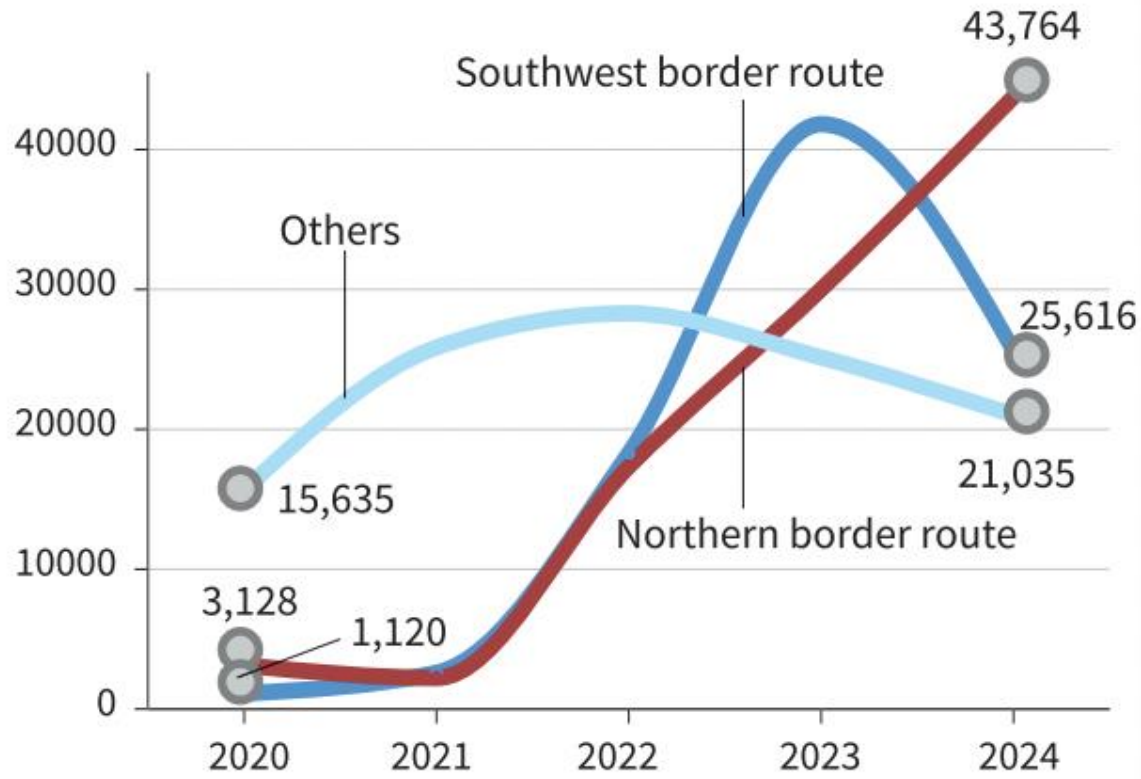
**Chart 2:** The chart shows the number of undocumented Indian immigrants deported from the U.S. since 2009



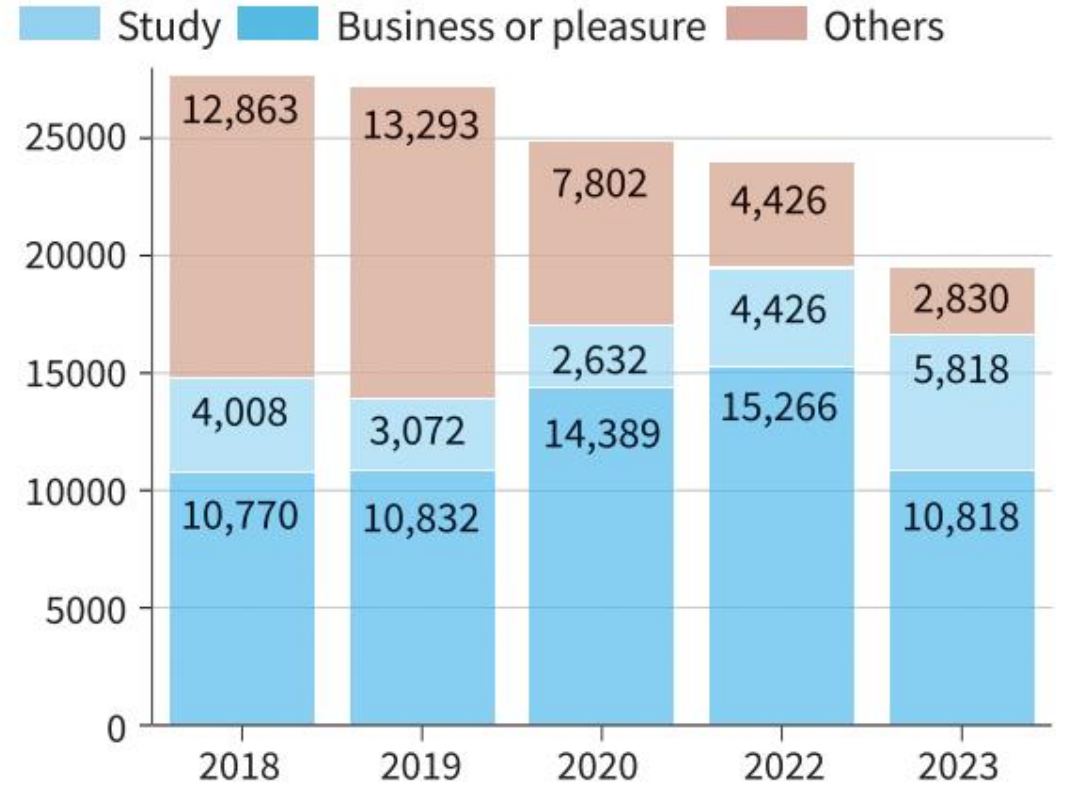
**Chart 3:** The chart shows the State-wise share of illegal agents identified till June 2024



**Chart 4:** Number of Indian immigrants encountered at the southwestern and northern border to the U.S



**Chart 5:** Number of Indians who have overstayed their visas after being admitted into the U.S. for various purposes



Source: The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha replies and U.S. Customs and Border Protection

# Text & Content

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Women who went missing in Odisha in the last five years**

**36,240** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi said that 421 women were trafficked to other States through middlemen, leading to the arrest of 453 people. The police has taken action to trace the trafficked women, he said.

**Number of settler homes to be built in occupied West Bank**

**974** The Israeli liberal advocacy, Peace Now, says the development of these new housing units would allow the population of the West Bank settlement to expand by 40% and further block the development of the nearby Palestinian city of Bethlehem.

**Number of police officers arrested in Bangladesh**

**41** The arrested officers are among 1,059 ex-policemen accused of committing atrocities during the 2024 student-led protests that led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The highest number of 114 cases were filed against Dhaka Metropolitan Police former commissioner Harunur Rashid.

**The United Nation's appeal for Sudan crisis aid in 2025**

**6** In \$ billion. The UN's aim is to provide assistance to nearly 26 million people this year. Since April 2023, Sudan has been beset by conflict between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces. The UN agencies said the civil war has displaced 12 million people.

**Investment proposals received by the West Bengal tourism sector**

**5,600** in ₹ crore. Seventy tourism projects will be taken up in the 2025-26 fiscal, of which 38 are in south Bengal, the State's Tourism Minister said. These projects will entail a cost of ₹71 crore.

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## How did a DDoS attack cripple Kaveri 2.0?

What happened to Kaveri 2.0, the web-based portal which streamlines property registrations in Karnataka? How does a Distributed Denial of Service attack operate? How can a company or firm protect themselves against such kind of cyberattacks? Was the social media platform X also victim to a DDoS attack?

### EXPLAINER

John Xavier

#### The story so far:

In January, web-based portal Kaveri 2.0, which streamlines property registrations in Karnataka, witnessed sporadic, crippling server outages. On investigating the outage, the Revenue Department and E-Governance Department concluded that it was not due to "technical glitches" but "motivated Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack" on Kaveri 2.0, which was launched in 2023 to reform land registration.

**What happened after the attack?** Following the incident, K. A. Dayananda, Inspector General of Registrations and Commissioner of Stamps (IGR & CS) lodged a complaint with the cyber-crime police. The Cybercrime, Economic offences, Narcotics (CEN) formation registered a case under the Information Technology Act, 2000, against the unidentified miscreants. "The Kaveri 2.0 faced some performance issues during December 2024. Upon analysis and inputs from the Centre for Smart Governance (CSG), it was found that these issues were caused by a malicious DDoS attack using automated tools or bots," the FIR said.

**What is a DDoS attack?** A DDoS attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal functioning of a targeted server, service, or network by overwhelming it with a flood of internet traffic. Unlike a Denial of Service (DoS) attack, which typically involves a single source, a DDoS attack leverages multiple compromised systems, often infected with malware, to generate the traffic.

These compromised systems are collectively known as a botnet. Such attacks may be aimed at saturating the bandwidth of a particular site, exploiting weaknesses in the network protocol stack, or targeting specific weaknesses in applications or services. DDoS attacks can lead to service downtime, which renders services unavailable, leading to a disruption or potential loss of revenue. While DDoS attacks do not directly steal data, they can be used as a distraction while other forms of cyberattack, such as data breaches, are executed. Organisations that fall victim to DDoS attacks may suffer reputational damage, as customers and partners question their ability to protect against cyber threats.

**What happened to Kaveri 2.0?** The Kaveri 2.0 portal experienced performance issues in December 2024 and January 2025. Fake accounts were created, and entries were made into the database using these accounts, overwhelming the system. The attack involved 62 email accounts originating from 14 IP addresses, highlighting the

distributed nature of the assault. In January 2025, a similar attack occurred, with extremely high traffic observed from citizen-side users for Encumbrance Certificate (EC) searches, which was eight times more than usual. At one point, the portal received 6.2 lakh requests in just two hours from malicious users using random keywords to perform searches. This surge in traffic crippled the portal, reducing the number of registrations.

**How can such attacks be mitigated?** To protect against DDoS attacks, organisations implement advanced traffic filtering mechanisms to distinguish between legitimate and malicious traffic. Monitoring tools can help identify unusual traffic patterns and take pre-emptive actions. Enforcing rate limiting can control the number of requests a user can make in a given time

frame, preventing the system from being overwhelmed. Bot detection technologies, such as CAPTCHA challenges and behavioural analysis, can identify and block automated tools or bots. Additionally, robust authentication mechanisms and regular security audits can strengthen the security of online services and prevent unauthorised access. Organisations can also work closely with cybersecurity agencies to help investigate attacks and identify perpetrators. They can share information and collaborate on mitigation strategies to prevent future attacks. This will include having a dedicated team to monitor and respond to security incidents. For the user, knowing about the risks of phishing and other social engineering attacks can help prevent account compromises.

**What next for Kaveri 2.0?** The cyberattack crippled the Kaveri 2.0 portal, and registrations fell significantly on February 1 and 4. While the portal was restored on February 5, the DDoS attack should serve as a wake-up call for organisations, particularly government agencies, to prioritise cybersecurity and implement robust mitigation strategies.

**What are other major DDoS attacks?** There are several such attacks, but most recently Elon Musk-owned X was targeted in August 2024. Mr. Musk reported that the platform experienced a massive DDoS attack, which caused delays and disruptions. This attack occurred just before his scheduled conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump, highlighting the vulnerability of even high-profile platforms to cyber threats. In another occasion, in 2015, Microsoft-owned code repository GitHub was targeted by a China-based botnet. The attack specifically aimed two GitHub projects that provided tools to circumvent Chinese censorship. The attack involved injecting malicious JavaScript code into the browsers of visitors to Baidu, China's most popular search engine, and other sites using Baidu's analytics services.

### THE GIST

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## What is the Aravali safari park project?

Across how many villages is the proposed project going to be spread across? Why have several retired Indian Forest Service officers written a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to scrap the project?

Ashok Kumar

The Haryana government's ambitious 3,858 hectare Aravali safari park project spread across Gurugram and Nuh — which was one of the poll promises of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party last year — is envisaged to be the world's largest safari park. However, the project has faced stiff opposition ever since it was first mooted.

**What is the project?** As per the tender invited by the Haryana Tourism Department, the proposed Aravali safari park will have animal cages, guest houses, hotels, restaurants, auditoriums, an animal hospital, children's parks, botanical gardens, aquariums, cable cars, a tunnel walk with exhibits, an open-air theatre and eateries. The project has now been transferred to

the forest department and an expert committee has been set up to oversee it. Of the total 3,858 hectares proposed in the tender, 2,574 will be spread across 11 villages in Gurugram and the remaining 1,284 in Nuh, across its seven villages.

**Why is there opposition?** The hills in the southern districts of Gurugram and Nuh are a part of Aravali, the oldest fold mountain range in the world. It runs diagonally across Rajasthan extending from Champaner in Gujarat in the southwest to near Delhi in the northeast for about 690 km. It is ecologically significant as it combats desertification by checking the spread of the Thar Desert towards eastern Rajasthan, and performs the role of an aquifer with its highly fractured and weathered quality rocks allowing water to percolate and recharge the groundwater. It is also a rich habitat to a wide spectrum

of wildlife and plant species. A group of 37 retired Indian Forest Service officers have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking to scrap the project arguing that the project's aim is to simply increase tourist footfall and not conserve the mountain range. The "primary purpose of any intervention in an eco-sensitive area should be 'conservation and restoration' and not destruction," the letter said. The increased footfall, vehicular traffic and construction will disturb aquifers under the Aravali hills which are critical reserves for the water-starved districts of Gurugram and Nuh (the groundwater level in the two districts has been categorised as "over-exploited" by the Central Ground Water Board). Additionally, the location of the project falls under the category of "forest," which is protected under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Besides, Haryana

has very low forest cover of 3.6%, and therefore, the State needs rewilding of natural forests and not destructive safari projects, the letter said.

**What are the laws protecting Aravali?** Of the approximately 80,000 hectare Aravali hill area in Haryana, a majority is protected under various laws and by orders of the Supreme Court and NGT. The most widespread protection to the Aravalis comes from the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900. The Special Sections 4 and 5 of the Act restrict the breaking of land and hence deforestation in hills for non-agricultural use. Recently around 24,000 hectares has been notified as Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, as a proposed offset to forest land diversion in the Nuh area. Similarly, the T.N. Godaverman *Thirumudal* judgment (1996) extends legal protection to forests and not destruction, the letter said. This should cover the remaining Aravali areas that are under construction. The Regional Plan-2021 for the National Capital Region also offers crucial protection, designating Aravalis as "Natural Conservation Zone" and restricting the maximum construction limit to 0.5%, said Gurugram Ground Water Board. Chetan Agarwal, Mr. Agarwal suggested that instead of a safari park, the government should declare a national park or sanctuary in the Aravalis.

### THE GIST

The proposed Aravali safari park will have animal cages, guest houses, hotels, restaurants, auditoriums, an animal hospital, children's parks, botanical gardens, aquariums, cable cars, a tunnel walk with exhibits, an open-air theatre and eateries.

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The hills in the southern districts of Gurugram and Nuh are a part of Aravali, the oldest fold mountain range in the world. It runs diagonally across Rajasthan extending from Champaner in Gujarat in the southwest to near Delhi in the northeast for about 690 km. It is ecologically significant as it combats desertification by checking the spread of the Thar Desert towards eastern Rajasthan, and performs the role of an aquifer with its highly fractured and weathered quality rocks allowing water to percolate and recharge the groundwater. It is also a rich habitat to a wide spectrum

of wildlife and plant species.

A group of 37 retired Indian Forest Service officers have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking to scrap the project arguing that the project's aim is to simply increase tourist footfall and not conserve the mountain range. The "primary purpose of any intervention in an eco-sensitive area should be 'conservation and restoration' and not destruction", the letter said. The increased footfall, vehicular traffic and construction will disturb aquifers under the Aravali hills which are critical reserves for the water-starved districts of Gurugram and Nuh (the groundwater level in the two districts has been categorised as "over-exploited" by the Central Ground Water Board). Additionally, the location of the project falls under the category of "forest", which is protected under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Besides, Haryana

has very low forest cover of 3.6%, and therefore, the State needs rewinding of natural forests and not destructive safari projects, the letter said.

## What are the laws protecting Aravali?

Of the approximately 80,000 hectare Aravali hill area in Haryana, a majority is protected under various laws and by orders of the Supreme Court and NGT. "The most widespread protection to the Aravalis comes from the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900. The Special Sections 4 and 5 of the Act restrict the breaking of land and hence deforestation in hills for non-agricultural use....Recently around 24,000 hectares has been notified as Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, as a proposed offset to forest land diversion in the Nicobar islands.... Similarly, the *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad* judgment (1996) extends legal protection to forests as per dictionary meaning – which should cover the remaining Aravali areas that are not notified as forest....the Regional Plan-2021 for the National Capital Region also offers crucial protection, designating the Aravalis and forest areas as 'Natural Conservation Zone' and restricting the maximum construction limit to 0.5%," said Gurugram-based forest analyst Chetan Agarwal. Mr. Agarwal suggested that instead of a safari park, the government should declare a national park or sanctuary in the Aravalis.

## THE GIST

The proposed Aravali safari park will have animal cages, guest houses, hotels, restaurants, auditoriums, an animal hospital, children parks, botanical gardens, aquariums, cable cars, a tunnel walk with exhibits, an open-air theatre and eateries.

The hills in the southern districts of Gurugram and Nuh are a part of Aravali, the oldest fold mountain range in the world.

A group of 37 retired Indian Forest Service officers have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking to scrap the project arguing that the project's aim is to simply increase tourist footfall and not conserve the mountain range.

- **Background (पृष्ठभूमि)**
- The **Haryana government** has proposed a **3,858-hectare Aravali Safari Park** across **Gurugram and Nuh**.
- The park is envisioned to be the **world's largest safari park**, with animal enclosures, guest houses, hotels, and other attractions.
- **The project is now under the forest department**, with an expert committee overseeing its execution.

- **Key Features of the Project (परियोजना की मुख्य विशेषताएँ)**
- The safari park will include:
  - **Animal cages, aquariums, botanical gardens**
  - **Hotels, restaurants, children's parks, auditoriums**
  - **Cable cars, an open-air theatre, and a tunnel walk with exhibits**

- **The Aravalis are the oldest fold mountain range in the world,** extending from **Gujarat to Delhi.**The hills in Gurugram and Nuh play a crucial role in:**Preventing desertification** by blocking the Thar Desert's spread towards Haryana and Delhi.
- Acting as a **natural aquifer**, helping in **groundwater recharge.**
- Being home to **diverse wildlife and plant species**

- **Environmental Concerns (पर्यावरणीय चिंताएँ)**
- Increased **tourist footfall, vehicle traffic, and construction** may:
  - **Disturb the fragile ecosystem** of the Aravalis.
  - **Affect groundwater recharge**, worsening water scarcity.
  - Lead to **deforestation and habitat destruction** for wildlife.

- **Legal Protection of the Aravalis (अरावली की कानूनी सुरक्षा)**
- Various laws and court orders protect the **80,000-hectare Aravali hill area in Haryana.**
- The **Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900**, and the **Indian Forest Act** classify parts of Aravali as **protected forest.**
- The **Regional Plan-2021** designates the area as a "**Natural Conservation Zone**", limiting construction to **0.5%.**

- **Opposition by Experts (विशेषज्ञों का विरोध)**
- **37 retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers** have written to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** urging the project to be scrapped.
- Their key argument: **The purpose of intervention in an eco-sensitive area should be conservation, not destruction.**
- Instead of a **safari park**, the government should **declare Aravali a national park or wildlife sanctuary.**

- **Government's Perspective (सरकार का दृष्टिकोण)**
- The Haryana government believes the **Aravali Safari Park will boost tourism and create employment opportunities.**
- The project aims to **develop Gurugram and Nuh as eco-tourism hubs** while preserving forest land.



### PURPLE CAP On-song Renuka soars to the top of the bowling chart



Renuka Singh became the Purple Cap holder in the ongoing WPL after her spell (4-0-23-3) helped RCB restrict DC to 143. The seamer picked up the wickets of Shafali Verma (golden duck), Annabel Sutherland, and Shikha Pandey. In the season-opening win against Gujarat Giants, Renuka had taken two wickets.

### HAND-IN-HAND Smriti and Wyatt-Hodge notch up first century stand of the season



Smriti Mandhana and Dani Wyatt-Hodge registered WPL 2025's first century partnership (107), and on the 100th birthday of the game, to help Royal Challengers Bengaluru down Delhi Capitals. It is also the second best partnership for RCB, after Smriti and Sophie Devine's 125-run stand against Gujarat Giants in 2023.

### LEADING THE WAY BCCI has shown how women's game can be commercialised: Stalekar



WPL mentor Lisa Stalekar feels the BCCI has shown the world women's cricket can be commercialised. "It is wonderful to see that the WPL has started to capture the imagination of the Indian public."

### ANOTHER ACCOLADE Manu Bhaker wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award



Star Indian pistol shooter Manu Bhaker was named the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year on Monday. Other winners: Sheetal Devi (Emerging Player of the Year), Mithali Raj (Lifetime Achievement Award), Avani Lekhara (Para Sportswoman of the Year) and Tania Sachdev (Changemaker Award).

# Smriti's blistering knock makes it a cakewalk for Royal Challengers

The skipper adds 107 with Wyatt-Hodge for the opening wicket in a modest chase; Renuka and Wareham scalp three each for the Bengaluru outfit



Leading from the front: Smriti smashed 10 fours and three sixes in her 47-ball 81. SPORTSPICS/WPL

### WPL P.K. Ajith Kumar VAPODARA

Royal Challengers Bengaluru landed here without some of its key players. That isn't showing though. Smriti Mandhana's women came up with a near-perfect performance on Monday night to post their

second win in as many matches in the third edition of the WPL. After bowling out Delhi Capitals for 143, RCB romped home with eight wickets and 3-4 overs to spare. Smriti was indeed leading from the front. After marshalling the troops well in the field, she came up with a scintillating knock (81, 47b, 10x4, 3x6) to entertain another excited crowd at the BCA Stadium.

The stylish left-hander played some pleasing strokes, such as a lovely pull off Marizanne Kapp, as she built a 107-run partnership for the opening wicket with Dani Wyatt-Hodge (42, 33b, 7x4). The duo batted Capitals out of the match. Earlier, it was yet again Renuka Singh that led the RCB attack on what is fast turning out to be one of her favourite hunting grounds.

She removed the dangerous Shafali Verma for a first-ball duck. The opener was a bit too ambitious: she came down the track and gave a comfortable catch to mid-off, falling to middle what was only the second ball of the match. But in the very next over, DC slumped to 105 for six. There was no redemption for Lanning's women on this night.

stumped off Georgia Wareham. The following over saw Lanning falling to a tumbling Ellyse Perry near the rope at the square-leg boundary. From 60 for one, DC slumped to 105 for six. There was no redemption for Lanning's women on this night.

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## Chance for Harshit to prove his worth at CT

### Vivek Krishnan NEW DELHI

In theory, Harshit Rana is Jasprit Bumrah's replacement in India's squad for the Champions Trophy. In reality, of course, there is nobody in India, or elsewhere, with the skill and control to fill in for Bumrah. From the uniqueness of his action and release point to the sheer mastery over his craft, the 31-year-old ace pacer is in a category of his own. That said, Harshit did a decent job in the ODI series versus England by claiming six wickets in three matches. The economy rate was a tad high at 6.95 runs per over, but the 23-year-old from Delhi has been drafted into the set-up ahead of Mohammed Siraj for his ability to prise out wickets at different stages of a 50-over game. Given his exuberance and inexperience, the strapping fast bowler didn't always get it right with the new ball against the Englishmen. On his ODI debut in Nagpur, for example, he was taken for 37 runs in his first spell of three overs, with opener Phil Salt tonking 26 off just one over to lead the initial onslaught.



Varley is the spice: Pacer Harshit's armoury includes a deceptive slower delivery. FILE PHOTO: A. S. CHAZAR

But it is a testament to Harshit's strength of character that he struck twice in an over when he was brought back into the attack a little later. His dismissals of Ben Duckett and Harry Brook came off back-of-a-length deliveries, using his brisk pace — he breaches the 140 km/h mark routinely — to coerce them into committing errors. "With the new ball, he conceded runs but there was no help from the pitch either. When the ball gets older, the back-of-length delivery is useful," former India and Delhi pacer Amit Shah said. Harshit, who has trained with Harshit for the past two years, told *The Hindu*. "He



Vital strike: Conceicao's goal proved the difference. AFP

## Conceicao wins it for Juventus against Inter

Defending champion Inter Milan missed its chance to move top of Serie A on Sunday after losing 1-0 at Juventus, which boosted its hopes of a top-four finish. The scoring options are limited. In Harshit's armoury, there is also a deceptive slower ball that he will hope to put to shrewd use during the Champions Trophy. It was on show during his breakthrough IPL campaign with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) last year. "In limited-overs cricket, a bowler must have variations to succeed. You cannot be predictable. Harshit has the potential to be a match-winner," Bhandardi said.

## India men and women hope to garner maximum points

### Uthra Ganesan BHUBANESWAR

With a win and a loss under their belt, the Indian men would be hoping for a better outing when they take on World Champion Germany in a back-to-back games at the Salt Lake stadium here over the next two days. The Indian women, meanwhile, would be keen on bouncing back from a disappointing loss to England when they take on the hosts in the next two outings. Starting with a loss to Spain before regrouping to win 2-0 on Sunday, the Indian men will be looking to earn maximum points in their remaining games. The forwards were effective in India's victory but penalty corners continue to remain an area of concern. India is yet to convert any of the PCs earned so far with both Harmanpreet Singh and Jyoti Singh unable to find the way past the Spanish defence as India hopes to go better than its disappointing record in place finish last season. It won't be any easier against the hosts as they played a two-match series



Redemption time: The Indian women will be eager to recover from the sudden-death loss against England. BHUBANESWAR ROUT

against India in New Delhi in October with the hours split even but have struggled in the Pro League with just one win in four games. The Indian women, who barely managed to retain their spot in the Pro League last year, will also be eager to recover from the heart-breaking loss in sudden death. Biggest takeaway The team's big takeaway from the matches so far has been its ability to switch gears when under pressure and not get defensive regardless of the situation of the match. PCs have also been a positive sign with the team scoring both directly and indirectly during set-piece

## ANOTHER ACCOLADE

# Manu Bhaker wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award



FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Star Indian pistol shooter Manu Bhaker was named the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year on Monday. **Other winners:** Sheetal Devi (Emerging Player of the Year), Mithali Raj (Lifetime Achievement Award), Avani Lekhara (Para Sportswoman of the Year) and Tania Sachdev (Changemaker Award).

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## Khelo Winter Games in Gulmarg postponed

The Khelo Winter Games to be held in Gulmarg from February 22-25, with competitions in Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, ski mountaineering and snowboarding, has been postponed due to a lack of snow. “The Khelo Winter Games has been postponed due to insufficient snowfall. A new assessment will be conducted once snow conditions improve,” said the region’s Sports Council said in a statement.

# India to build first offshore airport

● To come up on an artificial island near Mumbai

MIHIR MISHRA  
New Delhi, February 17

**THE GOVERNMENT IS** planning to build its first offshore airport near Mumbai, people familiar with the matter said, as part of the efforts to overhaul the country's infrastructure.

The new airport will be constructed on an artificial island near the Vadhvan seaport on the west coast, according to people familiar who did not want to be identified as the details are private. The upcoming facility will be similar to Hong Kong International Air-

## TAKING OFF

■ The Vadhvan airport project is 125 kilometres from Mumbai's existing international airport

■ Built on reclaimed land, it will not only boost connectivity, but also avoid land acquisition delays



■ One big hurdle will be ensuring that it gets enough fliers

■ Rapid commute options are crucial between the new project and other airports in the city

port and Osaka's Kansai International Airport which are also built on man-made islands, one of the people said.

In a meeting last month, the project got initial approvals from the environment and defence departments as well as

the Maharashtra government, they said. Feasibility studies will be initiated, with Airports Authority of India assisting the process, after which an estimated investment figure will emerge, the people said.

The Vadhvan airport pro-

ject — roughly 125 kilometres from Mumbai's existing international airport — showcases both the scale of the government's ambitions as well as the challenges ahead.

■ Proposed bullet train line between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to make a pit stop nearby

■ Upcoming facility will be similar to Hong Kong International Airport and Osaka's Kansai International Airport

**Continued on Page 18**

# ₹122 crore carried over five years in a backpack

ANUPREKSHA JAIN  
Mumbai, February 17

**LIKE LAKHS OF** Mumbaikars travelling by local trains, Hitesh Mehta carried a backpack to office and back for five long years. The only difference: The general manager and head of accounts of New India Co-operative Bank was often illegally carrying lakhs, and sometimes even crores (when ₹2,000 notes were still in circulation) in that backpack.

By his own admission to the police, in all, he carried ₹122 crore between 2019 and 2024 – an amount that led to the temporary shutdown of the bank last Friday. While sources said that the auditors will be investigated, the modus operandi of the operation has caused quite a flutter amid investigators.

Sources said that Mehta had given ₹70 crore to Dharmesh Paun, a private developer from Mumbai's Kandivali, and another ₹40

## MONEY TRAIL

■ Hitesh Mehta, GM and head of accounts of New India Co-op Bank, carried the money between 2019 and 2024

■ While ₹112 crore was embezzled from the safe in Prabhadevi, ₹10 crore was siphoned off from Goregaon branch



■ ₹70 crore given to Dharmesh Paun, a private developer from Kandivali, who is the second accused

■ It is still unknown where Mehta used the remaining ₹12 crore

■ Another ₹40 cr went to a solar panel contractor, Unnanathan Arunachalam, the third accused who is absconding

crore to a solar panel contractor, Unnanathan Arunachalam alias Arunbhai, who is absconding, and is the third accused in the case. It is still unknown where Mehta used the remaining ₹12 crore.

Paun was arrested by Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Sunday. Both

he and Mehta have been remanded to custody till February 21. Sources, however, said Paun has denied receiving the money from Mehta, sources said. The EOW is investigating the builder's Charkop rehabilitation project.

**Continued on Page 18**

# 78th BAFTA Awards 2025

## Conclave wins best film, Brody bags top honour

**PAPAL SELECTION THRILLER** *Conclave* and period drama *The Brutalist* were the big winners at the BAFTA Film Awards on Sunday, winning four prizes each. *Conclave*, which had led nominations with 12 nods, won the night's most coveted award, best film, as well as outstanding British film, best adapted screenplay and best editing. Meanwhile, Payal Kapadia's critically acclaimed movie *All We Imagine As Light* lost out in the Best Film Not in the English Language category to French title *Emilia Pérez*. —REUTERS

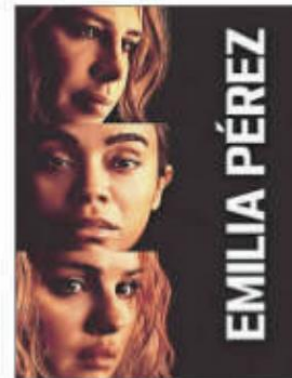
**Best Actor in a Leading Role**  
Adrien Brody  
(*The Brutalist*)



**Best Film**  
**Conclave**



**Best Film Not in the English Language**  
**Emilia Pérez**



**Best Director**  
**Brady Corbet** (*The Brutalist*)

**Best Actress in a Leading Role**  
**Mikey Madison** (*Anora*)

**Best Actor in a Supporting Role**  
**Kieran Culkin** (*A Real Pain*)

**Best Actress in a Supporting Role**  
**Zoe Saldaña** (*Emilia Pérez*)

**Best Original Screenplay**  
**Jesse Eisenberg** (*A Real Pain*)

**Best Adapted Screenplay**  
**Peter Straughan** (*Conclave*)

**Best Animated Film**  
**Wallace & Gromit**  
**Vengeance Most Fowl**

**Best Documentary**  
**Super/Man**  
**The Christopher Reeve Story**

# Marital Rape

- The Chhattisgarh High Court ruled that the marital rape exemption applies to Section 377 IPC, removing the legal recourse for married women against non-consensual acts.
- What is Marital Rape?
- Definition: Marital rape refers to **non-consensual sexual intercourse** by a husband with his wife, which remains **exempted from criminal prosecution** under Indian law.
- Legal Status in India: Exception 2 to **Section 375 IPC** and **Section 63 of BNS** grants immunity to husbands for non-consensual sex with their wives above 18 years.
- Global Perspective: Over **100 countries**, including the U.K., U.S., France, and Nepal, have **criminalized marital rape**, considering it a violation of women's rights.





# LAWS GOVERNING MARITAL RAPE IN INDIA:

**01**

Indian Penal Code (IPC) & Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS): **Section 375 IPC and its counterpart in BNS exempt marital rape from being classified as an offence.**

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**02**

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005: **Provides civil remedies like protection orders but does not criminalize marital rape.**

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**03**

Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013: **Expanded rape definition but retained marital rape exception, despite the Justice Verma Committee's recommendation to remove it**

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**04**

Independent Thought v. Union of India (2017): **Supreme Court criminalized marital rape of wives below 18 years, but the exemption for adult women remained.**

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- **Arguments in Favor of Criminalizing Marital Rape:**
- **Violation of Fundamental Rights:** Article 14 (Equality) & Article 21 (Right to Dignity and Privacy) are violated by treating married and unmarried women differently.
- **Consent in Marriage:** Marriage does not imply permanent consent; bodily autonomy must be upheld as per Supreme Court judgments (Puttaswamy judgement, Joseph Shine judgement).
- **Global Legal Standards:** Countries like the U.K. and Nepal criminalized marital rape, setting an international human rights precedent.
- **Underreporting & Justice for Victims:** [NFHS-5](#) data shows one-third of married women face sexual or physical violence from their husbands, with no legal recourse.
- **Judicial Precedents:** Karnataka HC (2022) recognized marital rape as an offence, recommending progressive legal reform.

- **Arguments Against Criminalizing Marital Rape:**
- **Preservation of Marriage:** The government argues that criminalizing marital rape could undermine the institution of marriage and increase divorce rates.
- **Risk of False Cases:** Concerns that false allegations could be misused to harass husbands, though studies show sexual crimes remain underreported.
- **Legislative Domain:** The Centre argues that this is a policy decision that should be made by the Parliament, not the judiciary.
- **Existing Remedies:** Other laws like domestic violence laws provide civil remedies, although they lack criminal deterrence.
- **Cultural & Societal Norms:** Some contend that Indian societal values do not align with criminalizing marital rape, making its implementation challenging.

# Exercise Dharma Guardian

- The sixth edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian, a joint military exercise between India and Japan, is scheduled to take place at Mount Fuji, Japan.
- **Nations Involved:** India and Japan
- **Host Place:** Mount Fuji, Japan
- **Frequency:** Biennial (every two years)

# Project Waterworth

- Meta has announced an ambitious undersea cable initiative called **Project Waterworth** to **enhance global digital connectivity.**
- **About Project Waterworth**
- It is an **AI-powered subsea cable system**, spanning 50,000 km across five continents and is the longest and highest-capacity **subsea cable system**, linking the **U.S., India, Brazil, South Africa, and other key regions.**
-

- The cables will be laid at **depths of up to 7,000 meters** in deep waters and advanced burial techniques in high-risk shallow waters will protect the cables from ship anchors and environmental hazards.
- The initiative will introduce **three new oceanic corridors**, improving the scale and reliability of internet networks.
- **Greater connectivity** will enhance international cooperation, digital inclusion, and technological advancements.



# Solar Dehydration Technology

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has introduced an innovative solar dehydration technique aimed at preserving agricultural produce using sustainable energy

- **About**

- **Solar Dehydration Technology:** Uses solar energy to dry fruits and vegetables, extending their shelf life and reducing dependency on fluctuating market prices.
- **Significance:** This innovative and sustainable approach aligns with India's broader goals of rural empowerment, waste reduction, and renewable energy integration in agriculture.
  - Farmers can store produce longer and sell at better prices, improving their income.

# Exercise Komodo

- The Indian Navy, represented by INS Shardul and P8I Long Range Maritime Surveillance aircraft, is actively participating in Exercise Komodo 2025.
- **About Exercise Komodo**
- First launched in 2014, it is a non-combat military exercise aimed at fostering maritime cooperation among friendly nations.

- It is a multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indonesian Navy in Bali, Indonesia.
- This aligns with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, strengthening maritime partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.
- Enhanced interoperability with ASEAN Navies and QUAD partners.

# **Biobank Established in Darjeeling Zoo**

- As part of a national programme, **India's first 'bio bank'** is to be established in **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in West Bengal.**
- **About**
- It is in collaboration with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), under the **Ministry of Science and Technology.**



- The facility collects and preserves cell and tissue samples from endangered animals, as well as reproductive cells from deceased animals.
  - These can be used for future research and potentially even bring back critically endangered species that have gone extinct or are on the verge of extinction.

10 MCQ

- **Who has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India?**
- **भारत के नए मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**
- **A. Sushil Chandra / सुशील चंद्रा**
- **B. Gyanesh Kumar / ज्ञानेश कुमार**
- **C. Rajiv Kumar / राजीव कुमार**
- **D. Vivek Joshi / विवेक जोशी**

- Under which new law was the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) made?
- मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) की नियुक्ति किस नए कानून के तहत की गई है?
- A. Election Commission (Reforms) Act, 2024 / चुनाव आयोग (सुधार) अधिनियम, 2024
- B. Electoral Appointments and Service Act, 2023 / चुनाव नियुक्ति और सेवा अधिनियम, 2023
- C. Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023
- D. Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2023 / जन प्रतिनिधित्व (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2023

- Which new official has been appointed as an Election Commissioner along with the CEC?
- CEC के साथ किसे चुनाव आयुक्त के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है?
- A. Anil Chauhan / अनिल चौहान
- B. Vivek Joshi / विवेक जोशी
- C. Alok Kumar / आलोक कुमार
- D. Pradeep Rawat / प्रदीप रावत

- The Finance Ministry is considering increasing the deposit insurance limit from ₹5 lakh to what amount?
- वित्त मंत्रालय ₹5 लाख की जमा बीमा सीमा को किस नई राशि तक बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहा है?
- A. ₹10 lakh / ₹10 लाख
- B. ₹7.5 lakh / ₹7.5 लाख
- C. ₹15 lakh / ₹15 लाख
- D. ₹20 lakh / ₹20 लाख

- Which organization provides deposit insurance in India?
- भारत में जमा बीमा किस संगठन द्वारा प्रदान किया जाता है?
- A. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) / भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI)  
B. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) / भारतीय बीमा नियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण (IRDAI)  
C. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) / जमा बीमा और क्रेडिट गारंटी निगम (DICGC)  
D. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) / भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड (SEBI)

- . Where was the epicenter of the recent 4.0 magnitude earthquake in Delhi?
- दिल्ली में हाल ही में आए 4.0 तीव्रता के भूकंप का केंद्र कहां था?
- A. Rohini / रोहिणी
- B. Jheel Park / झील पार्क
- C. Dwarka / द्वारका
- D. Saket / साकेत



- Delhi falls under which seismic zone as per the National Centre for Seismology?
- राष्ट्रीय भूकंप विज्ञान केंद्र (NCS) के अनुसार दिल्ली किस भूकंपीय क्षेत्र में आती है?
- A. Zone II (Low risk) / क्षेत्र II (कम जोखिम)  
B. Zone III (Moderate risk) / क्षेत्र III (मध्यम जोखिम)  
C. Zone IV (High risk) / क्षेत्र IV (उच्च जोखिम)  
D. Zone V (Very high risk) / क्षेत्र V (अत्यधिक उच्च जोखिम)

- What is the name of the joint military exercise between India and Japan taking place in Mount Fuji, Japan?
- भारत और जापान के बीच माउंट फुजी, जापान में आयोजित हो रहे संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास का नाम क्या है?
- A. Exercise Yudh Abhyas / अभ्यास युद्ध अभ्यास
- B. Exercise Dharma Guardian / अभ्यास धर्म गार्जियन
- C. Exercise Shakti / अभ्यास शक्ति
- D. Exercise Malabar / अभ्यास मलाबार

- The Aravali Safari Park is planned to be developed in which Indian state?
- अरावली सफारी पार्क भारत के किस राज्य में विकसित किया जा रहा है?
- A. Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- B. Haryana / हरियाणा
- C. Gujarat / गुजरात
- D. Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश

- The Indian Navy is participating in which multilateral naval exercise hosted by Indonesia?
- भारतीय नौसेना इंडोनेशिया द्वारा आयोजित किस बहुपक्षीय नौसेना अभ्यास में भाग ले रही है?
- A. Exercise RIMPAC / अभ्यास रिमपैक
- B. Exercise La Perouse / अभ्यास ला पेरूज
- C. Exercise Komodo / अभ्यास कोमोडो
- D. Exercise Malabar / अभ्यास मलाबार

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# Word of the day

## **Counterpoise:**

a weight that balances another weight;  
constitute a counterweight or counterbalance to

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**Synonyms:** balance, counterbalance,  
counterweight, equaliser

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**Usage:** *The villain's character is counterpoised  
by the hero's unwavering integrity in the film.*

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## **Pronunciation:**

[newsth.live/counterpoise](http://newsth.live/counterpoise)pro

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## **International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /'kaʊntə(ɹ),pɔɪz/

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Home to the World's Longest-  
Reigning Monarch

King **Bhumibol Adulyadej** (Rama IX) ruled Thailand for **70 years (1946–2016)**, making him the **longest-reigning monarch in Thai history** and one of the longest in world history.

The Real Name of \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Longest City Name in the World



Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

Class24

# NTPC

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20 मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट)-1

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

20 OMR SHEETS सहित

— विशेषताएँ —

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



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Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

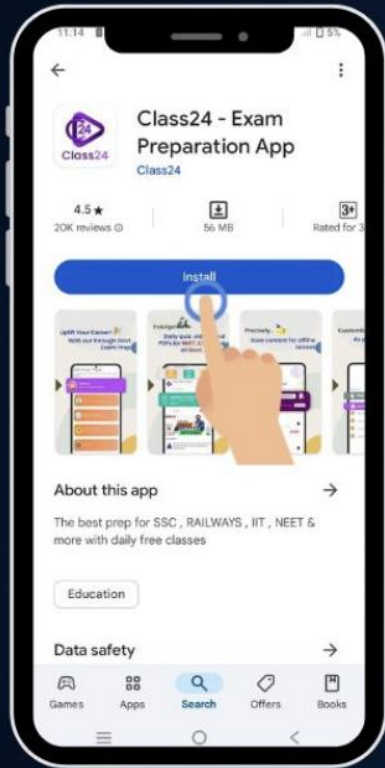
# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

20 मॉडल पेपर्स

Price  
Rs 199

# Step 1



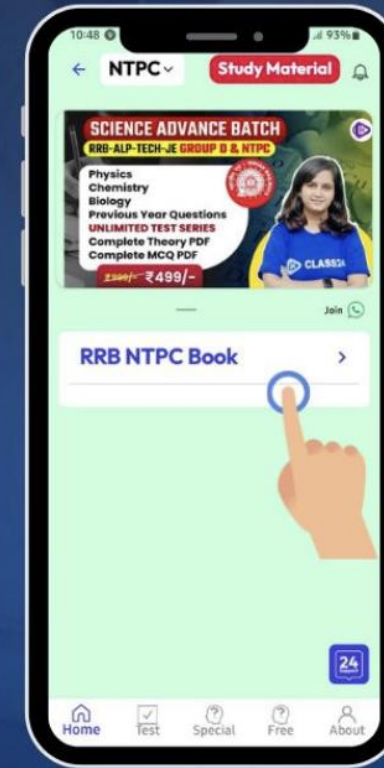
# Step 2




# Step 3



# Step 4



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

Thank you  
guys.

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