

# Daily Current Affairs



जनसक्ता



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PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

MCQ

• India and Qatar have recently elevated their bilateral relations to which level?

• क्रमशः उच्चतम स्तर पर भारत-कतार द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को किस स्तर पर प्रगत किया गया है?

- A. Economic Partnership / आर्थिक साझेदारी
- B. Strategic Partnership / रणनीतिक साझेदारी
- C. Free Trade Partnership / निःशुल्क व्यापार साझेदारी
- D. Diplomatic Alliance / दूतावास गठबंधन

- Qatar is one of the largest suppliers of which resource to India?
- इ लघ क्रघल इङ्ग श्रुं ढुं ढुं ढुं ढुं इव ढुं ढुं ढुं ढुं हल्लुं ल्लुं
- A. Crude Oil / इ व्र लघ
- B. Natural Gas (LNG) / व्रङ्गश्रुं षुं (LNG)
- C. Uranium / गङ्ग गव्र
- D. Gold / ढुं

- What is the purpose of India's Biannual Transparency Report (BTR)?
- क्रमशः इह श्रेष्ठतरं दृष्टव्यं प्रयत्नः (BTR) इव किं प्रयत्नः
- A. To report progress on sustainable development goals (SDGs) / इह लक्ष्यं  
 श्रेष्ठतरं चक्रं (SDG) इह दृष्टव्यं इह प्रयत्नः कर्तव्यः
- B. To track greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate actions /  
 इह प्रयत्नः कर्तव्यः (GHG) इह दृष्टव्यं इह प्रयत्नः कर्तव्यः
- C. To promote carbon credit trading / इह प्रयत्नः कर्तव्यः इह प्रयत्नः कर्तव्यः
- D. To regulate industrial pollution / इह प्रयत्नः कर्तव्यः इह प्रयत्नः कर्तव्यः

- Under which international agreement is India preparing its first Biannual Transparency Report (BTR)?
- क्रयघल १ हषुव हणचव श्रेअवकुड हवघवशुवलव प्रघहकुल (BTR)शुड ह शत्रलघघवमसुग हसुवपुत्रलड डड लणुल लुगवघ डुघ घणुव णु?
- A. Kyoto Protocol / कुलुव कुलुडकुच
- B. Paris Agreement 2015 / हकुघुडु हसुवपुत्रलव 2015
- C. Montreal Protocol / सुवणुवकुच कुलुडकुच
- D. Glasgow Climate Pact / सुवकुडु णुल नुं कुंअवकुलकुलु



- India's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions fell by what percentage in 2020 due to COVID-19 lockdowns?
- COVID-19 चरम मरुक्षण इत इवघर 2020 रकुरवघर इत इअर इहणवखरु पुर (GHG) कंदेनरु रकुररु लेडु अलरु ल इह अघवअरु ष ह?
- A. 5.1%
- B. 7.93%
- C. 10.2%
- D. 12.5%

- What major concern was raised regarding the water quality at Sangam during the Maha Kumbh?
- स्रणत्र डुस्रु डड व्रघत्र व्रणर स्रुन च एरुत्रुव डडर चडघ बरसु श्रुत्रुव प्र व्ह?
- A. High levels of toxic metals / श्रुत्रुव श्रुत्रुव डव ६-८ bघ
- B. Dangerous levels of fecal bacteria / स्रच न्हश्रुत्रुव डव ६ लघव्रड bघ
- C. Excessive industrial pollution / १ डुश्रु ड उ डुश्रु ड वलुश्रु
- D. Severe oxygen depletion in water / न च स्रुतु श्रुन ष डुह १ डुश्रु ड ड स्रह

- Which organization has been monitoring pollution levels in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers?
- पञ्जाब उ घ गरावर एश्ट गङ्गा रकुड लरु bघ इह शः पघवरुह इत्रु ढुव ड्रुपुः ष डघ घणत्र षु
- A. National Green Tribunal (NGT) / घनरुगुण णप्रघल १शः इघरु (NGT)
- B. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) / डुङ्गुग डलरु शः गडुगु ड्रुगु (CPCB)
- C. Ministry of Jal Shakti / नः च टुसः रकुडुवचगु
- D. World Health Organization (WHO) / शः C strug ड्रुपुः ष (WHO)

• Which company has recently posted job openings in Mumbai and Delhi for its expansion in India?

• कौन सा कम्पनी हाल ही में मुंबई और दिल्ली में नए नौकरों की तलाश कर रहा है ताकि वह भारत में अपनी विपणन प्रणाली को बढ़ावा दे सके?

- A. Apple / डी.सी.
- B. Tesla / टेस्ला
- C. Amazon / अमेज़न
- D. Microsoft / माइक्रोसॉफ्ट

- Which new educational reform has CBSE announced starting from 2026?
- CBSE 2026 के लिए दो बार प्रश्नपत्रों का आयोजन होगा।  
इसे पढ़ें
- A. Class 10 board exams will be held twice a year / इन्हें 10 को दो बार आयोजित किया जाएगा।  
इसे पढ़ें
- B. Introduction of open-book exams for Class 12 / इन्हें 12 के लिए शिथिल आयोजित किया जाएगा।  
इसे पढ़ें
- C. Abolition of board exams for secondary students / रद्द किया जाएगा।  
इसे पढ़ें
- D. Implementation of AI-based grading system / इसे ह-ए प्रणाली लागू किया जाएगा।  
इसे पढ़ें

- UNESCO has launched which campaign to promote gender balance in STEM fields?
- STEM लक्ष्यारक च्या उद्देशाने UNESCO च्या इतर प्रयत्नांसोबत UNESCO च्या इतर उद्देशांशी संबंधित आहे का?
- A. Women in Science Leadership Initiative / अत्रिणीय विज्ञान नेतृत्व प्रयत्न  
दृष्टी
- B. Imagine a World with More Women in Science / इतर ह्या जगात इतर विज्ञान क्षेत्रात नसणाऱ्या अत्रिणीय विज्ञान नेतृत्व प्रयत्नांशी संबंधित आहे का?
- C. Global Women in STEM Movement / अत्रिणीय विज्ञान क्षेत्रात ग्लोबल चळवळ
- D. Breaking Barriers for Women in Science / अत्रिणीय विज्ञान क्षेत्रात बाधा तोडणे

Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)



# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

**20** मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट) - 1

- सामान्य ज्ञान/संस्कृत
- 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



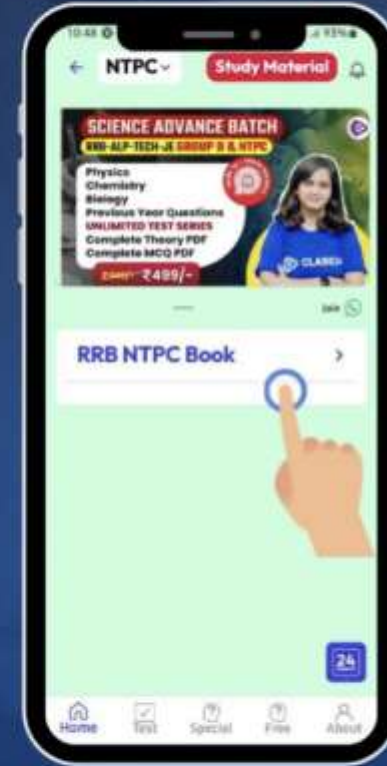
# Step 2



# Step 3



# Step 4







## "कर्म"

कर्म किसी व्यक्ति के कार्यों के परिणामों के माध्यम से उसके जीवन की दिशा को आकार देता है।

# From 2026, CBSE to hold Class X Boards twice a yr

## To Unveil Draft Rules On Mon For Public Opinion

**Manash.Gohain**  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Hit by the Covid pandemic, albeit later than intended, CBSE will roll out twice-a-year board exams for class X from 2026 and introduce the CBSE Global Curriculum for 260 foreign schools affiliated to it from 2026-2027.

The education ministry held a discussion, led by minister Dharmendra Pradhan, with CBSE officials and heads of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), where draft schemes, set for public consultation on next Monday, were thoroughly deliberated.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced plans to implement multiple board exams annually, allowing students to take their exams twice and retain their best score. This reform aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises flexibility and a student-centric approach.

According to a ministry official, "The initiative aims at reducing the high-pressure, one-time examination system and provide students with an opportunity to improve their performance



Are You Ready. Chalkboard on a wooden background

without the stress of a single high-stakes test. By offering multiple attempts, CBSE seeks to create a more supportive learning environment that prioritizes conceptual understanding over rote memorisation."

The policy advocates for competency-based evaluations over traditional summative assessments, shifting focus to formative learning and skill mastery. "CBSE is encouraging a shift towards formative learning, where students can focus on skill mastery and self-improvement rather than mere exam performance. This model also aligns with global best practices, such as the SAT system in the US, which allows students to take tests multiple times and submit their best scores," said the official.

The move also supports

NEP's goal of inclusivity, accommodating students facing challenges such as exam anxiety or illness. Providing multiple attempts ensures students from diverse backgrounds have a fair chance to showcase their abilities. CBSE is also scaling up teacher training to ensure a smooth transition toward this progressive assessment model.

Pradhan emphasised that the new format is a crucial step towards a stress-free learning environment. "Examination improvement and reform is a key step towards this. This reform will help mitigate exam-related stress and ensure a more balanced evaluation system," he said.

In addition, CBSE will launch its Global Curriculum for foreign schools in 2026-2027.

- Starting from 2026, CBSE will conduct Class X board exams twice a year, allowing students to retain their best scores.

2026 दस, दस-दस-दस द इ लर 10 इह इमर हघल्लरर दवच रररर वरघ  
 ष गुररर ल इघणेर, अर द द इवकुरररर १ हणर द अरररर Wररर वररर घर रर  
 इर ररररर अरररररर

- This initiative is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which promotes flexibility and a student-centric approach.

गण हणच घररररर अर लर एहअर (NEP) 2020 इड १ अर ह अर नरर  
 चरररररर र घ इवद-इरररर «अरररर इरर वरररर रररर अर

- The move aims to reduce stress caused by single high-stakes exams and promote conceptual understanding over rote learning.

सुदु इ वरुन इवु कुषुडु इडु एरु हघुलुनरु डुडु एरुडु अरुचुडु लुषुवरुनरु इडुनरु इरुनरु  
 इघुषुवरुनु अघु घुलुषुडु इडुहनु नुवरुगु डुडु हघुषुवरुनु डुडुखुणु इडुनरु प्रुवरुनरु डुषुवरु एरुडु

- CBSE is also introducing a Global Curriculum for 260 foreign-affiliated schools from 2026-27.

डुहनु हडुडु ह 2026-27 डुडु 260 अरुडुडुह डुडुषु वरुनरुडुडु अरुडु इडु अरुडु  
 हघुषुवरुनु कुरु डुडु इघुषुवरुनु

• Benefits of the Change | ँ ढ चरत्र इडु चरक्र

- Students can take exams twice and choose their best score, similar to the SAT system in the US.

ध्रद्र ळ ँवघ हघहल्लर ळ ढ ड लड णर ङ घ १ ह ष्र ढ अ ँ उरव W ळघ ढर ढ ड लड णर भ्रहड अरड णर न्रडड १ ररररररर डह SAT रररररर ररररररर णर

- The focus will shift from summative assessments to formative learning and skill mastery.

हघहल्लर ररररररर इडर ढररर रररररर ष (summative assessments) ढड णरररररर इरररर च ररररररररर ङ घ १ अररररररररररर (conceptual) ढररररर डह इ घ रर नररररर नररररररर

- The change supports inclusivity, especially for students facing exam anxiety or illness.

गण्ड इ वरुण्ड डुरवुरवुरवुर व (inclusivity) इडुरा ण प्रवुरवुर वरुण्ड, शुरवुरवुर व च ह वडु १-२  
 वरुण्ड इडुरा शुरवुरवुर वडुरा हघहलुर इडुर लरुवुरवुर गुर ण हुरवुरवुरवुरवुरवुर वडुर नुरा वण्डुण्डु

- CBSE will provide teacher training to ensure a smooth transition to this new format.

वह ण हडु व शुर लडुडुरा इडुर शुरवुरवुर वडुर लुर इह ण अरु व वडुण्डु लुरवुर वडु व ह  
 हघहलुर वरुवुरवुर वडुर वडुरवुर व च ह वडु ण वरुवुर वडुण्डु वडुण्डु





# Kerala's Plan to Grant Industry Status to Tourism





- 
- The Kerala government is planning to grant ‘industry status’ to tourism, a long-standing demand of the tourism and hospitality sector.
  - **Granting industry status**
  - It provides benefits like reduced power tariffs, water tariffs, and property taxes, promoting investment and job creation.
  - The **Ministry of Tourism** has launched a handbook which aims to serve as a guide to States/UTs to support efforts of States/UTs in granting and implementing ‘industry status’ for the tourism and hospitality sector.
- 

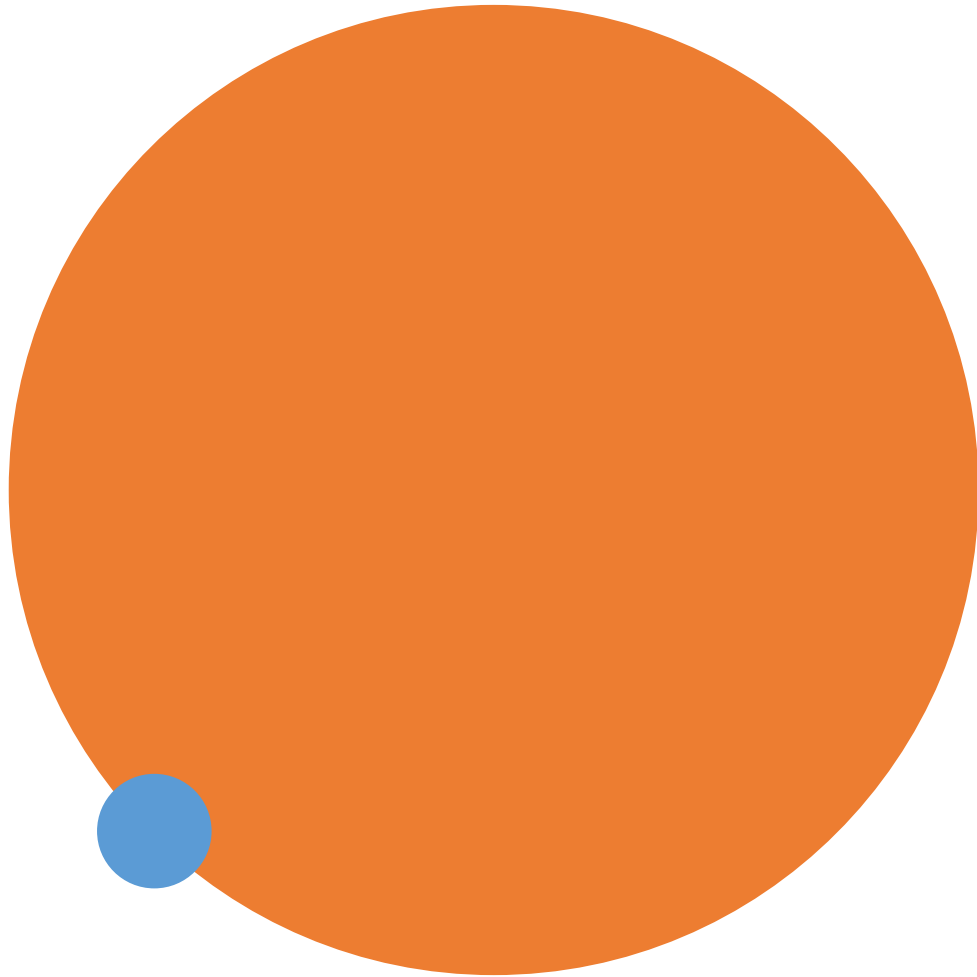
## Objectives and Need

```
graph TD; A[Objectives and Need] --> B[The tourism sector, which employs 5 lakh people directly and 20 lakh indirectly, has struggled due to natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a major landslide in 2024.]; B --> C[The recent move aims to boost investment and development in the sector, which contributes around 10% to the State's GDP.];
```

The tourism sector, which employs 5 lakh people directly and 20 lakh indirectly, has struggled due to natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a major landslide in 2024.

The recent move aims to boost investment and development in the sector, which contributes around 10% to the State's GDP.

- 
- – India's tourism sector, rich in heritage, culture, and diversity, is emerging as a global favorite and a key driver of economic growth.
  - The tourism sector's contribution to GDP regained the pre-pandemic level of 5 per cent in FY23. The tourism sector created 7.6 crore jobs in FY23.
- 




- – The **Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 (TTDI)** ranked India at **39th** among 119 countries in the 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum.
- The **Union Budget 2025-26** has allocated ₹2541.06 crore to enhance infrastructure, skill development, and travel facilitation



# SAKSHAM Campaign





- 
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited launched a 14-day awareness campaign called **SAKSHAM**.
  - **About**
  - The campaign was launched **on green energy and fuel conservation**.
  - It aims to **raise awareness about fuel conservation** and the judicious use of petroleum products to ensure a safer environment and sustainable energy resources for future generations.
  - The idea is to **convince consumers to switch to cleaner fuels** and bring in behavioural change to use fossil fuel intelligently.



-



# India's Trade with Afghanistan and Nepal

- 
- India recorded an unusual trade deficit with Afghanistan in the year 2023-24. In another development, soybean oil imports from Nepal surged 14-fold (April-November 2024), possibly due to rule-of-origin (RoO) violations
- 





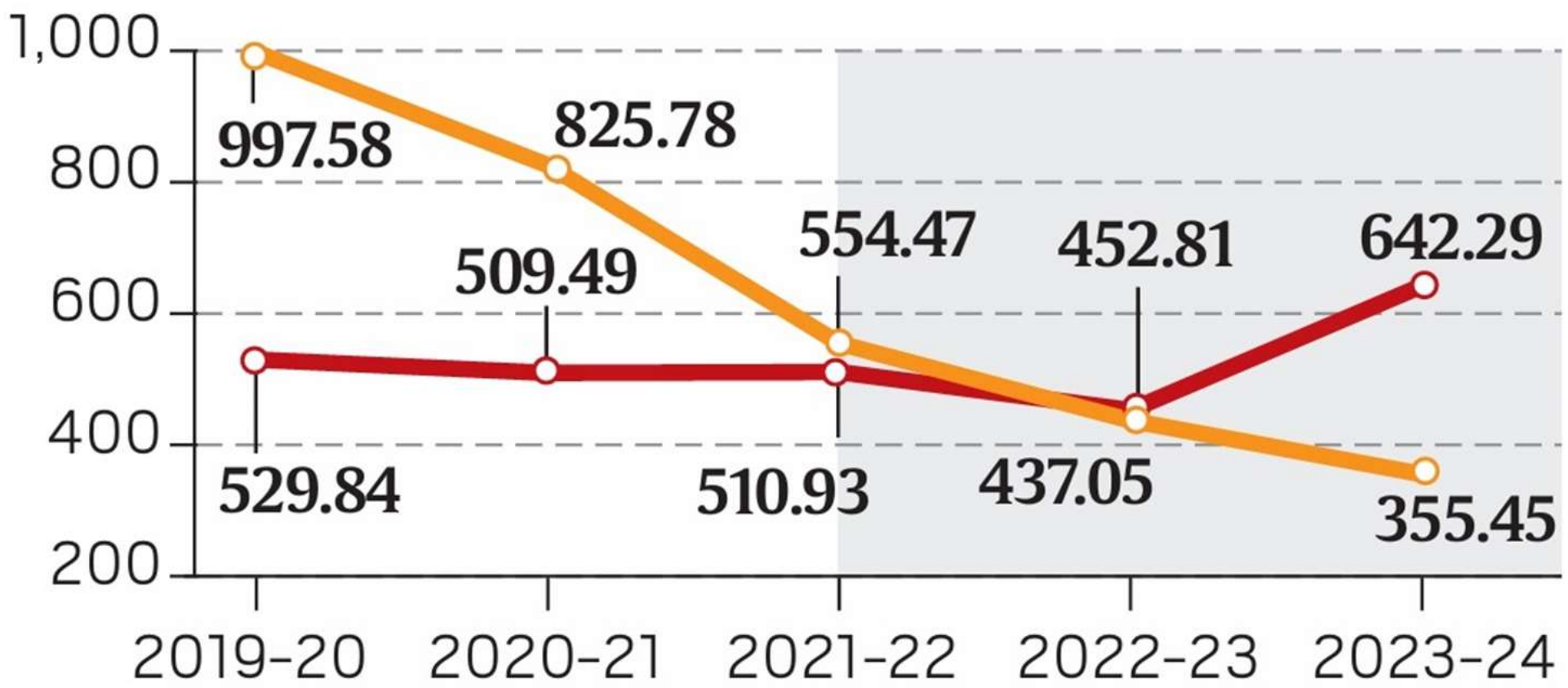
- **Afghanistan: Bilateral Trade**

**Trends:** India's exports to Afghanistan fell from **USD 825.78 million in 2020-21** to **USD 355.45 million in 2023-24**, while imports rose from **USD 509.49 million in 2020-21** to a record **USD 642.29 million in 2023-24**.

- Before this, the last time India saw a **trade deficit (USD 0.73 million)** with Afghanistan was in **2000-01**.
- 

# INDIA'S TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN

Export Import in \$million



Source: Ministry of Commerce



**Imports:** Agricultural products like **figs, asafoetida, raisins, apples, garlic, saffron, almonds, onions, pomegranates, and walnuts** dominate.



**Exports:** Mainly **medicines, vaccines, soybean meal, and garments**.



**Key Products:** In 2023-24, Afghanistan was the primary supplier of **asafoetida, raisins, and garlic**.

In 2023-24, Afghanistan became India's **3rd-largest apple supplier**, (surpassed Italy and the US) after **Iran and Turkey**.

- 
- **Nepal:** India's total soybean oil imports rose by 19% to nearly **USD 3 billion (April-November 2024)** from **USD 2.5 billion in 2023**.
    - **Rule-of-Origin Violation:** Nepal imports 98% crude edible oil, refines it, and exports it to India indicating **duty structure exploitation**.
      - Nepal enjoys a **30% tariff advantage** over other exporters due to the **Nepal-India Treaty of Trade (2009)**, allowing **duty-free exports** to India.
- 



# First-time MLA Rekha Gupta to be Delhi CM; swearing-in today

BJP Legislature Party meet selects Shalimar Bagh legislator to hold the top post; Lieutenant-Governor invites her to form government; she will become the fourth woman CM in the capital; PM to attend oath-taking ceremony at Ramlila Maidan

**Satvika Mahajan**  
NEW DELHI

**R**ekha Gupta, a first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh, has been chosen as the new Delhi Chief Minister, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said after its legislature party meeting at its national headquarters on Wednesday evening.

Ms. Gupta, 50, will be the fourth woman to head the government in the Union Territory.

The announcement comes nearly 10 days after the BJP returned to power in the national capital after 26 years, winning 48 of the 70 seats in the Assembly election. The party is yet to announce its picks for ministerial berths.

Ms. Gupta, a three-time municipal councillor who



**Starting big:** CM-designate Rekha Gupta with party leaders at the BJP office in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

was active in student politics, was a surprise choice. She beat a number of probable candidates, including Parvesh Verma who had defeated Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi constituency, three-term MLA and former Leader of the Opposi-

tion Vijender Gupta, and former Delhi BJP president Satish Upadhyay.

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena invited Ms. Gupta to form the government after she met him at his residence following the legislature party meeting, accompanied by senior

BJP leaders, to stake claim to it.

The oath-taking ceremony, set to take place at Ramlila Maidan on Thursday, will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled States.

## Approved by consensus

Ms. Gupta's selection by the legislature party was overseen by two central observers – senior MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, and former Haryana MLA O.P. Dhankar. BJP sources said that nine proposals were made in her favour, and all were approved by consensus.

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, Ms. Gupta expressed her gratitude to the top leadership of the party for trusting her with the responsibility.

"I pledge that I will work with full honesty, integrity and dedication for the welfare, empowerment and overall development of every citizen of Delhi. I am fully committed to this important opportunity to take Delhi to new heights," Ms. Gupta said.

Three MLAs supported her claim to become the leader of the Delhi BJP's legislative party.

The meeting was attended by all 48 MLAs-elect, as well as Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva and other senior Delhi BJP leaders.

In this month's Assembly election, Ms. Gupta defeated three-time AAP MLA Bandana Kumari by a margin of 29,595 votes.

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# NINTH CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI

REKHA GUPTA | 50

### QUALIFICATION

Bachelor of Law from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut



### POLITICAL JOURNEY

Defeated AAP's Bandana Kumari from Shalimar Bagh assembly constituency by **29,595 votes**



### First-Time MLA

➤ Was elected MCD councillor in 2007, 2012 and 2022



➤ Was chairperson of education committee in North Delhi Municipal Corporation in 2013

➤ Elected Delhi University Students' Union president in 1996



CM-to-be Rekha Gupta is greeted by BJP leaders on Wednesday

Total movable and immovable assets **₹5.3 CRORE**



Ran **'Sumedha Yojana'**, a non-govt initiative to help economically weaker female students pursue higher education

## FIRST REACTION

“ I am fully committed to this important opportunity to take Delhi to new heights. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the top leadership for trusting me and entrusting me with the responsibility of the post of chief minister. This trust and support of yours has given me new energy and inspiration”

— REKHA GUPTA

- Rekha Gupta, a first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh, has been chosen as Delhi's new Chief Minister by the BJP.

ट्रिचहरप्रघ व्रण ड्ड हणचह व्रघ श्रश्रवगड व्रह घरुव पैंम ड्डम व्रहण्डह ड्ड  
श्रह ड्डह ड्ड रक्करक्कह ड्ड च ह रक्करक्कह प्क

- She will be the fourth woman CM of Delhi.

अण श्रह ड्डह द्गळ रक्करक्कह रक्करक्कह प्कहड्ड





- The decision was made at the BJP legislature party meeting, attended by all 48 MLAs-elect and senior leaders.

गण ँचढ चव ँहन्डह श्रत्रगड वच डह ँड रकअग्रव ँग्र, श्र ढरक ढ क्रह 48 श्रत्रगड श्रत्रगड ँ घ अघक षुल्ले ट्रश्रच इडुडु

- The swearing-in ceremony will take place at Ramlila Maidan and will be attended by PM Narendra Modi and other NDA Chief Ministers.

ट हळ इणर ढरवघा घवचहचव रकव षुणुव, श्र ढरक षुवषरकह षुळ रकह ँ घ १। इष म्हड रकह ट्रश्रच षुणुडु

- Rekha Gupta defeated AAP's Bandana Kumari in the recent Assembly election by a margin of 29,595 votes.

घुव षुणु षुणु षुणु रकड श्रत्र ढ क्रव ढरव रक षु र षु ढरह हव ँ इह षुणु इषरकह इषे 29,595 अहड षुणु षुणु



## BJP to focus on aid for women, Ayushman Bharat, clean Yamuna

Nikhil M. Nabin  
New Delhi

With the Delhi government preparing for a new Chief Minister and Council of Ministers, the BJP's policy schemes which are on top priority are the BJP's post-2025 schemes of ₹2,000 per month for women and implementation of the Union government's Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The priority is also on the cleaning of the polluted Yamuna, and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has called for a meeting on the issue on Thursday.

According to officials, while the Ayushman Bharat Yojana is not likely to add any extra financial burden on the Delhi government and can even help with funds for health infrastructure, the assistance for women is a costly affair. The Finance Depart-

ment last year raised red flags that the then AAP government's plan to give ₹1,000 to women per month could cost the exchequer around ₹4,500 crore a year — which is 6% of the total outlay of the 2024-25 annual budget of ₹76,000 crore.

The total number of beneficiaries estimated at that time was 38 lakh women.

Officials said the promise of ₹2,000 by the BJP would be even more expensive if there were not even exclusions. "If implemented without any exclusions based on income level etc., the scheme will cost about ₹10,000 crore a year, which is about 12% of the total budget. Such an outlay for just one scheme is extremely heavy, more than the total outlay for some of the departments," an officer said.

## Rekha Gupta, a grassroots leader who has served in key organisational roles

Shalimar Bagh MLA-elect defeated AAP's Bandana Kumari by 29,595 votes in the Delhi election; she says her selection as CM is a matter of pride for every woman in the country and BJP will fulfil all commitments made by it to people of Delhi

Sarpika Mahalan  
Ashna Butani  
New Delhi

With a 30-year career in politics, Rekha Gupta, MLA-elect for Shalimar Bagh, is set to take over as the next Chief Minister of Delhi on Thursday. A grassroots leader with an IAS-ARVJ background, she began her political journey as a B.Com student in Daulat Ram College of Delhi University. She joined the Akhil Bhartiya Yujyoti Parishad (ABVP) in 1992.

She was announced as the BJP pick after an MLA election from the party unanimously elected her the leader of Delhi BJP Legislative Party. Accepting the role, Ms. Gupta said, "It is a matter



Change of guard: Delhi CM-designate Rekha Gupta with Lieutenant Governor Sheela Murar Baisya on Wednesday.

of pride for every woman in the country. We will fulfil all commitments made by the BJP in Delhi. It will be my life's purpose." Defeating Bandana Kumari, a three-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh and a former Deputy Speaker from the Aam Aadmi Party's short stint in 2023, by a margin of 29,595 votes, the 50-year-old has been a three-time councillor from Shalimar Bagh. She joined the BJP in the 2007 elections to make a organisational role, including as Delhi BJP general secretary, president of the

BJP's Mahila Morcha, and national vice-president of Union Pradesh BJP. In Mahila, she was an office-bearer of the BJP's Yuva Morcha.

Referring to her as a fighter, several BJP leaders who served with Ms. Gupta as councillors said she would fight for women's rights. She raised the need for voters for women. Working on basic facilities such as parks and libraries for the people of her area, Ms. Gupta is a leader who has emerged from the ground, and her quiet determination has led her to become the Chief Minister of the capital.

During her campaign in the last year to the 2024 Assembly polls, Ms. Gupta focused on making a 'Viksit Delhi' that a 'Viksit Bharat' deserves as its capital. In 1998, she became the secretary of the Delhi University Students' Union

## Modi to visit poll-bound Bihar on February 24

Amarnath Tewary  
Patna

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a meeting at Bhaugulpur in poll-bound Bihar on February 24 and release financial assistance to farmers. He is likely to unveil development projects worth ₹2,000 crore.

The Assembly election is slated to be held in the State in October-November. The Prime Minister's visit would "certainly kickstart the poll campaign for the party in Bihar," said a senior State BJP leader, expressing optimism.

Income support scheme Farmers from several neighbouring districts are likely to participate in the meeting when Mr. Modi will release the 10th instalment of the Kisan Samman Nidhi, an income support scheme for landholding farmers. Bihar Chief Minister and JDU leader Nitish Kumar and a host of senior State BJP leaders will accompany Mr. Modi.

The BJP-led NDA has set a target of winning over 500 seats in the 243-member Assembly. The Prime Minister will also unveil several development projects worth more than ₹2,000 crore for the region. In the Union Budget, 2024-25, significant resources have been allocated for Bihar's development," said Mr. Modi. Mr. Modi and BJP leader Nishu Nabin,

## War games



Sharing expertise: Military personnel during the 80th edition of the India-Egypt joint special forces exercise 'CYCLONE-80' at the Mahaganj Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The drill is aimed at strengthening joint operational capabilities, a statement said.

## Will govt. respond to U.S. SEC's request in probe against Adanis, asks Congress

The Hindu Bureau  
New Delhi

The Congress on Wednesday asked whether the Narendra Modi government would respond to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's request in the ongoing probe against the Adani Group since the 2022-23 Indian Union Budget. The Prime Minister already declared the Adani issue to be a "personal matter".

The Congress has long been calling for a GST 2.0 that will make GST a truly Good and simple Tax, as it was intended to be. It has called for the barest minimum rate and vapid reform compliance laws. Mr. Ramesh said, "Now President Trump

is threatening the very existence of GST. By its very structure, GST is applicable to imports but not on exports. This has never been disputed. Now all this talk of reciprocal tariffs is his "good friend in New Delhi" would stand up to it when national sovereignty was at stake. Call for GST 2.0 "The Congress has long been calling for a GST 2.0 that will make GST a truly Good and simple Tax, as it was intended to be. It has called for the barest minimum rate and vapid reform compliance laws. Mr. Ramesh said, "Now President Trump

## Supreme Court puts off hearing pleas challenging law on CEC appointment

Nikhiladevi Rajagopal  
New Delhi

The much-anticipated hearing in the Supreme Court of petitions challenging a law that gives the government a dominant role in the appointments of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) did not materialise on Wednesday.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant was caught up in other cases while Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, sought an adjournment on the ground that he was appearing in another court before a Constitution Bench.

Repetitive oral mentions by petitioners failed to make much difference, as the Bench indicated it may push the case to March 19, if necessary. Advocates Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioners, Association for Democratic Reforms, urged the court for an early hearing, saying the case was of seminal importance and would not take up much time. He said the petitioners would appear in an hour of the court's time. The Bench appeared non-committal, but the case was listed for a date earlier than March 19. The Bench had asked the petitioners to appear on Tuesday that the case would be given priority on Wednesday.



Senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan at the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

vice, and Form of Office Act of 2023 was introduced to dilute the said judgment. Petitioners have primarily challenged the validity of Section 210 of the statute. The provision mandated that the President would appoint the CECs and ECs on the recommendation of a selection committee of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister. The statute, in short, had replaced the CR on the selection panel with a Union Minister, giving the government an upper hand in appointments to the Election Commission of India.

The case raises the pivotal legal question whether the Parliament can circumvent a Constitution Bench judgment without giving explicit reasons for doing so. In January, when the case came up, Justice Kant had highlighted that the test regarding the validity of the 2023 Act would hinge on whether the top authority in procurement binding decisions under Article 141 of the Constitution could be circumvented or diluted by a law. "The real test here is whether the court's opinion and exercise of legislative powers," Justice Kant had remarked.

## 'Double-engine government has produced double disasters for Bihar'

Stating that the NDA's confidence ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls is misplaced, the CPI(M) general secretary says the ruling coalition had only marginally scraped through in the 2020 polls, with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar failing to deliver on his promises this time round. He further says his party only needs to forge an organic unity of the ongoing struggles in the State to put up a good fight

INTERVIEW  
Dipankar Bhattacharya

Robhana K. Nair

With the recent Budget announcements and the plank of "double engine", the NDA is seeking confidence about the Bihar election. How is the double-engine government (grand alliance) placed?

I think the NDA's confidence is quite misplaced. If you look at the 2020 Assembly election, the NDA only marginally scraped through. In Delhi, highly popular Aam Aadmi Party government, which governed on core issues like electricity, water, health

and education lost the election after losing in power for more than a decade in Bihar, we have a non-performing government in power for 20 years now, which is essentially a NDA government. Having a secret interlude when [CPI] Nitish Kumar joined hands with [BJP leader] Lalu Prasad. When you look at Bihar's balance sheet, it is clear that the government has failed to deliver on its promises. As for the double engine, it has only produced double disasters.



The 2024 election, The BJP had the worst strike rate in the grand alliance. They contested 23 seats winning only four. In the BJP going to be a liability for you?

I would rather we analyse region-wise performance of our coalition. In Bihar, we did well in the 2024 Assembly and general elections. Our performance was not good in north Bihar. The grand alliance is strong here with a division in its core vote bank. The alliance, all of us separately and together as a coalition, will have to pay more attention to north Bihar.

The CPI(M) is organising a rally on March 4, probably your first big event operating the campaign. What will you be given 19 seats,

be your message for the State? We are uniting under the 2024 Assembly and general elections. Our performance was not good in north Bihar. The grand alliance is strong here with a division in its core vote bank. The alliance, all of us separately and together as a coalition, will have to pay more attention to north Bihar.

you won 12 of them in 2020. You had a better share than other allies. Do you have clarity on what will be the most negotiable minimum number of seats that you expect, the Congress's presence in the alliance in Bihar is the ousted, it is not possible with a weak Congress. A stronger and recognised Congress is in the interest not just of the Congress party, but of all who want political change in India.

## *War games*



**Sharing expertise:** Military personnel during the third edition of the India-Egypt joint special forces exercise 'CYCLONE-III' at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The drill is aimed at strengthening joint operational capabilities, a statement said. @PRODEFGAU/X

Exercise Name	Participating Countries	Branch	Date	Location	Description
<b>Malabar 2024</b>	India, USA, Japan, Australia	Navy	October 8–18, 2024	Visakhapatnam, Bay of Bengal	Annual naval exercise focusing on anti-submarine warfare, air defense, and joint operations. The 2024 edition included complex drills and advanced tactical exercises. <a href="#">NAVY.MIL</a>
<b>Tarang Shakti 2024</b>	India, France, Germany, Spain, UK, Australia, Japan, USA, Singapore, UAE, Sri Lanka, Greece	Air Force	August 6 – September 14, 2024	Sulur and Jodhpur Air Force Stations	India's largest multinational air exercise, conducted in two phases, involving over 150 aircraft. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and showcase indigenous aviation platforms. <a href="#">WIKIPEDIA</a>
<b>SIMBEX 2024</b>	India, Singapore	Navy	October 23–29, 2024	Visakhapatnam, Bay of Bengal	Annual bilateral naval exercise emphasizing maritime combat exercises such as firing drills, tracking exercises, and coordinated tactical maneuvers. <a href="#">WIKIPEDIA</a>

<b>Milan 2024</b>	India and 50 other nations	Navy	February 2024	Visakhapatnam	<p>Biennial multilateral naval exercise aimed at enhancing professional interaction between friendly navies. The 2024 edition was the largest, with participation from 50 nations.</p> <p><a href="#">CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE</a></p>
<b>Pitch Black 2024</b>	Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, UK, USA, Brunei, Fiji, Italy, Spain, Papua New Guinea, Philippines	Air Force	July 12 – August 2, 2024	Australia	<p>Biennial multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force, focusing on large-force employment warfare. The 2024 edition was the largest since its inception.</p> <p><a href="#">WIKIPEDIA</a></p>
<b>La Perouse 2025</b>	France, Australia, Canada, USA, India, Malaysia, UK, Singapore	Navy	January 16–24, 2025	Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok Straits	<p>Multinational naval exercise led by France, aiming to enhance maritime cooperation among participating navies.</p> <p><a href="#">COURIER MAIL</a></p>



## Breaking down soybean trade



New leader: China has replaced the EU as the biggest importer of soybean in the last two decades, reports

**Karen Braun**  
GIBCAD

A discussion about global soybean exports cannot proceed without mention of Brazil or the United States, because together they fuel 80% of total shipments each year. Likewise, "China" and "imports" are other buzzwords in global soybean trade because the country accounts for more than 60% of annual imports.

But what about the other customers? Who takes in the other 40% of soy cargoes, and how have these trends changed in recent years, especially with respect to each supplier?

This conversation has been pulled to the forefront of the market as the U.S. has threatened tariffs on many of its trade partners, who are contemplating measures of their own. This includes both Mexico and European Union countries, top destinations for U.S. farm goods.

At the same time, Brazil's ballooning soybean crop has been increasingly able to supply global needs, slowly chipping away at U.S. soy exporters' relevance.

China significantly reduced its reliance on U.S. soybeans during the first trade war in 2018, though that was largely possible at the time because of a significant drop in Brazil's soybean harvest, which significantly dented food demand.

But for U.S. exporters, the pre-trade war levels were never restored, and U.S. soy shipments to China over the last three calendar years have fallen 12% from the 2018-2017 average. China increased its imports by 13% during that time.

Also during this time, Brazil expanded its soy exports to China by 40%, increasing the 6% rise in the country's total shipments.

Europe and crew  
EU countries are collectively the second largest soybean importing entity, accounting for about 8% of the global total. The EU is also the No. 2 destination for both Brazilian and U.S. soybeans.

Around 2018, Europe was Brazil's present-day China, consuming almost two-thirds of the country's soy exports. That share has averaged just 7% in the latest three years, though the volume has risen over the last decade.

U.S. soy exports to the EU have also risen in recent years, though the average volume remains slightly lower than those from Brazil. However, U.S. soybean trade with the EU, which grossed \$2.4 billion last year, could be in jeopardy.

Trade is expected on Wednesday to publish a policy potentially restricting agricultural imports sourced with chemicals banned in Europe. That could force U.S. exporters to explore new markets, amending trade relations allow.

Total Brazilian soy exports are nearly 80% larger by volume than their U.S. counterparts, but both countries over the last three years exported similar volumes to destinations other than China and the EU. This relatively greater diversity among the U.S.'s customers might be its only present advantage over Brazil's soybean business. The future of U.S. soy exports could become less worrisome if domestic demand were to escalate to a manner implied by the aggressive biofuel mandates passed a few years ago.

But those plans, much like the tariff discussion, are in a holding pattern for now. This means that if the upcoming U.S. soy crop is not sufficiently large, next season's shipments could be squeezed further.

(The author is a market analyst for Reuters)

## Edinburgh to Ernakulam: Strategies for wooing investors

India still has a lot to do to foster a vibrant and fair market system that creates economic opportunities and drives sustainable growth, a necessary first step is a 'rights-based approach' which holds institutions and powerful people accountable for their responsibilities to those with less power

NEWS ANALYSIS

**E.M.Mathew**

Through "Global Investor Meet", State governments compete with each other every year to show case themselves before the investor community and the elite, thereby giving the indication that employment promotion through new investments stands out as their policy plank.

In the latter part of the present century, the economic cold war between Gujarat and Maharashtra led to a search for new strategies of attracting investments. In 2003, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, came up with the idea of "Vibrant Gujarat" as an export-oriented platform, offering a meeting place for potential investors.

At the same time, State governments including Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab followed the path. Today, most States in the country organise "Investor Meets" periodically. The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, has been conducting various road shows and investor meetings within and outside India, with a view of providing sufficient clarity to potential investors and improve their interests for participating in India's growth story. The Ministry



Refresh business: Reforms and innovations add value to subsequent investor meets. Left: Investor Meet

has created a common service point to help the initiation by the States as well.

While today State governments organise "Investor Meets" on a regular basis, and make competitive offers on their business outcomes, an equally important practice would be educative and useful.

Development of entrepreneurship and MSMEs is a state subject in India. Therefore, the national

policy regime has only a restricted role and background. Though the States are expected to make good use of such a best practice, this does not often happen. Rather than creating right business stories to be shown called at the national level, the States often compete against each other in favour of national rankings and fund flows.

The results accruing from state level efforts need to be scientifically understood at the national level, as each State is a stakeholder at the national level in the development process. This is the rationale for national level ranking of States, originally done under the 'Ease of Doing Business' (EoDB) ranking, and subsequently under

of England. While only one percent of people in Scotland were committed to starting a business, it was 4% in the south of England. The Scottish experiment was often criticised those days as "wasting public money".

Development of entrepreneurship and MSMEs is a state subject in India. Therefore, the national

policy regime has only a restricted role and background. Though the States are expected to make good use of such a best practice, this does not often happen. Rather than creating right business stories to be shown called at the national level, the States often compete against each other in favour of national rankings and fund flows.

## U.S. tariffs threaten a 'shock' to Canadian firms

ANURAG KUMAR PRASAD

Donald Trump's threats of imposing tariffs on Canadian goods have not gone unheeded through Canada, forcing businesses to question their dependence on the U.S. as a recession-free market.

It was an "absolute shock," Matthew Holmes, vice president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, told AFP. "There's an incredible anxiety that comes from the unpredictability and the uncertainty."

"It got everybody talking in Canada about (they) can't trust this partnership anymore," he added. Earlier this month, President Trump announced 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican im-



Pollution menace: Mr. Trump's 25-day tariff reprieve has done little to reassure Canadian businesses, reports

ports, then granted a 30-day reprieve.

The pause, however, has done little to reassure Canadian businesses that earlier this month Canada's exports to the U.S., and who worry that a trade war would lead to a recession and hundreds of thousands of job losses.

Canada must prepare for the tariffs by removing barriers to trade between provinces and identify its export markets, Mr. Holmes said. "We need to be ready and have the in-

frastructure and relationships that will hold us together now."

Gillevine, he said, Canadian firms don't do "really, really serious."

"No quick fix" According to a recent survey, nine out of 10 Canadian firms agree on the need to lessen Canada's trade reliance on the U.S.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently hosted a summit in Toronto that brought business leaders together to discuss ways of growing the Canadian economy, including removing internal trade barriers, diversifying export markets and boosting foreign investment.

Provincial governments and business leaders in the United States, Mr. Gillevine said, "It's going to be a much better case" than just snap your fingers and take that integrated industry and have it work with someone else or have it become fully domestic...

## Trump's SEC pick shifts power from investors to directors

Reuters

New policies from the top U.S. securities regulator hand corporate boards, as more power over investors is won that could curtail investor-initiated reform efforts on everything from climate policy to director

Since last month when U.S. President Donald Trump named Mark Uyeda acting chief of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the agency has made it easier for boards to block shareholder resolutions, put stricter limits on activists' access to proxy

Since last month when U.S. President Donald Trump named Mark Uyeda acting chief of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the agency has made it easier for boards to block shareholder resolutions, put stricter limits on activists' access to proxy

The changes give directors more scope to risk of to have independent audit emissions or report

workforce diversity details, while traditional activists running their own director suits could also find it harder to challenge boards, as lawsuits say.

It was a relatively dramatic reallocation of power away from large shareholders back to director management, not just to make corporate policy but to protect themselves against activists," said University business law professor Ann Lipton.

Mr. Uyeda and other Republican officials, including Paul Atkins, Mr. Trump's pick to run the SEC, have made clear their skepticism of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investment considerations. "Shareholder meetings were not intended to set state corporate law to

be political battlegrounds for lobbying activities," Mr. Uyeda said in 2023.

SEC resolutions that sign were not intended to set state corporate law to be political battlegrounds for lobbying activities," Mr. Uyeda said in 2023.

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# U.S. tariffs threat a 'shock' to Canadian firms

**Agence France-Presse**

MONTREAL

Donald Trump's threats of import tariffs have sent shockwaves through Canada, forcing businesses to question their dependence on the U.S.—a reassessment that is creating headaches for many sectors.

"It was an absolute shock," Matthew Holmes, vice president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, told AFP. "There's an incredible anxiety that comes from the unpredictability and the uncertainty."

"It got everybody talking in Canada about (how) we can't trust this partnership anymore," he added.

Earlier this month U.S. President Trump announced 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican im-



**Palliative move:** Mr. Trump's 30-day tariff reprieve has done little to reassure Canadian businesses. REUTERS

ports, then granted a 30-day reprieve.

The pause, however, has done little to reassure Canadian businesses that send more than 75% of Canada's exports to the U.S., and who worry that a trade war would lead to a recession

and hundreds of thousands of job losses.

Canada must prepare for the tariffs by removing barriers to trade between provinces and diversify its export markets, Mr. Holmes said. "We need to be ready and have the in-

frastructure and relationships and start building those out now."

Otherwise, he said, Canadian businesses will be "really, really screwed."

## 'No quick fix'

According to a recent survey, nine out of 10 Canadians agree on the need to lessen Canada's trade reliance on the U.S.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently hosted a summit in Toronto that brought business leaders together to discuss ways of growing the Canadian economy, including removing internal trade barriers, diversifying export markets and boosting productivity.

Provincial governments and business leaders, he told delegates, must "step up and push hard" to make Canada more competitive,

while acknowledging that it has been easy to just sell to the country's southern neighbor. But that may be easier said than done, according to Robert Gillezeau, a professor at the University of Toronto.

"The two economies are extremely interconnected with over a trillion dollars in trade between the two countries," he told AFP, pointing to their close proximity and "longstanding good relations" for how ties developed.

"For some sectors, it'll be a little bit easier" to disentangle from the United States, Mr. Gillezeau said.

For others, "it's going to be a mess," he added. "You can't just snap your fingers and take that integrated industry and have it work with someone else or have it become fully domestic..."

There is no quick fix."

The food industry is a case in point.

"We've frozen our purchases of some American goods and we're looking elsewhere for alternatives," explains Mike Bono of Can-Am Food Services.

But it is not possible for the company—which is one of the largest distributors of fruits and vegetables in Quebec and Ontario with nearly 3,000 customers including restaurants and hotels—to find substitutes for its American offerings.

The removal of interprovincial trade barriers was flagged in a report as a way to boost Canada's economy as far back as 1940.

Ottawa led efforts to dismantle them in 2017 but hundreds of exceptions were kept in an agreement signed by the provinces.



- **Shock to Canadian Businesses**

- Donald Trump announced a **25% tariff** on Canadian and Mexican imports.

- Businesses in Canada are **concerned about dependency** on the U.S. and **uncertainty** in trade.



- Matthew Holmes, Vice President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, termed it an "**absolute shock.**"



## Economic Consequences

Over **75%** of Canadian exports go to the U.S.

A **trade war** could result in **recession** and **job losses**.

A **30-day reprieve** was granted, but it did little to reassure businesses.

## Need for Canada to Diversify Trade

Canada must:

- Remove internal **trade barriers**.
- Diversify **export markets**.
- Improve **productivity**.

Business leaders emphasize the need for **infrastructure and alternative trade relation**

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## Interconnection Between the U.S. and Canada

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The two economies **trade over a trillion dollars annually.**

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Robert Gillezeau, University of Toronto, says **disentangling** from the U.S. will be difficult.

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## Challenges in the Food Industry

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Some companies are looking for **alternative suppliers** instead of U.S. goods.

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Large distributors, like **Can-Am Food Services**, struggle to find alternatives.

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- 
1. Canadian PM **Justin Trudeau** hosted a **business summit** to discuss solutions.
  2. **Interprovincial trade barriers** need to be removed for a **stronger economy**.
  3. Ottawa **failed to fully dismantle** these barriers despite past efforts.

**JERUSALEM**  
Israel charges five soldiers for abusing Palestinian detainee



The Israeli military said on Wednesday it has indicted five reserve soldiers for severely abusing a Palestinian detainee at the Site Toman facility on July 8, 2024. The charges include causing significant injuries, such as cracked ribs and a punctured lung, through violent acts including slapping with a sharp object.

**ABU DHABI**  
Abu Dhabi rejects displacement of Palestinians, says UAE President



UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan told U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday that Abu Dhabi opposes the displacement of Palestinians. He emphasized the UAE's rejection of any plans for displacement and stressed the importance of fixing Gaza's reconstruction to peace based on a two-state solution.

**HANOI**  
Vietnam Parliament approves \$8-billion railway link to China



Vietnam's Parliament has approved an \$8 billion rail link to China, designed to boost trade and connectivity between the two nations. The 360 km line will connect Hanoi to Luoi City, running through key manufacturing hubs and the capital, Hanoi. It is part of Vietnam's "Two Corridors, One Belt" initiative.

**VATICAN CITY**  
Pope Francis 'breathing on his own' despite pneumonia: Vatican



Despite a "simplex clinical picture" and a polyresistal respiratory tract infection, the Vatican reports that Pope Francis remains in good spirits, is breathing on his own, and his team is heading up well. The 88-year-old is being treated for pneumonia in both lungs after being admitted to a hospital last week for bronchitis.

# Trump tells 'dictator' Zelenskyy to move fast for peace or lose Ukraine

President Donald Trump calls Ukrainian President a dictator, without elections; the latter responds to Trump's claims by stating that Trump is living in a 'disinformation space'. U.S. President also mentions possibility of meeting Putin this month

Reuters  
WASHINGTON/RYIV

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday denounced Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as "a dictator without elections" and said he had better move fast to secure a peace or he would have no country left.



Trusting words introducing Zelenskyy with Donald Trump during a meeting in September 2024 in New York.

Mr. Trump spoke hours after Mr. Zelenskyy hit back at his suggestion that Ukraine was responsible for Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion, saying the U.S. President was trapped in a Russian "disinformation bubble."

Mr. Zelenskyy's five-year term was supposed to end in 2024 but presidential and parliamentary elections cannot be held under martial law, which Ukraine imposed in February 2022 in response to Russia's invasion.

# Afghan refugees face arrests, eviction in twin cities of Pak.

The latest development follows Pakistan's threat to deport Afghanis living in the country illegally. Pakistan's Prime Minister shehbaz sharif approved a deadline of March 31 to deport those awaiting relocation to third countries unless their cases are swiftly processed by the government who have agreed to take them. The Afghan embassy criticized "the short timeframe" given and "the unilateral nature of Pakistan's decision".

Associated Press  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan wants to remove all Afghan refugees from the country and they face expulsion in the near future, the Afghan embassy in Islamabad warned on Wednesday.



Afghan embassy in Islamabad.

The embassy issued a strongly worded statement about Pakistan's plans, saying Afghan nationals in the capital, Islamabad, and the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi have been subjected to arrests, searches, and orders from the police to leave the twin cities and relocate to other parts of Pakistan.

Besides the hundreds of thousands living illegally in Pakistan, some 1.85 million Afghans are registered with the UNHCR as refugees. Pakistan says those who were registered earlier had their stay extended until June 2025, and will not be arrested or deported at least until the extension expires.

# Bangladesh campus skirmish leaves over 150 students injured

Agence France-Presse  
DHAKA

More than 180 students have been injured in Bangladesh during clashes at a university campus, a sign of serious discord between groups instrumental in fostering a national revolution last year.

Tuesday afternoon's clashes began after the youth wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) sought to recruit students at the Khulna University of Engineering and Technology in the country's southwest.

At least 50 people were taken for treatment after the skirmish, Khulna police officer Kabir Hossain said. "The situation is now

## Final Journey



Maritime history: The US United States being towed down the Delaware river between Pennsylvania and New Jersey, after being docked for nearly three decades in Philadelphia, on Wednesday.

# Alleged drug kingpin fatally shot inside Sri Lankan court

Agence France-Presse  
COLOMBO

A gunman dressed as a lawyer fatally shot a key suspect inside a Sri Lankan courthouse, police said on Wednesday.

Gunavimale Sanjewa, allegedly a drug dealer, was shot at close range, just as he entered the dock at the Colombo Magistrates Court during a bail hearing, according to media reports. Sanjewa was critically injured in the incident and rushed to a hospital, where he was de-

clared dead on arrival. The shocking incident during proceedings exposing a serious security failure drew wide media attention in the island nation.

# Brazil's Bolsonaro charged over alleged coup that included 'a plan to poison Lula'

Associated Press  
RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil's prosecutor general on Tuesday formally charged former President Jair Bolsonaro with attempting a coup to stay in office after his 2022 election defeat, in a plot that included a plan to poison his successor and threaten President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and kill a Supreme Court judge.



Jair Bolsonaro

main in power. The alleged plot, he wrote, included a plan to poison Mr. Lula and shoot dead Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, a foe of the former President.

# Ready to free all hostages together in phase two of Gaza truce, says Hamas

Agence France-Presse  
GAZA CITY

Hamas signalled on Wednesday that it was willing to free all remaining hostages held in Gaza in a single swap during the next phase of an ongoing ceasefire.

Israel and Hamas are currently in the process of implementing phase one of the fragile truce, which has held since taking effect on January 19 despite accusations of violations on both sides.

**HANOI**

## Vietnam Parliament approves \$8-billion railway link to China



AFP

▶ Vietnam's Parliament has approved an \$8 billion rail link to China, designed to boost trade and connectivity between the two countries. The 390-km line will connect Haiphong to Lao Cai, running through key manufacturing hubs and the capital, Hanoi. It is part of Vietnam's "Two Corridors, One Belt" initiative. AFP

<b>Railway Link</b>	<b>Connecting Countries</b>	<b>Route &amp; Key Cities</b>	<b>Purpose/Significance</b>
<b>China-Europe Railway Express</b>	China → Europe (Multiple)	Chongqing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Wuhan → Germany, Poland, etc.	Freight transport, part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
<b>China-Mongolia Railway</b>	China → Mongolia	Erenhot (China) → Zamyn-Üüd (Mongolia) → Ulaanbaatar	Key trade route for coal, minerals, and goods.
<b>China-Russia Railway</b>	China → Russia	Manzhouli, Suifenhe → Moscow, Vladivostok	Trade of energy, machinery, and consumer goods.
<b>China-Kazakhstan Railway</b>	China → Kazakhstan	Alashankou, Khorgos → Almaty, Nur-Sultan	Major cargo route linking China with Central Asia.
<b>China-Laos Railway</b>	China → Laos	Kunming → Luang Prabang → Vientiane	Enhances regional trade and tourism.



<b>China-Vietnam Railway</b>	China → Vietnam	Nanning, Kunming → Hanoi	Supports cross-border trade and passenger travel.
<b>China-North Korea Railway</b>	China → North Korea	Dandong → Pyongyang	Limited use due to sanctions but supports trade and diplomacy.
<b>China-Myanmar Railway (Proposed)</b>	China → Myanmar	Kunming → Mandalay → Yangon (Under development)	To enhance China-Myanmar connectivity under BRI.
<b>China-Pakistan Railway (Proposed)</b>	China → Pakistan	Kashgar → Gwadar (Part of CPEC)	To strengthen trade via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.





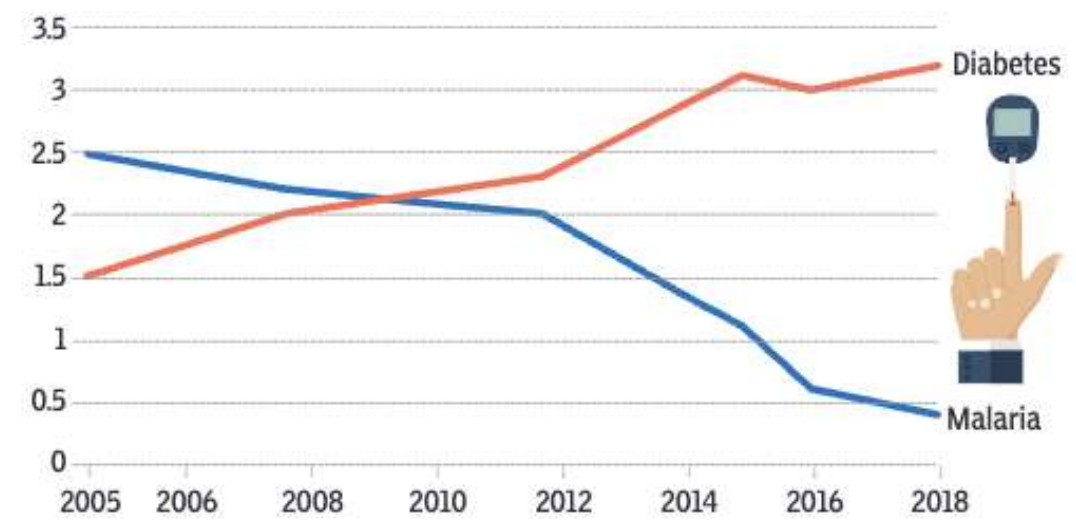
**STATISTICS** A slice of life in numbers

# DIABETES 8 TIMES DEADLIER THAN MALARIA NOW

Just 20 years ago, malaria killed more Indians than diabetes did, and now diabetes kills eight times as many people as malaria.

This doesn't mean that we can take our foot off the malaria-prevention pedal yet, but it does signal a big shift in the future of Indian health


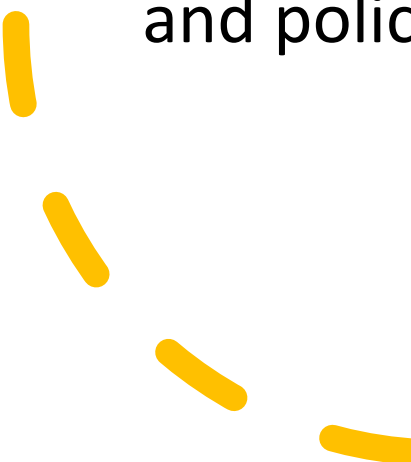
**Share of Indian deaths, by cause (in %)**

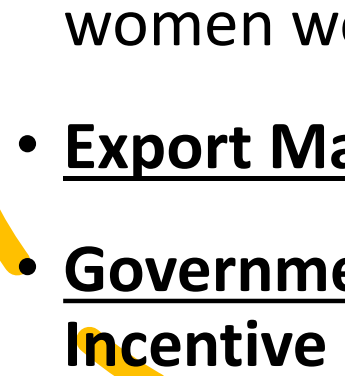


Source: [Dataforindia.com](http://Dataforindia.com)

# Textile Industry



- 
- Bharat Tex 2025, India's largest global textile event, was held in New Delhi, showcasing India's textile advancements and global trade potential.
  - The Indian government **aims to triple textile exports from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹9 lakh crore by 2030**, leveraging sustainability, innovation, and policy support.
- 


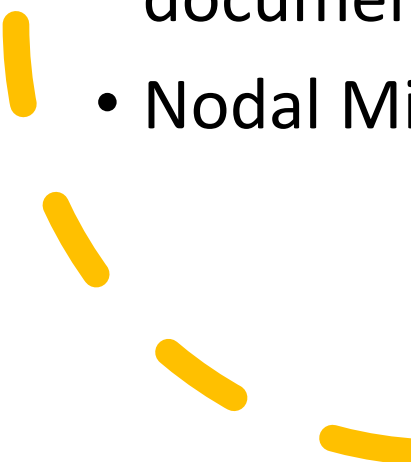
- 
- **Overview of India's Textile Sector:**
  - **6th Largest Exporter:** India holds **8.21%** share in global textile trade (2023-24).
  - **Employment Generator:** Provides **direct jobs to 45 million people** and **indirect livelihood to over 100 million**, including rural and women workers.
  - **Export Markets:** USA and EU account for **47% of India's textile exports.**
  - **Government Initiatives:** ₹10,683 crore allocated under **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** to boost manufacturing.
- 



# NAKSHA Project

- The National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) pilot project is set to launch in 152 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across 26 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs).





- 
- What is NAKSHA?
  - NAKSHA (National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations) is a geospatial technology-driven land survey initiative aimed at creating and updating land records in urban areas to ensure transparency, efficiency, and accuracy in property ownership documentation.
  - Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
- 

- 
- **Implemented by:** Department of Land Resources, in collaboration with Survey of India, and National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI).
- 







# India's 1st Vertical Bifacial Solar Plant

- 
- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated **India's first vertical bi-facial solar plant installation at Okhla Vihar Metro station.**
  - **About**
  - The inauguration was done in the **5th International Conference on Green Metro Systems – The Future of Urban Mobility** here.
- 





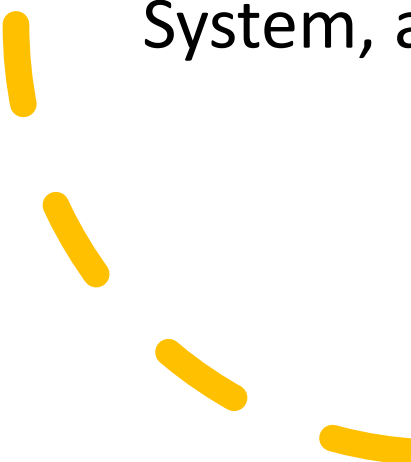
**Chhatrapati Shivaji  
Maharaj**



- 
- The birth anniversary of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** was commemorated globally on **19<sup>th</sup> February**, reflecting his enduring legacy and influence.
  - **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**: Born on **19<sup>th</sup> February 1630**, at **Shivneri Fort, Pune** was a visionary leader from the **Bhonsle clan** and the founder of the **Maratha Empire**, known for resisting the **Mughal Empire** and striving for **self-rule**.
- 



- **Major Battles:**

- Battle of Pratapgad, Battle of Pavan Khind, Sacking of Surat, Battle of Purandar, Battle of Sinhagad, and Battle of Sangamner.
  - The **Wagh nakh**, was used by Shivaji to kill Afzal Khan in the **1659 Battle of Pratapgad**.
- 

- 
- Titles:
  - Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas, and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak. Administration:
  - Centralized administration with the Ashtapradhan (Council of Eight Ministers), abolished the Jagirdari System, implemented the Ryotwari System, and built a strong naval force for coastal defense.
- 

- 
- Shivaji is renowned for his innovative guerrilla warfare tactics, which influenced subsequent rulers and shaped the Maratha Military Landscapes.
- 

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# Word of the day

## **Explicate:**

make plain and comprehensible; elaborate on theories and hypotheses

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**Synonyms:** explain, develop, formulate

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**Usage:** *His teacher explicated the complex theory to him.*

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

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /'ɛk.splɪ.keɪt/

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- 
- **The Real Name of \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Longest City Name in the World**  
**"Krung Thep Maha Nakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Yuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit."**

This makes it the **longest city name in the world!**



10 MCQ

- From which year will CBSE conduct Class 10 board exams twice a year?
- CBSE शुरु करेगा कक्षा 10 के छात्रों को दो बार प्रति वर्ष परीक्षाएँ देना? कौन से वर्ष से?
- A. 2024
- B. 2025
- C. 2026
- D. 2027



- What is the main goal of the 'SAKSHAM' campaign launched by Indian Oil and BPCL?
- सक्षम अभियान का मुख्य उद्देश्य है -
  - A. Promoting green energy and fuel conservation / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और ईंधन संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देना
  - B. Encouraging electric vehicles (EVs) adoption / बिजली चलाई जाने वाली गाड़ियों (EVs) को अपनाने को प्रोत्साहित करना
  - C. Reducing petroleum product prices / पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के दामों को कम करना
  - D. Banning the use of fossil fuels / जीवाश्म ईंधनों का उपयोग बंद करना

- Which country has imposed a 25% tariff on Canadian and Mexican imports, affecting businesses in Canada?
- कौन सा देश कनाडा और मेक्सिको के आयातों पर 25% टैरिफ लगाया है, जिससे कनाडा के व्यवसायों पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा?
- A. United Kingdom / यूनाइटेड किंगडम
- B. United States / संयुक्त राज्य
- C. China / चीन
- D. Germany / जर्मनी

- Who has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Delhi?
- श्रुह ड्ह ष ह रक्करक्कह डड च ह रक्कश्रु डड श्रु म्क श्रु ग्रव ण ग्रव ष्रु
- A. Atishi Marlena / षश्रु ट्ह रक्कक्कव
- B. Bandana Kumari / ष्रु ष्रु डडक्कह
- C. Rekha Gupta / ष्रु व ष्रु
- D. Ankita Sharma / श्रु ल्व ट्रक्क

- Which event showcased India's textile advancements and aimed to triple textile exports by 2030?
- इन्डिया टेक्सटाइल एक्सपो 2025 / भारत टेक्सटाइल एक्सपो 2025 / ग्लोबल फैब्रिक समिट 2025 / मेक इन इंडिया टेक्सटाइल फेयर 2025
- A. India Textiles Expo 2025 / भारत टेक्सटाइल एक्सपो 2025
- B. Bharat Tex 2025 / भारत टेक्सटाइल एक्सपो 2025
- C. Global Fabric Summit 2025 / ग्लोबल फैब्रिक समिट 2025
- D. Make in India Textile Fair / मेक इन इंडिया टेक्सटाइल फेयर 2025



- What is the objective of the 'NAKSHA' project?
- 'NAKSHA' दृष्टव्यम् एव इव क्षुद्रं प्रपद्यते
- A. Developing a digital land survey system / अस्मिन् ङ् च क्रमवत् दृष्टव्यम्  
दृष्टव्यम् अस्मिन् इव इव इव
- B. Mapping historical monuments in India / क्रमवत् रक्तं च अल्पवत् इ  
नवदृष्टव्यम् इव रक्तं अल्पवत् इव इव
- C. Enhancing forest and wildlife conservation / अथ ङ् घ औन्हत् दृष्टव्यम्  
इव प्रवत् दृष्टव्यम्
- D. Promoting satellite-based weather forecasting / क्षुद्रं च श्रवणम्  
रक्तं रक्तं दृष्टव्यम् प्रवत् दृष्टव्यम्

• Where was India's first vertical bi-facial solar plant inaugurated?

• कर्नाटक में पहली बि-फैसल सोलर प्लांट का उद्घाटन कहाँ हुआ?

• A. Mumbai Metro Station / मुंबई मेट्रो स्टेशन

B. Okhla Vihar Metro Station / ओखला विहार मेट्रो स्टेशन

C. New Delhi Railway Station / नई दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेशन

D. Chennai Central Station / चेन्नई सेंट्रल स्टेशन

- What was the significance of 19th February in Indian history?
- 19 फेब्रुवारी को भारत के इतिहास में क्या महत्व है?
- A. Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose / नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस का जन्मदिन
- B. Independence of Goa from Portuguese rule / पुर्तगाल के शासन से गोवा की स्वतंत्रता
- C. Birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj / छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज का जन्मदिन
- D. Formation of Indian National Army (INA) / भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सेना (INA) की स्थापना

Red Bull Was Invented in

Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)



# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

**20** मॉडल पेपर्स

CBT (कंप्यूटर आधारित टेस्ट) - 1

- सामान्य ज्ञान/संस्कृत
- 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



व्याख्यात्मक हल YouTube चैनल पर उपलब्ध

Scan QR Code and Watch Playlist

Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)

# NTPC

(गैर-तकनीकी लोकप्रिय श्रेणियाँ)

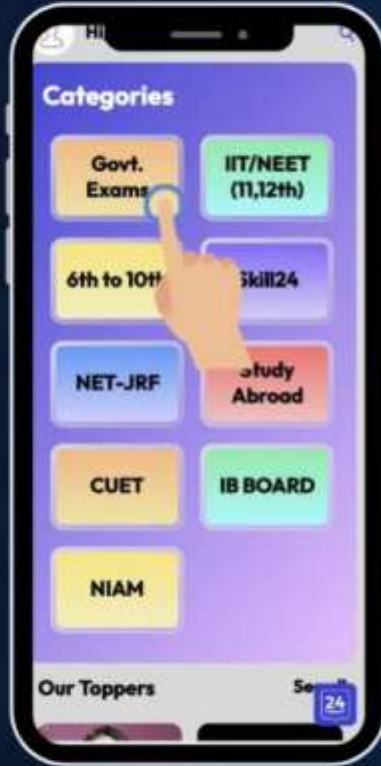
**20** मॉडल पेपर्स

**Price**  
**Rs 199**

# Step 1



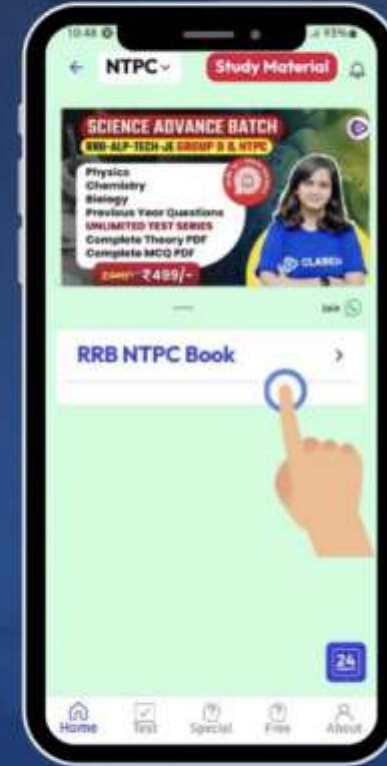
# Step 2




# 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 soft and moody, with a warm orange glow in the upper left corner. The text "Thank you guys." is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Thank you  
guys.

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