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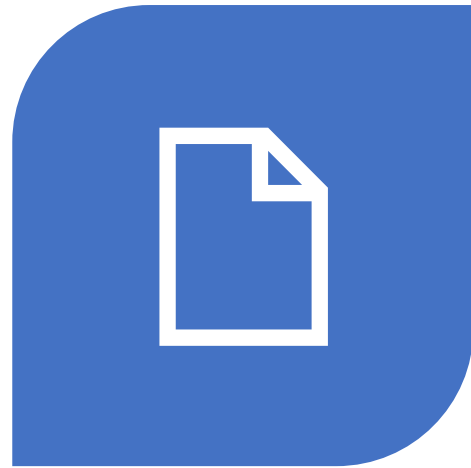
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10 MCQ QUIZ

MCQ

- **From which year will CBSE conduct Class 10 board exams twice a year?**
- **CBSE किस वर्ष से कक्षा 10 की बोर्ड परीक्षा साल में दो बार आयोजित करेगा?**
- A. **2024**
  B. **2025**
  C. **2026**
  D. **2027**

- **Which Indian state is planning to grant 'industry status' to tourism?**

- **कौन सा भारतीय राज्य पर्यटन को 'उद्योग का दर्जा' देने की योजना बना रहा है?**

- A. **Rajasthan / राजस्थान**
  B. **Goa / गोवा**
  C. **Kerala / केरल**
  D. **Uttarakhand / उत्तराखंड**

- What is the main goal of the 'SAKSHAM' campaign launched by Indian Oil and BPCL?

- इंडियन ऑयल और बीपीसीएल द्वारा शुरू किए गए 'सक्षम' अभियान का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- A. Promoting green energy and fuel conservation / हरित ऊर्जा और ईंधन संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देना
  B. Encouraging electric vehicles (EVs) adoption / इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (EVs) को अपनाने को प्रोत्साहित करना
  C. Reducing petroleum product prices / पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की कीमतों को कम करना
  D. Banning the use of fossil fuels / जीवाश्म ईंधनों के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाना

- **Which country has imposed a 25% tariff on Canadian and Mexican imports, affecting businesses in Canada?**

- **किस देश ने कनाडा और मैक्सिको से आयात पर 25% टैरिफ लगाया है, जिससे कनाडाई व्यवसाय प्रभावित हो रहे हैं?**

- A. **United Kingdom / यूनाइटेड किंगडम**
  B. **United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका**
  C. **China / चीन**
  D. **Germany / जर्मनी**

- **Who has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Delhi?**

- **दिल्ली की नई मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- A. **Atishi Marlena / आतिशी मार्लेना**
  B. **Bandana Kumari / बंदना कुमारी**
  C. **Rekha Gupta / रेखा गुप्ता**
  D. **Ankita Sharma / अंकिता शर्मा**

- Which event showcased India's textile advancements and aimed to triple textile exports by 2030?

- कौन सा आयोजन भारत की कपड़ा प्रगति को प्रदर्शित करता है और 2030 तक कपड़ा निर्यात को तीन गुना करने का लक्ष्य रखता है?

- A. India Textiles Expo 2025 / इंडिया टेक्सटाइल्स एक्सपो 2025
  B. Bharat Tex 2025 / भारत टेक्स 2025
  C. Global Fabric Summit 2025 / ग्लोबल फैब्रिक समिट 2025
  D. Make in India Textile Fair / मेक इन इंडिया टेक्सटाइल फेयर

- **What is the objective of the 'NAKSHA' project?**
- **'NAKSHA' परियोजना का उद्देश्य क्या है?**
- A. **Developing a digital land survey system / डिजिटल भूमि सर्वेक्षण प्रणाली विकसित करना**
  B. **Mapping historical monuments in India / भारत में ऐतिहासिक स्मारकों का मानचित्रण करना**
  C. **Enhancing forest and wildlife conservation / वन और वन्यजीव संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देना**
  D. **Promoting satellite-based weather forecasting / उपग्रह आधारित मौसम पूर्वानुमान को बढ़ावा देना**

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

- **भारत का पहला वर्टिकल बाइ-फेशियल सौर संयंत्र कहां उद्घाटन किया गया?**

- 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 फरवरी भारतीय इतिहास में क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?
- A. Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose / नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस की जयंती
  B. Independence of Goa from Portuguese rule / गोवा की पुर्तगाली शासन से स्वतंत्रता
  C. Birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj / छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज की जयंती
  D. Formation of Indian National Army (INA) / भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सेना (INA) का गठन

Memory is the scribe of the soul

ARISTOTLE

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Vol. 3 • No. 44

MANIPUR GOVERNOR'S ORDER
'Surrender weapons in 7 days or face action'
NEWS » PAGE 4

ISRAEL GRIEVES LOSS
Hamas turns over bodies of 4 hostages
WORLD » PAGE 14

ADANI GREEN DEAL
Sri Lanka 'not looking to redraw' power pact
BUSINESS » PAGE 12

NUTRITION LITERACY
Transforming Koraput's tribal food basket
Community-based plan is leading to change
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

SMOOTH START
Gill powers India past Bangladesh
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

Trade deal is 'possible' with China: Trump

WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump suggested on Wednesday that a trade deal was "possible" with China — a key target in the U.S. leader's tariffs policy. In 2020, the U.S. had already agreed to "a great trade deal with China" and a new deal was "possible", Mr. Trump told presspersons aboard Air Force One. » PAGE 14

'Infiltration down post-Bangladesh regime change'

NEW DELHI
Infiltration along the Bangladesh border has "gone down substantially" after the political developments in the neighbouring country in August 2024, Border Security Force (BSF) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary said on Thursday. He further said the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) stood shoulder to shoulder with the BSF to maintain peace and tranquillity throughout the "crisis" period. » PAGE 4

OTT platforms warned against 'obscene content'

NEW DELHI
Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry on Thursday cautioned over the-top streaming (OTT) platforms against streaming content prohibited by law, stressing the importance of age-based classification under IT (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The warning follows the Supreme Court's suggestion for government action on obscene social media content. » PAGE 6

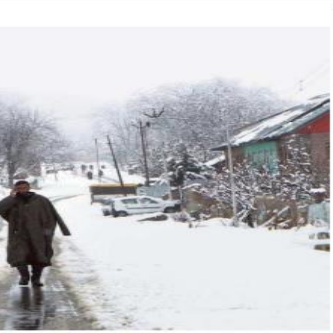
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The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a Lokpal order bringing High Court judges under its jurisdiction, terming the top anti-corruption ombudsman's interpretation "very disturbing".

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the January 27 Lokpal order, a Special Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, Surya Kant and A.S. Oka, three senior judges of the Supreme Court and Collegium members, said it impacted the independence of the judiciary.

The Bench, in a brief hearing, was offered assistance by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and B.H. Marlapalle even as Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta appeared for the Union government. The Bench issued notice to the Centre, the Registrar of Lokpal and the complainant on whose plea the January 27 order was passed. The court listed the case on March 18. It injuncted the complainant from disclosing the name of the High Court judge in question and ordered the former to keep the contents of the complaint confidential.

Mr. Sibal said the court sorely needed to lay down the law on this issue. Mr. Mehta categorically submitted that High Court judges would never fall within the ambit of Lokpal.

'Public servants'
The order of the Lokpal, chaired by a former Supreme Court judge, Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, was based on a complaint that an Additional High Court

Redefining jurisdiction

Lokpal's January 27 order defines the rules and conditions under which it will inquire into complaints against High Court judges

■ SC judges are public servants under the Prevention of Corruption- Act but are not public servants under the Lokpal Act

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■ There is a precondition to consult the Chief Justice of India before initiating, under Section 20 of the Lokpal Act, a preliminary inquiry into a complaint lodged against an HC judge

judge had influenced an Additional District Judge, and later another High Court judge, to decide in favour of a private company. It was alleged that the company had been a client of the judge during the latter's earlier years as an advocate.

In a 13-page order, the Lokpal concluded that High Court judges were 'public servants' and came within the ambit of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013.

The anti-corruption body assumed jurisdiction to inquire or investigate complaints about High Court judges on the ground that, unlike the Supreme Court, the High Courts in India were constituted by British Parliamentary Acts — Indian High Courts Act, 1861 and Government of India Act 1935 — and Letters Patent of the British Monarch. In fact, the High Courts pre-dated the Constitution, the Lokpal reasoned.

Article 214 of the Constitution, which said "there shall be a High Court for each State", had only "intrinsically recognised" the existence of the High Courts. The Constitution did not establish the High Courts, the Lokpal argued in the January 27 order. On the other hand, the Supreme Court was completely a child of the Constitution, the ombudsman noted.

A few days before the January 27 order, the Lokpal, in a decision on January 3, had declared that it had no power over Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice of India.

In the January 3 order, the Lokpal had explained that the Supreme Court was not a "body" established by an Act of Parliament or financed or controlled by the Central government. It had observed that Supreme Court judges, including the CJI, even though 'public servants' in terms of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988, were not amenable to the jurisdiction of the Lokpal.

Argument 'too naive'
But, the Lokpal, in its January 27 order, found the argument that a High Court judge was outside the ombudsman's jurisdiction, "too naive". The Lokpal said a High Court judge came within the ambit of clause (f) of Section 14(1) of the 2013 Act.

A clause of Section 14 notes the Lokpal has jurisdiction over "any person who is or has been a chairperson or member or officer or employee in any body or Board or corporation or authority or company or society or trust or autonomous body (by whatever name called) established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly financed by the Central government or controlled by it".

The term 'any person' in the clause would include a judge of a High Court established by an Act of Parliament.

In this case, the judge in question was serving in the High Court of a State reorganised by an Act of the Parliament, it pointed out.

Final flourish

Welcome break: A man walks down a snow-covered road in Shopian district of Kashmir, on Thursday. After nearly two months of an unprecedented dry spell, the Kashmir Valley received some rain and snowfall, raising hopes for improved water availability. IMRAN NISSAR

Microsoft unveils chip for quantum computing

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Microsoft has announced a new chip, called Majorana 1, that it said showed quantum computing is "years, not decades" away, joining Google and IBM in predicting that a fundamental change in computing technology is closer than believed.

Quantum computing holds the promise of carrying out calculations that would take today's systems millions of years and could unlock important discoveries in medicine, chemistry, and aerospace, among others.

The biggest challenge of quantum computing is that its fundamental building block — called a qubit — is fast but difficult to control and is prone to errors. Microsoft said its new Majorana 1 chip is less prone to these errors than rival designs.

The chip has been in the works for nearly two decades. Its supposed fault-tolerant abilities come from the properties of an exotic subatomic particle called the Majorana fermion, which has been hard to find since it was first theorised in the 1930s.

Microsoft believes Majorana qubits will prove less prone to inadvertent flips between ones and zeros than qubits created by other approaches.

Harvard University physics professor Philip Kim, who was not involved in Microsoft's research, called the chip an "exciting development".

However, some other independent experts have voiced concerns over the lack of conclusive proof that Majorana 1 works as Microsoft has claimed it does.

(With inputs from agencies)

Rekha Gupta takes charge as 9th Chief Minister of Delhi

Narendra Modi with Rekha Gupta and other Ministers during the oath ceremony in Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party's MLA Rekha Gupta took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of Delhi at the Ramlila Maidan on Thursday. A six-member Council of Ministers were also sworn into office in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders.

Ms. Gupta will handle key portfolios such as Finance, Revenue, Women and Child Development, Services and Vigilance, and other unallocated departments.

The Cabinet comprises Parvesh Sahib Singh, who will handle the Public Welfare Department and Water; Ashish Sood, who will take charge of the Home, Power, Education and Urban Development portfolios; Manjinder Singh Sirsa, given charge of Food & Supplies, Forest Environment and Industries; Ravinder Indraj, who will look after Social Welfare, SC and ST Welfare, Cooperatives, and Elections; Kapil Mishra, who has been handed the Law and Justice, Labour, Employment and Tourism Departments; and Pankaj Singh who will handle Health and Family Welfare, Transport and Information Technology.

Hours after the new Chief Minister and Minis- ters were sworn in, BJP leaders offered prayers at the Yamuna Ghat. Cleaning of the Yamuna is expected to be BJP's top priority during their five-year tenure.

Three-time Rohini MLA Vijendra Gupta thanked the party for giving him the responsibility of Speaker of Delhi Assembly.

Cabinet decisions
After her first Cabinet meeting, Ms. Gupta said the government would table 14 pending CAG reports in the first session of the new Delhi Assembly, and would also work towards implementing the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat in Delhi as quickly as possible.

Earlier, the first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh was administered the oath by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by the BJP's top brass, including Union Ministers Amit Shah, J.P. Nadda, and Rajnath Singh, and the Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of several NDA-ruled States.

The BJP has come into power in the national capital after 26 years, with 48 seats in the Assembly.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 5
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 8

Governments of Opposition-ruled States in South India reject proposed UGC rules

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana reaffirmed their opposition to the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations, 2025, at a convention held here on Thursday.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who inaugurated the event, said the proposed guidelines could undermine India's federal structure by diminishing the role of State governments in higher education. The CPI(M) leader noted that the regulations would infringe upon the powers of State legislatures, particularly regarding the appointment of

Policy pushback
What each State said on the new guidelines

Kerala: Guidelines diminish State's roles, infringe legislature powers, and lower academic standards

Telangana: They undermine State autonomy, disadvantage marginalised students, and enforce unfair criteria

Karnataka: Guidelines impose foreign models, promote privatisation, and neglect economic accessibility concerns

Tamil Nadu: They exclude States from decisions, impose financial burdens, and centralise power

Vice-Chancellors of State universities.

'Politically motivated'
Mr. Vijayan condemned the provisions allowing non-academics, including

industry and public administration professionals, to be appointed Vice-Chancellors, calling the move politically motivated and detrimental to academic standards.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka echoed these concerns, accusing the Centre and the UGC of undermining State autonomy in a matter on the Concurrent List. Opposing the proposed minimum enrolment criterion of 3,000 students per institution, the Congress leader said it would affect colleges serving backward areas.

Karnataka Higher Education Minister and Congress leader M.C. Sudhakar raised concerns over imposing foreign education models without considering India's diverse educational landscape. He warned against excessive privatisation, arguing that policies must prioritise ac-

cessibility for students from economically weaker sections.

Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister and DMK leader Govi. Chezhiaan said it was ironic that the States were being excluded from the appointment process while making them bear the financial burden of universities.

Leader of the Opposition in Kerala, V.D. Satheesan, cautioned that the draft regulations would centralise power and compromise academic excellence. The Congress leader alleged that the punitive measures outlined in the regulations were covert attempts to inject ruling party ideologies into the education system.

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1. Supreme Court's Stay on Lokpal Order (सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने लोकपाल के आदेश पर रोक लगाई)

Supreme Court (SC) stayed the **Lokpal's January 27 order**, which sought to bring **High Court judges under its jurisdiction**.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 27 जनवरी के लोकपाल आदेश पर रोक लगा दी, जिसमें उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों को लोकपाल के अधिकार क्षेत्र में लाने की बात की गई थी।

- 2 Judicial Independence Concerns (**न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता की चिंता**)
- The **three-judge bench** led by Justice B.R. Gavai called the move **"very disturbing"**, stating it could impact judicial independence.
- **न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गवई की अध्यक्षता वाली तीन-न्यायाधीश पीठ** ने इस कदम को **"बेहद चिंताजनक"** बताया, क्योंकि यह न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

3. Lokpal's Justification (लोकपाल का तर्क)

Lokpal justified its stance by arguing that **HC judges fall under the category of 'any person' as per Section 14(1)(f) of the Lokpal Act, 2013**.

लोकपाल ने यह तर्क दिया कि **लोकपाल अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 14(1)(f)** के अनुसार **उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश 'कोई भी व्यक्ति'** की श्रेणी में आते हैं।

4 Supreme Court's Counter (सुप्रीम कोर्ट का प्रतिवाद)

SC argued that the Constitution **intrinsically recognizes High Courts**, meaning they were established by the Constitution itself and not merely by an Act of Parliament.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने तर्क दिया कि संविधान **स्वतः ही उच्च न्यायालयों को मान्यता देता है**, अर्थात् वे सिर्फ संसदीय अधिनियम द्वारा नहीं बने हैं।

5 Political & Legal Implications (राजनीतिक और कानूनी प्रभाव)

The **Union Government and senior lawyers** opposed the Lokpal's interpretation, saying it **overstepped its jurisdiction**.

केंद्र सरकार और वरिष्ठ वकीलों ने लोकपाल की व्याख्या का विरोध किया, यह कहते हुए कि यह अपने अधिकार क्षेत्र से बाहर जा रहा है।

- ◈ **Historical Context (ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ)**

- **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** was passed to **investigate corruption in public offices**, but **judiciary was historically kept separate**.

- **लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013** को **सार्वजनिक कार्यालयों में भ्रष्टाचार की जांच के लिए लागू किया गया था**, लेकिन **न्यायपालिका को** पारंपरिक रूप से इससे अलग रखा गया था।

- Earlier, the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, was the only law governing misconduct investigations against judges.

- इससे पहले, **न्यायाधीश (जांच) अधिनियम, 1968**, न्यायाधीशों के आचरण की जांच करने वाला एकमात्र कानून था।

- ◈ **Political Aspect (राजनीतिक पहलू)**

- **Judicial independence vs. Lokpal's authority**—The issue raises concerns over the **balance of power between judiciary and anti-corruption bodies**.

- **न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता बनाम लोकपाल का अधिकार**—इस मुद्दे ने **न्यायपालिका और भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी संस्थाओं के बीच शक्ति संतुलन** पर बहस छेड़ दी है।

- **Potential executive interference?** The judiciary fears that Lokpal's move **could allow executive overreach into judicial matters**.

- **कार्यपालिका का संभावित हस्तक्षेप?** न्यायपालिका को डर है कि लोकपाल का यह कदम कार्यपालिका को न्यायिक मामलों में हस्तक्षेप करने का अवसर दे सकता है।

- ◈ **Economic Aspect (आर्थिक पहलू)**

- **Judicial transparency is crucial for investor confidence**—If judges fall under Lokpal, it might create uncertainty for businesses and investors.

- **न्यायिक पारदर्शिता निवेशकों के विश्वास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है**—यदि न्यायाधीश लोकपाल के दायरे में आते हैं, तो इससे **व्यापार और निवेशकों में अनिश्चितता पैदा हो सकती है।**

- **Corruption in Judiciary?** Lokpal's move aimed at tackling judicial corruption, which affects corporate and financial cases.

- **न्यायपालिका में भ्रष्टाचार?** लोकपाल का कदम न्यायिक भ्रष्टाचार को रोकने के लिए था, जो **कॉर्पोरेट और वित्तीय मामलों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।**

- ◈ **Social Aspect (सामाजिक पहलू)**
- **Public trust in judiciary**—Many citizens believe judges should be accountable, but judicial independence must be preserved.
- **न्यायपालिका में जनता का विश्वास**—कई नागरिक मानते हैं कि न्यायाधीशों को जवाबदेह होना चाहिए, लेकिन **न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा भी जरूरी है।**
- **Judicial Reforms?** The case has revived debates on whether judges should have an independent accountability mechanism.
- **न्यायिक सुधार?** इस मामले ने यह बहस फिर से छेड़ दी है कि क्या न्यायाधीशों के लिए स्वतंत्र जवाबदेही तंत्र होना चाहिए।

Feature	Details
Introduction	Lokpal is an anti-corruption statutory body in India that investigates complaints against public officials, including the Prime Minister, ministers, and MPs.
Origin	Concept inspired by **Ombudsman** (Sweden) and recommended by the **First ARC (1966)**.
Enactment	**Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** (came into effect in **2014**).
Jurisdiction	Covers the **Prime Minister, Ministers, MPs, Bureaucrats, and Public Servants**, including those in **private entities receiving public funds**.
Prime Minister's Coverage	Can be investigated **only under specific conditions**, such as serious corruption charges and after **approval of two-thirds of the Lokpal members**.
Composition	- **Chairperson** (a former Chief Justice of India or Supreme Court judge or an eminent person). - **8 Members** (4 judicial + 4 non-judicial).

Appointment	By a **selection committee** comprising: 1. **Prime Minister (Chairperson)** 2. **Speaker of Lok Sabha** 3. **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha** 4. **Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge** 5. **An eminent jurist nominated by the President.**
Tenure	**5 years** or **70 years of age**, whichever is earlier.
Removal	By the **President** on the recommendation of the **Supreme Court** (after inquiry).
Powers & Functions	- Investigates **corruption complaints** against public officials. - Refers cases to **CBI or ED** for further action. - Has the power to **seize assets, recommend prosecution, and direct removal** of guilty officials.
Lokayuktas	Each state has its own **Lokayukta**, established by **state laws**.
First Lokpal of India	**Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose** (appointed in 2019).
Challenges	- **Lack of independent investigation agency.** - **Delay in appointments.** - **Limited jurisdiction over the private sector.** - **Issues with Lokayuktas (not uniform across states).**
Way Forward	- Strengthen **independent investigation** mechanisms. - Ensure **timely appointments**. - Increase **public awareness** about Lokpal.

Rekha Gupta takes charge as 9th Chief Minister of Delhi

Narendra Modi with Rekha Gupta and other Ministers during the oath ceremony in Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party's MLA Rekha Gupta took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of Delhi at the Ramlila Maidan on Thursday. A six-member Council of Ministers were also sworn into office in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders.

Ms. Gupta will handle key portfolios such as Finance, Revenue, Women and Child Development, Services and Vigilance, and other unallocated departments.

The Cabinet comprises Parvesh Sahib Singh, who will handle the Public Welfare Department and Water; Ashish Sood, who will take charge of the Home, Power, Education and Urban Development portfolios; Manjinder Singh Sirsa, given charge of Food & Supplies, Forest Environment and Industries; Ravinder Indraj, who will look after Social Welfare, SC and ST Welfare, Cooperatives, and Elections; Kapil Mishra, who has been handed the Law and Justice, Labour, Employment and Tourism Departments; and Pankaj Singh who will handle Health and Family Welfare, Transport and Information Technology.

Hours after the new Chief Minister and Ministers were sworn in, BJP leaders offered prayers at the Yamuna Ghat. Cleaning of the Yamuna is expected to be BJP's top priority during their five-year tenure.

Three-time Rohini MLA Vijendra Gupta thanked the party for giving him the responsibility of Speaker of Delhi Assembly.

Cabinet decisions

After her first Cabinet meeting, Ms. Gupta said the government would table 14 pending CAG reports in the first session of the new Delhi Assembly, and would also work towards implementing the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat in Delhi as quickly as possible.

Earlier, the first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh was administered the oath by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by the BJP's top brass, including Union Ministers Amit Shah, J.P. Nadda, and Rajnath Singh, and the Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of several NDA-ruled States.

The BJP has come into power in the capital after 26 years, with 48 seats in the Assembly.

S.No.	Name	State/UT	Tenure	Political Party
1	**Sucheta Kripalani**	Uttar Pradesh	2 October 1963 – 13 March 1967	Indian National Congress
2	**Nandini Satpathy**	Odisha	14 June 1972 – 16 December 1976	Indian National Congress
3	**Shashikala Kakodkar**	Goa	12 August 1973 – 27 April 1979	Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party
4	**Anwara Taimur**	Assam	6 December 1980 – 30 June 1981	Indian National Congress
5	**V. N. Janaki Ramachandran**	Tamil Nadu	7 January 1988 – 30 January 1988	AIADMK
6	**J. Jayalalithaa**	Tamil Nadu	Multiple Terms (1991–2016)	AIADMK
7	**Mayawati**	Uttar Pradesh	Multiple Terms (1995–2012)	Bahujan Samaj Party
8	**Rajinder Kaur Bhattal**	Punjab	21 November 1996 – 12 February 1997	Indian National Congress

	Bhattal		February 1997	
9	**Rabri Devi**	Bihar	Multiple Terms (1997–2005)	Rashtriya Janata Dal
10	**Sushma Swaraj**	Delhi	12 October 1998 – 3 December 1998	Bharatiya Janata Party
11	**Sheila Dikshit**	Delhi	3 December 1998 – 28 December 2013	Indian National Congress
12	**Uma Bharti**	Madhya Pradesh	8 December 2003 – 23 August 2004	Bharatiya Janata Party
13	**Vasundhara Raje**	Rajasthan	Multiple Terms (2003–2018)	Bharatiya Janata Party
14	**Mamata Banerjee**	West Bengal	20 May 2011 – Present	All India Trinamool Congress
15	**Anandiben Patel**	Gujarat	22 May 2014 – 7 August 2016	Bharatiya Janata Party
16	**Mehbooba Mufti**	Jammu and Kashmir	4 April 2016 – 19 June 2018	Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party
17	**Atishi Marlena Singh**	Delhi	21 September 2024 – 20 February 2025	Aam Aadmi Party
18	**Rekha Gupta**	Delhi	20 February 2025 – Present	Bharatiya Janata Party

- **Key Highlights:**
- **First Female Chief Minister:** *Sucheta Kripalani* was the first woman to hold the office of Chief Minister in India, serving Uttar Pradesh from 1963 to 1967.
- **Longest Tenure:** *Sheila Dikshit* served as the Chief Minister of Delhi for over 15 years (1998–2013), making her the longest-serving female Chief Minister in India.
- **Recent Appointments:** *Rekha Gupta* assumed office as the Chief Minister of Delhi on 20 February 2025, representing the Bharatiya Janata Party. **Current Female Chief Ministers:** As of February 2025, *Mamata Banerjee* (West Bengal) and *Rekha Gupta* (Delhi) are the incumbent female Chief Ministers in India.

- 1 Swearing-in Ceremony (शपथ ग्रहण समारोह)
- **Rekha Gupta**, BJP MLA from **Shalimar Bagh**, took **oath as the 9th Chief Minister of Delhi** at **Ramlila Maidan**.
- **रेखा गुप्ता**, भाजपा विधायक **शालीमार बाग से**, ने **दिल्ली की 9वीं मुख्यमंत्री** के रूप में रामलीला मैदान में शपथ ली।
- The oath was administered by **Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena**.
- शपथ **दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल वी.के. सक्सेना** ने दिलाई।
- **PM Narendra Modi and senior BJP leaders** were present.
- **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता** मौजूद थे।

- 2 Portfolios Assigned (सौंपे गए विभाग)

- **Rekha Gupta** will handle **Finance, Revenue, Women & Child Development, Services, and Vigilance**.

- **रेखा गुप्ता** को **वित्त, राजस्व, महिला और बाल विकास, सेवा और सतर्कता विभाग** सौंपे गए।

- **Other ministers and their portfolios:**
  - **Parvesh Sahib Singh** → Public Welfare & Water
  - **परवेश साहिब सिंह** → लोक कल्याण और जल विभाग
  - **Ashish Sood** → Home, Power, Education, Urban Development
  - **आशीष सूद** → गृह, ऊर्जा, शिक्षा, शहरी विकास
  - **Manjinder Singh Sirsa** → Food & Supplies, Forest, Environment, Industries
  - **मंजींदर सिंह सिरसा** → खाद्य आपूर्ति, वन, पर्यावरण, उद्योग
  - **Indraj Singh** → Social Welfare, SC/ST Welfare, Cooperatives, Elections
  - **इंद्रज सिंह** → सामाजिक कल्याण, अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति कल्याण, सहकारी, चुनाव
  - **Kapil Mishra** → Law & Justice, Labour, Employment, Tourism
  - **कपिल मिश्रा** → कानून एवं न्याय, श्रम, रोजगार, पर्यटन
  - **Pankaj Singh** → Health, Family Welfare, IT
  - **पंकज सिंह** → स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी

- 3️⃣ **Key Cabinet Decisions (मुख्य कैबिनेट निर्णय)**
- The government will **table 14 pending CAG reports in the Delhi Assembly**.
- सरकार **दिल्ली विधानसभा में 14 लंबित सीएजी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करेगी।**
- **Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme** will be implemented in Delhi **on priority**.
- **आयुष्मान भारत स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना** को दिल्ली में **शीघ्र लागू किया जाएँगा।**

- 4 Political Significance (राजनीतिक महत्व)
- BJP returns to power in Delhi **after 26 years**, winning **48 out of 70 seats**.
- **भाजपा 26 साल बाद दिल्ली में सत्ता में लौटी**, और **70 में से 48 सीटें जीतीं**।
- Rekha Gupta is the **fourth woman CM of Delhi** after **Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit, and Shiela Kaul**.
- रेखा गुप्ता **दिल्ली की चौथी महिला मुख्यमंत्री** बनीं, **सुषमा स्वराज, शीला दीक्षित और शीला कौल** के बाद।

Microsoft unveils chip for quantum computing

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Microsoft has announced a new chip, called Majorana 1, that it said showed quantum computing is "years, not decades" away, joining Google and IBM in predicting that a fundamental change in computing technology is closer than believed.

Quantum computing holds the promise of carrying out calculations that would take today's systems millions of years and could unlock important discoveries in medicine, chemistry, and aerospace, among others.

The biggest challenge of quantum computing is that its fundamental building block – called a qubit – is fast but difficult to control and is prone to errors. Microsoft said its new Majorana 1 chip is less prone to these errors than rival designs.

The chip has been in the works for nearly two decades. Its supposed fault-tolerant abilities come from the properties of an exotic subatomic particle called the Majorana fermion, which has been hard to find since it was first theorised in the 1930s.

Microsoft believes Majorana qubits will prove less prone to inadvertent flips between ones and zeros than qubits created by other approaches.

Harvard University physics professor Philip Kim, who was not involved in Microsoft's research, called the chip an "exciting development".

However, some other independent experts have voiced concerns over the lack of conclusive proof that Majorana 1 works as Microsoft has claimed it does.

(With inputs from agencies)

Topic	Details
Introduction	Quantum computers use **quantum mechanics principles** like **superposition and entanglement** to process information much faster than classical computers.
Key Principles	- **Qubits (Quantum Bits):** Unlike classical bits (0 or 1), qubits exist in **multiple states simultaneously**. - **Superposition:** A qubit can be in **both 0 and 1 states at the same time**, exponentially increasing computing power. - **Entanglement:** Two or more qubits can be **linked**, affecting each other instantly, allowing faster computations.
Difference from Classical Computers	- **Classical computers** use **binary logic (0 or 1)**. - **Quantum computers** use **qubits**, which enable them to **perform multiple calculations simultaneously**.

Applications	- **Cryptography:** Can break classical encryption (RSA, ECC). - **Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning:** Helps in faster **pattern recognition** and decision-making. - **Drug Discovery & Material Science:** Simulates **molecular interactions** for new medicines. - **Climate & Weather Modeling:** Processes vast climate datasets for accurate predictions. - **Financial Modeling:** Enhances **risk analysis and fraud detection**.
Current Global Leaders	- **Google (Sycamore):** Achieved **quantum supremacy** (2019). - **IBM (Q System One, Eagle, Condor):** Developing commercial quantum computers. - **China (Jiuzhang):** Achieved **photonic quantum advantage**. - **D-Wave (Canada):** Focus on **quantum annealing**.
India's Quantum Mission	- **National Quantum Mission (NQM) (2023-2031):** ₹6,000 crore project to develop quantum technologies. - **Quantum Computing Lab:** ISRO, DRDO, IITs, and IISc are working on **quantum cryptography and computing**.
Challenges	- **Hardware Scalability:** Difficult to build **stable qubits** (require near absolute zero temperature). - **Error Correction:** Qubits are highly **sensitive to external disturbances** (quantum decoherence). - **High Cost:** Requires **specialized infrastructure** and huge investments. - **Cybersecurity Threats:** Can **break existing encryption methods**, requiring new security protocols.

Future Prospects	- **Quantum Supremacy Expansion:** More practical applications in real-world industries. - **Quantum Cryptography:** Development of **quantum-safe encryption** for security. - **Integration with AI & Big Data:** Enhancing **data analytics and deep learning**.

Quantum Computer	Developing Company / Country	Technology Used	Key Achievements
Sycamore	Google (USA)	Superconducting Qubits	Achieved **Quantum Supremacy** in 2019 (solved a problem in 200 seconds that would take classical computers 10,000 years).
IBM Q System One	IBM (USA)	Superconducting Qubits	First **commercially available** quantum computer; works on **quantum cloud computing**.
Eagle & Condor	IBM (USA)	Superconducting Qubits	**Eagle (127 qubits, 2021)** and **Condor (1,121 qubits, 2023)** aim to enhance quantum computing power.
Jiuzhang	University of Science and Technology (China)	Photonic Quantum Computing	**Achieved quantum advantage** using **light-based quantum circuits** in 2020.
Zuchongzhi 2.1	China (Chinese Academy of Sciences)	Superconducting Qubits	Claimed to be **faster than Google's Sycamore**, performing tasks beyond classical computing capabilities.
D-Wave Advantage	D-Wave (Canada)	Quantum Annealing	First commercial quantum computer focused on **optimization problems** (5000+ qubits).

Bristlecone	Google (USA)	Superconducting Qubits	A 72-qubit quantum processor, used for **quantum error correction research**.
Rigetti Aspen-M	Rigetti Computing (USA)	Superconducting Qubits	Quantum cloud computing platform; focuses on **hybrid quantum-classical computing**.
Quantum Annealer	Fujitsu (Japan)	Digital Annealing	Used for **logistics, material science, and AI** applications.
IonQ Quantum Computer	IonQ (USA)	Trapped Ion Technology	Uses **ion-trap qubits** for better stability and scalability.
PASQAL Quantum Processor	PASQAL (France)	Neutral Atom Quantum Computing	Uses **neutral atoms as qubits** for high coherence and precision.
Hefei Quantum Computer	China	Superconducting Qubits	Built in **2022** by China's Quantum Innovation Institute for scientific research.
Toshiba Quantum Cryptography	Toshiba (Japan)	Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)	Developing **quantum-safe encryption** to prevent cyber threats.
Indian Quantum Initiative	India (ISRO, DRDO, TIFR, IITs)	Quantum Communication & Cryptography	India's **National Quantum Mission (2023-2031)** focuses on quantum computing and cybersecurity.

- 1 Introduction & Development (परिचय और विकास)
- Microsoft has introduced a **new quantum computing chip** named **Majorana 1**.
- माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने **नया क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग चिप "मेजोराना 1"** लॉन्च किया।
- The chip was in **development for nearly two decades**.
- यह चिप **लगभग दो दशकों से विकसित हो रही थी**।
- **Rival companies Google and IBM** also working on quantum computing advancements.
- **गूगल और आईबीएम भी क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग तकनीक में प्रगति कर रहे हैं।**

- 2️⃣ **Features & Promises (विशेषताएँ और संभावनाएँ)**
- The chip aims to make **quantum computing more practical** within **years, not decades**.
- यह चिप **क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग को दशकों की बजाय वर्षों में व्यावहारिक बनाने** का दावा करती है।
- Quantum computing can **solve complex problems** that take classical computers **millions of years**.
- क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग **ऐसे जटिल गणनाओं को हल कर सकती है**, जिसमें परंपरागत कंप्यूटर को **लाखों साल लग सकते हैं।**
- Applications in **medicine, chemistry, and aerospace**.
- **चिकित्सा, रसायन विज्ञान और एयरोस्पेस** में उपयोगी।

- **3 Major Challenge & Innovation (मुख्य चुनौती और नवाचार)**

- The fundamental unit of quantum computing, **the qubit**, is **fast but error-prone**.

- क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग की मूल इकाई **क्यूबिट तेज होती है, लेकिन इसमें अधिक त्रुटियाँ होती हैं।**

- Microsoft's **Majorana 1 qubits** claim to be **less prone to errors** compared to competitors.

- माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के **मेजोराना 1 क्यूबिट अन्य चिप्स की तुलना में कम त्रुटियों वाला** बताया जा रहा है।

- Based on the **Majorana fermion**, a subatomic particle first **theorized in the 1930s**.

- यह चिप **1930 के दशक में सिद्धांतित "मेजोराना फर्मियन"** नामक उप-परमाणु कण पर आधारित है।

- 4 Expert Opinions & Concerns (विशेषज्ञों की राय और चिंताएँ)
- **Harvard University's Prof. Philip Kim** called it an **"exciting development"**.
- **हार्वर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रो. फिलिप किम** ने इसे **"रोमांचक विकास"** बताया।
- **Some independent experts doubt Microsoft's claims,** citing **lack of conclusive proof**.
- **कुछ स्वतंत्र विशेषज्ञों** ने इस **चिप** की **प्रभावशीलता** पर **संदेह व्यक्त किया,** क्योंकि **ठोस प्रमाण उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।**

- **Quantum mechanics theories** date back to the **20th century**.
- **क्वांटम यांत्रिकी सिद्धांत** 20वीं सदी से प्रचलित हैं।
- The **concept of qubits and quantum computing** emerged in the **1980s-1990s**.
- **क्यूबिट और क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग** की अवधारणा **1980-1990 के दशक में** उभरी।

- **B. Economic Aspect (आर्थिक पहलू)**
- **Tech giants investing billions** in quantum research.
- तकनीकी कंपनियाँ अरबों डॉलर का निवेश कर रही हैं।
- Potential to **revolutionize industries like finance, cryptography, and logistics**.
- वित्त, क्रिप्टोग्राफी और लॉजिस्टिक्स में क्रांति लाने की संभावना।
- **C. Social Impact (सामाजिक प्रभाव)**
- Can lead to **better healthcare, drug discovery, and climate change solutions**.
- बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ, नई दवाओं की खोज और जलवायु परिवर्तन समाधान में मददगार।

IN BRIEF

NHRC issues notice to Bengal govt. over death of 2 workers

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday took *suo motu* cognisance of reports regarding the death of two persons after inhaling toxic gas while cleaning a septic tank in Nandigram block in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. According to reports, the person who first entered the septic tank to clean it cried for help after inhaling poisonous gas. Three of his family members rushed to rescue him but they also inhaled the toxic gas and lost consciousness. All four were rushed to the hospital but only two of them survived. The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, Purba Medinipur calling for a detailed report within two weeks.

Two villagers killed by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada

Two villagers from a left-wing-extremism-affected region in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada were murdered by Naxalites on Wednesday evening, said the police. A senior police officer said that Baman Kashyap (29) and Anis Ram Poyam (38), both residents of Todma village in the Barsoor Police Station limits, were found dead in a deep jungle. Prima facie they were strangled to death, said the police. A pamphlet of the Aaamdai Area Committee of the East Bastar division of the Maoists was purportedly found at the spot. A copy of the said pamphlet that surfaced online has named Kashyap, who worked as a guest school teacher, as a police informer.

I&B Ministry warns OTTs against 'obscene content'

Ministry cites complaints from general public, MPs and statutory bodies; directs streaming services to enforce age-based ratings for mature content in accordance with 2021 IT Rules

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Warning over-the-top (OTT) streaming services against transmitting "any content that is prohibited by law", the Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry on Thursday said they should ensure "age-based classification of content" under the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The OTT platforms should enforce age-gating requirements for mature content, the Ministry said in an advisory citing complaints from MPs, statutory organisations and the public.

It is unclear specifically what "obscene, pornographic and vulgar content" the circular is referring to. In December 2024, the Ministry flagged some shows "promoting, glamorising or glorifying the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through such portrayal by the main protagonist and other actors".

The IT Rules have extensive regulations pre-scribing age ratings for content on Indian streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Those regulations require streaming services to have a formal grievance redress system. They should be part of a three-tier system, under which users who are offended by certain content can first approach the platform, then a self-regulatory body, and further an inter-departmental committee of the Union government.

SC seeks action

On Tuesday, a Supreme Court Bench, led by Justice Surya Kant, orally observed that the government needed to take some action on obscene content on social media.

The present advisory has only been sent to online curated content platforms, the legal term for streaming platforms such as Netflix, as opposed to user-generated content platforms such as YouTube. The court was hearing a case on clubbing the FIRs against Ranveer Allahbadia, the podcaster who has been at the centre of a storm over a joke he cracked on the YouTube show *India's Got Latent*.

Not completely banned

The IT Rules do not completely ban swearing, sex or nudity; they instead require that shows and films that feature these — along with substance abuse and violence — be rated for older audiences.

Apart from the IT Rules, the advisory points to other laws to warn streaming providers against content that features obscenity. "Attention is also invited to the provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986; Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023; the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act; and the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, wherein publication of obscene/pornographic content is a punishable offence," the advisory reads.

Screening content

The I&B Ministry's latest advisory has issued the following directives to OTT platforms on 'obscene' content

- Ensure age-based classification
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- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act
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Aspirants from India, abroad register for video game contest

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

More than 150 developers from five continents and over 650 Indian aspirants are participating in the handheld video game design challenge organised by the Indian Digital Gaming Society under the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), 2025 initiative recently announced by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

The challenge has so far recorded registration from many countries, including the United States, Canada, and Brazil. Participants have registered from Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Jordan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Pakistan.

In India, students from 20 States and four Union Territories are participating. The challenge's spread can be seen from the fact that districts which once lacked economic indicators have also shown participation in this complex challenge, thus indicating the success of the Digital India initiative," an official said.

Among the participants, there are not only professionals but also freelance

A boy plays an online game on his mobile phone. Video games are hugely popular. AP

developers and college and school students as well.

The participants are required to develop a complete gaming device, integrating game mechanics with physical hardware, making it an independent and adaptable solution for learning through play.

"The challenge is designed to bridge multiple domains, requiring expertise in programming, electronics, and mathematics, to create an efficient and cost-effective hardware solution. Unlike traditional software-based game development, working with microcontrollers allows developers to focus on gameplay logic and hardware integration, without the complexities of Android or Windows operating systems," the official said.
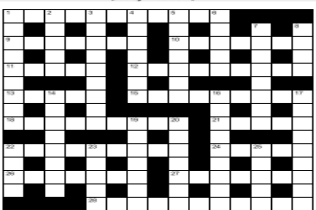

Pilots could get weekly rest of 48 hours from July 1: DGCA affidavit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The weekly rest for pilots could be raised from 36 hours to 48 hours with effect from July 1, and revised night flying hours "rolled out" from November 1, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in a detailed scheme for implementing relaxed duty norms for cockpit crew submitted before the Delhi High Court on Thursday.

The liberalised norms governing duty and rest periods for pilots to combat concerns over rising fatigue levels were announced in January 2024, and were to be implemented from June 1, 2024. But they were put on hold after stiff opposition from airlines, forcing pilots' unions to approach the court. After several rounds of court-ordered mediation held by

Pilots have been demanding the scrapping of two consecutive nights of flying.

the DGCA between Air India and the pilot bodies, the regulator agreed to a phased implementation.

"Out of 22 clauses, 15 clauses would be implemented from 01.07.2025 and the remaining 7 clauses would be rolled out from 01.11.2025," said the affidavit before the Delhi High Court signed by the DGCA's Assistant Director (Operations), Himanshu Srivastava. The next hearing is on Monday.

Key among the provisions recommended for implementation from July 1 is the weekly rest period of "continuous 48 hours". Night duty will be during the hours between midnight and 6 a.m. Instead of the present midnight to 5 a.m. As airlines are allowed to assign pilots only to two consecutive nights of flying, this provision will bring down the time of restricting night flying. IndiGo had said in a submission to the DGCA in December that expanding the definition of night flying would have "a severe operational impact" and it should therefore remain unchanged.

Air India said it would implement the new definition after the regulator brought a modern, data-based fatigue risk management system.

recent past, due to increased international flying, the quantum of night flying has increased exponentially.

The DGCA has used the term "roll-out" and not implementation for the set of rules delayed until November 1, sources in pilots' unions said, indicating that the regulator could be planning a staggered enforcement. Airlines have strongly opposed the DGCA's proposal for restricting night flying.

Pilots have been demanding the scrapping of two consecutive nights of flying, introduced in April 2019, as night duties disrupt the natural sleep-wake cycle, cause fatigue and impact alertness levels. They say that in the

Key provision of DPDP Act infantilises PwDs: activists

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Disability rights activists in Delhi are building a coalition to get a key provision of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 dropped or amended. Section 9(1) of the Act has clubbed children with persons with disabilities (PwDs) to mandate that even in cases of disabled adults who have legal guardians, consent for use of any personal data must be obtained from the guardian concerned.

Disability rights experts and policy think tanks have argued that this infantilises PwDs, stems from a misunderstood notion of their guardianship and negates the decision-making capacity of PwDs recognised by the Rights of the PwD (RPwD) Act, 2016 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of

Experts say that the need for consent of guardians negates the decision-making capacity of PwDs

Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Multiple sources told *The Hindu* that the office of the Chief Commissioner of PwDs under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities will take up any further issues on the DPDP Draft Rules, 2025 that might involve the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

In the draft rules, the Ministry had said that the consent clause for PwDs would be limited to those who have "long term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment", are "unable to take legally binding decisions", and

who suffer from "autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, or a combination of any two or more of such conditions".

But despite this, several questions remain on the operability of the consent clause for PwDs. In a report put out by policy think tank PACTA and NGO Saksham Disability earlier this month, activists have questioned how this would work in cases of limited guardianship under the RPwD Act. Nipun Malhotra of the Nipman Foundation has said, "There might be someone with visual impairment using a guardian for very specific purpose like financial decisions above a certain amount. Why would this person want their guardian to provide consent while signing up for a fitness app or an e-commerce website? Would that not be a violation of privacy?"

Govt. panel calls KIIT's founder over student unrest

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Achyuta Samanta, the founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), has been summoned to appear before a high-level committee on Friday following allegations of ill-treatment of Nepalese students on campus.

The government has constituted the high-level panel under the chairmanship of Home Secretary Satyabrata Sahu to ascertain the circumstances leading to the alleged suicide, high-handed action by university authorities, reasons for issuing notice only to specific group of students and closing the institute *sine die* for them. Mr. Sahu had visited the campus and spoken to KIIT staff members and students.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14414
(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ https://qrgo.page.link/JjpTn

Across
1 Can't gain if Stokes is out? Tempting (11)
9 Admit that debate ended early at school society (7)
10 Say, help comes in different form for one that's pretty (7)
11 Question the model (5)
12 Dissect a particle with chisels in the middle (9)
13 Bean obtained from Mexico coast (5)
15 Exit terms discord with hardliner (9)
18 Theatre assistant is a good person, at times takes responsibility (9)
21 Lamb's sweep yields a wicket, taken by Hasaranga at first (5)
22 Heartless Poles (2 of them) taking centre of house (9)
24 A sect? Could be confused with another (5)
26 Fact is assets drawn out (7)
27 Our names almost got mixed up in appeal (7)
28 Safety feature in new jet's core corrodes mostly (7,4)

Down
1 Deal with companies' cosmetic treatments (4)
2 Broadcasts result in ship (5)
3 Drunk in Britain by mistake, took drugs and slept essentially (9)
4 As usage is compromised, it becomes moderate (7)
5 Darwin's tantrum controlled in a second (7)
6 Coming up on Aug; a fertilizer (5)
7 Killing a king is dicier, somehow should overcome elite guards at first (8)
8 As per sources, Bombay youth tear excerpt into eight bits (4)
14 Convener Charlie's lock taken by attendant (8)
16 Relaxed having tea and some raisin cake on a piece of furniture (4,5)
17 Classified information on violent protest besieging Election Commission (3-6)
19 Pain-reliever gets an approval ultimately by new lead examiner (7)
20 Investigate princess's school (7)
22 Hide in bay (4)
23 Animated boxer rivets essentially (5)
25 Grounds for grievance (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle / Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Ganga to purify the soul

All rivers are considered holy, with the Ganga revered as the holiest. Taking a holy dip in the Ganga, with the mind completely focused on the supreme power, is the gateway to heaven, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

The Ganga is considered to have the supreme property to not merely cleanse one's body, but also the mind.

One may wonder if a city or its holy waters can truly possess the power to impact such changes in an ordinary mortal. Scriptural history is replete with stories of saints and scholars who have benefited thus. One such evolved soul is Muthusamy Dikshitar, who was taken under his wings by Yogi Chidambaranathar. Muthusamy's father reluctantly agreed to let his son accompany the ascetic to Kasi where the boy found something invaluable: the grace of Goddess Saraswati. Muthusamy took to the life of a sishya to guru Chidambaranathar like a duck to water. Intrinsically endowed with bhakti he learnt everything that the saint taught him. Muthusamy's mind became calm with the spiritual exposure and with his mind set on the divine power, his ecstatic experiences resulted in an outpouring of devotional hymns. Realising that his sishya was fully equipped to guide other devotees on bhakti, Chidambaranathar one day asked Muthusamy to stand in the waters of the Ganga; the student did so, with his mind fully focused on the divine, when he found something caressing his arms. Upon opening his eyes he found a beautiful veena in front of him, with the words Rama inscribed upon it. It was Saraswati's way of acknowledging his devotion. Muthusamy went on to become a great devotional musician, emerging as one of the musical trinity of south India.

I&B Ministry warns OTTs against 'obscene content'

Ministry cites complaints from general public, MPs and statutory bodies; directs streaming services to enforce age-based ratings for mature content in accordance with 2021 IT Rules

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Warning over-the-top (OTT) streaming services against transmitting "any content that is prohibited by law", the Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry on Thursday said they should ensure "age-based classification of content" under the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The OTT platforms should enforce age-gating requirements for mature content, the Ministry said in an advisory citing complaints from MPs, statutory organisations and the public.

It is unclear specifically what "obscene, pornographic and vulgar content" the circular is referring to. In December 2024, the Ministry flagged some shows "promoting, glamorising or glorifying the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through such portrayal by the main protagonist and other actors".

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Apart from the IT Rules, the advisory points to other laws to warn streaming providers against content that features obscenity. "Attention is also invited to the provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986; Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023; the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act; and the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, wherein publication of obscene/pornographic content is a punishable offence," the advisory reads.

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- 1 Government Advisory & Directives (सरकारी परामर्श और निर्देश)
- The **Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry** has warned **OTT platforms** against broadcasting **prohibited content**.
- केंद्र सरकार के सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय (I&B) ने ओटीटी प्लेटफार्मों को निषिद्ध सामग्री प्रसारित करने पर चेतावनी दी।
- OTT services must **enforce age-based classification** under **IT Rules, 2021**.
- ओटीटी सेवाओं को आईटी नियम, 2021 के तहत आयु-आधारित वर्गीकरण लागू करना होगा।

- **Key directives for OTT platforms:**
  - Enforce **age-based classification** 📌
  - **Avoid obscene, pornographic, vulgar content** ✕
  - Follow **2021 IT Rules** for content moderation 🏛
  - Comply with **POCSO Act, IT Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** 📜

- 2 **Issues Highlighted by the Ministry** (मंत्रालय द्वारा उठाए गए मुद्दे)
- Concerns raised by **MPs, statutory bodies, and the public**.
- सांसदों, विधायी निकायों और जनता द्वारा जताई गई चिंताएँ।
- **Recent trends flagged in December 2024:**
  - Content **glamorizing drug use, narcotics, and alcohol**.
  - नशीले पदार्थों और शराब को महिमामंडित करने वाली सामग्री।
  - **Portrayal of substance abuse** by main protagonists.
  - मुख्य पात्रों द्वारा नशीली दवाओं के सेवन का चित्रण।

- 3 Legal Framework (कानूनी ढांचा)
- **Regulations governing OTT content:**
  - **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986**
  - **IT Act, 2000 – Prohibiting obscene digital content**
  - **IT Rules, 2021 – Guidelines for streaming platforms**
  - **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 – Expands content regulation**
- **Additional laws for stricter regulations on obscenity:**
  - **Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act**
  - **IT Act criminalizes obscene/pornographic content**

- 4 Supreme Court's Stance (सुप्रीम कोर्ट की प्रतिक्रिया)
- **Justice Surya Kant** asked the **government to take stricter action** against obscene content on social media.
- न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत ने सरकार से सोशल मीडिया पर अश्लील सामग्री के खिलाफ कड़े कदम उठाने को कहा।
- Case related to **FIRs against Ranveer Allahbadia** (YouTuber from *India's Got Talent* controversy).
- रणवीर अल्लाहबादिया के खिलाफ दर्ज एफआईआर से संबंधित मामला।

- 5 Impact & Industry Implications (प्रभाव और उद्योग पर असर)
- A. Industry Regulations (उद्योग पर नियंत्रण)
- **New guidelines require grievance redressal system** for platforms like **Netflix & Amazon Prime**.
- नई गाइडलाइंस नेटफ्लिक्स और अमेज़न प्राइम जैसे प्लेटफार्मों के लिए शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली अनिवार्य बनाती हैं।
- Users must **first approach the platform**, then **a self-regulatory body**, and then **an inter-departmental committee**.
- उपयोगकर्ता पहले प्लेटफॉर्म, फिर स्वयं-नियामक निकाय और फिर अंतर-विभागीय समिति से संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

- **B. Content Moderation (सामग्री पर नियंत्रण)**
- **Shows and films containing substance abuse must be rated for older audiences.**
- **नशीली दवाओं और शराब से संबंधित शो और फिल्मों को उच्च श्रेणी का रेटिंग दिया जाना चाहिए।**
- **C. Social Concerns (सामाजिक चिंताएँ)**
- **Impact on young viewers** and cultural sensitivities.
- **युवा दर्शकों और सांस्कृतिक संवेदनशीलता पर प्रभाव।**
- **Call for self-regulation among streaming services.**
- **स्ट्रीमिंग सेवाओं में आत्म-नियमन की मांग।**

India receives global award for road safety

Marrakech: Indian govt on Thursday received the Prince Michael Decade of Action Road Safety Award, the highest award in this field, for achievements in "improving vehicle safety" in the past decade, including the roll-out of new car safety assessment regime, and mandatory ABS (anti-lock braking system) features in all new two-wheelers.

The Kingdom of Morocco also received the award. The awards were conferred at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Road Safety at Marrakech where leaders from dozens of countries had gathered to prepare the roadmap to reduce fatalities by 50% by 2030. TNN

Dinesh Khara Committee

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a high-powered committee, led by former SBI chairman Dinesh Khara, to review key provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938.

- **<u>Why Established?</u>**

- **Review and update** the **Insurance Act, 1938** to align with modern needs.

- Assess the feasibility of **100% FDI in the insurance sector**.

- Facilitate the introduction of **composite insurance companies** (offering life, non-life, and health insurance under one entity).

- Strengthen **policyholder protections** and ensure **revenue retention within India**.

- Propose amendments to be forwarded to the **Union Finance Ministry** for legislative action.

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

Established:

- Formed in 1999 under an Act of Parliament.
- **Became fully operational in 2000** when India opened its insurance market to private players

Members:

- **10-member body** comprising:
  - **1 Chairman**
  - **5 Full-time Members**
  - **4 Part-time Members**

Ministry: Ministry of Finance
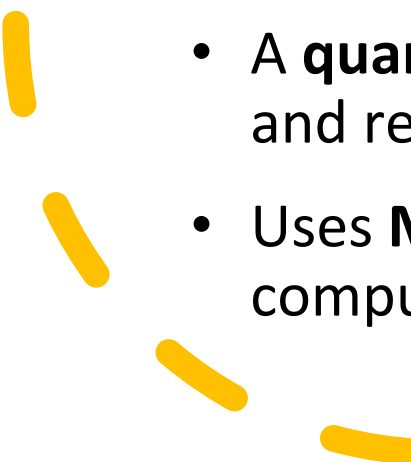
Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

- Microsoft has unveiled Majorana 1, its first quantum computing chip, designed to make quantum computing more stable, faster, and practical.

- **What is Majorana 1?**
  - A **quantum computing chip** developed by **Microsoft** to enhance the stability and reliability of quantum processors.

  - Uses **Majorana particles**, a type of exotic quantum state, to minimize computational errors.

- **Developed By:**
  - **Microsoft**, with validation from **DARPA (U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency)**.
  - A finalist in **DARPA's US2QC program**, which aims to build the first large-scale quantum computer.

India and Argentina Strengthen Cooperation in Lithium Exploration

- India and Argentina discussed expanding mining cooperation, focusing on lithium exploration.

- **About**

- **Argentina's Lithium Reserves:** Argentina, part of the 'Lithium Triangle,' is key for India's access to minerals needed for EV batteries and renewable energy storage.

- **Ongoing Efforts:** Discussions included lithium exploration by Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) & Greenko and increasing Indian company participation in Argentina's mining projects.

- **About Lithium**
  – Lithium is a **silvery-white metal** and is **highly reactive**.
  – **Applications:** Lithium has various industrial applications, most notably in **rechargeable lithium-ion batteries.**
  1. These batteries are widely used in electronic devices such as smartphones, laptops, and electric vehicles.
  –

Global Production:

The majority of the world's lithium production comes from countries like **Australia, Chile, and Argentina.**
1. These countries have significant lithium reserves and are major players in the global lithium market.

Lithium Triangle

The "Lithium Triangle" refers to a region in South America that contains some of the world's largest lithium reserves.

This triangular-shaped region encompasses **parts of Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile;** they possess **58% of the world's known lithium reserves.**

La Paz

Lithium mining
Selected salt flats, 2017
Source: Apex   150 km

PACIFIC
OCEAN

Potosí

BOLIVIA

Uyuni

Lithium
triangle

CHILE

JUJUY

Atacama→

Antofagasta

Jujuy

Olaroz

ARGENTINA

Pedernales

←Maricunga

Word of the day

Assiduous:

marked by care and persistent effort

Synonyms: sedulous

Usage: *Her assiduous attempts to learn French paid off.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/assiduouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈsɪdjuːəs/, /əˈsɪd͡ʒuːəs/

Red Bull Was Invented in

10 MCQ

- Which judicial body raised concerns about the Lokpal's authority over judges, citing threats to judicial independence?

- किस न्यायिक निकाय ने न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता के लिए खतरा बताते हुए न्यायाधीशों पर लोकपाल के अधिकार को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की?

- A. Supreme Court of India / भारत का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय
  B. Delhi High Court / दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय
  C. Lok Sabha Ethics Committee / लोकसभा नैतिकता समिति
  D. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) / केंद्रीय सतर्कता आयोग (CVC)

- **Who was the first female Chief Minister of India?**

- **भारत की पहली महिला मुख्यमंत्री कौन थीं?**

- A. **Sucheta Kripalani / सुचेता कृपलानी**
  B. **Sheila Dikshit / शीला दीक्षित**
  C. **Mamata Banerjee / ममता बनर्जी**
  D. **Rekha Gupta / रेखा गुप्ता**

- **Rekha Gupta recently took oath as the Chief Minister of which Indian state/UT?**

- रेखा गुप्ता ने हाल ही में किस भारतीय राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली?

- A. **Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश**
  B. **Delhi / दिल्ली**
  C. **Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश**
  D. **Jharkhand / झारखंड**

- **Which global tech company has introduced a new quantum computing chip named 'Majorana 1'?**

- **किस वैश्विक तकनीकी कंपनी ने 'मेजोराना 1' नामक नया क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग चिप लॉन्च किया है?**

- A. **IBM**
  B. **Google**
  C. **Microsoft**
  D. **Intel**

- **What is the primary objective of Microsoft's 'Majorana 1' quantum computing chip?**

- **माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के 'मेजोराना 1' क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग चिप का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- **A. Enhancing gaming performance / गेमिंग प्रदर्शन को बढ़ाना**
  B. Improving AI-powered image processing / एआई-आधारित छवि प्रसंस्करण में सुधार
  C. Minimizing computational errors in quantum computing / क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग में गणनात्मक त्रुटियों को कम करना
  D. Speeding up blockchain transactions / ब्लॉकचेन लेनदेन को तेज करना

- Which high-powered committee has been formed by IRDAI to review key provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938?

- बीमा अधिनियम, 1938 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों की समीक्षा के लिए IRDAI द्वारा कौन सी उच्च स्तरीय समिति बनाई गई है?

- A. Dinesh Khara Committee / दिनेश खारा समिति
  B. Raghuram Rajan Committee / रघुराम राजन समिति
  C. Shaktikanta Das Committee / शक्तिकांत दास समिति
  D. Ajay Bhushan Pandey Committee / अजय भूषण पांडे समिति

- **India is strengthening its cooperation with Argentina in which crucial resource exploration?**

- **भारत किस महत्वपूर्ण संसाधन की खोज में अर्जेंटीना के साथ सहयोग मजबूत कर रहा है?**

- A. **Crude Oil / कच्चा तेल**
  B. **Uranium / यूरेनियम**
  C. **Lithium / लिथियम**
  D. **Natural Gas / प्राकृतिक गैस**

- **Which Indian government ministry recently warned OTT platforms regarding prohibited content?**
- **किस भारतीय सरकारी मंत्रालय ने हाल ही में ओटीटी प्लेटफार्मों को निषिद्ध सामग्री को लेकर चेतावनी दी?**
- A. **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) / इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आईटी मंत्रालय (MeitY)**
  B. **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B Ministry) / सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय (I&B Ministry)**
  C. **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) / गृह मंत्रालय (MHA)**
  D. **Ministry of Law and Justice / कानून और न्याय मंत्रालय**

- **What is the primary concern of the Indian government regarding OTT content?**

- **ओटीटी सामग्री को लेकर भारतीय सरकार की मुख्य चिंता क्या है?**

- A. **High subscription costs** / उच्च सदस्यता शुल्क
  B. **Lack of regional content** / क्षेत्रीय सामग्री की कमी
  C. **Obscene and substance abuse-related content** / अश्लीलता और नशीली दवाओं के सेवन से संबंधित सामग्री
  D. **Excessive advertisements** / अत्यधिक विज्ञापन

- **Argentina is part of which major lithium-rich region?**

- अर्जेंटीना किस प्रमुख लिथियम-समृद्ध क्षेत्र का हिस्सा है?

- A. **Ring of Fire** / रिंग ऑफ फायर
  B. **Lithium Triangle** / लिथियम त्रिभुज
  C. **Silicon Valley of Minerals** / खनिजों की सिलिकॉन वैली
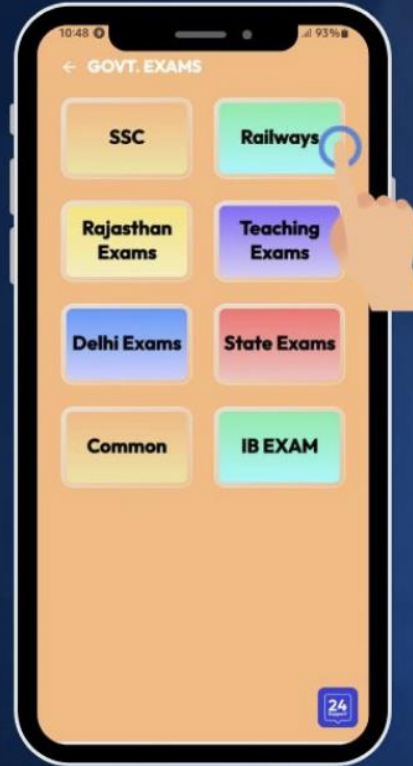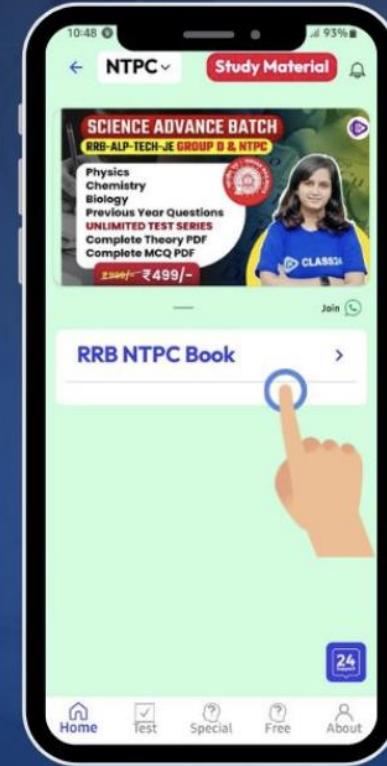 D. **Andean Metallic Belt** / एंडियन मेटैलिक बेल्ट
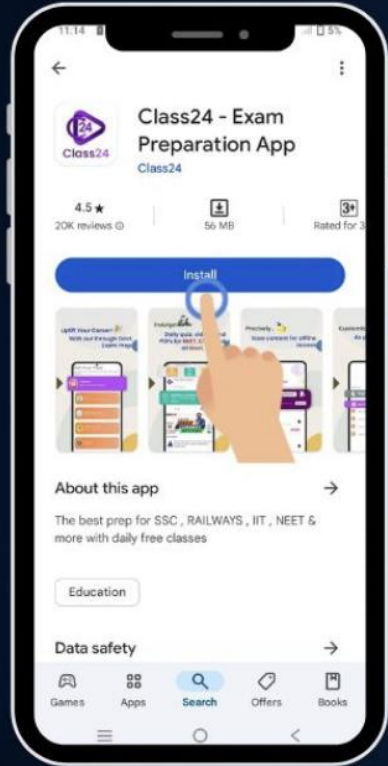
Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Thank you guys.