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10 MCQ from the session

**What was the duration of the SpaceX Crew Dragon mission before returning to Earth?**

**स्पेसएक्स क्र ड्रैगन मिशन की कुल अवधि पृथ्वी पर लौटने से पहले कितनी थी?**

- **A. 180 days**
- B. 250 days**
- C. 286 days**
- D. 371 days**

**Why was the SpaceX Crew Dragon mission prolonged beyond its original schedule?**

**स्पेसएक्स क्रू ड्रैगन मिशन को मूल कार्यक्रम से अधिक समय तक क्यों जारी रखा गया?**

- **A. Crew members volunteered for an extended mission / क्रू सदस्यों ने स्वेच्छा से मिशन को बढ़ाया**
- B. The Boeing Starliner spacecraft failed, leaving astronauts stranded / बोइंग स्टारलाइनर अंतरिक्ष यान विफल हो गया, जिससे अंतरिक्ष यात्री फंस गए**
- C. NASA decided to conduct additional space experiments / नासा ने अतिरिक्त अंतरिक्ष प्रयोग करने का निर्णय लिया**
- D. The International Space Station required urgent repairs / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन को आपातकालीन मरम्मत की आवश्यकता थी**



**What is APAAR ID, introduced under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020?**

**राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 के तहत पेश किया गया APAAR ID क्या है?**

- **A. A national-level examination system / एक राष्ट्रीय स्तर की परीक्षा प्रणाली**
- B. A unique student ID for academic record storage / शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड भंडारण के लिए एक अद्वितीय छात्र आईडी**
- C. An online learning platform for students / छात्रों के लिए एक ऑनलाइन लर्निंग प्लेटफॉर्म**
- D. A digital certification system for university degrees / विश्वविद्यालय डिग्रियों के लिए एक डिजिटल प्रमाणन प्रणाली**

**What is the key concern regarding APAAR ID?**

**APAAR ID को लेकर मुख्य चिंता क्या है?**

- **A. Students may lose access to their academic records / छात्र अपने शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड तक पहुंच खो सकते हैं**
- B. It is being implemented without a proper legal framework / इसे उचित कानूनी ढांचे के बिना लागू किया जा रहा है**
- C. It increases the financial burden on schools / यह स्कूलों पर वित्तीय बोझ बढ़ाता है**
- D. It is incompatible with international academic systems / यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक प्रणालियों के साथ असंगत है**

**Which organization raised concerns about the privacy risks of APAAR ID?**

**APAAR ID की गोपनीयता जोखिमों को लेकर किस संगठन ने चिंता जताई?**

- **A. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) / राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC)**
- B. Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) / इंटरनेट फ्रीडम फाउंडेशन (IFF)**
- C. NITI Aayog / नीति आयोग**
- D. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) / केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (CBI)**



**What percentage of India's remittances in FY24 came from the U.S. and U.K.?**

**FY24 में अमेरिका और यूके से भारत में आने वाले प्रेषण का कितना प्रतिशत था?**

- **A. 25%**
- B. 30%**
- C. 40%**
- D. 50%**

**What trend was observed in remittances from Gulf nations to India?**

**भारत में खाड़ी देशों से आने वाले प्रेषण में किस प्रवृत्ति को देखा गया?**

- **A. Increase in remittance share / प्रेषण हिस्सेदारी में वृद्धि**
- B. Decrease in remittance share / प्रेषण हिस्सेदारी में कमी**
- C. Stable remittance trends / स्थिर प्रेषण प्रवृत्ति**
- D. Fluctuations due to political changes / राजनीतिक परिवर्तनों के कारण उतार-चढ़ाव**

**Which country recently discovered the world's largest White Hydrogen deposit?**

**किस देश ने हाल ही में दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा सफेद हाइड्रोजन भंडार खोजा?**

- **A. China / चीन**
- B. France / फ्रांस**
- C. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका**
- D. Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया**



**What major decision was taken under the UPI Incentive Scheme?**

**UPI प्रोत्साहन योजना के तहत कौन सा प्रमुख निर्णय लिया गया?**

- **A. Abolishing merchant transaction fees / व्यापारी लेन-देन शुल्क समाप्त करना**
- B. Providing 0.15% incentive for small-value UPI transactions / छोटी राशि के UPI लेन-देन पर 0.15% प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करना**
- C. Mandatory UPI adoption for all government transactions / सभी सरकारी लेन-देन के लिए UPI अपनाना अनिवार्य करना**
- D. Introducing a digital tax on UPI transactions / UPI लेन-देन पर डिजिटल कर लागू करना**

**What is the main purpose of the "Farm Distress Index"?**

**"फार्म डिस्ट्रेस इंडेक्स" का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- **A. Measure crop production levels / फसल उत्पादन स्तर को मापना**
- B. Track financial difficulties faced by farmers / किसानों द्वारा सामना की जा रही वित्तीय कठिनाइयों को ट्रैक करना**
- C. Monitor climate impact on agriculture / कृषि पर जलवायु प्रभाव की निगरानी करना**
- D. Determine land use efficiency / भूमि उपयोग दक्षता का निर्धारण करना**

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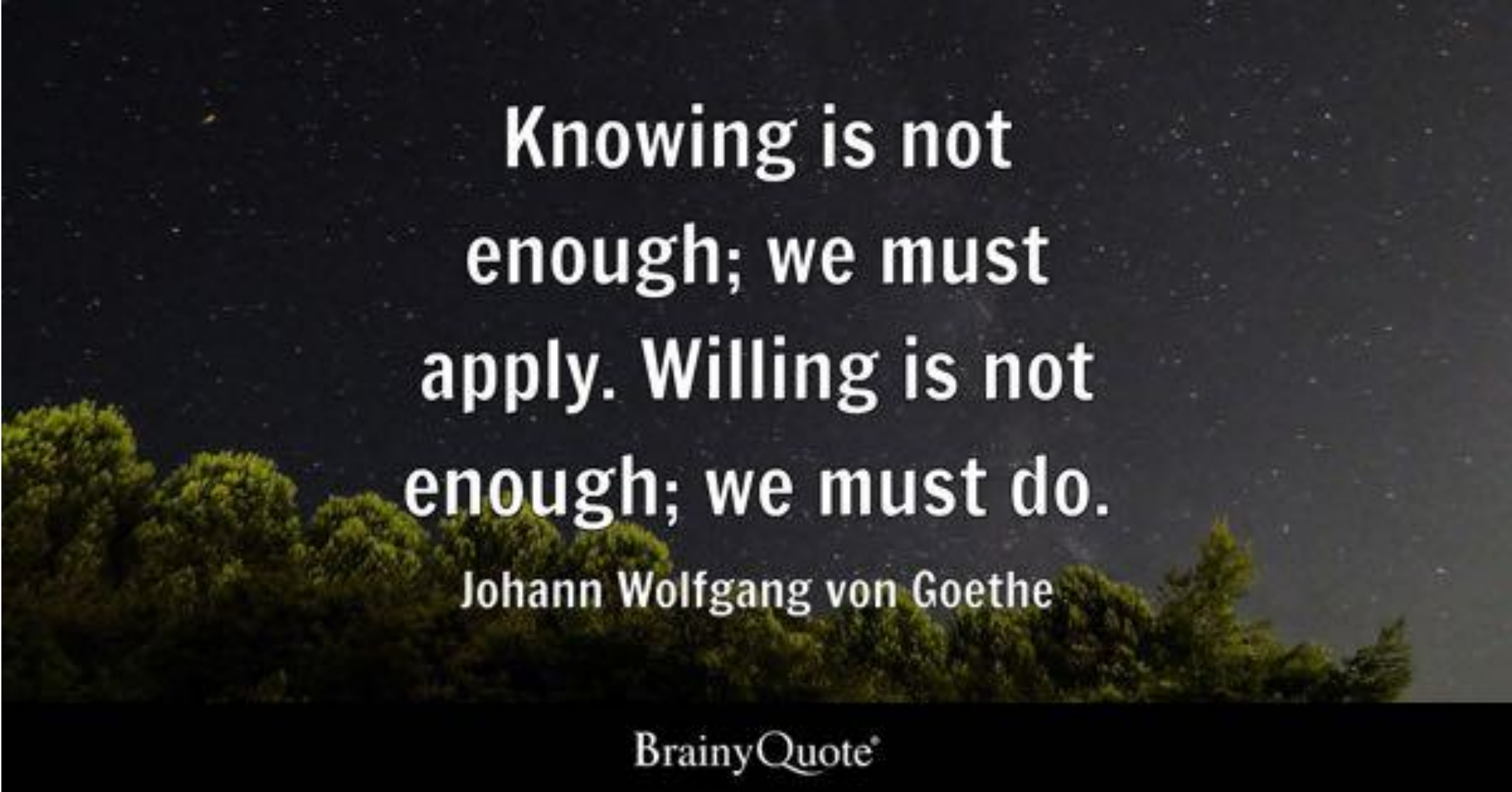
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**Knowing is not  
enough; we must  
apply. Willing is not  
enough; we must do.**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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**BRIEF BREAK**  
**Curfew partially relaxed in Manipur**  
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**BRUSSELS SUMMIT**  
**EU intends to back Ukraine with weapons**  
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**Should the right to protest be the same for all?**  
**A discussion on citizen and immigrant rights**  
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**HISTORIC APPOINTMENT**  
**Kirsty Coventry elected IOC president**  
SPORT » PAGE 16

### INSIDE

**A.P. government to implement SC sub-classification**

**AMARAVATI**  
After Legislative Assembly on Thursday approved a report on Sub-Classification of Scheduled Castes, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed the government's commitment to SC sub-categorisation. » PAGE 3

**Centre promises study for mining off Kerala coast**

**KOLLAM**  
The offshore mining project off the Kerala coast will begin only after releasing a full environmental impact assessment and conducting transparent, inclusive consultations with affected communities, a spokesman for the Union Ministry of Mines said on Wednesday. » PAGE 2

**Police arrest 69 people in Nagpur; curfew relaxed**

**NAGPUR**  
The Nagpur police on Thursday eased curfew in parts of the city, while intensifying efforts to track down those involved in the riots that broke out on Monday evening. So far, 69 people have been arrested in relation to the violence, and investigators have identified around 200 accused. » PAGE 4

**Hamas retaliates as Israeli strikes kill 85 in Gaza**

**DEIR AL-BALAH**  
Israeli strikes killed at least 85 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip overnight and into Thursday, according to health officials. Hours later, Hamas fired three rockets at Israel without causing casualties, in the first such attack since Israel ended a ceasefire. » PAGE 14

## 30 'Maoists' shot dead in twin Bastar encounters

26 gunned down along Bijapur-Dantewada boundary and four on Kanker-Narayanpur boundary; Bijapur District Reserve Guard loses a jawan in the operation; arms and ammunition recovered

**Shubhamoy Sikdar KAPUR**

At least 30 alleged Maoists were killed in two operations in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on Thursday. Twenty-six of them were gunned down along the Bijapur-Dantewada boundary in south Bastar, a senior police officer said. A jawan of the Bijapur District Reserve Guard, a locally raised force to combat Maoism, lost his life. The police said a joint team of security personnel had gone out on a combing operation in the Gangaloor twin station area. The Maoist change of fire started around 7 a.m. and continued till the afternoon. In search, the 26 bodies, along with a large quantity of arms and ammunition, were recovered. In the other encounter along the Kanker-Narayanpur boundary of north Bastar,



The way back: Jawans returning from an encounter with Maoists in Bijapur in Chhattisgarh on Thursday. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Mr. Shah called the encounters a victory and expressed confidence over the death of the jawan. "The State government remains fully committed to eradicating Maoism, and security operations will continue until Maoism is free from this menace," he said. The combined figure of the two encounters pushed the overall number of Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh this year beyond 100, signalling a further intensification of the anti-Maoist campaign. Union Home Minister

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### At full steam



Welcome aboard: Ahead of the tourist season in Kashmir, workers paint shikaras (gondolas) in Srinagar on Thursday. The best time to visit Kashmir is considered to be during the spring and summer months from March to October. SPECIAL REPORT

### The Hindu Bureau

**BENGALURU/NEW DELHI**  
X Corp, formerly known as Twitter Inc, has moved the Karnataka High Court, challenging the way the Union and State governments are issuing orders to block content on its platform. The company is opposing the Centre's new Sahyog portal, terming it a "censorship portal", which allows all government agencies — from Union Ministries down to local police stations — to issue blocking orders, using a Union government-issued template.

The court will hear the petition on March 27. X Corp has asked the court to direct the government that orders to block content can only be issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not by invoking Section 79(3)(b) of the Act.

A Union government official told *The Hindu* that orders issued under Section 79 were not "direct blocking orders" but they simply notified the platform that it was liable for illegal content. Section 69A empowers the Union government to direct the blocking of public access to information if deemed necessary for sovereignty, security, public order, or to prevent incitement, among other reasons. It has multiple procedural safeguards to ensure it is not misused, which have been laid down by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Shreya Singha v Union of India* case in 2015.

**Conditional protection**  
Section 79 of the Act, on the other hand, "merely empowers the government to direct the blocking of public access to information if deemed necessary for sovereignty, security, public order, or to prevent incitement, among other reasons. It has multiple procedural safeguards to ensure it is not misused, which have been laid down by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Shreya Singha v Union of India* case in 2015.

### X's legal challenge

Here are the provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not under Section 69A.

Section 69A empowers the government to direct the blocking of public access to information if deemed necessary for sovereignty, security, public order, or to prevent incitement, among other reasons. It has multiple procedural safeguards to ensure it is not misused, which have been laid down by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Shreya Singha v Union of India* case in 2015.

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### Why issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not under Section 69A?

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## U.S. seeks deportation of Indian scholar for 'spreading Hamas propaganda'

**Ashta Butani NEW DELHI**

An Indian man pursuing postdoctoral research in U.S. is facing deportation after authorities said he was "spreading Hamas propaganda" and had ties with a "suspected terrorist" of the group. Badar Khan Suri had done his Master's and Ph.D. from Jamia Millia Islamia and had been living in Delhi for close to two decades before moving to the U.S. His wife, Magheze Saleh, a U.S. citizen of Palestinian origin, also did her Ph.D. from JMI.

Mr. Suri is not aware of him (Dr. Suri) engaging in any illegal activity, and we have not received a reason for his detention. We expect the legal system to adjudicate this case fairly. Spokesperson, Georgetown University

**Hindu**, said that Dr. Suri was duly granted a visa to enter the United States to continue his doctoral research on peace-building in Iraq and Afghanistan. "We are not aware of him engaging in any illegal activity, and we have not received a reason for his detention. We support our community members' rights to free and open inquiry, deliberation and debate, even if the underlying ideas may be difficult, controversial or objectionable. We expect the legal system to adjudicate this case fairly," the spokesperson said. His lawyers have filed a petition for his release at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

## Farm leaders go on fast in police custody

**The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI**

A day after their arrests, all 28 leaders of protesting farmers have gone on a fast in jail, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) groups said here on Thursday. Two SKM groups alleged that the Union government, led by the BJP, and the Punjab government, led by the Aam Aadmi Party, were working together to protect the interests of corporate houses.

# X Corp. challenges content blocking orders, opposes Centre's 'censorship portal'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

X Corp, formerly known as Twitter Inc, has moved the Karnataka High Court, challenging the way the Union and State governments are issuing orders to block content on its platform. The company is opposing the Centre's new Sahyog portal, terming it a "censorship portal", which allows all government agencies – from Union Ministries down to local police stations – to issue blocking orders, using a Union government-issued template.

The court will hear the petition on March 27.

X Corp has asked the court to direct the government that orders to block content can only be issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not by invoking Section 79(3)(b) of the Act.

A Union government official told *The Hindu* that orders issued under Section 79 were not "direct blocking orders", but they simply notified the platform that it was liable for illegal content.

Section 69A empowers the Union government to direct the blocking of public access to information if deemed necessary for sovereignty, security, public order, or to prevent incitement, among other reasons. It has multiple procedural safeguards to ensure it is not misused, which have been laid down by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* case in 2015.

**Conditional protection** Section 79 of the Act, on the other hand, "merely exempts intermediaries [such as service providers, social media platforms, or apps] from liability for third-party content [such as posts]; it does not empower the government to issue information blocking orders in violation of Section 69A and the apex court's verdict in *Shreya*

## X's legal challenge

Here are the contentions of Elon Musk's company in the Karnataka High Court:



- Why issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not under Section 69A

- Section 79(3)(b) outlines the conditions under which an intermediary loses its 'safe harbour' protection

- Section 69A empowers the government to block access to online content, under specific circumstances

- Union Home Ministry's Sahyog portal is a 'censorship portal'

Singhal's case," according to the X petition. However, clause 3(b) of Section 79 does say that the exemption will not be valid if the intermediary fails to expeditiously remove or disable access to material used to commit an unlawful act when notified by the government.

The company also questioned a communication against the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued on October 31, 2023, informing all Union Ministries, State governments, and State police chiefs that they are authorised to issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b) of the Act. A year later, the Union Home Ministry created the Sahyog portal, which X has called a "censorship portal" to facilitate such orders to be issued. The Sahyog portal website says it was developed "to automate the process of sending notices to intermediaries... ensuring immediate action" and will "help achieve a clean cyber space".

These actions by the Centre are in violation of the law as laid down by the top court in the *Shreya Singhal* case, the petition said. "MeitY is trying to do indirectly through other agencies what it cannot do directly under Section 69A... MeitY's actions are also colourable exercises of power because it has attempted to delegate power to Central and State agencies, and countless local police officers, that MeitY itself does not have under the IT Act," the petition added.

A senior Union government official disputed X's description of the Sahyog portal as a parallel censorship system. Orders sent under Section 79 "are not blocking orders", the official said. "These orders inform social media intermediaries about illegal content, and if they do not remove them, they share the liability faced by the users... It is not the same as a blocking order under Section 69A, which is directly blocking on a few narrow grounds."

"We will let the court decide the constitutionality of the portal," the official added.

Prasanth Sugathan, legal director at the Software Freedom Law Centre, India (SFLC), said that it was "problematic" that Sahyog was designed for such a large number of complaints "without any procedural safeguards".

Informing the court that the MHA had written to X Corp in October 2024 asking it to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate with the Sahyog Portal, the company sought interim protection, expressing apprehension that if it fails to appoint a nodal officer or to comply with blocking orders issued under Section 79(3)(b), it may attract coercive action against the company and its representatives.

When the petition came up for hearing on March 17 before Justice M. Nagaprasanna, the Additional Solicitor-General of India told the court that "there is nothing done that would justify grant of an interim order, as on date."



**X Corp (formerly Twitter) has filed a petition in Karnataka High Court against the Centre's content blocking orders issued through various government ministries.**

X कॉर्प (पूर्व में ट्विटर) ने कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय में एक याचिका दायर की है जिसमें केंद्र सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों द्वारा जारी सामग्री ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों को चुनौती दी गई है।

**Opposes the Union Government's "Sahyog" portal, calling it a "censorship portal" that allows State and Union Ministries to issue blocking orders directly.**

केंद्र सरकार के "सहयोग" पोर्टल का विरोध किया, इसे "सेंसरशिप पोर्टल" कहा, जो राज्य और केंद्र सरकार के मंत्रालयों को सीधे सामग्री ब्लॉक करने की अनुमति देता है।



**Seeks judicial intervention to ensure blocking orders are issued only under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 and not under Section 79(3)(b).**

**न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप की मांग की ताकि ब्लॉकिंग आदेश सिर्फ आईटी अधिनियम 2000 की धारा 69A के तहत जारी किए जाएं, न कि धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत।**

- 
- X Corp's Legal Challenge | X कॉर्प की कानूनी चुनौती

### A. Issues Raised | उठाए गए मुद्दे

1. Blocking orders should be issued under Section 69A and not under Section 79(3)(b).

1. ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों को धारा 69A के तहत जारी किया जाना चाहिए, न कि धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत।

2. Union IT Ministry's directive (October 31, 2023) allowing police chiefs to issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b) is unconstitutional.

1. आईटी मंत्रालय का निर्देश (31 अक्टूबर, 2023) जो पुलिस प्रमुखों को धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत सामग्री ब्लॉक करने की अनुमति देता है, असंवैधानिक है।

**Arguments from the Shreya Singhal Case (2015) | श्रेया सिंघल केस (2015) से तर्क**

**Blocking orders must follow proper legal procedures under Section 69A.**

- ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों को धारा 69A के तहत उचित कानूनी प्रक्रिया का पालन करना चाहिए।

**Intermediaries (like X) cannot be forced to remove content unless legally ordered.**

- मध्यस्थ (जैसे X) को कानूनी आदेश के बिना सामग्री हटाने के लिए मजबूर नहीं किया जा सकता।

**The government's current approach violates Supreme Court's guidelines.**

- सरकार की वर्तमान प्रक्रिया सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के दिशानिर्देशों का उल्लंघन करती है।

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## Government's Response | सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया

- A senior official argues that orders under Section 79(3)(b) are not equivalent to blocking orders under Section 69A.
  - एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी का तर्क है कि धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत दिए गए आदेश, धारा 69A के तहत ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों के समान नहीं हैं।
- Defends Sahyog portal, calling it a system for removing illegal content.
  - सहयोग पोर्टल का बचाव किया, इसे अवैध सामग्री हटाने के लिए एक प्रणाली बताया।
- Solicitor General assured the court that the Centre would justify each order.
  - सॉलिसिटर जनरल ने अदालत को आश्वासन दिया कि केंद्र सरकार प्रत्येक आदेश का औचित्य बताएगी।

## . Historical Perspective | ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण

Censorship laws in India have existed since British rule, with colonial-era laws restricting free speech.

- भारत में सेंसरशिप कानून ब्रिटिश शासन के समय से ही मौजूद रहे हैं, जब औपनिवेशिक कानूनों ने अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को प्रतिबंधित किया था।

Shreya Singhal case (2015) strengthened digital free speech.

- श्रेया सिंघल केस (2015) ने डिजिटल स्वतंत्रता को मजबूत किया।

## Economic Impact | आर्थिक प्रभाव

Censorship laws could affect foreign investment in digital platforms.

- सेंसरशिप कानून डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों में विदेशी निवेश को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

Tech companies may rethink their operations in India.

- तकनीकी कंपनियां भारत में अपने संचालन पर पुनर्विचार कर सकती हैं।



## Karnataka Minister promises probe into honey-trap allegations

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameashwara on Thursday promised a high-level probe into Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna's shocking allegation in the Assembly that vested interests had honey-trapped 48 people, including legislators, Central leaders, and judges.

Promising a probe, the Home Minister told the House: "I will order a high-level probe into the allegations of honey trap made by Mr. Rajanna, based on the written complaint to be filed by him."

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, earlier in the day, said that several successful honey-trap attempts were made on one senior Minister in the State, and called for a police investigation into the matter. Stressing the need for a non-partisan fight against honey trapping, the Minister said politicians cutting deals with vested interests have been victims of it and such cases had happened during the tenure of BJP regime too.

In the Assembly, BJP member Basanagoud R. Patil Yatala alleged that there was speculation and reports that Mr. Rajanna had been honey-trapped. "We hear speculation that some people who have set their eyes on the Ministerial post are indulging in such activities to defame their political opponents. In future, they may target anyone depending on the need," he said, without tak-

**Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna alleges that vested interests have honey-trapped 48 people, including legislators, Central leaders, and judges**

ing any names. Responding to this, Mr. Rajanna said he too had heard remarks by some people that two Ministers from Tumakuru had been targeted.

"Only Dr. Parameashwara and I are the Ministers from Tumakuru district. I want to say that it is not just about myself, but 48 members, including legislators, Central leaders, and judges are [the] victims. Some people have CD and pen drives in this regard," he alleged.

Mr. Rajanna said he had evidence that there was an "attempt to tarnish his image" too. He said he had heard people talk about Karnataka becoming a "CD, pen drive factory."

**BJP member's claim** Meanwhile, BJP member Munirathna, who is facing a complaint of sexual harassment, claimed that a case had been "foisted" on him as part of political vendetta.

Maintaining that he was "innocent", the member demanded a CBI probe into the charges against him. He said, "This is a dangerous trend, as we have already seen the resignation of senior leaders like H.D. Revanna and Ramesh Jarkiholi."

## A.P. govt. to implement sub-classification of SCs

The sub-classification will be based on the 2011 Census, with Andhra Pradesh as a single unit for implementation, says Naidu, adding that it will be applied at the district level from 2026

**Sambasiva Rao M.**  
AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Thursday approved the report of the Commission on Sub-Classification of Scheduled Castes headed by Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, a retired IAS officer.

A majority of the members appealed to Legislation Assembly Speaker Ch. Ayyanna Prasad to ensure that it was a long-pending demand that had now been fulfilled.

Mr. Naidu said sub-classification of SCs had been done in accordance with the Supreme Court's direc-



This is a promise we made, and we have fulfilled it. It has been a 30-year-long struggle, and I am proud to see it come to fruition during my tenure.

**N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU**  
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

tives to ensure equitable distribution of benefits among the SC sub-groups. "This is a promise we made, and we have fulfilled it. It has been a 30-year-long struggle, and I am proud to see it come to fruition during my tenure," Mr. Naidu said during his

speech. He said the move would not cause harm to any group, and urged people not to believe in misconceptions on it.

**State as unit** "The sub-classification will be based on the 2011 Census, with Andhra Pradesh as a single unit for implementation. However, from 2026, it will be applied at the district level," Mr. Naidu made it clear.

"The decision is aimed at ensuring that the historically marginalised sub-groups within the community receive their rightful share of benefits," he said.

## 25 celebrities, social media influencers booked for promoting illegal betting apps

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDRABAD

A total of 25 celebrities and social media influencers were booked by the Cyberabad Police on Thursday for allegedly promoting illegal betting and gambling apps leading to financial distress among the public.

Actors Ranji Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay Devarakonda and Manchu Lakshmi were among those named in the FIR for endorsing such platforms through videos and ads.



Prakash Raj and Rana Daggubati say they are no longer associated with the betting and gambling apps.

The case was filed on a complaint by P.M. Phaniendra Sharma, a businessman from Myapur, who said many youth in his colony

had lost their hard-earned money on such apps endorsed by popular figures. The case was filed under Sections 318(a) and 112

## Rescue teams make holes at identified spots to detect those trapped in Telangana tunnel

**R. Chandrashekhara**  
HYDRABAD

The search operation at the Srisaam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana to trace the remaining seven persons trapped under debris has entered the 27th day on Thursday.

According to officials, the ongoing excavation work between the D1 and D2 points, identified by cadaver sniffer dogs, is with the help of excavators, was now focusing on making multiple holes using crowbars around the area to detect any odour to help concentrate further digging as the work had reached a considerable depth.

Simultaneous de-watering operations were conti-



Boulders and other metal scrap being brought out of the SLBC tunnel near Dornampeta in Nagarjunasagar district on Thursday.

nuing at the D1 and D2 points to prevent water accumulation and safe excavation work. The rescue teams were working in five shifts - 7 a.m., 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.

## Health activists in Kerala demand fair salary, begin indefinite hunger strike

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in Kerala whose 38-day agitation for fair remuneration has been making headlines at the national level, launched an intense phase of their protests on Thursday by beginning an indefinite hunger strike in front of the Secretariat here.

ASHAs, under the banner of the Kerala ASHA Health Workers' Association (KAHWA), began the hunger strike after two rounds of talks with the National Health Mission (NHM) authorities and Health Minister Veena George on Wednesday failed.

On Thursday, three KAHWA leaders - M.A. Binodu, Thankamani and R. Sheeja - launched their in-



definite hunger strike at 11 a.m.

**Political support** Those who rallied behind the protesters on the day included senior Congress leaders Ramesh Chennithala and V.M. Sudheeran, Communist Marxist Party (CMP) leader C.P. John, former MLA Joseph M. Puthumana, and others.

Meanwhile, Kerala Health Minister Veena George, who held discussions with KAHWA on Wednesday, went to New Delhi to meet Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda. Ms. George told media persons who met her in New Delhi that she would be meeting a Cuba delegation for a discussion on the health sector.

**'Centre has a key role'** Ms. George added that she was seeking an appointment with Mr. Nadda and that she hoped to raise several issues of the State, including the demand for an AIIMS-like institution, appointment of new Government Medical College Hospitals in Wayanad and Kasaragod, and ASHA's agitation.

She said the Centre had a "key role to play" in resolving the stalemate with ASHA as "the scheme was a Central government one".



A view of the Silahalla stream and surrounding forests, where a hydroelectric project has been proposed. Photo: The Hindu

## TNPCCB cancels hearing on Silahalla power project in the Nilgiris

**The Hindu Bureau**  
UDHAGAMANDALAM

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) cancelled the public consultation meeting that was to be held at Kundah in the Nilgiris on Thursday to gather public opinion on the controversial Silahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project.

The TNPCB's notification of the meeting - published over a week ago - had led to local residents, farmers' associations and conservationists voicing concerns against the project, which residents believed had been cancelled.

**'Affects livelihoods'** Farmers' associations and the Silahalla Protection Committee have been opposing the project since its announcement more than a decade ago. They argued that it would affect agricultural lands and the livelihoods of residents of more than 20 villages surrounding the Kundah taluk.

Residents had also planned to voice their op-

position during the public meeting with the TNPCB. When contacted, Nilgiris Collector Lakshmi Bhavya Tanneer said that the Union Ministry of Environment and Climate Change had already conducted an environmental impact assessment of the project, and the TNPCB was to table it before local residents. "The project is in its nascent stage. People were confused that the meeting convened by the TNPCB was about land acquisition for the project, but it was to simply share the impact assessment and seek the opinion of the public," Ms. Tanneer said, adding that the meeting between residents and the TNPCB would be rescheduled to a future date.

According to the Collector, the approval of the local communities was mandatory to implement the project by the government. "There is no doubt that the assent of local residents will be sought before the project is sanctioned, which could take many years," she added.

## Registration for safflower procurement to begin soon

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government will soon start registering farmers for procuring safflower through the system of market intervention to arrest fall in price.

The Department of Agriculture Marketing has fixed the procurement price at ₹5,940 per quintal.

Procurement centres will be put up in safflower-growing districts. Minister Shivannan Patil said in a release that a maximum of 20 quintals will be purchased from a farmer, at the average of five quintals per acre per farmer. The purchase price will be deposited to the bank account of the farmer, the Minister said.

## Differences emerge in Kerala film industry over producers' body releasing partial collection figures

**S.R. Praveen**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Film Producers' Association's act of publishing box-office collection figures appears to have not gone down well with many from within the industry. Filmmakers and producers whose share of the future OTT sales of the "unfairness" of putting out partial collection figures as the association has published just the producers' share from Kerala theatres after excluding the overseas revenues, a move that comes from over-the-top platforms (OTT) and exhibitors' share. The association claimed that the total bud-

put out just the producers' share from Kerala, making even successful films look like failures. Even when you budget the film, all possible returns from it, including the overseas revenues and OTT rights, are taken into account. Publishing such partial figures would also affect the future OTT sales of these movies," said a producer.

According to the figures released by the KFFPA for 17 Malayalam movies released in February 2025, only *Officer on Duty* starring Kunchacko Boban was a hit, while *Duvel* and *Drumbeat* might break even. The association claimed that the total bud-

were clearly flops, even *Officer on Duty*, a hit, was shown to have returned a share of only ₹11 crore for a budget of ₹13 crore, making it seem like it was not a big hit. However, the film had considerable collections from outside Kerala and overseas. The film was also sold to Netflix, where it had started streaming. None of these revenues were reflected on the producers' list.

**'Public must know'** Asked about the reason for omitting the rest of the revenue from the list, KFFPA vice-president C. Suresh Kumar told *The Hindu* that producers need to talk on

by about their share of the collections.

"Let the public know that these movies are collecting only this much money. Some of the collection figures are even lesser than the remuneration of the stars. The actors and others involved should also have a realisation affecting these figures. The OTT platforms are not picking up Malayalam movies anymore. Only two or three films on the list have been sold to OTT platforms. Platforms such as Amazon have shifted to pay-per-view instead of purchasing the film. The pay-per-view has also decreased from ₹8 to ₹4," he said.



Kunchacko Boban, who played the lead role in *Officer on Duty*.

## Miss World 2025 in Telangana to cost ₹54 crore; to be split between State, Miss World Limited

**Siddharth Kumar Singh**  
HYDRABAD

Telangana is set to become the global stage for beauty and culture as the State prepares to host the 72nd edition of the Miss World pageant, scheduled between May 7 and 31. The event will see contestants from 140 countries competing for the prestigious title, marking a historic moment for the State, which aims to showcase its rich cultural heritage and global ambitions. The total expenditure for the event is estimated at ₹54 crore, with costs being equally shared between



The 72nd Miss World pageant will be held in Telangana between May 7 and 31. AGASHA COPY

the Telangana Tourism Department and Miss World Limited. Telangana's ₹27 crore contribution will primarily come from sponsorships, Tourism Mi-

nister Jupalya Krishna Rao said at a press conference at Tourism Plaza Hotel in Hyderabad on Thursday. He hailed the occasion as a milestone for the State.



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### NEW CHALLENGE

#### Parag to lead Royals in first three games; Samson to play as batter



Riyans Parag will lead Rajasthan Royals in its first three IPL games as regular captain Sanju Samson has been told to avoid wicketkeeping duties due to a finger surgery, which means that he will only be available as a batter in these games. Samson underwent a surgery after his finger was fractured during the fifth T20 against England.

### WELCOME NEWS

#### Siraj says lifting of saliva ban will help bowlers find reverse swing



Gujarat Titans pacer Mohammed Siraj wholeheartedly welcomed the BCCI's decision to lift the saliva ban ahead of IPL 2025. "It's excellent news for us bowlers because when the ball will increase the chances of finding some reverse swing," said Siraj.

### FULL OF INTENT

#### You will see a fearless approach from LSG, says mentor Zaheer



Lucknow Super Giants' mentor Zaheer Khan has set the tone for his team's upcoming IPL season, promising an aggressive and fearless brand of cricket under new captain Rishabh Pant. He emphasised the team's intent to take the game head-on. "You will see a fearless approach from this team," Zaheer stated.

### POTENT COMBINATION

#### 'Right balance between data and gut-feel improves decision-making'



Relying on data science has become an integral part of IPL teams' planning and when blended with perfect balance of 'gut-feel', it certainly improves decision making, says BCCI's Director of Cricket Mo Babat. "Executing your decision and how you follow through is very important. As a leader in sport, that's your core currency."

## Consistency key to CSK's pursuit of sixth title

A lot will ride on tweekers Noor and Ashwin to deliver in home conditions: Ruturaj will be eager to reignite his partnership with Conway; the team will hope Dhoni continues his six-hitting form

**CHAMPION**  
2010 | 2011 | 2018 | 2021 | 2023

**NOOR AHMAD**

Dhoni had an impact of 200.55. He hit 14 fours and 13 sixes.

Super Kings' remaining matches were against Chennai Super Kings (10), MI (6) and KXIP (2).

**IPL-18 COUNTDOWN**

**Chennai Super Kings**

**THE DUGOUT**  
Ruturaj Gaikwad (Capt.), Mathheesha Pathirana, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, M.S. Dhoni, Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Rachin Ravindra, R. Ashwin, Khaled Ahmed, Noor Ahmad, Vijay Shankar, Sanjiv Sanjiv, Shaik Rashid, Anshul Kamble, Mukesh Chaudhary, Nevus Nonda, Goutamjeet Singh, Nathan Ellis, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Shreyas Gopal, Varun Iyer, C. Andre Siddarth.

**OVERALL NUMBERS**

M	239	138	99	2
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**BY OPPONENT**

M	W	L	NR	
MI	37	17	20	0
RCB	33	21	11	1
DC	36	19	11	0
PBKS	30	16	14	0
KKR	29	18	10	0
RR	29	16	13	0
SRH	21	15	6	0
GT	7	3	4	0
LSG	5	1	3	1

**THE DRIVING FORCE**  
NOOR AHMAD: The Afghan left-arm wrist spinner was CSK's certified buy at the auction at ₹10 crore. The 28-year-old adds variety to the attack and will rely on the spinner's bowling on the pitches at the MAC Stadium. If he can provide breakthroughs during the middle-overs, especially in away games, it will ease the pressure on the pacers.

**CSK'S 2025 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN**

Date	vs	City	Time
March 23	vs MI	Chennai	7:30 p.m.
March 28	vs RCB	Chennai	7:30 p.m.
March 30	vs RR	Gurugahat	7:30 p.m.
April 5	vs DC	Chennai	3:30 p.m.
April 9	vs PBKS	New Chandigarh	7:30 p.m.
April 11	vs KKR	Chennai	7:30 p.m.
April 14	vs LSG	Lucknow	7:30 p.m.
April 20	vs MI	Mumbai	7:30 p.m.
April 25	vs SRH	Chennai	7:30 p.m.
April 30	vs PBKS	Chennai	7:30 p.m.
May 3	vs RCB	Bangalore	7:30 p.m.
May 7	vs KKR	Kolkata	7:30 p.m.
May 12	vs RR	Chennai	7:30 p.m.
May 18	vs GT	Ahmedabad	3:30 p.m.

S. Dipak Rajay

Since the start of the IPL, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has been the epitome of consistency, reaching the Playoffs on every occasion. It played from 2008 to 2019. However, since 2020, the team has blown hot and cold every alternate season. CSK did not qualify for the knockouts thrice (2020, 2022 & 2024) while clinching the title in 2021 and 2023.

Last year, Super Kings failed to progress narrowly, losing out to Royal Challengers Bangalore on Net Run Rate (NRR). After posting four wins in the first six

games, CSK's campaign stuttered towards the business-end of the league stage, adding just three more victories. The lack of firepower in the middle-order and the inability of the Indian pacers to step up proved costly.

The Yellow Brigade has always looked to maximise its home conditions, which aid the tweekers, and has doubled down on its tried-and-tested 'spin to win' formula. The franchise spent big bucks at the mega auction to secure Afghanistan left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmad and local hero R. Ashwin, the squad's two most expensive picks.

Apart from the spin duo, CSK has focused on building a strong India core, including batter Rahul Tripathi and pacers Khaled Ahmed and Anshul Kamble.

#### Importance of Curran

Crucially, it managed to buy back Devon Conway as it struggled to get good starts despite skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's fine form. Their opening association was a key element of success two years ago, and the two will look to rekindle it.

However, there are areas of concern for Super Kings. The outfit lacks a

big-hitting overseas professional and will hope Sanjiv Sanjiv can fill that gap. Similarly, apart from Mathheesha Pathirana, none of the other quicks possess the X-factor. As has been the case during the last few seasons, all eyes will be on M.S. Dhoni and his future. Last year, the five-time trophy-winning skipper turned the clock back with vital cameo. The fans and the management will pray that the 43-year-old icon remains in the six-hitting zone.

Finally, it will be a massive test for Ruturaj in his second year in the hot seat as the IPL giant prepares for a post-Dhoni era.

## IPL introduces ball change in second innings to negate dew impact

Amol Karhadkar

MUMBAI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will witness a ball change early in the second half of a 7:30 pm start game this edition. The amendment has been introduced in a bid to reduce the impact of dew and make the matches a level-playing field for the bowlers.

After the 11th over of the chase, the ball will be replaced with a scuffed-velocity one. The IPL and BCCI executives confirmed the addition to the playing conditions during the captains' meeting at the BCCI headquarters here on Thursday.

"It was discussed and received well during the meeting. The primary objective is to keep the bowlers in play even after the dew makes it difficult to grip the ball," an insider



Ready to rock! IPL team captains pose for a photo in Mumbai on Thursday. SPORTSPIC/INFL

who attended the meeting told *The Hindu*, preferring anonymity. However, it is understood that the teams hoped to both the innings since season-openers witness the impact of dew right from the first ball. But it was expected with the suspension of captains for over-rate offences.

While Hardik Pandya will miss Mumbai Indians' season-opener against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, Rishabh Pant missed Delhi Capitals' key clash against Lucknow Super Giants last year because the team had committed three over-rate offences. Now, the captains will only be slapped with heavy financial penalties.

## BCCI yet to discuss men's central contracts for 2024-25

Amol Karhadkar

MUMBAI

Almost halfway into the new annual retainership cycle, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is yet to even begin discussions about the men's central contracts for 2024-25.

"We have had some deliberation on the women's central contracts, but the men's contracts is not on the agenda in the near future," a BCCI official announced.

Before December, the BCCI secretary, told *The Hindu* on Thursday. The delays have also understood that the BCCI officials are likely to discuss the central retainer list informally with chief selector Ajit Agarkar on the si-

delines of the Indian Premier League's opening game in Kolkata on Saturday.

The BCCI awards central contracts to men (since 2004-05) and women (since 2015-16) for the cycle starting in October and ending in September to maintain consistency along with its AGM cycle. However, seldom have the annual contracts been officially announced.

The last cycle saw the men's annual retainer list being out on February 28, five months into the cycle while the women's contracts list was never officially announced. Conventionally, the BCCI

president, BCCI secretary and chief selector meet to finalise the contracted players' lists.

Last year, the retainer-ship announcement was highlighted with Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan not being considered due to ignoring domestic cricket commitments for their respective sides. The BCCI insiders attribute the constant delay in the last few years due to the legal issues the body found itself in since the 2023 IPL spot-fixing scandal.

The windfall will cover the players, coaching and support staff and members of the men's selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar.

## Team India gets ₹58 crore cash award for T20 victory

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday announced a cash reward of ₹58 crore for the Indian cricket team that won the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this month in Dubai.

The Rohit Sharma-led India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in the final to grab a record third Champions Trophy title.

The windfall will cover the players, coaching and support staff and members of the men's selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar.

## Coventry succeeds Bach as IOC president becomes first woman and African to lead the world body

Agencies

COSTA NAVARINO (GREECE)

Zimbabwean Kirsty Coventry became the first woman and African to be elected president of the International Olympic Committee on Thursday declaring it to be an "extraordinary moment."

The Zimbabwe sports minister needed only one round of voting to clinch the race to succeed Thomas Bach, winning an immediate overall majority in the secret ballot to take the helm of the world's wealthiest multi-sport organisation.

At 41, the two-time Olympic swimming champion is also the youngest

ever elected to be the most powerful person in sports governance.

Coventry said she would work with the six other rivals she defeated. "This is no extraordinary moment. As a nine-year-old girl, I never thought that I would be standing up here one day, getting to give back to this incredible movement of ours," Coventry said.

"This is not just a huge honour but it is a privilege to every single one of you that I will lead this organisation with pride and with the values at the core... I will make all of you very, very proud and, I hope, extremely confident in the decision you've taken today. Thank you from the



All yours! Outgoing president Bach inviting Coventry to address the delegates. GETTY IMAGES

bottom of my heart." Coventry, who was strongly believed to be Bach's favoured candidate,

was thought to be in a tight run with IOC veteran Juan Antonio Samaranch Junior and World Athletics

chief Sebastian Coe. However, to general surprise, the race was over after the first round of vot-

## Boxing receives official IOC nod for Los Angeles Games

Agence France-Press

COSTA NAVARINO

Boxing will feature at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics after the International Olympic Committee members voted unanimously for its inclusion on Thursday.

The sport had already passed one test when the IOC Executive Board on Monday recognised World Boxing as the federation to oversee the sport.

It ends years of divisions over the way the sport — which has featured at every Olympic Games since 1924, except Stockholm in 1912 as it was barred under a Swedish law — is run.

The IOC stepped in to organise the boxing tournaments at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and the Paris Olympics last year after breaking with the Russian-led International Boxing Association over financial governance and ethical concerns.

The IOC president Thomas Bach had warned that boxing's national federations needed to find a new and "reliable" international partner if it wanted to be included at the 2028 Games.

Last month, the IOC provisionally recognised World Boxing as the body to oversee the sport at future Olympics.



# Coventry succeeds Bach as IOC president, becomes first woman and African to lead the world body

## Agencies

COSTA NAVARINO (GREECE)

Zimbabwean Kirsty Coventry became the first woman and African to be elected president of the International Olympic Committee on Thursday declaring it to be an “extraordinary moment.”

The Zimbabwe sports minister needed only one round of voting to clinch the race to succeed Thomas Bach, winning an immediate overall majority in the secret ballot to take the helm of the world’s wealthiest multi-sport organisation.

At 41, the two-time Olympic swimming champion is also the youngest

ever elected to be the most powerful person in sports governance.

Coventry said she would work with the six other rivals she defeated. “This is an extraordinary moment. As a nine-year-old girl, I never thought that I would be standing up here one day, getting to give back to this incredible movement of ours,” Coventry said.

“This is not just a huge honour but it is a reminder to every single one of you that I will lead this organisation with pride and with the values at the core... I will make all of you very, very proud and, I hope, extremely confident in the decision you’ve taken today. Thank you from the



**All yours!** Outgoing president Bach inviting Coventry to address the delegates. GETTY IMAGES

bottom of my heart.”

Coventry, who was strongly believed to be Bach’s favoured candidate,

was thought to be in a tight run race with IOC veteran Juan Antonio Samaranch Junior and World Athletics

chief Sebastian Coe.

However, to general surprise the race was over after the first round of vot-

ing. Coventry received 49 of the 97 votes possible, with Samaranch obtaining 28 and Coe third with eight votes.

The seven-time Olympic medallist, who has been an IOC member since 2013, had been the chairperson of the Athlete Commission between 2018 and 2021.

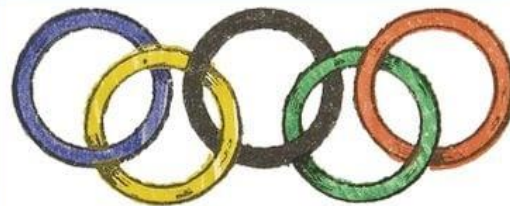
Coventry had claimed in her manifesto that the IOC must prioritise athletes’ mental health and physical recovery throughout their careers and beyond while counting on the expertise of international federations at various events. She has also sought a zero-tolerance approach to corruption, doping and unethical behaviour.



IOC headquarters in [Lausanne](#), Switzerland

<b>Abbreviation</b>	IOC ( <a href="#">English</a> ), <i>CIO</i> ( <a href="#">French</a> )
<b>Formation</b>	23 June 1894; 130 years ago
<b>Founders</b>	<a href="#">Pierre de Coubertin</a> <a href="#">Demetrios Vikelas</a>
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Sports federation</a> (association organised under the laws of the <a href="#">Swiss Confederation</a> )
<b>Headquarters</b>	Olympic House, <a href="#">Lausanne</a> , Switzerland
<b>Membership</b>	110 active members, 39 honorary members, 206 individual National Olympic Committees
<b>Official language</b>	<a href="#">French</a> (reference language), <a href="#">English</a> , and the host country's language when necessary
<b>President</b>	<a href="#">Thomas Bach</a> <sup>[1]</sup> <a href="#">Kirsty Coventry</a>
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	<sup>[1]</sup> <a href="#">Juan Antonio Samaranch</a> <a href="#">Salisachs</a> <a href="#">Nawal El Moutawakel</a> <a href="#">Gerardo Werthein</a> <a href="#">Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant</a>
<b>Director General</b>	<a href="#">Christophe De Kepper</a>

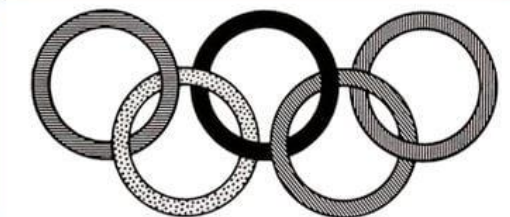
1913



1920



1957



1986



2010


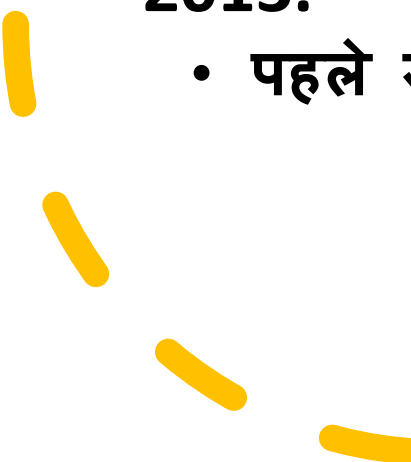


Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe becomes the first woman and first African to lead the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

ज़िम्बाब्वे की किस्टी कोवेंट्री पहली महिला और पहली अफ्रीकी बनीं जिन्होंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति (IOC) का नेतृत्व किया।

Elected in a secret ballot, defeating six other candidates, receiving 49 out of 97 votes.  
गुप्त मतदान में छह अन्य उम्मीदवारों को हराकर चुनी गईं, 97 में से 49 वोट मिले।



- 
- **Succeeds Thomas Bach as IOC President, bringing a new leadership vision.**
    - थॉमस बाख के उत्तराधिकारी के रूप में आईओसी अध्यक्ष बनीं, नई नेतृत्व दृष्टि लेकर आईं।
  - **Previously a seven-time Olympic medalist and IOC member since 2013.**
    - पहले सात बार की ओलंपिक पदक विजेता और 2013 से आईओसी सदस्य।
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## Social and Cultural Influence | सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक प्रभाव

- Promotes gender equality and women's leadership in global sports.
  - वैश्विक खेलों में लैंगिक समानता और महिलाओं के नेतृत्व को बढ़ावा देता है।
- Encourages young African athletes by demonstrating representation at the highest level.
  - युवा अफ्रीकी एथलीटों को प्रेरित करता है, क्योंकि उन्हें उच्च स्तर पर प्रतिनिधित्व मिलता है।
- Aims to prioritize athletes' mental health and physical well-being.
  - एथलीटों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और शारीरिक भलाई को प्राथमिकता देने का लक्ष्य।

## WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2025: EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DOMINATE TOP 20, US DROPS TO LOWEST-EVER POSITION

# Finns are happiest, Afghans unhappiest; India up 8 places but below Pak, China

**KIRSTEN GRIESHABER  
& KOSTYA MANENKOV**  
HONG KONG, MARCH 20

FINLAND IS the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report 2025 published Thursday.

Other Nordic countries are also once again at the top of the happiness rankings in the annual report published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford. Besides Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden remain the top four and

in the same order.

India ranked 118th, up from the 126th position in the previous year but below countries such as Nepal, Pakistan and Ukraine, and the Palestinian territory. In terms of the 'Country rankings for six measures of benevolence', it was listed much higher at 57 for 'how people donated'; at 10 for 'how people volunteered'; 74 for 'helping a stranger', and in case of 'wallet returned by a neighbour' (115), 'stranger' (86) and 'police' (93).

China was ranked in 68th position this year, down from 60th last year. The State of Palestine is

ranked 108th (103 in 2024) while Ukraine is at the 111th rank (105 in 2024).

Country rankings were based on answers people give when asked to rate their own lives. The study was done in partnership with the analytics firm Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

"Happiness isn't just about wealth or growth — it's about trust, connection and knowing people have your back," said Jon Clifton, the CEO of Gallup. "If we want stronger communities and economies, we must invest in what truly matters: each other."



People walk along a shopping street in Helsinki, Finland. AP

Researchers say that beyond health and wealth, some factors that influence happiness sound deceptively simple: sharing meals with others, having somebody to count on for social support, and household size. In Mexico and Europe, for example, a household size of four to five people predicts the highest levels of happiness, the study said. Believing in the kindness of others is also much more closely tied to happiness than previously thought, according to the latest findings.

As an example, the report suggests that people who believe that others are willing to re-

turn their lost wallet is a strong predictor of the overall happiness of a population.

While European countries dominate the top 20 in the ranking, there were some exceptions. Despite the war with Hamas, Israel came in at eighth. Costa Rica and Mexico entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking at sixth and 10th respectively.

When it comes to decreasing happiness — or growing unhappiness — the United States has dropped to its lowest-ever position at 24, having previously peaked at 11th place in 2012. The report states that the number of

people dining alone in the United States has increased 53% over the past two decades.

Afghanistan is again ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, with Afghan women saying their lives are especially difficult. Sierra Leone in western Africa is the second unhappiest, followed by Lebanon, ranking third from the bottom.

The study also said that 19% of young adults across the world reported in 2023 that they have no one they could count on for social support. That is a 39% increase compared to 2006. -AP

WITHPTIINPUTS

Finland ranked as the happiest country for the eighth consecutive year. फिनलैंड लगातार आठवें वर्ष दुनिया का सबसे खुशहाल देश बना।



India improved its ranking by 8 places, now at 118th position, but still below Pakistan, China, and Nepal.



भारत ने अपनी रैंकिंग में 8 स्थानों का सुधार किया, अब 118वें स्थान पर, लेकिन पाकिस्तान, चीन और नेपाल से नीचे।



Afghanistan remains the unhappiest country in the world. अफगानिस्तान दुनिया का सबसे दुखी देश बना हुआ है।

European nations dominate the top 20 happiest countries, while the US drops to its lowest-ever position at 24.

यूरोपीय देशों ने शीर्ष 20 खुशहाल देशों में कब्जा जमाया, जबकि अमेरिका 24वें स्थान पर अपनी सबसे निचली रैंकिंग पर पहुंचा।

The World Happiness Report was first published in 2012 and ranks countries based on factors like GDP, social support, life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption.

वर्ल्ड हैप्पीनेस रिपोर्ट पहली बार 2012 में प्रकाशित हुई थी और यह जीडीपी, सामाजिक समर्थन, जीवन प्रत्याशा, स्वतंत्रता, उदारता और भ्रष्टाचार जैसे कारकों के आधार पर देशों की रैंकिंग करती है।

Finland, Denmark, and Sweden have consistently ranked among the happiest nations due to their strong social welfare systems and high standard of living.

फिनलैंड, डेनमार्क और स्वीडन मजबूत सामाजिक कल्याण प्रणालियों और उच्च जीवन स्तर के कारण लगातार शीर्ष पर बने हुए हैं।

## Geopolitical & Social Factors | भू-राजनीतिक और सामाजिक कारक

India's position below Pakistan and China raises questions about economic stability, governance, and social welfare.

- भारत की पाकिस्तान और चीन से नीचे की स्थिति आर्थिक स्थिरता, शासन और सामाजिक कल्याण पर सवाल उठाती है।

The war in Ukraine and Gaza has affected happiness levels in affected regions.

- यूक्रेन और गाजा में युद्ध ने वहां के लोगों के खुशी स्तर को प्रभावित किया है।

Countries with strong social security, trust in government, and lower income inequality rank higher.

- मजबूत सामाजिक सुरक्षा, सरकार में विश्वास और कम आय असमानता वाले देश उच्च स्थान पर होते हैं।

## Economic Impact | आर्थिक प्रभाव



**Nations with higher GDP per capita and well-developed infrastructure tend to be happier.**

**जिन देशों की प्रति व्यक्ति जीडीपी अधिक होती है और जिनका बुनियादी ढांचा मजबूत होता है, वे अधिक खुशहाल होते हैं।**

- 
- India's ranking suggests that economic growth alone does not determine happiness; social factors like mental health and governance also play a role.
  - भारत की रैंकिंग बताती है कि केवल आर्थिक विकास ही खूशी निर्धारित नहीं करता; मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और शासन जैसे सामाजिक कारक भी भूमिका निभाते हैं।
  - The US, despite being an economic powerhouse, has dropped in ranking due to declining social trust and increasing loneliness.
  - अमेरिका, जो एक आर्थिक महाशक्ति है, सामाजिक विश्वास में गिरावट और बढ़ती अकेलेपन की भावना के कारण रैंकिंग में नीचे आया है।

## Psychological & Societal Trends | मनोवैज्ञानिक और सामाजिक प्रवृत्तियाँ

Happiness is influenced more by social connections, trust, and a sense of belonging than by wealth.

- खुशी पर सामाजिक संबंधों, विश्वास और जुड़ाव की भावना का अधिक प्रभाव पड़ता है, न कि केवल धन पर।

**Mental health support and lower stress levels contribute to a nation's happiness.**

- मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समर्थन और कम तनाव स्तर किसी देश की खुशी में योगदान देते हैं।

**In India, high population density and economic disparity may be key factors affecting happiness.**

- भारत में उच्च जनसंख्या घनत्व और आर्थिक असमानता खुशी को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख कारक हो सकते हैं।

## Challenges | चुनौतियाँ:

Economic disparity and income inequality.

- आर्थिक असमानता और आय असमानता।

Low access to mental health services.

- मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक कम पहुंच।

Lack of trust in institutions and governance issues.

- संस्थानों में विश्वास की कमी और शासन से जुड़ी समस्याएँ।



# US firm brings weight-loss drug to India, 2.5-mg vial to cost ₹3,500

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**ANONNA DUTT**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

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THE POPULAR new class of weight-loss drugs that has reshaped obesity treatment — especially in the United States and Europe — is now making its way to India.

US-based pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly announced the launch of Tirzepatide, marketed as Mounjaro, in India on Thursday. The medication comes in a single-dose vial and is designed to be self-administered as a weekly injection.

In India, it will be available on prescription, with a 2.5 mg vial priced at Rs 3,500 and a 5 mg vial at Rs 4,375. Depending on the prescribed dosage, patients would spend at least Rs 14,000 per month. "Mounjaro (tirzepatide) will be available, upon obtaining a valid prescription, in registered pharmacies in the coming weeks," the company said.

Tirzepatide is part of a new group of medicines called incretin mimetics, which work by imitating natural gut hormones. These hormones help the body in three ways: they boost insulin production, reduce the release of glucagon (which triggers glucose production in the liver), and slow digestion to curb appetite.

Tirzepatide targets two key

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## . Introduction | परिचय

- **Eli Lilly**, a US-based pharmaceutical giant, has launched **Tirzepatide** (brand name **Mounjaro**) in India.

अमेरिकी फार्मास्यूटिकल कंपनी एली लिली ने तिरज़ेपाटाइड (ब्रांड नाम मौंजारो) को भारत में लॉन्च किया है।

- **This is a new-generation weight-loss drug** that has already gained popularity in the **US and Europe.**

यह नई पीढ़ी की वजन घटाने की दवा है, जो अमेरिका और यूरोप में पहले से ही लोकप्रिय हो चुकी है।

- **Price | कीमत:**

- 2.5 mg vial: ₹3,500

- 5 mg vial: ₹4,375

- Monthly expense may go up to ₹14,000, depending on dosage.

मरीजों का मासिक खर्च उनकी डोज़ के अनुसार ₹14,000 तक हो सकता है।

## Medical and Pharmaceutical Factors | मेडिकल और फार्मास्युटिकल पहलू

How does it work? | यह कैसे काम करता है?

- Tirzepatide is an Incretin Mimetic drug, which mimics gut hormones to regulate appetite and metabolism.

तिरजेपाटाइड एक इंक्रीटिन माइमेटिक दवा है, जो आंतों के हार्मोन की नकल करके भूख और मेटाबॉलिज्म को नियंत्रित करती है।

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- **Three major actions | तीन प्रमुख कार्य:**

- **Boosts insulin production** (for better blood sugar control).  
इंसुलिन उत्पादन को बढ़ाता है (ब्लड शुगर नियंत्रण के लिए)।
- **Reduces glucagon release in the liver**, which prevents glucose spikes.  
लीवर में ग्लूकागन के उत्पादन को रोकता है, जिससे ग्लूकोज स्पाइक्स कम होते हैं।
- **Slows digestion**, making one feel full for longer.  
पाचन को धीमा करता है, जिससे व्यक्ति को अधिक समय तक पेट भरा महसूस होता है।



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## Usage & Approval | उपयोग और अनुमोदन

- Taken as a weekly injection | यह हफ्ते में एक बार इंजेक्शन के रूप में दी जाती है।
- Approved by India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).  
भारत में इसे केंद्रीय औषधि मानक नियंत्रण संगठन (CDSCO) से मंजूरी मिली है।
- Beneficial for both obesity and diabetes patients.  
यह मोटापा और डायबिटीज़ से पीड़ित मरीजों के लिए विशेष रूप से उपयोगी है।



**Economic and Market Impact | आर्थिक और बाजार प्रभाव**

**Global & Indian Obesity Market | वैश्विक और भारतीय मोटापा बाजार**

**• WHO 2022 report:**

- 1 in 8 people worldwide is obese.

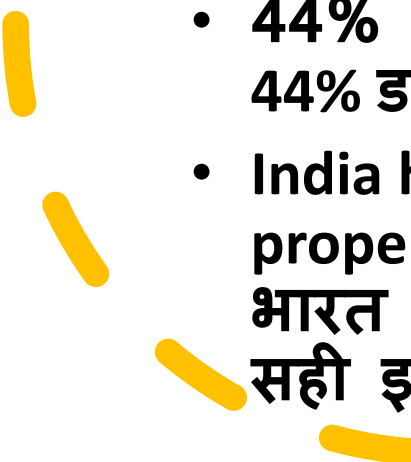
दुनिया में हर 8 में से 1 व्यक्ति मोटापे से ग्रस्त है।

- 44% of diabetes cases are linked to obesity.

44% डायबिटीज़ के मामले मोटापे से जुड़े होते हैं।

- India has 101 million diabetes patients, with nearly 50% not receiving proper treatment.

भारत में 101 मिलियन डायबिटीज़ मरीज हैं, जिनमें से लगभग 50% को सही इलाज नहीं मिल रहा।



## Competition in Market | बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा

- Mounjaro competes with Novo Nordisk's Ozempic and Wegovy.  
मौंजारो की सीधी प्रतिस्पर्धा नोवो नॉर्डिस्क की ओज़ेम्पिक और वेगोवी जैसी दवाओं से होगी।
- Indian pharma companies entering the market:
  - Cipla, Sun Pharma, Biocon, and Natco Pharma are working on affordable generic versions.  
सिप्ला, सन फार्मा, बायोकॉन और नैटको फार्मा इस दवा के सस्ते जेनरिक वर्जन विकसित कर रही हैं।

## Health Benefits | स्वास्थ्य लाभ

- ✓ Effective weight loss | वजन घटाने में मदद करता है
- ✓ Helps in diabetes management | डायबिटीज़ नियंत्रण में सहायक है
- ✓ Reduces risk of heart disease and cancer | हृदय रोग और कैंसर के जोखिम को कम करता है

⚠️ Potential misuse for cosmetic weight loss | कॉस्मेटिक वजन घटाने के लिए गलत उपयोग की संभावना

⚠️ High cost makes it inaccessible to the general population | उच्च कीमत इसे आम जनता की पहुंच से दूर कर सकती है

⚠️ Possible side effects | संभावित दुष्प्रभाव:

- Nausea, vomiting, and digestive issues | मतली, उल्टी और पाचन समस्याएं

- Long-term effects are not fully studied | लंबे समय तक उपयोग के प्रभावों पर अधिक शोध की आवश्यकता है



Mounjaro to be available here at ₹3,500 per vial

# Eli Lilly brings its global bestseller anti-obesity, diabetes drug to India

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, March 20

**US PHARMA MAJOR** Eli Lilly on Thursday launched its global bestseller anti-obesity and diabetes drug Mounjaro (tirzepatide) in India.

Priced at ₹14,000 for a 2.5 mg monthly dose (₹3,500 per vial), and ₹17,500 (₹4,375 per vial) for a 5 mg monthly dose, the drug — to be taken weekly — will be available here at a fraction of the cost it is currently sold in the US (\$1,000 per monthly dose).

Eli Lilly (India) had earlier told *FE* that it will price its drug competitively for the Indian market, saying that “the pricing strategy in India will reflect the medicine’s efficacy and the significant value it brings in

## WEIGHT LOSS WAR

■ Eli Lilly's Mounjaro is priced at

₹14,000

for a 2.5 mg monthly dose

■ A 5 mg monthly dose will cost

₹17,500



■ To be taken weekly, the drug costs

\$1,000

per monthly dose in the US

■ Doctors have started receiving multiple prescription requests for the drug

■ Novo Nordisk may launch its injectible Wegovy in India earlier than 2026

reducing the overall health and economic burden of type 2 diabetes and obesity. We anticipate a positive response from the Indian market”.

Anti-obesity drugs Wegovy and Ozempic (manufactured by Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk) and Eli Lilly's Moun-

jaro have made waves across the world since their launch in recent years.

Novo Nordisk had initially announced launch of its injectible Wegovy in India in 2026, but sources say the launch could happen sooner. The company launched an oral

formulation identical to Wegovy — Rybelsus — in India in 2022, which is a market leader since, but the oral offering only depicts a 50% efficacy compared with its injectible counterpart.

Continued on Page 9

# Rajasthan's coaching centre Bill, why it has been criticised

HAMZA KHAN

JAIPUR, MARCH 20

FOLLOWING YEARS of demands for such legislation, a Bill for regulating coaching centres was tabled in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The creation of a high-pressure academic ecosystem in cities like Kota and Jaipur, with coaching centres and residential schools to aid students in preparing for competitive exams, has prompted calls for regulation. For more than a decade now, several cases of student suicides have been reported every year.

However, the Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025, has received some criticism for diluting certain provisions of earlier drafts and sidestepping some of the Union Education Ministry's guidelines on the issue.

## What does the Rajasthan Bill say?

The government said the Bill aims to "curb the commercialisation of coaching institutes and ensure that they operate within a framework prioritising the well-being and success of students".

It seeks to mandate minimum quality standards, the registration of coaching centres, and psychological counselling for students. The Centre's January 2024 guidelines for the regulation of coaching centres proposed a penalty of Rs 25,000 for the first violation of provisions and Rs 1 lakh for a second violation, followed by cancellation of registration for subsequent violation(s).

The tabled version sets the first fine at Rs 2 lakh and Rs 5 lakh for the second offence, followed by cancellation of the centre's registration. This is one aspect where the Bill's provisions are more stringent compared to the drafts or guidelines.

## And what are the differences?

In line with guidelines, an earlier draft specified that only students who are 16 years of age or have completed secondary school examinations can be enrolled in coaching centres. However, the tabled version has no mention of the age criteria.

Coaching centres could stand to benefit in the absence of such a provision, especially those in Kota. Having become a hub for engineering and medical college aspirants, the city has witnessed a decline in student enrollments more recently. The Centre's guidelines, in addition to bad press over student suicides and the emergence of new hubs in other parts of the country, are seen as the likely factors.

Here are some of the other key points of difference:

■ In some cases, students went missing

from the centres and their families found out much later. An earlier version of the Bill mandated biometric attendance through face recognition technology. If a student was absent for more than two days without prior intimation, the centres were "to inform the parents", it said. The Bill has no such provision for attendance.

■ A draft also stated that coaching centres "shall abide by the orders issued by the state government regarding national holidays, local holidays as declared by the District Collector and festivals". While the tabled version states that centres should try to customise leaves to coincide with festivals, it omits mention of national and local holidays.

■ The guidelines had pushed for greater inclusivity and accessibility, stating that the coaching centres "shall not discriminate

against any applicant/ student on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, descent etc. during the admission and teaching process".

■ Centres may also make special provisions to encourage greater representation of students from vulnerable communities, including female students and differently abled students. The centre's building and surrounding premises should comply with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Both these points were included in the draft, but have been omitted in the Bill.

## What happens next?

Certain parents' associations have flagged the need for specifying punishment for centres in case of student suicides and demanded measures to curb the arbitrary fees they charge.

Criticising the Bill, parents' organisation

Sanyukta Abhibhavak Sangh alleged that the Bill has been drafted "in guidance of the coaching centres". Its spokesperson Abhishek Jain Bittu said that the Bill should have a provision for a committee to determine the fees charged by coaching centres.

The Bill is expected to come up for debate and passage on Friday. Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jolly from the Congress said that the earlier draft had mentioned the 16-year minimum age criteria "but now the government is again planning to burden the students".

"It seems as if the state government has connived with the coaching centres to again relax the age criteria," he said, pointing to differences between the guidelines and the Bill. "It seems the government doesn't want to bring a strong Bill. We will oppose this and give our suggestions and would hope that they are included," he said.

**EXPLAINED  
LAW**

## Overview of the Rajasthan Coaching Centre Bill | राजस्थान कोचिंग सेंटर बिल का अवलोकन

**Objective:** The Bill aims to regulate coaching centres to prevent their commercialization and ensure the well-being of students.

- **उद्देश्य:** इस बिल का उद्देश्य कोचिंग सेंटरों के व्यवसायीकरण को रोकना और छात्रों की भलाई सुनिश्चित करना है।



**It mandates registration, minimum quality standards, and psychological counselling for students.**

- यह पंजीकरण, न्यूनतम गुणवत्ता मानक और छात्रों के लिए मनोवैज्ञानिक परामर्श को अनिवार्य करता है।

**The government has set penalties for non-compliance, ranging from fines to cancellation of registration.**

- सरकार ने गैर-अनुपालन के लिए दंड निर्धारित किए हैं, जिसमें जुर्माना से लेकर पंजीकरण रद्द करने तक का प्रावधान है।

## Key Differences from Earlier Drafts | पहले के मसौदों से प्रमुख अंतर

Earlier drafts mandated that only students aged 16 or above could enroll, but the final Bill removed this restriction.

- पहले के मसौदों में 16 वर्ष या उससे अधिक उम्र के छात्रों के प्रवेश की अनिवार्यता थी, लेकिन अंतिम विधेयक में यह हटाया गया।



The provision for biometric attendance (face recognition) has also been removed.

बायोमेट्रिक उपस्थिति (फेस रिकग्निशन) की अनिवार्यता भी हटा दी गई है।

Previous versions mentioned compliance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which has been omitted in the final Bill. पहले के संस्करण में दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के अधिकार अधिनियम, 2016 का उल्लेख था, जिसे अंतिम विधेयक से हटा दिया गया है।

- **The requirement for coaching centres to follow government orders on holidays was relaxed in the final version.**
  - कोचिंग सेंटरों को सरकारी अवकाशों का पालन करने के आदेश को अंतिम संस्करण में शिथिल किया गया है।



### 3. Criticism of the Bill | बिल की आलोचना

- **Political Criticism | राजनीतिक आलोचना:**
- **Social & Educational Concerns | सामाजिक और शैक्षिक चिंताएँ:**
- **Economic Impact | आर्थिक प्रभाव:**

## What Happens Next? | आगे क्या होगा?


- The Bill is set for debate and possible amendments before being passed in the Rajasthan Assembly.
  - विधेयक पर राजस्थान विधानसभा में बहस होगी और इसमें संशोधन हो सकता है।
- Opposition plans to push for stricter student welfare provisions.
  - विपक्ष छात्र कल्याण के लिए कड़े प्रावधानों की मांग करेगा।
- Coaching centres are expected to lobby against stricter regulations.
  - कोचिंग सेंटर कड़े नियमों के खिलाफ अपनी रणनीति बना सकते हैं।

Segment	Market Size (INR)	Market Size (USD)	CAGR (Approx.)	Details
<b>Overall Coaching Industry</b>	₹58,088 crore (2023)	~\$7 billion	~15-17%	Includes all offline + online coaching and test prep services
<b>K-12 Coaching</b>	₹22,000 crore	~\$2.6 billion	~12-14%	Covers classes 1–12 tuition, mainly for school-level board exams
<b>Test Preparation (Competitive)</b>	₹23,000 crore	~\$2.8 billion	~14-16%	Covers UPSC, SSC, Bank, NEET, JEE, etc.
<b>Online Coaching (EdTech)</b>	₹13,000 crore	~\$1.6 billion	~25-30%	Rapidly growing; includes platforms like BYJU'S, Unacademy, Vedantu
<b>NEET + JEE Coaching</b>	₹10,000 crore+	~\$1.2 billion+	~15-18%	Dominated by Kota, Hyderabad, and online giants
<b>UPSC/State PSC Coaching</b>	₹3,000–4,000 crore	~\$400–500 million	~10-12%	Includes Delhi, Jaipur, and regional hubs
<b>SSC/Bank/RRB/Other Govt. Exams</b>	₹3,000 crore+	~\$360 million+	~10%	Mainly Tier 2–3 cities and online platforms
<b>CA/CS/CAT/GRE/GMAT Coaching</b>	₹1,000–1,500 crore	~\$120–180 million	~8-10%	Urban-focused; includes MBA and finance test prep



A pair of hands is shown holding a small, colorful globe of the Earth. The globe is centered on the Americas, with North and South America visible in green and yellow, and the oceans in blue. The hands are positioned around the globe, with fingers gently gripping it. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands and the globe. The text "State of Global Climate Report 2024" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# State of Global Climate Report 2024


- 
- According to the State of Global Climate report 2024 of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), global warming is nearing the 1.5°C Paris Agreement threshold.

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## What are the Key Findings of the Global Climate Report?

- **Current Warming Levels:** Global warming stands at **1.34–1.41°C above pre-industrial levels**, with 19 of the last 20 months surpassing the **1.5°C threshold**.
  - The world could surpass the **1.5°C threshold by September 2029**.



- 
- **Extreme Weather Events:** In 2024, record **displacements from cyclones, floods, and droughts** worsened food crises, while **heat waves** hit East Asia, Southeast Europe, the Mediterranean, West Asia, and the southwestern US.
  - **Carbon Dioxide Levels:** In 2023, **atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>** reached **151%** of pre-industrial levels, the highest in **800,000 years**.



- 
- An aerial photograph of a large, irregularly shaped ice floe in the center of the frame. The floe is surrounded by a vast field of smaller, broken ice chunks of various sizes scattered across a dark, textured surface of water. The lighting is somewhat dim, giving the scene a somber and desolate appearance.
- Cryosphere Decline:
  - Arctic sea ice hit record lows for 18 consecutive years, while Antarctic sea ice saw its 2nd-lowest extent in 2024.
  - Irreversible Impacts: Ocean Warming: 2024 saw the highest ocean heat content in 65 years, with warming rates doubling since 1960.

**Sea Level Rise:** Global mean sea level reached a record high, with rates doubling from **2.1 mm/year (1993–2002)** to **4.7 mm/year (2015–2024)**.

**Glacier Melt:** The period **2022–2024** recorded the **most negative glacier mass balance**, with significant losses in **Norway, Sweden, Svalbard, and the tropical Andes**.

**Ocean Acidification:** pH levels are declining rapidly, particularly in the **Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and equatorial Pacific**, with irreversible effects over centuries.



# Rangpanchami

- Rangpanchami is held five days after Holi, it marks the festive conclusion of the celebrations.

## About

- The name “Rang Panchami” is derived from “Rang,” meaning colour, and “Panchami,” referring to the fifth day.
- Its celebration is observed primarily in **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Rajasthan.**
- It marks the arrival of the **spring season** and people celebrate by throwing and applying colored powders (gulal) on each other.



# Vikram and Kalpana: ISRO Develops High-speed Microprocessors

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh have jointly developed two cutting-edge 32-bit microprocessors, Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201.**



## About

- They are optimised for **efficiency and performance**, specifically designed for **space applications**.
- **Vikram 3201** is India's first fully indigenous **32-bit microprocessor** qualified for use in the **harsh conditions** of launch vehicles and it can **process 32 bits of data at a time**.
  - It supports **floating-point computations** and offers **high-level language compatibility**.
- **Kalpana 3201** is also a 32-bit SPARC V8 RISC microprocessor based on the IEEE 1754 Instruction Set Architecture.

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# Word of the day

## **Presage:**

a foreboding about what is about to happen; a sign of something about to happen; indicate, as with a sign or an omen

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**Synonyms:** omen, bode, forecast, foreshadow, foretell, portend, predict, prefigure

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**Usage:** *She had a strong presage that he would get into an accident if he left the house.*

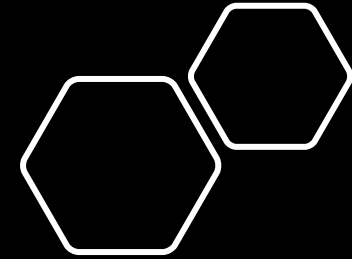
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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/presagepro](http://newsth.live/presagepro)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ˈpɹɛsɪdʒ/, /pɹɪˈseɪdʒ/

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10 MCQ from the session

. Under which section should blocking orders be issued, according to X Corp's legal challenge?

X कॉर्प की कानूनी चुनौती के अनुसार, ब्लॉकिंग आदेश किस धारा के तहत जारी किए जाने चाहिए?

- A. Section 66A
- B. Section 69A
- C. Section 79(3)(b)
- D. Section 72

**What is India's objection to Section 79(3)(b) being used for blocking content?**

**भारत में सेक्शन 79(3)(b) के तहत कंटेंट ब्लॉकिंग पर क्या आपत्ति है?**

- A. It violates copyright laws
- B. It is not constitutionally valid for blocking content
- C. It involves national security
- D. It promotes misinformation

**Who is the new IOC President succeeding Thomas Bach?**

**थॉमस बाख के बाद नए आईओसी अध्यक्ष कौन बने हैं?**

- A. Simone Biles
- B. Usain Bolt
- C. Kirsty Coventry
- D. PV Sindhu

**What is the global obesity statistic mentioned in the WHO 2022 report?**

**WHO 2022 रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वैश्विक मोटापे से संबंधित आंकड़ा क्या है?**

- A. 1 in 10 people
- B. 1 in 12 people
- C. 1 in 8 people
- D. 1 in 5 people

**What is Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) primarily used for?**

**तिरज़ेपाटाइड (मौंजारो) का प्रमुख उपयोग किस लिए होता है?**

- A. Blood pressure control
- B. Skin treatment
- C. Weight loss and diabetes management
- D. Cancer prevention



**What is the mechanism of action for Tirzepatide?**

**तिरज़ेपाटाइड कैसे कार्य करता है?**

- A. Increases thyroid hormone
- B. Mimics gut hormones to regulate appetite
- C. Stimulates brain activity
- D. Enhances calcium absorption

**Which Indian pharmaceutical companies are working on generic versions of Tirzepatide?**

**तिरज़ेपाटाइड के जेनरिक संस्करण पर काम करने वाली भारतीय फार्मा कंपनियां कौन सी हैं?**

- A. Zydus and Dr. Reddy's
- B. Cipla, Sun Pharma, Biocon, Natco
- C. Lupin and Torrent
- D. Glenmark and Aurobindo

**What does the Global Climate Report 2024 predict about the 1.5°C threshold?**

**ग्लोबल क्लाइमेट रिपोर्ट 2024 के अनुसार 1.5°C सीमा के बारे में क्या भविष्यवाणी की गई है?**

- A. Will never be breached
- B. Already permanently surpassed
- C. Likely to be breached by September 2029
- D. Breached only in Arctic region

**What is Rangpanchami associated with?**

**रंगपंचमी किससे संबंधित है?**

- A. Festival of harvest
- B. End of Holi celebrations
- C. Worship of Sun God
- D. South Indian festival

**What are Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201 developed by ISRO?**

**इसरो द्वारा विकसित विक्रम 3201 और कल्पना 3201 क्या हैं?**

- A. Satellite systems
- B. Microprocessors for space missions
- C. Navigation systems
- D. Communication antennas



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guys.

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