

Daily Current Affairs



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Financial Express

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10 MCQ QUIZ

MCQ



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

• कौन सा न्यायालय लोकपाल की शक्ति पर चिन्ता व्यक्त करके न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता के खतरे को उठाया?

• A. Supreme Court of India / भारत की सर्वोच्च न्यायालय

B. Delhi High Court / दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय

C. Lok Sabha Ethics Committee / लोकसभा नैतिकता समिति

D. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) / केंद्रीय निगरानी आयोग (जCVC)

• Who was the first female Chief Minister of India?

• क्वचल इह हणचह सशणचव सवसभह इअण वल्लय

• A. Sucheta Kripalani / सुशुतल कुरह चवणह

B. Sheila Dikshit / शुहचव वल्लल्ल

C. Mamata Banerjee / सवसल्लव ँ ष न

D. Rekha Gupta / रकह वणैव



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

- क्खुत्र ऐँसण्डणत्रचणरुसुठुं ढुं क्रवघल्लुग घृणडुं टवशुं लुं इळुं डुं रक्षरसुं डुं च हं सळुं हळुं चहयं

- A. Uttar Pradesh / कुषुघ इळुं
 - B. Delhi / शुरुं ह
 - C. Madhya Pradesh / सुं इळुं
 - D. Jharkhand / एवुरघडुं
- 



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

- कौन सा वैश्विक टेक कंपनी नया क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग चिप 'मैजोराना 1' को प्रस्तुत करेगा?

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



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

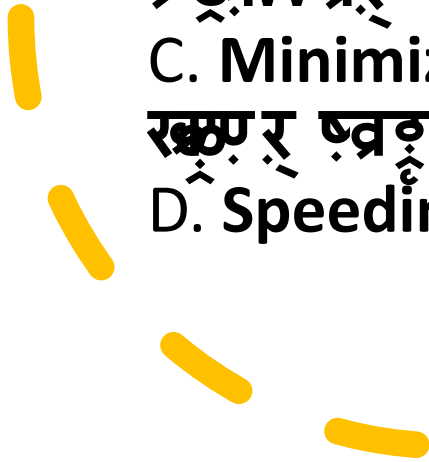
- खगल-इंजिनरिंग इंड 'खगल-घण्ट 1' भ्रूण इतिहास श्रुह इव खगल ६-६६ प्रणय

- A. Enhancing gaming performance / पञ्जाप बट्टर इङ्ग प्रवण
- B. Improving AI-powered image processing / इण्ट हण्ट श्रवणल धशत्र

इङ्गWघर् खगल-वघ

- C. Minimizing computational errors in quantum computing / भ्रूण इतिहास खगल-वघ

- D. Speeding up blockchain transactions / इङ्ग टङ्ग चङ्ग टङ्ग इङ्ग लङ्ग इघण्ट



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

• [हरप्र १३३३३ गरा] 1938 इड बरक ब्रअश्रवड्डाडह डरखल्लर इड श्रड्ड IRDAI विघरड्डाड डह ड-ड bघल्लर डश्रवश्र [डरह एह ड्रड

• A. Dinesh Khara Committee / श्र ड्ड डरघर डश्रवश्र

B. Raghuram Rajan Committee / घडश्रव घर ड डश्रवश्र

C. Shaktikanta Das Committee / डसडडक वरड डश्रवश्र

D. Ajay Bhushan Pandey Committee / १ न ग बरडर डरडडश्रवश्र

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

• क्रवघल श्रु ड खणदहल्लु ब्रु व्रुवशु ष इह वुडन रकुशु न्शुहषुव इडु वुवळु वुणगुडुणु खणु [कु इ घ घणुवुणुणु

• A. Crude Oil / इ वुव लुडु

B. Uranium / गुणुगु गुणुवु

C. Lithium / श्रुवुशुवुगुवु

D. Natural Gas / वुवुवुवुडु पुवु

• Which Indian government ministry recently warned OTT platforms regarding prohibited content?

• कौन सा भारतीय सरकार का मंत्रालय हाल में OTT प्लेटफॉर्मों को प्रतिबंधित सामग्री के संबंध में चेतावनी दी है?

• A. Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) / सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स मंत्रालय (MeitY)

B. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B Ministry) / सूचना प्रसारण मंत्रालय (I&B Ministry)

C. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) / घरेलू मामलों का मंत्रालय (MHA)

D. Ministry of Law and Justice / कानून और न्याय मंत्रालय

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

• इ बहुल दरमार्ह इडन चड घ क्रमलहग टघडवघ इह रब्र श्रुत्व प्र पम

• A. High subscription costs / क्षट ट व pत्व टरद

B. Lack of regional content / लहग दरमार्ह इह इ रब्र

C. Obscene and substance abuse-related content / १ Bहचलर र घ ष टहचह वत्रडन इड

दुअर दुदुअर ल दरमार्ह

D. Excessive advertisements / १ डुअर इ श्रुत्व

Argentina is part of which major lithium-rich region?

१ न्नेहृव श्ठुं ढुं बरबुं श्चभुगुरवघुंरुवुं लुं डुं श्चव पुं

A. Ring of Fire / प्रवुं छुं □ □ वगुं

B. Lithium Triangle / श्चभुगुरव श्चुं वुं

C. Silicon Valley of Minerals / दुं श्चुं न्नेहृव श्चुं वुं वुं वुं

D. Andean Metallic Belt / वुं वुं वुं वुं वुं



“**To deny** people
their human rights
is to deny their
very **humanity.**”





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MORAL TRAINING
Teach sexual equality in schools, says SC



Ukraine talks
Zelenskyy's presence not important, says Trump



LIQUIDITY NEEDS
RBI to hold long-term USD-INR swap auction



DAYS OF CHAOS
A campus on the boil



RADICAL JOURNEY
Kerala enters maiden Ranji Trophy final

INSIDE



Stalin, Pradhan spar over NEP's language policy

NEW DELHI
Wanting to protect the State's interests, Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin criticised Union Minister Jitendra Pradhan for trying to 'impose Hindi' under the NEP. 2020 three-language policy, on Friday, as part of...

PM calls India an emerging global powerhouse

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called India an emerging global powerhouse that requires world-class leaders who can find solutions in complexities and global trends in every sector. ■ PAGE 3

Army to induct new air defence ammunition

NEW DELHI
Amid the exponential growth in sensitive technologies such as drones, loitering munitions, the Army's Air Defence is set to induct new fragmentation ammunition for its 1,300 air defence guns and develop new systems to tackle the evolving aerial threat. ■ PAGE 3

Netanyahu vows revenge after truce violation

JERUSALEM
Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu vowed revenge on Friday for what he described as a "crucial and malicious violation" of the ceasefire agreement after a body that Hamas released said it had not been that of an Israeli, as promised. ■ PAGE 12

USAID meddling charge 'deeply troubling': MEA

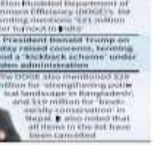
U.S. DOGE says it cancelled \$21 million in USAID funds for 'voter turnout' in India. MEA declines to comment on whether the govt. is reviewing USAID's ongoing partnerships with multiple Ministries; data available online indicate that USAID allocated about \$650 million to India since 2020, about one-fifth of its total funding to country since 2001

Sushant Halder
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday said it was investigating "very deeply troubling" allegations made by the U.S. government that its United States Agency for International Development (USAID) planned to spend \$21 million on funding "voter turnout" in India. This expenditure has been cancelled by the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) run by billionaire Elon Musk, in a decision shared in a post on X on Monday. In the Indian government's first reaction to the DOGE post, the Ministry of External Affairs said that different departments are "looking into" the information shared, but declined to comment on whether India would cancel a number of MoUs and agreements on USAID funding made with various Ministries over the past few years, many of which are still current. **Nervous concern** "We have seen information that has been put out by the U.S. administration regarding certain USAID activities and funding," MEA spokesperson Kamal Jain said. "These are obviously very deeply troubling. This has led to concerns about foreign interference in India's internal affairs," he added. The MEA also would not comment on a media report that suggested the information shared by DOGE was false, as the USAID funding had been sent to Bangladesh, not India. Mr. Jain said that "relevant departments and agencies are looking into this matter," and their reports were awaited.



Under a cloud



The Hindu Bureau

BJP, Cong. lock horns over report on USAID money

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday dismissed claims that the US administration had cancelled \$21 million in USAID funding for voter turnout in India. The BJP said that the US administration had cancelled \$21 million in USAID funding for voter turnout in India. The BJP said that the US administration had cancelled \$21 million in USAID funding for voter turnout in India.

In its post, the DOGE said that "U.S. taxpayer dollars were going to be spent on the following items, all of which have been cancelled," including \$400 million for the "Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening" (CEPPS), including \$234 million for "inclusive and participatory political process" in Moldova and \$23M for voter turnout in India. While the DOGE has not furnished any details of what this "voter turnout" funding was meant for, it named CEPPS, funded by USAID, as the donor agency to India. Both the USAID and CEPPS websites have been taken down since the DOGE ordered a "freeze" on USAID activities. Data still available online, however, indicate that USAID has allocated about \$650 million to India since

2020, about one-fifth of its total funding to India of \$2.86 billion since 2001. The MEA declined to respond to a specific question from *The Hindu* about whether these partnerships would now be reviewed, saying "it would be premature to make a public comment at this stage". As recently as September 2024, the Quad Summit included USAID's pledge of \$1.8 billion for the vaccine alliance, including HPV vaccines for young girls. In June 2024, USAID representatives were part of the ICTE Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology meeting chaired by External Affairs Secretary Ajit Dvaid and his then U.S. counterpart Jake Sullivan. USAID partnered with India as co-chair of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's Governing Council and Knowledge Committee from 2022 to 2024. In addition, a number of Ministries have signed MoUs with USAID in recent years, including the MEA's Development Partnership Administration for promoting "global stability and prosperity" in countries in Asia and Africa; the Education Ministry for funding IITs, particularly IIT Gandhinagar; the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare for agricultural training; the Department of Science and Technology under the Government-to-Government India-U.S. Science and Technology Forum; and the Ministry of Health for tuberculosis and HIV projects, among others. USAID is also partnering with the Prime Minister's 500 Cities National Urban Development Mission and Clean India Campaign to ban for water and sanitation projects.

Record attempt



Women rehearsing for a mega Jharkhand Bhoj dance event in Guaahati on Friday, in an attempt to set a world record. The main event on Monday is scheduled to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (1)

India, China worked hard to save G-20: Jaishankar

Sushant Halder
NEW DELHI

India and China have worked hard to preserve the G-20 organisation, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday during talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. In the half-hour-long meeting where they discussed bilateral developments, including the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Mr. Jaishankar has pointed out that both countries are "members of the G-20, SCO and BRICS", and had discussed "regional and global" issues. "We should recognise that in a polarised global situation, our two countries have worked hard to protect the G-20 as an institution. This is a testament to the importance of international cooperation," Mr. Jaishankar said. The reference to the LAC in his opening remarks of the India-China meeting.

India, Pakistan Army officials hold flag meeting in Pir Panjal Valley amid rising tension at LoC

POONJAL VALLEY

In the wake of growing skirmishes on the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region, the Indian and Pakistani Armies on Friday held a meeting in the Pir Panjal Valley's Poonch district in a bid to reduce the heightened tension sparked by recent skirmishes. An official said a High-Commander level flag meeting was held between 10.30 and 11 a.m. at the crossing point as Poonch. The meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, apparently discussed the recent tension on LoC and measures to reduce it. However, no joint statement



Leading heads: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Johannesburg. (1)

India, Pakistan Army officials hold flag meeting in Pir Panjal Valley amid rising tension at LoC

POUNJAL VALLEY

the wake of two fresh incidents of explosion and firing on the LoC in Poonch district in the past 24 hours. An explosion close to LoC was reported on Friday morning. However, the cause of the explosion was not disclosed immediately by the security officials. Since 2020, India and Pakistan have been by and large maintaining a ceasefire on the LoC. This year, both Indian and Pakistani armies have accused each other of violating the agreement and resorting to "unprovoked firing". The Indian Army on February 12 accused the Pakistani Army of resorting to "small arms firing" on an Indian post. According to the Pakistani newspaper, Dawn, two Pakistani soldiers were injured in "an unprovoked ceasefire violation by Indian troops in the Dera and Bugar sectors" on February 12. Besides the cross-border firing, the Jammu region witnessed over six skirmishes on the LoC in Jammu, Rajouri, and Poonch districts in the past two months, which included sniper attacks. Two soldiers, including a captain, were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) and at least two other soldiers were hit by snipers. It remains unclear if the Pakistani Army is involved in these attacks. Two infiltrators were also killed in this period in Poonch.

While South Africa is hosting the G-20 summit later this year, Brazil will host the BRICS summit, both of which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend. "As G-20 members, we also must recognise that multilateralism itself is deeply damaged," Mr. Jaishankar said at the G-20, referring to the United Nations. "More 'plurilateralism' is required to plug global deficits. International cooperation itself must be less opaque or unilateral. And the global agenda cannot be narrowed down to the interests of a few," he added. Next year's G-20 summit is due to be hosted by the U.S., and recent comments by the U.S. leadership have cast doubt over the organisation's future. Among other meetings with his counterparts, Mr. Jaishankar also took part at the India-Australia-France trilateral meeting in Johannesburg at the Foreign Minister level. "Our three countries have shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region and the potential to strengthen each other's position," he wrote on X.

USAID meddling charge 'deeply troubling': MEA

U.S. DOGE says it cancelled \$21 million in USAID funds for 'voter turnout' in India; MEA declines to comment on whether the govt. is reviewing USAID's ongoing partnerships with multiple Ministries; data available online indicate that USAID allocated about \$650 million to India since 2020, about one-fifth of its total funding to country since 2001

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday said it was investigating "very deeply troubling" allegations made by the U.S. government that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) planned to spend \$21 million on funding "voter turnout" in India.

This expenditure has been cancelled by the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) run by billionaire Elon Musk, in a decision shared in a post on X on Monday.

In the Indian government's first reaction to the DOGE post, the Ministry of External Affairs said that different departments are "looking into" the information shared, but declined to comment on whether India would cancel a number of MoUs and agreements on USAID funding



made with various Ministries over the past few years, many of which are still current.

Serious concerns

"We have seen information that has been put out by the U.S. administration regarding certain USAID activities and funding," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "These are obviously very deeply troubling. This has led to

concerns about foreign interference in India's internal affairs," he added.

The MEA also would not comment on a media report that suggested the information shared by DOGE was false, as the USAID funding had been sent to Bangladesh, not India.

Mr. Jaiswal said that "relevant departments and agencies are looking into this matter," and their reports were awaited.

BJP, Cong. lock horns over report on USAID money

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday dismissed claims that the \$21-million USAID fund was for Bangladesh and accused Congress of "anti-India" activities.

In its post, the DOGE said that "U.S. taxpayer dollars were going to be spent on the following items, all of which have been cancelled," including "\$486M to the 'Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening' [CEPPS], including \$22M for 'inclusive and participatory political process' in Moldova and \$21M for voter turnout in India".

While the DOGE has not

Congress claimed, that the BJP's narrative was aimed to distract from its own use of foreign funds to destabilise Congress governments.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 4

furnished any details of what this "voter turnout" funding was meant for, it named CEPPS, funded by USAID, as the donor agency to India.

Both the USAID and CEPPS websites have been taken down since the DOGE ordered a "freeze" on USAID activities.

Data still available online, however, indicate that USAID has allocated about \$650 million to India since

2020, about one-fifth of its total funding to India of \$2.86 billion since 2001.

The MEA declined to respond to a specific question from *The Hindu* about whether these partnerships would now be reviewed, saying "it would be premature to make a public comment at this stage".

As recently as September 2024, the Quad Summit included USAID's pledge of \$1.58 billion for the vaccine alliance, including HPV vaccines for young girls.

In June 2024, USAID representatives were part of the iCET (Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology) meeting chaired by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his then-U.S. counterpart Jake Sullivan. USAID partnered with India as co-chair of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's Governing Council and Exec-

utive Committee from 2022 to 2024.

In addition, a number of Ministries have signed MoUs with USAID in recent years, including the MEA's Development Partnership Administration for promoting "global stability and prosperity" in countries in Asia and Africa; the Education Ministry for funding IITs, particularly IIT Gandhinagar; the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare for agricultural training; the Department of Science and Technology under the Government-to-Government India-U.S. Science and Technology Forum; and the Ministry of Health for Tuberculosis and HIV projects, among others. USAID is also partnering with the Prime Minister's 500 Cities National Urban Development Mission and Clean India Campaign Urban for water and sanitation projects.

- **1 U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Cancels \$21M USAID Fund**
- (गणतन्त्र संघ के विकास के लिए DOGE द्वारा \$21 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का USAID फंड काट दिया गया है)
- **USAID (United States Agency for International Development) planned to allocate \$21 million for voter turnout in India, which has been cancelled by DOGE.**
- (गणतन्त्र संघ के विकास के लिए \$21 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का USAID फंड काट दिया गया है। DOGE द्वारा।)

- Elon Musk's **DOGE Department** labeled this as a “kickback scheme” under the Biden administration.
- **DOGE** **Department** **labeled** **this** **as** **a** **“kickback** **scheme”** **under** **the** **Biden** **administration.**
- **USAID** **also** **allocated** **funds** **to** **Bangladesh** **&** **Nepal** **for** **strengthening** **political** **landscapes** **and** **biodiversity** **conservation.**
- **USAID** **also** **allocated** **funds** **to** **Bangladesh** **&** **Nepal** **for** **strengthening** **political** **landscapes** **and** **biodiversity** **conservation.**

- **2** India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Response (क्रवघल इडश्रुट रव्रचग इह श्रु गवडा)
- MEA called these reports "**very deeply troubling**" and stated that different government departments are **reviewing the situation**.
- श्रुट रव्रचग इरु प्रहृर इडा दणघहश्रु इव श्रुगद ँ लवग्र ँ घ इणवे श्रु श्रुके ढघइवघहश्रुक्रणे सश्रु इह ढखलवे इ घ घणुणु

- MEA declined to comment on whether ongoing USAID partnerships with Indian ministries will be reviewed.
- प्र क्रमघल ढघडवघ USAID डड ढवळ रक्ररक्र ढरप्रत्रलडडह ढरप्रहलत्र ड घणहण स्ढ हघ श्रकट रक्रवचग षश्रीरहे डघण्ड ढरुष डवघ श्रु गत्रो
- \$650 million allocated by USAID to India since 2020—about one-fifth of the total U.S. funding since 2001.
- USAID ष 2020 ढक्रघल डड \$650 श्रक्रघगण ष अश्रुल श्रु ड णा नड 2001 ढडकच १ रक्रघडह श्रुतु हडरु डव चण क्रण हक्रत्रक्रश्रगण

- **4 Economic & Strategic Impact** (उत्पत्ति रूपांतरण प्रक्रिया)
- **A. Historical Perspective** (ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण)
- **USAID has been funding various development projects in India since 2001**, covering education, healthcare, infrastructure, and disaster resilience.
- **USAID 2001** कार्यक्रमों का प्रारंभ। स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, बुनियादी ढांचा, और आपदा प्रतिरोधकता के क्षेत्रों में।

- B. Political Implications (घरु षुहशुडु इ करुअइ)
- India-U.S. relations might experience tension over these allegations.
- सु ष घुहशुडु इवघु करुघलघु शुअघुडु वुअशुअरकुषुवअ षुडु षुहशुडु इ लुव षु
- Possibility of India reviewing foreign-funded NGOs and U.S. collaborations.
- करुघल वुअशुअरकुषुवअ लुव षुहशुडु लुव षुहशुडु NGOs उ घु शु अघुडु वुअशुअरकुषुवअ लुव षुहशुडु लुव षुहशुडु इ घुषुडु इह वुअशुअरकुषुवअ।

- C. Social & Diplomatic Concerns (द्विपक्षीयता इति चेत् अत्र अन्तर्देशीय शक्तिव्यवस्था)
- NGOs and civil society organizations dependent on U.S. aid may face scrutiny.
- गणतन्त्र प्रणालीमध्ये असे संघर्ष उत्पन्न होऊ शकतो की अनेक अन्तर्देशीय संस्था आणि व्यक्ती अमेरिकेच्या मदतीवर अवलंबून असून त्यांच्यावर अमेरिकेच्या सरकारच्या निगरानीचा विषय बनू शकतो.
- India's stance on foreign intervention in democratic processes may lead to stricter regulations on international funding.
- क्रमशः अधिक कडक नियम लागू करून अमेरिकेच्या मदतीवर अवलंबून असणाऱ्या संस्थांना अमेरिकेच्या मदतीवरून काढून टाकण्याचा प्रयत्न होऊ शकतो.

As of fiscal year 2023, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) allocated funds to various countries. Below is a table summarizing the top recipients:

Country	USAID Funding (in billions USD)	Percentage of Total USAID Funding
Ukraine	16.02	36.6%
Global Funds	6.06	13.8%
Ethiopia	1.68	3.8%
Jordan	1.20	2.7%
Afghanistan	1.09	2.5%
Somalia	1.05	2.4%

IN BRIEF

Five more cheetahs released into Kuno National Park

Five more cheetahs were released into the wild from their enclosures at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) on Friday, taking the total number of big cats set free to 12. According to an official statement from the KNP, Namibian cheetahs and her four 13-month-old cubs — two males and two females — were released in the Khajuri forest area of the National Park. There are now five adult cheetahs and seven cubs roaming freely at Kuno, while a total of 14 remain in their enclosures. On February 9, Chief Minister Mahua Patra had released five cheetahs — two adult females, Asha and Theora, and three cubs — into the wild.

Class 10 student shot dead by classmates in Bihar's Rohtas

A Class 10 student was killed and another critically injured when a fellow student fired at them in Saran in Bihar's Rohtas district, the police said. According to the police, during the Uchi and Hindi exam on Thursday, a student had asked his two classmates to help inside the examination hall, which they refused. As the two students were returning home in an overcrowded bus after the tests, their angry classmates opened fire at the bus, the police said. One of them, a resident of Sandaha High village, died due to the treatment he received, while the other is still undergoing treatment.

A record 6.5 lakh Olive Ridley turtles reach Odisha beach for mass nesting

Satyansuvar Barik
Bhubaneswar

Wildlife enthusiasts are thrilled as a record 6.5 lakh Olive Ridley turtles have arrived at the Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district of Odisha for mass nesting after a gap of two years. During 2021-22 and 2022-23, only sporadic nestings were noticed along Rushikulya. The last major congregation was recorded in 2022-23. Prasen Kumar Bis, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), said, "It is heartening to note that 6.5 lakh turtles have congregated at Rushikulya beach to lay eggs this year. This has not been the highest number of turtles arriving along Rushikulya beach," he said. "Following the usual pattern, the mass congrega-



Mass congregation Olive Ridley turtles are seen at the Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district of Odisha.

tion of Olive Ridley turtles at the Ghatu-matha mass nesting site along Calcutta's Kankarapada coast typically occurs about a week after nesting begins at Rushikulya. We hope Gahirmatha will witness a similar congregation this year as well," Mr. Bis said. Coast Guard help The Indian Coast Guard said its patrolling vessels were regularly monitoring the protected areas to prevent poaching or leisure activities. The Coast Guard, in coordination with the fisheries and forest departments, is conducting 'Operation Olive' from November 1 last year to protect the turtles. It will continue till March. "The operation had yielded positive results," the agency said.

Concept of sexual equality must be part of syllabus: SC

Moral and ethical training, etiquette must be made part of the school syllabus, Justice Nagarathna tells Union government, judge says parents must stop discrimination between daughter and son

Krishnakumar Rajan
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday told the Centre that the concept of sexual equality and moral and ethical training of how men should behave with women respectfully must become a part of school syllabus.

"Moral and ethical training, etiquette must be made part of the school syllabus. There must be a module to inculcate this in schools at a very early age for children... Now, schools do not have moral education. Certain schools have it, but the class is usually cancelled and some other subjects are taken," Justice R.V. Nagarathna, heading a three-judge constitutional bench, said.

"Tremendous strain" "Fifty per cent of our population is women, are living under tremendous strain and insecurity. There is a rise in the misogynistic and barbaric attitude towards women. Education must start at the smallest level to change the attitude towards women," Mr. Ponde submitted.



Justice R.V. Nagarathna

Parents are more focused on restraining their daughters and not their sons. The word 'discrimination' must go from our vocabulary," the judge said. The court was hearing a writ petition filed by petitioner-son and senior advocate Ashish Ponde, who said the root cause for the surge in rape cases and incidents of crimes against women was the lack of education and basic level about equality among the sexes.

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Justice Nagarathna agreed that many social circles still believed that a woman neither belonged to her parents' home nor the in-laws' home after marriage. Awareness that a woman was independent, her own person, and commanded respect and equal treatment in society must be inculcated in schools, the judge noted.

Justice Nagarathna said environmental science started being taught in schools as a subject on the orders of the Supreme Court. Likewise, moral education must become a part of the school syllabus. The need of identifying the real cause of this is the first requirement. One step would be to try to find measures to revolutionise the male mindset in the country amongst a large portion of the population by it so far to include the concept of sexual equality

in school syllabus. Mr. Ponde's plea also recommended laying advertisement and the visual media for conveying zero tolerance rape. "Awareness of the stringent laws against rape must be advertised in cinema halls and in the media. There is no point if the parents know these laws after he is sentenced to 20 years or is about to be hung to death," Mr. Ponde argued. He said knee-jerk reactions like making punishments harsher after a gruesome crime was hardly a solution.

Efforts to bridge the gap The petition said efforts have to be made to bridge the gap between the law and the understanding and dissemination of the law to the public. The need of identifying the real cause of this is the first requirement. One step would be to try to find measures to revolutionise the male mindset in the country amongst a large portion of the population by it so far to include the concept of sexual equality

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ED imposes penalty of ₹3 crore on BBC World Service India

Devesh K. Sarda
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The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday issued an adjudication order levying a penalty of over ₹3.44 crore on BBC World Service (WVS) India, along with a fine of ₹5,000 per day after October 15, 2022, till the date of compliance, for the alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) provisions, according to agency sources.

"Additionally, directors Giles Antony Hunt, Isha Shekhar Sinha, and Paul Michael Gibbons, have each been fined ₹14,82,000 for their roles in overseeing company operations during the period of contravention," said a source. The adjudication proceedings were initiated after a show-cause notice was issued on August 4, 2022, to BBC WS India. Its three directors, and the finance head,

The agency noted that on September 18, 2019, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade had issued a press note stipulating a 20% Foreign Direct Investment cap for digital media under the government approval route. However, the ED has

BBC allegedly did not reduce its FDI to 20%, violating the rules issued by the Government of India

alleged that BBC WS India — which is a 100% FDI company engaged in uploading/streaming news and current affairs through digital media — did not reduce its FDI to 20%, and kept it at 100% in "gross violation of regulations" issued by the Government of India.

In February 2023, the Income Tax Department surveyed the Delhi and Mumbai offices of the BBC on suspicion of "deliberate non-compliance with the transfer pricing rules and violation of provisions."

In December 2023, the BBC announced that it was restructuring its operations in India to comply with the country's foreign investment rules. "Four employees will leave the Indian-owned company, Global Newsroom, consisting the BBC's six Indian language services. The broadcaster's English language operations in India will remain with the BBC," said a BBC report.

SC issues notice on YouTuber's petition

The Hindu Bureau
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Maharashtra and Assam governments on a plea by YouTuber Ashish Chanchiani to quash or transfer to Mumbai a First Information Report (FIR) registered in Kazhwalah accusing him of promoting a tender has already been issued for 100-ton fragmentation ammunition for the existing vintage guns.

A Request For Proposal for a replacement gun was already out with smart ammunition. Trials were expected to commence in July, with a contract likely to be awarded by May-June 2024. Lt. Gen. D'Chunha said, adding that they were not looking to impart any assistance.

Amid growing threat from drones, QRSAM to strengthen its air defence

Dhishkar Das
New Delhi

Amid the exponential growth in disruptive technologies such as drones, loitering munitions, and counter-drone systems, the Army's Air Defence is gearing up to induct new fragmentation ammunition for its air defence guns — approximately 1,300 in service — while also pushing for new systems to counter the evolving aerial threat.

The Army is also set to sign a contract for the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system within the next four to five months. With a range of 30 km, the QRSAM, being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been a priority for the Army. "We are hoping to get the contract in place in



The Army is set to finalise a deal for the indigenously developed QRSAM system in a few months.

In addition, an enhanced version of the Akash missile, is set for high-altitude trials in the next 45 days. "Range revolution" The need to counter the recent growth in the use of drones, especially in the war between Israel, Gen. D'Chunha said they did not know the quantity and quality they were going to face. "We grow up in an environment where you could quantify air threat in terms of aircraft. Today the proliferation is becoming a challenge. And the quality of what they are going to carry is a bigger challenge," he said.

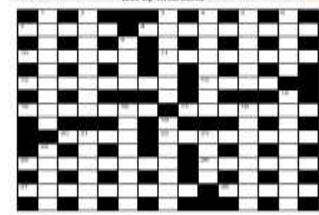
"We have a huge revolution in military affairs in warfare and disruptive technologies by drone, single drone, loiter munitions, smart drones. We have the whole capability maturing; we really got a disruptive warfare in de-

fence challenge," the top officer said. Lt. Gen. D'Chunha said air burst ammunition, laser and microwave weapons, and smart ammunition were in various stages of procurement. While high-end air defence systems were being upgraded, the equipment including L-70 and Su-23 air defence guns with air burst ammunition was a priority, he said.

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THE CROSSWORD 14415



To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at <https://www.thehindu.com/crossword>

- 12 Royal daughter's frequent picnic features in media (8)
- 13 Clash leads to sanctions on government (4)
- 15 Hotel had clam over two days (7)
- 17 Taking first week off and relaxing (7)
- 18 Attracting attention by making a point across southern society (9)
- 22 Unacceptable but engaged? (8)
- 25 Thomas's pain initially to be relieved next day (8)
- 26 Is taking money aims to deliver insights (6)
- 27 Banter about good written ornaments (6)
- 28 Charges for clothing accessories (5)

- Down
- 1 Bright and cool far collected by indulger essentially (9)
- 2 Quit and joined again? (8)
- 3 Doctor's depression is leading to talks (7)
- 4 Indication that culture is not even (4)
- 5 Gains attention at school (9)
- 6 Bank lacks ten new individuals completely (8)
- 8 Most of the royals had cow (8)
- 9 Artist's pains (7)
- 10 Coils served around one gathering (8)
- 11 Number mentioned by their disinterested youngsters, perhaps (8)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



FAITH

Overcoming attachment key

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna emphasises the importance of detachment, mentioning it over 80 times. This repetition underscores the significance of practising detachment in our daily lives, said Swami Mitranandini. Attachment, Krishna teaches us, gives rise to fear, a pervasive human emotion. Very rarely do we come across individuals being truly fearless. The ultimate fear is the fear of death, which can snatch away everything we possess in an instant. This fear is deeply ingrained, making it challenging to remember the divine at the moment of death. Krishna offers a profound solution in Chapter VIII of the Gita: If one contemplates the Lord at the moment of death, they will attain liberation and become immortal. He says, *Anihrasva va momenta samratmanas, kuru-ran yaha prayati sa madbhavanti, yam natyatra samasah* (G.VIII, verse 9). (And whosoever, leaving the body, goes forth contemplating Me alone, at the time of his death, he attains My being; there is no doubt about this.) The last thought at the moment of death determines our next destination, if our final thought is of the Lord, we will be drawn towards the divine. Conversely, if our thoughts are worldly, we will be bound to the cycle of birth and death. The direction of our thoughts at the moment of death is crucial, much like the trajectory of a bullet is determined by the direction of the gun barrel. Regular spiritual practice and prioritising the Lord can help us overcome attachment and remember the divine at the moment of death. By cultivating detachment and focusing on the Lord, we can transcend fear and attain liberation. As Krishna assures us, there is no doubt about His truth.

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Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

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Supreme Court Judge

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The court was hearing a writ petition filed by petitioner-in-person and senior advocate Aabad Ponda, who said the root cause for the surge in rape cases and incidents of crimes against women was the lack of education at the basic level about equality among the sexes.

'Tremendous strain'

"Fifty per cent of our population, women, are living under tremendous strain and insecurity. There is a rise in the misogynistic and barbaric attitude towards women. Education must start at the smallest level to change the attitude towards women," Mr. Ponda submitted.

Justice Nagarathna agreed that many social circles still believed that a woman neither belonged to her parents' home nor the in-laws' home after marriage.

Awareness that a woman was independent, her own person, and commanded respect and equal treatment in society must be inculcated in society, the judge noted.

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Mr. Ponda's plea also recommended using advertisements and the visual media for conveying zero tolerance to rape.

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Efforts to bridge the gap

The petition said efforts have to be made to bridge the gap between the law and the understanding and dissemination of the law to the public.

"The need of identifying the real cause of this crime is the first requirement. Once this is done, the next step would be to try to find measures to revolutionise the male mindset in the country amongst a large portion of the populace and instill in them the fear of the law," it said.

- **1 Supreme Court's Ruling (द्विहस्र इङ्गल इव श्रु र्गइ)**
- The Supreme Court of India directed the Union Government to make the concept of sexual equality, moral and ethical training a part of the school syllabus.
- द्विहस्र इङ्गल इङ्गल द्वघइवघ इङ्गल श्रु वट श्रु गवश्रु गल द्वखवष ल्वर प्श्रुड् ङ घ द्वश्रुश्रुड् श्रु ल्व इङ्गल वश्रुह द्ववट्टु ख इव श्रुष र्गव न्वड्।
- Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice C.S. Sharma stressed the importance of educating children from an early age on respecting women.
- व्रिगरवश्रु हखत्रहख प्वणघ श्रु ङ घ व्रिगरवश्रु द्वहखइदु ख टखवषु खश्रुचवइत्र इडु श्रुल द्व व्वष इह श्रु ल्व द्दुष द्वुदुदुदुघ न्दुघश्रु गेव।

- **2 Parents' Role & Social Bias** (सखल्वघशहल्व इह कलमवडुव ङ घ ड्वरखरश ड हलमकण्डा)
- Justice Nagarathna highlighted the existing gender discrimination at home, stating that parents focus more on restricting daughters rather than sons.
- विग्रखसखष्वणघाष्व ङडणवशु सखल्वघशहल्व [डडडडह १ हल्व [डड गडडहघ १श१ ड श गडडर घट लडणन नडड ड्वरखरश ड कडु कवत्रे डडड टटकल्वे पण
- She emphasized that the word 'discrimination' must be removed from society's vocabulary.
- डडडडणवशु थकडु कवत्रथ ट ड डडड ड्वरखरन डड ट डडडडट डडणव डडव ड्वरशणड।

- **3 Link Between Lack of Education & Rising Crimes**
- The court was hearing a writ petition filed by advocate Abad Ponda, which pointed out that lack of education on gender equality is a major reason for the rise in crimes against women.
- 50% of the population (women) lives under constant fear and insecurity, which has led to a rise in misogynistic attitudes and barbaric behavior.
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- **4 Solutions Proposed (४ बरअल द्रखरश्रवण इ)**
- **A. Educational Reforms (श्रु ल्र रकुदश्रवघइ)**
- Moral education should be reinstated in schools as a compulsory subject, just like environmental science.
- **श्रु ल्र इइ Vलइरकुदश्रवघइ ग इड च ह रकुद प्रवग्र न्रवष्व द्रश्रगड्**
न्रदइ ह गकुदश्रवघर् श्रु ल्र इइ ह प्रवग्र न्रल्र प्ग
- Schools should include **modules on gender sensitivity and respect for women** at an early age.
- **Vलइरकुदश्रवघइ bघ हघ श्रु ल्र द्रकुद ष ट्हुचल्र ङ घ रकुदश्रवघइ इड श्रु ल्र द्रवष्व**
हघ ष श्रु ल्र हवेदुद्व ख प्गुद द्रश्रगड्।

- B. Public Awareness & Media (न ष घन्रण च इ ल्व ङ घ रक्षग्रवडा
- Advertisements, visual media, and cinema halls should be used to spread awareness about strict laws against rape.
- अत्रिह षडा « \$ रक्षग्रव ङ घ अठ षरवणष्य इड रवेव ढड नडवषडाडड वरररु न्रण च इ ल्व प्रवह द्रशणड ।
- Awareness campaigns must focus on teaching society that women are independent individuals and deserve equal rights.
- न्रण च इ ल्व शक्रग्रवडाडव षड ढरवण इडा गणशु ढवषव पडाव द्रशणड शु रशचवडाडड लड स्र पण ङ घ ढरवण शश इवघ इह णड व्रघ पण

- **1 Historical Aspect (चरित्रात्मक इतिहास)**
- Gender discrimination has been deeply rooted in Indian society for centuries.
- कानून और सामाजिक सुधारों, जिसमें सती और बाल विवाह के अन्तर्भाव शामिल हैं, ने इन मुद्दों को संबोधित करने का प्रयास किया है।
- The legal and social reforms, including the abolition of Sati and child marriage, have attempted to address these issues.
- इन मुद्दों को संबोधित करने के लिए कानून और सामाजिक सुधारों, जिसमें सती और बाल विवाह के अन्तर्भाव शामिल हैं, का प्रयास किया गया है।



SANYA MALHOTRA

IN

Mrs.

THE
PHILOX



IN BRIEF

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Class 10 student shot dead by classmates in Bihar's Rohtas

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A record 6.5 lakh Olive Ridley turtles reach Odisha beach for mass nesting

Satyajouadar Barik
Bhubaneswar

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Mass congregations: Olive Ridley turtles are seen at the Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district of Odisha.

the protected area to prevent human interference — either from seaweed poaching or leisure activities. The Coast Guard, in coordination with the fisheries and forest departments, is conducting 'Operation Olive' from November 1 last year to this year as well," Mr. Jha said.

Coast Guard help: The Indian Coast Guard said its patrolling vessels were regularly monitoring

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The agency noted that on September 19, 2024, the Enforcement Directorate of Industry and Internal Trade had issued a press note stipulating a 20% foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap for digital media under the government approval route. However, the ED had

BBC allegedly did not reduce its FDI to 20%, violating the rules issued by the government of India

alleged that BBC WS India — which is a 100% FDI company engaged in uploading/streaming news and current affairs through digital media — did not reduce its FDI to 20%, and kept it at 100% in gross violation of regulations issued by the government of India. In February 2023, the Income Tax Department surveyed the Delhi and Mumbai offices of the BBC on suspicion of deliberate non-compliance with the transfer pricing rules and vent diversion of profits". In December 2023, the BBC announced that it was restructuring its operations in India to comply with the country's foreign investment rules. "Four employees were let go by BBC to form a wholly Indian-owned company, Collective Resources, containing the BBC's six Indian language services. The broadcaster's English language newsgathering operation in India will remain with the BBC," said a BBC report.

SC issues notice on YouTuber's petition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Maharashtra and Assam governments on a plea by YouTuber Ashish Chanchandani to quash or transfer to Mumbai a First Information Report (FIR) registered in Goa with an accused named him for promoting obscenity in the online show *India's Got Latent*.

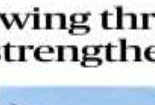
A Bench of Justices Ravi Kumar and R. Gopalakrishnan Singh issued a notice and tagged Mr. Chanchandani's plea with influencer Ranveer Allahbadia's pending petition. On February 18, the top court had provisioned Mr. Allahbadia's plea against his controversial remarks about parents and men during the online show after lambasting him for his "filthy language" and "dirty mind".

Amid growing threat from drones, Army to strengthen its air defence

Dhanraj Paul
NEW DELHI

Amid the exponential growth in disruptive technologies such as drones, loitering munitions, and counter-drone systems, the Army's Air Defence is gearing up to induct new fragmentation ammunition for its air defence guns approximately 1,300 in service — while also pushing for new systems to tackle the evolving aerial threat.

The Army is also set to finalise a contract for the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system within the next four to five months. With a range of 30 km, the QRSAM, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been a priority for the Army. "We are hoping to get the contract in place in



The Army is set to finalise a pact for the indigenously developed QRSAM system in a few months.

addition, an enhanced version of the Akash missile, is set for high-altitude trials in the next six months. "A huge revolution" — Retrospectively, the recent growth in the use of drones, especially in the war in Ukraine, Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said they were going to "give us a new environment where you could quantify an threat in terms of cost. Today the quantification is becoming a challenge. And the quality of what this is going to carry is a bigger challenge," he said.

"We have a huge revolution in military affairs in which devices and technologies by drones, loitering munitions, smart drones, smart drones. We have the whole capability maturing; we really got a disruptive warfare air de-



The Army is set to finalise a pact for the indigenously developed QRSAM system in a few months.

force challenge," the top officer said. Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said air burst ammunition, laser and microwave weapons, and smart ammunition were in various stages of procurement. While high-end air defence systems were being upgraded, equipping existing L-70 and 20-25 air defence guns with air burst ammunition was a priority, he said.

The Army has already been floated for 30mm fragmentation ammunition for the existing vintage guns. A Request For Proposal for a 40mm gun to replace the L-70 and 20-25 was already out for 200 guns along with smart ammunition. Trials were expected to commence in July with a contract likely to be awarded by May-June 2026. Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said, adding that they were not looking to import any guns.

FAITH

Overcoming attachment key

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna emphasises the importance of detachment, mentioning it over 80 times. This reiterate underscores the significance of prioritising detachment in our daily lives, said Swami Mitransandip. Attachment, Krishna teaches us, gives rise to fear, a pervasive human emotion. Very rarely do we come across individuals being truly fearless. The ultimate fear is the fear of death, which can snatch away everything we possess in an instant. This fear is deeply ingrained, making it challenging to remember the divine at the moment of death. Krishna offers a profound solution in Chapter VIII of the Gita: If one remembers the Lord at the moment of death, they will attain liberation and become immortal. He says, "Atmakale ca manasa smaranamuktivo, kalavaran yath prapnoti sa madbhawan, yath natayatra sam- vish- tyati, vasa- ty. (And whoever, leaving the body, goes forth remembering Me alone, at the time of his death, he attains My being; there is no doubt about this). The last thought at the moment of death determines one's next destination. If our final thought is of the Lord, we will be drawn towards the divine. Conversely, if our thoughts are worldly, we will be bound to the cycle of birth and death. The direction of our thoughts at the moment of death is crucial, much like the trajectory of a bullet is determined by the direction of the gun barrel. Regular spiritual practices and prioritising the Lord can help us overcome attachment and remember the divine at the moment of death. By cultivating detachment and focusing on the Lord, we can transcend fear and attain liberation. As Krishna assures us, there is no doubt about this truth.

CROSSWORD 14415 (set by Afrozak)
Across:
7. Bedo meshwork covering vaults (5)
8. Officer's lady being fearless as usual (8)
10. Cities served around one harbour (6)
11. Number mentioned by their disheartened youngster, perhaps (8)
Down:
12. Royal daughter's frequent picnic features in media (8)
13. Clash leads to sanctions on government (4)
14. Hotels had chess over two days (7)
15. Taking first week off and relaxing (7)
16. Attracting attention by making a point across southern society (6)
17. Unavoidable but engendered (8)
18. Thomas's gaze initially to be relieved next day (8)
19. Is taking month-time to deliver thoughts (3)
20. Banter about good unknown ornaments (8)
21. Charges for clothing accessories (5)
Down:
1. Bright and cool fur collected by indulger essentially (9)
2. Quin and joined again? (8)
3. Doctor's depression is leading to talks (7)
4. Likely to track soldiers or sure? (8)
5. Parting found in chest's box (6)
6. Nasty is fast (5)
9. Indication that culture is not even (4)
14. Gains attention at school (9)
16. Sank backs ten new individuals completely (8)
18. Most of the royals had crew (8)
19. Artist's pants (7)
21. Kept united, arranged (8)
22. Earth has succeeded fading fuel (4)
23. Scatting the head, repairs getting suits (5)

SUDOKU
8 5 3 1 5 9
6 1 4 7 2 3
7 9 2 5 3 7
3 1 8 5 3 1
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★
SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

Amid growing threat from drones, Army to strengthen its air defence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Amid the exponential growth in disruptive technologies such as drones, loitering munitions, and counter-drone systems, the Army's Air Defence is gearing up to induct new fragmentation ammunition for its air defence guns – approximately 1,300 in service – while also pushing for new systems to tackle the evolving aerial threat.

The Army is also set to finalise a contract for the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system within the next four to five months.

With a range of 30 km, the QRSAM, being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been a priority for the Army. "We are hoping to get the contract in place in



The Army is set to finalise a pact for the indigenously developed QRSAM system in a few months.

four to five months. DRDO said that once the contract is done, First of Prototype Model (FoPM) will be there in 12 months because we already trial-evaluated the equipment. So, in 18 months they would be able to produce... and eventually have in both wheeled and tracked configurations subsequently," Director-General of Army Air Defence (AAD) Lt. Gen. Sumner Ivan D'Cunha said on Friday.

In addition, an enhanced version of the Akash missile, is set for high-altitude trials in the next 45 days.

'Huge revolution'

Referring to the recent growth in the use of drones, especially in the war in Ukraine, Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said they did not know the quantity and quality they were going to face. "We grew up in an environment where you could quantify air threat in terms of aircraft. Today the quantification is becoming a challenge. And the quality of what this is going to carry is a bigger challenge," he said.

"We have a huge revolution in military affairs in warfare and disruptive technologies by drones, single drones, loiter munitions, smart drones. We have the whole capability manifesting; we really got a disruptive warfare air de-

fence challenge," the top officer said.

Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said air burst ammunition, laser and microwave weapons, and smart ammunition were in various stages of procurement. While high-end air defence systems were being upgraded, equipping existing L-70 and Zu-23 air defence guns with air burst ammunition was a priority, he said.

A tender has already been floated for 30mm fragmentation ammunition for the existing vintage guns.

A Request For Proposal for a successor gun to replace the L70 and Zu-23 was already out for 220 guns along with smart ammunition. Trials were expected to commence in July, with a contract likely to be awarded by May-June 2026, Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said, adding that they were not looking to import any guns.

- **1 Background & Emerging Threats** (हॉक क्रॉसवॉर ङ घ क्षत्रघोष लघुका)
- The Indian Army's Air Defence is strengthening its capabilities to tackle disruptive technologies such as drones, loitering munitions, and counter-drone systems.
- क्रवधल्लग द्दुष्व इह अक्रवधल्लर ब्रवचह म्मम् । चक्रवधल्लर म्मम् द्दुष्व इह ङ घ इवक्षत्रघोषमम्मम् ब्रवचगुम्मम् लड् षह इड्डमदुश्र ह ब षड् इड् श्रड् १ ह षह ल्प्रल्लर इड्डम् । प्रव घणहणम्
- Approximately 1,300 air defence guns are currently in service, and the Army is pushing for newer and more advanced systems.
- चण क्रण 1०300 अक्रवधल्लर ल्प्रल्लर रकड्डव्ररकणम् । ङ घ द्दुष्व ष ड् ङ घ १श्रड् इ क्षत्र श्रु अर चत्र घणहणम्

- A. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) System (दुप्रघल
ब्रम्हर् गत्र ढ ल्प्राघद्धघणत्रश्रवढ्वरुच ब्रव्रचहडा
- The Army is set to finalize a contract for the indigenous QRSAM system within the next 4-5 months.
- क्रवघल्हग ढड्वर १ ण चड4घ5 खणहड्मरकडुढह फ्र घड् ढ इडुख ब्रव्रचह इव
१ श्रम्र ह्येवडुघण्डु अत्रचह प्म
- Developed by DRDO, this system has a 30 km range and has already undergone trials.
- म्हुष घम्हडु व्रघत्रश्रडुश्रढु ल गण ब्रव्रचह 30 श्रडुखह इह ढुहखत्रलडु इवख इघ
ढुडु लह प्मः घ स्टु इवे हणचडुणहहघहल्लु श्रु गत्रन्व ढुडुव प्म

- Production could begin in the next 12-18 months in both wheeled and tracked configurations.
- 12-18 महीने में उत्पादन शुरू हो सकता है। पहला संस्करण 12-18 महीने में शुरू हो सकता है।
- B. Akash Missile System (एक प्रकार का अखिश मिसाइल प्रणाली)
- An enhanced version of the Akash missile is set for high-altitude trials in the next 45 days.
- एक प्रकार का अखिश मिसाइल प्रणाली के लिए उच्च-ऊँचाई पर 45 दिनों में परीक्षण शुरू हो सकता है।

- **3 Military & Technological Revolution** (द्वितीय युद्ध लड़ाई एवं उड़ान यानों का विकास)
- The recent war in Ukraine has highlighted the growing threat from drones and disruptive technologies.
- Lt. Gen. D'Cunha emphasized the difficulty in quantifying modern air threats, especially with drones.
- Smart ammunition, laser and microwave weapons are under various stages of procurement.
- The Indian Air Force is procuring various modern weapons and technologies to enhance its capabilities.

Air Defense System Comparison



	Country	Primary Air Defense	Missile Interception I	Radar Coverage
1	India	S-400, Akash, Barak-8, Spyder, PAD/AAD	400	600
2	USA	THAAD, Patriot PAC-3, Aegis BMD, Iron Dome	250	1000
3	Russia	S-400, S-500, Pantsir-S1, Tor-M2	600	1200

PARIS
Macron's message to Trump: 'You can't be weak in the face of Putin'



French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that he intends to tell U.S. counterpart Donald Trump that it is in the joint interest of Americans and Europeans out to "be weak" in the face of Russian leader Vladimir Putin and U.S.-led negotiations to end the nearly three-year war in Ukraine.

NAIROBI
Kenyan police officers plead not guilty of murdering Indians, driver



Thirteen Kenyan security officers denied murdering two Indian men and their driver in 2022. The victims - Mohamed Zaid Sami Kidwai, Zulfikar Ahmed Khan, and Nisimarama Meenai Mwangi - were allegedly killed weeks before the election. The accused, including a national intelligence officer, await a March 30 trial ruling.

WASHINGTON
Trump's govt. cancels protection for 5,000,000 Haitian migrants



The Trump administration cancelled an extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 5,00,000 Haitians, originally set to last until February 2026. The new expiration date is August 3, 2028. Homeland Security secretary Kristi Noem said this decision returns TPS to its original "temporary" status.

MOSCOW
U.S. trying to drive wedge between Russia and China, Belarus leader



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said on Friday the U.S. is attempting to create discord between Russia and China. He noted that any resolution to the Ukraine conflict would yield mixed outcomes for Belarus, which has faced heavy Western sanctions due to its support for Russia's military actions.

Trump says Zelensky's presence 'not important' in talks to end war

U.S. President claims Ukraine leader has been involved in talks for 3 years without producing results. Rubio rejects claims that the Trump administration has capitulated to Russia, noting the need to determine if Moscow is 'serious' about peace

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday said he does not consider it essential for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to be present at negotiations aimed at ending Russia's war in Ukraine. "I don't think he's very important to be in meetings," Mr. Trump said in an audio interview with Fox News. "He's been there for three years. He makes it very hard to make deals. Later, the U.S. President added that Ukrainian leader "don't have any cards, but they play it tough. But we're not going to let this continue." Mr. Trump told a gathering of U.S. govern-



Critical questions Donald Trump speaks at the Governors Working Session in the State Dining Room of White House on Friday.

ment Vladimir Putin, and I've had not such good talks with Ukraine. They don't have any cards, but they play it tough. But we're not going to let this continue." Mr. Trump told a gathering of U.S. govern-

ending the Ukraine war begins, saying Washington first wants to see whether Moscow was "serious." Russia and the United States agreed to establish teams to negotiate ending the war at talks in Riyadh earlier this week. Neither Ukraine nor its European allies were invited.

Mr. Trump "seems this war with Ukraine to end. And he wants to know: Are the Russians serious about ending the war, or not serious about ending the war?" Mr. Rubio said in an interview on Thursday posted on X.

"The only way is to test them, to basically engage them and say, okay, are you serious about ending the war, and if so, what are your demands," Mr. Rubio said.

Despite providing essential funding and arms to Ukraine, Mr. Trump's outreach to Moscow has unsettled Kyiv and its European allies, who fear unfavourable terms. Mr. Rubio rejected claims that the U.S. had admitted Ukraine and its allies were invited.

Meanwhile, Kyiv and Washington are engaged in talks over a deal to hand the U.S. preferential access to Ukraine's mineral deposits, a source in Kyiv said on Friday - despite a dramatic spat between Volodymyr Zelensky and Mr. Trump.

Netanyahu vows revenge after ' Hamas truce violation'

Associated Press

TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed revenge on Friday for what he described as a "cruel and malicious violation" of the ceasefire agreement after a body that Hamas released as part of the deal was found to not be that of an Israeli mother of two young boys, as the militants had promised. The incident raised questions about the future of the fragile ceasefire deal, which has passed over 18 months of work and is due to see its first phase end in early March. But in the short term, these new allegations, the deal's next step - the release of six living hostages on Saturday - would proceed as planned. In a statement on Friday, Hamas said it would "conduct a thorough re-



Separate media reports said that a Hamas team passing four released bodies of hostages pass through Tel Aviv. GETTY IMAGES

view" of the information regarding the body.

It suggested a possible mix-up of remains might have occurred due to Israel's bombing of the area where the Israeli hostages were being held because other Palestinians were also present. Hamas added that it had "no intention of retaining any bodies".

Hamas turned over four bodies on Thursday as part of the ceasefire. They were supposed to have been

those of Shiri Bibas and her two young sons, Efir and Ariel Bibas, and of Galeb Litalias, who was 83 when he was abducted during the Hamas attack that started the war on October 7, 2023. Israeli authorities said that while the remains of the two boys and Litalias were positively identified, the fourth body was found to not be that of Shiri Bibas, but that of an unidentified woman from Gaza.

United stance



People gather in Jeddah on Friday to protest against President Prabowo Subianto's government, demanding a review of budget cuts and the free nutritious meal programme for schools, among other issues, on Friday.

Netanyahu visits West Bank camp, tells Army to step up raids after blasts

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

JERUSALEM (AP) -

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the Tulkerem refugee camp in the northern West Bank on Friday, ordering the Army to intensify a month-old offensive there after three bombs exploded on Israeli buses, his office said.

"Netanyahu visited a short while ago Tulkerem refugee camp and ordered more 'operational activity' in the area, his office said, after the rare visit to the occupied Palestinian territory.

Days after a ceasefire took effect in Gaza, Israel launched a large-scale military operation in the north of the West Bank that it dubbed "Iron Wall".



Residents walk along a street destroyed by Israeli bulldozers in a refugee camp for Palestinian refugees in occupied West Bank.

of Jenin, Tulkerem and Tuba, the operation has killed at least 40 Palestinians and injured at least 40,000, according to the UN.

"Important work" is being done, Netanyahu said. The Army was doing "very important work against Hamas and other terrorist organisations' desire to harm us".

His visit to Tulkerem comes after three buses exploded in the central Israeli city of Bat Yam late on Thursday without causing any injuries.

Ministry condemns

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry condemned Mr. Netanyahu's visit to a West Bank refugee camp on Friday, accusing him of "stirring" the area amid an intense military operation in the northern occupied West Bank.

In a statement, the Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ministry criticised the "stirring by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu... into the northern occupied West Bank refugee camp of Tulkerem", alleging he and a group of soldiers "broke into a house" to use as a command centre.

Senate confirms Kash Patel as FBI director

PRIMA TRUST OF INDIA NEW YORK

New FBI Director Kash Patel has sworn to "rebuild" trust in the bureau as he becomes the first Indian American to lead the country's premier law enforcement agency after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate.



Interim secretary from Democrats in Capitol Hill who have worried that Mr. Patel is poised to use the position to seek retribution against Mr. Trump's perceived political enemies.

Mini-Arab summit seeks united position on Gaza crisis

Khalid bin Sultan BIN SAUDI

In a bid to convey a united position regarding the Trump administration's plans for Gaza, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Friday headed the leaders of the six Gulf Cooperation Council member states and Jordan and Egypt. Riyadh has been decked up with Saudi flags on the occasion of the Saudi Founding Day that will be marked on February 22 and the summit is being presented as a sign of carrying forward Saudi commitment to peace and regional stability.

The meeting was announced by Prince Al Saud, head of the private office of the Crown Prince. "A friendly, fraternal meeting in Riyadh brings together His Highness Crown Prince and Their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, His Majesty the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and His Excellency, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt," said Mr. Al Saud.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammed bin Salman

Foreign Minister Faisal bin Al-Fayez on Thursday briefed his counterparts of the 120 countries regarding the crisis. The summit, which Riyadh launched in consultation with other Arab countries, seeks to put out his statement on solving the Gaza crisis through relocation of the Palestinian population to neighbouring states. Mr. Faisal met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Assistant Secretary General of Foreign Secretary David Lammy, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noel Barrot. He also met Jordanian Foreign Minister A. Jalalhankar during the summit. Other countries too were doing similar outreach including the Emir of Qatar, Tammim bin Hamad, who visited the United Arab Emirates before flying into Riyadh for Friday's discussion.

Earlier, the official Saudi press Agency had announced that the "informal brotherly gathering" was aimed at "enhancing cooperation and coordination among the GCC states (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the League of Arab States). Crown Prince Mohammed came out softly with a statement, reiterating the "two-state" solution for resolving the Palestinian crisis. President Trump called for a "take over" of the Gaza Strip. Earlier, King Abdullah of Jordan, who met President Trump on February 11, also sent "urgent message" to the

White House about the regional implications of annexing Gaza Strip. On February 19, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef met King Abdullah to brief the Jordanian side about the Saudi initiative on Gaza and the Ukraine crisis. Amman's official news outlet Jordan News Agency reported that during the discussion with the Saudi team, King Abdullah rejected President Trump's proposal to "own" Gaza Strip which would lead to displacement of Palestinian from Gaza Strip and possibly also from West Bank.

Senate confirms Kash Patel as FBI director

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK

New FBI director Kash Patel has vowed to “rebuild” trust in the bureau as he becomes the first Indian-American to lead the country’s premier law enforcement agency after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The Republican-led Senate narrowly voted to confirm 44-year-old Patel on Thursday. The Senate voted 51 to 49 to confirm Mr. Patel.

The nomination faced



Kash Patel

intense scrutiny from Democrats on Capitol Hill who have warned that Mr. Patel is poised to use the position to seek retribution against Mr. Trump’s perceived political enemies.

MORE ABOUT THE NEW FBI DIRECTOR

- Patel, 44, who was approved on a 51-49 mostly party line vote, takes over the FBI at a turbulent time
- The bureau is a key part of Trump’s government reform agenda, after he was investigated by its agents in two cases

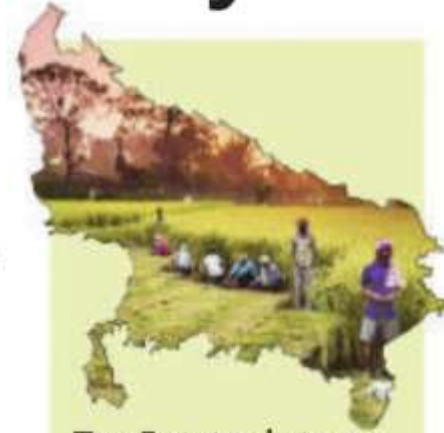
- Patel sought to distance himself from past controversies during his Senate hearing. Patel denied he has an enemies list, even though he identified dozens of people in his book that he claimed were part of the deep state

- Patel overcame intense opposition during his confirmation process, especially from Democrats who argued he isn’t qualified to lead FBI with 38,000 employees

- In his book *Government Gangsters*, which Trump called a ‘blueprint to take back the WH,’ Patel endorsed calls to fire govt staff who undermine the president’s agenda

UP tops in agri growth: Study

UTTAR PRADESH, MADHYA Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been ranked as top five states amongst 20 states in terms of performance in the agricultural sector during FY22-FY23 despite their relatively lower ranks in economic indicators according to study by PHDCCI stated, reports **Sandip Das**. "While some states excel in agricultural performance, their overall economic growth remains modest," a report titled 'India's agricultural transformation: from food scarcity to surplus, stated'. This highlights an opportunity to better leverage the



Top 5 states in terms of ranking of agri vs economic indicators

● Agri ● Economic

15	20	19	8	11
1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Telangana	Andhra Pradesh

Source: PHDCCI

performance in agriculture to drive broader economic development, according to the report.



Electronic Personnel License (EPL)

- 
- India launched the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for pilots, becoming the second country after China to implement digital pilot licenses.
 - This initiative aligns with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and supports India's Digital India and Ease of Doing Business initiatives.
- 





- **About Electronic Personnel License (EPL):**

- **What is EPL?**

- A digital license for pilots, replacing traditional physical licenses, accessible via the eGCA Mobile Application.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.


- **Global Record:** India is the second country globally, after China, to implement digital pilot licenses.

- **License Issuing Authority:** Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).







- **Key Features:**

- **Digital Format:** Replaces physical smart card licenses, reducing delays and environmental impact.
 - **Accessibility:** Available on the eGCA Mobile Application for real-time access.
 - **Security:** Enhances transparency and security in licensing processes.
 - **Global Employability:** Improves pilots' global employability by ensuring real-time credential verification.
- 



Article 101(4)

- 
- Amritpal, who faces charges under the stringent National Security Act, might lose his MP seat under **Article 101(4)**.
 - **About**
 - **Article 101(4) of the Indian Constitution** deals with the disqualification of a Member of Parliament (MP) due to their absence from the sessions of Parliament.
- 

Disqualification for Absence:

MPs can be disqualified if they are absent from all meetings of either the Lok Sabha (House of the People) or Rajya Sabha (Council of States) for a period of 60 days without seeking permission from the House.

- Effectively, the period of absence is only calculated based on the actual sittings of Parliament.

Permission: The absence must be without permission from the respective House of Parliament. If the MP obtains permission, the disqualification does not apply.

This provision ensures that MPs actively participate in legislative proceedings and remain accountable to the people they represent.



Government to Lease Out 10 Airports via PPP Model

- The Union government is consulting on leasing out more than 10 airports across the country under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.
 - The government is leasing out the airports to improve their management by utilising private sector efficiency and investment.



Significance of the PPP Model

Technology Transfer: It facilitates the adoption of modern technology and global best practices.

Reduces Fiscal Burden: The model lessens the financial pressure on governments by involving private capital.

Improves Service Efficiency: Private sector expertise brings efficiency, innovation, and quality control.

Concerns with PPP Model

Regulatory Uncertainty: Frequent policy changes and bureaucratic hurdles deter private investment.

Financial Viability Issues: Long gestation periods and cost overruns pose financial risks.

Risk Allocation Disputes: Poorly structured contracts lead to conflicts between private players and the government.

Delays in Project Execution: Land acquisition issues, environmental clearances, and slow decision-making delay projects.



10 MCQ

- Which U.S. department recently canceled the \$21 million USAID fund meant for voter turnout in India?
- कूट ढ १ रकडडह अक्रण डणच णररकक्रघल रकमलवलर क्रणहवलर डड अड डे21 अक्रण डे USAID अक्रण घडे डघ वहे
- A. Department of State / अड अक्रण
- B. Department of Defense / डलर अक्रण
- C. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) / डघडवघह वलर अक्रण जDOGE)
- D. Federal Election Commission / डलर डरर ड गड

- What was India's Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) response to the USAID funding cancellation?
- कंत्रघर डडशरुड ररुवचग जMEA) डह USAID ँरुण घरु डघरुदघ प्र
 ररुड गेव वरुच
- A. It praised the U.S. decision / स्टु डुश ररुवडुव डड ँरुड चडुडह डघरणुव
 डह
- B. It called the reports "deeply troubling" / स्टु डुश ररुवडुव डड दणुवह
 ररुव डुव ररुवगद ँरुवगव
- C. It announced diplomatic sanctions on the U.S. / स्टु डुश ररुवडुव दघ
 घरु ररुवगड ररुवरु चणुवडुडह डडरुव डह
- D. It suspended all USAID projects in India / स्टु डुश कंत्रघर ररुव कुरु USAID
 दणुवगुव ररुवडुव डडरु ररुव डुघ ररुवगव

- Which Indian defense system is set to be finalized in the next 4-5 months?
- क्रमशः डेह डेअर डेह घल्लर डेअरचह १ ए चडु 4घ5 खणह डेअरचह च ह चडु अरचह जेअ
- A. Agni-V Missile System / १शशघVशरुवसुच डेअरचह
- B. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) System / दुअघल्ल डेअरचह जQRSAM)
- C. BrahMos-II Hypersonic Missile / डेअरचह घ॥ एअरसुहघडुअर डेअरचह
- D. S-400 Air Defense System / S-400 अरुअघल्लर डेअरचह

- Which missile system is undergoing high-altitude trials in India?
- क्रवधल रकुडत्रु ढ्ह श्रवढ्वरसुच ड्रुवचह कुद रुद्वरह हघ हघहल्लु इडु वुघ डुधुघ
- A. Prithvi-II / लुहघ॥
- B. Shaurya Missile / टुगुश्रवढ्वरसुच
- C. Akash Missile System / उ इवटु श्रवढ्वरसुच ड्रुवचह
- D. Nirbhay Cruise Missile / श्रु वरुगु डुधु श्रवढ्वरसुच

- Which country became the second after China to launch a digital pilot license system?
- दहए डड ँरठ डअए ड्र ड्ट श्रश्रन ड च हवग्रचड चरसड्ड डर्रचह डर ड घड्ड अरचर डर घर ड्ट ँ षरच
- A. USA / डरररु घर १ ररररडुव
- B. Russia / च ड
- C. India / करघर
- D. United Kingdom / गररसड्ड श्रडुण मरर

• Under which constitutional article can an MP be disqualified due to absence from Parliament?

• कौनसा संविधानिक प्रावधान है कि कोई सांसद बिना सूचना के लगातार पाँच बार या अधिक बार लोकसभा या राज्यसभा में उपस्थित नहीं होना या अल्पसंख्यक समिति के अध्यक्ष के रूप में कार्य करना या अन्य किसी कारणवश लोकसभा या राज्यसभा में उपस्थित नहीं होना उसे अयोग्य घोषित करेगा?

- A. Article 75(3) / १ अनुच्छेद 75ज3झ
- B. Article 101(4) / १ अनुच्छेद 101ज4झ
- C. Article 356 / १ अनुच्छेद 356
- D. Article 123 / १ अनुच्छेद 123

- The Indian government is planning to lease out airports under which model?
- क्रमशः विमानतटों को सौंपने का प्रस्ताव है। निम्नलिखित में से सही विकल्प चुनें।
- A. Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Model / निर्माण-संचालन-सौंप (जैसे BOT) सौंपने का
- B. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model / सार्वजनिक-निजी साझेदारी (जैसे PPP) सौंपने का
- C. 100% FDI Model / 100% विदेशी निवेश (जैसे FDI) सौंपने का
- D. Revenue Sharing Model / आय-सौंपने का

• What is the key objective of the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) system in India?

• क्रमशः रकम-चुम्बक (ज EPL) द्वारा चलाए जाने वाले पत्रिका


• A. Replace traditional pilot licenses with digital ones / हवाई प्रवाह
हवाई प्रवाह चलाए जाने वाले डिजिटल प्रणाली द्वारा चलाए जाने वाले

B. Automate railway signaling systems / रेलवे सिग्नलिंग सिस्टम
स्टेशन और डिजिटल

C. Enhance digital identity verification for citizens / प्रवाह प्रणाली
प्रणाली द्वारा चलाए जाने वाले डिजिटल प्रणाली द्वारा चलाए जाने वाले

D. Issue blockchain-based trade licenses / ब्लॉकचेन आधारित
चलाए जाने वाले प्रणाली द्वारा चलाए जाने वाले

- What is the purpose of India's efforts in lithium exploration with Argentina?
- १ न्प्रहृष्व इडु ड्रवळ क्रवघल इडु श्रमश्रळगरम १ कुर ब गवडडमडव कषुड प्रणम
- A. To improve nuclear energy production / प्रश्रकडुहग र नक्रकडुवडु रळु डुश्रवघ इघष्व
- B. To support India's electric vehicle and battery industry / क्रवघल इडु सचडुमडु अरणु उ घ कडुघह कडुम इडु ड्रवळळु कष्व
- C. To increase the gold reserve of India / क्रवघल इडु सरु क्रमवघ इडु प्रवष्व
- D. To develop high-speed rail technology / प्रवघलिं घु लडु षुडु श्रडुश्रु ल इघष्व

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and focused on the clapping action. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
