

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



The Indian EXPRESS

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newspaper**



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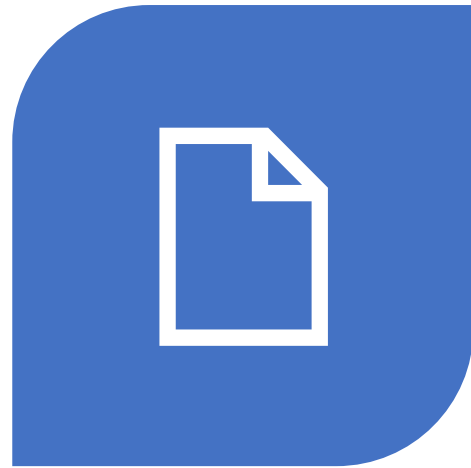


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**Financial
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10 MCQ QUIZ

A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit by large windows, creating a soft, out-of-focus atmosphere. The text "Top 10 MCQ from the session for every exam" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- What is the significance of the **Parivar Mulakat (Family Visit)** pilot project introduced in Punjab prisons?
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਜੇਲਾਂ ਮੈਂ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀਏ ਗਏ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਮੁਲਾਕਾਤ (Family Visit) ਪਾਯਲਟ ਪ੍ਰੋਜੈਕਟ ਕਾ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਕੌਯਾ ਹੈ?
- **A. Promotes rehabilitation of prisoners / कैदियों के पुनर्वास को बढ़ावा देना**
- B. Allows intimate family visits for prisoners / कैदियों के लिए अंतरंग पारिवारिक मुलाकात की अनुमति**
- C. Reduces prison overcrowding / जेल में भीड़ कम करना**
- D. Provides legal aid for prisoners / कैदियों के लिए कानूनी सहायता प्रदान करना**

- Which mineral is India heavily dependent on imports for, as highlighted by the Ministry of Mines?
माइन मंत्रालय द्वारा उजागर किए गए किस खनिज के लिए भारत आयात पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है?
- **A. Lithium / लिथियम**
- **B. Gallium / गैलियम**
- **C. Cobalt / कोबाल्ट**
- **D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी**

- What is the major step taken by India to reduce dependence on imported minerals?
आयातित खनिजों पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए भारत द्वारा उठाया गया प्रमुख कदम क्या है?
- **A. Formation of KABIL joint venture / KABIL संयुक्त उपक्रम का गठन**
B. Promotion of recycling and circular economy / रीसाइक्लिंग और परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देना
C. Investment in mining technologies / खनन प्रौद्योगिकी में निवेश
D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी

- Which historical monument is featured on the 75th anniversary commemorative stamp of India?
भारत के 75वें वर्षगांठ स्मारक टिकट पर कौन सा ऐतिहासिक स्मारक चित्रित है?
- **A. Gateway of India / गेटवे ऑफ इंडिया**
- B. Qutub Minar / क़तुब मीनार**
- C. Red Fort / लाल क़िला**
- D. Charminar / चारमीनार**

- **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Rules, 2024** now allow detention for students in which classes?

बच्चों के मुफ्त और अनिवार्य शिक्षा का अधिकार (संशोधन) नियम, 2024 अब किन कक्षाओं के छात्रों के लिए रोक की अनुमति देता है?

- **A. Classes 1 to 4 / कक्षा 1 से 4**
- **B. Classes 5 and 8 / कक्षा 5 और 8**
- **C. Classes 6 and 7 / कक्षा 6 और 7**
- **D. Classes 9 and 10 / कक्षा 9 और 10**

- What are the operational challenges for implementing conjugal visits in overcrowded prisons like Delhi?
दिल्ली जैसी भीड़भाड़ वाली जेलों में वैवाहिक मुलाकातों को लागू करने में क्या परिचालन चुनौतियाँ हैं?
- **A. Overcrowded prisons / जेलों में भीड़भाड़**
B. Security concerns regarding contraband smuggling / प्रतिबंधित वस्तुओं की तस्करी से संबंधित सुरक्षा चिंताएँ
C. Lack of proper legal framework / उचित कानूनी ढांचे की कमी
D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी

- Which court recognized the right to procreation during incarceration in 2014?

2014 में किस अदालत ने जेल के दौरान प्रजनन के अधिकार को मान्यता दी?

- **A. Supreme Court of India / भारत का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय**
B. Punjab and Haryana High Court / पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय
C. Madras High Court / मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय
D. Delhi High Court / दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय

- The **Most Favoured Nation (MFN)** suspension by Switzerland may result in:
स्विट्जरलैंड द्वारा सर्वाधिक अनुकूल राष्ट्र (MFN) निलंबन से क्या परिणाम हो सकता है?
- **A. Increased taxes on Indian companies in Switzerland / स्विट्जरलैंड में भारतीय कंपनियों पर कर में वृद्धि**
- **B. Delay in EFTA trade negotiations / EFTA व्यापार वार्ताओं में देरी**
- **C. Improved FDI in India / भारत में एफडीआई में सुधार**
- **D. None of the above / उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं**

- What is the primary objective of the **Minerals Security Partnership** initiated by India?
भारत द्वारा शुरू की गई खनिज सुरक्षा साझेदारी का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Diversify mineral supply chains / खनिज आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में विविधता लाना**
- **B. Invest in renewable energy projects / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं में निवेश करना**
- **C. Promote sustainable mining / स्थायी खनन को बढ़ावा देना**
- **D. Build strategic mineral reserves / रणनीतिक खनिज भंडार बनाना**

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STEPHEN CHBOSKY



– Stephen Chbosky, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

- “*We accept the love we think we deserve.*”



NIRC PANEL
Selection process flawed, says Congress
NEWS ▷ PAGE 5



RESHUFFLE OF GOVERNORS
Bhalla for Manipur, Arif Khan in Bihar
NEWS ▷ PAGE 4



MEMORABLE DAY
Harleen hits century, India takes a 2-0 lead
SPORT ▷ PAGE 16



INSIDE
Syrian militias agree to join defence forces
NEW DELHI

DAMASCUS
After Syria's new leader Muhammad al-Islami met heads of several armed factions, Syria's authorities announced on Tuesday that they had reached an agreement with militias on their integration into regular defence forces. ▷ PAGE 14



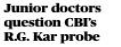
Lokpal summons SEBI chairperson, complainants
NEW DELHI

Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal has called SEBI chairperson Mahabir Punj and complainants, including Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, for an "oral hearing" on January 28 in connection with corruption complaints being heard by it. ▷ PAGE 4



CWC meet to take up 'Insult' to Ambedkar
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its campaign against the BJP over Home Minister Amit Shah's remark that it had become a "fashion" to take Ambedkar's name, Congress Working Committee (CWC), at its meeting in Bhopal on Tuesday, is likely to take up the "insult" to Ambedkar's legacy. ▷ PAGE 5



Junior doctors question CB's R.G. Kar probe
KOLKATA

Junior doctors in West Bengal have stopped to their protest seeking justice for the trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata in August. On Tuesday, doctors led a march to the CGO complex, which houses the office of the CBI. ▷ PAGE 6



U.S., U.K. criticise conviction of Imran supporters
ISLAMABAD

The U.S. and the U.K. have expressed deep concerns over the recent handing down of convictions by Pakistani military courts to 25 civilian supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan over their alleged involvement in riots last year. ▷ PAGE 14

Congress moves SC over change in Election Rules

Amendment restricting public access to CCTV camera footage from polling booths and video recordings of candidates comes after HC order to release materials from Haryana Assembly polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday challenged the amendments made to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 that restricted citizens' right to access certain election-related records.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh moved the top court against the change in the poll rules, which reduces public access to CCTV camera footage from polling booths and video recordings of candidates.

The amendment was made to sub-rule (2) of Rule 23 of the 1961 Rules, which had previously allowed the public to examine papers related to elections without any exceptions.

The amendment, notified on December 20 by the Union Law and Justice Ministry, had restricted access to only certain elec-



Access limited
Amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 limits public access to certain election-related records

video recordings are no longer freely available within the government and said that the amendments restrict the process from false narratives or misuse of electronic records, there are concerns that it reduces transparency and accountability in the electoral process.

tion records specifically mentioned in the Rules. Officials have reportedly justified the move, saying it was to protect the poll process from false narratives through misuse or doctoring of electronic records. However, the amendment came shortly after a Punjab and Haryana High Court direction to the Election Commission to provide an advocate records pertaining to the recent Haryana Assembly elec-

EC rejects Cong. claims on polls as 'misleading'
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has rejected as "factually incorrect and misleading" the Congress's claims of "arbitrary deletion" and "subsequent addition" in electoral rolls and ruled out discrepancies in voter turnout data in Maharashtra Assembly election. ▷ PAGE 5

when that amendment does away with public access to certain information that makes the electoral process more transparent and accountable. The integrity of the electoral process is fast eroding. Hopefully the Supreme Court will help restore it," Mr. Mehta posted on social media platform X.

HINDU AND SEEK
▷ PAGE 5

Officials say Khel Ratna list not finalised; Manu Bhaker suggests lapse on her part

Amid a raging controversy over her "exclusion" from the list of Khel Ratna nominees, double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker on Tuesday admitted that there has been a lapse, maybe on my part while filing for the nomination.

A day after the Sports Ministry had to step in to do damage control after the selection committee for the Major Bhanu Chand Khel Ratna Award reportedly did not recommend her name, the 22-year-old pistol ace took to social media to clarify her position.

However, Ministry sources said that the names were yet to be finalised and her name would be there when the final list was released in a week. On Monday, her coach, Jaspal Rana, and father, Ram Kishan Bhaker, lambasted the Sports Ministry and the selection committee for overlooking Ms. Bhaker despite her monumental achievements.

Ms. Bhaker said: "With regards to ongoing issue for my nomination for the most prestigious Khel Ratna award - I would like to state that as an athlete my role is to play and perform for my country." She made history by becoming the first Indian to win two Olympic medals in the same Olympics. Her name should have been there automatically. Don't the people at the helm know who Manu Bhaker is and what are her credentials? This humiliation might just affect her progress," Mr. Rana, who was the personal coach of Ms. Bhaker when she won the medals at the Paris Games, said.

"I can say that a wrong precedent is being set. Things like this can destroy an athlete's confidence." "If this can shock the

of the Olympics with her about this, then how come the committee that decides the names fail to understand that she deserves the honour?" Mr. Rana asked.

"What is their job otherwise? I'm not going to the performance of the athletes over the last cycle and then arrive at a conclusion and recommend the names? According to me, this is not a mistake and this is not an oversight," he said.

The award selection committee is a 12-member panel headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice V. Ramasubramanian. It includes former athletes like women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, boxer Vijender Singh, and cricket great Anil Kumble.

The Ministry norms allow athletes to self-nominate instead of relying on federations and other institutions for it. The selection committee is, however, allowed to consider names which may not be among the applicants.

While the Ministry claimed that Ms. Bhaker did not apply for the award, her father had said the youngster had followed due process.



Manu Bhaker, who won two bronze medals in the 2024 Paris Olympics, with her personal coach Jaspal Rana. FILE PHOTO

Christmas in the air



On wheels: On Christmas Eve in Mumbai, Santa upgrades to a horse-drawn cart from his usual reindeer-pulled sleigh. Celebrations started early in Maximium City. (DHANMAJAL YOGINI (RELATED REPORT ON PAGE 2)

Five soldiers killed as vehicle falls into gorge in Poonch

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Five soldiers were killed when the vehicle in which they were travelling slid off the road in the Pir Panjal valley of Poonch district on Tuesday evening, the Army said.

A spokesperson of the Army's White Knight Corps, in charge of the Rajouri-Poonch belt, said, "Five brave soldiers lost their lives in a vehicle accident during operational duty in the Poonch sector."

Rescue operations were going on in an area, the Army said. The vehicle plunged into a gorge, approximately 300-350 feet deep, he said. Preliminary reports suggested at least seven sol-



Wreckage of the Army vehicle that fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday.

ldiers were on the vehicle when it met with an accident and fell into a gorge. A defence spokesperson said the cause of the accident is being ascertained but "possibly, the driver lost control at the turn of the road." The vehicle was travelling as part of a convoy of six vehicles from the Nilam headquarters in a post at Balhok Ghora. (With inputs from PTI)

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Actor Allu Arjun was questioned for about three-and-a-half hours at a police station here on Tuesday on a stampede at a cinema during the premiere of his film Pushpa 2 on December 4 that led to the death of a 35-year-old woman and critical injuries to her eight-year-old son.

The police asked the actor if he had the permission to visit Sandhya Theatre, the site of the stampede, on the day of the premiere.

He was questioned about his claim that he was unaware of the death during the premiere and he had held a press conference while the investiga-



Law taking its course: Allu Arjun arrives for interrogation at the Chikkadpally police station in Hyderabad on Tuesday. (SANTOSH KUMAR)

tion was on. Arjun, along with his father, Alla Arvind, and legal team, arrived at the police station around 11 a.m. He left around 1 p.m. and the crowd which gathered slowly dispersed. The police cordoned off the area to keep people and presspersons at a distance. The police were deployed in strength across



the streets of Chikkadpally, particularly on Street Number 6 where the police station is located.

On December 13, the police arrested the actor, who then spent a night at the Chanchalguda jail. He was released on bail the next day. Mr. Arjun was served a "notice for appearance" at the police station on Monday.

In the Telangana Assembly on Friday, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the police had refused permission to Arjun to visit the cinema, given their inability to control thousands of fans expected to come to see him. Despite being aware of the stampede and death, he watched the film in the cinema.

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Congress moves SC over change in Election Rules

Amendment restricting public access to CCTV camera footage from polling booths and video recordings of candidates comes after HC order to release materials from Haryana Assembly polls

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday challenged the amendments made to the Conduct of Election Rules of 1961 that restricted citizens' right to access certain election-related records.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh moved the top court against the change in the poll rules, which reduces public access to CCTV camera footage from polling booths and video recordings of candidates.

The amendment was made to sub-rule (2) of Rule 93 of the 1961 Rules, which had previously allowed the public to examine papers related to elections without any exception.

The amendment, notified on December 20 by the Union Law and Justice Ministry, had restricted access to only certain elec-

Access limited

Amendment to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 limits public access to certain election-related records



■ While there was unrestricted access to election-related records earlier, it is now **restricted**. CCTV footage and

video recordings are no longer freely available

■ While the government has said that the amendment protects the process from **false narratives** or misuse of electronic records, there are concerns that it reduces **transparency** and **accountability** in the electoral process

tion records specifically mentioned in the Rules.

Officials have reportedly justified the move, saying it was to protect the poll process from false narratives through misuse or doctoring of electronic records.

However, the amendment came shortly after a Punjab and Haryana High Court direction to the Election Commission to provide an advocate records pertaining to the recent Haryana Assembly elec-

tion. The advocate had filed a petition seeking videography, CCTV footage, and copies of Forms 17-C Parts I and II from the Assembly election.

"The Election Commission, a Constitutional body, charged with the conduct of free and fair elections cannot be allowed to unilaterally, and without public consultation, amend such a vital law in such a brazen manner. This is especially true

EC rejects Cong. claims on polls as 'misleading'

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has rejected as "factually incorrect and misleading" the Congress's claims of "arbitrary deletion" and "subsequent addition" in electoral rolls and ruled out discrepancies in voter turnout data in Maharashtra Assembly election. » **PAGE 5**

when that amendment does away with public access to essential information that makes the electoral process more transparent and accountable. The integrity of the electoral process is fast eroding. Hopefully the Supreme Court will help restore it," Mr. Ramesh posted on social media platform X.

HIDE AND SEEK

» **PAGE 8**

Background of the Amendment

Public Access Restricted

- Amendment to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 limits public access to election-related records, including CCTV footage and video recordings of candidates.
- चुनाव आचरण नियम, 1961 में संशोधन के तहत, जनता की चुनाव से संबंधित रिकॉर्ड तक पहुंच को सीमित कर दिया गया है, जिसमें सीसीटीवी फुटेज और उम्मीदवारों के वीडियो शामिल हैं।

- **Purpose of the Amendment**

- Government claims the amendment protects the process from false narratives or misuse of electronic records.
- सरकार का कहना है कि संशोधन झूठी कहानियों या इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रिकॉर्ड के दुरुपयोग से प्रक्रिया की रक्षा करता है।

- **Congress's Challenge to the Amendment**

- **Supreme Court Petition**

- Congress leader Jairam Ramesh challenges the amendment in the Supreme Court, arguing it reduces transparency and accountability in the electoral process.
- कांग्रेस नेता जयराम रमेश ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में संशोधन को चुनौती दी है, यह तर्क देते हुए कि इससे चुनाव प्रक्रिया में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही कम होती है।

- **Specific Concerns**

- Congress highlights concerns about arbitrary deletion of voter data and restrictions on access to critical electoral information.
- कांग्रेस ने मतदाता डेटा के मनमाने तरीके से हटाने और महत्वपूर्ण चुनावी जानकारी तक पहुंच पर प्रतिबंधों को लेकर चिंता जताई है।

- **Justifications by the Government**

- **Protection Against False Narratives**

- Officials argue the amendment prevents false narratives or doctored electronic records from influencing elections.
- अधिकारियों का कहना है कि यह संशोधन झूठी कहानियों या बदले हुए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रिकॉर्ड को चुनावों को प्रभावित करने से रोकता है।


- **Punjab and Haryana High Court Order**

- The amendment follows a High Court direction to share CCTV footage and election-related records in a recent case.
- यह संशोधन हाल के एक मामले में सीसीटीवी फुटेज और चुनाव से संबंधित रिकॉर्ड साझा करने के लिए हाई कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद आया है।



- **Electoral Commission's Stand**

- **Rejection of Congress Claims**

- The Election Commission dismissed Congress's claims as factually incorrect and misleading, asserting that there are no discrepancies in voter data.
 - चुनाव आयोग ने कांग्रेस के दावों को तथ्यात्मक रूप से गलत और भ्रामक बताते हुए खारिज कर दिया, यह दावा करते हुए कि मतदाता डेटा में कोई विसंगति नहीं है
- 

-
- **Broader Implications**
 - **Impact on Transparency**
 - Critics argue the amendment limits public scrutiny and could undermine confidence in the electoral process.
 - आलोचकों का कहना है कि संशोधन सार्वजनिक निगरानी को सीमित करता है और चुनाव प्रक्रिया में विश्वास को कमजोर कर सकता है।
 - **Legal Precedent and Consultation**
 - Congress emphasizes the need for public consultation before amending such vital rules to ensure fairness and accountability.
 - कांग्रेस का जोर है कि इस तरह के महत्वपूर्ण नियमों में संशोधन से पहले सार्वजनिक परामर्श आवश्यक है ताकि निष्पक्षता और जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित हो सके।

Officials say Khel Ratna list not finalised; Manu Bhaker suggests lapse on her part

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Amid a raging controversy over her "exclusion" from the list of Khel Ratna nominees, double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker on Tuesday admitted that "there has been a lapse, maybe on my part while filing for the nomination".

A day after the Sports Ministry had to step in to do damage control after the selection committee for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award reportedly did not recommend her name, the 22-year-old pistol ace took to social media to clarify her position.

However, Ministry sources said that the names were yet to be finalised and her name would be there when the final list was released in a week.

On Monday, her coach, Jaspal Rana, and father, Ram Kishan Bhaker, lambasted the Sports Ministry and the selection committee for overlooking Ms. Bhaker despite her monumental achievements.

Ms. Bhaker said: "With regards to ongoing issue for my nomination for the most prestigious Khel Ratna award – I would like to state that as an athlete my role is to play and perform for my country," Ms. Bhaker wrote on X. "I believe there has been a lapse, maybe on my part while filing for the nomination which is being corrected."

The Haryana shooter said her aim is at performing for the country whether she gets an award or not. "Awards and recognition keeps me motivated but are not my goal," she asserted. "Irrespective of the award I shall remain motivated to win more medals for my country. It is a request to everyone, please do not speculate on this."

In August, Ms. Bhaker became Independent In-



Manu Bhaker, who won two bronze medals in the 2024 Paris Olympics, with her personal coach Jaspal Rana. FILE PHOTO

dia's first athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics with her bronze-winning show in the 10m air pistol individual and 10m air pistol mixed team events in Paris.

Credentials 'ignored'

Mr. Rana, a decorated shooter himself, castigated the Sports Ministry, the Sports Authority of India, and the National Rifle Association of India, holding them responsible for "ignoring" his ward's credentials for the Award.

"I will hold all of them responsible. How can anyone even say Manu did not apply? She made history by becoming the first Indian to win two Olympic medals in the same Olympics. Her name should have been there automatically. Don't the people at the helm know who Manu Bhaker is and what are her credentials? This humiliation might just affect her progress," Mr. Rana, who was the personal coach of Ms. Bhaker when she won the medals at the Paris Games, said.

"I can say that a wrong precedent is being set. Things like this can destroy an athlete's confidence."

"If this can shock the

sports fraternity, if you are speaking to me regarding this, if people are writing about this, then how come the committee that decides the names fail to understand that she deserves the honour," Mr. Rana asked.

"What is their job otherwise? Isn't it to go through the performance of the athletes over the last cycle and then arrive at a conclusion and recommend the names? According to me, this is not a mistake and this is not an oversight," he said.

The award selection committee is a 12-member panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice V. Ramasubramanian. It includes former athletes like women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, boxer Vijender Singh, and cricket great Anil Kumble.

The Ministry norms allow athletes to self-nominate instead of relying on federations and other institutions for it. The selection committee is, however, allowed to consider names which may not be among the applicants.

While the Ministry claimed that Ms. Bhaker did not apply for the award, her father had said the youngster had followed due process.

Controversy Over Khel Ratna Nomination

Manu Bhaker's Exclusion

- Double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker was not included in the initial Khel Ratna nominees' list.
- डबल ओलंपिक पदक विजेता मनु भाकर को प्रारंभिक खेल रत्न नामांकित सूची में शामिल नहीं किया गया।

Admission of Lapse

- Bhaker admitted there might have been a lapse on her part during the nomination filing process.
- भाकर ने स्वीकार किया कि नामांकन प्रक्रिया के दौरान उनकी ओर से चूक हो सकती है।

- **Ministry's Position**

- **List Not Finalised**

- Ministry sources clarified that the final list of nominees is yet to be released and Bhaker's name might still be included.
- मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने स्पष्ट किया कि नामांकितों की अंतिम सूची अभी जारी नहीं हुई है और भाकर का नाम शामिल हो सकता है।

- **Damage Control**

- Sports Ministry stepped in to manage the controversy after the selection committee reportedly overlooked Bhaker's achievements.
- खेल मंत्रालय ने चयन समिति द्वारा भाकर की उपलब्धियों को नजरअंदाज करने के बाद विवाद को संभालने के लिए कदम उठाया।




- **Reactions from Bhaker's Camp**

- **Coach and Family Criticism**

- Coach Jaspal Rana and father Ram Kishan Bhaker criticized the Sports Ministry and selection committee for ignoring her monumental achievements.
- कोच जसपाल राणा और पिता राम किशन भाकर ने भाकर की बड़ी उपलब्धियों की अनदेखी के लिए खेल मंत्रालय और चयन समिति की आलोचना की।

- **Focus on Performance**

- Bhaker stated that her primary goal is to perform for the country, whether awards follow or not.
 - भाकर ने कहा कि उनका मुख्य लक्ष्य देश के लिए प्रदर्शन करना है, चाहे पुरस्कार मिले या न मिले।
- 

- **Bhaker's Historic Achievements**

- **Olympic Feats**

- First Indian to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics in the 10m air pistol individual and mixed team events.
- 10 मीटर एयर पिस्टल व्यक्तिगत और मिश्रित टीम इवेंट में एक ओलंपिक संस्करण में दो पदक जीतने वाली पहली भारतीय।

- **Selection Committee and Process**

- **Structure**

- The 12-member committee includes sports personalities like Anil Kumble, Rani Rampal, and Bijender Singh, chaired by Justice V. Ramasubramanian.
- 12-सदस्यीय समिति में अनिल कुंबले, रानी रामपाल और विजेंदर सिंह जैसे खेल हस्तियां शामिल हैं, जिसकी अध्यक्षता जस्टिस वी. रामासुब्रमणियन करते हैं।

- **Nomination Rules**

- Athletes can self-nominate or be recommended by federations and institutions.
- एथलीट स्व-नामांकन कर सकते हैं या संघों और संस्थानों द्वारा सिफारिश की जा सकती है।

President Murmu names Ajay Bhalla Manipur Governor

Former Union Minister General V. K. Singh (retd) appointed Mizoram Governor, while Kerala Governor Arif Khan will take up the post in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Former Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has been appointed Governor of Manipur in the latest gubernatorial appointments and reshuffle by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday across five States.

The appointments include former Union Minister General V. K. Singh (retd) as Governor of Mizoram, and Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan being made Governor of Bihar.

The President has accepted the resignation of Odisha Governor Raghubar Das.

The appointment to the Manipur Raj Bhavan is significant as the State has witnessed ethnic strife resulting in violence between the Meitei community and Kuki tribes since May 2023. Anusuiya Uikey was the last full-time Governor of the State and since July this year, Assam Governor Lakshman Pra-



New roles: Gen. V.K. Singh (retd) and Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

sad Acharya was holding additional charge.

Said to be close to Home Minister Amit Shah, Mr. Bhalla steered some of the key legislation such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the three new criminal laws during his tenure as the Home Secretary. A 1984-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, he retired on August 22.

New Kerala governor

The change of Governor in Kerala is another politically significant move.

Mr. Khan had been having regular run-ins with the Left Front government in the State.

So, while he has been shifted to Bihar, the incumbent Bihar Governor, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, has been named the new Governor of Kerala.

The incumbent Governor of Mizoram, Hari Babu Kambhampati, has been appointed Governor of Odisha.

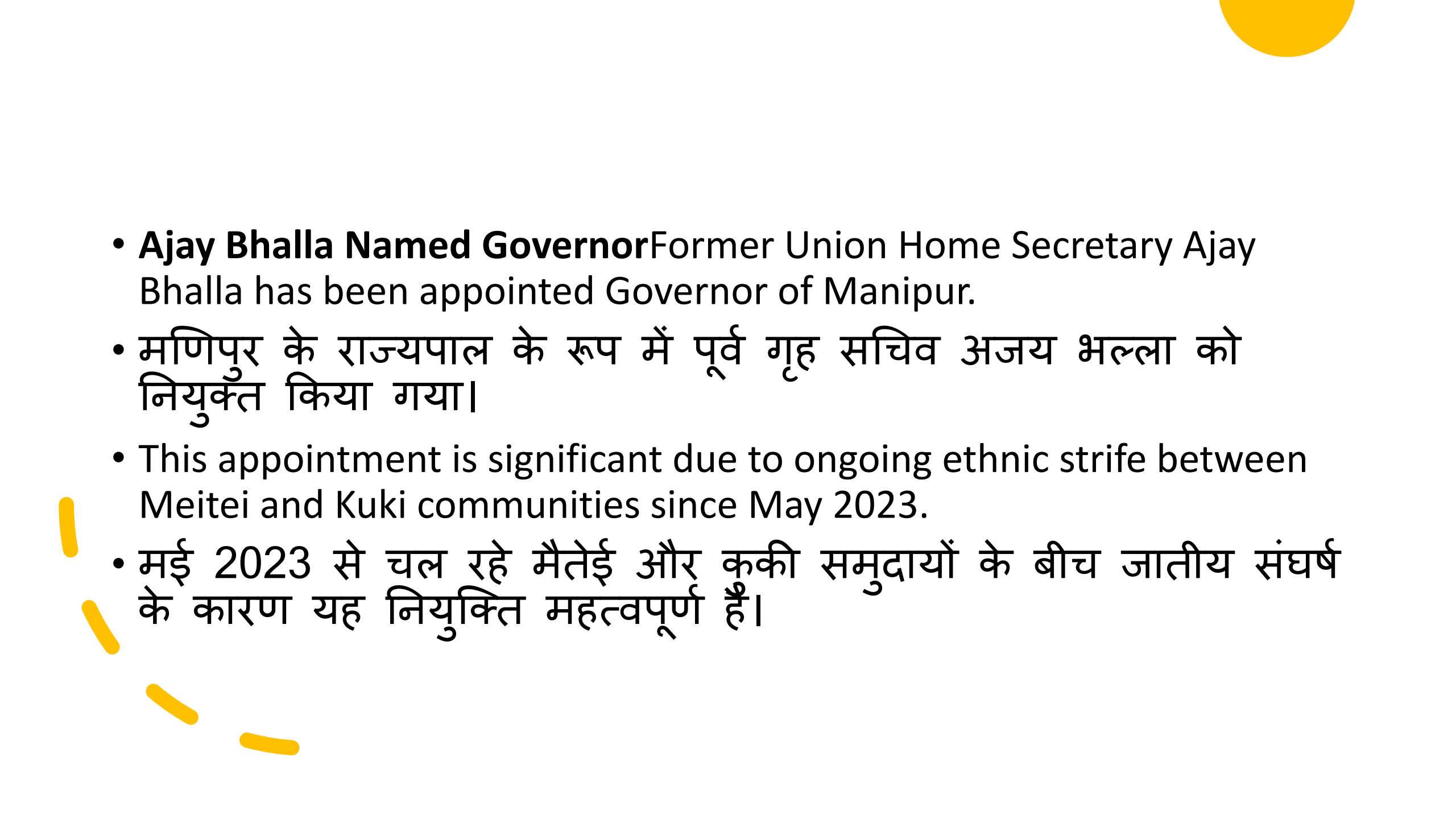
A former chief of the Indian Army, Gen. Singh successfully contested the Lok Sabha polls twice (2014 and 2019) from the Ghazabad seat in Uttar Pradesh on BJP ticket and was part of the Union Council of Ministers.

The party, however, did not offer him ticket in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Article	Provision	Key Points
Article 153	Governors of States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Each state must have a Governor.- A single person can act as Governor for more than one state.
Article 154	Executive Power of the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Governor exercises the executive power of the state.- Power is exercised directly or through subordinate officers.
Article 155	Appointment of Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Appointed by the President of India.
Article 156	Term of Office of Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Holds office at the pleasure of the President.- Normal term is 5 years but can be terminated earlier.
Article 157	Qualifications for the Office of Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Must be a citizen of India.- Must be at least 35 years of age.

Article 158	Conditions of the Governor's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Should not hold any other office of profit.- Entitled to official residence and emoluments.
Article 159	Oath or Affirmation by the Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Oath administered by the Chief Justice of the High Court of the state or a senior judge.
Article 160	Discharge of the Functions of the Governor in Certain Contingencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- President may make provisions for the discharge of functions in certain contingencies.
Article 161	Power of Governor to Grant Pardons, Reprieves, Respites, or Remissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Governor has the power to grant clemency for offenses against state laws.
Article 163	Council of Ministers to Aid and Advise the Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Governor must act on the advice of the Council of Ministers, except in cases requiring discretion.
Article 164	Appointment of Chief Minister and Other Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor.- Ministers are appointed on the CM's advice.
Article 165	Advocate General for the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Appointed by the Governor as the legal advisor to the state government.
Article 166	Conduct of Business of the Government of a State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All executive actions of the state are taken in the Governor's name.

Article 167	Duties of the Chief Minister to Furnish Information to the Governor	- CM must communicate all decisions and administrative matters to the Governor.
Article 174	Powers of the Governor to Summon, Prorogue, and Dissolve the State Legislature	- Governor has the power to summon, prorogue sessions, and dissolve the Legislative Assembly.
Article 200	Assent to Bills	- Governor may: 1. Give assent. 2. Withhold assent. 3. Reserve the bill for the President.
Article 201	Bills Reserved for Consideration of the President	- President decides on bills reserved by the Governor.
Article 213	Power of Governor to Promulgate Ordinances	- Governor can issue ordinances when the legislature is not in session, subject to certain limitations.

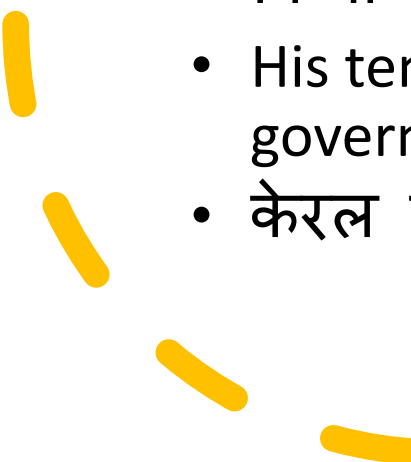
- 
- **Ajay Bhalla Named Governor** Former Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has been appointed Governor of Manipur.
 - मणिपुर के राज्यपाल के रूप में पूर्व गृह सचिव अजय भल्ला को नियुक्त किया गया।
 - This appointment is significant due to ongoing ethnic strife between Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023.
 - मई 2023 से चल रहे मैतेई और ककी समुदायों के बीच जातीय संघर्ष के कारण यह नियुक्ति महत्वपूर्ण है।

-
- **General V.K. Singh (Retd.) Appointed** Former Union Minister General V.K. Singh (Retd.) becomes Governor of Mizoram.
 - पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री जनरल वी.के. सिंह (सेवानिवृत्त) को मिजोरम का राज्यपाल बनाया गया।
 - Singh has had a distinguished political career and is a two-time Member of Parliament from Ghaziabad.
 - सिंह ने गाजियाबाद से दो बार संसद सदस्य के रूप में एक शानदार राजनीतिक करियर बनाया।



- **Bihar Governor Appointment**

- **Arif Mohammed Khan Transferred**

- Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has been appointed Governor of Bihar.
 - केरल के राज्यपाल आरिफ मोहम्मद खान को बिहार का राज्यपाल नियुक्त किया गया।
 - His tenure in Kerala was marked by differences with the Left Front government.
 - केरल में उनका कार्यकाल वामपंथी सरकार के साथ मतभेदों से भरा रहा।
- 

- **Kerala Governor Appointment**

- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Appointed**

- The incumbent Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, has been named Kerala Governor.
- बिहार के मौजूदा राज्यपाल, राजेंद्र विश्वनाथ अर्लेकर, को केरल का राज्यपाल बनाया गया।

- **Odisha Governor Appointment**

- **Hari Babu Kambhampati Transferred**

- The incumbent Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati has been appointed as Governor of Odisha.
- मिजोरम के मौजूदा राज्यपाल हरि बाबू कंभमपति को ओडिशा का राज्यपाल बनाया गया।

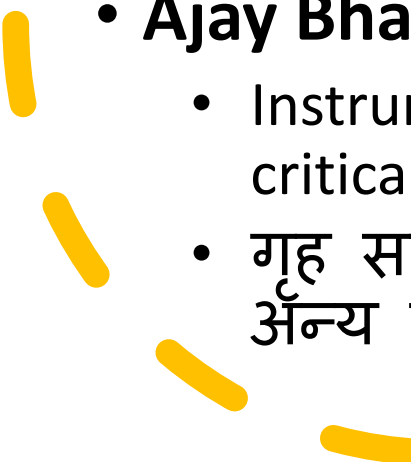


- **Other Key Details**

- **Raghubar Das Resignation**

- The President has accepted the resignation of Odisha Governor Raghubar Das.
- राष्ट्रपति ने ओडिशा के राज्यपाल रघुबर दास का इस्तीफा स्वीकार कर लिया।

- **Ajay Bhalla's Contributions**

- Instrumental in enacting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, and other critical laws during his tenure as Home Secretary.
 - गृह सचिव के रूप में, भल्ला ने नागरिकता (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2019 और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण कानूनों को लागू करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
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India and China's diverging paths

The data for the charts were sourced from a blog article published by the World Bank on December 18 and authored by Dilip Ratha, Sonia Plaza and Eung Ju Kim

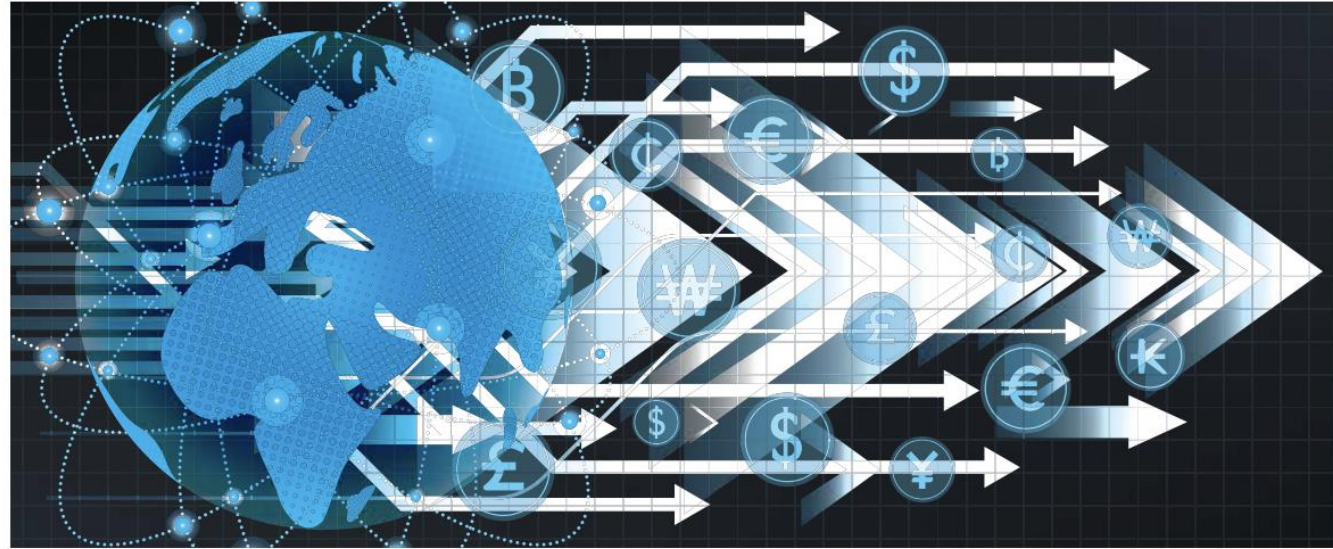
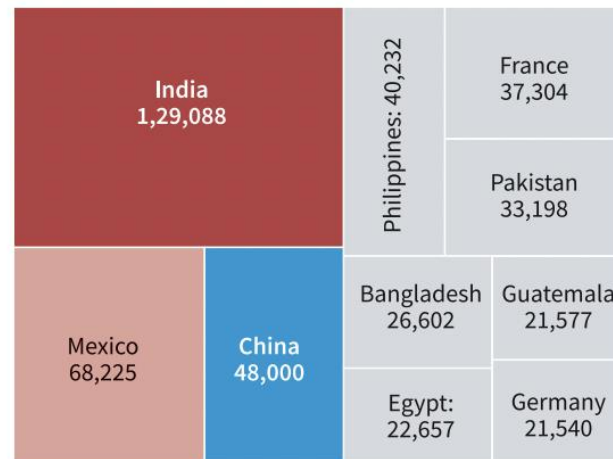


Chart 1: The chart shows the top 10 receivers of remittances in \$ million in 2024 (estimated)



Remittances refer to the money that individuals working abroad send back to support their families in their home country

Chart 3: The chart depicts estimated remittances in 2024 as a share of a country's GDP

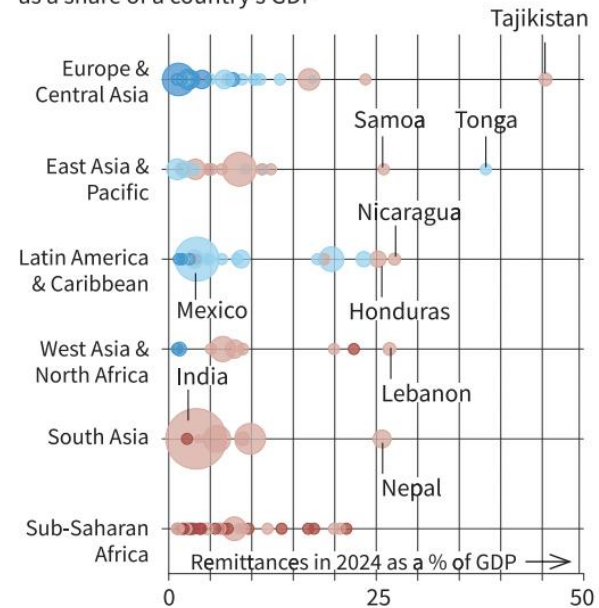


Chart 2: The share of global remittances for the top 10 countries mentioned in Chart 1 in the 2000-2024 period

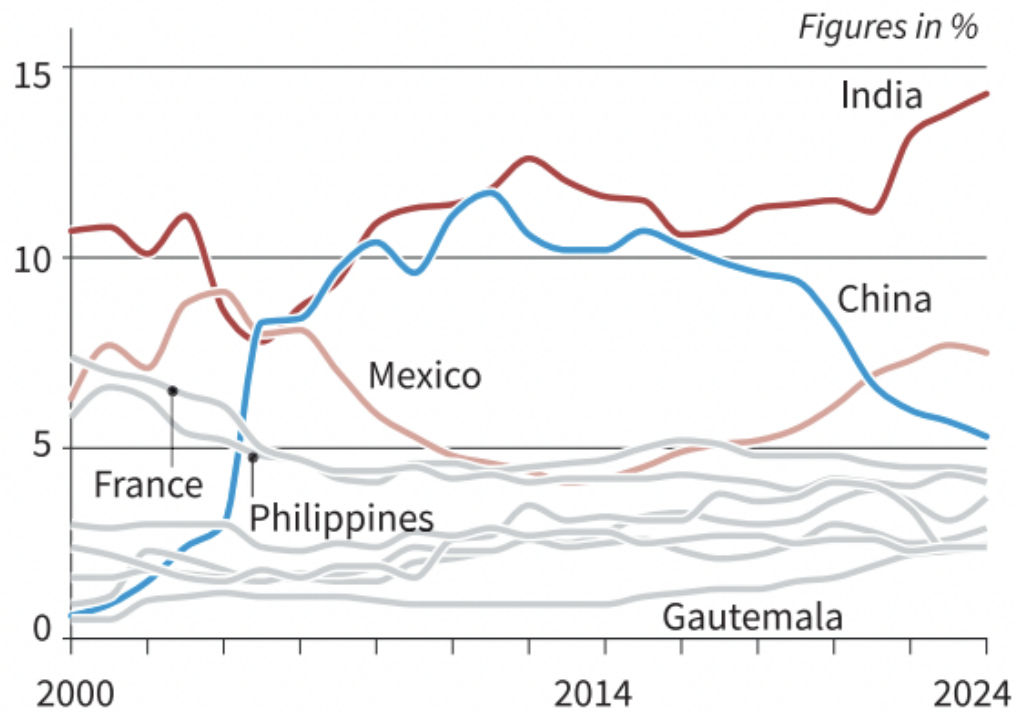
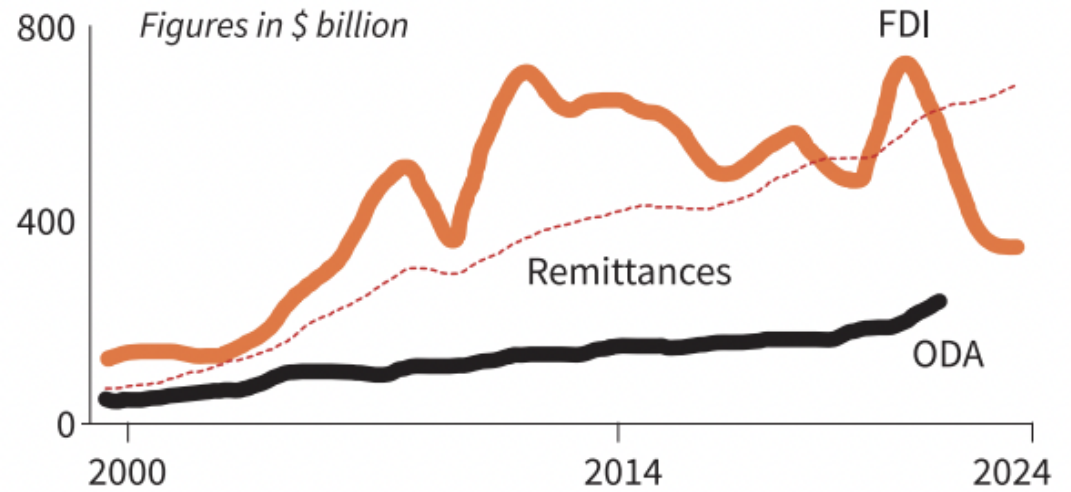


Chart 4: Chart compares remittances, FDI, and ODA received by low-and middle-income countries



*FDIs are investments by a foreign country to control or run a business in another country.
ODA is the aid from rich countries to help poorer ones develop, often through grants or cheap loans*

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Roads closed following heavy snowfall in Himachal Pradesh

177 At least 177 roads, including three national highways, were closed in Himachal Pradesh following snowfall in several districts, officials said on Tuesday. A second consecutive day of snowfall has led to an increase in tourist inflow amid hope on a white Christmas. **PH**

Number of children to be conferred Bal Puraskar on Dec. 26

17 President Droupadi Murmu will on Thursday confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 17 children from 14 States and Union territories. The honourees — seven boys and 10 girls — will receive a medal, certificate and a citation booklet as part of the recognition. **PH**

People who got appointment letters in Aizawl Rozgar Mela

126 The Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Panchayati Raj handed over the appointment letters for jobs in Assam Rifles (78), Department of Posts (11), SSB (1), ITBP (2) and MZU (33) to 126 people on Monday. **PH**

Percentage rise in UPI QR transactions at retail stores

33 per cent. UPI transactions at retail stores have increased by 33% in semi-urban and rural areas this year, reflecting the growing adoption of digital payments. However, micro ATM and Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AePS) cash withdrawals saw a decline in 2024. **PH**

Men prosecuted for travelling in women only train coaches

304 The Railway Protection Force prosecuted 304 men for travelling in Railway zone in a six-day drive as part of Operation Mahila Suraksha, an official said on Tuesday. **PH**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU NEWS TEAM

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What is quantum computing?

What are qubits and how do they work in quantum computing? How does a quantum computer solve problems faster than classical computers in specific tasks? Which challenges remain in building practical and scalable quantum computers?

EXPLAINER

Tejasri Gururaj

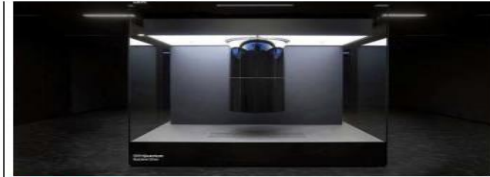
The story so far: Quantum computers are the talk of computer town. Their potential to solve complex problems much faster than classical computers is an intriguing proposition that stands to transform several industries. A quantum computer is based on the principles of quantum mechanics, an area of physics that deals with the smallest particles in the universe. In 1982, Richard Feynman proposed the idea of developing a computer that could simulate both quantum and classical physics but researchers realised classical computers, the computers of today, would struggle with the complexity of quantum systems. Thus the idea of a quantum computer was born.

What are the basics of quantum computing? Classical computers work on the principles of classical physics. Their fundamental computing unit is the bit. Each bit represents one piece of information with two possible values, 0 or 1. It's possible to represent all types of information as a combination of 0s and 1s using the binary system.

Quantum computers rely on quantum bits, or qubits, to perform computations. Unlike classical bits, qubits can exist in the states 0, 1 or in a state that's partly 0 and partly 1. 'State' refers to all the possible values the qubit can have.

The ability of qubits to be in two states is known as superposition. It's one of two fundamental principles that animate quantum computers. Imagine a spinning coin; while it's spinning, it can be both heads or tails, and it isn't until the coin collapses that you can see which it is. A qubit is like a spinning coin that holds both values simultaneously.

When a qubit is measured, it collapses to one of the values, 0 or 1. This means while a classical bit holds one unit of



Breaking boundaries: In 2019, IBM unveiled the world's first circuit-based commercial quantum computer, Q System One. IBM RESEARCH

information, a qubit can hold two. Because of this, quantum computers can perform multiple computational tasks simultaneously, with the measurement revealing one of the possible outcomes of the computations.

The second fundamental principle upon which quantum computers are based is called entanglement. This phenomenon allows qubits to be intrinsically linked no matter how far apart they physically are. Measuring the state of one of the qubits will immediately yield information about the state of the other. Say you have a pair of gloves. Each glove is put in a separate box and sent to different locations, and you don't know which box has which, but once a box is opened to reveal the left glove, you instantly know the other box has the right glove.

The instantaneous correlation between qubits speeds up computations that would take far longer with classical computers.

Superposition and entanglement are exclusive to quantum mechanics and central to the potential that quantum computers have to offer.

How far have quantum computers come?

Quantum computers are technologically superior but this doesn't automatically mean they will be better than classical computers at all tasks. Over the years, experts have developed specific tasks that prove quantum computers are capable of greater feats.

In 1994, Bell Labs computer scientist Peter Shor created the Shor's algorithm. It could find the factors of large numbers in moments rather than the millions of years required by classical computers. This has major implications for data security. Current methods to secure data involve locking the data and hiding the key in the solution of a difficult mathematical problem.

Large-number factorisation is one such problem and classical computers require enormous amounts of resources to solve it. But using Shor's algorithm, a quantum computer could quickly get the key and open the locks.

The state of quantum computing has come a long way since. In 2019, for example, IBM unveiled the world's first circuit-based commercial quantum computer, Q System One. Circuit-based designs are believed to be the most versatile for general quantum-computing applications. Q System One uses circuits composed of quantum gates that

manipulate qubits, analogous to how classical computers use logic gates.

In the same year, researchers at Google reported in a paper in *Nature* that their 53-qubit 'Sycamore' processor had achieved quantum supremacy: when it can solve a problem that would take classical computers an unreasonable amount of time. The paper claimed Sycamore completed a task in 200 seconds that would have taken a supercomputer 10,000 years.

Earlier this month, Google unveiled a quantum chip called Willow, purportedly the world's first quantum processor in which error-corrected qubits improve as they scale. Quantum states are easily prone to errors due to interactions with the environment, so quantum computers need error correction to hold information long enough to perform useful calculations with them.

Willow, Google has said, can finish a standard test in five minutes whereas the same calculation could take today's best supercomputers 10 trillion trillion years.

What are the present limitations? The advancements are flying thick and fast but there are still many significant challenges to overcome before quantum computers can become commonplace. The chief concern is that building quantum computers remains expensive and complex. Keeping many qubits stable is also difficult because of error rates and decoherence (when a qubit loses superposition because of noise from its surroundings). The problems for which we really need quantum computers — like discovering new drugs or cracking mysteries in astronomy — also require millions of qubits.

All said, their potential to be useful is clear. This is why India has launched the National Quantum Mission in 2023. The government has set aside 6,000 crore for the mission to be spent over eight years, among other things to develop quantum computers.

Tejasri Gururaj is a freelance science writer and journalist with a master's degree in physics.

THE GIST

Quantum computers rely on two key principles of quantum mechanics: superposition, where qubits can exist in multiple states, and entanglement, where qubits are linked, allowing them to share information instantly.

Key milestones include Shor's algorithm, Google's Sycamore achieving quantum supremacy, and recent advancements such as the quantum chip Willow improving error correction.

High costs, keeping qubits stable, and the need for large-scale qubits remain significant challenges, but initiatives like India's National Quantum Mission signal strong efforts to unlock their potential.

Why are activists opposing EC's election rule amendment?

How has the Election Commission defended its decision to limit access to election documents?

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

The story so far: The Centre on December 20 amended the Conduct of Election Rules to restrict access for the public to certain poll documents. This was done by the Union Law Ministry following a recommendation from the Election Commission (EC). While the EC said the amendment aims to restrict access to electronic data, the Opposition and transparency activists have been up in arms, branding it as an attack on the right to information and electoral freedom.

What is the Conduct of Election Rules? The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, is a set of rules which provide for provisions on how to conduct the elections as per the Representation of People Act.

What is the amendment? This amendment was brought into effect

through a notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on December 20. Rule 93(2)(a) of the 1961 Conduct of Election Rules had earlier stated that "all other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection" but after the amendment, it reads, "all other papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection."

Why has the amendment been brought in now?

The move comes after a recent direction to the EC by the Punjab and Haryana High Court to share all documents related to the Haryana Assembly election, including treating CCTV footage also as permissible under Rule 93(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, to petitioner Mahmood Pracha.

According to a senior official of the EC, "The rule mentioned election papers. The election papers and documents do not specifically refer to electronic records. In order to remove this ambiguity and

considering the serious issue of violation of secrecy of vote and potential misuse of CCTV footage of inside the polling station using artificial intelligence by a single voter, the rule has been amended. The EC argues that sharing of CCTV footage may have serious repercussions and is especially in sensitive areas where secrecy is important. All election papers and documents are otherwise available to public inspection."

Why are the transparency activists protesting?

According to transparency activist Anjali Bharadwaj, Rule 93 is akin to the Right to Information Act as far as elections are concerned and, any change hurts the citizen's right to know about the process. Venkatesh Nayak, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative explained further that "upon initial examination, the amendment appears to be aimed at restricting citizen-voters' right to access a large number of documents created during Parliamentary

and State Assembly elections many of which are not specifically mentioned in the Conduct of Election Rules. Instead, they are mentioned in the handbooks and manuals published by the Election Commission from time to time".

He said that given the controversy about voter turnout in recent Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, access to the Presiding Officers' diaries which contain detailed data about voter turnout and the number of tokens they distribute to voters who are in the queue at the time scheduled for closing of polling are not mentioned specifically in the Conduct of Election Rules. "The amendment seeks to prevent access to such documents and many other papers and documents that are filed by various election officials".

What does the Opposition say?

The Congress claimed that a change in rules regarding the conduct of elections vindicated their assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process and the conduct of elections.

The Congress moved the Supreme Court against the amendments on Tuesday. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has said it was part of a "systematic conspiracy to destroy the institutional integrity of the EC", while the Samajwadi Party and the Left parties accused the EC of "undermining multi-party democracy" by taking "unilateral" decisions without consulting all political parties.

THE GIST

The Centre amended the Conduct of Election Rules on December 20 to restrict public access to certain election-related documents, following a recommendation from the Election Commission.

The amendment has sparked controversy, with the Opposition and transparency activists accusing the EC of undermining transparency, the right to information, and electoral freedom.

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What are qubits and how do they work in quantum computing? How does a quantum computer solve problems faster than classical computers in specific tasks? Which challenges remain in building practical and scalable quantum computers?

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Quantum computers are the talk of computer town. Their potential to solve complex problems much faster than classical computers is an intriguing proposition that stands to transform several industries. A quantum computer is based on the principles of quantum mechanics, an area of physics that deals with the smallest particles in the universe. In 1982, Richard Feynman proposed the idea of developing a computer that could simulate both quantum and classical physics but researchers realised classical computers, the computers of today, would struggle with the complexity of quantum systems. Thus the idea of a quantum computer was born.

What are the basics of quantum computing?

Classical computers work on the principles of classical physics. Their fundamental computing unit is the bit. Each bit represents one piece of information with two possible values, 0 or 1. It's possible to represent all types of information as a combination of 0s and 1s using the binary system.

Quantum computers rely on quantum bits, or qubits, to perform computations. Unlike classical bits, qubits can exist in the states 0, 1 or in a state that's partly 0 and partly 1. 'State' refers to all the possible values the qubit can have.

The ability of qubits to be in two states is known as superposition. It's one of two fundamental principles that animate quantum computers. Imagine a spinning coin: while it's spinning, it can be both heads or tails, and it isn't until the coin collapses that you can see which it is. A qubit is like a spinning coin that holds both values simultaneously.

When a qubit is measured, it collapses to one of the values, 0 or 1. This means while a classical bit holds one unit of



Breaking boundaries: In 2019, IBM unveiled the world's first circuit-based commercial quantum computer, Q System One. IBM RESEARCH

information, a qubit can hold two. Because of this, quantum computers can perform multiple computations simultaneously, with the measurement revealing one of the possible outcomes of the computations.

The second fundamental principle upon which quantum computers are based is called entanglement. This phenomenon allows qubits to be intrinsically linked no matter how far apart they physically are. Measuring the state of one of the qubits will immediately yield information about the state of the other. Say you have a pair of gloves. Each glove is put in a separate box and sent to different locations, and you don't know which box has which. But once a box is opened to reveal the left glove, you instantly know the other box has the right glove.

The instantaneous correlation between qubits speeds up computations that would take far longer with classical computers.

Superposition and entanglement are exclusive to quantum mechanics and central to the potential that quantum computers have to offer.

How far have quantum computers come?

Quantum computers are technologically superior but this doesn't automatically mean they will be better than classical computers at all tasks. Over the years, experts have developed specific tasks that prove quantum computers are capable of greater feats.

In 1994, Bell Labs computer scientist Peter Shor created the Shor's algorithm. It could find the factors of large numbers in moments rather than the millions of years required by classical computers. This has major implications for data security. Current methods to secure data involve locking the data and hiding the key in the solution of a difficult mathematical problem.

Large-number factorisation is one such problem and classical computers require enormous amounts of resources to solve it. But using Shor's algorithm, a quantum computer could quickly get the key and open the locks.

The state of quantum computing has come a long way since. In 2019, for example, IBM unveiled the world's first circuit-based commercial quantum computer, Q System One. Circuit-based designs are believed to be the most versatile for general quantum-computing applications. Q System One uses circuits composed of quantum gates that

manipulate qubits, analogous to how classical computers use logic gates.

In the same year, researchers at Google reported in a paper in *Nature* that their 53-qubit 'Sycamore' processor had achieved quantum supremacy: when it can solve a problem that would take classical computers an unreasonable amount of time. The paper claimed Sycamore completed a task in 200 seconds that would have taken a supercomputer 10,000 years.

Earlier this month, Google unveiled a quantum chip called Willow, purportedly the world's first quantum processor in which error-corrected qubits improve as they scale. Quantum states are easily prone to errors due to interactions with the environment, so quantum computers need error correction to hold information long enough to perform useful calculations with them.

Willow, Google has said, can finish a standard test in five minutes whereas the same calculation could take today's best supercomputers 10 trillion trillion years.

What are the present limitations?

The advancements are flying thick and fast but there are still many significant challenges to overcome before quantum computers can become commonplace.

The chief concern is that building quantum computers remains expensive and complex. Keeping many qubits stable is also difficult because of error rates and decoherence (when a qubit loses superposition because of noise from its surroundings). The problems for which we really need quantum computers – like discovering new drugs or cracking mysteries in astronomy – also require millions of qubits.

All said, their potential to be useful is clear. This is why India launched the National Quantum Mission in 2023. The government has set aside ₹6,000 crore for the mission to be spent over eight years, among other things to develop quantum computers.

Tejasri Gururaj is a freelance science writer and journalist with a master's degree in physics

THE GIST

Quantum computers rely on two key principles of quantum mechanics: superposition, where qubits can exist in multiple states, and entanglement, where qubits are linked, allowing them to share information instantly.

Key milestones include Shor's algorithm, Google's Sycamore achieving quantum supremacy, and recent advancements such as the quantum chip Willow improving error correction.

High costs, keeping qubits stable, and the need for large-scale qubits remain significant challenges, but initiatives like India's National Quantum Mission signal strong efforts to unlock their potential.

- **Basics of Quantum Computing**

- **Definition:** Quantum computers utilize quantum mechanics principles to perform complex computations faster than classical computers.

- क्वांटम कंप्यूटर क्वांटम यांत्रिकी के सिद्धांतों का उपयोग करते हैं ताकि क्लासिकल कंप्यूटरों की तुलना में जटिल गणनाएँ तेज़ी से कर सकें।

- **Qubits:** The basic unit of information in quantum computers, unlike bits in classical computers.

- क्लासिकल कंप्यूटरों के बिट्स के विपरीत, क्वांटम कंप्यूटरों में जानकारी की मूल इकाई "क्यूबिट्स" होती है।

- A qubit can exist in a state of 0, 1, or both (superposition), enabling parallel computations.

- एक क्यूबिट 0, 1, या दोनों स्थितियों (सुपरपोजिशन) में रह सकता है, जो समानांतर गणनाओं को संभव बनाता है।

Core Principles

Superposition: Qubits can hold multiple states simultaneously, enhancing computational power.

- सुपरपोजिशन: क्यूबिट्स एक साथ कई स्थितियाँ धारण कर सकते हैं, जिससे गणनात्मक क्षमता बढ़ती है।

Entanglement: Enables qubits to share information instantly, no matter the distance.

- एंटेंगलमेंट: क्यूबिट्स को दूरी की परवाह किए बिना तुरंत जानकारी साझा करने की अनुमति देता है।

Advancements in Quantum Computing

Quantum Supremacy: Google's Sycamore processor solved a task in 200 seconds, which classical computers would take 10,000 years to complete.

- गूगल के सायकामोर प्रोसेसर ने 200 सेकंड में एक कार्य पूरा किया, जिसे क्लासिकल कंप्यूटरों को 10,000 साल लगते।

Shor's Algorithm: Demonstrates the ability to factorize large numbers, a critical task for cryptography.

- शोर का एल्गोरिदम: बड़े अंकों का फैक्टराइजेशन करने की क्षमता प्रदर्शित करता है, जो क्रिप्टोग्राफी के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

Limitations

Error Rates: Qubits are sensitive to environmental interactions, requiring error correction for accurate results.

- त्रुटि दर: क्यूबिट्स पर्यावरणीय प्रभावों के प्रति संवेदनशील होते हैं, जिससे सटीक परिणामों के लिए त्रुटि सुधार की आवश्यकता होती है।

Decoherence: Quantum states decay quickly, making stability a significant challenge.

- डीकोहेरेंस: क्वांटम स्थितियाँ जल्दी नष्ट हो जाती हैं, जिससे स्थिरता एक बड़ी चुनौती बन जाती है।

Future Potential and Initiatives

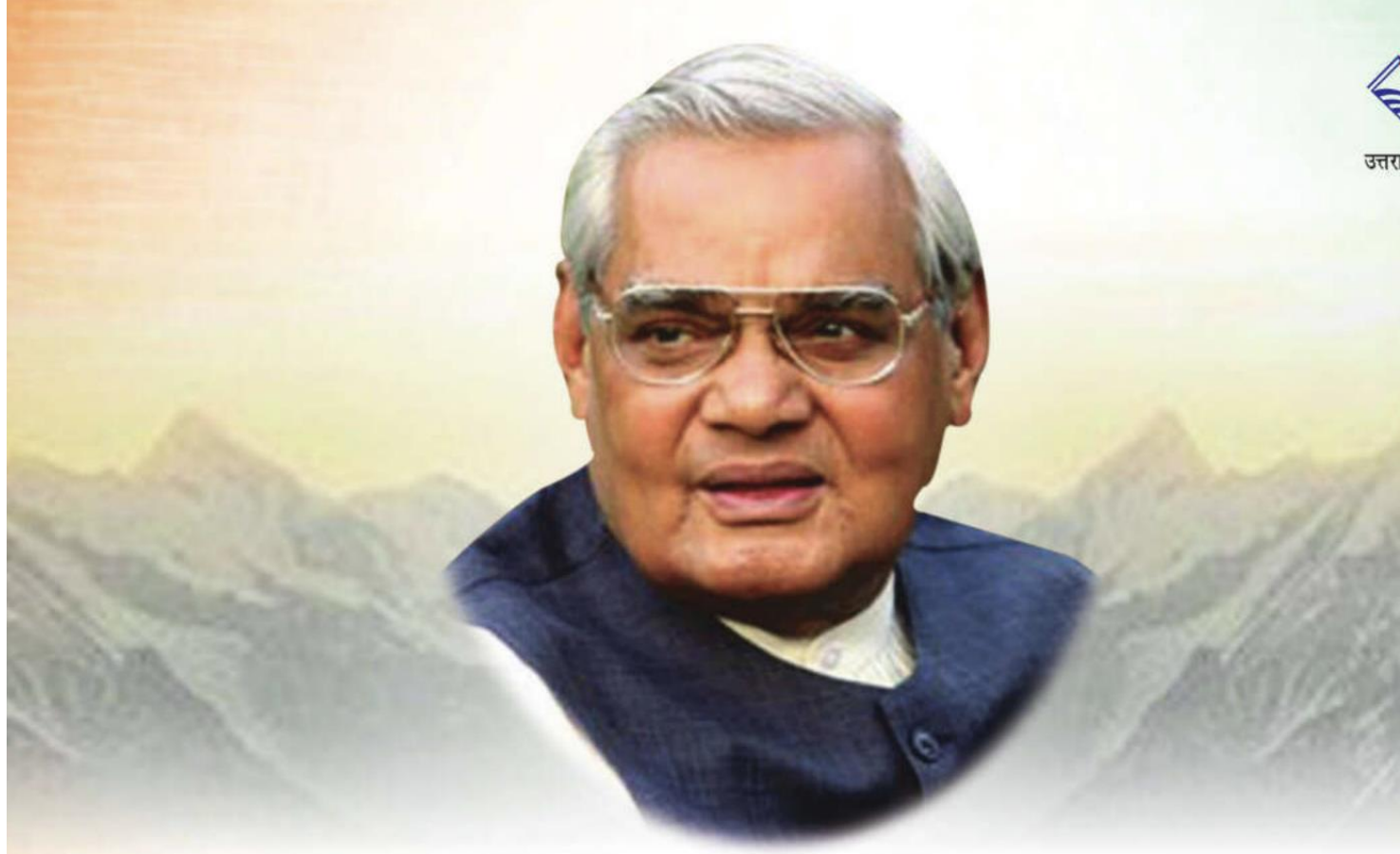
Indian Quantum Mission: Launched in 2023 with a budget of ₹6,000 crore to explore quantum technologies.

- भारतीय क्वांटम मिशन: 2023 में ₹6,000 करोड़ के बजट के साथ क्वांटम तकनीकों का पता लगाने के लिए शुरू किया गया।

Applications: Could revolutionize fields like cryptography, material science, and artificial intelligence.

- अनुप्रयोग: क्रिप्टोग्राफी, सामग्री विज्ञान और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता जैसे क्षेत्रों में क्रांति ला सकता है।

Aspect (पहलू)	Quantum Computer (क्वांटम कंप्यूटर)	Classical Computer (क्लासिकल कंप्यूटर)
Basic Unit of Information (जानकारी की मूल इकाई)	Qubit (क्यूबिट) - Can represent 0, 1, or both (superposition).	Bit (बिट) - Can only represent 0 or 1.
Information Storage (जानकारी का भंडारण)	Uses quantum states like superposition and entanglement for data storage.	Stores data in binary format (0s and 1s).
Computational Power (गणनात्मक क्षमता)	Can perform multiple calculations simultaneously (parallel processing).	Performs one calculation at a time (sequential processing).
Speed (गति)	Exceptionally faster for certain tasks like cryptography and simulations.	Slower in comparison for the same tasks.
Energy Consumption (ऊर्जा खपत)	Potentially lower energy consumption due to quantum states.	Higher energy consumption due to classical circuits.
Error Rate (त्रुटि दर)	Sensitive to environmental noise; requires error correction mechanisms.	More stable with lower error rates.
Data Handling (डेटा प्रबंधन)	Can process complex and large datasets effectively.	Limited by binary logic and linear processing.
Applications (अनुप्रयोग)	Suitable for cryptography, material science, artificial intelligence, etc.	Used in day-to-day applications like word processing, browsing, gaming.
Development Stage (विकास चरण)	Still in experimental and research phase.	Fully developed and widely used globally.
Cost (लागत)	Extremely expensive to build and maintain.	Relatively inexpensive and accessible.



युग पुरुष, उत्तराखण्ड के प्रणेता, जनप्रिय पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री

“भास्त रत्न”

स्व. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी

की जयंती पर समस्त उत्तराखण्डवासियों की ओर से

शत-शत नमन

Aspect	Details
Full Name	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Birth	25 December 1924, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
Death	16 August 2018, New Delhi
Education	M.A. in Political Science, Victoria College (now Laxmi Bai College), Kanpur
Political Ideology	Associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
Major Positions Held	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10th Prime Minister of India (1996, 1998–2004)- Minister of External Affairs (1977–1979)- Member of Parliament for over 5 decades
Political Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- First non-Congress PM to complete a full term (1999–2004).

	- Played a key role in transforming BJP into a major national political party.
Pokhran-II (1998)	Conducted India's second nuclear tests, marking India as a nuclear power.
Economic Reforms	- Introduced National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
	- Emphasized privatization and liberalization.
Kargil War (1999)	Successfully led India during the Kargil War against Pakistan.
Lahore Summit (1999)	Initiated peace talks with Pakistan; traveled via bus to Lahore.
Golden Quadrilateral	Visionary infrastructure project connecting major cities through highways.
Operation Vijay	Military response to the Kargil conflict, resulting in India's victory.
Poet and Orator	Renowned for his poetry and impactful speeches in Parliament and public forums.
Awards	- Bharat Ratna (2015)
	- Padma Vibhushan (1992)
	- Best Parliamentarian Award (1994)
Personal Life	Lifelong bachelor, dedicated to public service; fond of poetry and literature.
Legacy	Remembered for his statesmanship, economic vision, and efforts toward peace and development.
Nicknames	"Ajatshatru" (man with no enemies), "Bhishma Pitamah of Indian Politics."

India's pharmaceutical Market
for FY 2023-24 is Valued at
USD 50 Billion

India's pharmaceutical market for **FY 2023-24** is valued at **USD 50 billion** with domestic consumption valued at USD 23.5 billion and export valued at USD 26.5 billion.

Pharmaceutical Sector of India

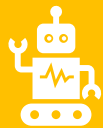
The Pharmaceutical industry in India is the **third largest** in the world in terms of volume and **14th largest** in terms of value



Major segments of industry include generic drugs, OTC medicines, bulk drugs, vaccines, contract research & manufacturing, biosimilars and biologics.

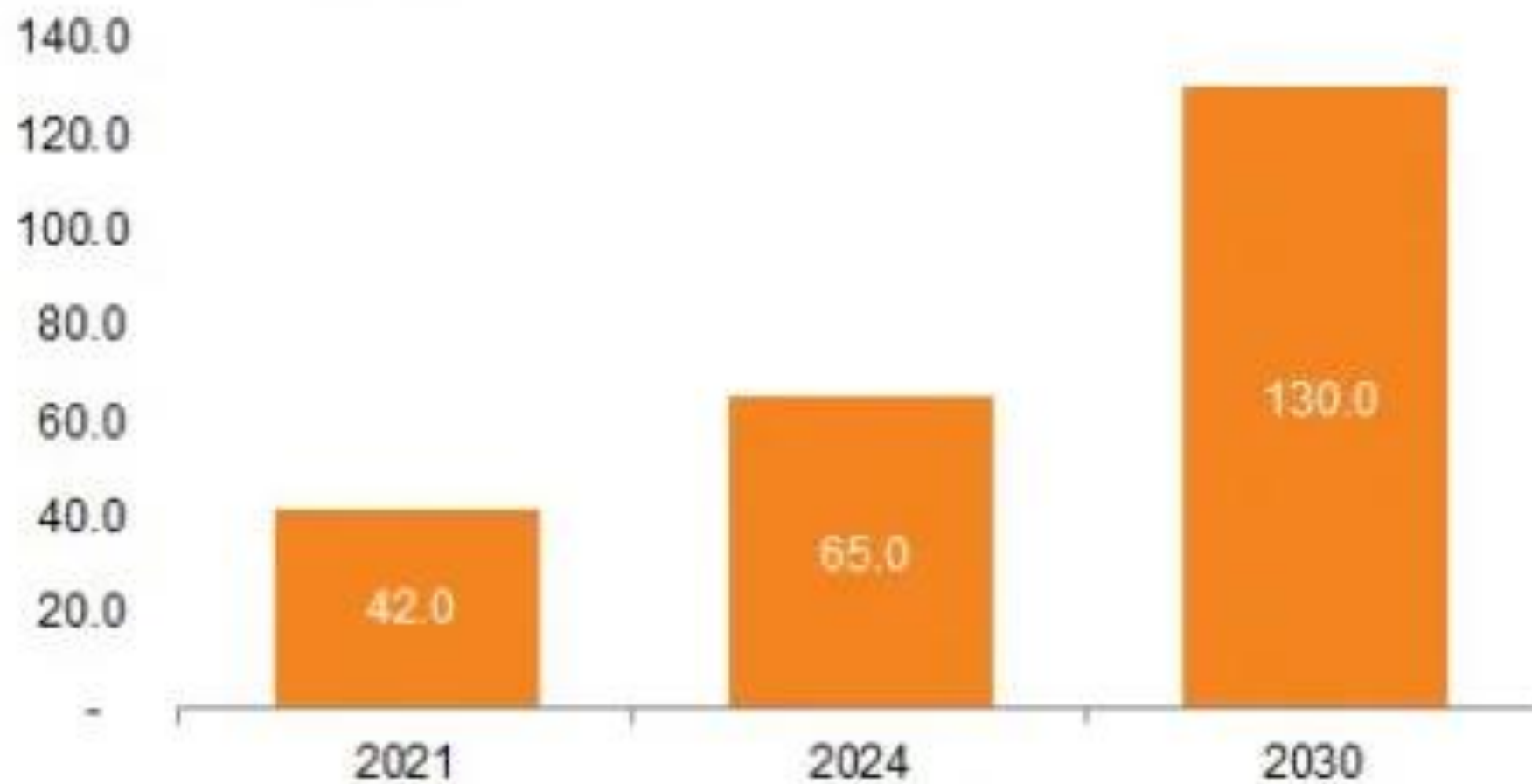


The Pharma sector currently contributes to around **1.72% of the country's GDP**.




India is the **3rd largest producer of API** accounting for an **8% share** of the Global API Industry.

Indian Pharmaceutical Market (US\$ billion)




- **Achievements of Pharmaceutical Sector of India**

- India accounts for **60% of global vaccine production**, contributing up to 70% of the WHO demand for **Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DPT)** and **Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccines**, and 90% of the WHO demand for the measles vaccine.

- 
- India supplies over **50%** of Africa's requirement for generics, **~40%** of generic demand in the US and **~25%** of all medicine in the UK.
 - **The cumulative FDI equity inflow** in the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals industry is **US\$ 22.52 billion** during the period 2000-2024, almost **3.4%** of the total inflow received across sectors.



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- The nation is the **largest provider of generic medicines** globally, occupying a **20% share** in global supply by volume, and is the leading vaccine manufacturer globally.
 - India is known as the “**pharmacy of the world**” due to the low cost and high quality of its medicines.



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India's Crude Oil Reserves



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- According to a report by the Lok Sabha's Standing Committee on petroleum and natural gas India's crude reserves are currently around **3.61 million tonnes, which is 67% of their rated capacity.**
 - **Key Highlights by the Committee:**
 - **Maintaining Optimum Reserves:** The Committee recommended the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to maintain the optimum level of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

- 
- **Budgeting:** The government had allocated Rs 5,000 crore in the budget estimates 2023-24 for filling up crude oil reserves.
 - The Committee finds the capital expenditure of the Ministry and Oil PSUs in the current financial year inadequate.
 - It recommended an increase in the allocation towards capital expenditure in the next possible opportunity.
- 

Crude Oil Imports by India

India's reliance on imported crude oil climbed to 88.2% during the first six months of FY25, up from 87.6% in the same period of FY24.

- India is the **world's third largest crude oil importer**.
- **India's main sources of crude oil imports** are Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Russia, United States and the United Arab Emirates.

Supplier	Volume (mn bpd)	Market share (%)
Russia	1.79	38.1
Iraq	0.88	18.7
Saudi Arabia	0.62	13.2
UAE	0.43	9.2
US	0.22	4.7

- **The top five oil-producing nations in 2024** were the United States, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Canada, and China.
- **The top oil-consuming countries** in the world are the United States, China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large, round, woven basket. The basket is intricately decorated with horizontal bands of colorful beads in shades of blue, yellow, orange, red, and green. The person holding the basket is wearing a vibrant, patterned garment with geometric designs in yellow, red, green, and black. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The word "Lesotho" is overlaid in white text on the center of the basket.

Lesotho

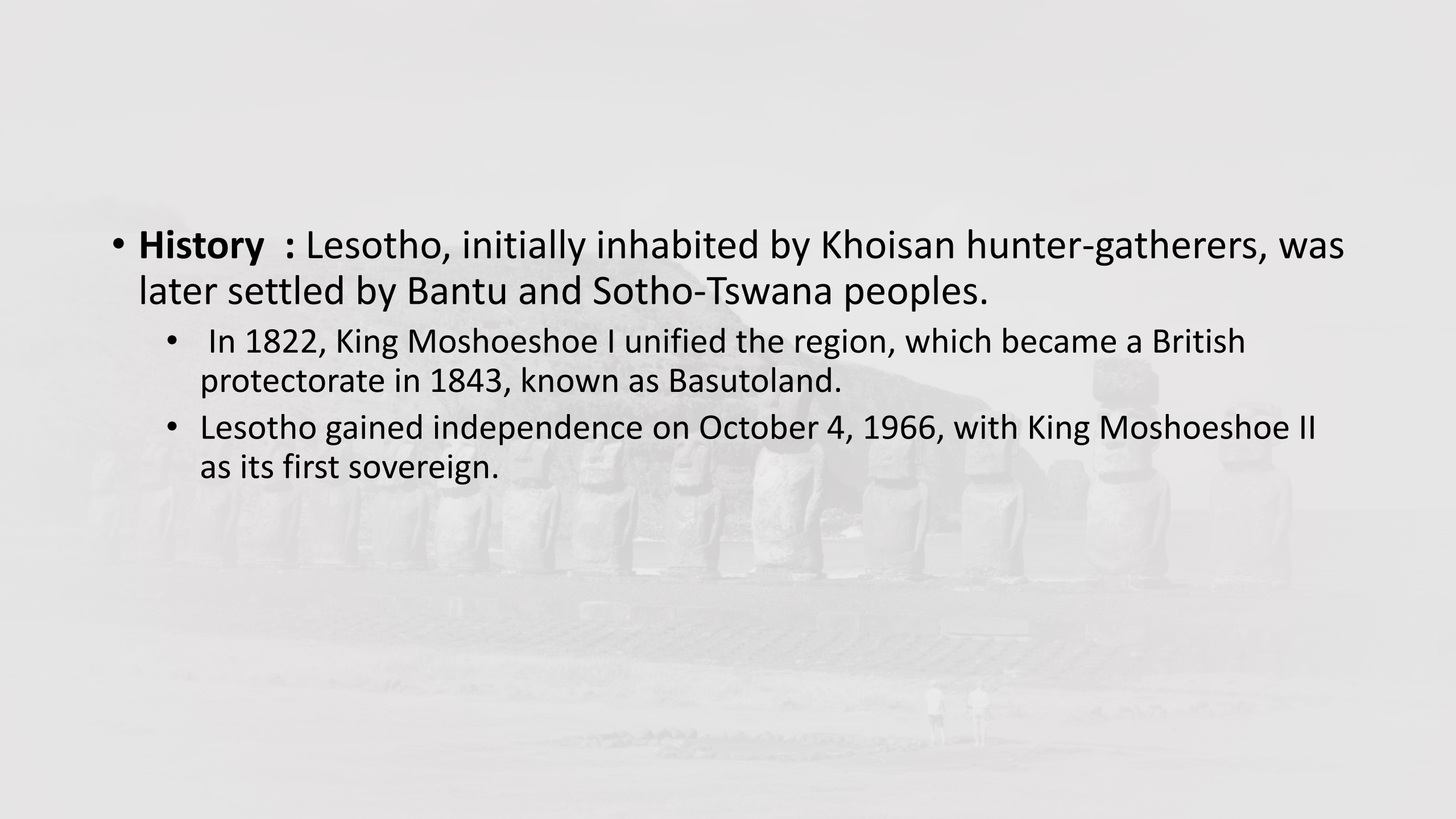
- India has sent a humanitarian aid consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes to Lesotho to assist with food security and nutritional needs.



Geography :It is a country in Southern Africa.

- It is a highland country with plateaus, hills, and mountains. Its highest point is **Thabana Ntlenyana** at 3,482 meters.


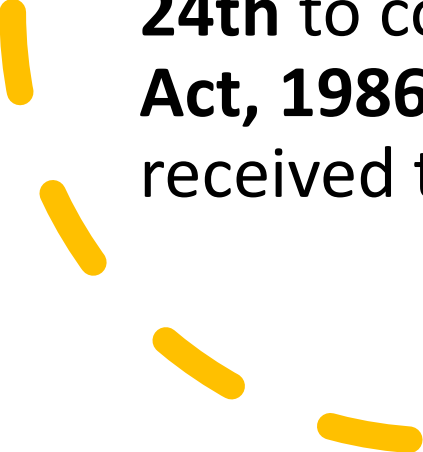
The capital: Maseru


- 
- **History** : Lesotho, initially inhabited by Khoisan hunter-gatherers, was later settled by Bantu and Sotho-Tswana peoples.
 - In 1822, King Moshoeshoe I unified the region, which became a British protectorate in 1843, known as Basutoland.
 - Lesotho gained independence on October 4, 1966, with King Moshoeshoe II as its first sovereign.

-
- **Society** : The country is predominantly Christian (80%), with 20% following indigenous beliefs.
 - **Economy** : Lesotho's economy is driven by industries such as food, textiles, handicrafts, and subsistence farming

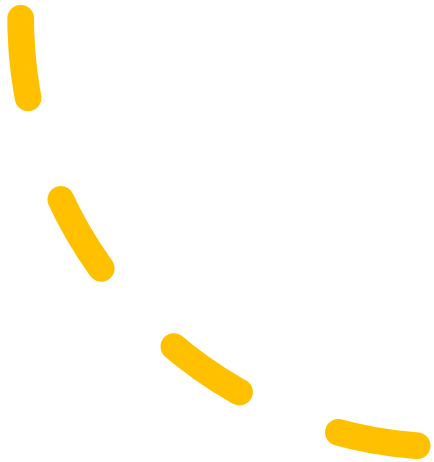


National Consumer Day & Protection Laws

- 
- On National Consumer Day 2024, the Union Minister will launch several key initiatives aimed at enhancing consumer protection and ensuring consumer rights.
 - **National Consumer Day**
 - In India, National Consumer Day is celebrated annually on **December 24th** to commemorate the enactment of the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986, (replaced by Consumer Protection Act 2019)** which received the assent of the President on this date.
- 



- 
- The **2024 National Consumer Day** theme is “Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice,” reflecting the government’s focus on improving consumer justice through digital platforms like e-filing and virtual hearings.

-



Marburg Virus Disease



- 
- Rwanda has successfully managed its first-ever Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) outbreak and officially declared it over.
 - **About**
 - The disease is named after **Marburg, the German city** where scientists became ill with the disease's first known cases in **1967**, while handling **monkeys imported from Uganda**.
- 

It is a **highly contagious virulent disease** that causes hemorrhagic fever, with a **fatality ratio of up to 88%**.

- It is in the same family as the virus that causes Ebola virus disease and they show similar symptoms.

Host and Spread: Marburg's natural host is a **fruit bat**, but it can also infect **primates, pigs and other animals**.

- Human outbreaks start after a person has contact with an infected animal.
- **Symptoms:** High fever, severe headache and severe malaise. Muscle aches and pains are a common feature.
- **Treatment:** There are no vaccines and no proven treatment available for Marburg virus disease



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The ORDER of MUBARAK Al KABEER



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140 CRORE INDIANS!

-  2024 - Guyana's The Order Of Excellence
-  2024 - Barbados's The Order of Freedom
-  2024 - Nigeria's Grand Commander of the Order
-  2024 - Dominica's Dominica Award of Honour
-  2024 - Russia's Order of St. Andrew the Apostle
-  2023 - Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour
-  2023 - France's Grand Cross of the Legion
-  2023 - Egypt's Order of the Nile
-  2023 - Republic of Palau's honour Ebaki Award
-  2023 - Papua New Guinea's the Order of Logohu
-  2023 - Fiji's prestigious Companion of the Order of Fiji
-  2021 - Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo
-  2020 - US Government's Legion of Merit
-  2019 - Bahrain's King Hamad Order of the Renaissance
-  2019 - Maldives' the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin
-  2019 - United Arab Emirates' Order of Zayed Award
-  2018 - Palestine's the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award
-  2016 - Afghanistan's the State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan
-  2016 - Saudi Arabia's Order of King Abdulaziz

SSC CGL GK/GS Foundation Course

Current Affairs

Computer Knowledge

Science

Biology

Geography

History

Polity

Economics

Static GK

Computer Revision

chemistry CI-1

2024-12-13 at 11:30 AM

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Coming Soon!

Electricity and Magnetism

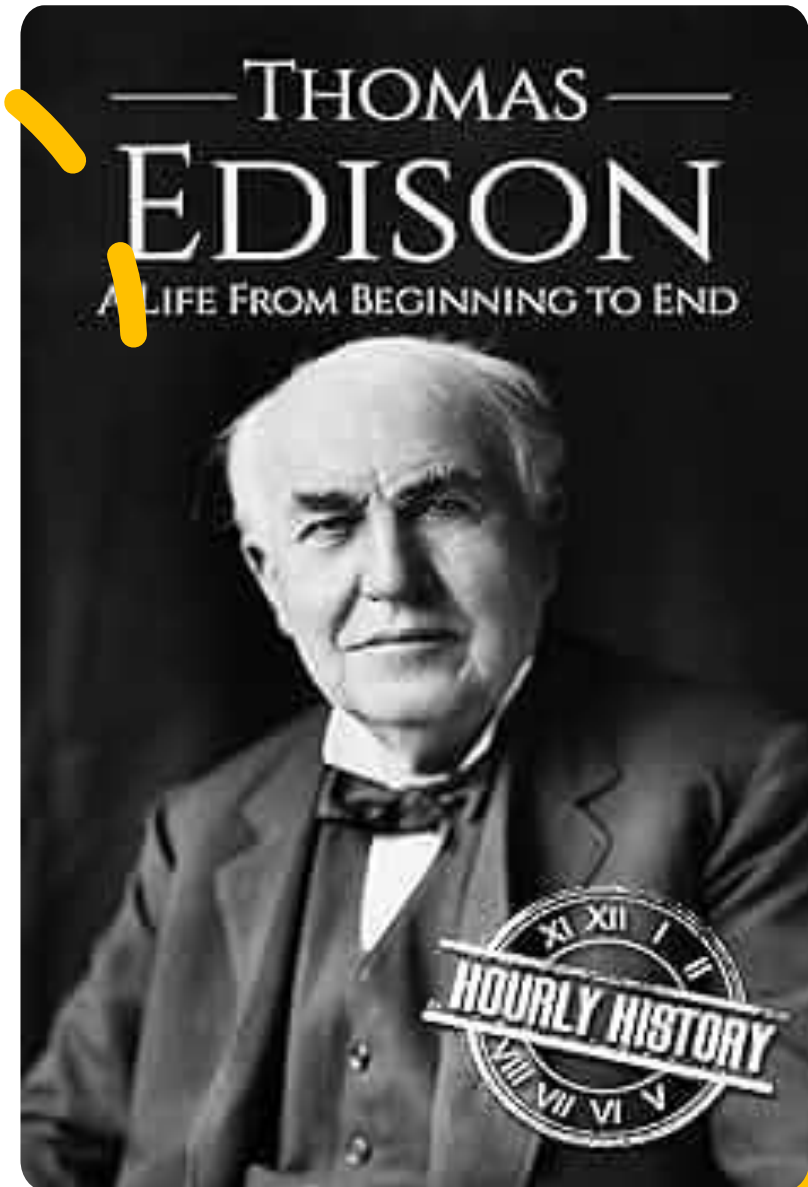
2024-12-13 at 9:00 AM

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Coming Soon!

Thomas Edison, cited in *Various Biographies*

- “Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration.” –



A blurred background image of a modern office interior. Several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit, likely from large windows, creating a soft, out-of-focus atmosphere. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- What is the primary focus of the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** and its amendment in 2019?
उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 और 2019 के संशोधन का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Promoting ethical advertising practices / नैतिक विज्ञापन प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देना**
- **B. Enhancing digital consumer access / डिजिटल उपभोक्ता पहुंच को बढ़ावा देना**
- **C. Ensuring consumer rights and justice / उपभोक्ता अधिकारों और न्याय की सुनिश्चितता**
- **D. Reducing market monopolies / बाजार एकाधिकार को कम करना**

- On which date is **National Consumer Day** observed in India?
भारत में **राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता दिवस** किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?
- **A. December 20 / 20 दिसंबर**
- **B. December 22 / 22 दिसंबर**
- **C. December 24 / 24 दिसंबर**
- **D. December 26 / 26 दिसंबर**

- What was the theme of **National Consumer Day 2024**?
राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता दिवस 2024 का विषय क्या था?
- **A. Consumer Empowerment through E-Commerce / ई-कॉमर्स के माध्यम से उपभोक्ता सशक्तिकरण**
- **B. Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice / आभासी सुनवाई और उपभोक्ता न्याय तक डिजिटल पहुंच**
- **C. Sustainable Consumerism / स्थायी उपभोक्तावाद**
- **D. Strengthening Consumer Laws / उपभोक्ता कानूनों को मजबूत बनाना**

- What percentage of global vaccine production is contributed by India?
वैश्विक टीका उत्पादन में भारत का योगदान कितना प्रतिशत है?
- **A. 50%**
- **B. 60%**
- **C. 70%**
- **D. 80%**

- Which disease is a significant focus of India's vaccine production, contributing 90% to WHO's demand?
भारत के टीका उत्पादन का मुख्य ध्यान किस बीमारी पर है, जो डब्ल्यूएचओ की मांग का 90% पूरा करता है?
- **A. Measles / खसरा**
- **B. Polio / पोलियो**
- **C. Diphtheria / डिप्थीरिया**
- **D. Malaria / मलेरिया**

- What is the role of the **Strategic Petroleum Reserve** in India's energy security?
भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार की क्या भूमिका है?
- A. Reducing energy imports / ऊर्जा आयात को कम करना
B. Ensuring fuel availability during crises / संकट के दौरान ईंधन की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करना
C. Boosting renewable energy projects / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं को बढ़ावा देना
D. Both A and B / ए और बी दोनों

- In which year did Lesotho gain independence?
लेसोथो को स्वतंत्रता किस वर्ष प्राप्त हुई?
- **A. 1956**
- B. 1960**
- C. 1966**
- D. 1970**

- What is a **qubit** in the context of quantum computing?
क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग के संदर्भ में क्यूबिट क्या है?
- **A. A basic unit of classical computing / क्लासिकल कंप्यूटिंग की मूल इकाई**
- **B. A unit of quantum information that can exist in multiple states simultaneously / क्वांटम जानकारी की इकाई जो एक साथ कई स्थितियों में हो सकती है**
- **C. A form of binary code / बाइनरी कोड का एक रूप**
- **D. A special kind of storage device / भंडारण उपकरण का एक विशेष प्रकार**

- Which principle does a quantum computer use to perform computations faster than classical computers?
क़्वांटम कंप्पूटर क्लासिकल कंप्पूटरों की तुलना में तेजी से गणना करने के लिए किस सिद्धांत का उपयोग करता है?
- **A. Classical mechanics / क्लासिकल मैकेनिक्स**
- **B. Quantum mechanics / क्वांटम मैकेनिक्स**
- **C. Relativity theory / सापेक्षता का सिद्धांत**
- **D. Statistical probability / सांख्यिकीय संभाव्यता**

Word of the day

Proclivity:

a tendency to choose or do something regularly

Synonyms: liking, bias, preference

Usage: *She has a proclivity for solving puzzles.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/proclivitypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /prəklɪvɪti/

Fun Fact



Myth 3: Objects float in space because there's no gravity.

- **Truth:** Objects float because they are in **free fall**, constantly falling toward Earth (or another celestial body) while moving forward, creating a state of weightlessness.

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Thank you
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