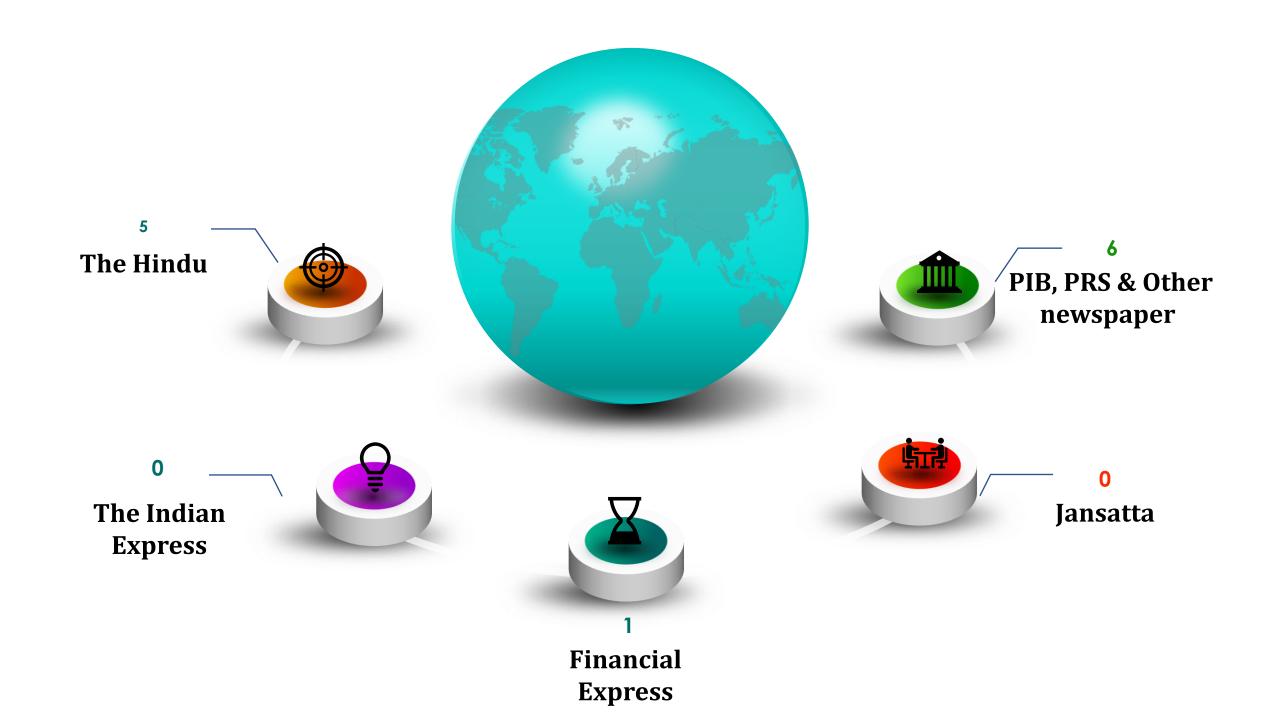
# Daily Current Affairs











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10 MCQ QUIZ



- What is the significance of the **Parivar Mulakat (Family Visit)** pilot project introduced in Punjab prisons? पंजाब की जेलों में शुरू किए गए **परिवार मुलाकात (Family Visit)** पायलट प्रोजेक्ट का महत्व क्या है?
- 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 परिपन्न 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 / कृत्ब मीनार
  - C. Red Fort / लाल किंला
  - 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 भीड़ंभाड़ 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 शृंखलाओं में विविधता लाना
  - B. Invest in renewable energy projects / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं में निवेश करना
  - C. Promote sustainable mining / स्थायी खूनन को बढ़ावा देना
  - D. Build strategic mineral reserves / रणनीतिक खनिजं भंडार बनाना



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

By Bhunesh Sir

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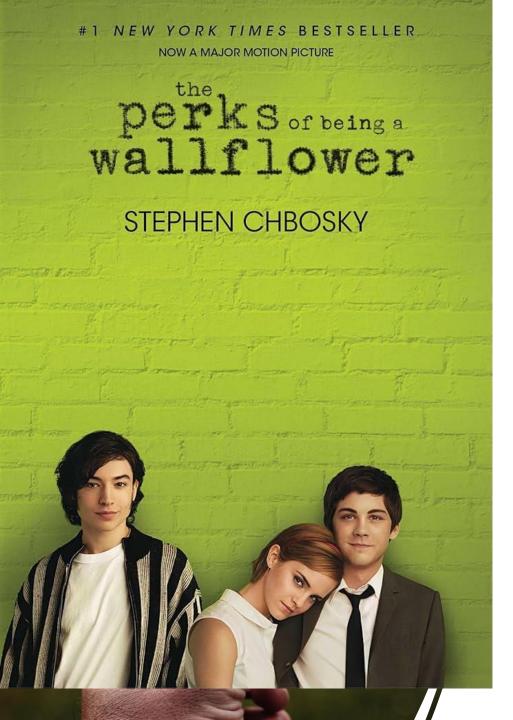
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# Stephen Chbosky, ThePerks of Being a Wallflower

"We accept the love we think we deserve."





Selection process flawed, says Congress NEWS » PAGE 5





Caste-based disparities, myth of meritocracy An empirical test shows the reality of inclusivity





#### Syrian militias agree to join defence forces

mmad al. Inlani met Muhammad al-Jolani met heads of several armed factions, Syria's authorities announced on Tuesday tha they had reached an agreement with militias on their integration into regula defence forces. » PAGE 14



#### Lokpal summons SEBI chairperson,

NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI
Anti-corruption ombudsman
Lokpal has called SEBI
chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch
and complainants, including
Trinamool Congress MP Mahuu
Moltta, for an "oral hearing" or
on January 28 in connection
with corruption complaints
being heard by it. 30 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, the Congress Working Committee (CWC), at its meeting in Belagavi on Thursday, is likely to take up the "insult" to Ambedkar's legacy. » PAGE 5

#### Junior doctors question CBI's R.G. Kar probe

KOLKATA Junior doctors in West Bengal have stepped up their protest seeking justice for the trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at the R.G. Kar



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

the U.S. and the U.K. have expressed deep concern over the recent handing down of convictions by Pakistani military courts to 25 civilian supporters of former Prime Minister Invan Khan over the alleged involvement in riots last year. 39 PAGE 14

CM COM

#### 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 Harvana Assembly polls

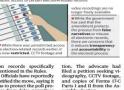
he Congress on Tuesday chal-lenged the amenda ments made to the Con-duct of Election Rules of 1961 that restricted cit-zens' right to access cer-tain election-related records.

Ramesh moved the top court against the change in the poll rules, which rethe poll rules, winto acduces public access to
CCTV camera footage from
polling booths and video
recordings of candidates.

Officials have reportedly

Officials have reportedly The amendment was nade to sub-rule (2) of Rule 93 of the 1961 Rules.

#### Access limited



justified the move, saying it was to protect the poll pro-cess from false narratives which had previously although misuse or doctor-lowed the public to exa-mine papers related to elections without any

lowed the public to examine papers related to elections without any memory and pustices. The amendment, notified on December 20 by the Union Law and Justices Ministry, had restricted as per terrain elections to the certain elections to the certain elections to the certain elections to the certain elections to make the certain elections without public consultations to make the certain elections to make the certain elections to make the certain elections the certain elections to make the certain elections the certain elections to make the certain elections the certain ele

sembly election.

"The Election Commis-

#### EC rejects Cong. claims on polls as 'misleading'

NEW DELHI The Election Commission has rejected as "factually incorrect and misleading" the Congress' claims of "arbitrary deletion" and "subsequent addition" in

maybe on my part white niing 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
bistol ace took to social 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 ac-cess to essential informapistol ace took to social media to clarify her tion that makes the electo-ral process more Position.

However, Ministry sources said that the ral process more transparent and accountable. The integrity of the electoral process is fast eroding. Hopefully the Sunames were yet to be final-ised and her name would be there when the final list preme Court will help res-tore it," Mr. Ramesh posted was released in a week

On Monday, her coach, Jaspal Rana, and father, Ram Kishan Bhaker, lam-

Press Trust of India

Sam Kishan Bhaker, Iam-based the Sports Ministry and the selection commit-tee for overboding Ms. Members and the selection of the Members and the selection of the mental achievements. Members and the selection of the na award – I would like to state that as an athlete my role is to play and perform state that as an athlete my role is to play and perform a ward – I would like to state that as an athlete my role is to play and perform a word of the selection of the my for the nomination. The Hayana shooter

The Haryana shooter said her aim is at perform-ing for the country wheth-"Awards and recognition keeps me motivated but are not my goal," she asserted. "Irrespective of the award I shall remain motiv-ated to win more medals for my country. It is a re-quest to everyone, please do not speculate on this." In August, Ms. Bhaker

# Amid a raging controversy over her "exclusion" from the list of Khel Rama nomi-nees, double Olympic me-dallist Manu Bhaker on Tuesday admitted that "there has been a lapse, maybe on my part while fil-ing for the nomination".

Olympics, with her personal coach Jaspal Rana. FILE PHOTO

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 Pa-

Officials say Khel Ratna list

not finalised; Manu Bhaker

suggests lapse on her part

#### Credentials 'ignored'

Credentials 'ignored'
Mr. Rana, a decorated
shooter himself, castigated
the Sports Ministry, the
Esports Ministry, the
sports Ministry, the
and the National Rifle Association of Bridla, holding
them responsible for 'ignoring' his ward's credentit, will hold all of them
responsible. How can
anyone even say Manu tid
not apply She made history by becoming the first himedals in the same Olymmedals in the same Olymmedals in the same Olym-

medals in the same Olym-pics. Her name should have been there automati-Bhaker is and what are her credentials? This humilia-tion might just affect her progress," Mr. Rana, who was the personal coach of

about this, then how come the committee that decides the names fail to under

## honour," Mr. Rana asked. "What is their job other

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

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

cally. Don't the people at the helm know who Manu low athletes to self-nominate instead of relying on federations and other institutions for it. The selection committee is, however, al-lowed to consider names

was the personal colar of MRS. 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 arbiter's confidence."

## Christmas in the air



#### Five soldiers killed as vehicle Allu Arjun quizzed for over 3 hours falls into gorge in Poonch

Five soldiers were killed when the vehicle in which they were travelling skidded off the road in the Pir Panial valley of Poonch dis ict on Tuesday evening, the Army said.

A spokesperson of the Army's White Knight rmy's White Knight orps, in charge of the Ra-Gorps, in charge of the Rat-jouri-Poonch belt, said, 'Five brave soldiers lost their lives in a whiche acci-duty in the Poonch sector.' 'Rescue operations were going on in the area, the the whiche phanged in-to a gorge, approximately 300-350 feet deep, he said. Great and the cause of the acci-denced of heart seven not but "possibly, the driver



diers were on the vehicle lost control at the turn of

ing the premiere of his film Pushpa 2 on December 4 that led to the death of a S-year-old woman and seeday 970 in the first of the had the permission to visit Sandhya to fit for he had the permission to visit Sandhya to the road". The whicle was travelled as twhicles rom the wildow headquarters to a post at Ballou Chora. With the permission to the day of the premisre. He was questioned as twhicles rom the wildow headquarters to a post at Ballou Chora. With the permission to the day of the premisre. He was questioned unaware of the death durable was the work of the death of the premisre. He was questioned to the premisre of the death of the premisre of the p

tion here on Tuesday on a

stampede at a cinema dur-ing the premiere of his film

### on stampede during movie premiere Actor Allu Arjun was ques-tioned for about three-and-a-half hours at a police sta-



Law taking its course: Allu Arjun arrives for interrogation at the Chikkadpally police station in Hyderabad on Tuesday, NAGARA GOPAL

tion was on. Arjun, along with his father, Alhi Ara-vind, and legal team, ar-rived at the police station around 11 a.m. He left around 3 p.m., and the crowd which gathered slowly dispersed. The pol-

ice have asked him to make himself available for furth-er questioning.

The police cordoned off the area to keep people and presspersons at a dis-tance. The police were de-ployed in strength across

particularly on Street Num-ber 6 where the police sta-

tion 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. Ariun was served a "notice for appea-rance" 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.

# 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** 

he 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.

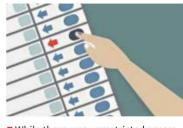
Congress leader Jairam Ramesh moved the top court against the change in the poll rules, which reduces public access to CCTV camera footage from polling booths and video recordings of candidates.

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 निष्पेक्षता 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 medallist 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 fliing 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.

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## **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।

#### Lokpal calls SEBI chief, complainants for 'oral hearing'

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Anti-corruption ombud sman Lokpal has called SE-BI chief Madhabi Puri Buch and also complainants, in cluding Trinamool Con gress MP Mahua Moitra gress MP Mahua Moitra, for an "oral hearing" next month in connection with corruption complaints be-ing heard by it, alleging im-propriety and conflict of interest on the basis of a Hindenburg Research report, according to an offi-cial order.

The Lokpal had sought

Ms. Buch's "explanatio on the complaints filed by Ms. Moitra, and two oth-

Hearing the case, the Lokpal said the named RPS (respondent public ser-vant) "has filed her resvant) "has filed her res-ponse by way of affidavit sworn on 07.12.2024 in time, raising preliminary issues as well as giving ex-

"Further, we deem it ap-propriate that the RPS as well as the complainants can be given opportunity of oral hearing to clarify their positions taken in the laints or the affidavit as the case may be," says the December 19 order signed by Lokpal Chairper-son Justice A.M. KhanwilHearing on Jan. 28 is over allegations of impropriety and conflict of interest of a report by

kar and five other members. Accordingly, the Lokpal has asked the registry to is-sue notices to the RPS as well as the complainant(s) of oral hearing on January

The Lokpal said "it is ap-The Lokpal said "it is ap-propriate and in the inter-est of justice that the com-plainants are provided a copy of the affidavit and documents filed by the RPS by way of response to the respective complai-nants and the supplemen-tary affidavits". In its report, U.S.-based Hindenburg Research al-

used in the alleged money siphoning scandal involv-ing the Adani Group.

They denied the allega-tions, saying the short-sell-er was attacking the capital markets regulator's credibility and attempting a character assessination

#### **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

ormer Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhal-la has been appoint-ed Governor of Manipur in the latest gubernatorial ap-pointments and reshuffle y President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday across

The appointments include former Union Minis-ter General V. K. Singh (retd) as Governor of Mizoram, and Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan be-ing made Governor of Bihar.

The President has ac-cepted the resignation of Odisha Governor Raghu-

Odisha Governo Control of 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 Alay Kumar Bhalla.

sad Acharya was holding dditional 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 Se-cretary. A 1984-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Megh-alaya cadre, he retired on August 25.

A former chief of the In-dian Army, Gen. Singh suc-cessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls twice (2014 and 2019) from the Ghazia-bad seat in Uttar Pradesh New Kerala governor The change of Governor in Kerala is another politicalon BJP ticket and was part of the Union Council of Mily significant move. Mr. Khan had been having regular run-ins with the Left Front government in

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

So, while he has been

shifted to Bihar, the incum-bent Bihar Governor, Ra-

bent Bihar Governor, Ra-jendra Vishwanath Arle-kar, has been named the new Governor of Kerala. The incumbent Gover-nor of Mizoram, Hari Babu Kambhampati, has been appointed Governor of Odisha.

A former chief of the In-

#### Shah evaluates transition to three new criminal laws

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amir Shah on Tuesday reviewed the implementation of the three criminal laws with the National Crime Re-cords Bureau. In another cords Bureau. In another meeting with Ultrarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Mr. Shah re-viewed the progress of im-plementation of the new criminal laws in the State. In the meeting with the NCRB, the nodal body for the involvementation of the

the implementation of the laws, Mr. Shah said that alerts should be generated for all the criminal cases at predefined stages and ti-melines right from registration to benefit victims and complainants.

Alerts to investigation officers as well as senior of-ficers as per pre-defined ti-melines will help in speed-ing up the investigation, Mr. Shah said. He empha-sised that a team of officers of the Home Ministry and the NCRB should visit the States to increase the ador-States to increase the adop-tion of technical projects and assist them in all possible ways

the Uttarakhand CM, Mr. Shah sought 100% implementation of the laws as

#### BSF using tech to plug gaps on Bangladesh border: D-G

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

Bangladesh, has deployed a host of technological so-lutions to prevent infiltra-tion and smuggling in patches of the border that is unfenced. BSF Director-General Daljit Singh Chawdhary on Tuesday, said, if, certain

infiltration or other cross

ing and the cameras in-stalled at all places should be of excellent quality. In the meeting with Mr. Dhami, the Minister stated that there should be regu-lar and continuous moniarr and continuous moni-toring of how many of the total Zero Firs registered had seen completion in in-vestigation and how many Firs had been transferred to States. He said that the Chief Minister of Uttershand

He said that the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand should review the progress of implementation of the three new laws every 15

Alerts to officials as per pre-defined timelines will help quicker investigation

The Home Minister sale

The Home Minister said that more than one foren-sic mobile van should be available in every district of the State. He added that a protocol should be made to decide the designated place for video conferenc-

days.
The Home Minister sug-gested to Deepam Seth, Di-rector-General of Police, Uttarakhand, to ensure that all the Superinten-dents of Police investigated the cases within the pre-scribed timelines.

The Border Security Force (BSF), which guards the border along India and Bangladesh, has deployed

Daljit Singh Chawdhary on Tuesday said if certain areas are unfenced it does not necessarily mean that infiltration or other border activities are going on along those stretches. "There are some rea-

sons why fencing is not there in certain places, such as around riverine areas. Wherever, there are such gaps we have used technological solutions. technological solutions. We have put obstacles, flood hit those areas, and regular patrolling is going on to ensure there is no in-

"Itration," he said.
Technological solutions
means the deployment of
cameras, drones, and other equipment to monitor

Mr. Chawdhary said that the Border Guard Bangla-desh (BGB) guards the bor-der on the Bangladesh side and the BSF and the BGB have good coordination.

#### Farewell scenes



Bidding adieu: Actors Naseeruddin Shah, Boman Irani, Rajit Kapur, and others during the funeral of

#### 'Invisible hand fuelling violence in Manipur'

Former Chief Justice of Ma-nipur High Court Sidd-harth Mridul on Tuesday said that there seems to be an "invisible hand" behind the ongoing ethnic vio-lence in Manipur. He said that whenever the situa-tion appears to return to normalicy someone injects

tion appears to return to normalcy, someone injects a fresh dose of violence. "Whose hand is it is not clear to me yet. There could be a number of fac-tors at play," Justice Mridul said, adding that even with 50,000 boots on the ground, the government is unable to restore law and order. Asserting that peace out, "If we wait for conflict



Displaced lives: A Kuki tribal woman lights a fire to prepare food in a relief camp in Kangpokpi, Manipur, on Sunday: AP

will be nothing left to protect."

He was speaking at a pa-nel discussion "Under-standing the barriers of Northeast India and Manipur violence: the way forward", organised by TMP Manipur, Meitei Alliance,

violence between the Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people since May 3, 2023. More than 250 people have been killed and more

and soaring unemploy-ment in the State, Justice Mridul, who retired on No-vember 21, said, "Every time I flew back to Imphal from Delhi, I used to carry vegetables with me. Bevegetables with me. Besides the jobs with the government and the universities, there is no
employment in the valley.
There is no demand, there
is surge pricing everywhree. The only way to reach
the valley is to be airthe valley is to be airthe for the pricing from
Delhi for Imphal."

He surgested that the in-

Flagging hyper inflation

He suggested that the in-ternally displaced persons from both communities should be provided securi ty to go back to their homes, "I have visited relief camps; the constant re frain I hear is that we want

too much to ask the pow-ers that every individual who is residing in these re-lief camps be returned to their homes and be accorded protection not only for their lives but also for their their lives but also for their property and livelihood. There are approximately 60,000 people in relief camps. We have more than 60,000 boots on the ground, and we were to even consider the outrage-

Manipur violence is not part of a grand design to destabilise the Northeast. Arambam Noni, Associate Imphal, said institutions were losing legitimacy due

#### Panel relaxes curbs in NCR as pollution goes down

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Central panel tasked The Central panel tasked with improving air quality in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) on Tuesday lifted its most stringent curbs amid a dip in pollu-

curbs amid a dip in pollu-tion levels.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had reimposed Stage IV restrictions under its Graded Response Ac-tion Plan (GRAP) on December 16 after pollution levels nosedived sharply nearly two-week after it had rolled back its most

severe curbs.
The CAQM said it has city's air quality index reading, which scaled reading, which scaled down to 369 (very poor) at down to 369 (very poor) at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 31 points below the limit for invoking the GRAP-IV curbs. It, however, said the curbs imposed under Stag-es I, II and III, including a ban on the plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel cars, will remain in force.

#### T.N. govt. issues elaborate standard operating procedure for *jallikattu*

R. Rajaram

The Tamil Nadu govern-ment has issued an elabo-rate Standard Operating Procedure to be followed procedure to be followed to ensure safe conduct of jallikattu events in 2025. The responsibilities of the district administration, animal husbandry, revenue, health, public works, police and fire and rescue services departments be-sides that of the organising committees, bull owners and the tamers have been and the tamers have been spelt out in the SOP circu-

Collectors.
The SOP has to be followed by officials and or-ganisers of the event under the overall supervision and control of the Director of Animal Husbandry and Ve terinary Services and the Animal Welfare Board of

limit for GRAP-IV said the deer Stag-Juding a confuced from Jamarry, coinciding with the Pongal festivities, and goes on till May. One of the points to be strictly endered in Groce I. Status permission



According to the SOP, causing suffering to the bulls should be strictly avoided and their safety should be ensured. G. MOORTHY

should be given only for those events that are pro-

those events that are proposed to be conducted in ment.

m

lowed to hold the event.
All stakeholders should be sensitised to the online registration of events, tam-ers and bulls. Applications ers and buils. Applications should be processed through the online mode in the web portal newly developed for jallikattu events www.jallikattu.tn-gov.in
The District Collector

The District Collector shall form a committee to oversee and ensure that the events are conducted in conformity with the pre-scribed rules. The Jallikat-ty Monitories Committee tu Monitoring Committee should issue NOC only after assessing all arrangements and cooperation of organisers. The revenue departploiting workers and un-dermining labour stan-dards. Government

ment team should inspect the selected venue for suffithe selected venue for suffi-cient space and safety and ensure that all wells in the vicinity of around 5-km ra-different sufficient and the closed. The animal hus-bandry department offi-cials should examine the location and facilitate the approval of the layout for the proposed venue.

#### Government must not ape private sector's insecure gig work conditions, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

has led to an increase in

precarious employment arrangements, often cha-

racterised by lack of bene-fits, job security and fair

treatment. Such practices have been criticised for ex-

than 60,000 people have been displaced from their

The Supreme Court has said in a judgment that the government, one of the lar-gest employers in the -TREETment arrangements" seen in the private sector with the rise of the gig economy. "In the private sector, the rise of the gig economy

of "temporary" contrac-tual staff by public sector the detrimental trends observed in a gig economy but also sparks a concern, Justice Nath, who wrote the judgment, cautioned.

'Regularise staff'

dards. Government institutions, entrusted with upholding the principles of fairness and justice, bear an even greater responsibility to avoid such exploitative employment practices, "a Bench of Justices Vilcram Nath and P.B. Undle said in a recent 'Regularise staff'
The December 20 judgment was based on appeals
filed by cleaning and garstaff of the Central Water Commission. They were not regularised. The Central Administrative Tribunal and the
Delhi High Court agreed
they were only part-time

workers not appointed against sanctioned posts and had not completed the full-time service to satisfy full-time service to satisfy the criteria for regularisa-tion. Besides, the two fora held that regularisation cannot be sought as a mat-ter of right. The top court set aside their termination from work and ordered their im-mediate regularisation. Justice Nath said courts ought to look beyond "sur-

ought to look beyond "sur-face labels" and consider the realities of employment: continuous, long term service, indispensa-ble duties, and absence of any illegalities in their ap-

pointments.
The court said that India
was one of the founding

was one of the founding members of the Interna-tional Labour Organisa-tion, which has consistent-tion, which has consistent-employment stability and the fair treatment of work-ers, particularly in con-texts in which job discon-timation could exacerbate long-term unemployment.

## 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

ormer 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 Ghaziabad 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> <li>Each state must have a Governor.</li> <li>A single person can act as Governor for more than one state.</li> </ul>
Article 154	Executive Power of the State	<ul> <li>The Governor exercises the executive power of the state.</li> <li>Power is exercised directly or through subordinate officers.</li> </ul>
Article 155	Appointment of Governor	- Appointed by the President of India.
Article 156	Term of Office of Governor	<ul> <li>Holds office at the pleasure of the President.</li> <li>Normal term is 5 years but can be terminated earlier.</li> </ul>
Article 157	Qualifications for the Office of Governor	- Must be a citizen of India Must be at least 35 years of age.

Article 158	Conditions of the Governor's Office	<ul><li>Should not hold any other office of profit.</li><li>Entitled to official residence and emoluments.</li></ul>
Article 159	Oath or Affirmation by the Governor	- 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	- President may make provisions for the discharge of functions in certain contingencies.
Article 161	Power of Governor to Grant Pardons, Reprieves, Respites, or Remissions	- Governor has the power to grant clemency for offenses against state laws.
Article 163	Council of Ministers to Aid and Advise the Governor	- 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><li>Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor.</li><li>Ministers are appointed on the CM's advice.</li></ul>
Article 165	Advocate General for the State	- Appointed by the Governor as the legal advisor to the state government.
Article 166	Conduct of Business of the Government of a State	- 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	<ul><li>- Governor may:</li><li>1. Give assent.</li><li>2. Withhold assent.</li><li>3. Reserve the bill for the President.</li></ul>
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 GovernorFormer 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 कुकी 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 ॲन्य महत्वपूर्ण कानूनों को लागू करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

#### Vocal on growth, silent on inflation

n November, a Cabinet Minister reportedly stated at a press conference that the a conference of the conference of the should focus on growth and not be concerned with food price inflation. Though the Minister clarified that he was speaking in his personal capacity, it is not in central bank has been given a central bank has been given a nandate to target an inflation ndex that includes the price of food, a member of the executive advises it in any way, leave alone exhorts it to target something else The comment perhaps reflects some nervousness, on behalf of the government, about the performance of the economy. This vould not be unfounded. The nedia has made references to declining consumption lough it is not evident in the ational income statistics, vailable up to 2022-23. But there available up to 2022-23. But there have been reports of the slow growth of sales of companies in the fast-moving-consumer-goods (FMCG) segment during the current financial year. This is a fairly reliable source of information of the same same and the same and the same same are sourced to the same and the same are same as a same are same are same as a same are same are same as a same are same are same are same fairly reliable source of information on consumption growth. There is, however, a more overarching reason why the government would be concerned about growth in the economy, which is based on a longer view.

Not a comforting story data for a decade since 2014. enabling a broad evaluation of onomic performance during the senure of the Modi government. First, at the aggregate level, the average annual growth of the economy is lower since 2016-17. The decline is substantial too. At 2018-18 in act 5.2% for the period 2018-17 to 2023-24, it amounts to yellow the sent of the sectors is less up to date but extends enough to make at confident assessment, and it sectors at the initial level of sectors at the initial level of disaggregation, only one, namely



<u>Pulapre</u> Balakrishnan

The problem

facing India's

Though India leads in absolute remittance inflows, in some eco-nomies, remittances play a more critical role in funding current ac-count deficits and fiscal shortfalls.

To better understand this, Chart 3 depicts estimated remittances in 2024 as a share of a country's GDP.

Each circle is a country. The farth-er the circle is to the right, the

the higher the remittance in 2024

over 25% of the GDP in 2024. In Ta-jikistan, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Sa-moa, Honduras, and Tonga, the

share of remittances in 2024

share of remittances in 2024 formed over 25% of their respec-tives GDPs. In India, remittances formed 3.3% of the GDP this year. For many low-and middle-in-sers of their remittances of the lightest ev-er in a year. According to the blog, remittances to these countries remittances to these countries types of external financial flows. In recent years, remittances

In recent years, remittances have even surpassed Foreign Di-rect Investment (FDI) in low-and middle-income countries put to-gether. FDIs are investments by a

foreign country to control or run a business in another country. Re-

mittances are also much higher

than the official develop

In Nepal, remittances formed

growth: the problem lies in its inequitable distribution across the population. partly induced by food price

Real Estate', shows a higher growth rate since 2014. Interestingly, for all of the policy interestingly, for all of the policy interestingly, for all of the policy interesting the pol manufacturing across successive growth phases is by far the highest since Independence while the percentage investor

percentage increase in the rate of growth of the real estate sector since 2014 is not the highest, having been exceeded in the 1980s. This would not be a comforting story for any government that takes pride in its

government that takes pride in its growth performance.
While the government is vocal while the government is vocal militarion. This is telling, as the October print for inflation shows that it breached the first mark, the the RRI, while food-price inflation because the 10% mark. There is by a section of the economics profession that was voiced by the Minister when he encouraged the Minister when he encouraged the RII is that the price of food is. It is that the price of food is volatile, and its fluctuations cance themselves out over time.

A structural problem This, however, has been proven to be wrong, at least in India. Food inflation rose in 2019-20 and has rose before the COVID-19 pandemic and has persisted ever as growth has recovered gives us an idea of why the assumption is an idea of why the assumption is wrong. Recent inflation in Indla is not related to some temporary apply-chair disruptions, as, for where it has declined considerably post pandemic even as growth has recovered. Inflation in India is a recovered inflation in India is a type of growth it is experiencing, one in which agricultural production is not expanding at the rate at which the demand for its products is rising. Further, and

relevant in the context, food price inflation triggers a wage price spiral in the rest of the economy, spiral in the rest of the economy, the trigger of the context of the even if food prices decline. The implication for welfare of the inflation we are currently experiencing is obvious. High inflation, especially of food well-beling of those whose income well-being of those whose income well-being of those whose income does not keep pace with the inflation. The growth impact is less obvious, but surely is there. As household budgets are stretched to accommodate the higher cost of food, the demand for other goods food, the demand for other goods and services must grow less fast. Non-agricultural output and down. A mechanism of this kind is likely to have played a role in manufacturing production in recent years. From the data in the Ministry of Stutistics and Ministry of Stutistics and Control of the Work of the W of the five years since. So, while the Minister is right to suggest tha the RBI's capacity to rein in food inflation is weak, he is wrong to suggest that food price inflation need not be controlled. If food price inflation were to be taker out of the RBPs brief without an alternative proposal for its conti India would be left bereft of an anti-inflation policy. Uncontrolled inflation can throw sand in the wheels of growth itself

wheels of growth itself.
Presently, the problem facing
India's economy is not the lack of
for GDP growth in 2023-24 (over
870 is quite high by historical
standards. The problem lies in its
population, partly induced by
food price inflation. The Minister's
observation should induce the
economic policy from growth to economic policy from growth to inflation.

#### Pocketing pension meant for the poor

The outflow of funds for social support schemes needs to be monitored closely

Tiki Rajwi

ocial security pensions are grabbing headlines for the wrong reasons

in Kerala.

Towards the end of November, the State Finance Depart-ment published a list of 1,458 government employees, which included gazetted officers, assistant professors, and higher secondary teachers, who were drawing social se-

who were drawing social se-curity pension despite not qualifying for it. The list control of the control of the con-gramme of the control of the con-trol of presumably with the conni-vance of government officials. The Finance Department

then issued instructions to go-vernment departments to in-itiate disciplinary action against all those who were fraudulently claiming pension and recover the money in full at a penal interest rate of 18%.

at a penal interest rate of 18%. Last week, the State Soil Survey and Soil Conservation temployees who were illegally drawing social security pension. More departments are soin, the soil of the soil pension. The support system ensures that nearly 50 lakh



people receive a monthly pay-ment of ₹1,600. The beneficiaries include people who are 60 years or older, the dis-abled, widows, unmarried women above 50 years, and

women above 50 years, and agriculture labourers.

The government increased the pension amount from ₹600 per beneficiary in 2016 to ₹1,600 in 2017. A revised government order issued in 2017 was specific about ineligibility too, stating that income tax pavers, service pensioners. payers, service pensioners, and people with an annual fa-mily income of more than ₹1 lakh do not qualify for

pension.
According to the Economic Review published by the State Planning Board, the number of social security pensioners rose from 34 lakh in 2015-16 to 52.38 lakh in October 2022. It came down to 46.77 lakh in November 2023. If we add welfare fund board pension to this list, the number would be

The latest Economic Re-view breaks up the categories as follows: 56,5% of the benefas follows: 56.5% of the beneficiaries are those aged 60 years and above, 27.1% are widows, 75% are the disabled, down, 75% are the disabled, as the disabled, and the disabled workers. A little more than \$1,300 unmarried women are also among the recipients. Those who have been liegally mostly doing so under the disability and widow category. These figures illustrate the enormous financial load on

the Kerala government. The government needs more than 15900 crore every month to pay social security and wel-fare fund board pension. So-cial security cesses on Indian-Made Foreign Liquor, petrol, and diesel, announced in the 2023-24 State Budget, scarcely cover even one months navcover even one month's pay-ment. The first two quarters of 2024-25 yielded just ₹549.71 crore from these levies. Ac-cording to Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal's office, the CPI (M)-led Left Democratic Front government, which came to nower in 2021, has so far spens ₹33,800 crore on social secur-ity pension alone. The State government also claims that a Central share, albeit small, for which 5.88 lakh of the pen-sioners are eligible, is in arrears.

arrears.

All this means that the Kerala government, which is already battling a financial
crunch, cannot overlook any
leakage and pilferage in public
funds. A January 2020 Finance Department circular indicates that the government
was aware that government sioners were illegally drawing social security support. The circular instructed th turn the money in full and get India had also flagged the is-sue of 'irregular disburse-ment' of pensions to service pensioners and employees in

pensioners and employees in a performance audit report for 2022.

The latest developments yet again call for tighter sur-vivience of the second support schemes as well as per-riodic reviews and updates of the lists of beneficiaries. Further, action must be taken against government servants who were complicit in this.

#### India got 14.3% of global remittances in 2024, its highest ever

China secured only 5.3% of global remittances in 2024, its lowest share in at least two decades

#### DATA POINT

n 2024, India received an esti-mated \$129.1 billion worth of remittances, the highest ever for a country in any year. Moreov er, India's share in global remit tances was 14.3% this year, the highest such share since the turn of the millennium for any country. The conclusions are based on a blog article published last week by the World Bank. higher the remittance in 2024 as a share of GDP. The bigger the circle,

the World Bank.

Remittances refer to the money
that individuals working abroad send back to support their families in their home country. They are of households in developing coun-tries and can contribute signifi-cantly to the economy of the reci-

pient country,
Following India, Mexico and
China received the largest remitrances in 2024. Chart I show the
Million of the Country of the Country
France, Pakistan, Bangladesh,
Egopt, Guatemala, and Germany
Egopt, Guatemala, and Germany
While China was thrid on the
list, past years' numbers provide
thereesting insights. Chart 2 shows
the top IO cantries mentioned in
Chart I in the 2000-2024 period.

Chart 1 in the 2000-2024 period China's share of remittances grew from less than 1% in the early 2000s to over 10% by the late 2000s and early 2010s, matching India's numbers, before gradually declining to below 10% in the late 2010s. From 2020, the share de-clined rapidly reaching a two-de-dade low of 5.3% in 2024. Accord-ing to the World Bank, China's rising economic prosperity and an of emigration of less-skilled peo-ple, which contributed to this de-cline.

Industry the contributed to this de-cline.

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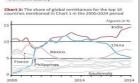
The contributed to this de-The contributed to this de-The contributed to this de-The contributed to this de-The contributed to the contributed to this de-The contributed to this de-The contributed to the 2010s. From 2020, the share de-

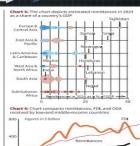
#### demic years, there has been a rapid increase in its share. India's share in global remittances was twice the share of Mexico's in 2024 India and China's diverging paths (7.5%); Mexico was a distant se-cond. Though India leads in absolute

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









#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

#### The Mindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 25, 1974

#### Missing British MP held in Australia

Melbourne, Dec. 24: The British Member of Parliament, Mr. John Stonehouse, missing for over a month and feared drowned, was arreste here to-day as an illegal immigrant. Mr. Stonehouse (49) a former Minister involved in a spy scandal, disappeared after leaving a hotel in Mianul, Florida, on November

20, saying he was going for a swim.

He told the Australian Detective Police that pressures had become "a little too much, and he has decided to shed his past and begin life afresh in Australia."

The Chief Detective Superintendent, Mr. Mick
Patterson, said Mr. Stonehouse had told the

police he might go into business in Australia. Mr. Patterson added that Mr. Stonehouse had made no attempt to disguise himself, and made no attempt to tanguase minisen, and seemed unaware that he had been under surveillance. He was being held on a charge of entering Australia with a false British passport in the name of "John D Dorman"

the name of "John D Dorman".

Mr. Stonehouse would be held in custody pending further enquiries in Britain.

The Police Chief said Mr. Stonehouse had a large amount of money on him when arrested by detectives in the suburb of St. Kilda this

norning.

He added that Mr. Stonehouse first entered The started task not stoken once his checked 27, Australia on a false passport on November 27, arriving from Hawai. He had left Australia the next day, spending brief periods in Singapore, Denmark and Lebanon before returning to Australia on the same passport on December 10. Mr. Stonehouse was in a good physical and mental health and gave information freely, he

#### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 25, 1924 Soviet to take in

non-Communists

Riga, Dec. 24: The Soviet Central Executive has issued a statement saying that the growing political activity among the proletariat and peasantry has necessitated the revision of Soviet institutions and therefore, it has summoned a

## 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)

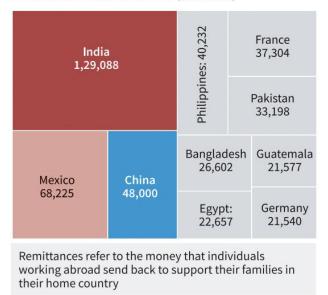
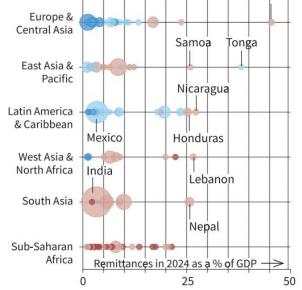


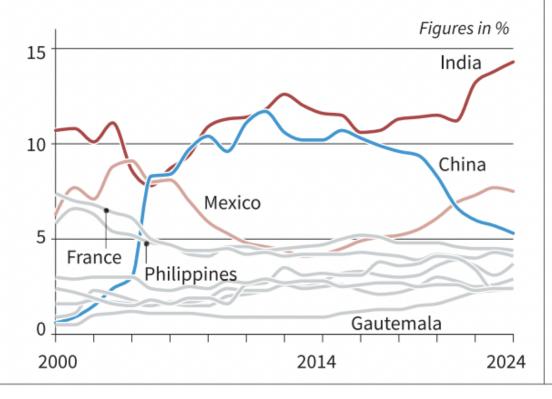
Chart 3: The chart depicts estimated remittances in 2024 as a share of a country's GDP

Tajikistan

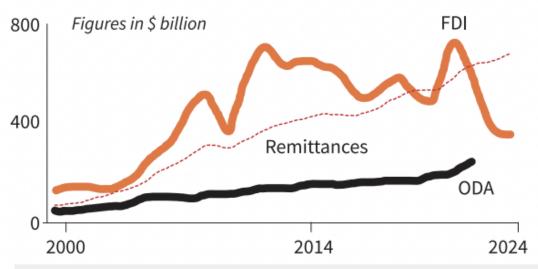
Europe & Central Asia



**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

## Text&Context

#### THEMOMHINDU

#### **NEWS IN NUMBERS**

Roads closed following heavy snowfall in Himachal Pradesh

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. m

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

President Droupadi Murmu will on Thursday confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 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

#### People who got appointment letters in Aizawl Rozgar Mela

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

#### Percentage rise in UPI OR transactions at retail stores

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

#### Men prosecuted for travelling in women only train coaches

304 The Railway Protection Force prosecuted 304 men for travelling in women-only train coaches in the Eastern Railway zone in a six-day drive as part of 'Operation Mahila Suraksha', an officia said on Tuesday. PTI COMPLED BY THE HENDU DATA TEAM

#### Follow us 🚯 facebook.com/thehindu 💿 twitter.com/the hindu 🌀 instagram.com/the hindu 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

uantum computers are the talk of computer town. Their potential to solve complex problems much faster than classical computers is an intrinsic classical computers is an intriguing proposition that stands to transform several industries. A quantum computer is based on the principles of quantum is based on the principles of quantum mechanics, an area of physics that deals with the smallest particles in the universe. the 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 roday, or the computers of roday, quantum systems. Thus the idea of a 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 damental computing unit is the bit. Each bit represents one piece of

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. On the other comments as a combination of 0s and 1s. On the other 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 The ability of qubits to be in two states. The ability of qubits to be in two states.

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



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 second fundamental principle upon which quantum computers are based is called entanglement. This phenomenon allows qubits to be trinsically linked no matter how far intrinsically linked no matter how far apart they physically are. Measuring the pay fill the pay for the pay for the pay fill the pay f

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

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

EC's election rule amendment?

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

computers at all tasks. Over the years, experts have developed specific tasks that prove quantum computers are capable of

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

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 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 St-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 quantum chip called Willow, purportedly the world's first quantum processor in which error-corrected qubits improve as they scale. Quantum states are easily the environment, so quantum computers need error correction to hold information long enough to perform useful actualismos with them. Willow, Google has said, can finish a willow, Google has said, can finish a same calculation outlet take today's best

same calculation could take today's best

#### What are the present limitations? ents are flying thick and fast but there are still many significant challenges to overcome before quantum

computers can become commonpla The chief concern is that building The chief concern is that building quantum computers remains expensive and complex. Keeping many qubits stable decoherence (when a qubit loses and decoherence (when a qubit loses superposition because of noise from its surroundings). The problems for which we really need quantum computers—like most remaining the control of the control mysteries in astronomy – also require millions of gubits.

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

and State Assembly elections many of

He said that given the controversy about voter turnout in recent Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, access to the Presiding Officers' diaries which contain

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.

Presiding Officers' diaries which contain detailed data about voter turnout and the number of token steep distribute to voters who are in the queue at the hour scheduled for closing of politing are not mentioned specifically in the Conduct of Election Rules. "The amendment seeks to prevent access to such documents and

many other reports and returns that are filed by various election officials".

#### THE GIST

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

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

statore, 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

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 mended the Conduct of for the public to a section of poll documents. This was done by the Union Law Ministry following a recommendation from the Election Commission (EC). While the EC said the Commission (BC). While the BC 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 righ to information and electoral freedom.

#### What is the Conduct of Election

Rules? The Conduct of Election Rules,1961, is a

What is the amendment?

Why has the amsendment been brought in now?

To a recent direction to the EC by the Punjab and Haryana High Court to share all documents related to the Haryana Assembly election, including under Rule 39(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, to petitioner Mahmoud Pracha.

Why has the amendment been

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

especially in sensitive areas where secrecy is important. All election papers and documents are otherwise available for public inspection."

#### Why are the transparency activists

Why are the transparency activists protesting? Temsparency activist Anjali Bharadwal, Eule 50 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. Commonwealth Human Rights initiative explained further that "upon initial examination, the amendment appears to be aimed at restricting citizen-vecters'

right to access a large number of documents created during Parliamentary

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 person, the rule has been amended. The EC argues that sharing of CCTV footage may have serious repercussions,

#### What does the Opposition say? The Congress claimed that a change in rules regarding the conduct of elections vindicated their assertions regarding the

variateated their assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the EC. The Congress moved the Supreme Court against the amendments on Thoseday.

Court against use assenting the 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 "treat-waspins multi-narty democracy" f "undermining multi-party democracy by taking "unilateral" decisions without

#### 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

## 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:

uantum 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 Os and Is 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 तािक क्लासिकल कंप्यूटरों की तुलना में जिटल 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 सक्षम 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.

• एंटैंगलमेंट: 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.

• अनुप्रयोगः क्रिप्टोग्राफी, सामग्री विज्ञान और कृत्रिम ब्द्धिमता 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.

## **♦**TheIndian **EXPRESS**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 26 PAGES

Mero Shyam kantha



BUSINESS AS USUAT

BY UNNY

#### ORDER IN LOTTERY KING SANTIAGO MARTIN CASE

## SC red line for ED: Can't copy, access content from laptop, mobile phones

Protect fundamental right to privacy, petitioners pleaded Police notice to Kerala





tery business in the state. The searches had yielded Rs 12.41

crore in cash. Santiago Martin's company Future Gaming was the single largest donor of electoral bonds, having purchased Rs 1,368 crore in bonds between 2019 and 2014. in bonds between 2019 and 2014.
It donated across party lines —
Trinamool Congress was its biggest beneficiary at Rs 542 crore, DMK came a close second at Rs 503 crore, YSR Congress CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

journalist for phone over report triggers a furore

SHA III PHII IP DECEMBER 24

A JOURNALIST in Kerala has been A JOURNALLS in Kerala has been sent a notice by police demand-ing that he produce his mobile phone as part of an investigation into a news report that he wrote, prompting the Kerala Union of

Trict ponce criess.

The news report in question, which appeared on July 28 in the Malayalam daily Modifymmm, was about an allegedleak of data of job applicants at the state job Depticants.

## parey... **Shyam Benegal** 1934-2024

#### Former Home Secv **Bhalla is Governor** of Manipur, Arif Khan goes to Bihar

Former Army Chief Gen V K Singh appointed Mizoram Governor

#### DEEPTIMANTIWARY

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday announced new gubernatorial appointments, including former Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla as Governor of Manipur and former Army Chief General VK Singh as Governor of Missanses

Murmu on Tuesday are: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as Governor of Bihar; Mizoram Governor Dr Hari Babu overnor of Hari Babu ambhampati as Governor of disha; and Bihar Governor gjendra Vishwanath Arlekar as overnor of Kerala. The choice of Bhalla as anipur Governor is significant

as the Centre has been struggling as the Centre has been strugging to control the ethnic violence in the state for over one-and-a-half years. Bhalla was Union Home Secretary when the violence be-gan on May 3, 2023.

Despite the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces and

#### NEW GOVERNORS AJAYKUMAR BHALLA MANIPUR









IRAN ENERGY CRISIS: INDUSTRIES FORCED TO SHUT DOWN AMERICAN AIRLINES

#### Army vehicle falls into gorge in Poonch, five soldiers killed EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FIVE SOLDIERS were killed and several injured when an Army vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down a nearly 350-foot deep gorge in Poonch district of Jamens and Kashmir on Tuesday. Confirming the deaths, Nagrota-based White Knight

Nagrota-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X: "All ranks of #WhiteKnightCorps ex-tend their deepest condolences on the tragic loss of five brave on the trage; loss of true brave soldiers in a vehicle accident during operational duty in the #Poonch sector. Rescue opera-tions are ongoing, and the in-jured personnel are receiving medical care." Adefence spokesperson said

the cause of the accident was be-ing ascertained but "possibly the driver lost control at the turn of

driver lost control at the turn of the road." The accident occurred in the Charoa area when a con-woy of six webicles was on its way to a forward post in the evening. "One 2.5-fon vehicle, part of a conway of six webicles, while moving on the operational track near Posoch, went off the road is on the home, side of the LoC. s on the home side of the LoC rorist initiated incident positively ruled out after confirming from ground sources. Own post ap-proximately 130 metres from the incident site and backup vehicle was barely 40 metres away."

On November 4, a soldier died and another was injured

#### NITI AAYOG INVITES ECONOMISTS

#### Ahead of Budget, PM calls for deeper and bolder reforms for higher growth

Economists say cut I-T rates to boost demand, incentivise hiring of women



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the meeting with economists, Tuesday, PTI

#### AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

WITH ILIST OVER a month left for Union Budget 2025-26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told economists Tuesday that ence," the defence spokesper-ion said in a statement. "A ter-

In a meeting organised by the Niti Aayog, the Prime Minister stressed on the need to under-take new and bold reforms and invited suggestions from the economists. The meeting comes amid slowing of economic growth, tepid urban consump-tion, persisting external volatil-ity, and the threat of high tariffs

ploying women. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sources said the ideas put forward by the economists ranged from land and labour reforms to states taking the lead in easing regulations that are a con-straining factor for businesses, sources said. Economists also spoke on the pace of fiscal con-solidation, the need to lower personal income-tax rates, and tax incentives for companies em-

likely to be linked to local capacity **RAVIDUTTA MISHRA** 

TO REDUCE import dependence and boost domestic manufactur-ing of laptops and other IT hardware items, the Union govern-ment may link import permissions to domestic capacpermissions to domestic capac-ity expansion going forward, The Indian Express has learnt. The government is sidering the introdu credit system for such

reaches a critical threshold. The strategy, a source said, mirrors the approach that suc-cessfully attracted investment in the tyre manufacturing sector

Actor Naseeruddin Shah was among those who paid tribute to veteran filmmaker Shy Benegal, who was cremated with full state honours at Shivaji Park Crematorium in Mt

Laptop manufacturing: Import nods

FAREWELL TO THE MASTER

ion of a ever, in 2023, the Minis mmerce and Industry em for such imports laxed the guidelines for tyre manufacturers who committed

As a result, global tyre ma India's commitment

to the WTO The use of import permis-ns to promote domestic man-

saidOctober 5, 1988, notification banning the import of The

#### As Biden makes way for Trump, Jaishankar **EXPRESS NETWORK** goes to US for talks on deepening relations

IN WHAT is expected to be the intration and the finding speem.

Foreign Secretary VikramForeign Se

Jaishankar will start his engage-ments by meeting the outgoing Baden administration officials. He is likely to meet Secretary of State Antony Blinken, NSA

Looking at the road

INDIA WILL look to not just insulate but deepen its ties with the US, especially those important from the

Sources said the idea behind the visit is to ensure India-US ties are not impacted by the po-larised political atmosphere in the US.

than many others to build "deeper" relations with his ad-ministration. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BANK HEIST: TWO SUSPECTS GUNNED DOWN IN LUCKNOW STAMPEDE: ALLU

#### Cong's dissent on NHRC chief pick: 'Ignored consensus, balance of caste' NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

ARJUN APPEARS BEFORE POLICE and consensus", the Congress has accused the Narendra Modi government of pushing the ap-

disregarding itsus at the process.

The Congress made these allegations in a dissent note signed by party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul mends names for the NHRC

NHRC chairperson. Arguing that while merit v the primary criterion in sele

#### Almost 4 decades after ban, The Satanic Verses is on a bookshelf, in a store

#### SOHINI GHOSH & MANOJ CG NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

NEARLY 37 years after its import was banned by the Indian govern-nent amid much sound and fury, Salman Rushdie's The Satanic 

The Khan Market bookstore has posted a message about to book, was stabbed multiple to book was stabbed was stable was stable was stabbed was stable was

Season-Bactmade squiet return.

The book under 'Limite' specifies release, sparking debates on free lease, sparking debates on free lease, sparking debates on free expression, faith, and art, "it posted Tuesday.

The specifies return that it has no specified reported to the option 'except to presume that no such notification (about a posted)."





Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses on display at Bahrisons Booksellers in Delhi's Khan Market, Amit Mehra

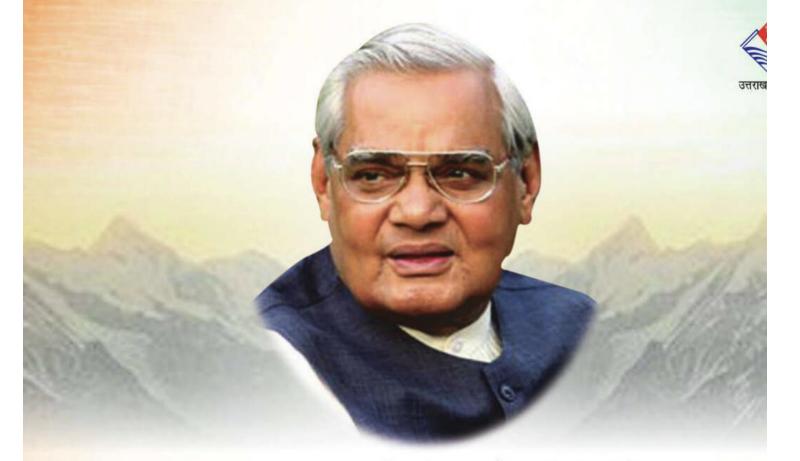
epaper.indianexpress.com

banning use Sommic Verses.

The ban had been ordered by the Rajiv Gandhi government at a time when it was trying to balance Muslim sentiments and a

ance Muslim sentimients and a rising Ayodiby temple move ment. Two years earlier, the government was formed to the Rajiv government was letter bruised by the Bofors the Rajiv government was letter bruised by the Bofors the Rajiv government was letter bruised by the Bofors the Rajiv government was letter bruised by the Bofors the Rajiv government was letter bruised by the Bofors the Rajiv government was letter bruised by the Bofors the Rajiv government before the Rajiv government was like whether the Rajiv government was like whether the Rajiv government was ald a few years agot hat the therefore the Bofor of Cauber S.

This was after government law. Facing backlash over this thorities failed to produce the from Hindugroups, the Rajiv gov- it would use that as a fig-lelaw. Facing backlash over this from Hindu groups, the Rajiv gov-ernment had facilitated removal of locks to a structure containing idols at the disputed Ram temple site. The temple movement that surged after this eventually paved the way for the BJF's meteoric rise. Before The Satrant Verses row. saying it was not the book tha was banned, but just its import Among those who castigated



युग पुरुष, उत्तराखण्ड के प्रणेता, जनप्रिय पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री

# व्यकार्य इत्वा

# ख. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी

की जयंती पर समस्त उत्तराखण्ड वासियों की ओर से

शत-शत नमन

As	pect	Details
Ful	ll Name	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Bir	th	25 December 1924, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
De	ath	16 August 2018, New Delhi
Ed	ucation	M.A. in Political Science, Victoria College (now Laxmi Bai College), Kanpur
Po	litical Ideology	Associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
Ma He	ajor Positions eld	- 10th Prime Minister of India (1996, 1998–2004)
		- Minister of External Affairs (1977–1979)
		- Member of Parliament for over 5 decades
	litical hievements	- 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





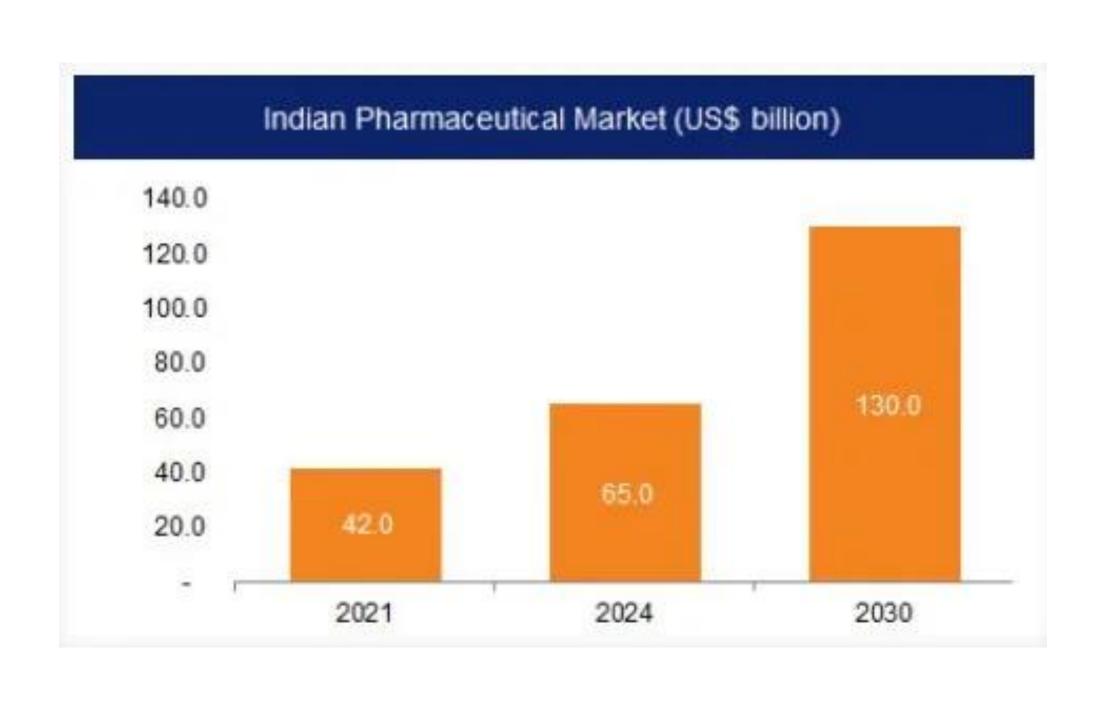
Major segments of industry include generic drugs, OTC medicines, bulk drugs, vaccines, contract research & manufacturing, biosimilars and biologics.



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.



- 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.

- 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.

# India's Crude Oil Reserves

- 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.



 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



# The ORDER of MUBARAK Al KABEER



20 GLOBAL HONOURS

ONE MOMENT OF GLORY FOR 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 Ebakl 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

Starts In: 04:37:22

11:30 AM

#### **Electricity and Magnetism**

2024-12-13 at 9:00 AM

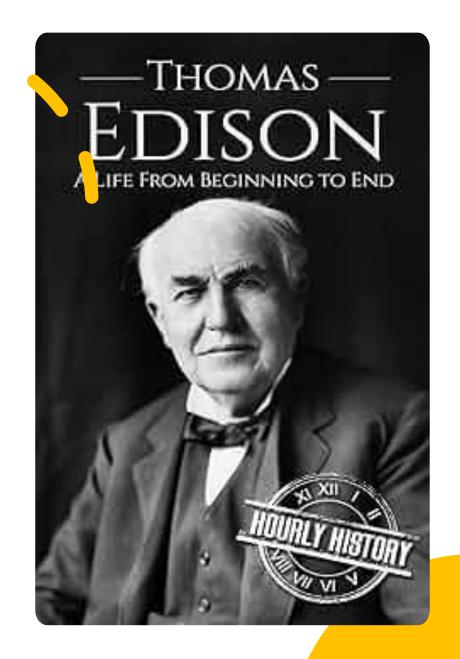
Starts In: 02:07:22

Coming Soon!

Coming Soon!

## Thomas Edison, cited in *Various Biographies*

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





- 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 म्ख्य 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
  - स्निश्चितता
  - 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 उपभोकता 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 कानुनों 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 / एं और बी दोनों

• In which year did Lesotho gain independence? लेसोथों 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? क्वांटम कंप्यूटर क्लासिकल कंप्यूटरों 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

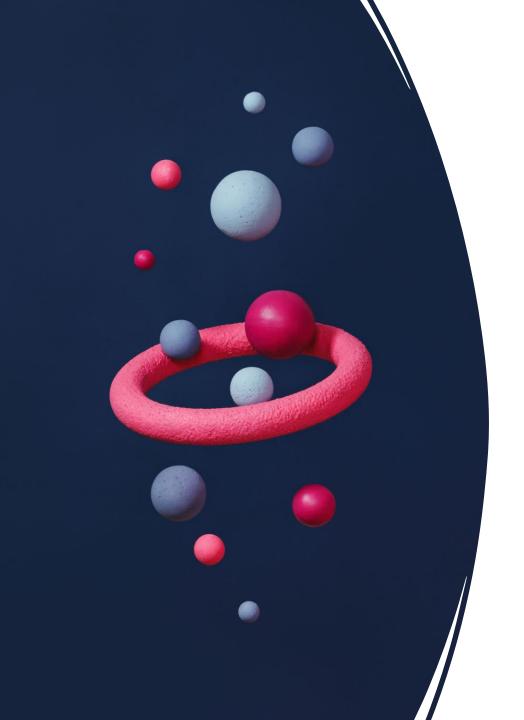
Synonyms: liking, bias, preference

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

Pronunciation: newsth.live/proclivitypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /prəklīvīti/

### 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.



By Bhunesh Sir

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