

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



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10 MCQ QUIZ

A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit by large windows, creating a bokeh effect with soft, out-of-focus light spots. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- How many total Padma Awards were given in 2025?
- 2025 में कुल कितने पद्म पुरस्कार दिए गए?
- A. 120
- B. 130
- C. 139
- D. 150

- Who among the following received the Padma Vibhushan award posthumously in 2025?
- निम्नलिखित में से किसे 2025 में मरणोपरांत पद्म विभूषण पुरस्कार दिया गया?
- A. J.S. Khehar / जे.एस. खेहर
B. Osamu Suzuki / ओसामा सुजुकी
C. Arijit Singh / अरिजीत सिंह
D. P.R. Sreejesh / पी.आर. श्रीजेश

- Which cities in India were recognized as "Wetland Cities" under the Ramsar Convention?
- रामसर कन्वेंशन के तहत भारत के किन शहरों को "वेटलैंड सिटी" के रूप में मान्यता दी गई?
- A. Bhopal and Jaipur / भोपाल और जयपुर
B. Lucknow and Hyderabad / लखनऊ और हैदराबाद
C. Udaipur and Indore / उदयपुर और इंदौर
D. Chennai and Pune / चेन्नई और पुणे

- What disease was found to be prevalent among Assam's tea plantation workers?
- असम के चाय बागान श्रमिकों में कौन सी बीमारी व्यापक रूप से पाई गई?
- A. Tuberculosis / तपेदिक (टीबी)
B. Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis (CPA) / क्रॉनिक पल्मोनरी एस्पेरगिलोसिस (CPA)
C. Silicosis / सिलिकोसिस
D. Dengue / डेंगू

- What was the cause of Assam's high CPA prevalence?
- असम में CPA की उच्च दर का कारण क्या था?
- A. Air pollution / वायु प्रदूषण
- B. Poor nutrition and kitchen smoke exposure / खराब पोषण और रसोई के धुएं के संपर्क में आना
- C. Contaminated drinking water / दूषित पेयजल
- D. Lack of vaccination programs / टीकाकरण कार्यक्रमों की कमी

- Who was Dr. K.M. Cherian, who passed away recently?
- हाल ही में दिवंगत डॉ. के.एम. चेरियन कौन थे?
- A. A space scientist / एक अंतरिक्ष वैज्ञानिक
- B. India's pioneer cardiac surgeon / भारत के अग्रणी हृदय शल्य चिकित्सक
- C. A nuclear physicist / एक परमाणु भौतिक विज्ञानी
- D. A mathematician / एक गणितज्ञ

- What was the key achievement of the PSLV-C60 mission?
- PSLV-C60 मिशन की प्रमुख उपलब्धि क्या थी?
- A. First Indian satellite docking experiment / पहला भारतीय उपग्रह डॉकिंग प्रयोग
- B. India's first private satellite launch / भारत का पहला निजी उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण
- C. First manned spaceflight / पहला मानवयुक्त अंतरिक्ष मिशन
- D. Chandrayaan-4 lander test / चंद्रयान-4 लैंडर परीक्षण

- Which African region is seeing a decline in French influence?
- अफ्रीका के किस क्षेत्र में फ्रांस का प्रभाव घट रहा है?
- A. East Africa / पूर्वी अफ्रीका
- B. North Africa / उत्तरी अफ्रीका
- C. West Africa / पश्चिम अफ्रीका
- D. Central Africa / मध्य अफ्रीका

- What is a Black Panther?
- ब्लैक पैंथर क्या है?
- A. A rare species of panther / पैंथर की एक दुर्लभ प्रजाति
- B. A melanistic big cat / एक मेलानिस्टिक बड़ी बिल्ली
- C. A different species from leopards and jaguars / तेंदुए और जगुआर से अलग एक प्रजाति
- D. A fictional superhero / एक काल्पनिक सुपरहीरो

- What is SEBI's Sachetisation Plan?
- SEBI की सैचेटाइजेशन योजना क्या है?
- A. A new e-wallet system for digital payments / डिजिटल भुगतान के लिए एक नया ई-वॉलेट सिस्टम
- B. A stock market regulation for small traders / छोटे व्यापारियों के लिए शेयर बाजार विनियमन
- C. A plan to allow small-ticket mutual fund investments / छोटे टिकट म्यूचुअल फंड निवेश की अनुमति देने की योजना
- D. A tax-saving scheme for salaried individuals / वेतनभोगी व्यक्तियों के लिए एक कर-बचत योजना

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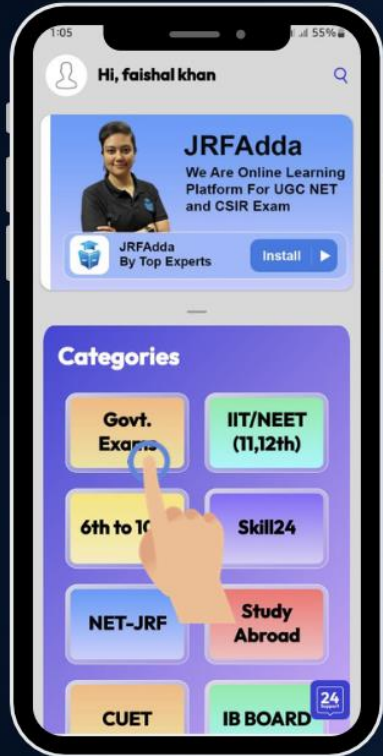
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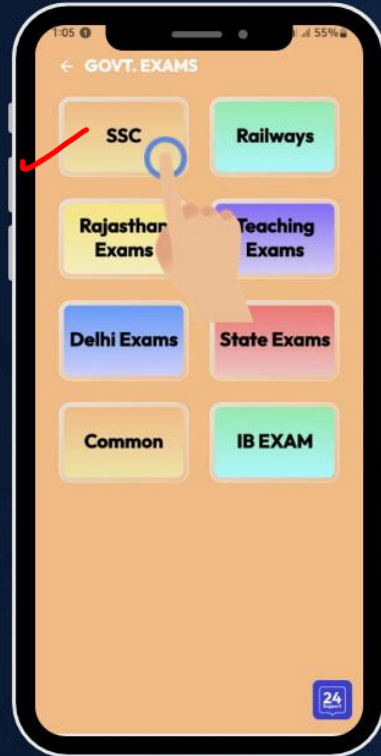
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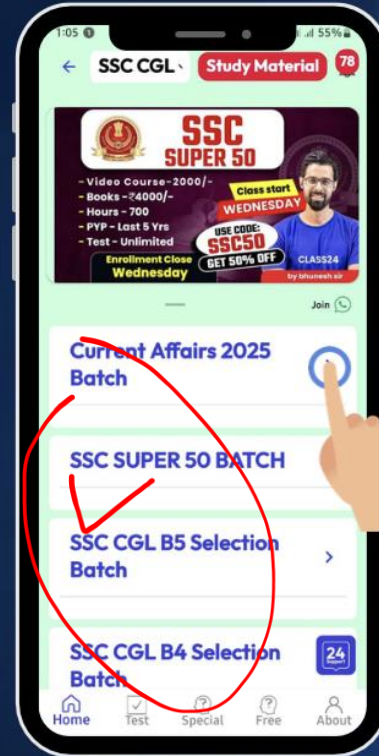
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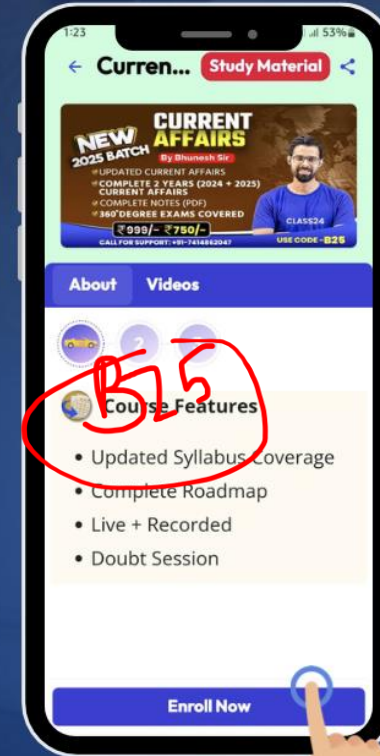
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Step 3



Step 4



“You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward.”

– Steve Jobs



QUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME
Centre sends team to Pune as cases rise
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POLL PLEDGE
AAP announces 15-point manifesto
NEWS » PAGE 5



MODI SPEAKS TO TRUMP
PM says committed to a trusted partnership
NEWS » PAGE 5



HEALTH CONCERNS
Getting drunk, on homoeopathy
Alcoholic tinctures marketed as remedies are a major hazard
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



ICC AWARDS
Bumrah and Smriti bag top honours
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE



'Simultaneous election key to youth's future'
NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged youth to engage in the debate on simultaneous polls, stressing its impact on their future, at NCC rally in Delhi. » PAGE 2

ED summons to Siddaramaiah's wife stayed by HC
BENGALURU
Karnataka HC stayed ED summons to Parvathi, wife of CM Siddaramaiah, and Minister Byravu Suresh on Monday over illegal MUDA site allotments, halting their appearance for statement recording. » PAGE 3

BJP enslaving Dalits and tribal people: Rahul
MUMBAI
At a Congress rally in Madhya Pradesh, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi took on the BJP and RSS, alleging that Dalits, tribal people, backward communities were being made slaves. » PAGE 5

Trump's Border Czar defends raids on schools
WASHINGTON
Donald Trump's border czar on Sunday defended raids on schools and churches during a crackdown on illegal immigration as six federal agencies targeted "criminal aliens" in Chicago. » PAGE 14

India, China to resume direct flights, issue visas

Steps to rebuild ties announced as Vikram Misri meets Chinese Vice Foreign Minister in Beijing | Mansarovar pilgrimage to restart this summer; Wang calls for end to 'mutual suspicion and estrangement' | MEA says India-China Expert Level Mechanism will discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data

Suhashini Halder
NEW DELHI

Three months after negotiating an end to the military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India and China agreed to concrete measures to resume direct flights, visas, people-to-people exchanges, and the Mansarovar Yatra for pilgrims this summer. They agreed to resume the dialogue on trans-border rivers and sharing of hydrological data that China has withheld for years. Both sides committed to marking the 75th year of establishment of ties with a number of celebratory events this year, as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for an end to the "mutual suspicion and estrangement" between the two countries.



Rebuilding ties: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing on Monday. AP

India and China, the Mansarovar Pilgrimage in the summer of 2025." It said the India-China Expert Level Mechanism would discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data and "other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers", while the two sides would facilitate "people-to-people ex-

changes, including media and think tank interactions." Reports about the construction of a hydro-power project on the Brahmaputra in South Tibet raised concern in Delhi. The officials also held a discussion on economic and trade areas. This is significant as despite record trade levels, India and China have been levying restrictions on each other amidst the LAC tensions. Trade curbs While China had complained about the need for a "level playing field" over India's decision in 2020 to equate Home Ministry clearance for investment from China and other land-border countries, denial of business visas, as well as raids on Chinese telecom companies, India has been worried about Chinese restrictions on pharmaceutical ingredients (API), high technology exports and transfers to India, as well as withholding critical equipment like Tanned Boring Machines (TBM).

Officials however, declined to comment on whether the resumption of dialogue mechanisms would include an "informal summit" between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi. This year, as had been held in Wuhan in 2018 and Mambalapuram in 2020. Mr. Misri, who travelled to China on Sunday, also met with Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang, who is a Member of the Politburo of Communist Party of China (CPC)'s Central Committee and the CCP's Minister of International Department. Lu Jianchao during the visit. According to a readout issued by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Misri had offered India's support for China's chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2025. Mr. Misri is expected to attend the Head of State Summit slated for June this year.

Heading home



Lamp-awarded returns: An aerial photo shows displaced Gazans walking toward Gaza City on Monday, carrying their belongings in plastic bags and repurposed flour sacks, after Israel reopened access to the northern territory. AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

JPC dismisses Opposition amendments to Waqf Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Amid the Opposition's complaint that its voice was not heard, the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill accepted 32 out of the more than 500 amendments moved by the members, after a vote. With the BJP and its allies having a majority, all amendments were accepted after they were rejected at the JPC meeting, while those such as *Aulad*, *Iddat*, and *Iddat* were rejected. The panel will meet on Wednesday to finalise the report.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 4

Uttarakhand adopts Uniform Civil Code

Jahna Mishra
NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday officially rolled out the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for all residents of the State, except the Scheduled Tribes and natives who have migrated out of the State. With this, Uttarakhand has become the first Indian State to implement the UCC post-Independence. The UCC Bill, passed by the State Assembly last February, bans practices such as *Nikah*, *Iddat*, and *Iddat* (customs related to marriage and divorce in Muslim Personal Law). It also ensures that women in matters related to property and inheritance. The UCC mandates online registration of marriages, divorce and live-in relationships. A government portal - ucc.uk.gov.in has been formed for the purpose. People can access records, register complaints and also upload their will on the portal. Mr. Dhami also registered his marriage on the portal. "Under the able leadership of the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, our government has today implemented the UCC in Uttarakhand. Today is a special day for the people of this State as well as for all the countrymen," Mr. Dhami said during the launch of the UCC portal. "I am confident that this stream of equality emanating from Uttarakhand will irrigate the entire country in the near future," he added.

Beginning of new era
"Termining the UCC the "beginning of a new era of equality and harmony", Mr. Dhami added that his government had promised the "god-like" people that

Tiger that killed woman found dead in Kerala's Wayanad



A silent ending: The carcass of the tiger that killed a woman in Wayanad was found on Monday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
KOSHIKODE

Though the tiger that triggered panic at Pancharakolli, near Mananthavayal, in Wayanad district of Kerala is dead, the special task force constituted to capture the man-eater will continue its service. Forests and Wildlife Minister A.K.Sasendran told presspersons in Kozhikode on Monday, after the tiger was found dead at Pilakavu, near Pancharakolli, in the morning, that the Chief Wildlife Warden and the Wayanad Collector had been tasked with combing other areas of Wayanad where tigers were spotted recently.

Search to continue
"Search operations will be carried over the next few days in at least four locations in the Wayanad where tigers have been spotted," the Minister said, appreciating the officials for their hard work and dedication, though the tiger's death was not a result of it. The tiger was found dead near a house at Pilakavu around 6.30 a.m. by members of the special task force who were tracking it for the past three days after it mauled to death a tribal woman, Radha, on Friday, while she was plucking coffee cherries on Priyadarshini Estate. A member of a rapid response team of the Forest Department, Jayasurya, was attacked by the tiger during the search operations, following which the State had declared it a man-eater and decided to shoot it to death. A report conducted at the forest range office at Kuppod, near Sultan Peryy, revealed that the tiger that attacked Radha, a piece of cloth, hair, and

an earring were found inside the animal. The necropsy also revealed that a deep wound on its neck was the cause of death of the female tiger, believed to be between the ages of five and seven. Veterinary surgeon Arun Scaria, who examined the tiger, said that the wound was rather fresh and was likely incurred in a recent fight with another tiger. The female also had similar wounds on its body though no internal injuries were found. Chief Conservator of Forest (Northern Circle) K.S.Deepsa told presspersons at Pancharakolli that the task force had tracked the tiger from 12.30 a.m. to 2.30 a.m. on various cameras and in an attempt to tranquilise it. The team had noticed that the tiger was rather tame in the state. The tiger will be cremated.

The death of the tiger lifted the fear stalked Pancharakolli and nearby areas as the region was under curfew as a precautionary measure against another tiger attack. Children were taken to schools in special buses while the district earned their livelihood for fear of the tiger.

Priyanka to visit
The local people who carried out intense protests against the alleged apathy of the government in ensuring their safety had maintained that they would not be satisfied with anything short of the tiger's death. The local people celebrated the tiger's death, dancing on the streets and bursting crackers. Priyanka Gandhi, MP representing Wayanad, said she would visit the tiger's family on Tuesday where she will visit the family of Radha.

India, China to resume direct flights, issue visas

Steps to rebuild ties announced as Vikram Misri meets Chinese Vice Foreign Minister in Beijing

Mansarovar pilgrimage to restart this summer; Wang calls for end to 'mutual suspicion and estrangement'

MEA says India-China Expert Level Mechanism will discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Three months after negotiating an end to the military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India and China agreed to concrete measures to resume direct flights, visas, people-to-people exchanges, and the Mansarovar Yatra for pilgrims this summer. They agreed to resume the dialogue on trans-border rivers and sharing of hydrological data that China has withheld for years.

Both sides committed to marking the 75th year of establishment of ties with a number of celebratory events this year, as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for an end to the "mutual suspicion and estrangement" between the

two countries.

The decisions on reviving various measures were taken during a meeting between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong in Beijing.

Modi-Xi meeting

"As agreed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at their meeting in Kazan in October, the two sides reviewed the state of India-China bilateral relations comprehensively and agreed to take certain people-centric steps to stabilise and rebuild ties," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, announcing that the technical officials and "relevant mechanisms" would now meet to take forward plans to resume direct flights between



Rebooting ties: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing on Monday. AP

India and China, the Mansarovar Pilgrimage in the "summer of 2025".

It said the India-China Expert Level Mechanism would discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data and "other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers", while the two sides would facilitate "people-to-people ex-

changes, including media and think tank interactions". Reports about the construction of a hydropower project on the Brahmaputra in South Tibet (Yarlung Zangpo) have raised concern in Delhi.

The officials also held a discussion on economic and trade areas.

This is significant as des-

pite record trade levels, India and China have been levying restrictions on each other amidst the LAC tensions.

Trade curbs

While China had complained about the need for a "level playing field" over India's decision in 2020 to require Home Ministry clearance for investment from China and other land-border countries, denial of business visas, as well as raids on Chinese telecom companies, India has been worried about Chinese restrictions on pharmaceutical ingredients (API), high technology exports and transfers to India, as well as withholding critical equipment like Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs).

"Specific concerns in the economic and trade

areas were discussed with a view to resolving these issues and promoting long-term policy transparency and predictability", the MEA statement added.

Mr. Misri's visit, which is understood to have been held before the official closure for the Chinese New Year, marks the "resumption" of the FS-Vice FM level bilateral dialogue mechanism, and follows meetings between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi in October, meetings between the Foreign Ministers, Defence Ministers and Special Representatives, indicating that India and China have now resumed all regular bilateral discourse.

Officials however, declined to comment on whether the resumption of dialogue mechanisms would include an "infor-

mal summit" between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi this year, as had been held in Wuhan in 2018 and Mamallapuram in 2020.

Mr. Misri, who travelled to China on Sunday, also met with Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang, who is a Member of the Politburo of Communist Party of China (CCP)'s Central Committee and the CCP's Minister of the International Department Liu Jianchao during the visit.

According to a readout issued by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Misri had offered India's support for China's chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2025.

Mr. Modi is expected to attend the Head of State Summit slated for June this year.

- **1.1 Diplomatic Developments (राजनयिक घटनाक्रम)**

- After three months of negotiation post-LAC standoff, India and China agreed to resume direct flights, visas, and people-to-people exchanges.
(एलएसी गतिरोध के तीन महीने बाद, भारत और चीन ने प्रत्यक्ष उड़ानों, वीजा और लोगों के बीच आदान-प्रदान फिर से शुरू करने पर सहमति जताई।)
- **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong** in Beijing to discuss bilateral relations.
(विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिश्री ने बीजिंग में चीनी उप विदेश मंत्री सुन वेइडोंग से द्विपक्षीय संबंधों पर चर्चा की।)
- The meeting was in line with the **Modi-Xi discussions in Kazan (October 2023)** to rebuild ties.
(यह बैठक अक्टूबर 2023 में कज़ान में मोदी-शी की चर्चा के अनुरूप थी।)

-
- **2.1 People-to-People Exchanges (जन-जन संपर्क)**
 - **Mansarovar Yatra to resume in the summer of 2025.
(मानसरोवर यात्रा 2025 की गर्मियों में फिर से शुरू होगी।)**
 - **Both nations agreed to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic ties with celebratory events.
(दोनों देशों ने 75 साल के राजनयिक संबंधों का जश्न मनाने के लिए कार्यक्रम आयोजित करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।)**

- **2.2 Hydrological & Border Cooperation (जलविज्ञान और सीमा सहयोग)**
- **India-China Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) will discuss the resumption of hydrological data sharing on trans-border rivers. (भारत-चीन विशेषज्ञ स्तर की प्रक्रिया (ELM) सीमा-पार नदियों पर जलविज्ञान डेटा साझा करने को फिर से शुरू करने पर चर्चा करेगी।)**
- **Hydropower projects in Tibet's Brahmaputra Basin (Yarlung Zangbo) raise Delhi's concerns. (तिब्बत के ब्रह्मपुत्र बेसिन (यारलुंग जंग्बो) में जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं पर भारत की चिंता बनी हुई है।)**

• 3.1 Trade Curbs & Restrictions (व्यापार प्रतिबंध और सीमाएँ)

- China demanded a **level playing field** against India's **2020 investment restrictions**, visa denials, and telecom raids.
(चीन ने भारत द्वारा 2020 में लगाए गए निवेश प्रतिबंधों, वीजा अस्वीकृति और दूरसंचार छापों के खिलाफ समान अवसर की मांग की।)
- India remains cautious over **Chinese restrictions on APIs (pharmaceuticals), high-tech exports, and critical equipment like Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs)**.
(भारत चीनी प्रतिबंधों से सतर्क है, विशेष रूप से फार्मास्युटिकल एपीआई, उच्च-तकनीकी निर्यात और सुरंग खोदने की मशीनों (TBM) पर।)

• **3.2 Bilateral Mechanisms (द्विपक्षीय प्रक्रिया)**

- India and China resumed regular bilateral dialogues, including trade and defense discussions.

(भारत और चीन ने व्यापार और रक्षा चर्चाओं सहित नियमित द्विपक्षीय संवाद फिर से शुरू किए।)

- Modi likely to attend the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in June 2025**, where China is chairing.

(मोदी 2025 में शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग ले सकते हैं, जहां चीन अध्यक्षता करेगा।)

- **4.1 Historical Aspect (ऐतिहासिक पक्ष)**

- India-China diplomatic relations established in **1950**, but deteriorated post-1962 war. (भारत-चीन के राजनयिक संबंध 1950 में स्थापित हुए, लेकिन 1962 के युद्ध के बाद खराब हो गए।)
- **Doklam standoff (2017)** and **Galwan clash (2020)** strained relations. (डोकलाम गतिरोध (2017) और गलवान संघर्ष (2020) ने संबंधों को तनावपूर्ण बना दिया।)
- **Mansarovar Yatra**, an ancient pilgrimage, was halted in **2020 due to COVID-19 and LAC tensions**. (मानसरोवर यात्रा 2020 में कोविड-19 और एलएसी तनाव के कारण रोक दी गई थी।)

-
- **Geographical Aspect (भौगोलिक पक्ष)**
 - **Line of Actual Control (LAC):** A disputed 3,488 km border between India and China.
(वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (एलएसी): भारत और चीन के बीच 3,488 किमी की विवादित सीमा।)
 - **Brahmaputra River Dispute:** China's **hydropower projects** impact water flow to India's Northeast.
(ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी विवाद: चीन की जलविद्युत परियोजनाएँ भारत के पूर्वोत्तर में जल प्रवाह को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।)
 - **Tibet's geographical significance** for both nations due to its water resources and strategic location.
(तिब्बत अपने जल संसाधनों और रणनीतिक स्थिति के कारण दोनों देशों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।)

- **Economic Aspect (आर्थिक पक्ष)**

- India-China trade reached **\$136 billion in 2023**, but India faces a **\$101 billion trade deficit**.

(भारत-चीन व्यापार 2023 में \$136 बिलियन तक पहुंच गया, लेकिन भारत \$101 बिलियन के व्यापार घाटे का सामना कर रहा है।)

- China's investments in India's tech and pharma sectors remain under scrutiny. (चीन के तकनीकी और फार्मा क्षेत्रों में निवेश की भारत में जांच जारी है।)

- **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** India remains opposed, citing **sovereignty issues over CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor)**.

(बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI): भारत संप्रभुता के मुद्दों के कारण चीन-पाकिस्तान आर्थिक गलियारे (CPEC) का विरोध करता है।)

Uttarakhand adopts Uniform Civil Code +

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday officially rolled out the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for all residents of the State, except the Scheduled Tribes and natives who have migrated out of the State. With this, Uttarakhand has become the first Indian State to implement the UCC post-Independence.

The UCC Bill, passed by the State Assembly last February, bans practices such as *halala*, *iddat*, and *talaq* (customs related to marriage and divorce in Muslim Personal Law). It also ensures that women are given equal rights in matters related to property and inheritance.

The UCC mandates online registration of marriages, divorce and live-in relationships. A government portal – ucc.uk.gov.in – has been formed for the purpose. People can access records, register complaints and also upload their will on the portal. Mr. Dhami also registered his marriage on the portal.

“Under the able leadership of the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, our government has today implemented the UCC in Uttarakhand. Today is a special day for the people of this State as well as for all the countrymen,” Mr. Dhami said during the launch of the UCC portal. “I am confident that this stream of equality emanating from Uttarakhand will irrigate the entire country in the near future,” he added.

Beginning of new era

Terming the UCC the “beginning of a new era of equality and harmony”, Mr. Dhami added that his government had promised the “god-like” people that



Pushkar Singh Dhami

every citizen of the State would have equal rights, and the implementation of UCC was a reflection of the BJP’s commitment to achieve the resolution taken before the public.

According to a communique from the State government, the online portal created for the UCC registration has Aadhaar-based verification. An AI-based translation service will translate the content into 22 languages, including English. The portal has integrated data from across more than 13 government departments, including civic bodies, police and courts.



In view of the UCC rollout, the marriages that have taken place in Uttarakhand since March 26, 2010, will have to be registered in the government portal within the next six months. Marriages that have taken place after the implementation of the law should be registered within 60 days from the date of marriage.

While registering divorce or marriage annulment, people should enter details of marriage registration, decree of divorce or marriage annulment, court case number, date of final order, details of children, and copy of final order of the court.


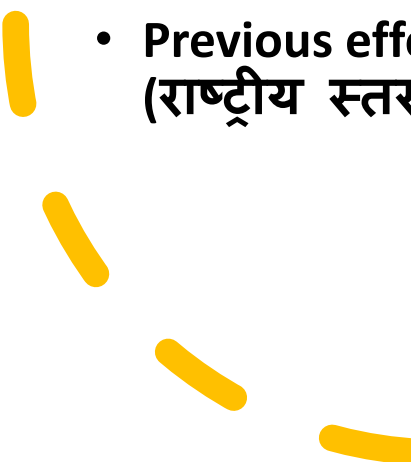
The UCC portal allows people to register their will in three ways – by filling the form on the portal, by uploading handwritten or typed will, or by recording it in a three-minute video and uploading it.

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- **1.1 Implementation of UCC (यूसीसी का कार्यान्वयन)**
 - **Uttarakhand becomes the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) post-independence.**
(उत्तराखण्ड स्वतंत्रता के बाद यूसीसी लागू करने वाला भारत का पहला राज्य बना।)
 - **Scheduled Tribes and migrated natives are exempted from UCC.**
(अनुसूचित जनजातियों और प्रवास कर चुके मूल निवासियों को यूसीसी से छूट दी गई है।)
 - **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the UCC portal (ucc.uk.gov.in) for Aadhaar-based registration of marriages, divorce, and live-in relationships.**
(मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी ने विवाह, तलाक और लिव-इन संबंधों के आधार पंजीकरण के लिए यूसीसी पोर्टल (ucc.uk.gov.in) शुरू किया।)

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- **Key Provisions of the UCC Bill (यूसीसी विधेयक के प्रमुख प्रावधान)**
 - **Bans discriminatory customs such as:**
 - **Halala** (forced marriage after divorce)
 - **Iddat** (waiting period for divorced women)
 - **Triple Talaq**
(हलाला, इद्दत और तीन तलाक जैसे भेदभावपूर्ण प्रथाओं पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है।)
 - **Ensures gender equality in property and inheritance rights.**
(संपत्ति और उत्तराधिकार अधिकारों में लैंगिक समानता सुनिश्चित की गई है।)
 - **Mandatory online registration of marriages and divorces.**
(विवाह और तलाक का अनिवार्य ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण किया जाएगा।)
 - **Existing marriages since March 26, 2010, must be registered within six months.**
(26 मार्च 2010 से हुए विवाहों को छह महीने के भीतर पंजीकृत करना अनिवार्य है।)

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- **Digital and Administrative Aspects (डिजिटल और प्रशासनिक पहलू)**
 - **AI-powered translation system to provide UCC information in 22 languages.**
(यूसीसी जानकारी को 22 भाषाओं में प्रदान करने के लिए एआई-संचालित अनुवाद प्रणाली लागू की गई है।)
 - **Integrated data from 13+ government departments, including courts and civic bodies.**
(13+ सरकारी विभागों से समन्वित डेटा, जिसमें न्यायालय और नागरिक निकाय शामिल हैं।)
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- People can register complaints, check records, and upload their will online.
(लोग ऑनलाइन शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं, रिकॉर्ड देख सकते हैं और अपनी वसीयत अपलोड कर सकते हैं।)
 - Marriage annulment (divorce) details require legal registration with court case numbers.
(विवाह निरस्तीकरण (तलाक) का विवरण कानूनी पंजीकरण के साथ अदालत के मामले संख्या के तहत आवश्यक है।)

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- **Historical Aspect (ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य)**
 - **Article 44 of the Indian Constitution mentions UCC as a Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP). (भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 44 में यूसीसी को राज्य नीति के निर्देशक सिद्धांत (DPSP) के रूप में उल्लिखित किया गया है।)**
 - **Goa was the only Indian state with a civil code before Uttarakhand (Portuguese-influenced). (गोवा, पुर्तगाली प्रभाव के कारण, उत्तराखंड से पहले एकमात्र भारतीय राज्य था जहां नागरिक संहिता थी।)**
 - **Previous efforts to implement UCC at the national level failed due to political opposition. (राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर यूसीसी लागू करने के पिछले प्रयास राजनीतिक विरोध के कारण विफल रहे।)**
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IN BRIEF

Amit Shah takes a dip at Triveni Sangam in Pravagraj

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday visited the Maha Kumbh in Pravagraj in Uttar Pradesh and took a dip at the Triveni Sangam.

Indian Embassy rescues 67 from scam centres in Laos

The Indian Embassy in Laos has rescued 67 Indian youngsters from cyber scam centres in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (GTSEZ) of the country.

MNS seeks commentary in Marathi on Disney+ Hotstar

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) staged a protest on Monday at the office of Disney+ Hotstar in Mumbai, demanding that it provide commentary for cricket matches in Marathi.

After 12 years, elephant found in Arunachal tiger reserve

An elephant has been camera-trapped in India's easternmost tiger reserve after 12 years, fuelling conservation hopes. Officials manning the 1,985-sq. km Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve in Changiang district of Arunachal Pradesh said an adult male elephant was recorded in the Kathang region of Namdapha's northwestern part.

Central team in Pune as man dies of suspected Guillain-Barre Syndrome

Solapur man is suspected to have contracted disease when he visited Pune; the number of cases of the disorder in the city has crossed 100; Rapid Response Team holds surveys in affected areas

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Monday deployed a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Pune in Maharashtra after a man suspected to have contracted the Guillain-Barre Syndrome died in Solapur district.

This may be the first death in the State suspected to have been caused by immunological nerve disorder.

The 40-year-old man, a native of Solapur, had visited Pune, where he is suspected to have contracted the disease, health officials said.

The central team will support the State health authorities in instituting public health interventions and management in view of a spurt in suspected and confirmed cases of the syndrome in the city.

Centre asks airlines to fly more Kumbh Mela services

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) staged a protest on Monday at the office of Disney+ Hotstar in Mumbai, demanding that it provide commentary for cricket matches in Marathi.

Amid complaints of sky-rocking airfares by pilgrims, headed to the Kumbh Mela in Pravagraj, the Civil Aviation Ministry on Monday said airlines should "continue to fight for the Marathi language".

In a press statement, the Ministry said 81 more flights were introduced in January, taking the total to 172. The Director General of Civil Aviation had asked airlines to add more flights during Shani Shukra on January 28 and 29, and operations during Shani Shukra on January 29 and 30.

The Ministry said Akasa Air would fly from Ahmedabad to Pravagraj on January 28 and 29, and operations during Shani Shukra on January 29 and 30. SpiceJet will connect Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur and Hyderabad to Pravagraj in February.



Health crisis: Residents standing in a queue outside the Karnata Nehru Hospital in Pune on Monday. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

(PMCC) officials, the State's Rapid Response Team visited the affected areas and conducted surveys.

The survey included 2,55,578 houses - 1,57,611 in the Pune Municipal Corporation, 37,719 in the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), and 60,998 in rural Pune. It identified 146 patients with acute diarrhoea and dysentery.

Authorities from the Pune Municipal Corporation sent 183 water samples for testing, of which 182 were found to be potable and one was not. The Health Department also sent 21 water samples for testing, of which three were found to be potable and three were not. Reports on 15 samples are pending.

Expert panel clears plan to rebuild washed away Teesta dam in Sikkim

The additional costs of restoring the dam is estimated to be ₹4,189 crore. NLS MWFO



Expensive work: The additional costs of restoring the dam is estimated to be ₹4,189 crore. NLS MWFO

Fourteen months after a devastating glacier lake outburst flood in Sikkim washed away the Teesta-3 dam, the State's biggest hydropower project, killing at least 100, an expert committee of the Environment Ministry has recommended that the dam be reconstructed.

Instead of the older structure that was part rock and part concrete, the new dam will be entirely concrete - reportedly to increase its strength - and its spillway will be capable of managing a peak flow of 10,946 cubic metres a second (cumecs), thrice the capacity of the former dam, which was 2,000 cumecs. The project developer, Sikkim Urja Ltd. (SUL), has also been asked to implement an early-warning system in the upper catchment.

A major cause for the "overtopping" (dam breach) was that the flood gates could not be opened in time and this led to a deluge of water, debris and silt.

SUDOKU puzzle grid with numbers and empty cells.

Solution to previous puzzle and Solution to yesterday's Sudoku.

Cruel attempts to throttle MGNREGS must end: Congress

The Narendra Modi government's cruel attempts to throttle the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS) must end, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a statement on Monday.

Pointing out that the scheme continues to be the only lifeline for crores of India's poorest families, Mr. Ramesh demanded that the Congress-led government should increase the goal for creating at least one job per day as the national minimum wage. The wages, Mr. Ramesh said, could not be set by the arbitrary whims of the government.

He said a Standing Committee had to be established to evaluate the need for changes in the wage rate. Mr. Ramesh said the Aadhaar Payments Bhavari (APBS) must not be made mandatory. He also put forward the demand that the number of workdays under the MGNREGS be increased from 100 to 150.

In the years since, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the MGNREGS conclusively demonstrated its utility as one of the few social security interventions that the government could execute. He said, As a share of the GDP, allocations to MGNREGS had been reduced to 0.26% in 2024-25, Mr. Ramesh said, adding that the World Bank recommended at least 1.7% of the GDP should be allocated to this programme.



Jairam Ramesh

CISF trashes man's claim of watch theft at Delhi airport

The underground powerhouse and electro-chemical equipment could be restored to their original condition in about 10-12 months. The water conductor system is mostly unaffected in the flash flood, hence, other than the dam most of the components can be restored in a year's time.

After a Gurugram-based doctor took to X to complain about his Apple watch being stolen at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, the CISF published his claims, saying CCTV footage showed that the man strapped the watch on his wrist after completing security check.

The orthopaedic surgeon Tusbar Mehta wrote a detailed post on January 25, alleging that a person walked away with his Apple watch at the airport after security screening before he nabbed him. He had also identified the alleged thief as belonging to a minority community.

"The review of the CCTV has contradicted the sequence of events. After security check, you were seen wearing your watch and heading for boarding gate," the CISF said.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

FAITH section featuring a story about Tyagaraja's guidance.

No other composer is celebrated to the extent that Tyagaraja is not in any other composer's aradhana observed across the world by generations of musicians as well as other ordinary people seeking the way to God.

When he was barely 18, a sage who arrived from Kancharuram asked Tyagaraja to recite Rama's name 96 crore times, reciting 1,25,000 names every day.

Central team in Pune as man dies of suspected Guillain-Barre Syndrome

Solapur man is suspected to have contracted disease when he visited Pune; the number of cases of the disorder in the city has crossed 100; Rapid Response Team holds surveys in affected areas

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Monday deployed a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Pune in Maharashtra after a man suspected to have contracted the Guillain-Barre Syndrome died in Solapur district.

This may be the first death in the State suspected to have been caused by the immunological nerve disorder.

The 40-year-old man, a native of Solapur, had visited Pune, where he is suspected to have contracted the disease, health officials said. They said the number of cases of the disorder in Pune has crossed 100.

The central team will support the State health authorities in instituting public health interventions and management in view of a spurt in suspected and confirmed cases of the syn-



Health crisis: Residents standing in a queue outside the Kamla Nehru Hospital in Pune on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

drome in the city.

According to a statement, the team will comprise seven experts drawn from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Delhi, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, the Regional Office of Health & Family Welfare and the National Institute for Virology (NIV), Pune. Three experts from the NIV were already supporting the local authorities; the team has now been expanded.

According to the Pune Municipal Corporation

(PMC) officials, the State's Rapid Response Team visited the affected areas and conducted surveys.

Corporation survey

The survey included 2,55,578 houses – 1,57,611 in the Pune Municipal Corporation, 37,719 in the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), and 60,998 in rural Pune. It identified 146 patients with acute diarrhoea and dysentery.

Authorities from the Water Supply Department

sent 183 water samples for testing, of which 182 were found to be potable and one was not. The Health Department also sent 21 water samples for testing, of which three were found to be potable and three were not. Reports on 15 samples are pending.



According to State Health Department officials, the National Institute of Virology in Pune tested 23 blood samples and 73 stool samples. All blood samples tested negative for Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, but 12 stool samples tested positive for Norovirus. Three stool samples tested positive for *Campylobacter jejuni*. Nine tested negative for the bacteria, and reports on 39 samples are pending.

State Health Minister Prakashrao Abitkar, who held a review meeting over the syndrome at Vidhan Bhavan, advised people not to panic as the recovery rate for GBS is high.



- **Outbreak & Investigation (प्रकोप और जांच)**
- **A suspected case of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) led to the death of a 40-year-old man from Solapur after visiting Pune.**
(गुइलेन-बैरे सिंड्रोम (GBS) का एक संदिग्ध मामला पुणे की यात्रा के बाद सोलापुर के 40 वर्षीय व्यक्ति की मृत्यु का कारण बना।)
- **The number of cases in Pune has crossed 100, prompting intervention.**
(पुणे में मामलों की संख्या 100 से अधिक हो गई है, जिससे हस्तक्षेप आवश्यक हो गया।)
- **Union Health Ministry deployed a high-level multidisciplinary team to assist in outbreak control.**
(केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने प्रकोप नियंत्रण में सहायता के लिए एक उच्च-स्तरीय बहु-विषयक टीम तैनात की।)


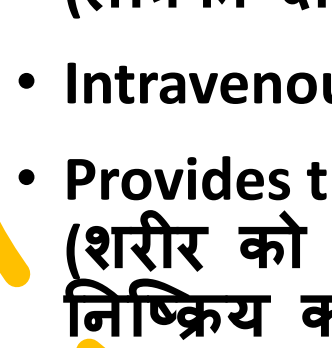
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- **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) Overview (GBS का अवलोकन)**
 - **GBS is a rare neurological disorder where the body's immune system attacks its nerves. (GBS एक दुर्लभ तंत्रिका संबंधी विकार है जिसमें शरीर की प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली अपनी नसों पर हमला करती है।)**
 - **Symptoms include muscle weakness, paralysis, and respiratory issues. (लक्षणों में मांसपेशियों में कमजोरी, पक्षाघात और श्वसन समस्याएँ शामिल हैं।)**
 - **Can be triggered by viral or bacterial infections, including Campylobacter jejuni, Zika, and Norovirus. (यह वायरल या बैक्टीरियल संक्रमण, जैसे कि कैम्पिलोबैक्टर जेजुनी, ज़िका और नोरोवायरस द्वारा प्रेरित हो सकता है।)**

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- **Testing & Surveillance (परीक्षण और निगरानी)**
 - **National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, tested 23 blood and 73 stool samples.**
(नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ वायरोलॉजी (NIV), पुणे ने 23 रक्त और 73 मल के नमूनों का परीक्षण किया।)
 - **Tests ruled out Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, but 12 stool samples were positive for Norovirus.**
(जांच में ज़िका, डेंगू और चिकनगुनिया को खारिज कर दिया गया, लेकिन 12 मल नमूने नोरोवायरस के लिए सकारात्मक पाए गए।)
 - **Three stool samples tested positive for Campylobacter jejuni, known to cause GBS.**
(तीन मल नमूने कैम्पिलोबैक्टर जेजुनी के लिए सकारात्मक पाए गए, जो GBS का कारण बन सकता है।)

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- **Corporation & Water Testing (नगर निगम और जल परीक्षण)**
 - **Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) surveyed 2.55 lakh households, identifying 146 patients with acute diarrhea & dysentery.**
(पणे नगर निगम (PMC) ने 2.55 लाख घरों का सर्वेक्षण किया और 146 तीव्र दस्त और पेचिश के मरीजों की पहचान की।)
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- **Historical Context (ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ)**
 - **Past GBS outbreaks in India linked to viral infections, including Zika and COVID-19. (भारत में पिछले GBS प्रकोप ज़िका और COVID-19 जैसे वायरल संक्रमणों से जुड़े रहे हैं।)**
 - **First major GBS outbreak documented globally in 1976 post-Swine Flu vaccination. (पहला बड़ा GBS प्रकोप 1976 में स्वाइन फ्लू टीकाकरण के बाद दर्ज किया गया था।)**
 - **Guillain-Barré Syndrome named after French neurologists Guillain & Barré in 1916. (गुइलेन-बैरे सिंड्रोम का नाम 1916 में फ्रांसीसी न्यूरोलॉजिस्ट गुइलेन और बैरे के नाम पर रखा गया था।)**

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- **Is GBS Curable? (क्या GBS का इलाज संभव है?)**
 - **No known cure, but treatments help in recovery.
(कोई ज्ञात इलाज नहीं, लेकिन उपचार रिकवरी में मदद करता है।)**
 - **WHO states most people recover fully, but severe cases may take months or years.
(WHO के अनुसार, ज्यादातर मरीज पूरी तरह ठीक हो जाते हैं, लेकिन गंभीर मामलों में महीनों या सालों लग सकते हैं।)**
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- Treatment Methods (उपचार विधियाँ)
 - Plasma Exchange (Plasmapheresis) (प्लाज्मा एक्सचेंज - प्लाज्माफेरेसिस)
 - Removes harmful antibodies from the blood.
(रक्त से हानिकारक एंटीबॉडी को हटाता है।)
 - Reduces nerve damage and speeds up recovery.
(तंत्रिका क्षति को कम करता है और रिकवरी तेज करता है।)
 - Intravenous Immunoglobulin Therapy (IVIg) (अंतःशिरा इम्युनोग्लोबुलिन थेरेपी)
 - Provides the body with antibodies to neutralize harmful immune responses.
(शरीर को एंटीबॉडी प्रदान करता है जो हानिकारक प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रियाओं को निष्क्रिय करता है।)
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First resort**Trump should use diplomacy, not coercion, in deportation of migrants**

Donald Trump's mass deportation drive hit its final day on January 27. Colombian President Gustavo Petro refused permission to two United States military planes carrying migrants to land. A furious Mr. Trump announced that the U.S. would impose a 25% tariff on all Colombian goods, which would be raised to 50%. The U.S. also threatened to impose banking and financial sanctions and issue travel bans on Colombian officials and associates. Mr. Petro, a former guerrilla, responded in kind by saying Colombia would also impose tariffs up to 50% on American goods and refused to "shake hands with white slaveholders". But Bogota, under pressure, eventually accepted to take back the migrants "with dignity and respect". A trade war would have been bad news for both countries whose bilateral trade stood at \$53.5 billion in 2022, with a \$4 billion surplus for the U.S. High tariffs would have been a body blow for Colombia, as the U.S. is its largest trading partner. With tariffs and financial and political sanctions, America could cripple Colombia's economy and destabilise its polity at a time when its fight with guerrillas is escalating after a lull. Unsurprisingly, Mr. Petro backtracked and agreed to accept what the White House said was "all its terms".

Colombia and several South American countries have been taking undocumented migrants back from the U.S. in recent years. In January, there were 90 deportation flights from the U.S. to its southern neighbours, eight of which landed in Colombia. But third aspect of regular architecture is that drugs are on the Concurrent list, which means that both the Union and States can enact law but since the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is the Union law laying down quality standards for homeopathic remedies, States need presidential approval for State-specific amendments.

This complex regulatory architecture has meant that manufacturers of these homeopathic medicinal tinctures have historically been exempt from any form of quality regulation or taxation by States despite having a direct impact on public health. This is again the responsibility of States per List II of Schedule VII. Moreover, due to the difference in taxation rates for alcoholic tinctures sold as homeopathic remedies and alcoholic beverages, alcoholic tinctures manufactured by the homeopathic industry are more affordable

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, in *Bhagwati Medical Hall v Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation & Ors.*, once again, turned the spotlight on the impossible challenge faced by State governments in regulating a significant public health hazard — that posed by alcoholic tinctures marketed in India as homeopathic remedies. Feckless attempts by the Union Government to tackle the problem have often been frustrated by ruthless lawyers conducted by the very formidable homeopathic industry.

The regulatory maze
A good starting point to explain this issue is the exceptionally complicated regulatory architecture under the Constitution for these alcoholic tinctures, which are liquid extracts of herbs dissolved in alcohol. As per Schedule VII of the Constitution, only States can enact legislation in relation to public health and the taxation of alcohol. The exception to this rule of taxation is if the alcohol is meant for medicinal purposes, in which case, Entry 84 of List I allowed the Union to decide the rate of taxation.

In the pre-Goods and Services Tax (GST) era, alcohol for medicinal preparation was taxed at a tiny 4% under the now repealed Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1925. Post the 101st Constitutional amendment which paved the way for the GST, the issue of taxation of alcohol meant for medicinal purposes is not clear since the exception created for alcohol meant for medicinal purposes is no longer mentioned in Entry 84. Nevertheless, the Union has prescribed an 18% tax slab for alcohol meant for medicinal purposes, which is still significantly lower than State taxes on alcoholic beverages.

The third aspect of this regulatory architecture is that drugs are on the Concurrent list, which means that both the Union and States can enact law but since the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is the Union law laying down quality standards for homeopathic products, States need presidential approval for State-specific amendments.

This complex regulatory architecture has meant that manufacturers of these homeopathic medicinal tinctures have historically been exempt from any form of quality regulation or taxation by States despite having a direct impact on public health. This is again the responsibility of States per List II of Schedule VII. Moreover, due to the difference in taxation rates for alcoholic tinctures sold as homeopathic remedies and alcoholic beverages, alcoholic tinctures manufactured by the homeopathic industry are more affordable



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than alcoholic beverages. For a less discerning consumer of alcohol whose sole aim is to get intoxicated, these alcoholic tinctures are the perfect substitute for alcoholic beverages, especially since many of these tinctures contain a very high volume of alcohol. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act permits alcoholic tinctures for medicinal purposes to contain 12% alcohol by volume. For comparison, the most popular varieties of "strong beer" sold in India generally contain 7% alcohol.

State governments have viewed the issue primarily through the lens of revenue loss caused by the sale of these products even if the State tinctures as a substitute for alcoholic beverages taxed at a higher rate. This loss of revenues was one of the reasons for the administrative actions taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, under Section 22 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 in the *Bhagwati Medical Hall* case, except, as correctly held by the Supreme Court, only the Union government can regulate the sale of homeopathic tinctures.

Health concerns, industry lawfare
The taxation story however pales in comparison to public health nightmares posed by these alcoholic tinctures. Since States have no ability to regulate alcoholic tinctures, they are required to permit the sale of these products even if the State law prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages, as in the case of Bihar. States have reported a string of deaths of those who consumed homeopathic remedies containing spurious alcohol. The public health objectives of these State prohibitions on alcohol have been frustrated by a tax law that allows the Union to enact a State-specific amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 but that requires presidential approval.

The larger public health hazard of these alcoholic tinctures are unsuspecting citizens who consume these products on the assumption that they are going to be cured of their ailments without being fully aware of the alcohol content in these products. Except that consuming such products containing high levels of alcohol, on a daily basis, can cause serious illnesses such as alcoholic hepatitis in patients who are otherwise healthy. The alcohol content in these tinctures is presenting an increasing amount of anecdotal data of such patients presenting symptoms consistent with those demonstrated by the public health hazards posed by these alcoholic tinctures and introduced Rule 106B of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 in 1994 after a tragedy

took many lives. This new rule, which appears to lack any scientific basis, allows the homeopathy industry to sell in the retail market, alcoholic tinctures containing 12% of alcohol in a bottle of maximum 30 ml. Larger bottles of 100 ml can be sold only to hospitals.

As soon as Rule 106B came into force, the homeopathy industry unleashed a campaign of unmitigated lawfare against this rule because it wanted to sell tinctures with higher alcohol content. In the first round of litigation, the homeopathy industry challenged the constitutional validity of the rule on the grounds that it was an unreasonable restriction on its fundamental right to conduct trade and that the government lacked the power to make the rule. The industry lost before five High Courts and eventually the Supreme Court, except it took until 2014 for this litigation to be resolved. The very next year, in 2015, the homeopathy industry launched a second round of lawfare by filing 15 lawsuits before seven different High Courts, on the grounds that Rule 106B was invalid since it was not placed before Parliament for a period of 30 days, as required by Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Since a statutory requirement was not met, at least four High Courts temporarily stayed the operation of the rule in 2015, restraining government from enforcing it until the legal challenge was disposed of.

The simplest solution to these lawsuits was for the Union Government to simply lay Rule 106B before Parliament for 30 days thereby knocking out the basis of the legal challenge. Except that India's famed bureaucracy made the malicious decision to pursue the most litigious route by filing a transfer petition in 2017 requesting for all 15 cases to be transferred to the Supreme Court. The Court agreed to do so and transferred all 15 cases to itself in 2017, where the matter has since languished unheard. Delays of such nature before the Supreme Court, when it comes to regulations meant to protect public health, are nothing unusual and end up costing lives of citizens.

Key question
The more important question is whether the law should permit the use of any alcohol in not just homeopathic products but also ayurvedic products, especially when other countries are contemplating compulsory cancer warnings on regular alcoholic beverages. It is one thing that these homeopathic and ayurvedic products do not cure any ailments, as claimed by their manufacturers, but quite another for them to cause further harm to unsuspecting and poorly informed citizens.

The Union Budget as a turning point for climate action

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Avayash Anand
is Executive, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

His eyes will be on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman when she takes the stage on February 1 to present the Union Budget. As the nation grapples with increasingly frequent extreme weather events and mounting pressure to meet its climate commitments, the FY26 Budget carries the weight of both agency and opportunity. With just five years left to achieve India's first interim Net-Zero target, the Budget must take decisive steps to protect those on the frontlines of climate change.

Previous Budgets have demonstrated the government's commitment to climate action, notably through initiatives such as the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana support for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, viability gap funding for offshore wind energy, and increased investment for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Yet, with a total renewable energy capacity target of 203.18 GW, far short of the 2030 target of 500 GW, accelerated investment and policy support are imperative.

There is much work to be done
The Budget must prioritise key policy measures to strengthen India's climate response and accelerate progress on both adaptation and mitigation fronts. First, to accelerate India's green energy transition, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana needs a comprehensive review. While the scheme has seen around 1.45 crore installations, the completion rate of only 6.34 lakh installations per annum indicates the presence of significant implementation gaps. To address this, the FY26 Budget must take a multi-pronged approach. In the first instance, fiscal allocations should prioritise the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model, effectively transforming the prohibitive upfront costs into manageable operating expenses for lower-income households through innovative financial instruments and credit guarantees.

Second, the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which will take effect on January 1, 2026, necessitates targeted budgetary interventions to protect India's export competitiveness. The EU's carbon price of CBAM products to the EU amount to \$8.22 billion annually and will likely face carbon levies ranging from 10% to 30%.

This presents an existential challenge for India. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which have a contribution of 30% of GDP and 48% of exports. The Budget can address this "climate competitiveness" gap, modelled after successful initiatives such as Japan's Green Transformation (GX) Fund for industrial decarbonisation, particularly across the most vulnerable export sectors. The Fund can also support the industry in transitioning to MSMEs to ensure proper compliance and reporting under CBAM.

The Budget must accelerate India's transition to a circular economy. A recent study by the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) estimates that the benefit of adopting a circular economy can yield an annual profit of \$40 billion (US\$6.2 billion) by 2030, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 44%. A budgetary focus on investments in recycling infrastructure and refurbishment technologies, complemented by accelerated depreciation benefits for circular economy assets, can encourage businesses to

invest in recycling and refurbishment technologies. The Budget should establish a sovereign green bond framework specifically for financing circular economy infrastructure.

On insurance products, green finance
Fourth, there is a strong need to strengthen climate resilience. India's insurance penetration remains worryingly low. According to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) 2023-24 Annual Report, it has declined from 4% in FY23 to 3.7% in FY24. To address this challenge, the Budget could offer tax deductions to insurance companies on income from climate-linked policies and advocate lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on premiums for insurance products specifically designed for climate resilience and disaster recovery.

Finally, some estimates indicate that standardising green finance definitions could help build investor confidence and help India get part of the \$162.5 trillion (\$2.5 trillion) needed to achieve the Nationally Determined Contribution by 2030. The Budget should allocate funds to build the institutional and technical infrastructure required to implement the climate finance taxonomy effectively, including for market readiness programmes, verification systems, and capacity building of financial institutions.

The Budget can further catalyse this transition by introducing differential tax treatment for taxonomy-aligned investments and contributing to classify government expenditure according to green criteria.

Climate-related economic policies are no longer peripheral but central to maintaining competitiveness in international trade and investment flows. With rising global demand for low-carbon goods and the increasing alignment of capital markets with sustainability metrics, India must act decisively and integrate climate competitiveness into its fiscal framework. The Budget will indeed signal the seriousness of the government's intent in this regard.

The views expressed are personal

Wide open**Sinner's win in Melbourne marks a new era in tennis**

The 2025 Australian Open has pushed world tennis into historic new territories. Jannik Sinner's straight sets victory over Alexander Zverev made him the first man other than Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal to defend his maiden Major title this century. This, perhaps, is the best sign that the sport has decisively moved on, even as 24-time slam winner Novak Djokovic, the last-man standing from the Big Three era, limped out of the semifinal against Zverev. Among women, Madison Keys may have become yet another first-time Major champion, but the presence of No.1 Aryna Sabalenka and No.2 Iga Swiatek at the business end shows that the women's field is a maturing marketplace, leaving behind the turbulence of the past few years. Sinner's success was his straight-in hard-court Slams. Such has been the Master No.1's dominance that of the 26 tournaments he has entered starting from the Toronto Masters in August 2023, he has won 14 and finished semifinalist or better in five others. Keys, in contrast, was a bolt from the blue and had last reached a Major final at the 2017 US Open. But the fact that she overcame the presence of Djokovic the semifinal after erasing a match-point and thwarted Sabalenka in the final despite a stirring comeback from the Belarusian made her a top-drawer performance.

While Sinner on current form, appears head and shoulders above the rest of the Tour, he still has to contend with Carlos Alcaraz, his generational rival and winner of four Slams. The Spaniard may have lost in the quarterfinals to Djokovic, but the hands-on coach, Nick Pietrangeli, has led him to a sensational performance in a women's game, which in recent times has traded predictability for novelty, might see the two aspects march in tow for the foreseeable future. Sabalenka's consistency, Swiatek's return — Melbourne was her best run at a slam since January 2023 outside the French Open — and Keys' win point in that direction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The reality
The Constitution of India is increasingly being overshadowed by the vision of the Constitution — that it is not to be upheld it. A deep chasm is emerging between the idealism enshrined in the Constitution and the realities of contemporary political advantage rather than serving public interest.

What we need are leaders in India who embody the highest standards of morality and conduct.
M. Nagarajan, Chennai

Trump's 'vision'
The unbridled arrogance of U.S. President Donald Trump's idea to "clean-out" Gaza of its Palestinian natives is abhorrent, but should not be viewed as anything — core to the perhaps a theological or ideological — miscommunication. Mr. Trump, despite his claims of respect for institutions designed to narrow interpretation of the scripture, is ready and willing to use this "toxic sword, because it is in

convergence with American strategic interests in West Asia. His background as a real estate developer must be salient in the prospect of gaining access to a Mediterranean seaport not subject to the narrow interpretation of the scripture, is ready and willing to use this "toxic sword, because it is in

sees the entire world as a borderless realm for his business activities. The Palestinians are in an uncomfortable truth like the way, they will be brutally swept aside.
P. Parameswaran, Coimbatore
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Getting drunk, on homoeopathy

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, in *Bhagwati Medical Hall vs Central Drugs Standard Control Organization & Ors.*, has, once again, turned the spotlight on the impossible challenge faced by State governments in regulating a significant public health hazard – that posed by alcoholic tinctures marketed in India as homoeopathic remedies. Feeble attempts by the Union Government to tackle the problem have often been frustrated by ruthless lawfare conducted by the very formidable homoeopathic industry.

The regulatory maze

A good starting point to explain this issue is the exceptionally complicated regulatory architecture under the Constitution for these alcoholic tinctures, which are liquid extracts of herbs dissolved in alcohol. As per Schedule VII of the Constitution, only States can enact legislation in relation to public health and the taxation of alcohol. The exception to this rule of taxation is if the alcohol is meant for medicinal purposes, in which case, Entry 84 of List I allowed the Union to decide the rate of taxation.

In the pre-Goods and Services Tax (GST) era, alcohol for medicinal preparation was taxed at a tiny 4% under the now repealed Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955. Post the 101st Constitutional amendment which paved the way for the GST, the issue of taxation of alcohol meant for medicinal purposes is not clear since the exception created for alcohol meant for medicinal purposes is no longer mentioned in Entry 84. Nevertheless, the Union has prescribed a 18% tax slab for alcohol meant for medicinal purposes, which is still significantly lower than State taxes on alcoholic beverages.

The third aspect of this regulatory architecture is that drugs are on the Concurrent list, which means that both the Union and States can enact law but since the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is the Union law laying down quality standards for homoeopathic products, States need presidential approval for State-specific amendments.

This complex regulatory architecture has meant that manufacturers of these homoeopathic alcoholic tinctures have historically been immune from any form of quality regulation or taxation by States despite having a direct impact on public health which again is the responsibility of States, per List II of Schedule VII. Moreover, due to the difference in taxation rates for alcoholic tinctures sold as homoeopathic remedies and alcoholic beverages, alcoholic tinctures manufactured by the homoeopathic industry are more affordable



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Alcoholic tinctures marketed in India as homoeopathic remedies are a significant public health hazard

than alcoholic beverages. For a less discerning consumer of alcohol whose sole aim is to get intoxicated, these alcoholic tinctures are the perfect substitute for alcoholic beverages especially since many of these tinctures contain a very high volume of alcohol. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act permits alcoholic tinctures for homoeopathy to contain 12% alcohol by volume. For comparison, the most popular varieties of "strong beer" sold in India generally contain 7% alcohol.

State governments have viewed the issue primarily through the lens of revenue loss caused by citizens who consume homoeopathic alcoholic tinctures as a substitute for alcoholic beverages taxed at a higher rate. This loss of revenues was one of the reasons for the administrative actions taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, under Section 22 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 in the *Bhagwati Medical Hall* case, except, as correctly held by the Supreme Court, only the Union government can regulate the sale of homoeopathic tinctures.

Health concerns, industry lawfare

The taxation story however pales in comparison to the public health nightmare posed by these alcoholic tinctures. Since States have no ability to regulate alcoholic tinctures, they are required to permit the sale of these products even if the State law prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages, as in Gujarat and Bihar. Both States have reported a string of deaths of those who consumed homoeopathic remedies containing spurious alcohol. In effect, the public health objectives of these State prohibitions on alcohol have been frustrated by a Union law. Technically, they can enact a State-specific amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 but that requires presidential assent.

The larger public health hazard of these alcoholic tinctures are unsuspecting citizens who consume these products on the assumption that they are going to be cured of their ailments without being fully aware of the alcoholic content in these products. Except that consuming such products containing high levels of alcohol, on a daily basis, can cause serious illnesses such as alcoholic hepatitis in patients who are otherwise perfectly healthy. Indian doctors have been presenting an increasing amount of anecdotal data of such patients presenting symptoms consistent with those demonstrated by alcoholics.

The Union government has been aware of the public health hazards posed by these alcoholic tinctures and introduced Rule 106B of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 in 1994 after a tragedy

took many lives. This new rule, which appears to lack any scientific basis, allows the homoeopathy industry to sell in the retail market, alcoholic tinctures containing 12% of alcohol in a bottle of maximum 30 ml. Larger bottles of 100 ml can be sold only to hospitals.

As soon as Rule 106B came into force, the homoeopathy industry unleashed a campaign of unmitigated lawfare against this rule because it wanted to sell tinctures with higher alcoholic content. In the first round of litigation, the homoeopathy industry challenged the constitutional validity of the rule on the grounds that it was an unreasonable restriction on its fundamental right to conduct trade and that the government lacked the power to make the rule. The industry lost before five High Courts and eventually the Supreme Court, except it took until 2014 for this litigation to be resolved. The very next year, in 2015, the homoeopathy industry launched a second round of lawfare by filing 13 lawsuits before seven different High Courts, on the grounds that Rule 106B was invalid since it was not placed before Parliament for a period of 30 days, as required by Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Since a statutory requirement was not met, at least four High Courts temporarily stayed the operation of the rule in 2015, restraining government from enforcing it until the legal challenge was disposed of.

The simplest solution to these lawsuits was for the Union Government to simply lay Rule 106B before Parliament for 30 days thereby knocking out the basis of the legal challenge. Except, India's famed bureaucracy made the malicious decision to pursue the route of more litigation by filing a transfer petition in 2017 requesting for all 13 cases to be transferred to the Supreme Court. The Court agreed to do so and transferred all 13 cases to itself in 2017, where the matter has since languished unheard. Delays of such nature before the Supreme Court, when it comes to regulations meant to protect public health, are nothing unusual and end up costing lives of citizens.

Key question

The more important question is whether the law should permit the use of any alcohol in not just homoeopathic products but also ayurvedic products, especially when other countries are contemplating compulsory cancer warnings on regular alcoholic beverages. It is one thing for these homoeopathic and ayurvedic products to not cure any ailments, as claimed by their manufacturers, but quite another for them to cause further harm to unsuspecting and poorly informed citizens.

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- **Supreme Court Ruling & Legal Dispute (सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निर्णय और कानूनी विवाद)**
 - **Recent Supreme Court ruling in Bhagwati Medical Hall vs Central Drugs Standard Control Organization** emphasized the regulatory challenge in controlling homeopathic alcoholic tinctures.
(सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भगवती मेडिकल हॉल बनाम केंद्रीय औषधि मानक नियंत्रण संगठन मामले में होम्योपैथिक मादक टिंचर्स को नियंत्रित करने में कानूनी चुनौती को उजागर किया।)
 - **State governments seek to tax alcoholic tinctures higher than regular alcohol** as they are often misused for intoxication.
(राज्य सरकारें इन टिंचर्स को अधिक कर दर पर लागू करना चाहती हैं क्योंकि इनका नशे के लिए दुरुपयोग किया जाता है।)



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- **Complex Regulatory Structure (जटिल नियामक संरचना)**
 - **Alcohol for medicinal use was taxed at only 4% under the old Medical & Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.**
(चिकित्सीय उपयोग के लिए अल्कोहल पर पुरानी चिकित्सा और टॉयलेट तैयारी अधिनियम, 1955 के तहत केवल 4% कर लगाया गया था।)
 - **After GST, taxation on medicinal alcohol remains uncertain, currently at 18% (lower than state alcohol excise duties).**
(जीएसटी लागू होने के बाद चिकित्सा शराब पर कराधान अस्पष्ट बना हुआ है, वर्तमान में 18% है, जो राज्य उत्पाद शुल्क से कम है।)

- **Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 allows homeopathic tinctures to contain up to 12% alcohol** (higher than many regular alcoholic beverages).



(औषधि और प्रसाधन सामग्री अधिनियम, 1940 के अनुसार होम्योपैथिक टिंचर्स में 12% तक शराब हो सकती है।)

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- **Conflict Between State & Union Laws (राज्य और केंद्र के कानूनों के बीच संघर्ष)**
 - **Alcohol is a state subject (List II), but drugs are under concurrent jurisdiction (List III). (शराब राज्य सूची (सूची II) में है, लेकिन दवाएं समवर्ती सूची (सूची III) के तहत आती हैं।)**
 - **States like Gujarat & Bihar banned alcohol but homeopathic tinctures remain available. (गुजरात और बिहार जैसे राज्यों ने शराब पर प्रतिबंध लगाया, लेकिन होम्योपैथिक टिंचर्स उपलब्ध हैं।)**
 - **Only Parliament can amend the Drugs & Cosmetics Act to regulate these tinctures effectively. (केवल संसद ही औषधि और प्रसाधन सामग्री अधिनियम में संशोधन कर सकती है।)**

- **Health Risks & Misuse (स्वास्थ्य जोखिम और दुरुपयोग)**
- **Homeopathic tinctures often contain high alcohol levels, leading to misuse by alcoholics.**
(होम्योपैथिक टिंचर्स में उच्च मात्रा में अल्कोहल होता है, जिससे शराबियों द्वारा इनका दुरुपयोग किया जाता है।)
- **Cases of fatal poisoning reported due to excessive consumption of homeopathic tinctures.**
(होम्योपैथिक टिंचर्स के अत्यधिक सेवन से घातक विषाक्तता के मामले सामने आए हैं।)
- **Hospitals record cases of acute liver damage linked to such products.**
(अस्पतालों में इन उत्पादों के कारण तीव्र यकृत क्षति के मामले दर्ज किए गए हैं।)

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- **Industry & Economic Aspects (उद्योग और आर्थिक पहलू)**
 - **Homeopathy manufacturers oppose stricter regulations, arguing it impacts business.**
(होम्योपैथी निर्माता कड़े नियमों का विरोध करते हैं, यह तर्क देते हुए कि इससे उद्योग प्रभावित होगा।)
 - **Legal loopholes allow these tinctures to be sold openly despite state alcohol bans.**
(कानूनी खामियों के कारण राज्य के शराब प्रतिबंधों के बावजूद ये टिंचर्स खुले तौर पर बेचे जाते हैं।)
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- **Supreme Court Intervention (सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हस्तक्षेप)**
 - **Supreme Court upheld the government's decision to regulate sale & taxation of homeopathic tinctures.**
(सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने होम्योपैथिक टिंचर्स की बिक्री और कराधान को विनियमित करने के सरकार के निर्णय को बरकरार रखा।)
 - **Industry challenged the law in five High Courts but was unsuccessful.**
(उद्योग ने इस कानून को पांच उच्च न्यायालयों में चुनौती दी, लेकिन असफल रहा।)
 - **Delays in judicial decisions caused extended sales of these tinctures without restrictions.**
(न्यायिक निर्णयों में देरी के कारण ये टिंचर्स बिना किसी प्रतिबंध के बेचे जाते रहे।)

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- **Parliamentary Action (संसदीय कार्रवाई)**
 - **The simplest legal solution is for Parliament to clear Rule 106B amendment to regulate these tinctures.**
(इन टिंचर्स को विनियमित करने के लिए संसद को नियम 106B संशोधन को पारित करना सबसे सरल कानूनी समाधान है।)
 - **Bureaucratic delays stalled action on this issue since 2017.**
(2017 से इस मुद्दे पर नौकरशाही देरी के कारण कार्रवाई लंबित है।)
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Text & Next

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Candidates contesting Delhi polls with higher secondary education

46 In per cent. According to an ADR analysis of the 699 candidates contesting Delhi polls, 46% or 324 candidates declared their academic qualification to be between Class 5 and Class 12, reflecting basic schooling. Eight candidates hold doctorate degrees. 18 candidates hold diplomas. ■

Number of violations of the Model Code of Conduct in Delhi polls

730 The cases were lodged between January 7 when the Model Code of Conduct came into force, and January 26. A total of 22,867 people were arrested under various legal provisions, including those under the Excise Act, during this period. ■

Number of candidates contesting Delhi polls in the 41-50 age range

235 According to an ADR analysis, the majority of candidates contesting the assembly election in Delhi are in the 41-50 age group. There has also been a significant rise in the number of candidates aged over 70. Aam Janmat Party candidate Rajender is the oldest in the fray at 88. ■

Number of Ahmadiyya graves desecrated in Pakistan by extremists

40 Nearly 40 graves belonging to the minority Ahmadiyya community have been desecrated by religious extremists believed to be the members of a radical Islamist party in Pakistan's Punjab province. Pakistan's Parliament in 1974 declared the Ahmadiyya community as non-Muslims. ■

Number of dead Olive Ridley turtles washed ashore in Chennai

1,000 Several hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles have been washed ashore dead along Chennai's coastline for the past few days, causing concern to environmentalists. ■

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Does cow urine have anti-infective properties?

Why did IIT-Madras director V. Kamakoti's statements on cow urine spark outrage? Which are the papers he listed which elaborated on the benefits of bovine urine? Have any conclusive studies been undertaken in India about the same?

EXPLAINER

Arkatana Basu
Priyali Prakash

The story so far: In January 15, IIT-Madras director V. Kamakoti said that cow urine had antifungal, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties at a goshala in West Maharashtra in Chennai. In a media interaction five days later, Dr. Kamakoti listed five peer-reviewed papers that he said validated the "anti-infective" properties of cow urine. His statements have since gone viral on social media as many questioned his claims and deemed his observations to be inappropriate as the head of a scientific institution.

What did the papers state? One paper titled "Peptide profiling in cow urine reveals molecular signature of physiology-driven pathways and in-silico predicted bioactive properties" was published on June 14, 2021, in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*. "The researchers have experimented and presented their findings. *Nature* is one of the top journals in the United States of America. The output in the research papers is the evidence," Dr. Kamakoti said. However, *Nature* and *Nature Scientific Reports* are two different journals. Independent experts said the research article itself "does not seem bad" but that it is just an analysis of bovine urine. "Authors say that there are a lot of studies of peptides in human urine, but not much work has been done in the case of bovine urine."

Aniket Sule, associate professor at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education in Mumbai, told *The Hindu*. "There are also similar studies about donkey urine. Essentially, all mammals pass some peptides in their urine and those peptides give a lot of indications about the health of that individual. That is also the reason why we do urine analysis



Exaggerated claims: Cows covered in jute blankets to keep warm at a barn in Surur in 2024. ■

in pathology labs. So, they are just presenting their analysis of bovine urine. There is no claim beyond that." Dr. Sule added that there have been papers from China discussing the use of cow dung as fertilizer. "However, developing a fertilizer from mammal urine/excreta is a different thing from human consumption of urine/excreta," he said. Dr. Sule quoted the example of U.S. President Donald Trump asking scientists in his first term, during the COVID-19 pandemic, about the alleged benefits of drinking bleach. "Just because bleach is anti-bacterial on the floor doesn't mean it is medicinal for humans," Dr. Sule said.

Gauram Menon, dean of research and professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University in Sonapat, said the paper is "perfectly reasonable scientific work, although whether it is interesting or not is another matter". "Checking

antibiotic effects on two standard bacterial species is a common thing to do. Their result is not particularly surprising nor is it claimed to be," he added.

The second paper Dr. Kamakoti referred to was entitled "Benefits of cow urine" and published in the *International Journal of Recent Advances in Multidisciplinary Research* on September 25, 2017. The paper reviews previous research articles describing the medicinal benefits of cow urine, a form of research called a meta-analysis. According to the paper, "Many researches have also been done, which shows its use for treatment of skin diseases, stomach diseases, kidney diseases, heart diseases, stones, diabetes, liver problem, jaundice, athlete's feet, cyst, haemorrhoid, etc. and show its immunostimulant, bioenhancer, anticonvulsant, anti-cancerous, wound-healing, antioxidant, and

antimicrobial properties." The abstract of the study concludes by calling for more public awareness of the importance of cow urine. However, Dipshikha Chakravorty, professor at the department of microbiology and cell biology at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, said in an email to *The Hindu*. "Consumption of any urine is detrimental and dangerous, including healthy individual urine. Urine contains resident bacteria, and that can be detrimental." She added that there have been reports of various types of urine containing bacteria that could be pathogenic. The prevalence of grammatical and typographical mistakes in the paper indicate the journal's editors didn't copy-edit it, a symptom — albeit not a conclusive one — of low-quality publishers.

What do other studies say?

In 2022, Bhoj Raj Singh, who recently retired as the epidemiology head of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly, led a study that showed the undesirability of humans consuming cow urine. In the study, the team found that fresh urine from cows and bulls contains at least 14 types of harmful bacteria, including *Escherichia coli*. The study also reported that urine can't inhibit bacterial growth. "In case one gets infected from the bacteria, [the infection] can lead to life-threatening infections, particularly among those consumers who are already sick or have weak immune systems," Dr. Singh said.

He also said proponents of drinking cow urine had criticised the study for using fresh urine while they advocated the consumption of urine distillates. His lab analysed these distillates as well as packaged urine found in the market. "We reported those too to be risky and full of microbes (no-quality control practised). Moreover, the antimicrobial activity detected may hardly be of any therapeutic utility as it may not be feasible to obtain such a large amount of urine safely to get its antibacterial action in our bodies," he said.

THE GIST

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Is the Guillain-Barré Syndrome life-threatening?

What are the causes and symptoms of Guillain-Barré Syndrome? What are the treatment methods, and is a full recovery possible? What is happening in Pune?

Zubeda Hamid

The story so far: Following a reported outbreak of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder, in Pune, with 73 cases so far, the Union Health Ministry has now sent a team to the city to assess the situation. The Maharashtra government has also set up a Rapid Response Team to investigate the sudden rise in infections. A total of 47 men and 26 women have been affected, with 14 on ventilator support, the State Health Department has said, as of Saturday, January 25, 2025.

What is Guillain-Barré Syndrome? Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is an autoimmune neurological disorder in which a person's immune system attacks their peripheral nerves, leading to muscle weakness that can progress to paralysis.

People of any age can be affected, but it is more common in adults and males. The condition is rare, with an estimated incidence of 1/2 per 100,000 population. While the causes of GBS are still not fully understood, in most cases, it occurs after a viral or bacterial infection. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), infection with the bacteria *Campylobacter jejuni*, which causes gastroenteritis (including symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea), is one of the most common risk factors for GBS. People can also develop GBS after having the flu or other viral infections from cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, and the Zika virus.

How does it affect the body? In autoimmune conditions, the body's immune system begins to attack its own cells. In GBS, the immune system destroys the myelin sheath — a fatty layer wrapped

around nerve cells. This impacts the nerves' ability to send signals to the brain, which causes weakness in the muscles. GBS affects the peripheral nervous system — the part of the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord — that controls the movement of muscles, temperature, touch and pain sensations. The first signs of GBS are usually tingling and weakness that start in the feet and legs before spreading to the upper body, arms and face. Symptoms include a pins and needles feeling in the toes, fingers, ankles or wrists, back pain, pain in the legs, not being able to walk or climb stairs, trouble with facial movements and double vision. For some people this can lead to paralysis of the legs, arms or face. The severity of the symptoms can range from mild to severe. In approximately one-third of people, the chest muscles are affected, making it hard to breathe, the WHO says. The ability to speak and

swallow can become affected in severe cases. GBS can lead to life-threatening complications when it affects the autonomic nervous system which controls your blood pressure and heart rate.

How is it treated?

There is no known cure for GBS. However, there are some treatments that aid in recovery. Most people can make a nearly full recovery. The treatments primarily include plasma exchange and intravenous immunoglobulin therapy. In plasma exchange or plasmapheresis, the plasma (liquid part of the blood) is removed, treated and then returned to the body. This removes the antibodies from the plasma that are attacking the nerves. Intravenous immunoglobulin therapy involves injecting the body with immunoglobulins which are proteins that the body makes to identify and neutralise pathogens. This helps decrease the antibodies that are attacking the nerves. Supportive treatment is also given and includes maintaining physical and occupational therapy may be required. Recovery can take a long time.

The WHO says Guillain-Barré syndrome is potentially life-threatening. People with Guillain-Barré syndrome should be treated and monitored as quickly as possible and some may need rehabilitation. If you experience sudden muscle that gets worse over some days, see a doctor immediately.

THE GIST

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Exaggerated claims: Cows covered in jute blankets to keep warm at a barn in Surat in 2024. ANI

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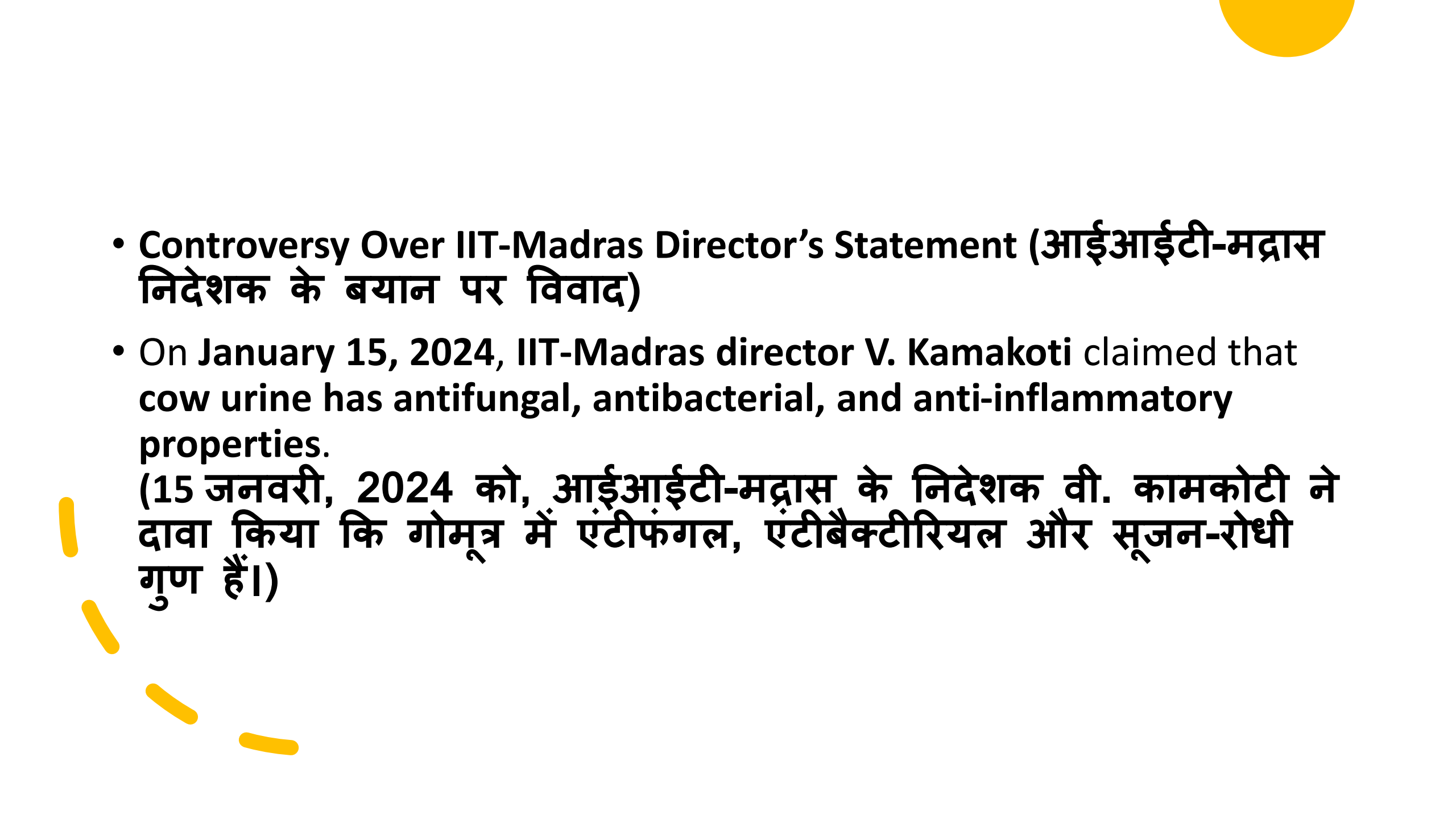
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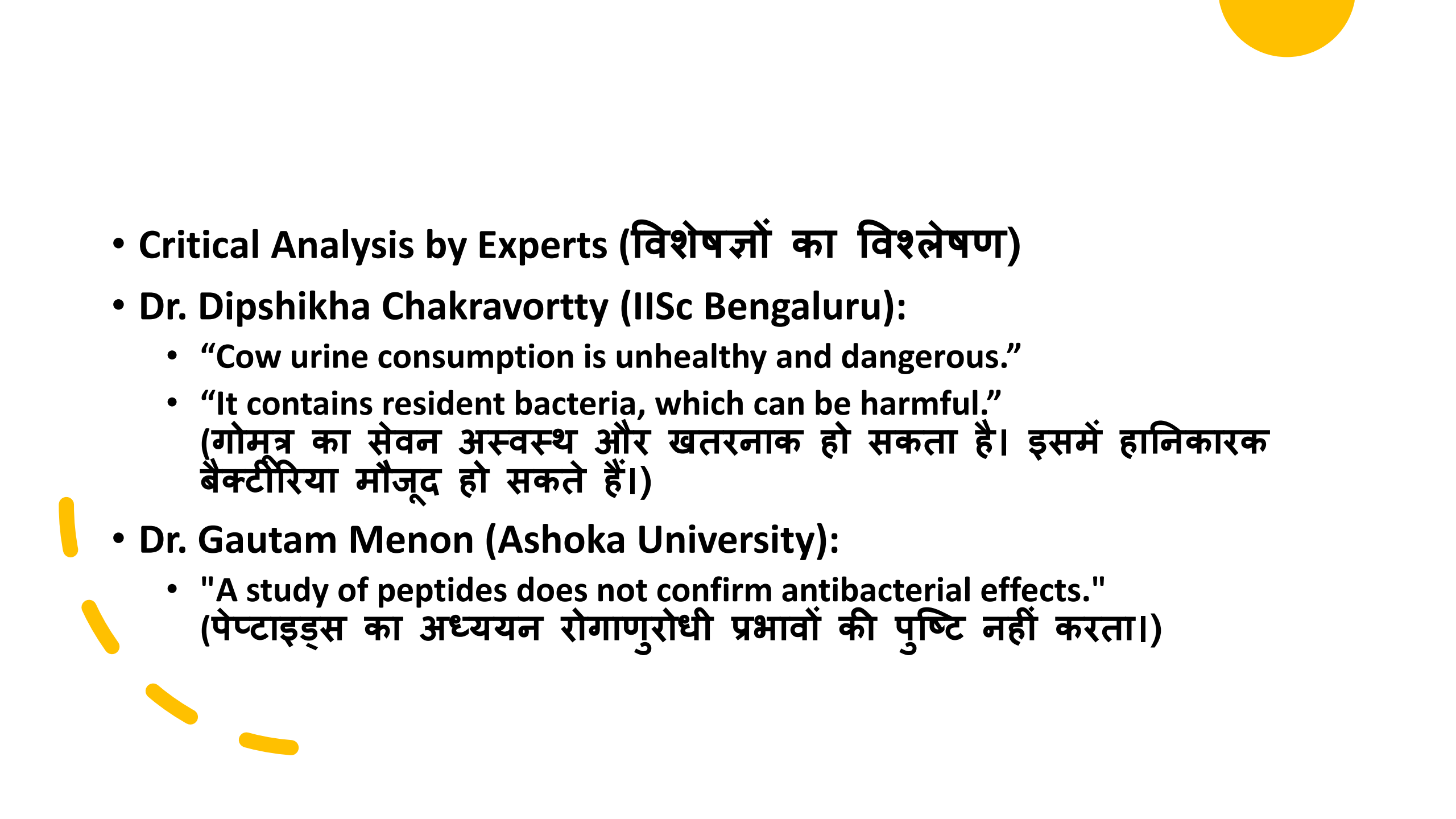
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- **Controversy Over IIT-Madras Director's Statement (आईआईटी-मद्रास निदेशक के बयान पर विवाद)**
 - **On January 15, 2024, IIT-Madras director V. Kamakoti claimed that cow urine has antifungal, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties.**
(15 जनवरी, 2024 को, आईआईटी-मद्रास के निदेशक वी. कामकोटी ने दावा किया कि गोमूत्र में एंटीफंगल, एंटीबैक्टीरियल और सूजन-रोधी गुण हैं।)

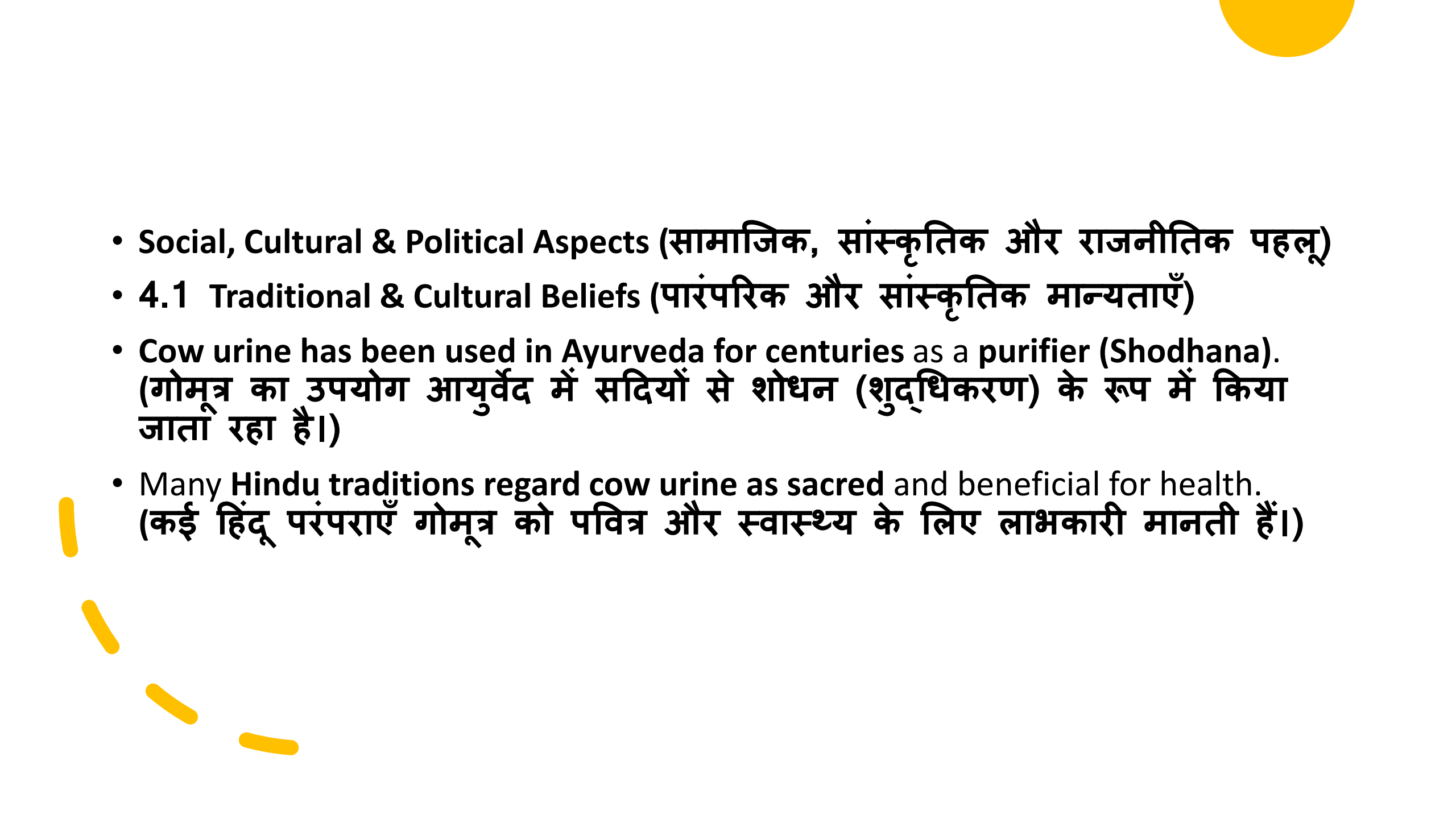
-
- He cited **five peer-reviewed papers** that allegedly **validated the "anti-infective" properties** of cow urine.
(उन्होंने पांच पीयर-रिव्यू शोधपत्रों का हवाला दिया, जिनमें गोमूत्र के "रोगाणुरोधी" गुणों की पुष्टि होने का दावा किया गया।)His comments sparked **social media outrage** as many questioned the **scientific validity** of his claims.
(उनके बयान पर सोशल मीडिया पर विवाद छिड़ गया क्योंकि कई लोगों ने उनके दावों की वैज्ञानिक प्रामाणिकता पर सवाल उठाए।)

- **2.1 Peer-Reviewed Papers Cited by Dr. Kamakoti (डॉ. कामकोटी द्वारा उद्धृत शोधपत्र)**
- **Paper 1: Peptide Profiling in Cow Urine (पीप्टाइड प्रोफाइलिंग अध्ययन)**
- **Published in Nature Scientific Reports (June 14, 2021).
(नेचर साइंटिफिक रिपोर्ट्स में 14 जून, 2021 को प्रकाशित हुआ।)**
- **Found molecular signatures of bioactive peptides in cow urine.
(गोमूत्र में जैव-सक्रिय पेप्टाइड्स की आणविक संरचना की पहचान की गई।)**
- **However, the study only analyzed bioactive peptides, it did not confirm antibacterial or antifungal properties.
(हालांकि, यह अध्ययन केवल जैव-सक्रिय पेप्टाइड्स का विश्लेषण करता है, लेकिन यह रोगाणुरोधी गुणों की पुष्टि नहीं करता।)**

- **Paper 2: Benefits of Cow Urine (गोमूत्र के लाभ)**
- Published in the **International Journal of Recent Advances in Multidisciplinary Research (September 29, 2017).**
(इंटरनेशनल जर्नल ऑफ रिसेंट एडवांसेज इन मल्टीडिसिप्लिनरी रिसर्च में 29 सितंबर, 2017 को प्रकाशित हुआ।)
- It was a **meta-analysis** compiling previous studies on **medicinal benefits of cow urine**, including its role as a **free radical scavenger (antioxidant).**
(यह एक मेटा-विश्लेषण था जिसमें गोमूत्र के औषधीय लाभों पर पिछले अध्ययनों को संकलित किया गया था, जिसमें इसके एंटीऑक्सीडेंट गुण शामिल थे।)
- Critics argue **meta-analyses do not produce new experimental evidence** but summarize past findings.
(आलोचकों का तर्क है कि मेटा-विश्लेषण नए प्रयोगात्मक प्रमाण नहीं देते, बल्कि पिछले निष्कर्षों को संकलित करते हैं।)

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- **Critical Analysis by Experts (विशेषज्ञों का विश्लेषण)**
 - **Dr. Dipshikha Chakravorty (IISc Bengaluru):**
 - “Cow urine consumption is unhealthy and dangerous.”
 - “It contains resident bacteria, which can be harmful.”
(गोमूत्र का सेवन अस्वस्थ और खतरनाक हो सकता है। इसमें हानिकारक बैक्टीरिया मौजूद हो सकते हैं।)
 - **Dr. Gautam Menon (Ashoka University):**
 - "A study of peptides does not confirm antibacterial effects."
(पेप्टाइड्स का अध्ययन रोगाणुरोधी प्रभावों की पुष्टि नहीं करता।)

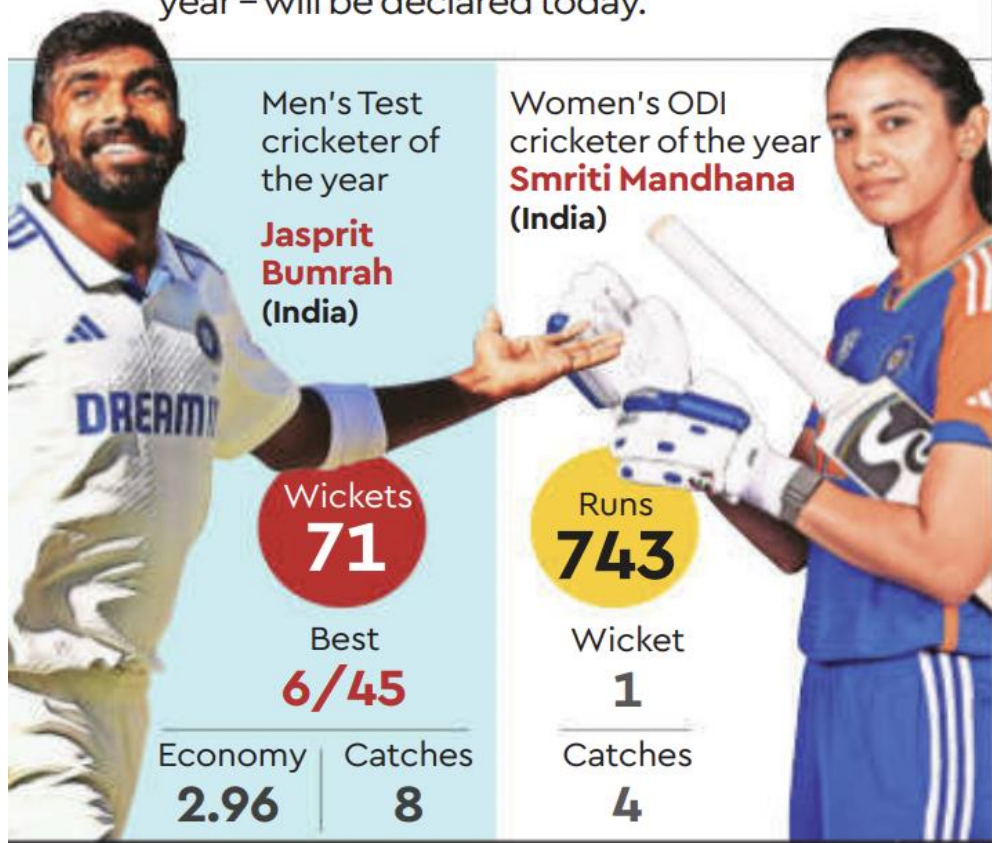
- **Other Studies on Cow Urine & Health (अन्य अध्ययन और निष्कर्ष)**
- **3.1 2022 Study by Dr. Bhoj Raj Singh (इंडियन वेटरनरी रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट, 2022 अध्ययन)**
- **Conducted at Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly. (भारतीय पशु चिकित्सा अनुसंधान संस्थान, बरेली में किया गया।)**
- **Found that fresh cow urine contains at least 14 harmful bacteria, including Escherichia coli (E. coli). (ताजा गोमूत्र में कम से कम 14 हानिकारक बैक्टीरिया पाए गए, जिनमें ई. कोलाई भी शामिल है।)**
- **The study concluded that cow urine does not inhibit bacterial growth. (अध्ययन में निष्कर्ष निकला कि गोमूत्र बैक्टीरियल वृद्धि को रोकता नहीं है।)**

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- **Social, Cultural & Political Aspects (सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक पहलू)**
 - **4.1 Traditional & Cultural Beliefs (पारंपरिक और सांस्कृतिक मान्यताएँ)**
 - **Cow urine has been used in Ayurveda for centuries as a purifier (Shodhana). (गोमूत्र का उपयोग आयुर्वेद में सदियों से शोधन (शुद्धिकरण) के रूप में किया जाता रहा है।)**
 - **Many Hindu traditions regard cow urine as sacred and beneficial for health. (कई हिंदू परंपराएँ गोमूत्र को पवित्र और स्वास्थ्य के लिए लाभकारी मानती हैं।)**



- **Conclusion (निष्कर्ष)**
- **No conclusive scientific evidence supports antibacterial or antifungal claims of cow urine.**
(कोई ठोस वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण नहीं है जो गोमूत्र के रोगाणुरोधी या एंटीफंगल गुणों की पुष्टि करता हो।)
- **Fresh cow urine contains harmful bacteria, contradicting health benefit claims.**
(ताजा गोमूत्र में हानिकारक बैक्टीरिया पाए गए हैं, जो स्वास्थ्य लाभ के दावों का खंडन करते हैं।)
- **Cultural beliefs continue to influence scientific discussions on cow urine in India.**
(भारत में वैज्ञानिक चर्चाओं पर सांस्कृतिक मान्यताओं का प्रभाव बना हुआ है।)
- **More peer-reviewed, well-controlled clinical trials are needed to establish medicinal benefits.**
(चिकित्सीय लाभ साबित करने के लिए और अधिक पीयर-रिव्यू और नियंत्रित नैदानिक परीक्षणों की आवश्यकता है।)

Indians dominate ICC Awards 2024

INDIAN CRICKETERS DOMINATED the ICC awards 2024 as pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was adjudged men's Test Cricketer of the Year. Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian to win the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award for the second time. T20I World Cup winner Arshdeep Singh was chosen the T20I Cricketer of the year for 2024. Two other top honours – the men's and women's cricketers of the year – will be declared today.



<p>Men's Test cricketer of the year Jasprit Bumrah (India)</p> <p>Wickets 71</p> <p>Best 6/45</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Economy</td> <td>Catches</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.96</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </table>	Economy	Catches	2.96	8	<p>Women's ODI cricketer of the year Smriti Mandhana (India)</p> <p>Runs 743</p> <p>Wicket 1</p> <p>Catches 4</p>
Economy	Catches				
2.96	8				

	<p>Men's T20I cricketer of the year Arshdeep Singh (India)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Wicket</td> <td>Runs</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>36</td> <td>Catches</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	Wicket	Runs	31	36	Catches	3	<p>Women's T20I cricketer of the year Melie Kerr (New Zealand)</p> <hr/> <p>Emerging Men's cricketer of the year Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka)</p> <hr/> <p>Women's Emerging cricketer of the year Annerie Dercksen (S Africa)</p> <hr/> <p>Men's Associate cricketer of the year Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)</p> <hr/> <p>Women's Associate cricketer of the year Esha Oza (UAE)</p> <hr/> <p>Umpire of the year Richard Illingworth (Eng)</p>
Wicket	Runs	31						
36	Catches	3						
	<p>Men's ODI cricketer of the year Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Wicket</td> <td>Runs</td> <td>417</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>Catches</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	Wicket	Runs	417	17	Catches	3	<p>Source: ICC/cricinfo</p>
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Integrating Homeopathy and Allopathy

- The Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration has, in a recent directive, allowed homeopathic practitioners, who have completed a certificate course in modern pharmacology, to prescribe allopathic medications








- **What is Allopathy?**

- Allopathy, or modern medicine, focuses on treating diseases by targeting their symptoms and underlying causes.
- It uses scientifically validated drugs, surgeries, and advanced technologies for diagnosis and treatment. Allopathic treatments are fast-acting and often used in emergencies.



- **What is Homeopathy?**





- Homeopathy is a form of alternative medicine based on the principle of “like cures like.”
 - It uses highly diluted natural substances to stimulate the body’s self-healing mechanisms. Homeopathy emphasizes holistic care, considering the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of patients.
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Homeopathy differs from Allopathy:

<u>Aspect</u>	<u>Homeopathy.</u>	<u>Allopathy.</u>
Approach	Treats the root cause by stimulating the body's natural healing process.	Targets symptoms and specific organs using drugs and surgeries.
Medications	Uses highly diluted natural substances.	Relies on synthetic, machine-made pharmaceutical drugs.
Side Effects	Minimal side effects due to dilution.	Side effects can occur due to potent drugs or invasive treatments.
Focus	Holistic approach addressing overall well-being.	Disease-specific approach, focusing on immediate symptom relief.
Speed of Action	Gradual and long-term effect.	Quick and effective, especially in emergencies.


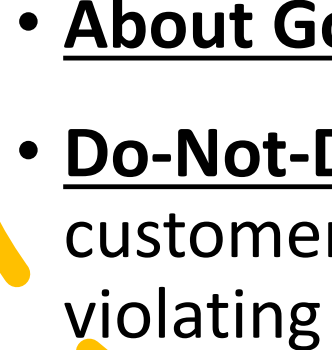



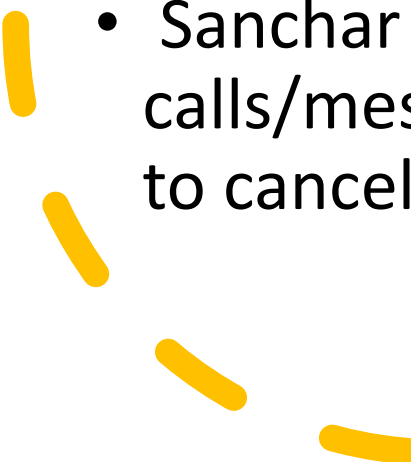
- **Court Judgements:**

- • **Poonam Verma vs. Ashwin Patel & Others (1996):** The Supreme Court held the homeopath liable for negligence, ruling that practicing outside one's trained medical system constitutes malpractice.
 - • **Bombay High Court Stay on 2017 Notification:** The Bombay High Court issued a stay, questioning the risk posed to patients and highlighting the lack of authority to permit crosspathy.
 - • **Suresh Bada Math et al. (2015 Research Analysis):** The judiciary consistently upheld crosspathy as negligence, permitting it only where explicitly authorized by state governments.
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The image features a solid orange background. A large white circle is centered on the page. The text "Spam Regulations" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the white circle. On the left side of the white circle, there is a dashed yellow arc. On the bottom right edge of the white circle, there is a small, solid blue circle.

Spam Regulations

- 
- Spam, officially referred to as **Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC)**, has become a persistent issue in India's telecom industry, leading to increasing public frustration and security risks.
 - **About Government Measures to Tackle Spam:**
 - **Do-Not-Disturb (DND) Registry:** Introduced by TRAI in 2007, it allows customers to block commercial calls/messages. Telemarketers violating it face warnings and blacklisting.
- 

- 
- Blockchain Technology (DLT): Under Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations (TCCCPR) 2018, blockchain ensures traceability of approved senders/templates.
 - In 2024, rules tightened to track message origins and prevent tampering.
 - Sanchar Saathi Portal: Launched by DoT to report fraudulent calls/messages, collaborating with banks, law enforcement, and telcos to cancel unauthorized numbers.
- 



Paraquat Poisoning

Paraquat poisoning recently gained attention following a high-profile murder case in Kerala, where the chemical was used to commit a crime.

The diagram consists of two circular nodes connected by a triangular arrow. The left node is orange and contains text about a murder case in Kerala. The right node is light gray and contains text about Paraquat's toxicity and ban. An orange triangle points from the left node to the right node.

Paraquat, a widely used herbicide, is highly toxic and banned in over 70 countries due to its lethal nature.

Predicting Mortality in Paraquat Poisoning

A cross-sectional retrospective review over a 5-year period (n=148)

Amount of ingestion



Pulmonary disorders



- Tachypnea, dyspnea
- Acute respiratory failure
- Lung infiltration

Cardiovascular system disorders



- Tachycardia
- Shock

- **About Paraquat Poisoning:**

- **What is Paraquat Poisoning?**

- Paraquat poisoning occurs when the toxic chemical paraquat, commonly used as a herbicide, enters the human body. It is extremely lethal even in small amounts and is classified as a **Category 2 (moderately hazardous)** chemical by the WHO.

- **How Does Paraquat Poisoning Occur?**

- **Ingestion:** Accidental or intentional swallowing of paraquat is the most common route.
- **Skin Contact:** Prolonged exposure to liquid paraquat can lead to absorption and toxicity.
- **Inhalation:** Breathing paraquat fumes can cause respiratory damage.



-

Asan Wetland



- A recent bird counting campaign at the Asan Wetland, Uttarakhand, has recorded 5,225 birds from 117 species.
- **Asan Wetland**
- **Location: The Wetland**, also known as the Asan Conservation Reserve, spans 444 hectares along the **Asan River**, which flows into the **Yamuna River in Dehradun district, Uttarakhand**



- 
- **Ramsar Designation:** Since **2020**, the wetland has been recognized as a Ramsar Site.
 - **Avian Diversity:** The wetland is home to 330 bird species, including critically endangered species like the **red-headed vulture**, **white-rumped vulture**, and **Baer's pochard**.
 - **Aquatic Biodiversity:** It also supports 49 fish species, including the endangered **Putitor mahseer (Tor putitora)**.
- 



76th Republic Day Parade

Showcasing Women Empowerment



Dimple Singh Bhati of the Indian Army created history by becoming the **first woman officer** to present a salute to the President.

The ministry of rural development's tableau on the "**Lakhpati Didi Initiative**," which promotes women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

Indian Culture

The Republic Day parade featured 31 tableaux from **16 states and union territories**, as well as **central ministries and organizations**.

Theme: Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences presented a tableau themed around the **celebration of 150 years of India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.

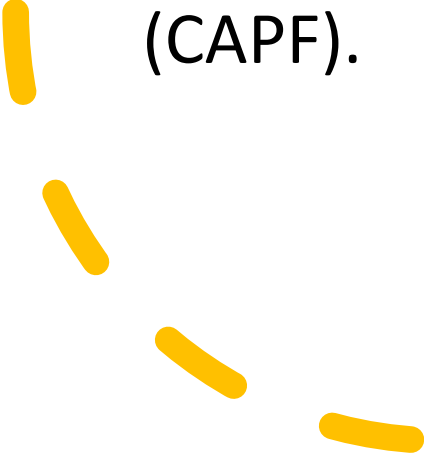


- **Beating Retreat Ceremony**

- It is a ceremony that marks the **end of Republic Day festivities.**

- **Held on:** January 29, three days after Republic Day, at the Vijay Chowk, New Delhi.

- It features a musical performance by the bands of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Delhi Police, and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).



States/UTs	Theme
Andhra Pradesh	“ Etikoppaka Bommalu - Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys”
Bihar	“ Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas (Nalanda Vishwavidyalya)” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="665 486 1768 536">▪ Depicted the rich Buddhist heritage of the region.
Chandigarh	“Chandigarh: A Harmonious Blend of Heritage, Innovation and Sustainability” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="665 786 1589 836">▪ Showcased city's role in film production.
Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	“Daman Aviary Bird Park along with Kukri Memorial - A tribute to the valiant sailors of the Indian Navy”
Delhi	“Quality Education”

Goa	<p>“Cultural Heritage of Goa”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Showcased Diwija festival and Kaavi art forms blending tourism with local heritage▪ Goa, known as the 'Pearl of the Orient,' is renowned for its beauty, culture, beaches, and hospitality.
Gujarat	<p>“Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Showcased 12th-century Kirit Toran (arches) from Vadnagar and C-295 Transport Aircraft Assembly Unit.
Haryana	Showcasing Bhagwad Gita and Krishna’s teachings
Karnataka	<p>Lakkundi: Cradle of Stone craft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lakkundi in Karnataka's Gadag district is a significant Jain center. It is a historic site with ancient temples like Someshwara and Jaina Basadi, reflecting Chalukya dynasty contributions.▪ Protected by the State government, it is proposed for the UNESCO World Heritage Site tentative list.

Madhya Pradesh	“Madhya Pradesh’s Glory: Kuno National park- The land of Cheetahs ”
Punjab	“Punjab as the land of knowledge and wisdom”
Tripura	“ Eternal Reverence: The worship of 14 Deities in Tripura - Kharchi Puja ”
Uttar Pradesh	“Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat Virasat aur Vikas” <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Depicted the celebration of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati (Triveni Sangam).
Uttarakhand	“Uttarakhand: Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports”
West Bengal	“ The ‘Lakshmir Bhandar’ & ‘Lok Prasar Prakalpa’ - Empowering Lives and Fostering Self-Reliance in Bengal”

What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January 1950? (2021)



- (a) A Democratic Republic
- (b) A Sovereign Democratic Republic
- (c) A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic
- (d) A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

Word of the day

Imprimatur:

formal and explicit approval

Synonyms: countenance, endorsement, sanction, warrant

Usage: *My client needs the imprimatur of someone else.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/
imprimaturpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ɪm.pɹɪ'meɪ.tə/, /ɪm.pɹɪ'mɑː.tə/,
/ɪm.pɹɪ'mɑː.tʊə/, /ɪm.pɹɪ'meɪ.tʊə/, /ɪm'pɹɪmətə/



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

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- Which two countries recently agreed to resume direct flights and visas after the LAC standoff?
- कौन से दो देश एलएसी गतिरोध के बाद प्रत्यक्ष उड़ानों और वीजा को फिर से शुरू करने पर सहमत हुए?
- A. India and Pakistan / भारत और पाकिस्तान
B. India and China / भारत और चीन
C. India and the USA / भारत और अमेरिका
D. India and Russia / भारत और रूस

- Which pilgrimage will resume in the summer of 2025 as part of India-China people-to-people exchanges?
- भारत-चीन जन-जन संपर्क के तहत कौन सी तीर्थयात्रा 2025 की गर्मियों में फिर से शुरू होगी?
- A. Amarnath Yatra / अमरनाथ यात्रा
- B. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra / कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा
- C. Kumbh Mela Yatra / कुंभ मेला यात्रा
- D. Char Dham Yatra / चार धाम यात्रा

- What is the major concern for India regarding China's hydropower projects in Tibet?
- तिब्बत में चीन की जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं को लेकर भारत की मुख्य चिंता क्या है?
- A. Reduced water supply in Northeast India / पूर्वोत्तर भारत में जल आपूर्ति में कमी
- B. Increased risk of flooding / बाढ़ का बढ़ता जोखिम
- C. Environmental damage in the Himalayas / हिमालय में पर्यावरणीय क्षति
- D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी

- What is India's main trade-related concern with China?
- भारत की चीन के साथ व्यापार से संबंधित मुख्य चिंता क्या है?
- A. High trade deficit / उच्च व्यापार घाटा
- B. Restrictions on pharmaceutical exports / फार्मास्युटिकल निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध
- C. Investment restrictions and visa denials / निवेश प्रतिबंध और वीजा अस्वीकृति
- D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी

- Which Indian state became the first to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) post-independence?
- स्वतंत्रता के बाद समान नागरिक संहिता (UCC) लागू करने वाला पहला भारतीय राज्य कौन सा बना?
- A. Goa / गोवा
- B. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- C. Uttarakhand / उत्तराखंड
- D. Gujarat / गुजरात

- What is a key feature of Uttarakhand's UCC implementation?
- उत्तराखंड में समान नागरिक संहिता (UCC) के कार्यान्वयन की प्रमुख विशेषता क्या है?
- A. Ban on polygamy and triple talaq / बहुविवाह और तीन तलाक पर प्रतिबंध
- B. Mandatory online registration of marriages / विवाह का अनिवार्य ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण
- C. Gender equality in inheritance rights / उत्तराधिकार अधिकारों में लैंगिक समानता
- D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी

- What is Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), which was recently detected in Pune?
- गुइलेन-बैरे सिंड्रोम (GBS) क्या है, जिसे हाल ही में पुणे में पाया गया?
- A. A neurological disorder affecting nerves / नसों को प्रभावित करने वाला तंत्रिका संबंधी विकार
- B. A bacterial lung infection / एक बैक्टीरियल फेफड़े का संक्रमण
- C. A genetic disorder causing paralysis / लकवा पैदा करने वाला एक आनुवंशिक विकार
- D. A type of skin disease / एक प्रकार की त्वचा की बीमारी

- What was a key finding of the National Institute of Virology (NIV) regarding GBS cases in Pune?
- राष्ट्रीय वायरोलॉजी संस्थान (NIV) ने पुणे में GBS मामलों के बारे में क्या महत्वपूर्ण खोज की?
- A. Presence of Norovirus and Campylobacter jejuni / नोरोवायरस और कैम्पिलोबैक्टर जेजुनी की उपस्थिति
B. Connection with COVID-19 vaccine side effects / COVID-19 वैक्सीन के दुष्प्रभावों से संबंध
C. Contaminated drinking water was the main cause / दूषित पेयजल मुख्य कारण था
D. The outbreak was caused by a new bacterial strain / प्रकोप एक नए बैक्टीरियल स्ट्रेन के कारण हुआ

- What recent Supreme Court ruling involved homeopathic tinctures?
- होम्योपैथिक टिंचर्स को लेकर हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का कौन सा निर्णय आया?
- A. Higher taxation for homeopathic alcoholic tinctures / होम्योपैथिक मादक टिंचर्स पर उच्च कराधान
- B. Banning of homeopathic tinctures nationwide / होम्योपैथिक टिंचर्स पर देशव्यापी प्रतिबंध
- C. Declaring them safe for medicinal use / इन्हें औषधीय उपयोग के लिए सुरक्षित घोषित करना
- D. Allowing sale without medical supervision / बिना चिकित्सा पर्यवेक्षण के बिक्री की अनुमति देना

- Which wetland in Uttarakhand recently recorded 5,225 birds from 117 species?
- उत्तराखंड के किस वेटलैंड में हाल ही में 117 प्रजातियों के 5,225 पक्षी दर्ज किए गए?
- A. Asan Wetland / असन वेटलैंड
- B. Pong Dam Wetland / पोंग डैम वेटलैंड
- C. Nalsarovar Wetland / नलसरोवर वेटलैंड
- D. Bharatpur Wetland / भरतपुर वेटलैंड

Fun fact

A dirt road lined with baobab trees in a dry landscape. The trees are tall and have thick, textured trunks. The sky is clear and blue. The text "Smallest Country in Africa" is overlaid in white.

Smallest Country in Africa

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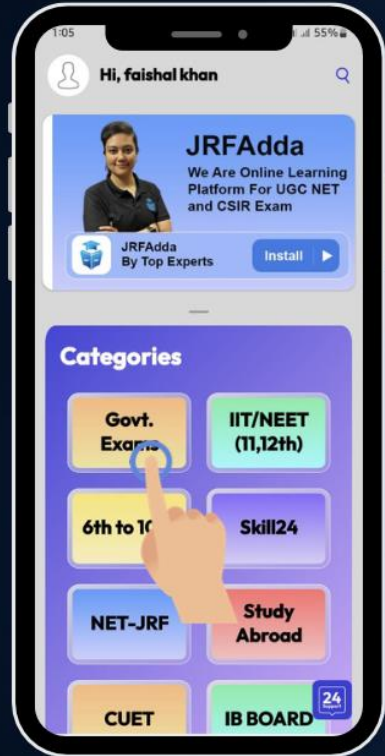
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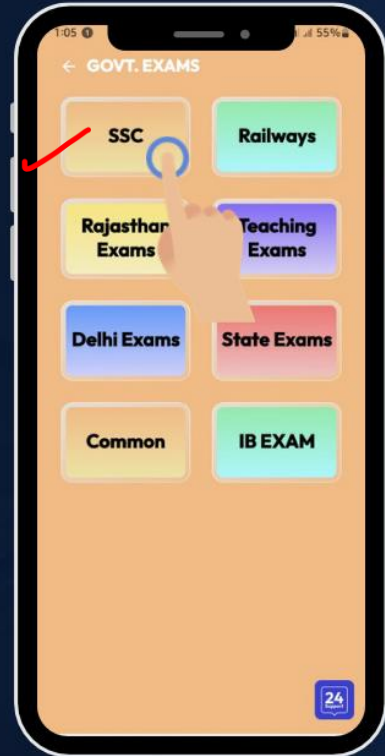
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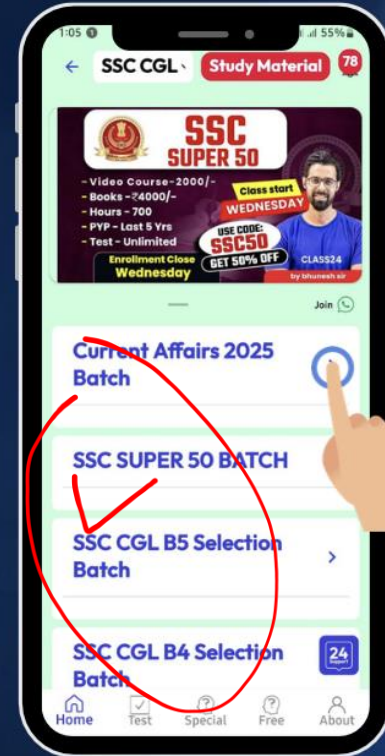
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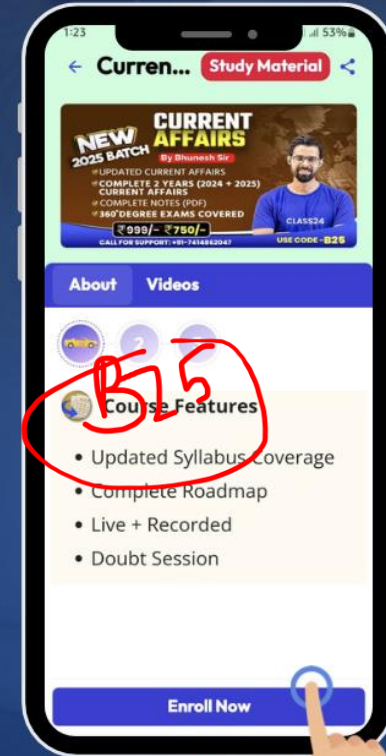
Step 2




Step 3



Step 4





Thank you
guys.
