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10 MCQ QUIZ



10 MCQ from the session

- In which region of Tamil Nadu has the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas approved oil and gas exploration?
- तमिलनाडु के किस क्षेत्र में पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने तेल और गैस अन्वेषण को मंजूरी दी है?
- A. Palk Bay / पाल्क खाड़ी
- B. Gulf of Mannar / गल्फ ऑफ मन्नार
- C. Kaveri Basin / कावेरी बेसिन
- D. Andaman Basin / अंडमान बेसिन

- Which policy governs the recent oil and gas exploration initiative in Tamil Nadu?
- तमिलनाडु में हाल ही में शुरू किए गए तेल और गैस अन्वेषण की पहल किस नीति के तहत आती है?
- A. New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) / नई अन्वेषण लाइसेंसिंग नीति (NELP)
- B. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) / हाइड्रोकार्बन अन्वेषण और लाइसेंसिंग नीति (HELP)
- C. National Energy Policy (NEP) / राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा नीति (NEP)
- D. Strategic Energy Initiative (SEI) / स्ट्रैटेजिक एनर्जी इनिशिएटिव (SEI)

- Which mineral is India exploring in Zambia, Congo, and Australia to reduce dependence on China?
- भारत चीन पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए ज़ाम्बिया, कांगो और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में किस खनिज की खोज कर रहा है?
- A. Iron ore / लौह अयस्क
- B. Bauxite / बॉक्साइट
- C. Lithium / लिथियम
- D. Nickel / निकल

- What is the significance of lithium in the energy sector?
- ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में लिथियम का क्या महत्व है?
- A. It is used in petroleum refining / यह पेट्रोलियम परिशोधन में प्रयोग होता है
- B. It is a key component in battery storage and electric vehicles / यह बैटरी भंडारण और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों का प्रमुख घटक है
- C. It is a crucial metal in nuclear energy production / यह परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पादन में एक महत्वपूर्ण धातु है
- D. It is mainly used for making construction materials / यह मुख्य रूप से निर्माण सामग्री बनाने में उपयोग होता है

- India is working on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with which international organization?
- भारत किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) पर काम कर रहा है?
- A. G7
- B. BRICS
- C. European Union (EU) / यूरोपीय संघ (EU)
- D. ASEAN

- What is a key demand of the European Union in the India-EU FTA negotiations?
- भारत-यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौता वार्ता में यूरोपीय संघ की मुख्य मांग क्या है?
- A. Higher tariffs on Indian pharmaceutical exports / भारतीय दवा निर्यात पर अधिक शुल्क
- B. Lower tariffs on European cars and alcohol / यूरोपीय कारों और शराब पर कम शुल्क
- C. More regulations on Indian textile exports / भारतीय वस्त्र निर्यात पर अधिक नियम
- D. Increased foreign direct investment (FDI) in agriculture / कृषि में प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) में वृद्धि

- What is the unique feature of the newly tested Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM-SR)?
- नवीनतम परीक्षण किए गए नौसैनिक एंटी-शिप मिसाइल (NASM-SR) की विशेषता क्या है?
- A. It is India's first hypersonic missile / यह भारत की पहली हाइपरसोनिक मिसाइल है
- B. It has a "Man-in-Loop" capability for real-time target adjustment / इसमें वास्तविक समय में लक्ष्य समायोजन के लिए "मैन-इन-लूप" क्षमता है
- C. It is launched from submarines only / यह केवल पनडुब्बियों से लॉन्च किया जाता है
- D. It can carry nuclear warheads / यह परमाणु हथियार ले जाने में सक्षम है

- What is the 'Herath' festival associated with?
- 'हेरथ' त्योहार किससे संबंधित है?
- A. Buddhist Monasteries of Ladakh / लद्दाख के बौद्ध मठों से
- B. Kashmiri Hindu Community and Lord Shiva / कश्मीरी हिंदू समुदाय और भगवान शिव से
- C. Tribal celebrations in Jharkhand / झारखंड के आदिवासी उत्सवों से
- D. Harvest festival in Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु के फसल त्योहार से

- **What is the significance of National Science Day celebrated on February 28?**
- **28 फरवरी को मनाए जाने वाले राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस का महत्व क्या है?**
- **A. It marks the birthday of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam / यह डॉ. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम की जयंती का प्रतीक है**
- **B. It commemorates the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by C.V. Raman / यह सी.वी. रमन द्वारा 'रमन प्रभाव' की खोज की याद दिलाता है**
- **C. It celebrates India's first nuclear test at Pokhran / यह पोखरण में भारत के पहले परमाणु परीक्षण का जश्न मनाता है**
- **D. It marks the launch of India's first satellite Aryabhata / यह भारत के पहले उपग्रह आर्यभट्ट के प्रक्षेपण का प्रतीक है**

- What is the Hague Service Convention related to?
- हैग सेवा संधि (Hague Service Convention) किससे संबंधित है?
- A. International trade agreements / अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार समझौते
- B. Legal document service across international borders / अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमाओं के पार कानूनी दस्तावेजों की सेवा
- C. Cybersecurity regulations / साइबर सुरक्षा नियम
- D. Diplomatic immunity laws / राजनयिक प्रतिरक्षा कानून

Always forgive
your enemies;
nothing annoys them so
much.

- *Oscar Wilde*



A CLOSE LOOK

Why is India staring at an obesity challenge?

Data from the National Family Health Surveys reveals that obesity has been increasing across India over the years

GAZA CITY
The first phase of the Israel-Hamas truce is drawing to a close on Saturday, but negotiations on the next stage have so far been inconclusive. Hamas has so far freed 25 hostages and returned bodies of eight others to Israel, in exchange for hundreds of prisoners. » PAGE 12

KOLKATA
The vehicle of West Bengal Education Minister Brajya Basu was attacked inside Jadavpur University on Saturday. While the Minister alleged an attack, members said the vehicle had driven over them. » PAGE 4

INSTANBUL
Outlawed Kurdish militants on Saturday declared a ceasefire with Turkey following a landmark call by jailed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan asking the group to disband and end more than four decades of armed struggle. » PAGE 12

NEW DELHI
The rescue operation to pull out the eight persons trapped 14 km inside the Sri Saitan Left Bank Canal tunnel in Telangana since February 22 saw a breakthrough on Saturday with the location of four of them likely identified. A Telangana Minister, however, put the chances of their survival at "0%". State Excise Minister Juppally Krishna Rao, who attended a meeting with officials involved in the rescue operation along with Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, said there was much progress during the past couple of days. "In my view, the whereabouts of four persons have been located through radar," the Minister said, according to PTI. He expressed hope that the experts from Hyderabad had been directed to reach the tunnel site. Mr. Reddy also asked for oxygen cylinders to be kept ready for use, if required, at the site. (With PTI inputs)

European leaders expressed their solidarity with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy following Friday's acrimonious interaction between the Ukrainian leader and U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice-President J.D. Vance. The Oval Office interaction led to Mr. Zelenskyy either choosing to leave - or being asked to leave - the White House without signing a deal on critical minerals. "You are never alone, dear President Zelenskyy," a European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who was in India on Friday, wrote on social media site X. "We will continue working with you for a just and lasting peace," she said. Most European leaders did not directly refer to Mr. Trump in their messages. They have been re-appraising the transatlantic relationship following the verbal attacks and tariff threats unleashed by Mr. Trump over the last few weeks as well as the fact that the U.S. did not invite Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to a meeting with European countries to talks it had with Russia on February 18. "You are not alone," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, addressing his message to Ukrainians and Mr. Zelenskyy. "We must never confuse aggressor and victim in this terrible war," said Friedrich Merz, who is likely to be Germany's next Chancellor. Mr. Merz expressed his support for Ukraine in a letter and in "testing" times. "There is an aggressor: Russia. There is a victim: Ukraine," French President Emmanuel Macron said, adding that it was right for Europe and the U.S. and others to have aided Ukraine and sanctioned Russia following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine just over three years ago. Mr. Macron and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer had individual discussions with Mr. Trump at the Oval Office earlier this week. Both leaders interjected and fact-checked Mr. Trump's comments during their respective Oval Office press segments. However, there was bonhomie between the leaders and the overall mood from the bilateral discussion and the ensuing press conference (which was cancelled in Mr. Zelenskyy's case) was positive in both cases. Following the Oval Office incident, Mr. Starmer had spoken to both Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelenskyy on Friday. Downing Street said. He is also hosting a meeting of European leaders and close relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Zelenskyy arrived in London on Saturday ahead of Sunday's summit.

'CAN SEND RELATIONSHIP' » PAGE 12

Four 'located' in Telangana tunnel; hope slim: Minister



Tough task: Rescue operation underway to trace the workers trapped inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel on Saturday. PTI

B. Chandrababhan
HYDERABAD
The rescue operations to pull out the eight persons trapped 14 km inside the Sri Saitan Left Bank Canal tunnel in Telangana since February 22 saw a breakthrough on Saturday with the location of four of them likely identified. A Telangana Minister, however, put the chances of their survival at "0%". State Excise Minister Juppally Krishna Rao, who attended a meeting with officials involved in the rescue operation along with Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, said there was much progress during the past couple of days. "In my view, the whereabouts of four persons have been located through radar," the Minister said, according to PTI. He expressed hope that the experts from Hyderabad had been directed to reach the tunnel site. Mr. Reddy also asked for oxygen cylinders to be kept ready for use, if required, at the site. (With PTI inputs)

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Asked about the condition of the four, the Minister recalled he had said on the first day itself that the chances of survival of the

Four workers killed in Uttarakhand avalanche

Four still trapped as search continues amid heavy snowfall; at least eight of the rescued workers have suffered critical injuries; drones, radar, sniffer dogs are being deployed to assist operations



Mounting difficulties: Tibetan Border Police personnel carry out rescue operations on Saturday, a day after an avalanche hit Border Roads Organisation building site at Mana village in Uttarakhand. »

Abhita Mishra
NEW DELHI
Four civilian workers were still missing, likely trapped under six feet of ice, as night fell on Saturday, two days after an avalanche hit a Border Roads Organisation building site at Mana village in Uttarakhand. On the second day of a rescue operation taking place amid heavy snowfall at 10,000 feet above sea level, 17 workers were brought out by the Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police, but four of them died of injuries. Over 20 km of the road leading to the area is laden with about five feet of snow, and is cut off from the main highway, adding to the difficulty of the rescue operation. The India Meteorological Department has forecast more snowfall and rainfall in the area over the next 24 hours.

Army sniffer dogs have also been deployed to search for the workers. According to the Uttarakhand government, there were 57 workers employed at the BRB site, which is being dubbed as the last village before the Chinese border. Two workers had gone on leave but the rest are believed to have been sleeping in eight containers at the site when the avalanche crashed down on Friday. "We learnt that 22 people possibly managed to escape the avalanche and ran towards Badrinath, and the remaining remained trapped under the ice,"

said Lt. Gen. Anindya Sen Gupta, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army's Central Command, who arrived in Mana to review the rescue operations. The Uttarakhand government said the whereabouts of one worker who escaped the ice slide was traced on Friday evening, while another worker who fled the site had also reached his village without reporting to the authorities at Mana till he was traced on Saturday. Ten workers were rescued and another 13 were brought out alive on Saturday. Four

Minister Goyal to visit U.S. tomorrow for talks on trade agreement

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Washington on Monday as India and the U.S. are planning to negotiate a bilateral trade agreement, an official said.



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The Minister is expected to be in the U.S. till Friday, the official added. During the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington, India and the U.S. announced their commitment to more than double the two-way commerce to \$500 billion by 2030 and negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of 2025.

Tariff threats
The proposed agreement is an opportunity to boost bilateral trade and investments between the two countries amid threat of U.S. President Donald Trump to impose higher tariffs on Indian goods. Mr. Goyal is likely to hold talks with U.S. Trade Representative Jameson Greer and U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick during the visit. The Commerce Ministry has already started engagements with different departments on the India-U.S. trade aspects and related developments. Mr. Goyal has earlier stated that the two countries can offer concessions and duty reductions, as their economies complement each other.

HOPE AND DESPAIR
» PAGE 3

European leaders back Zelenskyy after U.S. fiasco

European leaders expressed their solidarity with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy following Friday's acrimonious interaction between the Ukrainian leader and U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice-President J.D. Vance. The Oval Office interaction led to Mr. Zelenskyy either choosing to leave - or being asked to leave - the White House without signing a deal on critical minerals. "You are never alone, dear President Zelenskyy," a European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who was in India on Friday, wrote on social media site X. "We will continue working with you for a just and lasting peace," she said. Most European leaders did not directly refer to Mr. Trump in their messages. They have been re-appraising the transatlantic relationship following the verbal attacks and tariff threats unleashed by Mr. Trump over the last few weeks as well as the fact that the U.S. did not invite Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to a meeting with European countries to talks it had with Russia on February 18. "You are not alone," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, addressing his message to Ukrainians and Mr. Zelenskyy. "We must never confuse aggressor and victim in this terrible war," said Friedrich Merz, who is likely to be Germany's next Chancellor. Mr. Merz expressed his support for Ukraine in a letter and in "testing" times. "There is an aggressor: Russia. There is a victim: Ukraine," French President Emmanuel Macron said, adding that it was right for Europe and the U.S. and others to have aided Ukraine and sanctioned Russia following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine just over three years ago. Mr. Macron and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer had individual discussions with Mr. Trump at the Oval Office earlier this week. Both leaders interjected and fact-checked Mr. Trump's comments during their respective Oval Office press segments. However, there was bonhomie between the leaders and the overall mood from the bilateral discussion and the ensuing press conference (which was cancelled in Mr. Zelenskyy's case) was positive in both cases. Following the Oval Office incident, Mr. Starmer had spoken to both Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelenskyy on Friday. Downing Street said. He is also hosting a meeting of European leaders and close relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Zelenskyy arrived in London on Saturday ahead of Sunday's summit.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy departs after meeting U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Friday. AP

U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Friday. AP

Take steps to ensure free movement in Manipur: Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting in New Delhi with top officials over the security situation in Manipur, during which he directed authorities to ensure free movement of people on all roads across the State from today.

Several weapon surrendered were arranged, including one in which the armed radical Meitei group (Aramb) Tengsoi surrendered about 250 weapons. At Saturday's review meeting, Governor Bhalla, the Manipur Security Adviser, the Intelligence Bureau Director, the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, the Army commander of the Eastern Command, and the Director-General of the Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, and Assam Rifles were in attendance. Mr. Shah also called for the strictest of actions against anyone creating obstructions, according to a statement issued by the Union Home Ministry. Mr. Shah directed that the fencing work on both sides of the designated entry points along Manipur's International Border to be finished at the earliest. "The entire network involved in the drug trade should be dismantled," he said, according to the government statement. Mr. Shah added that the Centre remained "fully committed" to restoring peace in the State. Meanwhile, the Kuki Students' Organisation in Delhi & NCR and the Kuki Women's Forum in Delhi NCR on Saturday sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister, seeking a separate administration.

'CAN SEND RELATIONSHIP' » PAGE 12

Has Trump put up entry into the U.S. for sale?

What is the 'gold card' proposal? Will it replace the existing EB-5 visa programme?

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far: U.S. President Donald Trump recently unveiled plans to sell \$5 million "gold card" resident permits to non-Americans worldwide, a long-term visa policy that might eventually offer a pathway to citizenship for the global economic elite. This new visa will replace the existing EB-5 immigrant investor visa for foreigners who can create jobs in the U.S., the latter an option that Mr. Trump's Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has attacked as "full of nonsense, make-believe and fraud."

Why replace the EB-5 visa? The EB-5 visa was introduced in 1990 with the global aim of attracting foreign investors to the U.S. via the residency route, only requiring that they create and support jobs on U.S. soil via direct investment of capital. The investment levels are set at \$8,00,000 in a "Targeted Employment Area", one that faces a certain level of economic distress, and \$10,50,000 outside of such areas. Critics of the EB-5 programme, primarily in the Trump administration, highlight the scope for abuse and fraud within this scheme. While aggregate figures on the scale and frequency of EB-5 fraud and abuse are not available, there is a significant number of documented cases involving misuse of investor funds, for example developers diverting millions of dollars intended for project towards personal use.

The U.K. and Australia have experimented with similar "golden visa" initiatives. In both countries it was scrapped 'after interest peaked at a few hundred applications per year' reportedly said that Congressional approval may be unnecessary for the "gold card" visa, an approval that might cause consternation on Capitol Hill.

How much revenue will the card raise? Mr. Trump, while announcing the scheme, expressed hope to sell a million, that's \$5 trillion dollars... I think we will sell a lot because I think there's really a thirst. He also noted that future recipients of the gold visa will be "wealthy and successful and they'll be spending a lot of money and paying a lot of taxes and employing a lot of people." However, close to 75% of billionaires polled by a survey that asked if they would consider this visa indicated that they would not opt for it, primarily because at that level of wealth, they anyway could set up businesses in the U.S. at a lower cost, have options to reside on U.S. soil, and could avoid the U.S. tax net on global income.

Yet there appears to be a lack of clarity on the tax front. While Mr. Trump has said gold card-holders would not be subject to taxes on their overseas income, this would imply that gold card residents will be able to purchase a tax benefit not available to U.S. citizens, effectively creating "dual classes of taxpayers among the American wealthy." That might counter some certain regulations or potentially cause political blowback for the White House if passed into law.

What about other countries? If we were to compare the experience of other advanced economies, both the U.K. and Australia have experimented with similar "golden visa" initiatives, yet in both countries it was scrapped 'after interest peaked at a few hundred applications per year', according to London School of Economics Professor Kristin Surak. Greece, the Netherlands, Spain, and Portugal had similar programmes. Mr. Surak's 2023 book *The Golden Passport*, examines the global market for citizenship and the wealthy elites who buy their way through it. "The U.K.'s trial of a 'gold card' type programme raised another concern - former Home Secretary Suella Braverman said once to the U.K. Parliament that a closer examination of visa grants indicated that some were potentially at high risk of having obtained wealth through corruption or other illicit financial activity, and/or being engaged in serious and organised crime." When he was recently asked by media whether Russian oligarchs would be eligible for the card, Mr. Trump said, "I don't know, I know some Russian oligarchs that are very nice people."

How does this tie in with Trump's immigration paradigm? The Trump administration is currently in the process of carrying out mass deportations of undocumented migrants in the U.S. Even so, his White House has strongly supported legal migration. Add to this the MAGA focus on gaining transactional advantage through dealmaking with other nations, and the gold visa scheme makes perfect sense as a means to monetise entry into the U.S., while spurring job creation. The success of the scheme will depend upon the numbers of those who take up the gold visa offer.

What were the objections to new Advocates Bill?

Why has the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025 been retracted for now? Why is the Bar Council of India peeved with some of the proposed changes? Why are some of the amendments being seen as an effort to undermine judicial independence?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far: On February 22, the Centre withdrew the contentious Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, stating that a revised version incorporating public feedback will be introduced. The Bill sought to amend the Advocates Act, 1961. However, its introduction faced strong opposition from sections of the bar. The government's decision to retract the Bill followed a letter from the Bar Council of India (BCI) to Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, pointing out that the proposed amendments threatened the "autonomy and independence of the bar."

What is the objective of the Bill? The Law Ministry underscored the need to amend the 1961 Act to address "contemporary challenges" and align the legal profession with global best practices. It pointed out that seismic shifts in the legal landscape necessitate reforms to better equip lawyers for a rapidly evolving world. The draft Bill comes over a year after the introduction of the Advocates Bill, 2023, which was passed to eliminate "routinised and curbed" "superfluous enactments" in existing statutes.

Are lawyers allowed to go on strike? A key point of contention in the Bill is its proposed ban on strikes and boycotts by lawyers, citing their disruptive impact on judicial proceedings. It introduces Section 35-A, which prohibits lawyers from forming associations from abstaining from court work. Violations would constitute "misconduct", subjecting offenders to disciplinary action under the 1961 Act and the Bar Council of India Rules.



In rage: Lawyers stage a protest against the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in Aijmer on February 21. ANI

A key point of contention in the Bill is its proposed ban on strikes and boycotts by lawyers

1975. However, the Bill clarifies that the restriction does not apply to strikes that do not "impede the administration of justice" and are intended to address "legitimate concerns about the conduct, such as working conditions or administrative issues." Senior advocate Chander Bhasin underscored that strikes are a legitimate means for lawyers to voice grievances. "The Bill's withdrawal was a direct consequence of protests led by various bar associations. However, court boycotts and strikes inevitably disrupt judicial proceedings, ultimately harming litigants. That said, I believe the bar exercises restraint and resorts to strikes only in cases of extreme exigency," he told *The Hindu*. Echoing similar sentiments, advocate Nipun Saxena pointed out that strikes have historically served as a powerful tool for the legal fraternity to oppose state excesses. "Barrister Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew was among the earliest vocal opponents of the Rowlett Act, 1919, which granted the British government sweeping powers to arrest and detain individuals without trial in colonial India. He organised widespread boycotts of British courts by Indian lawyers... Lawyers have long viewed this as the first line of defence in safeguarding the rule of law and preserving constitutional values," he said.

Is there executive control? The proposed law allows the Centre to nominate up to three members to the BCI, alongside its existing members - the Attorney General, Solicitor General, and representatives from State Bar Councils. The BCI has strongly opposed this "draconian" intrusion of executive authority inserted." The Bill also introduces Section 49B, empowering the Centre to issue binding directions to the BCI, and regulate the BCI's eligibility criteria, and regulate the BCI's oversight of State Bar Councils. "If the Centre is to be the largest litigant, it should have no role in an autonomous body like the BCI. Such influence would undermine judicial independence. Advocates serve as officers of the court," Mr. Lal told *The Hindu*. The amendments significantly expand the BCI's authority, potentially rendering State bar councils redundant. Traditionally, misconduct complaints against advocates are handled by the disciplinary committees of State bar councils. However, Section 49B now allows the BCI to hear complaints nationwide and suspend advocates at its discretion. Additionally, Section 48B empowers the BCI to dissolve a State bar council and replace it with a committee if it fails to meet its objectives. Mr. Saxena further argued that these changes undermine the federal structure of the 1961 Act. "The BCI and

State bar councils were created under distinct provisions. Stripping State councils of their core functions reduces them to mere administrative bodies with no real authority," he said.

How will it impact corporate lawyers? The Bill expands the definition of "legal practitioners" under Section 20 to include lawyers associated with foreign law firms, corporate entities, and practising advocates. It grants statutory recognition to corporate lawyers working in law firms and as in-house counsel - a long-standing demand that has gained momentum in recent years. Additionally, the Bill empowers the Centre to formulate rules governing the entry of foreign law firms and lawyers into India. This has faced strong opposition from the BCI.

The Bar Council of India Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022, allows foreign lawyers and firms to practise law in India on a reciprocal basis. However, these rules were later challenged before the Delhi High Court, with petitioners arguing that the BCI lacked the statutory mandate to permit such practice. "This proposed change would have had little impact on corporate lawyers in law firms, as most are already licensed advocates. However, its implications are far more significant for in-house counsel. A crucial question is whether this move opens the door to gradually blur the distinction between 'advocates' and 'legal practitioners'. For instance, would in-house counsel be granted rights of audience before courts, arbitral tribunals, and other judicial fora? Moreover, it could have definitively settled the long-standing debate on whether legal privilege extends to advice provided to in-house counsel by their employers", Mrinal Ojha, partner at Solaris Legal told *The Hindu*. He further pointed out that while the structured entry of foreign law firms into India is a welcome development, the proposed framework remains ambiguous. "Jurisdictions like Singapore serve as valuable precedents, having successfully balanced the interests of international law firms and the domestic legal fraternity. However, for any regulations introduced by the Centre to be effective, they must be formulated in consultation with all key stakeholders - the BCI, bar associations, and the legal community at large," Mr. Ojha added.

What is the way forward? "The Bill's withdrawal is a welcome step, and one hopes that inclusive dialogue will lead to meaningful reforms. Any changes must safeguard judicial independence and the autonomy of regulatory bodies," Mr. Lal stated. Mr. Saxena further underscored the need to consult High Courts before implementing any reforms, noting that Section 54 of the 1961 Act empowers them to regulate the practice of advocates before them and subordinate courts.

Why is India staring at an obesity challenge?

Is there an urban-rural divide? How are prices affecting the right food intake? Why does the rise in obesity have a bearing on non-communicable diseases like diabetes? Why is childhood obesity an area of concern? What is likely to happen in adolescence and adulthood?

Zubeda Hamid

The story so far: Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme, highlighted the alarming increase in obesity in the country, particularly among children, and noted that obesity affected one in eight Indians. Mr. Modi urged people to reduce oil consumption by 10% each month and stressed that to build a healthy nation, obesity needed to be addressed.

What is the scale of the problem? Overweight and obesity are defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a risk to health. Data from the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) reveals that obesity has been increasing across India over the years. The percentage of women who were overweight/obese grew from 20.6% during NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 24% during NFHS-5 (2019-21). The percentage of overweight/obese men increased from 18.9% to 22.9% during the same period. Urban numbers were significantly higher than rural numbers. A 2023 research paper in *The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia* that analysed the NFHS-5 data, found the prevalence

While obesity is still primarily an urban, middle class phenomenon in India, it is already rising among the rural poor

of abdominal obesity (assessed through waist circumference) in the country was 40% in men and 12% in women. Childhood obesity is also an area of concern: the percentage of children under five who were overweight rose from 2.1% to 3.4% from 2015-16 to 2019-21, as per NFHS data. With older children the figure is higher. The World Obesity Atlas 2022 estimates that India will have a child obesity prevalence of 10.81% among 5 to 10-year-olds and 6.23% among 10 to 19-year-olds by 2030.

What are the health risks? According to the WHO, obesity in adulthood is a major risk factor for the world's leading causes of poor health and early death. These include cardiovascular diseases, such as heart disease, cancers, diabetes and osteoarthritis. India leads the world in the number of people with diabetes at an estimated 101 million. The burden of cancer is on the rise; from 14.6 lakh cancer cases in 2022, the number is projected to go up to 18.7 lakh in 2025, as per the Indian Council for Medical Research-National Cancer Registry Programme. Moreover, cardiovascular disease remains one of the leading causes of death and disability, reportedly affecting Indians at least 10 years earlier than in other countries. In fact, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) now account for about 60% of all deaths in India. Being overweight in childhood and adolescence, the WHO says, affects children's health and is associated with greater risk and earlier onset of various NCDs. It can also have adverse psychosocial consequences affecting school performance and quality of life, compounded by bullying and discrimination. Children with obesity are likely to be adults with obesity.

Why is obesity on the rise? "Rising levels of obesity in urban India are due to a combination of multiple factors: unhealthy diets loaded with ultra-processed foods, lower levels of physical activity and even air pollution. These pro-obesity influences that predispose the body to cardio-metabolic diseases and visceral adiposity in the body," says K. Srinath

Reddy, distinguished professor of public health, Public Health Foundation of India.

Cost is another factor. Low-income households, especially those that depend on the public distribution system, eat more carbohydrates through rice and wheat, says public health professional Vandana Prasad. "You can instruct people to eat better, but it is not possible if these foods are unaffordable. Indian diets, especially among poor families, are deficient in iron and proteins. Foods like fruits, vegetables, pulses, dairy and animal-based foods are all expensive. While at present obesity is still primarily an urban, middle class phenomenon in India, it is already rising among the rural poor, which may soon overtake other segments."

A study in *The Lancet Global Health* last year said almost half of all Indians are not sufficiently physically active. "Even as indoor sedentariness is increasing due to the seated nature of office work and use of digital devices, outdoor conditions are not conducive to safe and pleasurable physical activity," it said. Mr. Reddy. The absence of safe cycling lanes and pedestrian paths are compounded by dimly-lit lanes; green spaces available for recreational physical activity are shrinking while traffic density and rising street crime deter walkers in many urban zones.

Is obesity being measured correctly? While the usual metric to measure obesity is the Body Mass Index (BMI), there has been a growing debate about its limitations. BMI does not indicate how much of the weight is fat and where the fat is distributed in the body. Fat in the abdomen particularly - something that Indians are genetically predisposed to accumulating - contributes to metabolic syndrome, a group of risk factors that increases the chances of developing type 2 diabetes, stroke and heart disease. This January, experts in India issued updated guidelines for obesity treatment and diagnosis that placed special emphasis on abdominal fat distribution. The classification introduces two stages in obesity - the first stage where there is increased adiposity without discernible effects on organ functions or daily activities, and the second, where both physical and organ functions are impacted. It recommends the use of waist circumference or waist-height ratio and body fat measurements, alongside BMI, to diagnose obesity.

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Why is obesity on the rise?

"Rising levels of obesity in urban India are due to a combination of multiple factors: unhealthy diets loaded with ultra-processed foods, lowered levels of physical activity and even air pollution which provokes inflammation that predisposes the body to cardio-metabolic diseases and visceral adiposity in the body," says K. Srinath

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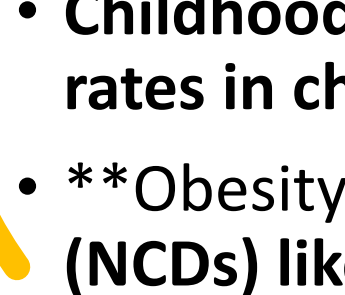
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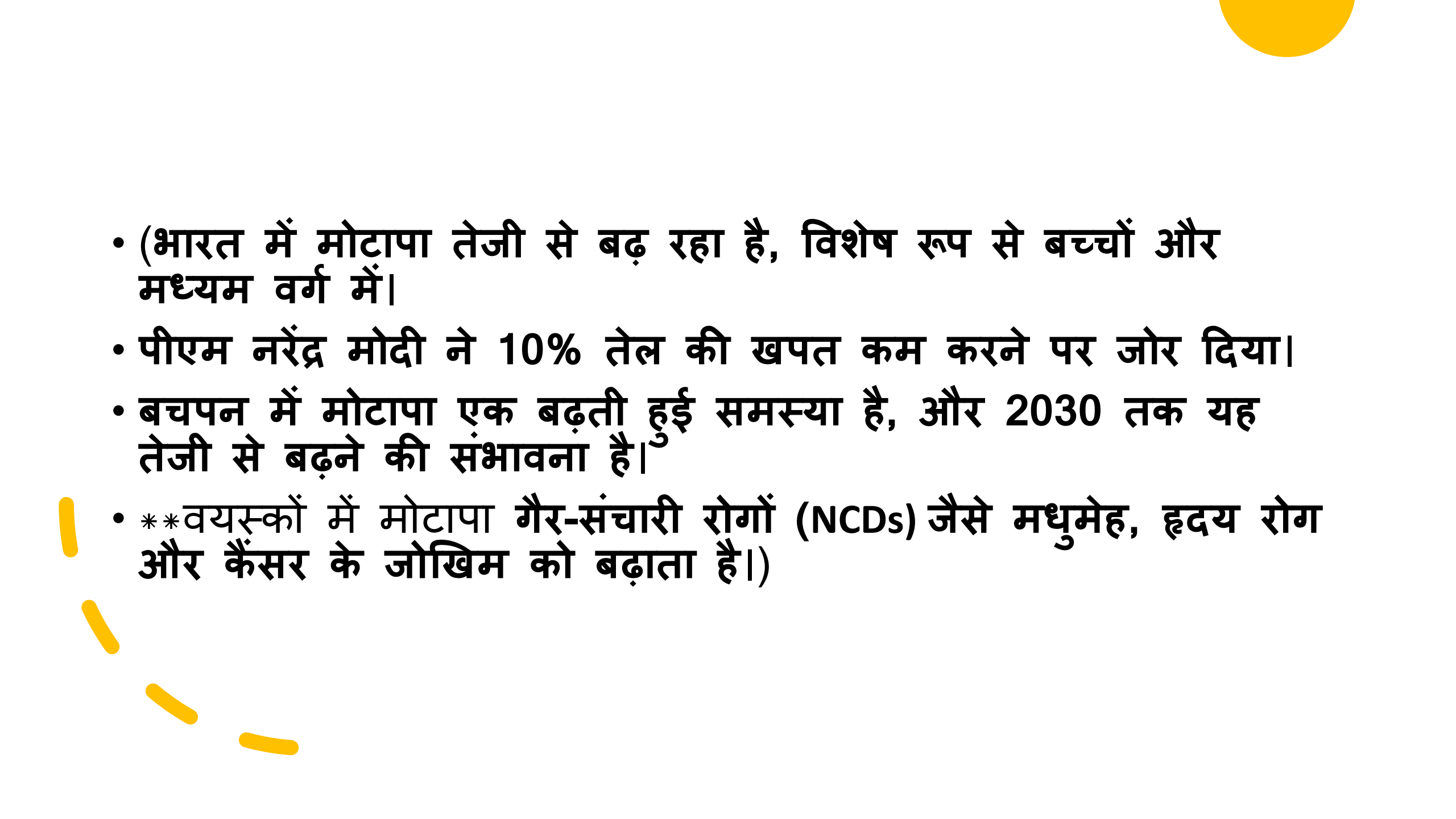
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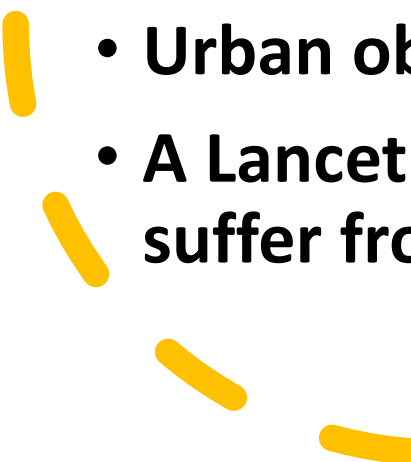
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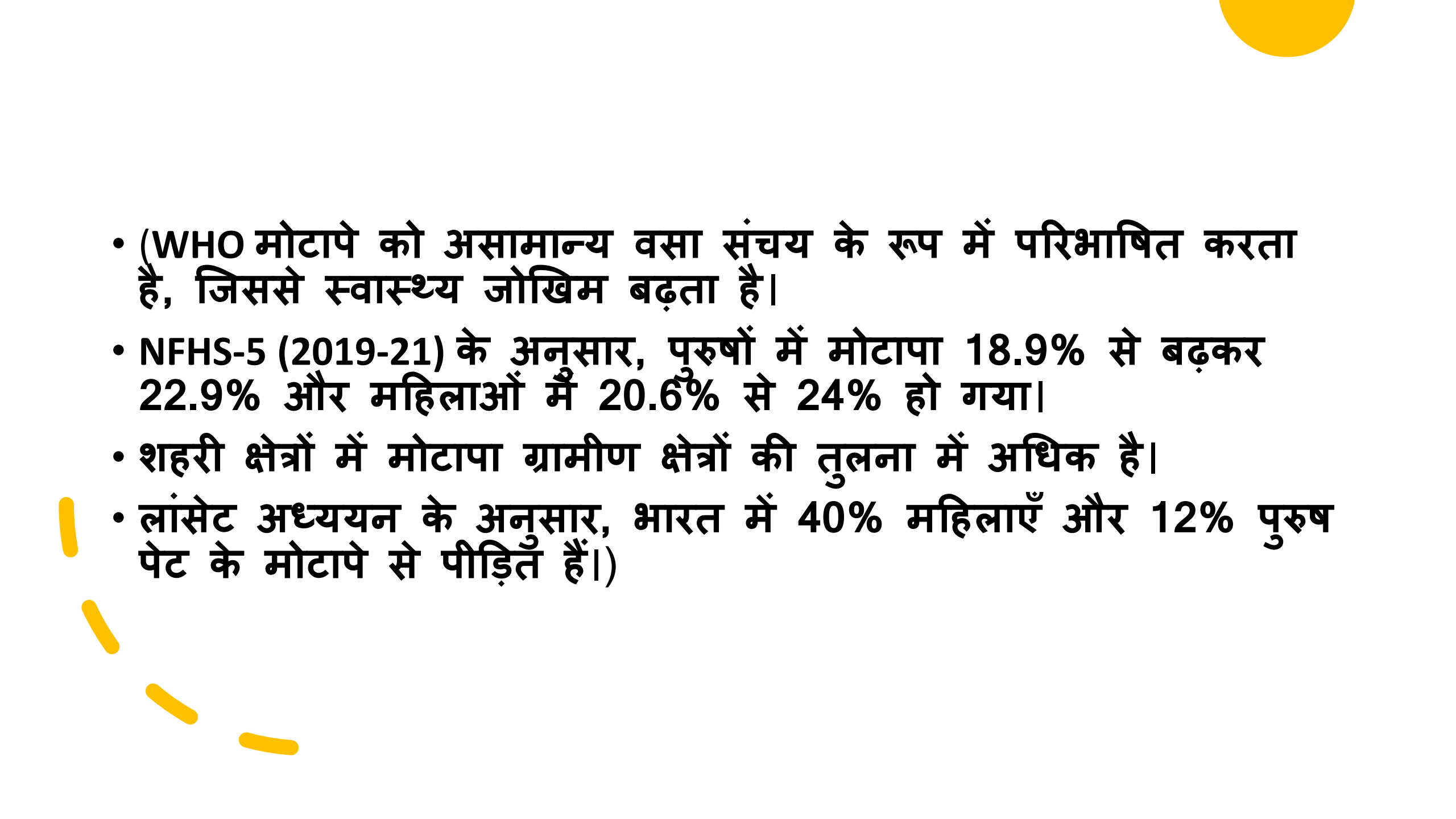




ISTOCKPHOTO



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- **India's Growing Obesity Challenge (भारत में बढ़ती मोटापे की समस्या)**
 - **Obesity is rising in India, especially among children and middle-class populations.**
 - **PM Narendra Modi emphasized the need to reduce oil consumption by 10% to promote a healthier nation.**
 - **Childhood obesity is a growing concern, with projections of rising obesity rates in children by 2030.**
 - ****Obesity in adults increases the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.**
- 


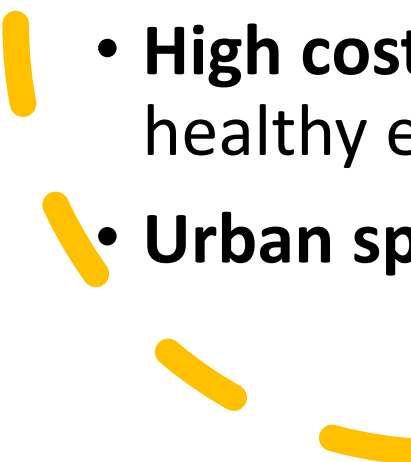
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- (भारत में मोटापा तेजी से बढ़ रहा है, विशेष रूप से बच्चों और मध्यम वर्ग में।)
 - पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने 10% तेल की खपत कम करने पर जोर दिया।
 - बचपन में मोटापा एक बढ़ती हुई समस्या है, और 2030 तक यह तेजी से बढ़ने की संभावना है।⁹
 - **वयस्कों में मोटापा गैर-संचारी रोगों (NCDs) जैसे मधुमेह, हृदय रोग और कैंसर के जोखिम को बढ़ाता है।)

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- **The Scale of the Problem (समस्या का पैमाना)**
 - **WHO defines obesity as abnormal fat accumulation posing health risks.**
 - **According to NFHS-5 (2019-21), obesity in men increased from 18.9% to 22.9%, and in women from 20.6% to 24%.**
 - **Urban obesity rates are significantly higher than rural areas.**
 - **A Lancet study showed that 40% of women and 12% of men in India suffer from abdominal obesity.**
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- (WHO मोटापे को असामान्य वसा संचय के रूप में परिभाषित करता है, जिससे स्वास्थ्य जोखिम बढ़ता है।
 - NFHS-5 (2019-21) के अनुसार, पुरुषों में मोटापा 18.9% से बढ़कर 22.9% और महिलाओं में 20.6% से 24% हो गया।
 - शहरी क्षेत्रों में मोटापा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की तुलना में अधिक है।
 - लांसेट अध्ययन के अनुसार, भारत में 40% महिलाएँ और 12% पुरुष पेट के मोटापे से पीड़ित हैं।)

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- **3. Health Risks (स्वास्थ्य जोखिम)**
 - **Obesity increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and osteoarthritis.**
 - ****India has the world's second-highest number of diabetics.**
 - **Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 60% of all deaths in India.**
 - **Children and adolescents with obesity face greater risks of mental health issues, social discrimination, and bullying.**
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- (मोटापा हृदय रोग, मधुमेह, कैंसर और गठिया के जोखिम को बढ़ाता है।
 - **भारत में दुनिया में दूसरा सबसे अधिक मधुमेह रोगियों की संख्या है।
 - गैर-संचारी रोग (NCDs) भारत में कुल मौतों का 60% कारण हैं।
 - मोटे बच्चों और किशोरों को मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं, सामाजिक भेदभाव और बुलिंग का अधिक खतरा होता है।)
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- . **Why is Obesity Rising? (मोटापा क्यों बढ़ रहा है?)**
 - **Changing lifestyles in urban India** (sedentary jobs, less physical activity, fast food consumption).
 - **Digital screen time and fewer outdoor activities** are reducing physical movement.
 - **High cost of nutritious food** like vegetables, pulses, and dairy makes healthy eating difficult for low-income groups.
 - **Urban spaces for exercise and cycling are shrinking.**
- 

(शहरी भारत में बदलती जीवनशैली (बैठे-बैठे काम, कम शारीरिक गतिविधि, फास्ट फूड की अधिकता)।

डिजिटल स्क्रीन टाइम और कम आउटडोर गतिविधियाँ शारीरिक गतिविधि को कम कर रही हैं।

पौष्टिक भोजन की उच्च लागत जैसे सब्जियां, दाल, और डेयरी, गरीब वर्गों के लिए स्वस्थ आहार को कठिन बना रही हैं।

व्यायाम और साइकिलिंग के लिए शहरी स्थान सिकुड़ रहे हैं।)



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- **How is Obesity Measured? (मोटापा कैसे मापा जाता है?)**
 - **Traditionally measured using Body Mass Index (BMI), but it does not indicate fat distribution in the body.**
 - **Abdominal obesity is considered a better indicator, especially for diabetes and cardiovascular risks.**
 - **In January 2024, India introduced new guidelines recommending waist-to-height ratio as an additional measure.**
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Chart 3: State-wise change in share of overweight/obese women between NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-2021) (in %)

● 2015-2016 ● 2019-2021

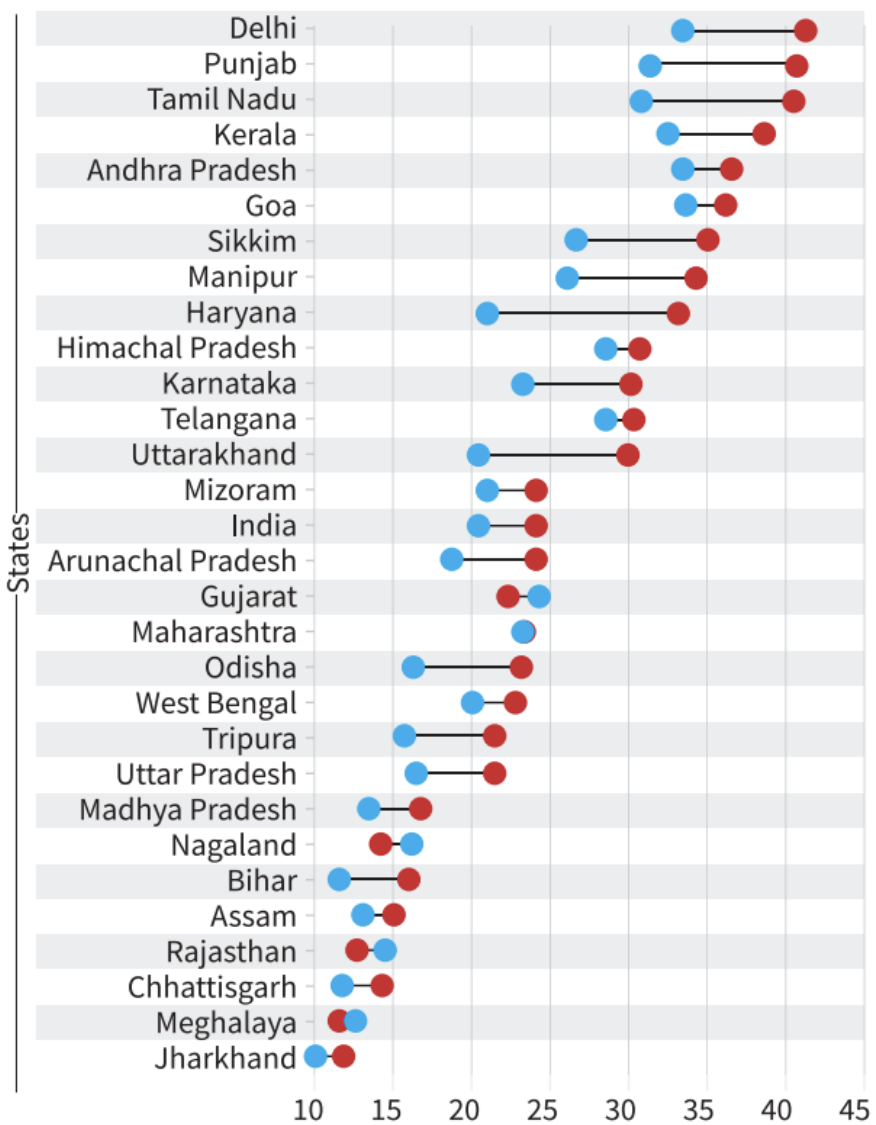
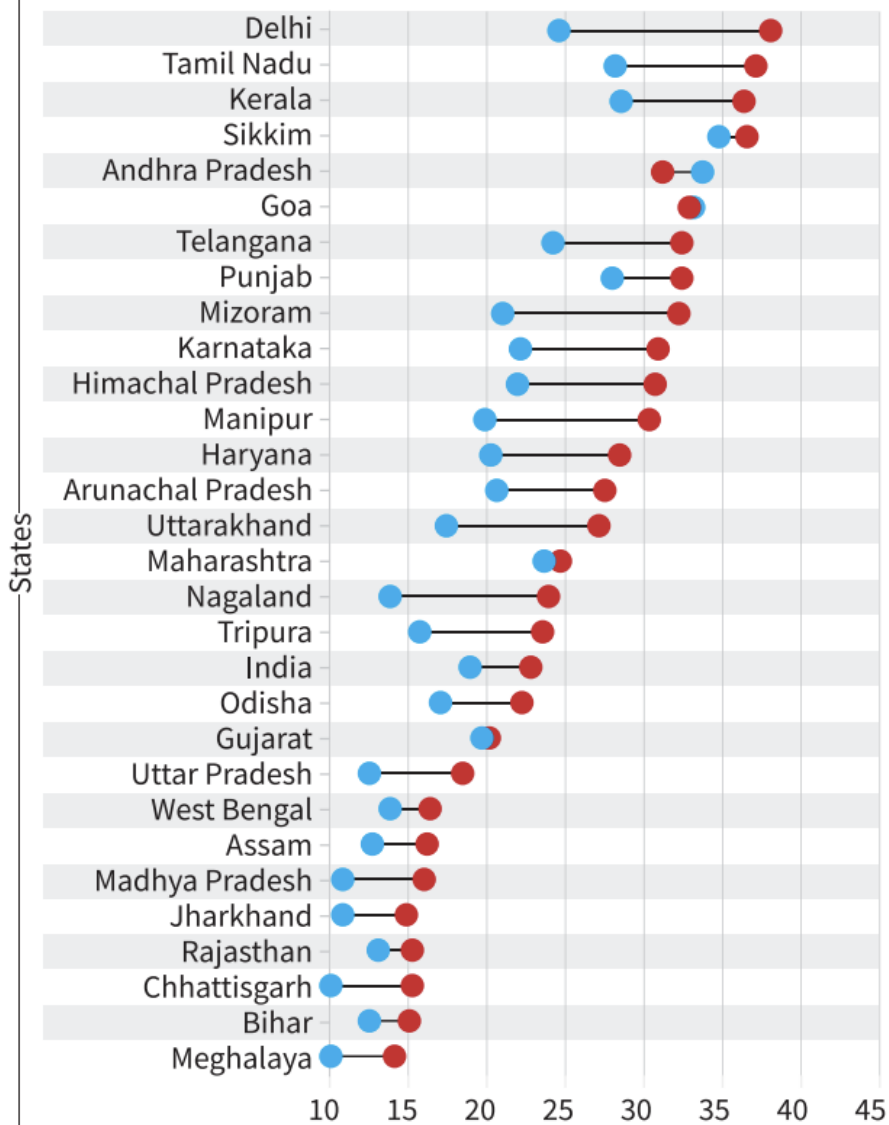


Chart 4: State-wise change in share of overweight/obese men between NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-2021) (in %)

● 2015-2016 ● 2019-2021



'Not sorry, but thanks', says Zelensky; ready for US deal

'US, Ukraine Stay Partners Despite Tough Dialogue'

A day after the televised spat with Donald Trump, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky thanked the American president and the people for their help and said he was ready to sign the deal for Kyiv's rare minerals as "the first step toward security guarantees".

In a long thread of posts on X, Zelensky acknowledged, "It will be difficult without the US support. But we can't lose our will, our freedom, or our people... If we cannot be accepted to Nato, we need some clear structure of security guarantees from our allies in the US."

Zelensky, Trump and US

“...I'm not sure we did something bad (on face-off)

It's crucial for us to have President Trump's support. He wants to end the war, but no one wants peace more than we do. We're ready to sign the minerals agreement, it will be the first step toward security guarantees



—Ukrainian Prez Zelensky

“ He (Zelensky) can come back when he is ready for peace... He's looking to go on and fight, fight, fight... I want somebody that's going to make peace

—US Prez Trump



How Trump and Vance held back from hitting that scumbag (Zelensky) is a miracle of restraint

—Russian foreign ministry

“ You're very, very welcome here in Downing Street... you have full backing across the UK, and we stand with you, with Ukraine, for as long as it may take

—British PM Keir Starmer to Zelensky

vice-president JD Vance sparred in front of TV cameras Friday, with Vance saying the Ukrainian president had not thanked the US president and Trump saying, "...if we're out, you'll fight it out and I don't think it's going to be pretty".

Asked on Fox News if he

would apologise to Trump, Zelensky refused, and said, "despite the tough dialogue, we remain strategic partners. But we need to be...direct with each other to truly understand our shared goals." Zelensky said he is ready to sign the minerals agreement in exchange

for security — the purpose of his visit to the White House which led to the showdown. The Ukrainian president left in a huff and arrived in London Saturday, ahead of a summit on Sunday organised by British PM Keir Starmer with other European leaders.

"We are ready to sign the minerals agreement, and it will be the first step toward security guarantees. But it's not enough, and we need more than just that. A ceasefire without security guarantees is dangerous for Ukraine. We've been fighting for three years, and Ukrainian people need to know that America is on our side," he said. Trump, who headed to Florida for the weekend, told reporters that Zelensky was "looking to go on and fight, fight, fight". AGENCIES

►Continued on P 14

In a first, private spacecraft lands upright on moon

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

A U.S. company successfully landed its spacecraft on the moon on Sunday, marking only the second private mission to achieve the milestone – and the first to do so upright.

Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost Mission 1 touched down shortly after 3.34 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time (0204 IST) near Mons La-treille, a volcanic formation in Mare Crisium on the moon's northeastern near side.

"Y'all stuck the landing, we're on the moon," an engineer at mission control in Austin, Texas, called out as the team erupted in cheers.

CEO Jason Kim confirmed that the spacecraft was "stable and upright" – in contrast to the first private landing last February, which came down sideways.

"We're on the Moon!" Nicky Fox, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directo-

rate, rejoiced.

The first image from the lander revealed the rocky, pockmarked terrain it had to autonomously navigate in order to select its touchdown spot, having slowed down from thousands of miles per hour to just two mph.

Nicknamed "Ghost Riders in the Sky," the mission is part of a NASA-industry partnership aimed at reducing costs and supporting Artemis, the programme designed to return astronauts to the moon.

Size of a hippopotamus

The golden lander, about the size of a hippopotamus, launched on January 15 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, capturing stunning footage of the earth and the moon along its 2.8 million mile journey.

It shared a ride with a Japanese company's lander set to attempt a landing in May.

Blue Ghost carries 10 instruments, including a lunar soil analyser, a radia-



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tion-tolerant computer and an experiment testing the feasibility of using the existing global satellite navigation system to navigate the Moon.

Designed to operate for a full lunar day (14 earth days), Blue Ghost is expected to capture high-definition imagery of a total eclipse on March 14, when the earth blocks the sun from the moon's horizon.

On March 16, it will record a lunar sunset, offering insights into how dust levitates above the surface under solar influence –

creating the mysterious lunar horizon glow first documented by Apollo astronaut Eugene Cernan.

Hopping drone

Blue Ghost's arrival will be followed on March 6 by fellow Texas company Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, featuring its lander Athena.

In February 2024, Intuitive Machines became the first private company to achieve a soft lunar landing – also the first U.S. landing since the crewed Apollo 17 mission of 1972.

However, the success was tempered by a mishap: the lander came down too fast and tipped over on impact, leaving it unable to generate enough solar power and cutting the mission short.

This time, the company says it has made key improvements to the hexagonal-shaped lander, which has a taller, slimmer profile than Blue Ghost, and is around the height of an adult giraffe.

Athena launched on Wednesday aboard a SpaceX rocket, taking a more direct route toward Mons Mouton – the southernmost lunar landing site ever attempted.

Until Intuitive Machines' first successful mission, only five national space agencies had accomplished this feat: the Soviet Union, the United States, China, India and Japan, in that order. Now, the U.S. is working to make private lunar missions routine through NASA's \$2.6 billion Commercial Lunar Payload Services programme.

- **First Private Spacecraft Lands Upright on the Moon (पहली निजी अंतरिक्ष यान ने चंद्रमा पर सीधा उतरने में सफलता पाई)**
- **Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost Mission 1 successfully landed on the Moon on February 25, 2024.**
- **This marks the second private mission to the Moon but the first to land upright.**
- **It landed near Mons Laetrelle, a volcanic formation in Mare Crisium, in the Moon's northeastern region.**
- **The mission is part of NASA's Artemis program to return astronauts to the Moon.**

- **2. Technical Features (तकनीकी विशेषताएँ)**
- **The lander, called “Ghost Riders in the Sky,” was developed under NASA’s industry partnership.**
- **It carried 10 instruments, including a lunar soil analysis tool, a radiation-tolerant computer, and an experiment on global satellite navigation.**
- **It successfully captured images of Earth and the Moon during its journey**

- **3. Scientific Goals (वैज्ञानिक उद्देश्य)**
- **To capture high-definition images of the Moon and Earth.**
- **To study the lunar horizon glow and how dust levitates on the Moon's surface.**
- **To collect data for future Artemis missions, which aim to establish a permanent human presence on the Moon.**

- **4. Challenges and Improvements (चुनौतियाँ और सुधार)**
- **Previous private lunar missions faced difficulties, including tip-over landings and solar power failures.**
- **This lander, with a taller and slimmer profile, aims to overcome those challenges.**
- **Athena, a lander from Intuitive Machines, is expected to follow this landing on March 6, 2024.**

- **C. Geographical Aspects (भौगोलिक पहलू)**
- **Mons Laetrelle in Mare Crisium is a new lunar landing site with potential scientific importance.**
- **Lunar landings help in understanding Moon's geography, which can be useful for future human colonization.**

Major Moon Missions for UPSC Exam

Mission Name	Country/Agency	Year	Objective	Key Achievements
Apollo 11	USA (NASA)	1969	First human landing on the Moon	Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon
Chandrayaan-1	India (ISRO)	2008	Orbital mapping and water discovery	Confirmed presence of water molecules
Luna 2	Soviet Union	1959	First spacecraft to impact the Moon	First human-made object on another celestial body
Chang'e 4	China (CNSA)	2019	First soft landing on Moon's far side	First rover on Moon's far side (Yutu-2)
Artemis I	USA (NASA)	2022	Uncrewed test mission for Artemis program	Tested Orion spacecraft & SLS rocket
Hakuto-R Mission 1	Japan (ispace)	2023	Attempted private lunar landing	Failed lunar landing; first private attempt
Blue Ghost Mission 1	USA (Firefly Aerospace)	2025	First successful private lunar landing	First private company to successfully land on the Moon

Vidarbha's winning habit

Third Ranji Trophy title in 7 years means they should be considered genuine domestic heavyweights

SANDIP G

NAGPUR, MARCH 2

THE REVELRY lasted the whole evening. Vidarbha's euphoric cricketers gathered around the pitch, muttered prayers and kept the trophy at the centre of the 22-yard strip. Some broke down in the arms of their tearful parents, the farewelling Aditya Wadkar clung onto the giant ears of the trophy, tugging it close to his chest; sweets were distributed, feet were touched in reverence, Jamtha turned into a bubble of emotions.

The moment of victory was wrought hours ago. When the digital clock mounted beside the manual scoreboard flashed 2.15, the sun scorching down, Darshan Nalkande swiped Aditya Sarwate towards midwicket to complete his half-century.

The long-awaited declaration arrived, and the moment of frenzy kicked in. Vidarbha declared at 375 for 9, and Kerala's captain conveyed the message that they won't dare the ludicrous task of chasing down 412 in less than 40 overs. The match was drawn and the hosts won on their first-innings lead. The rest of Vidarbha's players stormed into the ground



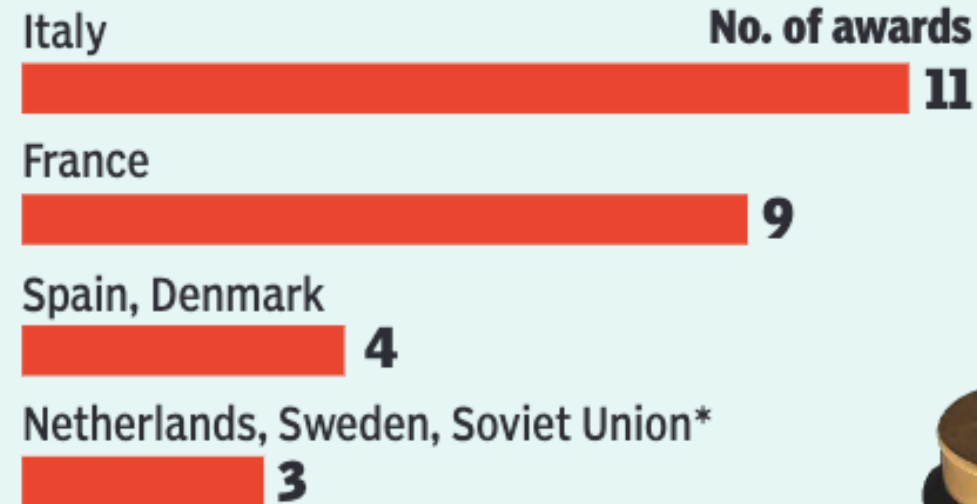
Vidarbha players pose with the Ranji Trophy after winning the final against Kerala in Nagpur on Sunday. *PTI*

goals were faint, the movements laborious, powerhouse with resources, skills and atti teammates call him the "studious one." He is

Which countries dominate international Oscar?

In 1947, the Academy introduced a special award for foreign-language films, which evolved into the Best International Feature Film category in 1956. Italian films have the highest wins in this category, followed by France

Countries with max no. of wins



*Till 1991; 2024 awards not considered; Source: Statista





World Bank Recommendations for India to Achieve Developed Status by 2047



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- The World Bank's India Country Economic Memorandum (2025) states that India needs an average growth rate of 7.8% until 2047 to achieve high-income status.

- **About World Bank Recommendations for India to Achieve Developed Status by 2047:**

- 1. Increase Investment & Capital Formation:**

- 1. Raise investment from 33.5% to 40% of GDP by 2035** through private and public sector participation.

- 2. Improve financial sector regulations** and ease FDI restrictions.

- 3. Boost MSME credit access** and streamline business regulations.

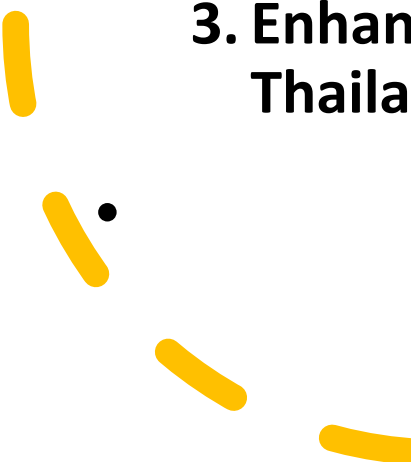
1. Enhance Labor Force Participation:

- 1. Increase overall labor force participation from 56.4% to 65%.**
- 2. Raise female workforce participation from 35.6% to 50%.**
- 3. Encourage **job-rich sectors** like **manufacturing, hospitality, transportation, and the care economy.****



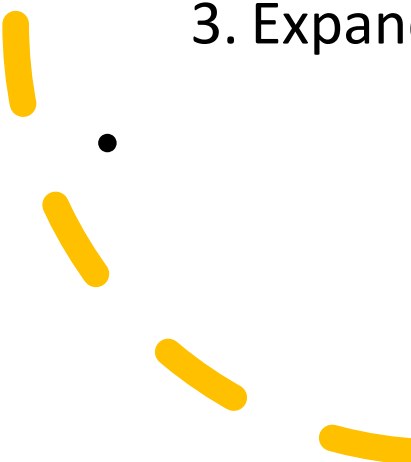


1. Boost Structural Transformation & Trade Integration:

- 1. Reduce agriculture employment from 45% by shifting labor towards manufacturing & services.**
 - 2. Strengthen infrastructure, adopt new technology, and simplify labor regulations.**
 - 3. Enhance Global Value Chain (GVC) participation to compete with Vietnam, Thailand, and China.**
- 



1. Promote Balanced Growth Among States:

- 1. Support less developed states in improving health, education, and infrastructure.**
 - 2. Encourage industrialized states to deepen business reforms & GVC participation.**
 - 3. Expand incentive-driven federal programs like the Urban Challenge Fund.**
- 

Cali Fund



COP16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) secured a landmark agreement on biodiversity funding, committing \$200 billion annually by 2030 to conservation efforts.

A major outcome was the launch of the Cali Fund, ensuring fair benefit-sharing from genetic resources used in industries like pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

What is the Cali Fund?

- A **global financial mechanism** designed to ensure **equitable benefit-sharing from digital genetic resources**.
- Ensures that industries **using biodiversity-based genetic data contribute financially to conservation efforts**.

Origin & Launch:

- Proposed during **CBD COP16 discussions in Cali, Colombia (2024)**.
- Officially launched at **CBD COP16 in Rome (2025)** as part of the biodiversity finance agreement.

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{d^2}$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = \hat{H} \psi$$

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$ds \geq 0$$

MISHTI Scheme

$$F - E + V = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h}$$

- Gujarat has become the national leader in mangrove afforestation, covering 19,020 hectares in two years under the MISHTI scheme.
- **About MISTI Scheme:**
- **What it is?**
 - The MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) scheme, launched in 2023, aims to expand India's mangrove cover and enhance coastal resilience.
 - Focuses on **ecological restoration and livelihood generation for coastal communities.**

Launched In: Union Budget 2023-24, with implementation from 2023 to 2028.

Funding Sources:

- **CAMPA Fund** (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority).
- **MGNREGS** (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme).
- **Other government and private funding sources.**

Under Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Rank	Region	Mangrove Cover (Mha)	Percentage of Global Mangroves
1	South & Southeast Asia	5.33	36.20%
2	North & Central America	2.55	17.30%
3	Western & Central Africa	2.3	15.60%
4	South America	2.12	14.40%

Rank	State/UT	Mangrove Cover (sq km)	% of Total Mangrove Cover in India
1	West Bengal	2,114	42.30%
2	Gujarat	1,177	23.60%
3	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	616	12.30%
4	Andhra Pradesh	404	8.10%
5	Maharashtra	324	6.50%



10 MCQ from the session

- **According to NFHS-5 (2019-21), how much has obesity increased in Indian men and women?**
- **NFHS-5 (2019-21) के अनुसार, भारतीय पुरुषों और महिलाओं में मोटापा कितना बढ़ा है?**
- **A. Men: 16.5% to 19.8%, Women: 18.2% to 22.5%**
- **B. Men: 18.9% to 22.9%, Women: 20.6% to 24%**
- **C. Men: 20% to 25%, Women: 25% to 30%**
- **D. Men: 15% to 18%, Women: 18% to 21%**

- **What is the second leading country in the world for diabetes cases?**
- **मधुमेह के मामलों में दुनिया का दूसरा अग्रणी देश कौन सा है?**
- **A. USA**
- **B. China**
- **C. India**
- **D. Brazil**

- In 2024, India introduced new guidelines for measuring obesity. What additional measure was recommended?
- 2024 में भारत ने मोटापा मापने के लिए नए दिशानिर्देश जारी किए। कौन सा अतिरिक्त मानक सुझाया गया?
- A. Body Fat Percentage (BFP)
- B. Waist-to-Height Ratio (WHtR)
- C. Muscle Mass Index (MMI)
- D. Caloric Intake Index (CII)

- **Which private space company successfully landed a spacecraft upright on the Moon in 2024?**
- **2024 में किस निजी अंतरिक्ष कंपनी ने चंद्रमा पर सीधा उतरने में सफलता प्राप्त की?**
- **A. SpaceX**
- **B. Blue Origin**
- **C. Firefly Aerospace**
- **D. Intuitive Machines**

- **What was the name of the spacecraft that successfully landed on the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis program?**
- **नासा के आर्टेमिस कार्यक्रम के तहत चंद्रमा पर सफलतापूर्वक उतरने वाले अंतरिक्ष यान का नाम क्या था?**
- **A. Odyssey 1**
- **B. Blue Ghost Mission 1**
- **C. Lunar Explorer 2**
- **D. Moon Rider**

- Which Indian state leads in mangrove afforestation under the MISHTI scheme?
- MISHTI योजना के तहत कौन सा भारतीय राज्य मैंग्रोव वनरोपण में अग्रणी है?
- A. West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- B. Gujarat / गुजरात
- C. Odisha / ओडिशा
- D. Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश

- What is the main objective of the MISHTI scheme?
- MISHTI योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Expanding mangrove cover and promoting coastal resilience / मैंग्रोव कवर का विस्तार और तटीय स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देना
- B. Encouraging deep-sea fishing / गहरे समुद्र में मछली पकड़ने को बढ़ावा देना
- C. Reducing deforestation in urban areas / शहरी क्षेत्रों में वनों की कटाई को कम करना
- D. Developing ecotourism in Sundarbans / सुंदरबन में इकोटूरिज्म को विकसित करना

- **What is the World Bank's projected GDP growth rate India needs to maintain until 2047 to achieve high-income status?**
- **विश्व बैंक के अनुसार, उच्च आय दर्जा प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत को 2047 तक कितनी GDP वृद्धि दर बनाए रखनी होगी?**
- **A. 6.5%**
- **B. 7.0%**
- **C. 7.8%**
- **D. 8.5%**

- According to the World Bank, what should India's investment-to-GDP ratio be increased to by 2035?
- विश्व बैंक के अनुसार, 2035 तक भारत के निवेश-से-GDP अनुपात को कितने प्रतिशत तक बढ़ाना चाहिए?
- A. 35%
- B. 37%
- C. 40%
- D. 42%

- Which country is the only one to host an open nighttime Formula 1 race?
- रात में खुला फॉर्मूला 1 रेस आयोजित करने वाला दुनिया का एकमात्र देश कौन सा है?
- A. UAE
- B. Singapore
- C. USA
- D. Monaco

Word of the day

Ensconce:

fix firmly

Synonym: settle

Usage: *He ensconced himself in front of the computer.*


Pronunciation: bit.ly/ensconcepron

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ɛn'skɒns/



The Only Country with an Open
Nighttime Formula 1 Race

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is low, with a warm orange glow from the left side. There are some red dots scattered in the upper left area.

Thank you
guys.
