

# Daily Current Affairs



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A person's silhouette is shown from behind, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape under a warm, golden sky, likely at sunset or sunrise. The person's hair is tied back, and they are wearing a dark top. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

“Fall seven times,  
stand up eight.”

— JAPANESE PROVERB

Parade











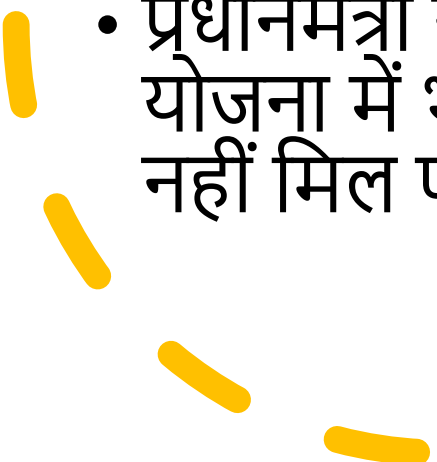
## • Scheme Overview (योजना का अवलोकन)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) to include citizens aged 70 and above without any income bar.
  - प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने आयुष्मान भारत प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (पीएम-जेएवाई) का विस्तार करते हुए 70 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के नागरिकों के लिए बिना किसी आय सीमा के लाभ देने की घोषणा की।
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- **Key Benefits (मुख्य लाभ)**

- The scheme now ensures free hospital treatment up to ₹5 lakh for senior citizens above 70.
- योजना के तहत अब 70 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को ₹5 लाख तक मुफ्त अस्पताल इलाज की सुविधा मिलेगी।
- Beneficiaries will receive an Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card, helping reduce out-of-pocket expenditures for senior citizens.
- लाभार्थियों को आयुष्मान वया वंदना कार्ड मिलेगा, जो वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के खर्च को कम करेगा।

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- **Criticism of Non-participating States (गैर-भागीदार राज्यों की आलोचना)**
  - PM Modi expressed disappointment that Delhi and West Bengal have not joined the scheme, limiting benefits for senior citizens in these states.
  - प्रधानमंत्री ने असंतोष व्यक्त किया कि दिल्ली और पश्चिम बंगाल ने इस योजना में भाग नहीं लिया है, जिससे इन राज्यों के वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को लाभ नहीं मिल पा रहा है।
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- **Healthcare Infrastructure Projects (स्वास्थ्य ढांचे के परियोजनाएँ)**
  - PM Modi inaugurated projects worth ₹12,850 crore on Ayurveda Day, focusing on promoting Ayurveda.
  - प्रधानमंत्री ने धन्वंतरि जयंती और आयुर्वेद दिवस पर आयुर्वेद को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ₹12,850 करोड़ की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया।
  - New facilities include AIIMS upgrades, nursing colleges, and health services expansion through drones and helicopters.
  - नई सुविधाओं में एम्स का उन्नयन, नर्सिंग कॉलेज और ड्रोन तथा हेलीकॉप्टर द्वारा स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का विस्तार शामिल है।



# Shah unveils mobile app for birth and death registration

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application to “integrate technology with governance”.

Mr. Shah said the application would make registration of births and deaths seamless and hassle-free by allowing citizens to register at any time, from any place, and in their State’s official language.

“It will significantly reduce the time required for registration,” he said in a post on X.

According to the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all reported births and deaths in the country occurring from October 1, 2023, are to be digitally registered through the Centre’s portal [dc.crsorgi.gov.in](http://dc.crsorgi.gov.in).

## Single document

The digital birth certificates will be a single document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs and marriage registration.

The centralised database will also help update the National Population Register (NPR), ration



Amit Shah. ANI

cards, property registration and electoral rolls.

Data for the NPR, first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015 through door-to-door enumeration, already includes information on 119 crore residents. NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), as per the Citizenship Act.

## Patel remembered

Mr. Shah also unveiled a statue of India’s first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Census Building in the capital.

He said that Patel wove the country into a thread of unity, laying the foundation for a strong India. “This statue of the Iron Man, a symbol of struggle and sacrifice for national interest, will continue to inspire everyone as a testament to his unwavering dedication to establishing democratic values in the country,” Mr. Shah said.

## Shah Unveils Mobile App for Birth and Death Registration (शाह ने जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण के लिए मोबाइल ऐप लॉन्च किया)

### Launch of Civil Registration System (CRS) Mobile App



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile app to integrate technology with governance.
- केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने शासन में प्रौद्योगिकी को एकीकृत करने के लिए नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली (CRS) मोबाइल ऐप लॉन्च किया।

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## • Key Features of the App (ऐप की प्रमुख विशेषताएँ)

- Allows seamless, hassle-free registration of births and deaths from any place, at any time, in the State's official language.
- जन्म और मृत्यु का सहज और परेशानी मुक्त पंजीकरण किसी भी स्थान और समय से राज्य की आधिकारिक भाषा में किया जा सकता है।
- Expected to significantly reduce the time required for registration.
- पंजीकरण के लिए आवश्यक समय को काफी हद तक कम करने की उम्मीद है।



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- **Mandate as per the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023**
  - All reported births and deaths from October 1, 2023, must be digitally registered via the Centre's portal.
  - 1 अक्टूबर 2023 से सभी रिपोर्ट की गई जन्म और मृत्यु की घटनाओं का डिजिटल पंजीकरण केंद्र के पोर्टल पर करना अनिवार्य है।

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- **Single Document for Multiple Services (विभिन्न सेवाओं के लिए एकल दस्तावेज़)**
  - Digital birth certificates will serve as a single document for various services like educational admission, government jobs, and marriage registration.
  - डिजिटल जन्म प्रमाणपत्र शैक्षणिक प्रवेश, सरकारी नौकरियों और विवाह पंजीकरण जैसी विभिन्न सेवाओं के लिए एकल दस्तावेज़ के रूप में काम करेगा।

- 
- **Database Integration with National Population Register (NPR) (राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या रजिस्टर के साथ डेटाबेस का एकीकरण)**
  - The centralized database will aid in updating the National Population Register (NPR), which includes information on 119 crore residents.
  - केंद्रीकृत डेटाबेस राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या रजिस्टर (NPR) को अपडेट करने में सहायता करेगा, जिसमें 119 करोड़ निवासियों की जानकारी शामिल है।

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## 1. Tribute to Sardar Patel (सरदार पटेल को श्रद्धांजलि)

1. Shah also unveiled a statue of India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at the Census Building in the capital.
2. शाह ने राजधानी में जनगणना भवन में भारत के पहले गृह मंत्री सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल की प्रतिमा का अनावरण भी किया।
3. Described Patel as a symbol of unity and dedication to democratic values in India.
4. पटेल को भारत में एकता और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों के प्रति समर्पण का प्रतीक बताया।

# 'India must adopt an offensive approach against cyberthreats'

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

India is facing growing threat to its national security from adversaries resorting to a new kind of cyberwarfare and, therefore, an offensive approach involving "super cyberforce" and "surgical strikes" is required, according to a report by non-government organisation Prahar.

The report, titled *The Invisible Hand*, projected that if unchecked, cyberattacks on India was likely to rise to one trillion per annum by 2033, reaching 17 trillion by 2047.



Stating that cyberspace is the new battlefield, the report suggested that India must go on the offensive. "Other interventions include sophisticated tech infrastructure, skill improvement, whitelisting digital apps and platforms, and educating citizens. Until India creates a holistic cyberpolicy and execution strategy, restricting identifiable legitimate platforms could push citizens into the hands of dark web operators," it said.

The report noted that in 2023, the country experienced over 79 million cyberattacks, ranking it third globally in terms of the number of such incidents. In the first quarter

of 2024, reports indicated a sharp rise in cyberattacks with over 500 million incidents blocked in just three months. In the first four months, Indians lost more than ₹1,750 crore to cybercriminals, reported through over 7,40,000 complaints on the national cybercrime reporting portal, said the report.

A release quoted Joint Secretary Bhargav Mitra (retd) as saying: "The happenings in Bangladesh are a grim reminder of the challenges that a determined and conniving adversary can present for India's national security. It seems that Bangladesh was probably the last link in the proverbial chain to encircle India and keep it tied down to the South Asian region."

Anuj Agarwal, Member Supreme Court Bar Association and chairperson of the Centre for Research on Cyber Crime and Cyber Law, said: "Limiting legal domestic online platforms with outright bans or unwarranted restrictions only drives users deeper into the shadows, where they are more vulnerable to exploitation by the offshore platforms...we need to revive community governance to address many of these issues...informed users are empowered users."

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- **Need for an Offensive Cybersecurity Strategy (आक्रामक साइबर सुरक्षा रणनीति की आवश्यकता)**
  - India faces increasing cybersecurity threats with adversaries using advanced cyber-warfare tactics.
  - भारत को उन्नत साइबर युद्ध रणनीतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, इसलिए आक्रामक रणनीति अपनाना आवश्यक है।

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- **Report by Prahar (प्रहार द्वारा रिपोर्ट)**

- Title: *The Invisible Hand*

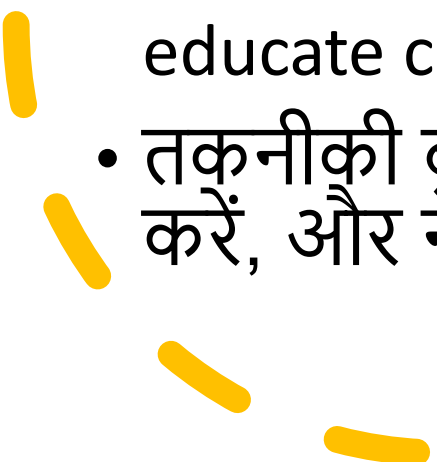
- Projects that cyberattacks on India may escalate to ₹1 trillion annually by 2033 and ₹17 trillion by 2047 if unchecked.

- नाम: *द इनविजिबल हैंड*

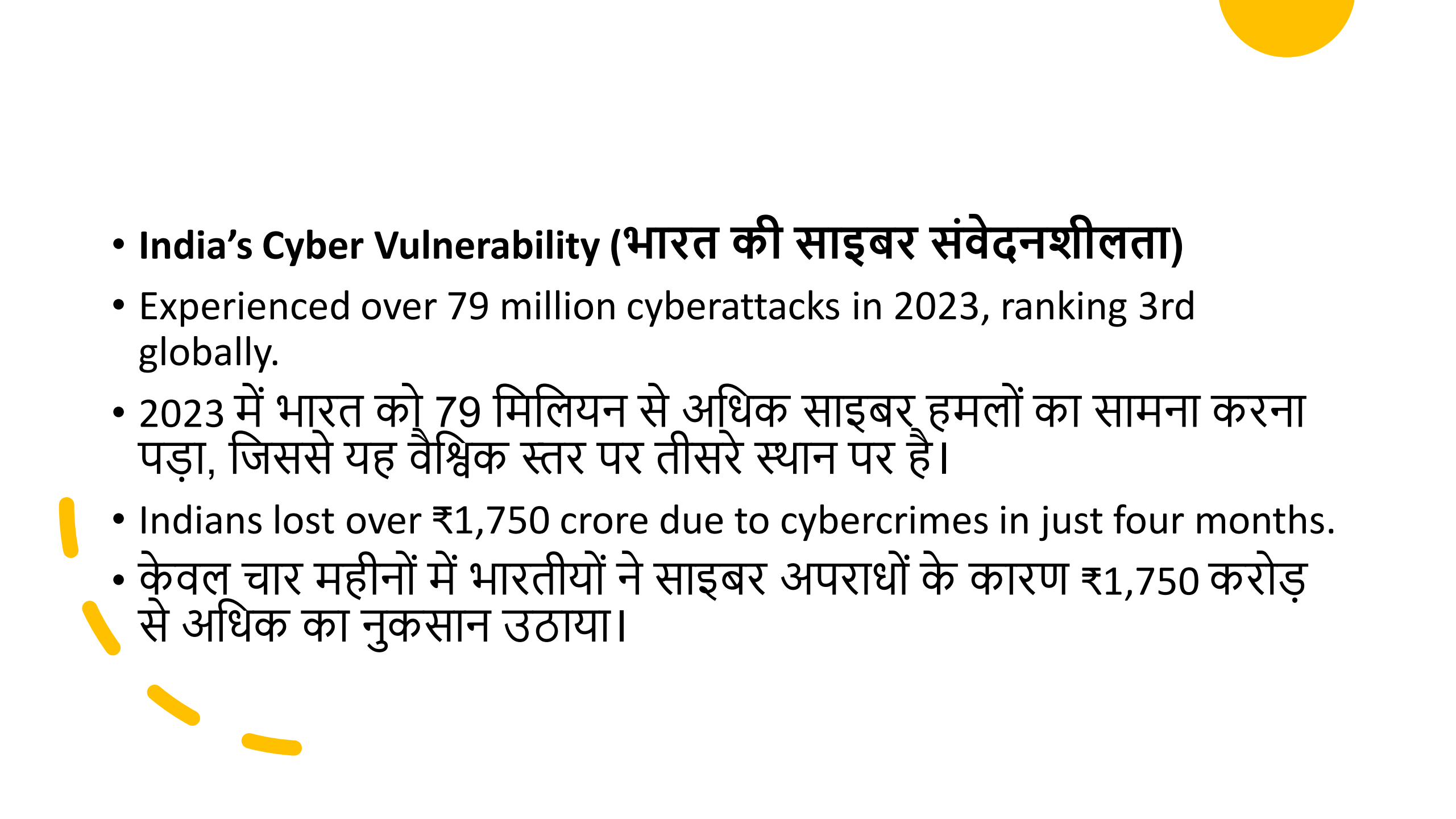
- रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, साइबर हमले बिना रोकथाम के 2033 तक ₹1 ट्रिलियन और 2047 तक ₹17 ट्रिलियन तक पहुंच सकते हैं।



- **Suggested Measures (सुझाए गए उपाय)**

- Implement "super cyberforce" and "surgical strikes" in cyberspace.
  - साइबर स्पेस में "सुपर साइबरफोर्स" और "सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक" का कार्यान्वयन करें।
  - Build tech infrastructure, improve skills, whitelist platforms, and educate citizens.
  - तकनीकी बुनियादी ढांचा बनाएँ, कौशल में सुधार करें, प्लेटफार्म व्हाइटलिस्ट करें, और नागरिकों को शिक्षित करें।
- 



- 
- **India's Cyber Vulnerability (भारत की साइबर संवेदनशीलता)**
  - Experienced over 79 million cyberattacks in 2023, ranking 3rd globally.
  - 2023 में भारत को 79 मिलियन से अधिक साइबर हमलों का सामना करना पड़ा, जिससे यह वैश्विक स्तर पर तीसरे स्थान पर है।
  - Indians lost over ₹1,750 crore due to cybercrimes in just four months.
  - केवल चार महीनों में भारतीयों ने साइबर अपराधों के कारण ₹1,750 करोड़ से अधिक का नुकसान उठाया।

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- **Strategic Comments (रणनीतिक टिप्पणियाँ)**

- *Bhargav Mitra*: India is encircled by adversarial elements from neighboring regions.
- *भागर्व मित्रा*: भारत दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्र में विरोधी तत्वों से घिरा हुआ है।
- *Anuj Agarwal*: Excessive restrictions on domestic platforms may push users towards unsafe, offshore platforms.
- *अनुज अग्रवाल*: घरेलू प्लेटफार्मों पर अत्यधिक प्रतिबंधों से उपयोगकर्ता असुरक्षित विदेशी प्लेटफार्मों की ओर बढ़ सकते हैं।



# New Israeli laws bar UNRWA from operating on its soil

**Associated Press**

JERUSALEM

Israeli lawmakers passed two laws on Monday that could threaten the work of the main UN agency providing aid to people in Gaza by barring it from operating on Israeli soil, severing ties with it.

The laws, which do not immediately take effect, signal a new low for a long-troubled relationship between Israel and the UN. Israel's international allies said they were deeply worried about their potential impact on Palestinians.

Under the first law, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA, would be banned from conducting "any activity" or providing any service inside Israel. The second law would sever Israel's diplomatic ties with the agency.





The laws, which do not immediately take effect, signal a new low for a long-troubled relationship between Israel and the UN. AP


The laws risk collapsing the already fragile process for distributing aid in Gaza at a moment when Israel is under increased U.S. pressure to ramp up aid. UNRWA's chief called them "a dangerous precedent."

The head of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, said the laws were part of an "ongoing campaign to discredit

UNRWA." "These Bills will only deepen the suffering of Palestinians, especially in Gaza," he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said UNRWA would be prevented from doing UN General Assembly-mandated work if the laws are implemented. "There is no alternative to UNRWA," he said.

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- **Gold Transfer from Bank of England (इंग्लैंड के बैंक से सोने का स्थानांतरण)**
  - In two years, 214 tonnes of gold have been shifted from the Bank of England's vaults to India.
  - पिछले दो वर्षों में, इंग्लैंड के बैंक की तिजोरी से भारत में 214 टन सोना स्थानांतरित किया गया है।
- 



- **Gold Holdings by RBI (आरबीआई द्वारा सोने का भंडारण)**


- As of September, out of the 855 tonnes held by RBI, 510.5 tonnes are stored within India.

- सितंबर तक, आरबीआई द्वारा रखे गए 855 टन में से 510.5 टन भारत में संग्रहित हैं।

- **Reasons for the Transfer (स्थानांतरण के कारण)**

- India aims to secure its gold holdings domestically amidst global geopolitical tensions.

- वैश्विक भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के बीच, भारत अपने सोने के भंडारण को घरेलू रूप से सुरक्षित करना चाहता है।



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- **Historical Context (ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ)**

- The move is significant as it is one of the largest shifts since the 1990s balance of payments crisis.

- यह कदम 1990 के दशक की भुगतान संतुलन संकट के बाद से सबसे बड़े बदलावों में से एक है।

- **Festive Sales Boost (त्योहारों के दौरान बिक्री में वृद्धि)**

- Dhanteras saw a spike in sales of gold, electronics, and cars, with discounts boosting consumer demand.

- धनतेरस पर सोना, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और कारों की बिक्री में वृद्धि देखी गई, छूट से उपभोक्ता मांग बढ़ी।





# Golden day for Spaniards as the Ballon d'Or goes to Rodri and Bonmati



**The pinnacle:** Bonmati and Rodri make their feelings known after winning the coveted one. AP

## Associated Press PARIS

Spanish midfielders Rodri and Aitana Bonmati won the men's and women's Ballon d'Or award for the world's best football player on Monday.

The 28-year-old Rodri won the prestigious award for the first time after helping Manchester City win the Premier League and being a key player in Spain's European Championship triumph.

He succeeded eight-time winner Lionel Messi of Argentina.

Bonmati retained her award after helping Barcelona win the Spanish league, the Spanish cup and the Champions League.

Bonmati joined Barca teammate Alexia Putellas in winning two titles since the women's trophy was first awarded in 2018.

She beat her teammates Caroline Graham Hansen of Norway and Salma Paralluelo of Spain as Barcelona completed a 1-2-3.

Rodri arrived on crutches. He is out for the season after injuring his ACL while playing for City last month.

**d'Or:** Rodri (Manchester City); **Women's Ballon d'Or:** Aitana Bonmati (Barcelona).

**Johan Cruyff trophy for best men's and women's coach:** Carlo Ancelotti (Real Madrid) and Emma Hayes (ex-Chelsea, now USA women's national team).

**Gerd Mueller trophy for top scorer:** Kylian Mbappe (ex-PSG) and Harry Kane (Bayern Munich) (both on 52 goals).

**Raymond Kopa trophy for best young player:** Lamine Yamal (Barcelona); **Lev Yashin trophy for best goalkeeper:** Emiliano Martinez (Aston Villa).

**Socrates Prize for charity work:** Jenifer Hermoso (Tigres Monterrey).

**Best men's and women's teams:** Real Madrid and Barcelona.

## Ballon d'Or



Ballon d'Or trophy, known at the time as the FIFA Ballon d'Or

**Presented by** [France Football](#)

**First awarded** 18 December 1956; 67 years ago

**Currently held by**  [Rodri](#) (1st win)

**Most awards**  [Lionel Messi](#) (8 awards)

**Most nominations**  [Cristiano Ronaldo](#) (18 nominations)

**Website** [francefootball.fr](#)



# 'Unimpressed' Brazil not to join China's BRI

**Second BRICS nation after India to do so**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
Beijing, October 29

**IN A MAJOR** setback to China's BRI, Brazil has decided against

joining Beijing's multi-billion-dollar initiative becoming the second country after India in the BRICS bloc not to endorse the mega project.

Brazil, headed by President Lula da Silva, will not join the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and instead seek alternative ways to collaborate with Chinese investors, Celso Amorim,

special presidential adviser for international affairs, said on Monday.

Brazil wants to "take the relationship with China to a new level, without having to sign an accession contract", he told Brazilian newspaper O Globo.

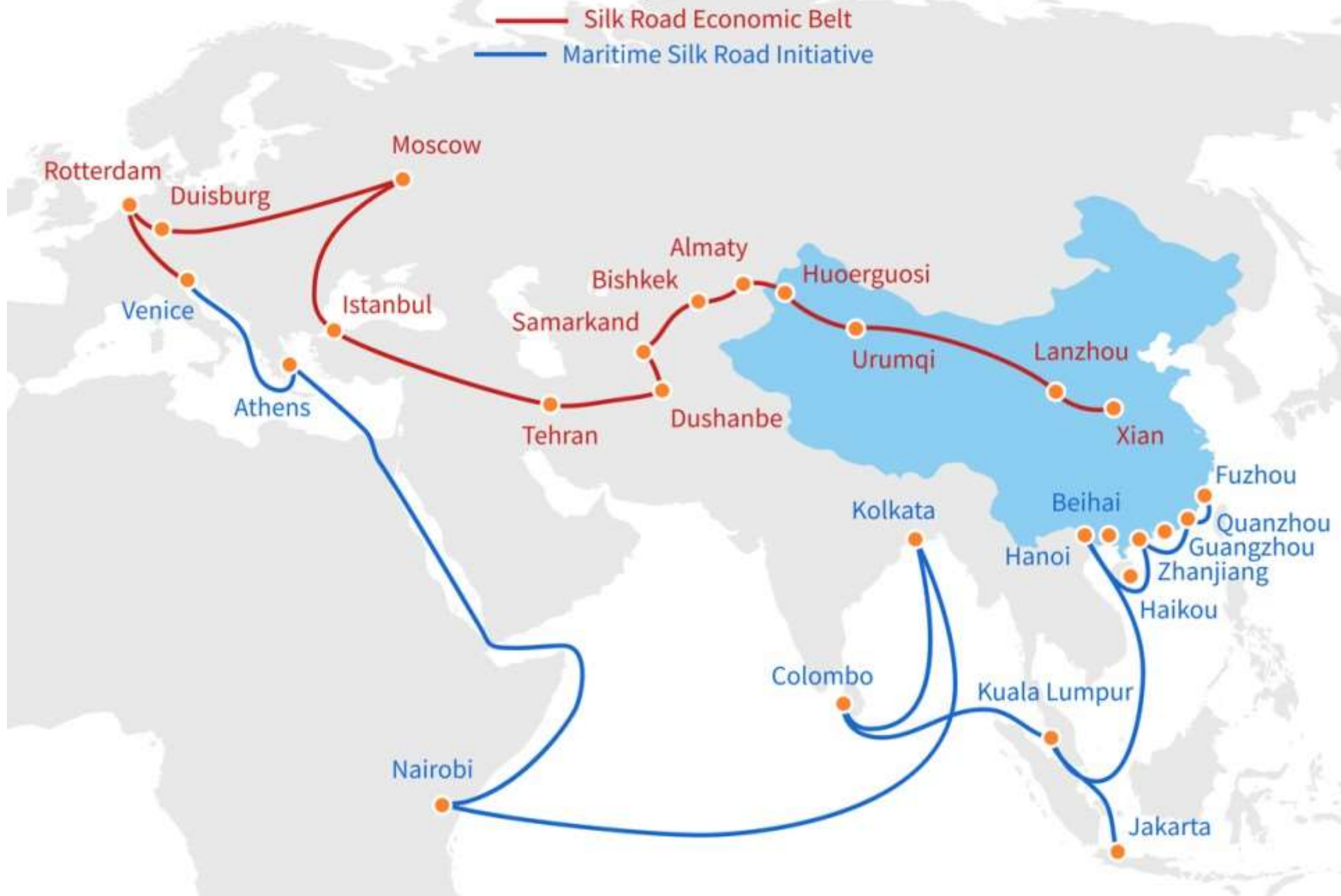
"We are not entering into a treaty," Amorim said, explaining that Brazil does not want to

take Chinese infrastructure and trade projects as "an insurance policy".

According to Amorim, the aim is to use some of the Belt and Road framework to find "synergy" between Brazilian infrastructure projects and the investment funds associated with the initiative, without necessarily formally joining

the group, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted him as saying. The Chinese "call it the belt [and road]...and they can give whatever names they want, but what matters is that there are projects that Brazil has defined as a priority and that may or may not be accepted [by Beijing]", Amorim said.

# ONE BELT, ONE ROAD



# The Belt and Road Initiative

**4.6**  
billion



Combined population of all countries involved in BRI



BRI touches 61 percent of the world's population

**\$29** trillion



Combined GDP of all countries involved

**\$6** trillion



Trade between China and BRI countries between 2014-2017



Low and middle income BRI partners have an average per capita income of \$3,875. China has a per capita income of \$16,760.

**\$26 trillion**

Estimated cost of infrastructure needs

**\$1 trillion**

Amount China has pledged

The estimated cost of infrastructure needs in the developing parts of the Asia-Pacific through 2030 is \$26 trillion. China has pledged \$1 trillion.

- Numerous studies conducted by the [World Bank](#) have estimated that BRI can boost trade flows in 155 participating countries by 4.1 percent, as well as cutting the cost of global trade by 1.1 percent to 2.2 percent, and grow the GDP of East Asian and Pacific developing countries by an average of 2.6 to 3.9 percent













# Dhanteras delight: 102 tonnes gold shifted to India, says RBI

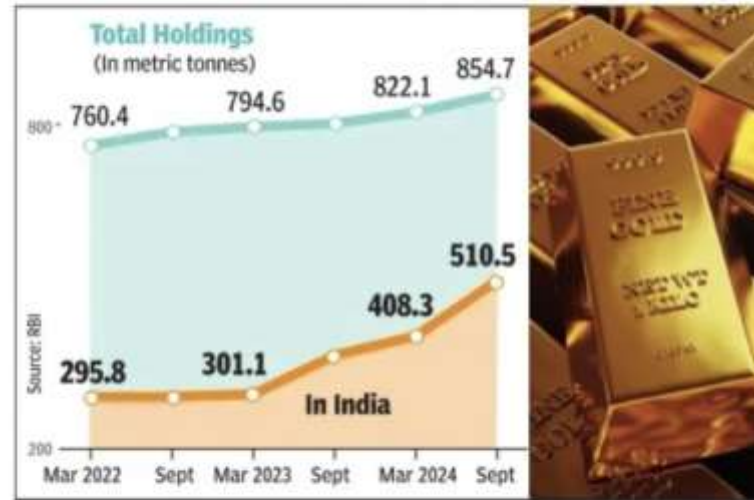
In 2 Yrs, 214 Tonnes Moved From Bank Of England

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** It is not just Indian households which look to bring gold into their lockers. On Dhanteras, the Reserve Bank of India disclosed that it has shipped another 102 tonnes of gold from Bank of England's vaults in London to secure locations within the country.

At the end of Sept, of the 855 tonnes of yellow metal held by the Indian central bank, 510.5 tonnes was held domestically, the latest report on management of foreign exchange reserves revealed. Since Sept 2022, 214 tonnes have moved into the country as RBI and govt sought to secure their holdings amid heightened geopolitical tensions across the globe. Many

## CENTRAL BANK'S GOLD STOCK



in govt believe that it's safer to hold gold at home.

On May 31, **TOI** was the first to report about 100 million tonnes being moved from the UK and had also said that a similar quantity was planned to be shipped again. The movement marked the first significant shift since gold moved out in early 1990s after govt was forced to

pledge it amid a balance of payments crisis.

Like the last time, RBI and govt undertook a secret mission involving special aircraft and detailed security arrangements to move the gold, acutely aware that the information should not leak out.

► **Related report, P 15**

## Electronics, gold, car sales get festive sparkle

If the consumer industry was waiting for a big bang stressbuster post the slow-down pangs, Dhanteras brought in much-needed cheer for companies. Buyers didn't disappoint, even when it came to buying gold. Car sales also fired on all cylinders as lucrative discounts and festival spirit saw people thronging showrooms of Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors and JSW MG.

Sales of smartphones, from iPhones to Oppo, stayed strong, as was the case with TV sets, with LG and Panasonic reporting good demand for premium, large-screen sizes. Tanishq, among India's biggest organised retailer of jewellery, said overall sales on Dhanteras appeared on course to surpass last year's numbers. **P 15**













## KNOW YOUR VITAL STATS

# Which oil is best for your heart health?

Confused about which oils are healthy and which aren't? The best ones are lower in saturated fats. But the answer is not simple since smoking points of oils differ, so one can be good for deep frying while another is suitable for salad dressings. Let's decode the choices...



### SATURATED FATTY ACIDS (SFAs)

Single bonds • Stay solid at room temperature

**Examples** | Coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil, beef tallow and lard

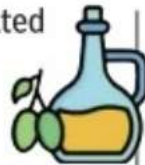


**Health impact** | Excessive consumption linked to increased LDL (bad) cholesterol levels, which can contribute to heart disease


### UNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS

One or more double bonds • Liquid at room temperature

**Examples** | Monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) like olive oil, avocado oil, canola oil, peanut oil. Another type is polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs). Omega-3 rich PUFAs are fish oil, flaxseed oil, chia seed oil, walnut oil while Omega-6 rich PUFAs are sunflower oil, corn oil, soybean oil, rice bran oil



**Health impact** | Unsaturated fats – both monounsaturated and polyunsaturated – are considered healthier than saturated fats. They have been linked to lower LDL (bad) cholesterol levels and can help protect against heart disease

	SFA (%)	MUFA (%)	PUFA (%)		Smoke point (°C)
			N3	N6	
<b>SUITABLE FOR DEEP FRYING</b>					
Rice bran oil	22.5	44	0.5	33	260
Mustard oil	12	60	6.0	15	250
Groundnut oil	10.7	71	0	18	232
Ghee	62	28	0.5	3.0	230
Sesame oil	16.9	42	0.2	40.9	210
<b>SHALLOW FRYING &amp; SAUTÉING</b>					
Safflower oil	9.3	11.6	0.2	79	250
Soybean oil	16	23	7.0	51	230
Sunflower oil	9.4	28.3	0.2	62	226
Coconut oil	92	6.0	0	1.6	176
<b>SALAD DRESSING</b>					
Olive oil (extra virgin)	19.4	68	1.6	16.4	210

Refined olive oil can be used for sauteing

### WHAT NUTRITIONISTS SAY

- A combination of oils with different n6:n3 (Omega 3 and 6) ratios is recommended for a balanced intake of fatty acids
- The National Institute of Nutrition suggests blending oils like mustard and rice bran oil or rice bran and soybean oil for daily low-temperature cooking. For frying, use refined oils that have higher smoke points. Heating oil after it has started smoking leads to nutrient loss and harmful free radicals
- It is advised to use 500-750ml of oil per person per month

Source: Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai







# Census of India to Begin in 2025

—

- 
- The government plans to begin the long-delayed Census in **2025**, which will be followed by delimitation of Lok Sabha seats.

- **About**

- The census, typically conducted **every ten years** to update the **National Population Register (NPR)**, was scheduled for **2021** but had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic.
- The delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is to be carried out on the basis of the first Census after **2026**.
-

---

- **Census in India**

- **A census is a survey of the population** of an area that includes collecting details of a country's demographics including **age, sex and occupation**.

- **History:** Under **W.C. Plowden**, the Census Commissioner of India, the first synchronous decennial (every ten years) census was conducted in **1881**.

- 
- **Independent India's first census** was held in **1951** and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.
  - **The Constitution mandates** that enumeration is carried out but the **Census of India Act of 1948** does not specify its timing or periodicity.
  - The population census is conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.



---

- **What is Delimitation?**

- Delimitation refers to the **process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries** of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.

- 1. It also includes determining the seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in these houses.

- 
- – **Article 82 and 170** of the Indian Constitution provide that the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative assemblies as well as its division into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted after each Census.
    - This process is performed by the '**Delimitation Commission**' that is set up under an act of Parliament.

---

- **Delimitation in the Past**

- The number of seats in the Lok Sabha based on the 1951, 1961 and 1971 Census was fixed at 494, 522 and 543.
- However, it has been **frozen as per the 1971 Census** in order to encourage population control measures so that States with higher population growth do not end up having higher number of seats.

- 
- This was done through the **42nd Amendment Act** till the year 2000 and was extended by the **84th Amendment Act till 2026**.
    - The boundaries of territorial constituencies were readjusted (without changing the number of seats) and seats for SC and ST were determined as per the 2001 Census and will again be carried out after **2026**.

# Election Expenditure in India

—

The total expenditure for U.S. presidential and Congressional elections in 2024 is estimated at around U.S. \$16 billion (equivalent to ₹1,36,000 crores).

According to the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), the total expenditure by various political parties for the general election to Lok Sabha this year was around ₹1,00,000 crores

## Election Expenditure Limit in India

It is ₹95 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency in larger States and ₹75 lakh in smaller States.

With respect to Legislative Assemblies, they are ₹40 lakh and ₹28 lakh for larger and smaller States respectively.

These limits are set, from time to time, by the **Election Commission (EC)**.

There are **no limits on the expenditure of political parties** during elections.

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- **Global Standards**

- **In the U.S.**, the financing for elections happens primarily by contributions from individuals, corporations, and political action committees (PAC).
  - There are **super PACs** on which there are no limits for spending.
- **In the U.K.**, a political party is allowed to spend £54,010 for each constituency they contest.
  - There are also limits placed on candidates' spending during the campaign period.



## Concerns with High Electoral Expenditure

**Inequality in Representation:** Wealthy candidates or parties dominate elections, marginalizing those with fewer resources and leading to a lack of diverse representation.

**Corruption:** It can lead candidates to engage in corrupt practices, such as bribing voters or manipulating election outcomes.

- 
- **Creation of Entry Barrier:** Increased expenditure that is met primarily through large donations creates an unholy nexus between the elected representatives and donors who seek favours.
    - This acts as an entry barrier into electoral politics for many well-meaning citizens.

## Suggested Reforms

**The Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998) and the Law Commission report (1999) have advocated for State funding of elections.**

- This would mean the government partially bears the election expenditures of candidates nominated by recognised political parties.

- 
- **Simultaneous elections** are suggested for addressing the issue of rising election expenditures.
    - It refers to the idea of holding **Lok Sabha and State legislative assembly elections together**, with the aim of reducing the frequency of elections and their associated costs.

# Sohrai Painting

—

- 
- PM Modi presented a **Sohrai painting** to the Russian President Vladimir Putin during the BRICS summit.
  - **About**
  - **Sohrai Painting is a folk/tribal painting** tradition mostly practiced in the villages of **Jharkhand's Hazaribagh area.**
  -

- 
- **The colors** used in this picture (**red, black, yellow, and white**) are natural earth colors foraged from the wild or purchased from local merchants.
    - **Chewing twigs** are used as paint brushes, while cloth rags are used to apply the base coat.
  - **Theme:** The paintings are known for their **expressive storytelling**, depicting **animals, birds and nature**, which is a **reflection of the agrarian lifestyle** and the reverence for wildlife in tribal culture.





# Rule of Law Index

—

- 
- Recently the **Rule of Law Index** has been published by the **World Justice Project (WJP)**.
  - **About**
  - It has evaluated countries based on **different factors**, including constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.
  - India stands at **98 out of 142 countries**.

**Top Rank:** Denmark has secured first rank, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Germany in terms of law and order.

**Worst Rank:** Pakistan has been ranked 140 among 142 countries making it the third worst country in the world.

- Mali and Nigeria are the only countries ranked lower than Pakistan.

## The World Justice Project (WJP)



It is an independent, nonpartisan, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.

# Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

—

- **Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY)**
- **About:**
  - It is a landmark initiative, launched on October 28, 2014, aimed at the **holistic development of tribal communities**.
  - It addresses the unique challenges faced by India's tribal populations, which constitute **about 8.9% of the country's population**.
  - It aims to empower tribal communities through comprehensive development strategies.
-

## **Key Components:**

**Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)**

**Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**

**Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships:**

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- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools:**

- These have been established to provide quality education to **STs students from classes VI to XII** in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011).



---

- **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM):**

- It has been restructured by merging and extending two existing schemes: the '*Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price*' and the '*Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products*'.

# Coral Triangle

—

- Experts recommend the **Coral Triangle** be classified as a **Particularly Sensitive Sea Area** to provide it with **special protection** from harmful maritime activities
- **About**
- **The Coral Triangle**, often referred to as the '**Amazon of the seas**', is a huge marine area spanning over 10 million square kilometres.
- It **includes countries** like Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, and the Solomon Islands.



# THE CORAL TRIANGLE: THE WORLD'S CENTRE OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY



— The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security implementation area

■ Coral Triangle scientific area

- 
- This region is home to **76 percent of the world's coral species** and supports more than 120 million people who rely on its resources for their livelihoods.

- 
- Serious dangers brought by **fossil fuel expansion** to the Coral Triangle, were highlighted by a report released in **16th Conference of Parties (COP16)** to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
    - The report highlighted the overlaps with oil and gas blocks, affecting 24 percent of coral reefs, 22 percent of seagrass areas, and 37 percent of mangroves.

- **A Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)**
- It is an area that needs **special protection through action by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** because of its significance for **recognized ecological or socio-economic or scientific reasons.**
- The area must be **vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities.**
- **Examples of PSSAs** include the Great Barrier Reef, the Galapagos Islands, and the Wadden Sea




# Miyawaki Forest



- 
- Uttarakhand's forest department has created the world's highest-altitude Miyawaki forest at 8,000 ft in Pithoragarh, beating extreme conditions like sub-zero temperatures and wildlife threats.
  - **What is Miyawaki forest?**
  - Named after Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki**, who developed this methodology in the **1970s**, it involves creating dense urban forests in a small area.

It involves planting two to four different types of **indigenous trees** within every square metre. The trees grow to their full length within **three years**.

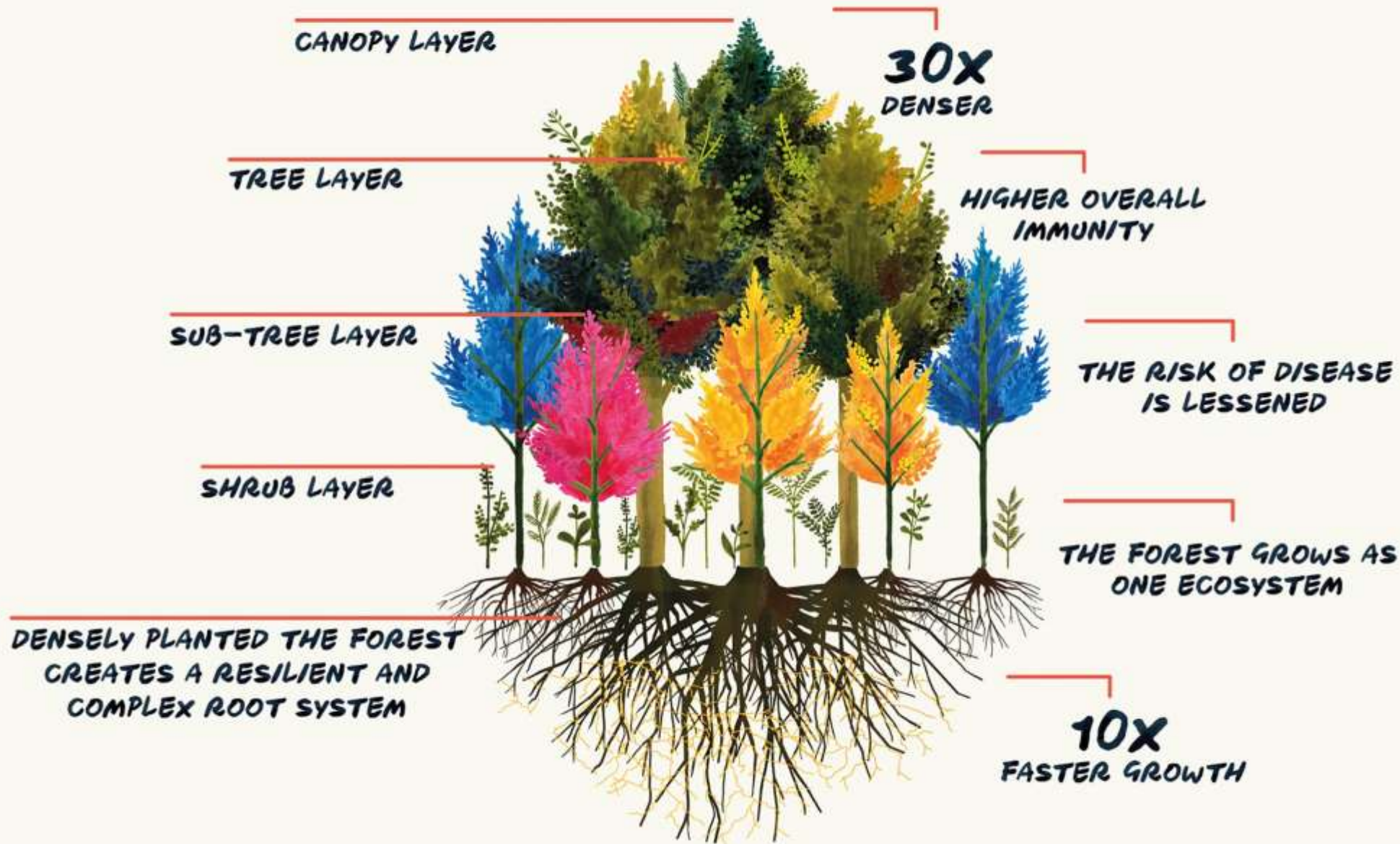


The dense green cover of indigenous trees plays a key role in **absorbing the dust particles** and regulating surface temperature.



The plants used are mostly **self-sustaining** and do not require regular maintenance like manuring and watering. Some of the common plants used include Anjan, Amala, Bel, Arjun and Gunj.

# THE MIYAWAKI FOREST



# Miyawaki Forest Layers

Canopy Layer

Tree Layer

Sub-Tree Layer

Shrub Layer









# Smart Insulin for Diabetes




- The latest study introduces an **engineered insulin molecule, named NNC2215**, which includes a built-in **"on-and-off switch"** that allows it to automatically respond to fluctuations in blood glucose levels.
- **Two Main Components of NNC2215:**
  - A **Ring-Shaped Structure** allows the insulin molecule to change shape depending on blood sugar levels.
  - A **Glucoside Molecule** resembles glucose in structure and helps control the activation of insulin.



## About Diabetes:



Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.



As per the WHO, in 2019, diabetes was the direct cause of 1.5 million deaths across the globe and 48% of all deaths due to diabetes occurred before the age of 70 years.

# Diabetes: Type 1 vs. Type 2

Diabetes is on the climb — but there is a difference between Type 1 and Type 2. Do you know it?

## Type 1 Diabetes

Your body is no longer able to produce insulin



Usually develops during childhood, but can develop at any age



Family history



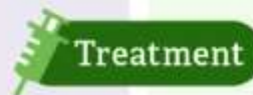
- Bedwetting
- Blurry vision
- Frequent urination
- Increased appetite and thirst
- Mood changes and irritability
- Tiredness and weakness
- Unexplained weight loss



No known prevention methods



Insulin injections



## Type 2 Diabetes

Your body still produces insulin, but it doesn't make enough of it or it doesn't use it efficiently

Can develop at any age but is most common in adults over 45

- Overweight and/or inactive
- Family history
- High blood pressure

- Increased appetite and thirst
- Dark patches on armpits/neck
- Frequent urination
- Blurry vision
- Tiredness and weakness
- Unexplained weight loss

Healthy lifestyle

Healthy living,  
possible insulin support



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# Word of the day

## **Furtive:**

attempting to avoid notice or attention

---

**Synonyms:** hidden, covert, secretive

---

**Usage:** *There is something furtive about their behaviour.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/furtivepro](http://newsth.live/furtivepro)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /fɜːtɪv/

---

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a large gathering or event. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you  
guys.

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