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The Indian Express



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10 MCQ QUIZ



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%

2047

- 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

Fig. 1.

Spots/Photos



Without music, life would be a mistake.

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

Delhi • Coimbatore • Bangalore • Hyderabad • Madurai • Mysore • Manipal • Thiruvananthapuram • Kochi • Vijayawada • Mangalore • Thiruvananthapuram • Kolkata • Imphal • Guwahati • Bhubaneswar • Lucknow • Patna

DUPLICATE VOTER CARDS
'EC admitted to error but did not accept it'
NEWS » PAGE 5

FIRST-EVER ESTIMATE
Study finds 6,327 Gangetic dolphins in four States
NEWS » PAGE 6

14-MONTH SLOWDOWN
Manufacturing PMI slid to 56.3 last month
BUSINESS » PAGE 12

Saving Orans
Way to protect Rajasthan's sacred forests
SC's orders may not yield desired results
OPINION » PAGE 9

SPIN GREAT
Padmakar Shivalkar passes away
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

HC halts ACB action against Bunch till today
MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Monday asked the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau not to act until Tuesday on a special court order directing it to register FIR against former SEBI chief Madhavi Bunch and five others. » PAGE 4

FEMA breach: Paytm's parent firm gets notice
NEW DELHI
The ED has issued a show-cause notice to One97 Communication Ltd, the parent company of Paytm, its managing director, and others for alleged contraventions of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act involving ₹511 crore. » PAGE 4

ISRO releases more data from Aditya mission
BENGALURU
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the second set of scientific data from the Aditya-L1 solar mission, which comprise of valuable scientific information about the sun's photosphere and outer atmosphere. » PAGE 5

Will not put up with Zelenskyy's rhetoric: Trump
WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that Washington would "not put up with" Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's rhetoric much longer, as he prepared to meet his top team after a disastrous Oval Office row with the Ukrainian. » PAGE 14

SC seeks measures against 'vulgarity' online

Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant says 'regulatory measures' were intended to ensure programmes adhered to 'known moral standards' of Indian society without sliding into censorship; it says there was a clear divide between humour and perversion; allows YouTuber Allahbadia to resume podcast subject to maintaining 'morality, decency'

Krishnadas Ralaconal
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, to suggest regulatory measures to rein in the use of "filthy language" and "vulgarity" which passes off as humour in programmes telecast online.
The Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant said there was a clear divide between humour and perversion. The court said the regulatory measures were intended to ensure that programmes adhered to well-known moral standards of Indian society without sliding into a censorship of the fundamental right to free speech and expression. They were to work as a reasonable restriction on freedom of

speech to ensure decency and morality. The court said it wanted a "healthy debate" on the issue with inputs from stakeholders.
The Bench was hearing an application filed by YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia seeking a modification of a clause in February 18 orders of the top court, which prohibited him interim protection from arrest in criminal cases registered in Maharashtra and Assam over his comments about parents and sex in the show "India Got Latent".
The clause in question barred him from airing or telecasting shows, podcasts, and so on.
Appearing for Mr. Allahbadia, advocate Abhinav Chandrachud said his client had "no sense of humour", but the prohibition would affect his livelihood and that of his 280 employees who worked with

him on his show.
The court modified the bar, allowing Mr. Allahbadia to resume his podcast "The Ranveer Show", subject to maintaining "morality and decency" and making it suitable for viewers of all ages.
"Subject to the petitioner furnishing an undertaking to the effect that his whole podcast shows will maintain desired standards of decency and morality so that viewers of any age group can watch, the petitioner is permitted to

resume "The Ranveer Show", the Bench said.
Mr. Mehta said humour for him was straightforward. "If you cannot make me laugh, you are not a good comedian," he said.
"Humour is an art. Humour is something that the entire family can enjoy and nobody feels embarrassed. That is talent. Using filthy language is not talent. Talent is using ordinary words to produce humour. We have excellent comedians in Bollywood. Writers of humour," Justice

Kant remarked.
Mr. Mehta said there were comedians who were "very critical" of the government, but did not cross the boundaries of decency and morality. "They are very good people," the top judge noted.
In the hearing, Mr. Mehta said he was "curious" and had watched the show himself. "Humour is one thing. Vulgarity is another and perversion is at another level. This [the show] cannot be watched by the Attorney-General (who was present in the courtroom) or me together or Your Lordships... The very fact that he chose to take part in it... let him stay quiet for some time," the judge said.
Justice Kant said the Bench hoped Mr. Allahbadia was "experiencing some remorse".
"People writing articles for him in the name of freedom of speech, we know how to handle them. So... there is no fundamental right on a platter. Fundamental rights are awarded by a duty," Justice Kant observed orally.
The Bench said moral standards changed from one country to the other. The court was focused on the version followed by the Indian society.
Mr. Mehta said a regulatory mechanism was right-ly owed to posterity.
Justice Kant clarified that people could watch whatever channel they wanted, but using filthy expressions to augment one's content was the real problem. "That you can get away saying anything..." the judge said.

The application further requested the court to allow Mr. Allahbadia to travel abroad.
But Mr. Mehta said Mr. Allahbadia had not come when he was summoned by the Gauhati Police. Mr. Chandrachud responded that the Gauhati Police did not respond when Mr. Allahbadia had enquired through WhatsApp the date and time for his appearance.
Justice Kant said the request to travel overseas would be considered after he joined the investigation. Meanwhile, the court extended the interim protection from arrest for Mr. Allahbadia.
The court will take up the case again on April 1.

Anora's night at the Oscars
Here are the winners in key categories at the 97th Academy Awards, held in Hollywood on Sunday.
Best picture: **Anora**
Original screenplay: **Anora** (Sean Baker)
Editing: **Anora** (Sean Baker)
Original score: **The Brutalist** (Daniel Blumstein)
Best director: **Sean Baker, Anora**

Cinematography
The Brutalist (Lol Crawley)
Visual effects
Dune: Part Two (Lombardi, James, Salcombe, Hedges)
Sound
Dune: Part Two (Lynch, King, Bartlett, Hempfl)
Best actor
Adrien Brody (The Brutalist)
Best actress
Mikely Madison (Anora)
Supporting actor
Zoe Saldana (Anora)
Supporting actress
Emilia Perez (Anora)

Production design
Wicked (Nathan Crowley)
Costume design
Fur: Im Still Here (Paul Tazewell)
International film
The Only Girl In The Orchestra
Documentary feature
No Other Land
Best actor
Kieran Culkin (A Real Pain)
Best actress
Emilia Perez (Anora)

REPORT ON PAGE 14

Police are yet to fathom the right to free speech and expression, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday asked how a poem by Congress MP Inran Pratapgarhi, which plainly mandates to the "suffering of injustice with love", stirred the Gujarat Police into registering a criminal case against him on the charge of promoting enmity among people of different groups on the basis of caste and religion.
A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said the poem was a reference to non-violence, a path followed by Mahatma Gandhi himself.
Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the State of Gujarat, said the poem was "satyagrah" (cheap) and not a *Faiz*. He objected to the comparison to Mahatma Gandhi.
"Please do not compare him [Pratapgarhi] with Mahatma Gandhi," Mr. Mehta urged the judges.
Justice Oka said the case raised the question whether the police of the country had still not wrapped their heads around the fundamental right of free speech and expression even 75 years after the Constitution.
The Bench referred to a tendency to stifle art and poetry.
"Nobody has any respect for creativity. If you read this poem plainly, it says that even if we suffer injustice, we will suffer it with love," Justice Oka said.
The court said the registration of a First Information Report (FIR) on the basis of this poem was a serious action by the police.

"Some sensibility has to be shown by the police. They are asked at least have read the poem and understood it. Efforts should have been made to understand what the poem meant... There is respect for free speech and expression," Justice Oka addressed Mr. Mehta.
Many interpretations
The Solicitor-General replied that it was capable of many interpretations. He indicated that asking a policeman to interpret may be a tall task.
Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Mr. Pratapgarhi, quipped his poems could also be interpreted as "sad chag".
The court reserved for judgment the *Mehta* plea to quash the FIR in January.
The Gujarat High Court had declined his plea to quash the FIR in January.
The FIR was lodged on the basis of a complaint about an edited video featuring the MP with the text "suffering of injustice with love" and hurting religious feelings.

U.P. woman on death row in UAE already executed: Centre

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI
Uttar Pradesh resident Shaheeda Khan, 33, who was on death row in Abu Dhabi for allegedly murdering the four-month-old of her employer, has already been executed, the Ministry of External Affairs told the Delhi High Court on Monday.
"She was executed on February 15. Her last rites will be held on March 5," Additional Solicitor-General Chetan Sharma told the Bench of Justice Sachin Datta, who termed the execution as "very unfortunate".
The submission came during the hearing of a petition filed by Shabbir Khan, the deceased wo-

man's father, who approached the court to know about the well-being of his daughter.
"We did our best. We hired a law firm there to present her in court and sent mercy petitions and pardon requests to the Government of the UAE. But the final court of appeal, the Court of Cassation, upheld the sentence.
Arrangements were being made to ensure that the family could attend their daughter's last rites in Abu Dhabi, the Ministry said.
The daughter of Shaheeda's employer, Nazia, had passed away in December 2022 after receiving routine vaccination at a hospital. The parents had refused post-mortem and even signed a consent letter disavowing any further investigation or accusations against any entity for the death of the baby. However, a video was recorded in February of the woman's confession, which the petition alleged was "extracted involuntarily through torture, humiliation, and abusive language" by her employer and her family members.

Man killed in Haryana over cow smuggling suspicion; five held

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM
The Haryana Police has arrested five "goat rakhshaks" (cow vigilantes) for allegedly kidnapping a truck driver and his cleaner on suspicion of cow smuggling in Palwal on a week ago. After being brutally killed, the driver was found 15 km from where it was dumped, the officer said.
The body of Sandeep, the helper, was fished out from a canal on Sunday, eight days after the incident.
The accused, associated with a cow protection group, allegedly assaulted the duo with sticks, iron rods and hammers, causing multiple fractures and stab injuries, a police officer, not wishing to be identified,

belong to Palwal, and the two others — Pawan and Naresh — are residents of Gurugram and Nuh, respectively.
The members of the alleged cow protection group kidnaped the duo on suspicion of cow smuggling, beat them up and threw them into a canal in Gurugram's Sohna.
The First Information Report was registered at the Camp Police Station based on the complaint of Balkishan, the driver who managed to swim to safety.
The deceased Sandeep was a resident of Ganganagar in Rajasthan.

SC seeks measures against 'vulgarity' online

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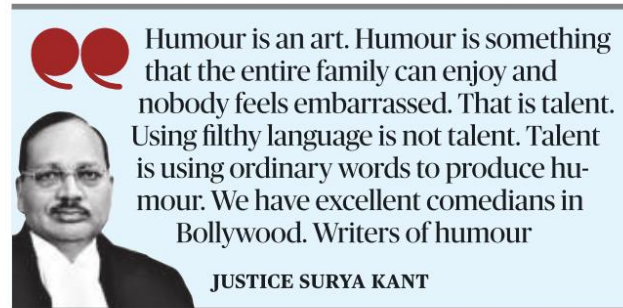
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dia was experiencing "some repentance".

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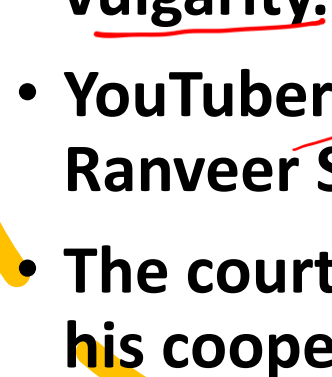
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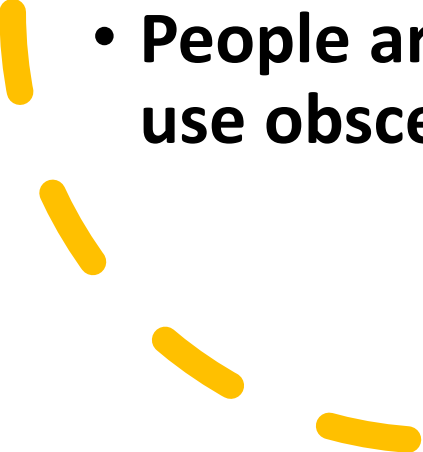
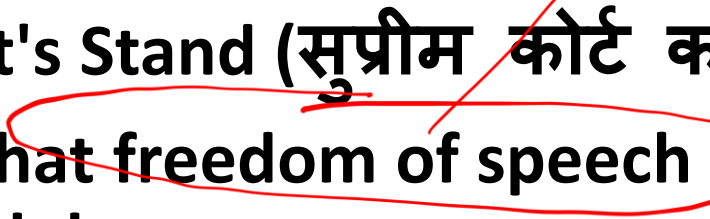


The Bench directed the Gauhati Police to convey to the YouTuber the date and time of his appearance.



Justice Kant said the request to travel overseas would be considered after he joined the investigation. Meanwhile, the court extended the interim protection from arrest for Mr. Allahbadia.

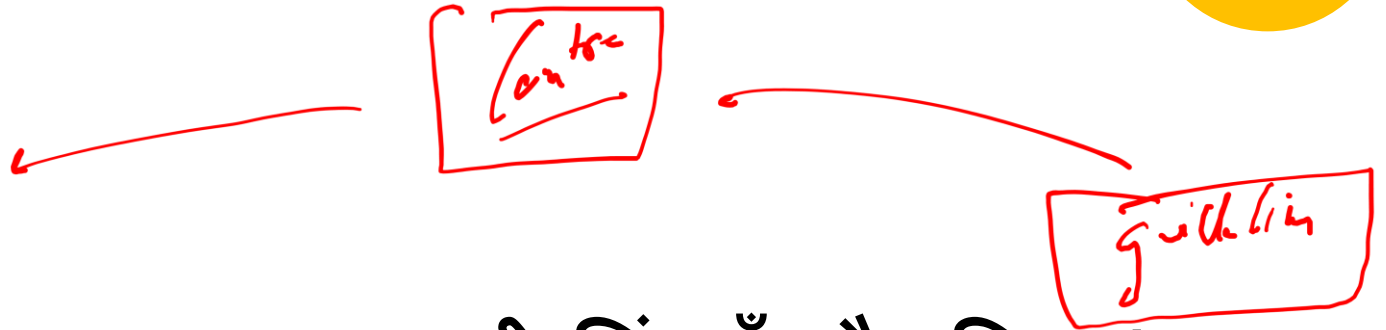
The court will take up the case again on April 1.

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- Supreme Court Seeks Measures Against Online Vulgarity (सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ऑनलाइन अभद्रता पर नियंत्रण के लिए उपाय मांगे)
 - The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to suggest regulatory measures to curb the use of vulgar and obscene language in online content.
 - Justice Surya Kant emphasized the distinction between humor and vulgarity.
 - YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia was allowed to resume his podcast, "The Ranveer Show," under conditions of maintaining "morality and decency."
 - The court also considered his request to travel abroad, contingent upon his cooperation with investigations.
- 

- (सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार से ऑनलाइन सामग्री में अश्लील भाषा पर रोक लगाने के लिए नियामक उपायों का सुझाव देने को कहा है।
- न्यायमूर्ति सुर्य कांत ने हास्य और अश्लीलता के बीच अंतर को रेखांकित किया।
- यट्यबर रणवीर अल्लाहबादिया को "द रणवीर शो" फिर से शुरू करने की अनुमति दी गई, बशर्ते वे "नैतिकता और शालीनता" बनाए रखें।
- अदालत ने विदेश यात्रा की उनकी याचिका पर भी विचार किया, लेकिन जांच में सहयोग की शर्त रखी।)

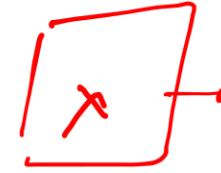
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- **2. Supreme Court's Stand (सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख)**
 - The court ruled that freedom of speech must be balanced with responsibility and decency.
 - Justice Surya Kant said humor is an art but using vulgarity is not talent.
 - People are free to watch any content, but content creators cannot use obscenity as a commercial strategy.
- 
- 
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- (अदालत ने कहा कि अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को जिम्मेदारी और शालीनता के साथ संतुलित किया जाना चाहिए।
 - न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत ने कहा कि हास्य एक कला है, लेकिन अश्लीलता का उपयोग प्रतिभा नहीं है।
 - लोग किसी भी सामग्री को देखने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं, लेकिन कंटेंट क्रिएटर्स को व्यावसायिक रणनीति के रूप में अश्लीलता का उपयोग करने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।)
- 


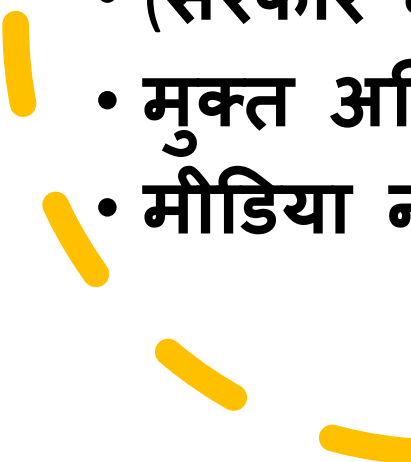


- **3. Legal Concerns and Regulations (कानूनी चिंताएँ और नियम)**
- The court emphasized the need for a regulatory framework to control explicit content without violating free speech rights.
- The Centre was asked to propose legal guidelines to ensure content adheres to "well-known moral standards" of Indian society.
- Justice Kant highlighted that fundamental rights come with duties and cannot be absolute.

- (अदालत ने स्पष्ट सामग्री को नियंत्रित करने के लिए एक नियामक ढांचे की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया, लेकिन मुक्त अभिव्यक्ति के अधिकारों का उल्लंघन नहीं होना चाहिए।
- सरकार से ऐसे कानूनी दिशा-निर्देश प्रस्तावित करने के लिए कहा गया, जो भारतीय समाज के "प्रसिद्ध नैतिक मानकों" का पालन सुनिश्चित करें।
- न्यायमूर्ति कांत ने कहा कि मौलिक अधिकारों के साथ कर्तव्य भी आते हैं और वे पूर्ण नहीं हो सकते।)



- A. Social Aspects (सामाजिक पहलू)
- Growing concerns about the impact of explicit content on youth.
- Encourages responsible content creation in digital platforms.
- Public discourse on morality and decency in online media.
- (युवाओं पर स्पष्ट सामग्री के प्रभाव को लेकर बढ़ती चिंताएँ।
- डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म पर जिम्मेदार सामग्री निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित करता है।
- ऑनलाइन मीडिया में नैतिकता और शालीनता पर सार्वजनिक चर्चा।)

- 
- **B. Political Aspects (राजनीतिक पहलू)**
 - **The government may introduce new digital content regulations.**
 - **Tension between free speech advocates and regulators.**
 - **Influence of judicial decisions on media policies.**
 - **(सरकार नए डिजिटल सामग्री नियम ला सकती है।**
 - **मुक्त अभिव्यक्ति समर्थकों और नियामकों के बीच तनाव।**
 - **मीडिया नीतियों पर न्यायिक निर्णयों का प्रभाव।)**
- 

C. Legal Aspects (कानूनी पहलू)

Regulating online content without violating fundamental rights.

Implementation of digital censorship policies within constitutional limits.

Balancing entertainment freedom with public morality.

(मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन किए बिना ऑनलाइन सामग्री को विनियमित करना।

संवैधानिक सीमाओं के भीतर डिजिटल सेंसरशिप नीतियों को लागू करना।

मनोरंजन की स्वतंत्रता और सार्वजनिक नैतिकता के बीच संतुलन बनाना।)

Anora's night at the Oscars

Here are the winners in key categories at the **97th Academy Awards**, held in Hollywood on Sunday



Best picture: **Anora**

Original screenplay

Anora (Sean Baker)

Editing

Anora
(Sean Baker)

Original score

The Brutalist
(Daniel Blumberg)

Best director:
Sean Baker, *Anora*

Cinematography

The Brutalist
(Lol Crowley)

Visual effects

Dune: Part Two
(Lambert, James, Salcombe, Nefzer)

Sound

Dune: Part Two
(John, King, Bartlett, Hemphill)

Production design

Wicked (Nathan Crowley)
Set Decoration:
Lee Sandales

Animated feature

Flow

Adapted screenplay

Conclave
(Peter Straughan)

Original song

El Mal
(Emilia Pérez)
Ducol, Camille, Audiard

Documentary feature

No Other Land



Costume design

Wicked
(Paul Tazewell)

International film

I'm Still Here
(Brazil)

Documentary short

The Only Girl In The Orchestra

Best actor

Adrien Brody
The Brutalist



Best actress

Mikey Madison
Anora

Supporting actress

Zoe Saldaña
Emilia Pérez

Supporting actor

Kieran Culkin
A Real Pain



Paytm's parent firm gets notice from ED over FEMA breach

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a show-cause notice to One97 Communication Ltd., the parent company of Paytm, its managing director, and others for alleged contraventions of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) involving ₹381 crore.

"We are working towards resolving the matter in accordance with applicable laws and regulatory processes. We remain committed to strengthening processes in adherence and upholding the highest standards of compliance and governance," a Paytm spokesperson said.

Notice issued
The show-cause notice has been issued by the Special Director of Enforcement Directorate against Paytm's flagship company and 19 subsidiary companies, including Little Internet Private Ltd. and Nearbuy India Private Ltd.

"Investigation conducted by the ED reveals that Paytm's flagship company OCL had made foreign investment in Singapore and did not file necessary reporting to the Reserve Bank of India for creation of overseas step-down subsidiary. Further, OCL had also received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from overseas investors without following proper pricing guidelines stipulated by RBI," the agency said on Monday.

The agency says the alleged violation involves ₹381 crore in foreign investment in Singapore.

"Received FDI" The OCL's subsidiary company in India, Little Internet Private Ltd., had also received FDI, allegedly without following the pricing guidelines stipulated by the RBI.

Nearbuy India did not report the FDI receipt within the timeframe prescribed by the RBI, the agency claimed.

HC halts ACB action against ex-SEBI chief, others till today

Court will hear petitions by Buch, BSE MD Sundaraman Ramamurthy, and others seeking to quash an order for an FIR against them for alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday asked the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) not to act until today on a special court order directing it to register a first information report against former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five others for alleged stock market fraud, regulatory violations, and corruption linked to the listing of a company in 1994.

The special court on March 3 directed the ACB to register an FIR against Ms. Buch; whole-time SEBI Director Ashwani Bhalla; Ananth Narayan G. and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney BSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Sunandaraman Ramamurthy and former Chairman and Public Interest Director Pramod Agarwal.



Quick relief: Madhabi Puri Buch and others moved the High Court challenging the March 3 special court order. FILE PHOTO

"The allegations disclose a cognisable offence, necessitating an investigation. There is prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion, requiring a fair and impartial probe. The inaction by law enforcement and SEBI necessitates judicial intervention under Section 156(3) CrPC."

He directed the ACB of Mumbai to register an FIR under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of

Corruption Act, the SEBI Act, and other applicable laws.

"The investigation shall be monitored by this court. A status report shall be submitted within 30 days," the order said.

The petitioners argued before the High Court that the special court order was legally unsustainable as they had not even been issued a notice or were heard before a decision was taken against them.

The complaint in this case was filed by Sapan Shrivastava, 47, a legal reporter from Dombivli in Maharashtra's Thane district. He sought registration of FIR and investigation into alleged large-scale financial fraud, regulatory violations, and corruption.

The charges pertain to the alleged fraudulent listing of Cadila Refineries Ltd. on the stock exchange in 1994, with the active complicity of regulatory authorities, particularly SEBI, without compliance under the SEBI Act, 1992.

Ramzan routine



Bowling in plenty: People praying at a mosque in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar on Monday, the second day of the month of Ramadan. ISRAH NASSAR

Haryana Police arrest two days after the body of Congress worker

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Two days after the body of Congress worker Himant Narwal was found inside a suitcase at Sample in Rohtak, the Haryana Police on Monday arrested her friend, a 30-year-old mobile repair shop owner, in connection with the murder.

K.K. Rao, Additional Director-General of Police, Rohtak Range, said the accused, Sachin, alias Dhillu, had befriended Himant on social media over a year ago. He strangled her with a mobile cord on February 28 after an altercation between the two over money. The accused had come to Himant's house on the evening of February 27 and stayed overnight, he said. He was a frequent visitor to Himant's Vijay Nagar residence in Rohtak, where she was residing alone, and the two often talked over phone as well, said Mr Rao.

Sachin, a resident of Bhaljar district, is married and has two children. He was produced before the court during the three days police custody.

The accused purportedly told the police during interrogation that the woman was blackmailing him and trying to extort money from him leading to the altercation. Mr. Rao, however, said the claims made by the accused were being verified.

After the murder, which the police said was not a domestic violence case, the accused took away the jewellery and cash of the deceased, including her laptop, and hid them at his shop in Kananda village of Bhaljar.

India launches multi-nation alliance for collaboration on sustainable development

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Monday launched the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C3), a multi-nation alliance for city-to-city collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and private sector partnerships for sustainable urban development.

This forum would provide a critical platform for policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and development partners to discuss and implement sustainable solutions in waste management and resource efficiency as economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Reuse and recycle Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a special written message to delegates at the launch, said India follows and strongly advocates the P (Pro-Planet) People) approach and highlighted the role of 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) and circular economy principles in ensuring sustainable urban

Supreme Court to examine plea against Rules on blocking of online content without notice

Krishnadhas Rajaseopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the response of the government on a plea challenging Rules empowering it to block content on social media platforms without prior notice or fair hearing to persons who upload them.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai issued notice to the Union of India and Ministry of Electronics and Information on a writ petition filed by Software Freedom Law Centre, represented by senior advocate Indra Jaishankar and advocate Paras Nath Singh, challenging provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.



IT Rules, 2009 make it optional for the government to inform the creator about the proposed action to block content. FILE PHOTO

Rules 8 and 9 make it optional for the government to inform the original creator of the online content about the proposed action to block it. In fact, Rule 9 allows the government to block content in cases of "emergency" without a word to the creator of the information.

The petition said Rule 9 is arbitrary and does not protect emergency provision to block user content. Lack of prior notice, a reasoned order, a procedure to address grievances or even an opportunity to be heard leave online content creators in the dark without a legal recourse.

The petition sought a response from the Gujarat government, which is currently the subject of the case. The Hindu's Ahmedabad correspondent, Mahesh Langa, against two orders of the State High Court, declining him regular bail on February 6 in separate cases.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice and listed the petitions in two weeks after senior advocates Mahesh Langa and Anshu Maheshwari argued it was in public interest to grant bail to Mr. Langa and Sandeep Mehta. Further, the petition contended that the petitioners constitute offences covered by the penal provisions of the Indian Penal Code, only provisions of the Indian Penal Code were invoked in the case.

"This is a deliberate attempt to bypass procedural safeguards provided under the GST Act," the petition submitted.

Visually challenged persons suitable for judicial service: SC

Krishnadhas Rajaseopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a significant judgment on procedural barriers, must be removed to uphold substantive equality.

Differently abled persons who have the requisite educational qualifications for applying to the posts under judicial service must not be ignored.

The court said relaxation could be done in assessing suitability of candidates when enough PwDs were not available after selection in their respective category and in accordance with the Rules.

"Separate cut-off" "A separate cut-off is to be maintained and selection made accordingly for visually impaired candidates," Justice Pardiwala directed.

The judgment was based on a letter written by the mother of a visually impaired candidate who applied in Madhya Pradesh and was rejected.

The court had taken suo motu cognisance of the letter that she had sent.

that results in the exclusion of persons with disabilities (PwDs) from judicial service, that is, either through rigid cut-offs or procedural barriers, must be removed to uphold substantive equality.

"If there is one principle that forms part of the bedrock of the Constitution, it is 'inclusivity' on which also rests the doctrine of equality," a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan observed in a 122-page judgment.

The court said it was high time Parliament considered amending Article 15 of the Constitution to include "disability" as a ground for non-discrimination.

"Disability" as a ground for non-discrimination was not included in Article 15. A constitutional amendment to Article 15 to address this glaring omission has been long-pending.

The demand of the disability rights movement," Justice Pardiwala, who authored the judgment, noted.

The top court said any indirect discrimination

"There could be a mandate to the state to give notice to original creators if they are identifiable," Justice Gavai remarked.

Ms. Jaishankar said the right to be put to notice and a fair hearing were intrinsic to the freedom of speech and expression.

She said the opacity is worsened by Rule 16 which facilitates a blanket content removal without receiving requests, complaints and notices.

Prior notice to the intermediary does not protect the rights of the content creator. The intermediary has no obligation to represent the originator or provide a defence on their behalf. Online intermediaries are protected by the 'safe harbour' clause under Section 79 (an intermediary shall not be liable for any third party information) of the Information Technology Act.

They have no option but to comply with the government's blocking action to not jeopardise their operations in the country.

Ms. Jaishankar said the government takes advantage of the language of Rules 8 and 9, which allow the de-legitimisation of the proposed blocking action either to the intermediary concerned or the original creator. The notice inevitably goes to the intermediary.

Ms. Jaishankar said the 'or' should be replaced with 'and' so that both creators and intermediaries get the blocking notice. Rule 16, on the other hand, must simply be struck down as unconstitutional.

The second part of Parliament's Budget Session will begin on March 10 and end on April 4.

Additional sessions of the House will be held in the Patiala House Court to file the Central agency to seek its reply by March 5.

C-3

ISA

India launches multi-nation alliance for collaboration on sustainable development

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Monday launched the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3), a multi-nation alliance for city-to-city collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and private sector partnerships for sustainable urban development.

This forum would provide a critical platform for policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and development partners to discuss and implement sustainable solutions for waste management and resource efficiency as economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Reuse and recycle

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a special written message to delegates at the launch, said India follows and strongly advocates the P (Pro-Planet People) approach and highlighted the role of 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) and circular economy principles in ensuring sustainable urban



Narendra Modi

development and resource efficiency.

He also mentioned that India has always been more than willing to share its experiences and learning in its journey towards creating a circular economy. "We propose that a working group of member nations be formed after this forum to finalise the coalition's structure and operational framework," he said.

A key Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for CITIIS 2.0 was also signed at the launch event in Jaipur.

Union Minister of Hous-

ing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal announced that agreements worth ₹1,800 crore will be signed under this initiative, benefiting 18 cities across 14 States, and serving as lighthouse projects for other urban areas.

Environmental issues

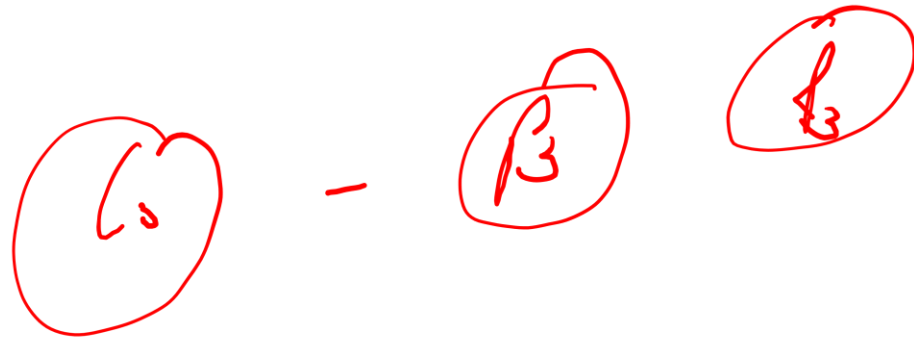
The Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was launched in 2009 to promote sustainable waste management, resource efficiency, and circular economy principles across the region. Recognising the environmental challenges posed by rapid economic growth, resource depletion, and rising waste generation, the forum has served as a key platform for policy dialogue and capacity building.

A major milestone was the adoption of the Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023), which outlined 33 voluntary goals for shifting towards a more resource-efficient and circular economy.

India Launches Multi-Nation Alliance for Sustainable Development (भारत ने सतत विकास के लिए बहुराष्ट्रीय गठबंधन शुरू किया)

India launched the "Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)", a multi-nation initiative for city-to-city collaboration, knowledge sharing, and private sector partnerships for sustainable urban development.

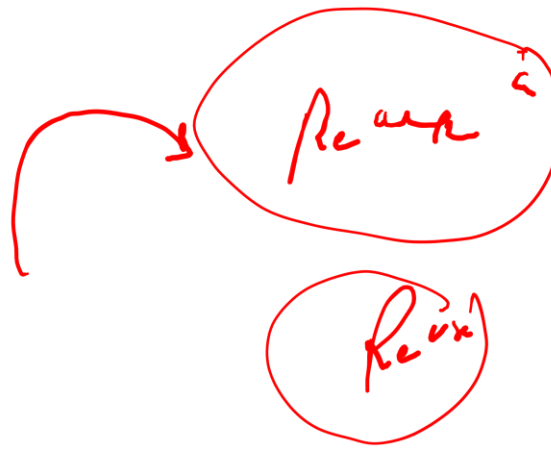
The coalition will focus on waste management and resource efficiency, benefiting economies in the Asia-Pacific region.




C - P 3


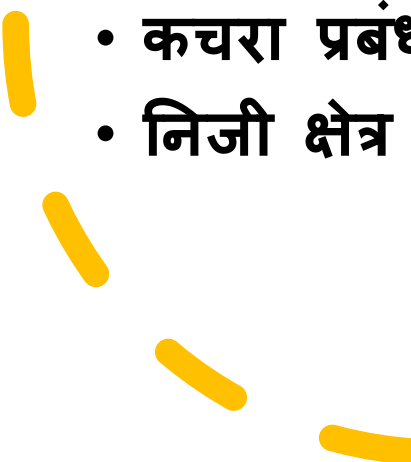
- PM Narendra Modi emphasized the "Pro-Planet People" (P3) approach, highlighting the importance of "3R" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) for circular economy principles.
- An MoU for "CITIIS 2.0" was signed to implement this initiative in Indian cities.
- Union Minister Manohar Lal announced agreements worth ₹1,800 crore under this initiative, covering 18 cities across 14 states.

- (भारत ने "सिटीज़ कोएलिशन फॉर सर्कलैरिटी (C-3)" लॉन्च किया, जो शहरों के बीच सहयोग, ज्ञान-साझाकरण और निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी के लिए एक बहुराष्ट्रीय पहल है।
- यह गठबंधन अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन और संसाधन दक्षता पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेगा, जिससे एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को लाभ मिलेगा।
- प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने "प्रो-प्लैनेट पीपल" (P3) दृष्टिकोण को रेखांकित किया और "3R" (कम करना, पुनः उपयोग करना, पुनर्चक्रण) के महत्व को उजागर किया।
- "CITAS 2.0" के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) भी इस पहल को लागू करने के लिए हस्ताक्षरित किया गया।
- केंद्रीय मंत्री मनोहर लाल ने इस पहल के तहत 18 शहरों में 1,800 करोड़ रुपये के समझौतों की घोषणा की।)



- A. Social Aspects (सामाजिक पहलू)
- Promotes sustainable living by reducing urban waste.
- Encourages ~~behavioral~~ change among citizens to adopt recycling habits.
- Strengthens city-to-city collaboration for urban development.
- (नागरिकों में कचरे को कम करने और पुनर्चक्रण को अपनाने की प्रवृत्ति को बढ़ावा देता है।
- शहरी विकास के लिए शहर-से-शहर सहयोग को मजबूत करता है।)

- 
- **C. Environmental Aspects (पर्यावरणीय पहलू)**
 - **Addresses environmental issues caused by rapid urbanization.**
 - **Supports "3R" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) strategies for sustainable waste management.**
 - **Encourages eco-friendly infrastructure in cities.**
 - **(तेजी से हो रहे शहरीकरण से उत्पन्न पर्यावरणीय समस्याओं का समाधान करता है।**
 - **"3R" रणनीतियों को अपनाकर सतत कचरा प्रबंधन को बढ़ावा देता है।**
 - **शहरों में पर्यावरण-अनुकूल बुनियादी ढांचे को प्रोत्साहित करता है।)**

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- **D. Economic Aspects (आर्थिक पहलू)**
 - **Investment of ₹1,800 crore in urban sustainability projects.**
 - **Promotes job creation in waste management and circular economy sectors.**
 - **Encourages private sector participation in sustainable urban development.**
 - **(₹1,800 करोड़ रुपये की शहरी सतत विकास परियोजनाओं में निवेश।**
 - **कचरा प्रबंधन और परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था क्षेत्रों में रोजगार सृजन को बढ़ावा देता है।**
 - **निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करता है।)**
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IN BRIEF

Tiger Zeenat to be released into larger enclosure soon

Tiger Zeenat, which had strayed into Jharkhand and West Bengal in December before being tranquillised and brought back to Odisha's Simulipal Tiger Reserve (STR), is expected to be released into a larger enclosure as part of a phased acclimatisation process. Odisha's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Prem Kumar Jha said the bigger enclosure was ready for Zeenat, which is currently in a small enclosure spread over two hectares of forestland inside the STR. The three-year-old female tiger was earlier translocated from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to the STR to boost the reserve's big cat population.

PM chairs wildlife Board meet, announces conservation plans

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced the Asiatic lion population estimation exercise in May and unveiled conservation plans for tigers, gharials and a critically endangered bird, while pushing for using AI to combat forest fires and human-animal conflicts. He made a slew of announcements while chairing the seventh meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) in his capacity as ex-officio chairperson, at Sasan in Gujarat's Junagadh district. At the meeting, which was chaired by Wildlife Day, Mr. Modi virtually laid the foundation stone of a National Referral Centre for Wildlife at Junagadh.

Study finds 6,327 Gangetic dolphins across four States

Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases the report, since different methods were used for the previous counts, latest number will not be useful in gauging the change in population

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The first estimate of Gangetic dolphins, the only riverine dolphins in India, has found 6,327 of them in the Ganga and its tributaries. Previous attempts at mapping the population have relied on vastly different methods, and so the latest number is not useful for insight on whether their numbers have changed over time, experts associated with the study told *The Hindu*.

A press report by the Environment Ministry on Monday, World Wildlife Day, said there were 6,324 Ganges river dolphins and three Indus river dolphins (a related species). There were an average 3,275 dolphins in the main stem of the Ganga; 2,414 in the Ganga tributaries; 584 in the Brahmaputra main stem; 412 in the Brahmaputra tributaries; and 101 in the Beas river. The effort began in 2021 and spans a cumulative distance of 8,507 km.

Deep dive

The first estimate of Gangetic dolphins in India has found 6,327 of them in the Ganga and its tributaries



The survey started in 2021 and covered 8,507 km. The survey was led by the National Board for Wildlife, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

counting dolphins is challenging. For one, the animals are under water and surface only sporadically to breathe. Second, unlike the tiger's stripes and the elephants' ears that can be caught on camera and used to distinguish one animal from the other, individual dolphins cannot be uniquely identified by tags. For their survey, the researchers travelled by boat at a constant speed using acoustic hydrophones — essentially underwater microphones that pick up sounds emitted by dolphins. The animals are blind and rely on echolocation to communicate and move.

"Using hydrophones and two different sets of observers on the boat, we triangulated the presence of a dolphin, and we also have to ensure that the same dolphin isn't counted twice," Gamar Qureshi, for-empire of the Wildlife Institute of India and closely connected with the survey, said.

The next survey will likely take place after four years. For the current study, many of the surveyors had to be trained in the new techniques that were reported in *The Hindu*. The major challenge to dolphins is getting entangled in fishermen's nets,

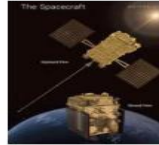
but we are now studying the effect of pollution on the dolphins' habitat," Mr. Qureshi added. The dolphin report was officially made public on Monday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a visit to Gujarat, where he chaired a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife. He said the report was compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India and Gujarat, where he chaired a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife. He said the report was compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India and Gujarat, where he chaired a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife. He said the report was compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India and Gujarat, where he chaired a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife.

The highest number of dolphins were reported in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

ISRO releases second set of scientific data from Aditya mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the second set of scientific data from the Aditya-L1 solar mission. The datasets comprise valuable scientific information about the Sun's photosphere, chromosphere and its outer atmosphere (corona) along with the in-situ particles and magnetic field measurements at first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point L1, the ISRO said.



The Aditya-L1 mission was launched in 2023 by the ISRO aboard the PSLV C-57 rocket.

ISRO encourages the community of researchers and students to utilise these datasets. The user manuals to analyse Aditya-L1 payload data are also available on the above web address after registration," the ISRO said.

The Aditya-L1 mission was launched on September 2, 2023 by the ISRO aboard the PSLV C-57 rocket. On January 6, 2024, the spacecraft was successfully placed in a large halo orbit around the first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point known as Lagrange Point (L1). The L1 point is 1.5 million kilometres from earth towards the Sun.

High-powered defence committee identifies key thrust areas for modernisation of IAF

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Empowered Committee for Capability Enhancement of the Indian Air Force, headed by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for medium- and long-term measures in its report presented to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday.

In the report, the IAF had listed priorities for addressing the shortfall in fighter jet numbers, an official source said. The recommendations will be looked at in a holistic manner and the government is open to take necessary measures, the source added.

The high-powered committee was constituted on the back of huge delays in fighter induction in the IAF amid rapid modernisation



Rajnath Singh flanked by Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, left, and Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on Monday. An

efforts by adversaries. "The report also underscores the need for impetus to enhance 'Astmanirbharta' in the aerospace domain with the private sector complementing the effort of Defence Public Sector Undertakings and

time-bound manner, it stated.

Indigenisation will be a key aspect, with significant involvement of the private sector to bring in efficiency and quickly ramp up capacities, sources stated adding that the measures needed in the near and short term will be time bound.

The committee was formed on the directions of the Defence Minister to "holistically" examine all issues and prepare a clear plan of action. It was chaired by the Defence Secretary, with the Vice Chief of Air Staff, Secretary, Defence Production and

the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Ministry statement said. The Defence Minister appreciated the work of the committee and directed that the recommendations be followed up in a

time-bound manner, it stated.

The IAF is currently at 31 fighter squadrons as against the sanctioned strength of 42.5. While deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft-Mk1A were delayed, several of the existing fighter jets, such as the Jaguar, MiG-29UPC and Mirage-2000, will also be phased out by the end of this decade.

The bigger and more capable LCA-Mk2 is under development while the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the country's fifth generation jet, is at least a decade away.

The report was meant to seek the recommendations to be submitted by the end of

January but saw some delay.

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For 100% circularity in dairy sector, go beyond dung and process skin, bones: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Maintaining that developing the dairy sector is not only the way to control the exodus of people from villages to cities, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said circularity in the sector should not be limited to processing dung, but should include using skin and bones of the cattle and making machinery used in the segment in the cooperative sector.

Inaugurating a workshop on "Sustainability and circularity in dairy sector" organised by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying here on Monday, Mr. Shah directed the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to seek the capabilities of organising small

private dairies in the process. He added that cooperatives should be able to make all machines in the dairy sector and should start exporting it to the global market.

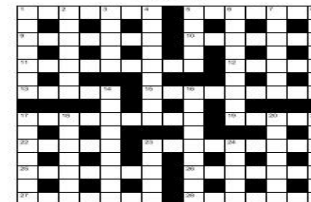
"Profit for people"

"At present, the emphasis should be given on setting up the entire chain from farm to factory in the village itself. To uplift marginal farmers, it is crucial to map a journey from villages to the global stage, fostering confidence through collective efforts and establishing a comprehensive farm-to-factory value chain," Mr. Shah said. He added that the objective of cooperatives was to earn profit and to put "people first". "We can realise the principle of 'profit for people' only through cooperatives," he added.

Navalpakam Sri Vasudevachariar said in a discourse that a mother is the best Karma-yogi who grows her child braving against all odds and impediments. If the child grows well and becomes a good personality, that is the fruit of the mother's efforts, which results from God's blessing.

A mother rejoices at the birth of her son, but even more so when he is raised as a nobleman (Bhadra-pu-trin - kural 69). Lord Krishna says, "Do your duty and leave the rest to Me". Controlling one's mind is essential. Lord Krishna suggested two ways: practice godly deeds and detach from desires and worldly pleasures. It should not be the other way around. Vedas say desires are like the ocean. Detachment is the prelude to Karma Yoga. Anger is an extension of desires. If we control desires, anger will not develop.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14423
(set by Avtaar)



- Across**
- Nick trimmed perfect cut of meat (7)
 - A dog taking out heroes in the old African capital (7)
 - Skipping prayer with priest in club? (7)
 - Bits of emerald and ruby on Miss Luxembourg's scarf (7)
 - Lone wolf Carol gave the game away (8)
 - Hear college contest lost money (5)

- Powerful caucus controlling state of crude oil - cunning, extremely greedy groups (8)
- Preposterous act on stacking individual parts of rockets (9)
- Fires rfiles (5)
- Wrong answer by young girl (5)
- Epic tale about drowning island's extremity (9)
- Blind dog removing top from soil (7)
- Apprentice hotel's fencing the field in which it gets audience (7)
- Women's show from India showed up at Tanzania borders (7)
- Procession of fighters in New York (7)
- Down
- Numbers starts to exhaust some getting entertained in French city (7)
- Rector and church groups land in court (7)
- Recess in waffle, iron fixed up (5)
- Girl wearing fancy thing with private item of attire (9)
- State of Avtaar overwhelmed by desire (5)
- Executive rewarded discounted cash flow mostly with future interest increases, to start with (9)
- Essence of article on unusual lion from an African near basin (7)
- Labney, plastic material (7)
- Book in bond vehicle described by Spooner (9)
- Enemy hints about following through, nevertheless (2,5,2)
- Greek character moved to music toplest with distinct changes in expression (7)
- Waken, punching top of right ear's bone (7)
- Russian who produced dramatic outcomes announced king's threatened and finished queen off (7)
- Light outside officer's lodge (7)
- Pacific island's Indian coach (5)
- Do section 25/26 (5)

SUDOKU

1	2	8	5	6	
1	8	2	6	5	
6	9	2	3	1	4
3	1	4	2	1	5

Solution to previous puzzle

9	7	8	2	4	1	6	5
6	4	1	5	9	3	8	7
5	3	4	6	7	1	2	8
1	6	2	3	8	7	5	9
8	5	3	4	6	9	7	1
2	7	1	8	4	2	6	5
4	2	6	9	3	5	8	7
7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	1	5	9	3	8	7
5	3	4	6	7	1	2	8
1	6	2	3	8	7	5	9
8	5	3	4	6	9	7	1
2	7	1	8	4	2	6	5
4	2	6	9	3	5	8	7
7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5

FAITH

Detachment of desires

The best example of Karma Yoga is the grandstire Bhishma. He dedicated all his deeds to Lord Krishna. He was stubborn in his resolve to protect the kingdom of Hasti napura and did not hesitate to wage war for it. Princess Amba narrated to sage Parashurama that Bhishma was the cause of her blighted life. Parashurama espoused her cause and challenged Bhishma. Undaunted by Parashurama, his Guru, who taught him everything, Bhishma fought with the sage, though Bhishma was no less in showing his reverence to the Guru as he was the best karma yogi. When Duryodhana slandered and cast aspersions on Bhishma, he said, "I may be loving and pouring affection towards Parava, but I will not be an ingrate or devious to you in the battle."

Navalpakam Sri Vasudevachariar said in a discourse that a mother is the best Karma-yogi who grows her child braving against all odds and impediments. If the child grows well and becomes a good personality, that is the fruit of the mother's efforts, which results from God's blessing.

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Study finds 6,327 Gangetic dolphins across four States

Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases the report; since different methods were used for the previous counts, latest number will not be useful in gauging the change in population

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The first estimate of Gangetic dolphins in India, has found 6,327 of them in the Ganga and its tributaries. Previous attempts at mapping the population have relied on vastly different methods, and so the latest number is not useful for insight on whether their numbers have changed over time, experts associated with the study told *The Hindu*.

A press report by the Environment Ministry on Monday, World Wildlife Day, said there were 6,324 Ganges river dolphins, and three Indus river dolphins (a related species). There were an average 3,275 dolphins in the main stem of the Ganga; 2,414 in the Ganga tributaries; 584 in the Brahmaputra main stem; 412 in the Brahmaputra tributaries; and 101 in the Beas river. The effort began in 2021 and spanned a cumulative distance of 8,507 km.

Unlike the counting of tigers, elephants and other land animals in the forest,

counting dolphins is challenging. For one, the animals are under water and surface only sporadically to breathe. Second, unlike the tiger's stripes and the elephants' ears that can be caught on camera and used to distinguish one animal from the other, individual dolphins cannot be uniquely identified this way. For their survey, the researchers travelled by boat at a constant speed using acoustic hydrophones – essentially underwater microphones – that pick up sounds emitted by the dolphins. The animals are blind and rely on echolocation to communicate and move.

“Using hydrophones and two different sets of observers on the boat, we triangulate the presence of a dolphin, and we also have to ensure that the same dolphin isn't counted twice,” Qamar Qureshi, formerly of the Wildlife Institute of India and closely connected with the survey, said.

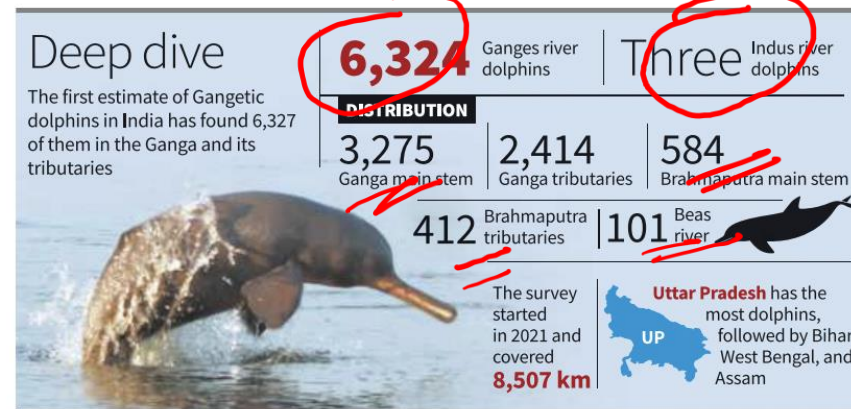
Next survey

The next survey will likely take place after four years. For the current study, many of the surveyors had to be trained in the new techniques that were required. “The major challenge to dolphins is getting entangled in fishermen's nets,

but we are now studying the effect of pollution on the dolphins' habitat,” Mr. Qureshi added.

The dolphin report was officially made public on Monday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a visit to Gujarat, where he chaired a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife. He said that the local populations (in the Gangetic States) were important for conservation measures, and added that schoolchildren ought to be encouraged to visit dolphin habitat.

The highest number of dolphins were reported in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.



S hi

Beas river

6327

3

2021

8507 km
UP
2 Bihar
3 West Bengal
4 Assam

GANGETIC DOLPHIN

(*Platanista gangetica gangetica*)



It is a subspecies of **South Asian River Dolphin**.

Dolphins are **one of the oldest creatures in the world** along with some species of turtles, crocodiles and sharks. The Ganges river dolphin was **officially discovered in 1801**. But the species **is extinct from most of its early distribution ranges**.

They relies heavily on **Echolocation (Sonar Technology) (Ultrasound Waves)** to navigate and hunt.



Long, sharp teeth visible even with

They are **Blind** (Tiny, lensless eye serves for light detection, not imaging).

Blowhole (They **cannot breathe in the water**. It surfaces every 30-120 seconds to breathe in fresh air as it is a mammal).

HABITAT

Slow-flowing freshwater rivers mostly in plains. Often sighted at **river confluences**.

Grey or Light Brown colour

The Ganges river dolphins can **only live in freshwater**

LIFESPAN
18-22 YEARS



Female
(Females are larger than males)

Pinkish Belly

Length:- **2.70 m (Female)**, 2.12 m (Male)

visible even with the mouth closed.

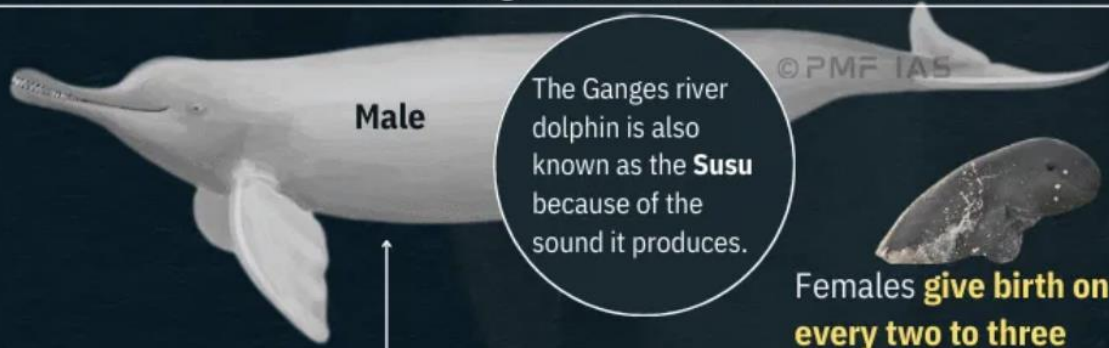


POPULATION

(APPROX.)

3,500-5,000

(80% found in the Indian subcontinent).



The Ganges river dolphin is also known as the **Susu** because of the sound it produces.

Typically seen alone or with one other, but some live in groups of less than 10.

Females **give birth once every two to three years** to only **one calf**).

IUCN Status



Susu
☆
Susu

Infographic by Gaurav Sharma

THREATS



Water-related Infrastructure



Hunting



Pollution



Human Disturbance



Fishing Gear Entanglement



Poaching (for dolphin oil)

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

They are historically distributed in major river systems (**Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu**) of **India, Nepal and Bangladesh**.



CONSERVATION

- Declared the Ganges River Dolphin as **National Aquatic Animal** on 10th May 2010.
- Protected under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- Declared as **non human-persons** by Government of India.
- The **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Bihar** is the **only wildlife sanctuary** in India specifically for the protection of the Gangetic dolphins.
- Dolphin Day: **5th October**
- **Project Dolphin** started in **2020**

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FISCAL HEALTH INDEX

What NITI Aayog's index says about states' fiscal health

NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index (FHI) has ranked Odisha as the best in fiscal performance while Punjab is at the bottom of the list. Building on this, it can develop a macroeconomic performance index for states, with GSDP and price stability among the other indicators, suggests *Debashis Acharya*

FHI RANKINGS

Achiever	Rank	Front runner	Rank	Performer	Rank	Aspirational	Rank
Odisha	1	Maharashtra	6	Tamil Nadu	11	Kerala	15
Chhattisgarh	2	Uttar Pradesh	7	Rajasthan	12	West Bengal	16
Goa	3	Telangana	8	Bihar	13	Andhra Pradesh	17
Jharkhand	4	Madhya Pradesh	9	Haryana	14	Punjab	18
Gujarat	5	Karnataka	10				

Source: Fiscal Health Index, FY23, NITI Aayog

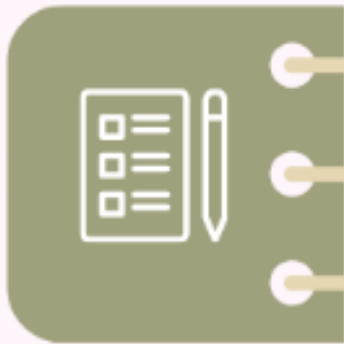
● How is the FHI constructed?

THE COMPOSITE FISCAL health index (FHI) sources data on budgetary transactions for 18 states for FY2022-23 from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). It's an aggregate of five major sub-indices, namely quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt index and debt sustainability. Each major sub-index has a few minor sub-indices. The nine minor sub-indices fall in two categories i.e., improvement index and deprivation index. The minor sub-indices under quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation and debt sustainability are the improvement indices and those under fiscal prudence and debt index are the deprivation indices. The higher values of the variable under improvement index and lower values of the variable under deprivation index are rewarded. For example, Odisha is rewarded in the debt index with a score of 99.0 since its total debt has been declining since 2019-20, and its outstanding liabilities to GSDP ratio has been within the 25% target set by the FRBM. The arithmetic mean of the five major sub-indices yields the final composite FHI.

5

① 4 of 2

UNDERSTANDING MUFA AND PUFA:



What are MUFA and PUFA?

- Monounsaturated Fatty Acids (MUFA): Fats with a single carbon-to-carbon double bond, beneficial for heart health and diabetes control.
- Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA): Fats with multiple carbon-to-carbon double bonds, crucial for cell function, blood clotting, and brain development.



Sources of MUFA and PUFA:

- MUFA Sources: Olive oil, mustard oil, rice bran oil, sunflower oil, avocados, nuts, and seeds.
- PUFA Sources: Fatty fish (salmon, mackerel, sardines), walnuts, flaxseeds, chia seeds, seaweed, and spirulina

*Saturated
fats avoid*



Which is Better for Health?



- MUFA: More effective for heart health and blood sugar control.
- PUFA: Essential for brain development, cell growth, and reducing inflammation.
- Balanced Approach: MUFA and PUFA should be consumed in a 1:1 ratio for optimal health.

Similarities Between Bhakti and Sufi Movements

Aspect	Bhakti Movement	Sufi Movement
Core Belief	Devotion to a personal God (Saguna/Nirguna Bhakti)	Love for God (Ishq-e-Haqiqi) and inner purification
Rejection of Rituals	Opposed caste-based discrimination and idol worship	Provided alternative to orthodox Islamic legalism.
Emphasis on Love and Devotion	Bhakti as a path to liberation (Moksha)	Love as a way to unite with God (Fana – merging with God)
Simple Language for Masses	Used vernacular languages (Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, etc.)	Composed poetry in Hindavi, Persian, and Urdu
Music and Poetry	Bhajans and Kirtans (Mirabai, Tulsidas)	Qawwalis and Sufi poetry (Amir Khusrau, Rumi)

Ishq
Bekah

Swavalambini Scheme

- 
- Swavalambini, a Women Entrepreneurship Programme, was launched at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, to empower female entrepreneurs across India.
- 

What is Swavalambini?


- A **structured entrepreneurship initiative** for young women in **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**.
- **Provides skill development, mentorship, funding support, and incubation opportunities.**

Implemented by: National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and NITI Aayog.

Ministry: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).



- **Aim of the Initiative:**

- **Enhance women's participation in entrepreneurship** through structured training and mentorship.
 - **Promote self-employment and economic independence** among young women.
 - **Encourage at least 10% of trained participants** to establish successful enterprises.
- 

Laureus World Comeback of The Year Award

- > Rebeca Andrade (Brazil) Gymnastics - battling back from injury, she won Olympic gold, two silvers and bronze
- > Caeleb Dressel (USA) Swimming - overcame mental health issues to win two relay golds and a silver in Paris
- > Lara Gut-Behrami (Switzerland) Alpine Skiing - won overall World Cup title for first time since 2015/16 season
- > Marc Márquez (Spain) Motor Cycling - ~~returned~~ from serious injury to win three Grand Prix in 2024
- > Rishabh Pant (India) Cricket - 629 days after a life-threatening car crash, returned to play for India Test team
- > Ariarne Titmus (Australia) Swimming - defended her Olympic 400m freestyle title less than year after being diagnosed with a tumour

Won in 2024

Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan

- *The Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan, launched on 4th March 2025 by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, aims to empower Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).*
- *The initiative focuses on leadership training, governance participation, and gender-inclusive decision-making.*
- *With over 1,200 women leaders, the event highlights women's role in rural development and policy-making.*

Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan

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graph TD; A[Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan] --> B[Overview]; A --> C[Key Highlights of the Workshop]; B --> D["• About: Strengthens Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).  
• Goal: Gender-inclusive, safe, and empowered Gram Panchayats  
• Organizations: UNFPA, TRIF"]; C --> E["• Date & Venue: 4th March 2025, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.  
• 1,200+ women Panchayat leaders attending.  
• Recognition of exemplary women leaders.  
• Launch of training modules & gender-based violence handbook"]; style A fill:#20a397,color:#fff; style B fill:#a0c4ff; style C fill:#f8d7da;
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Overview

- **About:** Strengthens Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- **Goal:** Gender-inclusive, safe, and empowered Gram Panchayats
- **Organizations:** UNFPA, TRIF

Key Highlights of the Workshop

- **Date & Venue:** 4th March 2025, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 1,200+ women Panchayat leaders attending.
- Recognition of exemplary women leaders.
- Launch of training modules & gender-based violence handbook

- ₹2,150 crore – India's highest aid to any neighbor.
- Strengthens Bhutan's economy & security.
- Counters China's Himalayan influence.

Handwritten note: (circled) 2019

Financial Assistance

Handwritten note: Law

Hydropower & Economy

- 40% of Bhutan's budget from hydropower exports to India.
- Major projects: Tala, Chukha, Mangdechhu, Punatsangchhu.
- 2025 Budget: More investment in renewable energy.

INDIA-BHUTAN RELATIONS

Geopolitical Significance


- Siliguri Corridor: Bhutan as India's strategic buffer.
- Doklam (2017): Key role in India's defense.
- Reduces Chinese political influence.

Expanding Collaboration

- Infrastructure: Border roads, trade checkpoints.
- Trade: BBIN corridor → Access to Indian ports.
- Digital: RuPay & UPI for transactions.
- Future: Green hydrogen, climate resilience.

World Wildlife Day 2025



- 
- With more than one million species at risk of extinction amid the escalating triple planetary crisis, World Wildlife Day, a global event marked annually, is dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness about the world's wild animals and plants.

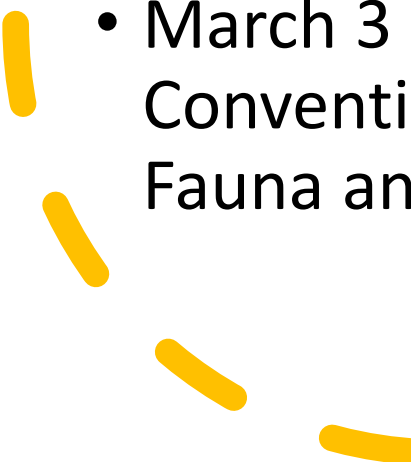
- 
- theme of “***Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet.***”





- **World Wildlife Day 2025: Origin and Significance**

- World Wildlife Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2013, following a proposal by Thailand to draw global attention to the importance of wildlife and to inspire efforts for their protection.



- March 3 was chosen as the date to mark the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

The top 10 species in India that are at risk of extinction, as per the IUCN Red List and WWF:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus indicus</i>	Endangered
Ganges River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica gangetica</i>	Critically Endangered
One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Critically Endangered
Snow Leopard	<i>Panthera uncia</i>	Critically Endangered
Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Endangered
Red Panda	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>	Endangered
Asiatic Lion	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Endangered
Nilgiri Tahr	<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>	Endangered
Indian Bison	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	Critically Endangered
Lion-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca silenus</i>	Endangered



10 MCQ from the session

- What regulatory concern did the Supreme Court recently highlight regarding online content?
- सप्रीम कोर्ट ने हाल ही में ऑनलाइन सामग्री को लेकर कौन सी नियामक चिंता व्यक्त की?
- A. Misinformation and fake news spread / गलत सूचना और फेक न्यूज़ का प्रसार
- B. Use of vulgar and obscene language in online platforms / ऑनलाइन प्लेटफार्मों पर अश्लील और अभद्र भाषा का उपयोग
- C. Censorship of political discussions / राजनीतिक चर्चाओं की संसरशिप
- D. Illegal streaming of copyrighted content / कॉपीराइट सामग्री की अवैध स्ट्रीमिंग

- What principle did the Supreme Court emphasize regarding online content regulation?
- ऑनलाइन सामग्री विनियमन के संबंध में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने किस सिद्धांत पर जोर दिया?
- A. Absolute freedom of speech / पूर्ण अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता
- B. Balancing free speech with responsibility and decency / मुक्त अभिव्यक्ति को जिम्मेदारी और शालीनता के साथ संतुलित करना
- C. Government control over all digital platforms / सभी डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों पर सरकारी नियंत्रण
- D. Banning content creators from monetization / सामग्री निर्माताओं को मुद्रिकरण से प्रतिबंधित करना

- What is the objective of the 'CITIIS 2.0' initiative?
- 'CITIIS 2.0' पहल का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Promoting smart cities and urban innovation / स्मार्ट सिटीज़ और शहरी नवाचार को बढ़ावा देना
- B. Developing India's railway infrastructure / भारत के रेलवे बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास करना
- C. Enhancing India's cybersecurity measures / भारत की साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों को बढ़ाना
- D. Strengthening rural water supply systems / ग्रामीण जल आपूर्ति प्रणालियों को मजबूत करना

- Under the 'CITIIS 2.0' initiative, how much investment was announced for urban projects?
- 'CITIIS 2.0' पहल के तहत शहरी परियोजनाओं के लिए कितनी निवेश राशि की घोषणा की गई?
- A. ₹500 crore
- B. ₹1,200 crore
- C. ₹1,800 crore
- D. ₹2,500 crore

- What is the aim of the 'Swavalambini' initiative launched in Meerut?
- मेरठ में शुरू की गई 'स्वावलंबिनी' पहल का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Providing free education to rural children / ग्रामीण बच्चों को निःशुल्क शिक्षा प्रदान करना
- B. Empowering female entrepreneurs through training and mentorship / महिला उद्यमियों को प्रशिक्षण और मार्गदर्शन के माध्यम से सशक्त बनाना
- C. Developing rural healthcare infrastructure / ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य सेवा अवसंरचना का विकास करना
- D. Improving sports infrastructure in universities / विश्वविद्यालयों में खेल अवसंरचना में सुधार करना

- What is the primary focus of the 'Sashakt Panchayat – Netri Abhiyan'?
- 'सशक्त पंचायत – नेत्री अभियान' का प्राथमिक फोकस क्या है?
- A. Strengthening Women's Participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) / पंचायती राज संस्थानों (PRIs) में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को मजबूत करना
- B. Encouraging foreign investment in rural areas / ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विदेशी निवेश को प्रोत्साहित करना
- C. Providing scholarships for female students in rural areas / ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में छात्राओं के लिए छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान करना
- D. Developing digital banking infrastructure in panchayats / पंचायतों में डिजिटल बैंकिंग बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास करना

- **When is World Wildlife Day celebrated?**
- **विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?**
- **A. February 2**
- **B. March 3**
- **C. April 22**
- **D. June 5**

- **What was the theme of World Wildlife Day 2025?**
- **विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस 2025 की थीम क्या थी?**
- **A. "Conserving Wildlife for Future Generations"**
- **B. "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet"**
- **C. "Sustainable Coexistence with Nature"**
- **D. "Restoring Ecosystems for a Better Tomorrow"**

- Why was March 3 chosen for World Wildlife Day?
- विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस के लिए 3 मार्च को क्यों चुना गया?
- A. It marks the foundation day of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) / यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रकृति संरक्षण संघ (IUCN) की स्थापना तिथि को चिह्नित करता है
- B. It is the day when the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) was adopted / यह वह दिन है जब लप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर कन्वेंशन (CITES) को अपनाया गया था
- C. It was the birth anniversary of a famous conservationist / यह एक प्रसिद्ध संरक्षणवादी की जयंती थी
- D. It was declared by the UN as a global day for environmental awareness / संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा इसे पर्यावरण जागरूकता के वैश्विक दिवस के रूप में घोषित किया गया था

Word of the day

Expurgate:

edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate

Synonyms: bowdlerise, castrate, shorten


Usage: *It was decided to expurgate the existing document, which had been banned in different countries, and release it.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/expurgatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'ɛks.pə.ɡeɪt/



The Only Country with an Open
Nighttime Formula 1 Race



Thank you
guys.
