

Daily Current Affairs



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10 MCQ QUIZ

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- India supported a UN resolution demanding Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. What key principle does the resolution emphasize?
- भारत ने 1967 से कब्जे में लिए गए फिलिस्तीनी क्षेत्रों से इजराइल की वापसी की मांग करने वाले संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रस्ताव का समर्थन किया। यह प्रस्ताव किस मुख्य सिद्धांत पर जोर देता है?
- A. Mutual trade agreements / आपसी व्यापार समझौते
- B. Inalienable rights of Palestinians / फिलिस्तीनियों के अविभाज्य अधिकार
- C. Economic sanctions on Israel / इजराइल पर आर्थिक प्रतिबंध
- D. Military disengagement / सैन्य अलगाव

- 2. The Syrian Golan Heights resolution urged Israel to withdraw to pre-1967 lines. What is India's stand on this issue?
- सीरियाई गोलान पहाड़ियों के प्रस्ताव में इजराइल से 1967 से पहले की सीमाओं तक वापस जाने का आग्रह किया गया। इस मुद्दे पर भारत का क्या रुख है?
- A. Supports the resolution / प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता है
- B. Abstains from voting / मतदान से अनुपस्थित रहता है
- C. Opposes the resolution / प्रस्ताव का विरोध करता है
- D. Maintains neutrality / तटस्थता बनाए रखता है

- The Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in Hyderabad is the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. What is its primary focus?
- गूगल सेफ्टी इंजीनियरिंग सेंटर (GSEC), हैदराबाद में, एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में अपनी तरह का पहला केंद्र है। इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Cybersecurity solutions / साइबर सुरक्षा समाधान
- B. AI-driven online safety products / एआई-आधारित ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा उत्पाद
- C. Cloud data management / क्लाउड डेटा प्रबंधन
- D. Blockchain technology / ब्लॉकचेन तकनीक

- The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 mission was rescheduled due to an anomaly. What was the issue detected?
- PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 मिशन को विसंगति के कारण पुनर्निर्धारित किया गया। पाई गई समस्या क्या थी?
- A. Fuel leakage in the propulsion system / प्रणोदन प्रणाली में ईंधन रिसाव
- B. Issue in the satellite deployment system / उपग्रह तैनाती प्रणाली में समस्या
- C. Redundant propulsion system anomaly / अनावश्यक प्रणोदन प्रणाली में विसंगति
- D. Software malfunction / सॉफ्टवेयर खराबी

- The Kinet joint venture will supply 1,920 Vande Bharat sleeper coaches. What is the total project value?
 - काइनेट संयुक्त उद्यम 1,920 वंदे भारत स्लीपर कोच की आपूर्ति करेगा। परियोजना की कुल लागत क्या है?
-
- A. \$5.5 billion
 - B. \$6.5 billion
 - C. \$7.5 billion
 - D. \$8.5 billion



WE WERE BORN
TO BE REAL
NOT TO BE PERFECT

NEW REPORT
Israel is committing genocide in Gaza: Amnesty
FISCAL AUTONOMY
Hike States' share of Central funds: Stalin
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

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TURMOIL IN FRANCE
Macron seeks new PM after collapse of govt.
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LAC AGREEMENTS
A slow return to normalcy
India and China must engage at all levels to resolve disputes
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

ANOTHER STALEMATE
Gukesh and Ding in sixth straight draw
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INSIDE

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 14 Indian fishermen
RAMESWARAM
The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 14 fishermen from Thangachadam and Rameswaram while they were fishing in the Palk Bay. » PAGE 3

SC dismisses defamation case against Minister
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday quashed and set aside criminal defamation proceedings instituted by the Marasoli Trust against the Union Minister L. Murugan for his comments at a press meet in December 2020. » PAGE 8

India and China hold 32nd border affairs meet
NEW DELHI
In preparation for the meeting of the Special Representatives on boundary resolution, India and China on Thursday held the 32nd Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs meet. » PAGE 4

Bhutan and India discuss Gephphu, hyclid Gephphu
NEW DELHI
India and Bhutan on Thursday discussed bilateral projects in power, urban planning and Gephphu, the mindfulness city, during the visit of the King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk. » PAGE 5

Uproar in House over Hindi, Sanskrit names for new Bills

Opposition targets government, alleges Hindi imposition; Centre defends the move as a reflection of Indian culture and legacy; YSRCP MP S. Niranjan Reddy says the Constitution opposes Hindi title for a Bill whose content is in English

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs sharpened their attack against the Hindi and Sanskrit names of new laws in Parliament on Thursday, accusing the government of engaging in "Hindi imposition" and failing to meet constitutional requirements. The Centre defended the move as a reflection of Indian culture and legacy, noting that it does not violate any laws or the Constitution. The parliamentary fight on the issue, sparked by Tuesday's debate on the Bharatiya Vayuvan Vidhyapeetha Bill, which can be translated as the Indian Aircraft Bill, continued for a third straight day. YSRCP MP S. Niranjan Reddy said there was a



Language issues: Opposition MPs raised slogans in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

constitutional requirement against using a Hindi title for a Bill whose content is in English. "We are now going to have the possibility of a constitutional court, a High Court or the Supreme Court, striking down this part saying that this part is unconstitutional, because Article 348 (B) requires authoritative text to be in English," he said. The mandate of the people in 2024 was for diversity, dividend, and the federal principle, but the government is persisting in the "Hindification" of laws. This is Hindi imposition," said Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose, citing examples such as Bharatiya Vayuvan Vidhyapeetha, which replaced the Indian Penal Code. Dravidia Munnetra Kazhagam MP Karthikeyan

government of engaging in "reactionary tactics". A day later, CPI (M) MP John Brittas had made fun of the "fashion" of naming bills in Hindi. BJP MP Ghanshyam Tiwari accused the Opposition MPs of exposing their own "colonial era mindset". Chief Aviation Minister Kijarapu Ram Mohan Naidu insisted there were no Constitutional or legal violations in the naming of the Bill. "I am a proud Telugu person. I am very proud of my upbringing. But even in the Bharat: is Bharat and yayu is also a Telugu word. So Bharatiya Vayuvan Vidhyapeetha is half Telugu for me. It is a mixture of all languages," he said.

BILL PASSED
» PAGE 8

Fadnavis back as Maharashtra CM for the third time



Power peats: Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar during the swearing-in ceremony on Thursday. EMANUAL YOGINI

The new government was formed after two weeks of negotiations following the November 23 election results, with the BJP-led Mahayuti securing a massive mandate. A special session of the Maharashtra Legislature will be held from December 7 to 9 in Mumbai for the swearing-in of the newly elected members. The Winter Session is likely to follow in Nagpur from December 16 to 23. This marks the third time Mr. Fadnavis, 54, an MLA from Nagpur South-West, would occupy the Chief Minister's office on the sixth floor of the Mantralaya (State administration headquarters). Mr. Fadnavis, an RSS swayamsevak, emerged as the frontrunner for the post after the BJP secured 132 seats in the 288-member Assembly. With allies the Shiv Sena and the NCP, the Mahayuti coalition holds a commanding majority of 230 seats.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Fadnavis, along with his Cabinet colleagues, headed to Mantralaya and chaired his first meeting. He signed his first approving financial order. With the Shiv Sena and the NCP, the Mahayuti coalition holds a commanding majority of 230 seats. The Cabinet formation expected next week.

Also present were actors Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Ranveer Singh and Madhuri Dixit, cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar and industrialists Mukesh Ambani, Noel Kumar Mangalnikar, Kumar Mangalnikar Birla and Deepak Parekh. The Opposition leaders, including NCP(PSD) supremo Sharad Pawar, and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, skipped the ceremony.

FRESH START
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Mission success: The PSLV-C59 carrying two satellites of the European Space Agency lifting off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Thursday. ISRO/APP

Soaring to the skies
The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the PSLV-C59 mission aboard a PSLV-C59 vehicle on Thursday. The PSLV-C59 carrying two satellites of the European Space Agency lifting off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Thursday. ISRO/APP

What is PROBA-3?
The PROBA-3 mission consists of a twin satellite in which two satellites would fly together as one, maintaining a precise formation to study the sun's outer atmosphere. The PSLV-C59 mission is successfully accomplished. The PSLV-C59 has been placed in the right orbit. S. SURESH KUMAR, ISRO Chairman

REPORT ON PAGE 4

Six new faces in 12-strong Hemant Soren Ministry

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday expanded his Cabinet with 12 Ministers. Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar administered the oath of office at a swearing-in ceremony at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi. Of the new Ministers, six belong to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and the remaining six are from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 4

3 die in T.N. after consuming 'contaminated' piped water

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Three persons, including a woman, died in the Pallavaram area here on Thursday allegedly after consuming contaminated piped water. Though initially, government officials denied connecting the deaths to the water supplied, later in the day, the post-mortem on two men said the deaths were caused by severe food poisoning, which could have been caused by contaminated water. On Thursday, Mohana Ranganathan of Pallavaram Cantonment and Thiruvethi of Mangadu, who had come to visit a relative in the area, fell ill and complained of stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhoea-like symptoms. They died



A woman is seen hospitalized at the Chromepet Government Hospital in Chennai.

on their way to the Chromepet Government Hospital, Varalakshmi, 88, a resident of the area. Blood of similar symptoms. Several residents complained of stomach pain and vomiting, and were admitted to the hospital. The Health Department said 34 patients with similar symptoms, who were suffering from diarrhoea, visited the hospital in the past three days. Of them 14 were discharged and 19 were hospitalised. One person is undergoing treatment at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, two others are being treated at a private hospital. State MSME Minister T.M. Anbarasan, Pallavaram M.L.A. E. Karunanidhi and senior officials of the Tambaram Corporation rushed to the affected areas of Pallavaram Cantonment and five streets in Ward 13. A senior official of the Tambaram Corporation said health officials have started camps at six places and have distributed medicines to the residents. Civic body officials have seized a pipe from a house where contaminated water was supplied water in the locality.

UGC draft norms moot biannual admissions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission published the Draft UGC Minimum Standards of Instructions in the Award of UG and PG Degree Regulations, 2024 on Thursday allowing enrolment of students in higher education institutions (HEIs) twice a year. The regulations also allow students to join two undergraduate or post-graduate programmes simultaneously, and make UG and PG aspirants "eligible for admission in any discipline" of their choice, besides offering a multiple entry-exit option. For flexibility UGC Chairman M. Jagadeesh Kumar said the aim of the new guidelines was to provide higher education in the country and introduce greater flexibility.

The regulations incorporate provisions for multiple entry and exit and the flexibility to pursue two UG/PG programmes simultaneously. UGC Chairman M. Jagadeesh Kumar said the aim of the new guidelines was to provide higher education in the country and introduce greater flexibility.

The guidelines also introduce inclusivity, and multidisciplinary learning opportunities for students, he added. "The regulations incorporate provisions for multiple entry and exit, recognition of prior learning, and the flexibility to pursue two UG/PG programmes simultaneously. We have also decoupled eligibility for UG and PG admissions from the rigid discipline-specific requirements of school education, under these regulations, students can choose to study in any programme irrespec-

tive of their past disciplinary qualification if they demonstrate their competency by clearing the relevant entrance examinations," Mr. Kumar said. He noted that these regulations provide autonomy to HEIs to determine student admission requirements, ensuring they align with their academic needs. "Additionally, students will now have the option to earn 50% of their credits in their major discipline under these regulations. Credits can be allocated to skill development, appren-

ticeships, or multidisciplinary subjects, fostering holistic development." The draft allows biannual admission for HEIs as they may admit students twice a year, in July/August and January/February. Provisions for multiple entry and exit, continuous formative assessment, and recognition of prior learning are some of the features of the guidelines. Irrespective of the disciplines taken by a student in Class 12 or in UG, a student is "eligible for admission in any discipline" of UG or PG programmes if the student has qualified in the "National-level UG/PG university-level entrance examination with the discipline of UG/PG programme", it said. A student has to earn a minimum of 50% of total credits in a discipline in the first semester and the second semester and not beyond that," it said.

Uproar in House over Hindi, Sanskrit names for new Bills

Opposition targets government, alleges Hindi imposition; Centre defends the move as a reflection of Indian culture and legacy; YSRCP MP S. Niranjan Reddy says the Constitution opposes Hindi title for a Bill whose content is in English

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs sharpened their attack against the Hindi and Sanskrit names of new laws in Parliament on Thursday, accusing the government of engaging in “Hindi imposition” and failing to meet Constitutional requirements.

The Centre defended the move as a reflection of Indian culture and legacy, noting that it does not violate any laws or the Constitution. The parliamentary fight on the issue, sparked by Tuesday’s debate on the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak – which can be translated as the Indian Aircraft Bill – continued for a third straight day.

YSRCP MP S. Niranjan Reddy said there was a

constitutional requirement against using a Hindi title for a Bill whose content is in English. “We are now going to have the possibility of a constitutional court, a High Court or the Supreme Court, striking down this part saying that this part is unconstitutional because Article 348 (1B) requires authoritative text to be in English,” he said.

“The mandate of the people in 2024 was for diversity, dividend, and the federal principle but the government is persisting in the ‘Hindification’ of laws. This is Hindi imposition,” said Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose, citing examples such as Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which replaced the Indian Penal Code.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Kanimozhi



Language issue: Opposition MPs raising slogans in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

N.V.N. Somu echoed her complaint. “I would like the Union government to change the title of the Bill to Aircraft Bill, 2024. Don’t try to impose Hindi on people who don’t speak Hindi. I request the Union government to refrain from naming Bills in Hindi and Sanskrit,” she said.

Earlier in the debate on Tuesday, Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain said he faced difficulties in pronouncing the name of the Bill and asked why there should be a Hindi name with English script. Noting that nearly 60% of India’s population is non-Hindi speaking, he accused the

government of engaging in “exclusionary tactics”. A day later, CPI (M) MP John Brittas had made fun of the “fashion” of naming Bills in Hindi.

BJP MP Ghanshyam Tiwari accused the Opposition MPs of exposing their own “colonial era mindset”.

Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu insisted there were no Constitutional or legal violations in the naming of the Bill. “I am a proud Telugu person. I am very proud of my upbringing. But even in Telugu, Bharat is Bharat and vayu is also a Telugu word. So Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak is half Telugu for me. It is a mixture of all languages,” he said.

BILL PASSED

» PAGE 5

Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill gets nod in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday passed the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill, 2024, which is expected to provide some relief to aviation personnel in their licensing processes.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on Thursday. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 31 and was passed by the Lower House on August 9.

The most significant

change in the Bill is that the radio telephone operator restricted certificate and licence testing process, which was hitherto conducted by the Department of Telecom for aviation personnel, including aircraft maintenance engineers, flight dispatchers, and pilots, has been moved to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. This will ensure a single-window clearance process as aviation personnel can now secure all their certifi-

cates from one authority. Personnel taking exams, including trainee pilots, have alleged that there was rampant corruption in the conduct of the RTR exam under the DoT, with candidates required to cough up several lakhs in bribes.


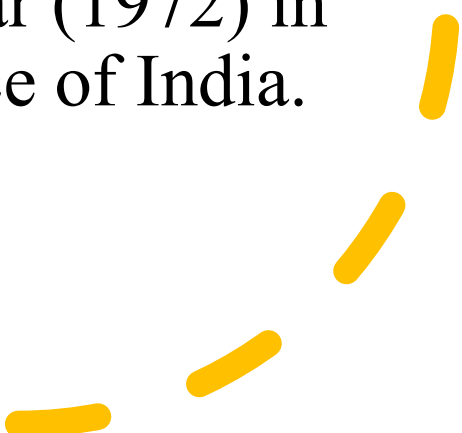
The Bill also adds power to regulate the design of aircraft, as well as the places where they are being designed, in addition to retaining provisions for their manufacture, repair, and maintenance.



Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language.



Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State.

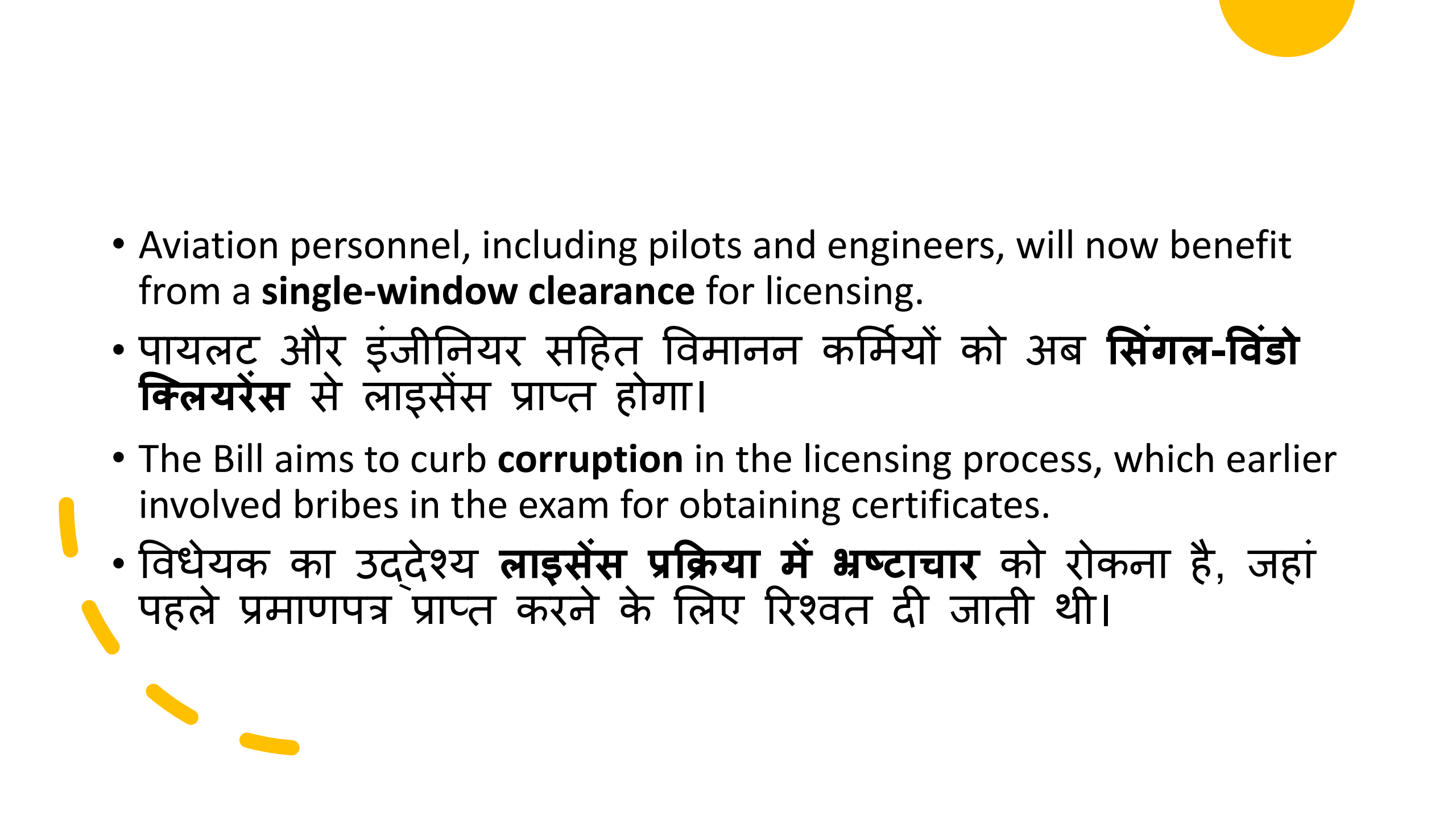
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- The use of Hindi in the proceedings of High Court of Rajasthan was authorized under clause (2) of Article 348 of the constitution in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
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- Parliament passed the **Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill, 2024**, aimed at simplifying aviation personnel licensing.
 - संसद ने **भारतीय वायुवान विधेयक, 2024** पारित किया, जो विमानन कर्मियों के लाइसेंस प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाएगा।
- 

Changes Introduced:

The process of issuing radio telephone operator restricted certificates and licenses has been transferred from the Department of Telecom (DoT) to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

- रेडियो टेलीफोन ऑपरेटर प्रतिबंधित प्रमाणपत्र और लाइसेंस जारी करने की प्रक्रिया को दूरसंचार विभाग से नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया है।

- 
- Aviation personnel, including pilots and engineers, will now benefit from a **single-window clearance** for licensing.
 - पायलट और इंजीनियर सहित विमानन कर्मियों को अब **सिंगल-विंडो क्लियरेंस** से लाइसेंस प्राप्त होगा।
 - The Bill aims to curb **corruption** in the licensing process, which earlier involved bribes in the exam for obtaining certificates.
 - विधेयक का उद्देश्य लाइसेंस प्रक्रिया में भ्रष्टाचार को रोकना है, जहां पहले प्रमाणपत्र प्राप्त करने के लिए रिश्वत दी जाती थी।

1. Provides DGCA with powers to regulate **aircraft design, maintenance, and repairs.**

1. DGCA को **विमान डिज़ाइन, रखरखाव और मरम्मत** को विनियमित करने की शक्ति प्रदान की गई है।

- **Legislative Progress:**

- **Introduced in Lok Sabha** on July 31 and passed by the **Lower House** on August 9.

- इसे **31 जुलाई** को लोकसभा में पेश किया गया था और **9 अगस्त** को पारित किया गया।

- **Objective:**

- To enhance efficiency and transparency in the aviation sector.

- विमानन क्षेत्र में **पारदर्शिता और दक्षता** बढ़ाने के लिए।



44.5 m
Vehicle height

320 t*
Lift-off mass
*tonnes

Soaring to the skies

The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the PROBA-3 (Project for Onboard Autonomy) mission aboard a PSLV-C59 vehicle on Thursday

The Launch: The vehicle took off with a powerful roar precisely at 04.04 p.m. from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota

What is PROBA-3?

The PROBA-3 mission consists of a twin satellite in which two spacecraft (placed inside the satellites) would fly together as one, maintaining a precise formation to study the sun's outer atmosphere

Mission success: The PSLV-C59 carrying two satellites of the European Space Agency lifting off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Thursday. ISRO/AFP

 **The PSLV-C59/
PROBA-3 mis-
sion is successfully
accomplished. The
spacecraft has been
placed in the right orbit**
S. SOMANATH,
ISRO Chairman

UGC draft norms moot biannual admissions

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission published the Draft UGC (Minimum Standards of Instructions in the Award of UG and PG Degrees) Regulations, 2024 on Thursday allowing enrolment of students in higher education institutions (HEIs) twice a year.

The regulations also allow students to join two undergraduate or postgraduate programmes simultaneously, and make UG and PG aspirants “eligible for admission in any discipline” of their choice, besides offering a multiple entry-exit option.

For flexibility

UGC Chairman M. Jagadeesh Kumar said the aim of the new guidelines was to transform higher education in the country and introduce greater flexibility.



 The regulations incorporate provisions for multiple entry and exit and the flexibility to pursue two UG/PG programmes simultaneously

M. JAGADESH KUMAR
UGC Chairman

The guidelines also introduce inclusivity, and multidisciplinary learning opportunities for students, he added. “The regulations incorporate provisions for multiple entry and exit, recognition of prior learning, and the flexibility to pursue two UG/PG programmes simultaneously. We have also decoupled eligibility for UG and PG admissions from the rigid discipline-specific requirements of school education. Under these regulations, students can choose to study in any programme irres-

pective of their past disciplinary qualification if they demonstrate their competency by clearing the relevant entrance examinations,” Mr. Kumar said.

He added that these regulations provide autonomy to HEIs to determine student attendance requirements, ensuring they align with evolving academic needs. “Additionally, students will now have the option to earn 50% of their credits in their major discipline, while the remaining credits can be allocated to skill development, appren-

ticeships, or multidisciplinary subjects, fostering holistic development.”

The draft allows biannual admission for HEIs and they may admit students twice a year, in July/August and January/February. Provisions for multiple entry and exit, continuous formative assessment, and recognition of prior learning are some of the features of the guidelines. Irrespective of the disciplines taken by a student in Class 12 or in UG, a student is “eligible for admission in any discipline” of UG or PG programmes if the student has qualified in the “National-level or University-level entrance examination in the discipline of UG/PG programme”, it said.

“A student has to earn a minimum of 50% of total credits in a discipline to earn an undergraduate degree with a major in that

discipline. For the remaining 50% credits, the students may choose skill courses, apprenticeships and multidisciplinary subjects,” it mandates.

The duration of an undergraduate degree shall be either three or four years, and a postgraduate degree shall normally be either one year or two years, according to the UGC draft. “However, the duration of an undergraduate degree can be shorter or longer,” it said, adding that there are provisions in the Accelerated Degree Programme (ADP) and the Extended Degree Programme (EDP) allowing HEIs to earmark up to 10% of sanctioned intake for ADP with no cap for EDP. “Students shall have the option to choose ADP/EDP either at the end of the first semester or the second semester and not beyond that,” it said.

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- **Biannual Admissions:**
 - Universities and colleges can admit students twice a year in **July/August** and **January/February**.
 - विश्वविद्यालय और कॉलेज वर्ष में दो बार जुलाई/अगस्त और जनवरी/फरवरी में छात्रों को प्रवेश दे सकते हैं।
 - **Flexibility in Programmes:**
 - Students can pursue **two UG/PG programmes simultaneously**.
 - UG and PG admissions are open to all disciplines, based on entrance exam qualifications.
 - छात्र एक साथ दो अंडरग्रेजुएट/पोस्टग्रेजुएट कार्यक्रम कर सकते हैं।
 - प्रवेश परीक्षाओं के आधार पर किसी भी विषय में यूजी और पीजी के लिए प्रवेश उपलब्ध है।

Key Features of the Draft

Multiple Entry and Exit Options:

- Students can opt for multiple entries and exits during their courses.
- Continuous assessment and recognition of prior learning are included.
- छात्र अपने कोर्स के दौरान कई बार प्रवेश और निकास का विकल्प चुन सकते हैं।

- **Skill and Multidisciplinary Focus:**

- 50% of the credits must be earned in a major discipline; the rest can include skill-based courses, internships, and apprenticeships.
- 50% क्रेडिट मुख्य विषय में अर्जित किए जाने चाहिए; शेष में कौशल-आधारित पाठ्यक्रम, इंटरनशिप और अप्रेंटिसशिप शामिल हो सकते हैं।



- **Duration of Degrees:**

- Undergraduate: 3-4 years.

- Postgraduate: 1-2 years.

- **स्नातक: 3-4 वर्ष। स्नातकोत्तर: 1-2 वर्ष।**

- Special provisions for **accelerated (ADP)** or **extended (EDP)** degrees:

- Up to **10%** accelerated intake allowed.

- **त्वरित और विस्तारित डिग्री कार्यक्रमों के लिए विशेष प्रावधान।**



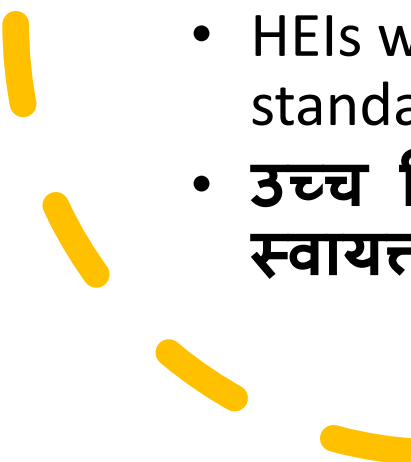


- **Aims and Objectives**

- **Inclusivity and Flexibility:**

- Transform higher education with holistic, inclusive, and flexible learning.
- शिक्षा को समग्र, समावेशी और लचीला बनाने का प्रयास।

- **Autonomy for Institutions:**

- HEIs will have the autonomy to determine attendance and academic standards.
 - उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों को उपस्थिति और शैक्षणिक मानकों को तय करने की स्वायत्तता दी जाएगी।
- 



Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral is pictured ahead of Saturday's reopening ceremony.

Resurrection of France's 'heart', Notre Dame, in five years

Associated Press
PARIS

The day after the inferno struck Notre Dame on April 15, 2019, Philippe Villeneuve walked despondently into the remains of his cathedral. Smoke choked the spring air, the spire lay in rubble, and charred beams littered the nave. "We had lost the framework, the roof, the spire, and three sections of the vault," Villeneuve, its chief architect since 2015, said.

Yet just hours earlier, President Emmanuel Macron had issued an extraordinary decree: Notre Dame would rise again — in just five years. "There was one sole [problem]," Mr. Villeneuve said, "the deadline."

It felt impossible. Yet as Mr. Villeneuve stepped through the wreckage with doubts in his mind, he was caught by surprise. Terrifying as it was to see the charred remains of the 861-year-old Gothic treasure, a beacon of hope emerged. "It was doable."

Mr. Macron's decree became the driving force behind the most prominent restoration in modern French history. The announcement sparked unprecedented global support, with donations quickly nearing \$1 billion. Yet, other obstacles came in waves. First, the fire's immediate aftermath brought a lead contamination crisis. Then came the pandemic. Weather, too, seemed to conspire.

But Villeneuve persisted, working with his team on what he called the "presidential building site". He lobbied for the final reopening date to be delayed from April of this year to align with December 8 — a Catholic holy day celebrating Mary's conception without sin — a symbolic choice that felt both achievable and sacred.

While Notre Dame's restoration has proceeded with remarkable precision, one question still looms over Villeneuve: the cause of the fire, a frustrating investigation into one of the biggest mysteries in France in living memory.

Oli secures BRI deal in Beijing with support from key ally Nepali Congress

The signing of the deal paves the way for advancing Chinese investment and cooperation in Nepal under the BRI; officials say the Chinese initially sought to replace 'grant financing' with 'assistance financing', but after further negotiations, the two sides agreed on 'aid assistance financing'

Sanjeev Satgaliya
KATHMANDU

From "no loans but grants only," Nepal finally settled for "aid assistance financing" as Nepal and Chinese officials on Wednesday inked a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation framework deal in Beijing during Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli's four-day visit to China.

The signing paves the way for advancing Chinese investment and cooperation in Nepal under the BRI, to which Kathmandu signed up for in 2021.

In the days leading up to Mr. Oli's visit to the north, there was a debate about whether Mr. Oli should sign the BRI implementation plan, a proposal Beijing had sent in 2020. A rival stance by his coalition partner, the Nepali Congress (NC), against loans, had led to formation of a task force to revise the Chinese proposal.

Nepal subsequently revised the "BRI implementation plan" to "Frame-work for BRI Cooperation" emphasising "grant financing cooperation" and sent the proposal to the Chinese side for a response. Officials said the Chinese initially sought to replace "grant financing" with "assistance financing", but after further negotiations, the two sides agreed on "aid assistance financing", leading to the inked deal.

As many as 10 projects have been listed under "aid assistance financing", which are related to infrastructure, connectivity, technology and cultural exchange.



Chinese Vice Premier Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli waves with his wife Radhika Shakya (left) before his departure at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on December 2. AP

Infrastructure, connectivity, technology and cultural exchange. "The deal is significant in two ways. First, it provides fresh momentum to Nepal-China cooperation under the BRI, seven years after Nepal signed up for the initiative," said Pradeep Gyawali, a former Foreign Minister and Deputy General Secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), or the CPN-UML. "Second, for the first time, two major parties have made a common position on Nepal's foreign policy conduct."

Mr. Oli and his CPN-UML and the NC held differing views on how to approach the BRI. The NC feared embracing the BRI without addressing Nepal's concerns could increase debt burden and amplify Chinese influence. The CPN-UML, however, argued that there was nothing wrong in pursuing loans.

"The devil lies in the details," said Chandra Dev Bhatta, a political scientist. "We don't know yet what aid financing entails. The common understanding is it could encompass both grants and loans and as described by Nepali officials, it could mean concessional loans."

loans from multilateral agencies like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and other bilateral development partners, with interest rates under 2% and payback periods up to 40 years.

Even though China has promoted the BRI as an investment tool to enhance connectivity across Asia, Europe, and Africa, it does not typically involve strengthening regulatory systems to enhance the security of vital sea lanes," the Japanese embassy said after a meeting between Ambassador Koizumi Ende and Philippine Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo.

The amount announced Thursday more than doubled the 600 million yen (US\$4.6 billion) received when the Official Security Assistance (OSA) programme launched in 2023.

The Philippines has been upgrading its maritime security assets and boosting ties with allies to counteract Beijing's aggressive assertion of its claims in the South China Sea, including areas disputed by the two neighbours.

"On Thursday, the Foreign Ministry said the OSA deal would improve Manila's ability to deter threats to peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region."

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing off rival claims from other countries and an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

On Wednesday, Manila said the China Coast Guard fired water cannon and "disseminated" a government vessel near the disputed Scarborough Shoal. On the same day, another Chinese vessel near the disputed Scarborough Shoal, a fisheries department vessel near Sabina Shoal, the Philippines added.

Mr. Manalo said the Philippines would be submitting a diplomatic protest over the two incidents. "It's very clear, I mean we were within our legal rights," Mr. Manalo said.

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Mr. Oli's decision to visit China on his first bilateral trip—breaking the tradition of Nepali Prime Ministers visiting New Delhi first with the BRI high on the agenda had raised the stakes. He risked upsetting his coalition partner, the NC and India, historically Nepal's closest ally. In a bid to assuage the NC's concerns, Mr. Oli last week said that he would not sign loan agreements in Beijing.

Observers say by securing the BRI cooperation with the NC on board, Mr. Oli managed to save the coalition, and by extension, keep his position secure. Upon his return from China on Thursday, Mr. Oli stated that he signs of thawing relations between India and China could reduce regional tensions, from which Nepal stands to benefit significantly. There, however, are concerns that BRI signing may not sit well with India, as it is widely perceived that Mr. Oli decided to make Beijing his first port of call after failing to secure an invitation from New Delhi in response to media

queries about his visit to India, Mr. Oli said. "Now, arrangements will be made soon."

Mr. Bhatta said, geopolitically, the BRI signing is unlikely to attract significant criticism from India or the United States. "The agreement signed on Wednesday, by and large, is continuation of the 2017 framework," he said.

During his visit, Mr. Oli met with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang and held talks with President Xi Jinping on Tuesday.

According to Chinese state media, Mr. Xi reiterated that "China is ready to help Nepal accelerate its transformation from a 'land-locked country' to a 'land-linked country'...continue to support Nepal's economic and social development within its capacity."

Nepal, however, has not been able to translate the northern goodwill into practical cooperation. A transit deal signed with China in 2016 during Mr. Oli's previous tenure, aimed at reducing Nepal's over-reliance on India, has failed to yield tangible results.

Analysts say growing signs of thawing relations between India and China could reduce regional tensions, from which Nepal stands to benefit significantly. There, however, are concerns that BRI signing may not sit well with India, as it is widely perceived that Mr. Oli decided to make Beijing his first port of call after failing to secure an invitation from New Delhi in response to media

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Congo on alert after 71 die from mystery flu-like disease

Associated Press
KINSHASA

Congo's Health Minister said Thursday the government is on alert over a mysterious flu-like disease that in recent weeks killed dozens of people, nearly half of which were children.

Authorities have so far confirmed 71 deaths, including 27 people, died in hospitals and 44 in the community in the southern Kwango province, Health Minister Roger Kamba said.

"The Congolese government is on general alert regarding this disease," Kamba said, without providing more details.

Authorities have said that symptoms include fever, headache, cough and anemia.

Raising a toast



A woman pours a display of sake barrels at the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo on Thursday. Japanese tipple sake and *flaccu* — and the knowledge and skills honed over centuries to make them — have been added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. AP

Amid conflict, Syria families reunite after years as militants take Aleppo

Agence France-Presse
ALEPPO

The fall of Syria's second city, Aleppo, to Islamist militants has brought flight and displacement for some, but for others like Bahria Bakkar, it has led to long-awaited reunions.

After almost a decade apart, 43-year-old Bakkar was finally able to see her son, separated when government forces reclaimed control of their city.

The Islamist-led militants' lightning assault on Aleppo has revived a war

that had been mostly dormant for years. The fighting in northern Syria since last week has killed "hundreds" and heightened concerns for civilians, but for Mr. Bakkar, it meant being with her son again. "I wasn't expecting this to happen. I thought I would be before getting to see him," said Ms. Bakkar, tears in her eyes.

She last saw her son Mohammed Jomaa, now 25 years old and a father of four, in 2016, when Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces retook Aleppo's eastern districts after a

brutal siege. Mr. Jomaa was one of tens of thousands who had fled the city earlier in the war, only to return in 2016. "I still can't believe I'm back in Aleppo."

Missing family
Since leaving Aleppo, Mr. Jomaa spent several months in rebel-held Afrin, about 40 km from his family home.

"We knew that we couldn't stay in Aleppo because we were labelled 'terrorists'. We were trapped and had to leave Aleppo," said Mr. Jomaa.



Reunion of war-torn Ahmed Orabi hugs his daughter as they reunite after years of separation in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. AP

In some parts of the city, the streets are quiet and residents are at ease, but in other parts, the situation could deteriorate.

The United Nations said on Wednesday that 115,000 people had been "newly displaced across Idlib and northern Aleppo" by the fighting.

"I only wish my dad

Japan grants the Philippines \$10.6 mn for naval security

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

Japan on Thursday granted the Philippines 1.6 billion yen (\$10.6 million) aimed at beefing up its naval capabilities a day after Manila said the China Coast Guard had "harassment" its government vessels.

The funds, part of a Japanese regional security assistance programme, will provide for "rigid" inflatable boats, coastal radar systems and automatic identification systems to the Philippine Navy, the two sides said.

The packages will "contribute to maintaining and strengthening regional security" and "enhance the security of vital sea lanes," the Japanese embassy said after a meeting between Ambassador Koizumi Ende and Philippine Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo.

The amount announced Thursday more than doubled the 600 million yen (US\$4.6 billion) received when the Official Security Assistance (OSA) programme launched in 2023.

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The signing paves the way for advancing Chinese investment and cooperation in Nepal under the BRI, to which Kathmandu signed up for in 2017.

In the days leading up to Mr. Oli’s visit to the north, there was a debate about whether Mr. Oli should sign the BRI implementation plan, a proposal Beijing had sent in 2020. A rigid stance by his coalition partner, the Nepali Congress (NC), against loans, had led to formation of a task force to revise the Chinese proposal.

Nepal subsequently revised the “BRI implementation plan” to “Framework for BRI Cooperation” emphasising “grant financing cooperation” and sent the proposal to the Chinese side for a review.

Officials said the Chinese initially sought to replace “grant financing” with “assistance financing”, but after further negotiations, the two sides agreed on “aid assistance financing”, leading to the inking of the deal.

As many as 10 projects have been listed under “aid assistance financing”, which are related to trade,



Close ties: Nepal’s Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli waves with his wife Radhika Shakya (left) before his departure at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on December 2. AFP

infrastructure, connectivity, technology and cultural exchange.

“This deal is significant in two ways. First, it provides fresh momentum to Nepal-China cooperation under the BRI, seven years after Nepal signed up for the initiative,” said Pradeep Gyawali, a former Foreign Minister and Deputy General Secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), or the CPN-UML. “Second, for the first time, two major parties have made a common position on Nepal’s foreign policy conduct.”

Mr. Oli and his CPN-UML and the NC held differing views on how to approach the BRI. The NC feared embracing the BRI without addressing Nepal’s concerns could increase debt burden and amplify Chinese influence. The CPN-UML, however, argued that there was nothing

wrong in pursuing loans.

“The fear was unwarranted. Nonetheless, signing BRI now with some revisions by incorporating the concerns of all the stakeholders is undoubtedly a step forward,” said Mr. Gyawali.

Devil is in details

Analysts say the signing indicates that ground has been set to get the BRI ball rolling in Nepal, but since specifics are unclear, one has to wait to see how things unfold.

“The devil lies in the details,” said Chandra Dev Bhatta, a political scientist. “We don’t know yet what ‘aid financing’ entails. The common understanding is it could encompass both grants and loans and as described by Nepali officials, it could mean concessional loans.”

Nepal has traditionally received concessional

loans from multilateral agencies like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and other bilateral development partners, with interest rates under 2% and payback periods up to 40 years.

“What we can infer from the deal also is that the Chinese cooperation can be sought on a project-by-project basis, and depending on the project, financing could involve grants or concessional loans,” said Mr. Bhatta. “In that sense, the deal can be dubbed a positive development in terms of investment, cooperation and Nepal-China ties.”

Even though China has promoted the BRI as an investment tool to enhance connectivity across Asia, Europe, and Africa, it does not typically involve grants.

According to Mr. Bhatta, revising the Nepal-proposed document to in-

clude “aid” can be seen as more of a success for China. Beijing had increasingly upped pressure on Nepal to move the BRI forward, especially after Nepal’s Parliament ratified the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a \$500 million American grant, in 2022.

“It’s now up to Nepal to follow up on the deal,” he said.

Relief for Oli

Mr. Oli’s decision to visit China on his first bilateral trip—breaking the tradition of Nepali Prime Ministers visiting New Delhi first—with the BRI high on the agenda had raised the stakes. He risked upsetting his coalition partner, the NC and India, historically Nepal’s closest ally. In a bid to assuage the NC’s concerns, Mr. Oli last week said that he would not sign any loan agreements in Beijing.

Observers say by securing the BRI cooperation with the NC on board, Mr. Oli managed to save the coalition, and by extension, keep his position secured. Upon his return from China on Thursday, Mr. Oli stated that he would lead the government for 18 more months before handing over power to NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba, as per the agreement reached in July.

He also said, “We have discussed different projects under the BRI and separate agreements will be signed for each project.” “This has nothing to do with loans.”

In response to media

queries about his visit to India, Mr. Oli said, “Now, arrangements will be made soon.”

Mr. Bhatta said, geopolitically, the BRI signing is unlikely to attract significant criticism from India or the United States. “The agreement signed on Wednesday, by and large, is continuation of the 2017 framework,” he said.

During his visit, Mr. Oli met with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang and held talks with President Xi Jinping on Tuesday.

According to Chinese state media, Mr. Xi reiterated that “China is ready to help Nepal accelerate its transformation from a ‘land-locked country’ to a ‘land-linked country’...continue to support Nepal’s economic and social development within its capacity.”

Nepal, however, has not been able to translate the northern goodwill into practical cooperation. A transit deal signed with China in 2016 during Mr. Oli’s previous tenure, aimed at reducing Nepal’s over-reliance on India, has failed to yield tangible results.

Analysts say growing signs of thawing relations between India and China could reduce regional tensions, from which Nepal stands to benefit significantly. There, however, are concerns that BRI signing may not sit well with India, as it is widely perceived that Mr. Oli decided to make Beijing his first port of call after failing to secure an invitation from New Delhi.

- 
- While **Nepal signed onto the BRI in 2017**, this new execution framework agreement solidifies the commitment and provides a structure for project implementation.
 - Both countries expressed readiness to sign an MoU on building the **Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network (THMDCN)**.
 - It focuses on enhancing connectivity in areas such as ports, roads, railways, aviation, power grids, and telecommunications.
- 



- **Concerns**

- **Debt Trap:** Like other countries participating in the BRI, Nepal risks falling into a debt trap if projects rely heavily on Chinese loans.



- **Geopolitical Balance:** Nepal needs to carefully manage its relationships with both China and India.

- Projects under the BRI, particularly those close to sensitive border areas, could **raise security concerns for India.**

- **Environmental Concerns:** Large-scale infrastructure projects can have significant environmental impacts



- 
- **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**
 - China proposed the BRI in **2013** with the purpose of restoring the ancient Silk Route.
 - The initiative aims to **connect Asia with Europe and Africa**, with the intent to promote trade, investment, and economic growth in participating countries.
 - **The BRI comprises two main components:** The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road.
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- **The Silk Road Economic Belt** focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation between China and countries in Central Asia, Europe, and West Asia,
 - **The 21st century Maritime Silk Road** focuses on strengthening maritime cooperation between China and countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Africa
- 

Framework Agreement:

- Nepal signed a framework under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Beijing during PM K.P. Sharma Oli's four-day visit to China.
- नेपाल ने पीएम केपी शर्मा ओली की चार दिवसीय चीन यात्रा के दौरान बीआरआई के तहत एक ढांचे पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

"Aid Assistance Financing" Model:

- After negotiations, Nepal settled for "aid assistance financing" instead of "grant financing".
- नेपाली पक्ष ने "ग्रांट फाइनेंसिंग" के बजाय "एड असिस्टेंस फाइनेंसिंग" पर सहमति दी।

Economic and Developmental Prospects

Focus on Infrastructure and Connectivity:

- The deal aims to enhance Nepal-China cooperation in infrastructure, technology, and cultural exchange.
- इस समझौते का उद्देश्य नेपाल-चीन सहयोग को बुनियादी ढांचे, प्रौद्योगिकी और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान में बढ़ावा देना है।

Funding Details:

- Loans under the BRI will have an interest rate under 2% and repayment periods of up to 40 years.
- बीआरआई के तहत ऋणों पर 2% से कम ब्याज और 40 वर्षों तक की पुनर्भुगतान अवधि होगी।

MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI

India, China 'reflect on lessons learnt', Doval and Wang to hold talks soon

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

DAYS AFTER completing the process of troop disengagement at two friction points along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, India and China held the first official-level talks in New Delhi Thursday, "reflected on the lessons learnt from the military standoff and agreed on the need for "effective border management" and "maintenance of peace and tranquillity" as part of bilateral pacts.

At the meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs, the two sides also prepared for the next meeting of the Special Representatives on the

EXPLAINED
The disengagement of troops in the Depsang Plains and Demchok and statements from Beijing and New Delhi suggest their willingness to repair bilateral ties. India will tread cautiously given the bitter experience of 2020 when the Chinese violated the LAC.

boundary question - National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi are the two Special

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

ENDING TWO weeks of speculation on the new roles for the leaders of the Maharashtra partners following the spectacular return to power in Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnis of the BJP was sworn-in as Chief Minister Thursday while former Chief Minister Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar of the NCP took oath of office as Deputy Chief Ministers.

The ceremony at Ashi Mahan in Mumbai, where Governor CP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as they arrive in Mumbai on Thursday. (Narendra Modi)

BECOMES MAHARASHTRA CM FOR THIRD TIME T20 over, now Test: CM Fadnavis; Shinde, Ajit Pawar are Deputy CMs

Barring top 3, no other sworn-in; CM says portfolios on track, fine-tuning is on

Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the three leaders, who were sworn-in on Thursday. Among others by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Anant Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Niraj Satharman, Piyush Goyal, Chief Ministers - Yogi Adityanath, Chandrababu Naidu, Nitesh Kumar, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Bhupendra Patel. Also present were actors Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Sanjay Dutt and industrialists Mulesh Ambani and Kumar Mangalam Birla.

Barring the top three of the 288 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly, no other leader was administered the oath of office - this suggested that the partners were still in talks to finalise portfolios for the incoming teams.

Under the rules, the state Cabinet can have a maximum of 43 ministers, including the Chief Minister.

In first remarks after the ceremony at Ashi Mahan in Mumbai, where Governor CP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CHARGESHEET IN HARYANA LYNCHING CASE

Cow vigilantes' meeting agenda: Shut meat shops, ask for migrants' papers

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, DECEMBER 5

TWO DAYS before the lynching of a migrant worker in Charhki Badi, allegedly by members of the Gau Raksha Dal, Haryana, over claims of consuming beef, the accused held a meeting to discuss "shutting down of meat shops in villages and obtaining documents of Muslims from Assam and illegal living in fringes in the area", The Indian Express has learned.

The next day, August 26, the accused allegedly asked Muslim youth in the huts to leave. On August 27, the district president



Some of the accused arrested in the case, including members of the Gau Raksha Dal and the Muslim and drive them away", claiming that "police wouldn't see follow cow vigilantes to beat

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Nearly 100 faculty at IIT-Kharagpur protest as rift with director deepens

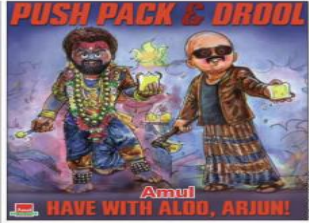
RAVIR BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 5

AS ALLEGATIONS emerge against its director of "favouritism", "vindictiveness in faculty selection" and failure to build a hospital on campus, the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, has responded by issuing a show cause notice to as many as 90 faculty members, deepening the rift between the administration and teachers.

The conflict began in September, when the IIT Teachers' Association (ITTA) wrote to the Union Education Minister, accusing the institute of arbitrary recruitment and other irregularities under the tenure of its current director V K Tewari. It has also requested that the ministry appoint a new director after his tenure ends in January 2025.

In response, the institute initiated disciplinary proceedings against the ITTA's four office-bearers, who were asked to substantiate their claims. According to sources, the office-bearers were asked to present documents within a week, but they balked after 80 faculty members wrote a mass petition to the institute, threatening to go on a hunger strike if the show cause to the four ITTA office-bearers was not rolled back. But the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Adani Green solar project: Govt waived transmission cost, sweetened deal

NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

WITHIN 24 HOURS of the Union power ministry waiving transmission charges for states buying electricity from Adani Green and Azure Power, the YBJP-led Andhra Pradesh government signed a deal with Central Utility Solar Energy Corporation of India (CESCI), which had awarded a total of 12 gigawatt (GW) projects to these two companies.

This waiver of ISTS (inter state transmission system) charges is estimated to have resulted in savings of 80 paise per unit (Rs 1,360 crore a year) in a way incentivising the state to buy power from the two projects. ISTS charges are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

OCCRP DENIES ROLE OF FUNDING

BJP says Rahul, news site trying to 'derail' India story; agents of Adani at work: Cong

LIZ MATHEW
& NIKHIL DHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

AFTER A hiatus of two days, the Winter Session of Parliament plunged into chaos again Thursday, this time due to the ruling BJP targeting Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, accusing them of being part of a plan to "derail" India's economy and "disrupt" its democracy.

Senior BJP MP Nishikant Dubey raised the matter in Lok Sabha, alleging that a "dangerous triangle" comprising US billionaire investor George Soros, news portal OCCRP (Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project), and the Congress with its leader Rahul Gandhi, were

trying "to derail India's success story" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In Rajya Sabha, MP Sudhanshu Trivedi brought up the issue, with the BJP leaders saying that the Congress had stalled Parliament on the basis of various reports published by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE CITY

AS AQI IMPROVES, DELHI RESTRICTIONS EASED FROM GRAP-4 TO GRAP-2

trying "to derail India's success story" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Amid key victories in fight against TB, states face one battle: Shortage of drugs

Campaign in high-burden districts begins tomorrow as states scramble to stockpile after tenders cancelled, firms blacklisted

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

LAST MONTH, the World Health Organisation highlighted two significant milestones in India's fight against TB: an 18% dip in cases over the past 10 years, more than double the global rate; and a 24% reduction in deaths in the same period, higher than the

global average of 23%. This frames the Government's 100-day intensive campaign beginning December 7 to enhance detection in select high-burden districts. But these bright spots in the mission to eliminate TB by 2025 have a shadow: shortage in supply of key TB drugs since 2023, according to records investigated by The Indian Express. India's TB treatment sched-

ule has two stages: a two-three month Intensive Phase (IP) marked by a combination tablet of four antibiotics, and Continuation Phase (CP), where a patient gets another combination medicine with three antibiotics for four to seven months. These are called fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs. Data for 2022, 2023 and 2024 shows a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DIPPING SUPPLY OF TB DRUGS



WHY SHORTAGE OF DRUGS MATTERS

- Stocks of TB medicines are maintained at district, state and national levels.
- Stocks for two months at block level and three months at district, state and national levels are maintained.
- Buffer stocks ensure that patients never go without medicines.
- Missing dosages can result in resistant, difficult to treat infection.

New markets for Pushpa 2: Muzaffarnagar lines up first day, first show

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

VIDHATRI RAO
MUZAFFARNAGAR, DEC 5

FROM THREE 18-year-old polytechnic students who have waited for "two months" to a group of three wedding card decorators and a 52-year-old film salesman seeking monogramming at 11 am on Thursday, Chandrika Talkies, a single-screen theatre in Muzaffarnagar town, is teeming with people who have come to watch Pushpa 2 (The Rise), the

Hindi dubbed version of the Telugu "pan-Indian film" starring Alia Bhatt.

North, particularly in the heartland states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. It's a geography that Bollywood, which has over the years moved away from films catering to the masses and which has been unable to create a new crop of superstars, has long vacated.

Pushpa 2, which has been dubbed into Hindi and other languages, is eyeing just this success. Last month, the film makers even launched the trailer in Patna - an unusual market for a Telugu film - where an estimated two lakh people cheered at Arjun addressed them and asked them to forgive him for his



The audience at a single-screen theatre in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, on Thursday. (Chandrika Talkies)

EXPRESS NETWORK

ACTOR BOOKED FOR WOMAN'S DEATH STAMPEDE

"Thoda gulla" Hindi. Producer and film business expert Girish Johar says, "With 12,000 screens across the world, the film was expected to run into a big release - the Ranveer Singh-starrer 2, a film on the 1983 Indian World Cup winning cricket team - outside of its core Telugu market in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. But surprisingly, the film more than held its own. According to figures from Bollywood film trade analyst PTI, the movie made Rs 26.89 crore from its first week of theatrical run in North India, Bihar and Jharkhand. It was expected to be a sure-shot

bet, especially for single screens like Muzaffarnagar's Chandrika Talkies, where tickets are priced between Rs 100 and Rs 150. Ahead of the release on Thursday, the theatre saw online bookings for 123 of its 350 seats - a "rare good sign", says the manager Mirza Afiz Hussain, 54.

Chandrika Talkies theatre owner Sanjay Ghal, who owns five screens in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, says he is hoping to earn Rs 50 lakh during the theatrical run of the movie over the next three weeks.

So when it came to the sequel, it was expected to be a sure-shot

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Day-night Test today: what to know about pink ball and India's challenge

SANDIPG

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

NINE YEARS and 22 Tests later, the pink cricket ball continues to intrigue and fascinate. Some distinct patterns have emerged — seamers love it, batters dread it, Australia boss it, and every match has produced a result.

But how the ball behaves, its quirks, and how different it is from the red and white balls continues to pique the curiosity of cricketers and cricket-watchers. Hence, there is buzz about India's pink-ball day-night Test against Australia beginning in Adelaide on Friday.

Does the pink ball favour seamers?

In fact, a spinner boasts the best bowling figures in day-night Tests. West Indian leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo claimed 8/49 in a futile effort against Pakistan in Dubai in

2016. India's left-arm spinner Axar Patel skinned England with match figures of 11/70 in the day-night Test in Ahmedabad in 2021.

And yet, seamers offer a more devastating threat, especially in Australia. In 12 day-night Tests in Australia, fast bowlers have snared 322 scalps, whereas spinners have picked up only 69.

With the pink ball, the extra lacquer meant to enhance its visibility under lights means the ball hoops approximately 20% more than the red one. The initial movement might not last as long, but is more pronounced. Also, the ball starts moving around (conventionally) later in the game.

How do the conditions affect the ball?

The pink ball swings differently at different stages of the match. There is prodigious swing in the first hour, less deviation in the next two, and a swing again in the two hours after that.



The pink ball is coated with polyurethane to protect colour. Archives

In day Tests, batting against seamers becomes easier as the day progresses. But in day-night games, batting becomes difficult at twilight, when the temperature falls, dew and moisture set in, and the ball starts moving around.

As a result, the last hour of the second session and the first of the final session are tough for batters in day-night Tests. Also, the mix of natural and artificial light makes it difficult for batters to judge movement.

What is special about pink ball games in Australia?

Hard and bouncy pitches usually favour good-length bowling at pace. But the early swing amplifies the threat of the fuller length. That is what makes Mitchell Starc, Australia's most natural full-length operator, lethal with the pink ball — he averages 18.71. This is also why Australia have drafted full-length merchants such as Jhye Richardson in the past.

Steep bounce has always probed the technique of overseas batsmen in Australia. Under lights with the pink ball, they have to negotiate movement in the air too. The

twilight period in Australia is also longer than in other cricketing countries.

So are spinners completely off the equation?

Not quite — a good spinner should be effective irrespective of the conditions. They would ideally enjoy the firmer grip and the pronounced seam.

Nathan Lyon has relished bowling with the pink ball, and so did Ravichandran Ashwin in the first innings of the 2020 Test, when he picked up four wickets. It's more a case of teams not possessing quality spinners and packing the side with seamers.

What are the challenges for batters?

The ball swings and seams massively at the start, before it eases out. Light conditions also change throughout the day. Some

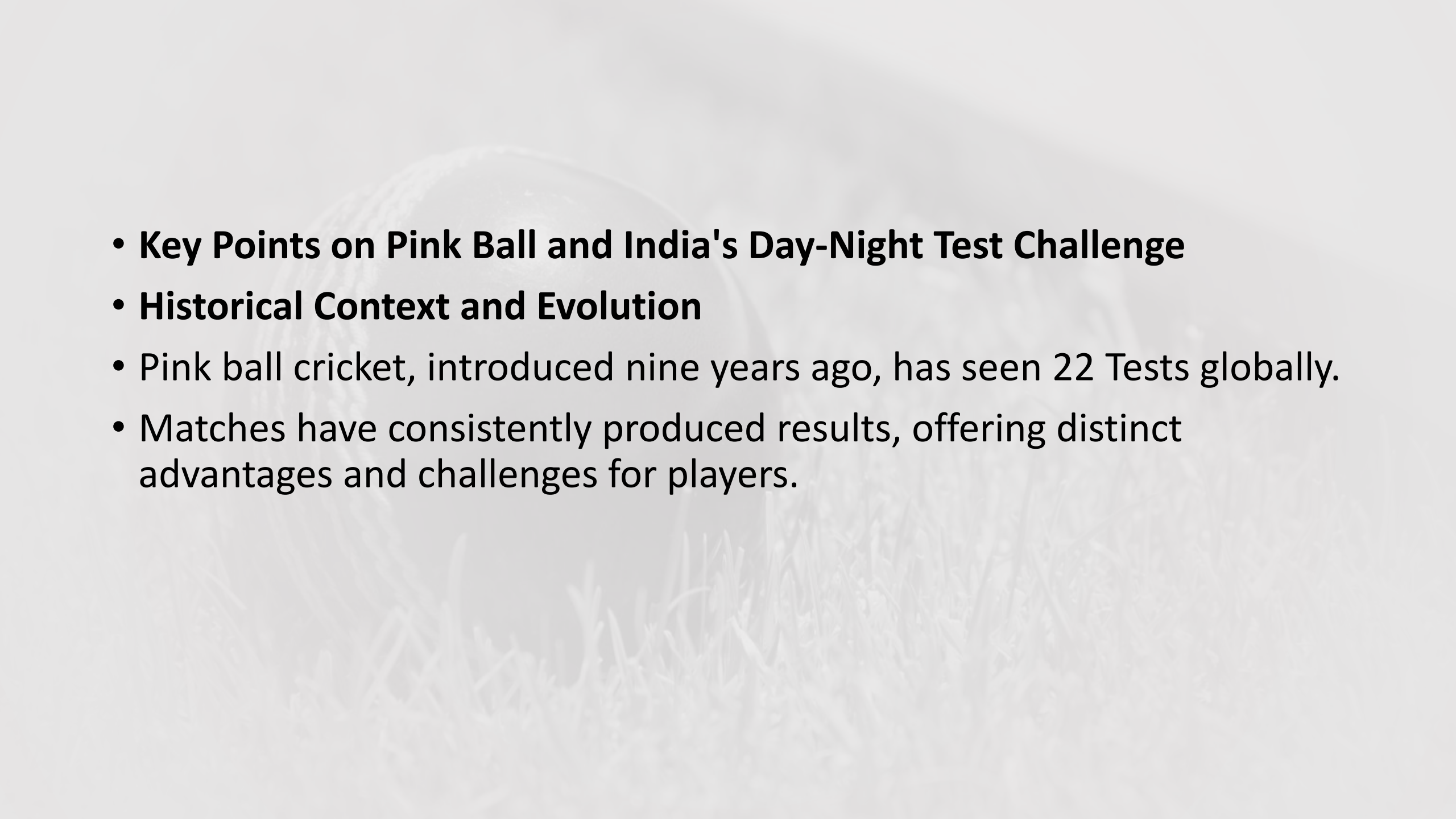
batters have complained they can't spot the black seam thread under the lights. Sometimes, the ball suddenly skids along the surface. India batter Cheteshwar Pujara told Star Sports, "You have to speed up your footwork. The ball skids and comes quickly. So, there is a little less time than red ball."

Is it especially hard for overseas batters?

In 12 pink-ball Tests in Australia, only three overseas batters have scored hundreds. On the other hand, four of Australia's current top six batters have healthy records. Marnus Labuschagne leads with 894 runs at an average of 63.85.

At the Adelaide Oval, only one visiting team has managed a 300-plus score (Pakistan's 302). Touring squads have averaged only 203 runs per innings. And India don't need reminding that it was here that they were visited by their darkest batting hour in Tests — 36 all out in December 2020.

EXPLAINED
SPORT

- 
- A pink cricket ball is shown in the foreground, resting on a grassy field. The background is a blurred view of a cricket pitch and stands, suggesting a stadium setting. The lighting is bright, likely from a sunny day.
- **Key Points on Pink Ball and India's Day-Night Test Challenge**
 - **Historical Context and Evolution**
 - Pink ball cricket, introduced nine years ago, has seen 22 Tests globally.
 - Matches have consistently produced results, offering distinct advantages and challenges for players.

Features of the Pink Ball

Visibility and Durability:

- Coated with polyurethane for color protection.
- The extra lacquer enhances visibility under lights but affects movement differently.

Swing and Movement:

- Offers pronounced swing in the initial overs.
- Begins to move later in the game due to conditions like dew and temperature drops.

Impact on Play

Bowling Dynamics:

- Favours pacers, especially in Australia, due to bouncy pitches.
- Spinners have had notable performances in specific conditions, e.g., Axar Patel's figures in Ahmedabad (11/70).

Batting Challenges:

- Twilight period and artificial lights make judging the ball's movement tough.
- Indian batters, like Cheteshwar Pujara, have noted difficulty spotting the black seam.

- **Special Challenges in Australia**

- Fast bowlers dominate with remarkable stats (e.g., Mitchell Starc's average of 18.71).

- Overseas batters struggle more compared to local players.

- **Statistics**

- In 12 pink-ball Tests in Australia, only three overseas players scored centuries, while local batters maintain strong averages.

Don't stop medical education for women: Afghan stars to Taliban

SHIVANI NAIK
DECEMBER 5

AFGHANISTAN'S GREATEST cricketer Rashid Khan was joined by their seniormost international Mohammad Nabi and current batting sensation Rahmanullah Gurbaz in urging the ruling Taliban to reconsider their ban on women's medical education - lending their heft to growing discontent about stringent curbs on freedom of women.

This week was the last straw as the Taliban announced a decree forbidding women from attending institutions offering medical education. It effectively bans women from nursing and midwifery training. After coming to power on August 15, 2021, the Taliban had barred girls from attending secondary school beyond Class 6 by September of same year. By December 2022, there was a complete ban on girls and women from attending higher education. However, nursing and midwifery were seen as the final loophole left in an otherwise absolute denial of any education to women.

Rashid, the country's most-recognisable face in international sport, with cricket being their biggest mainstream representation at the highest level, was quick to voice his dismay on the rigid stric-

Education holds a central place in Islamic teachings, emphasising the pursuit of knowledge for both men and women. The country desperately needs professionals in every field, especially the medical sector"

-RASHID KHAN
ON X/TWITTER

ers, will result in unnecessary pain, misery, sickness, and death for the women forced to go without health care, as there won't be female healthcare workers to treat them."

Rashid's senior teammate and former captain Nabi also raised the issue on social media: "The Taliban's decision to ban girls from studying medicine is not only heartbreaking but deeply unjust. Denying girls the chance to learn and serve their people is a betrayal of both their dreams and our nation's future. Let our daughters study, grow, and build a better Afghanistan for everyone. This is their right, and it is our duty to protect it."



to protect it." Opener Rahmanullah lent subtle support, writing only in Pashto on X/Twitter, expressing his views on seeking knowledge by quoting an "honourable hadith" (verse, as guidance). Asking for mercy for those who hate increase in knowledge by followers of Islam, Gurbaz quoted: "Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim (male or female)."

Concerns had heightened through Wednesday after the decree came into effect. National Public Radio (NPR) quoted Pashtana Durrani, founder of Learn Afghanistan - an organization operating secret schools as well as maternal health clinics where midwives would be trained - as saying, "All they are doing now is closing any loopholes. People often say that under the Taliban women are just left to reproduce. Well, now with this new ban, women are left to reproduce and then die on that same table because there will be nobody to help them. That's what it has come to."

Afghanistan's women's cricket team have sought refuge in Australia and have been inactive since August 2021, but the International Cricket Council have permitted the men's team to carry on playing, even if funding rules mandate that full members are obliged to field women's teams. While the national men's

He pleaded with the Taliban to pay heed to the Quran which "highlights the importance of learning and acknowledges the equal spiritual worth of both genders." The 26-year-old further wrote, "Education holds a central place in Islamic teachings, emphasising the pursuit of knowledge for both men and women," while stressing that, "the country desperately needs professionals in every field, especially the medical sector."

Human Rights Watch (HRW) quoted that the order came into immediate effect, and several women were turned back from their institutes. "The Taliban's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, issued this order, which was announced at a meeting of the Taliban Ministry of Public Health on Monday. The ministry summoned directors of private medical training institutions to be instructed about the new order," according to HRW.

Afghanistan has steadily imposed absolute restrictions on women's freedom of movement

Nation Remembers
Babasaheb
Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar
on his
Mahaparinirvan Diwas

December 6, 2024

B. R. Ambedkar



Ambedkar in the 1950s

1st Minister of Law and Justice

In office

15 August 1947 – 6 October 1951

Prime Minister [Jawaharlal Nehru](#)

Preceded by *Position established*

Succeeded by [Charu Chandra Biswas](#)

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Bombay State

In office

3 April 1952 – 6 December 1956

Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee

In office

29 August 1947 – 24 January 1950

Minister of Labour in Viceroy's Executive Council

In office

22 July 1942 – 20 October 1946

Governors [The Marquess of Linlithgow](#)

General [The Viscount Wavell](#)

Preceded by [Feroz Khan Noon](#)

Legislative positions [show]

Personal details

Born [Bhiva Ramji Sakpal](#)
14 April 1891
[Mhow, Central India Agency,
British India](#)

Died 6 December 1956 (aged 65)
[New Delhi, India](#)


Resting place [Chaitya Bhoomi](#)
19°01′30″N 72°50′02″E﻿ / ﻿19.02500°N 72.83389°E﻿ / 19.02500; 72.83389

Political party [Independent Labour Party](#)
[Scheduled Castes Federation](#)

**Other political
affiliations** [Republican Party of India](#)

Spouses [Ramabai Ambedkar](#)
(m. 1906; died 1935)
[Savita Ambedkar](#) (m. 1948)

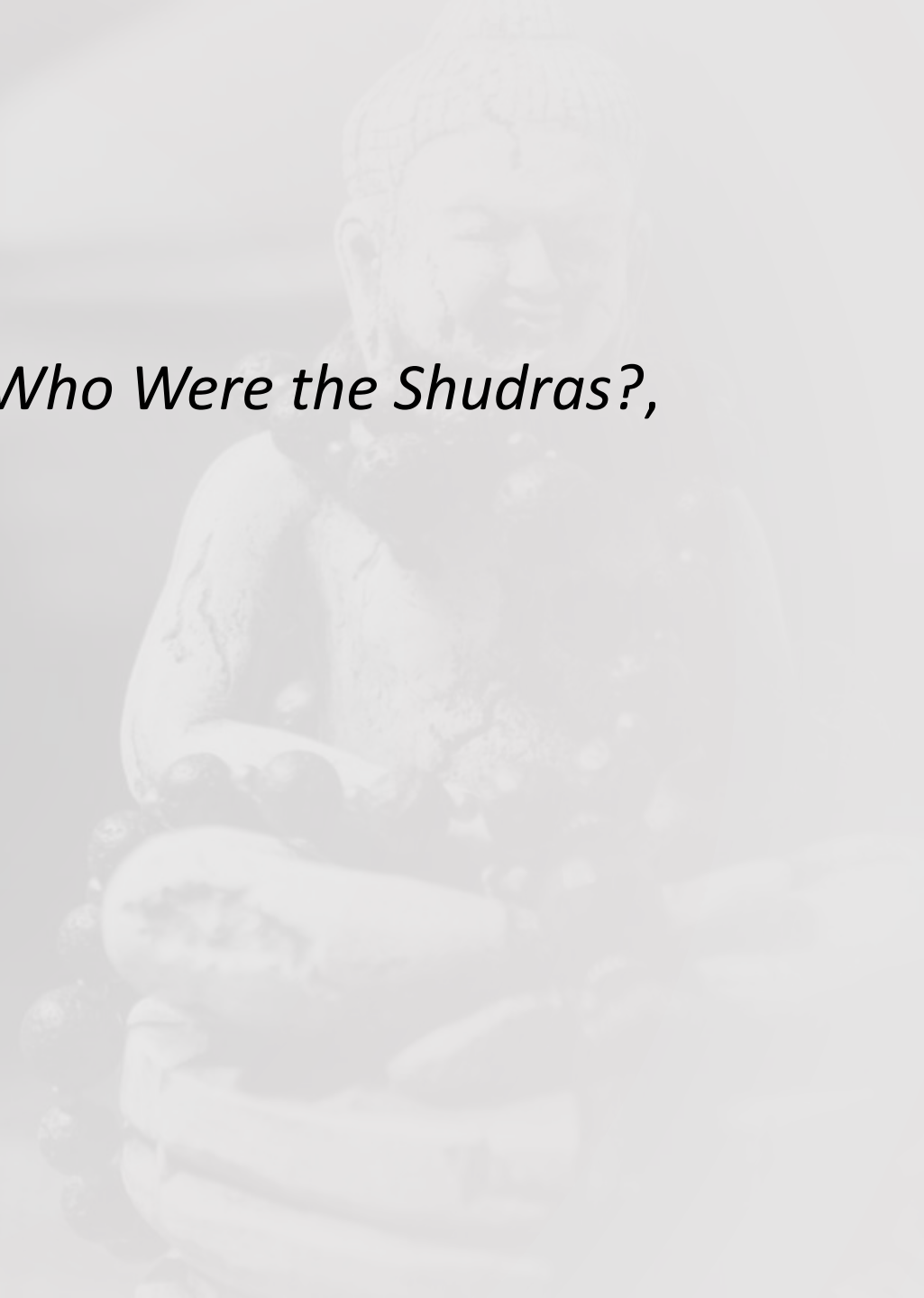
Children [Yashwant](#)

Education	University of Mumbai (BA, MA) Columbia University (MA, PhD) London School of Economics (MSc, DSc)
Profession	Jurist · economist · politician · social reformer · writer
Awards	Bharat Ratna (1990, posthumous)
Signature	
Nickname	Babasaheb

Period	Event/Contribution
1891	Born on April 14, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh (British India).
1906	Married Ramabai at age 15.
1913	Enrolled at Columbia University, USA, to study Economics and Sociology.
1915	Completed MA (Economics) and wrote thesis on <i>"Ancient Indian Commerce"</i> .
1916	Submitted his Ph.D. thesis on <i>"The National Dividend of India - A Historic and Analytical Study"</i> .
1917	Joined London School of Economics; Bar at Gray's Inn (studied law).
1923	Completed D.Sc. (Economics) from London; authored <i>"The Problem of the Rupee"</i> .
1924	Founded Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha to promote education and socio-political rights for Dalits.

1930	Led the Mahad Satyagraha to assert the Dalit right to public water tanks.
1932	Negotiated the Poona Pact with Mahatma Gandhi, securing reserved seats for Dalits in legislatures.
1936	Published " <i>Annihilation of Caste</i> ", critiquing Hindu caste orthodoxy.
1942	Formed the Scheduled Castes Federation (SCF) to represent Dalit interests politically.
1947	Became the first Law Minister of Independent India .
1947-1950	Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Indian Constitution.
1950	Embraced Buddhism on October 14, along with thousands of followers.
1955	Established the Bharatiya Bauddha Mahasabha (Buddhist Society of India).
1956	Passed away on December 6 in Delhi; honored as the Architect of the Indian Constitution .

- Key works: *The Buddha and His Dhamma, Who Were the Shudras?, States and Minorities.*





• Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a polymath who was proficient in **9 languages**. These languages include:

1. Marathi - His mother tongue.

2. Hindi - Widely spoken in India and used in his interactions.

3. English - Mastered during his higher studies in the United Kingdom and the United States; extensively used in his writings.

4. Sanskrit - Studied during his academic pursuits, despite opposition due to caste barriers.

5. Gujarati - Learned due to his work in Gujarat and with colleagues.

6. Pali - Studied to explore Buddhist scriptures and philosophy.

7. Persian - Learned during his early education.


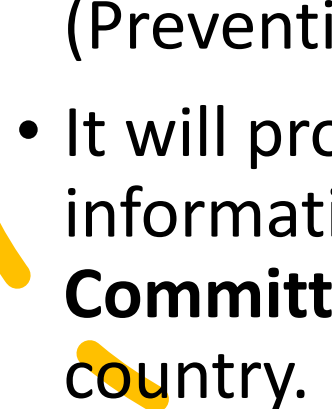
8. German - Acquired while studying abroad, especially for research purposes.


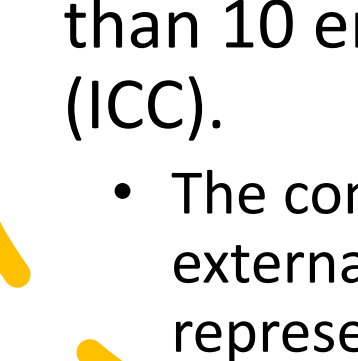
9. French - Learned to access a variety of scholarly works.







SHe-Box Portal



- 
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development recently launched the SHe-Box portal.
 - **About**
 - It is an online system designed to help in **better implementation** of various provisions of ‘The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013’ (SH Act).
 - It will provide a **publicly available centralised repository** of information related to **Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs)** constituted at various workplaces, across the country.
- 

- 
- **Key provisions include:**
 - **Definition of Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome physical contact, sexual advances, demands for sexual favors, Sexual remarks, and any other inappropriate behavior.
 - **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** Every organization with more than 10 employees to establish an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).
 - The committee must be led by a woman and should include at least one external member, such as an expert on women's issues or an NGO representative.
- 

- 
- **Complaint Mechanism:** Women can file complaints within three months, and the ICC must resolve them within **90 days**.
 - **Confidentiality:** Complaints and investigations must be kept confidential.
 - **Employer Responsibility:** Employers must take preventive measures, conduct training, and act on complaints.
- 

- 
- **Redressal:** If harassment is proven, disciplinary action is taken against the offender, and compensation can be awarded to the victim.
 - **No Retaliation:** Retaliation against the complainant or witnesses is prohibited. Any retaliation or victimization can be treated as a separate violation under the law.
 - **Penalties:** Failure to comply with the provisions of the SH Act can result in penalties for employers.
- 



Women Personnel in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

- Recently, the Minister of State for Home Affairs informed Lok Sabha that 4,138 women personnel are likely to be recruited in the CAPFs and Assam Rifles in 2025.

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)

- These play a crucial role in maintaining internal security and border protection, and work under the **Union Home Ministry**.
- These include seven paramilitary forces, namely:
 - *Assam Rifles*
 - *Border Security Force (BSF)*
 - *Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)*
 - *Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)*
 - *Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)*
 - *Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)*
 - *National Security Guard (NSG) special task force.*

- **Current Status/Representation**

- Women currently make up 4.4% of the 9.48 lakh-strong CAPFs and Assam Rifles.
 - The number of **women personnel in CAPFs** had **almost tripled in the 10 years from 2014 to 2024**, while the **percentage remained low**.
- The **CISF has the highest representation** of women at 7.02%, followed by SSB (4.43%), BSF (4.41%), ITBP (4.05%), Assam Rifles (4.01%), and CRPF (3.38%).
- They are involved in border patrolling, anti-Naxal operations, and disaster response, among other duties.



Rafale-Marine (Rafale-M)

Rafale M vs Rafale: How are they different

Feature	Rafale M	Rafale
Airframe	Strengthened for carrier landings	Standard airframe
Wing	Foldable	Non-foldable
Tailhook	Yes	No
Radar	Maritime-optimized	Standard radar
Weapons	Wider range of weapons, including anti-ship missiles	Standard range of weapons
Mission	Carrier operations	Air superiority, ground attack, air-to-air refueling





International Debt Report 2024

- 
- Recently released, World Bank's "International Debt Report 2024" highlights a worsening debt crisis for developing nations, with 2023 marking the highest debt servicing levels in two decades, driven by rising interest rates and economic challenges.
 - Also, earlier in June 2024, a UNCTAD report, "A World of Debt 2024: A Growing Burden to Global Prosperity", highlighted a severe global debt crisis impacting the world.
- 

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- What are the Key Findings of the International Debt Report, 2024?
 - **Rising Debt Levels:**
 - The total external debt of **Low- and Middle-Income countries (Developing or LMICs)** reached a record **USD 8.8 trillion** by the end of 2023, marking an **8% increase** since 2020.



International Cheetah Day

- 
- Every year 4th December is marked as International Cheetah Day since 2010. The day is dedicated to emphasizing global efforts to prevent the cheetah's extinction and promote its conservation.
 - American zoologist, Dr. Laurie Marker, founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in 1991, designated this day in honor of Khayam, a cheetah she raised.
- 

TYPES OF BIG CATS & THEIR LOCATIONS



LION



AFRICA AND EURASIA



TIGER



ASIA



JAGUAR



AMERICAS



CHEETAH



AFRICA



LEOPARD



AFRICA, ASIA, AND MIDDLE EAST



SNOW LEOPARD



ALPINE REGION OF
SOUTH-CENTRAL
ASIA



COUGAR



NORTH AMERICA

-
- They are the **world's fastest land mammals**, found in parts of **Africa** and **Asia**.
 - They have vanished from over **75% of their historic range in Africa**, with their population declining by more than 30% in the past two decades.
 - **Namibia** has the **world's largest population** of cheetahs.

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- Which article of the Indian Constitution authorized the use of Hindi in the proceedings of the High Court of Rajasthan in 1950?
भारतीय संविधान का कौन सा अनुच्छेद 1950 में राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय की कार्यवाही में हिंदी के उपयोग को अधिकृत करता है?
- **A. Article 343 / अनुच्छेद 343**
- B. Article 348(2) / अनुच्छेद 348(2)**
- C. Article 351 / अनुच्छेद 351**
- D. Article 356 / अनुच्छेद 356**

- What is the primary objective of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill, 2024?
भारतीय वायुवान विधेयक, 2024 का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Promoting international air travel / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई यात्रा को बढ़ावा देना**
- **B. Simplifying aviation personnel licensing / विमानन कर्मियों के लाइसेंस को सरल बनाना**
- **C. Regulating air traffic control / वायु यातायात नियंत्रण को विनियमित करना**
- **D. Introducing private airlines in India / भारत में निजी एयरलाइनों की शुरुआत करना**

- Universities in India can now admit students twice a year under new guidelines. What are the two admission periods?
भारत में विश्वविद्यालय अब नई दिशानिर्देशों के तहत वर्ष में दो बार छात्रों को प्रवेश दे सकते हैं। ये दो प्रवेश अवधियां कौन सी हैं?
- **A. May/June and November/December / मई/जून और नवंबर/दिसंबर**
- **B. July/August and January/February / जुलाई/अगस्त और जनवरी/फरवरी**
- **C. April/May and September/October / अप्रैल/मई और सितंबर/अक्टूबर**
- **D. March/April and October/November / मार्च/अप्रैल और अक्टूबर/नवंबर**

- Nepal signed an agreement with China for building the **Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network (THMDCN)**. What is a major concern for India regarding this project?

नेपाल ने चीन के साथ ट्रांस-हिमालयन मल्टी-डाइमेंशनल कनेक्टिविटी नेटवर्क (THMDCN) के निर्माण के लिए समझौता किया। इस परियोजना को लेकर भारत की मुख्य चिंता क्या है?

- **A. Economic instability in the region / क्षेत्र में आर्थिक अस्थिरता**
- B. Environmental degradation / पर्यावरणीय क्षरण**
- C. Security concerns near sensitive border areas / संवेदनशील सीमा क्षेत्रों के पास सुरक्षा चिंताएं**
- D. Trade imbalance with China / चीन के साथ व्यापार असंतुलन**

- What are the two main components of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)?
चीन की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के दो मुख्य घटक क्या हैं?
- **A. Maritime Economic Corridor and Trade Road / समुद्री आर्थिक गलियारा और व्यापार मार्ग**
- **B. Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road / सिल्क रोड इकोनॉमिक बेल्ट और 21वीं सदी का समुद्री सिल्क रोड**
- **C. Global Trade Route and Digital Silk Road / वैश्विक व्यापार मार्ग और डिजिटल सिल्क रोड**
- **D. Eurasian Trade Network and Maritime Connectivity Road / यूरेशियन व्यापार नेटवर्क और समुद्री कनेक्टिविटी रोड**

- The **SHe-Box Portal** was launched by which Indian Ministry?
SHe-Box पोर्टल किस भारतीय मंत्रालय द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया था?
- **A. Ministry of Law and Justice / विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय**
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs / गृह मंत्रालय**
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development / महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय**
- D. Ministry of Labour and Employment / श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय**

- What percentage of representation do women currently have in India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)?
भारत की केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों (CAPFs) में वर्तमान में महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व कितने प्रतिशत है?
- **A. 4.4%**
- **B. 5.5%**
- **C. 6.2%**
- **D. 7.1%**

- The **International Debt Report 2024** revealed an increase in external debt for developing countries. What is the total debt reported for low- and middle-income countries?
अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऋण रिपोर्ट 2024 ने विकासशील देशों के लिए बाहरी ऋण में वृद्धि का खुलासा किया। निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों के लिए कुल ऋण कितना बताया गया है?
- **A. USD 6.5 trillion**
- **B. USD 7.8 trillion**
- **C. USD 8.8 trillion**
- **D. USD 9.2 trillion**

- Which country has the world's largest population of cheetahs?
किस देश में दुनिया में चीता की सबसे बड़ी आबादी है?
- **A. South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका**
- B. Namibia / नामीबिया**
- C. Botswana / बोत्सवाना**
- D. India / भारत**

- On which date is **International Cheetah Day** observed annually?
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चीता दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?
- **A. 1st December / 1 दिसंबर**
- B. 3rd December / 3 दिसंबर**
- C. 4th December / 4 दिसंबर**
- D. 5th December / 5 दिसंबर**

Word of the day

Complaisant:

showing a cheerful willingness to do favours for others

Synonyms: obliging

Usage: *He was a complaisant worker.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/
complaisantpro


**International Phonetic
Alphabet:** /kəm'pleɪsənt/



- **Myth:** Humans have only five senses.

Burst: While sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch are the most recognized senses, humans have many others, such as balance (vestibular system), temperature (thermoception), pain (nociception), and even body position (proprioception).





Thank you
guys.
