

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



6
The Hindu



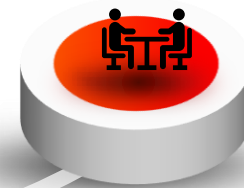
8
PIB, PRS & Other newspaper



3
The Indian Express



0
Jansatta



3
Financial Express



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10 MCQ QUIZ

A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit by large windows, creating a soft, out-of-focus atmosphere. The text "Top 10 MCQ from the session for every exam" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- What is the purpose of the "Green Propulsion System" developed by Manastu Space?
मणस्तु स्पेस द्वारा विकसित "ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम" का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. To reduce environmental impact of space missions / अंतरिक्ष मिशनों के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को कम करना**
- **B. To increase rocket fuel efficiency / रॉकेट ईंधन की दक्षता बढ़ाना**
- **C. To minimize human health risks / मानव स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों को कम करना**
- **D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी**

- What is the primary function of Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs)?
भारत के स्मॉल रिएक्टर्स (BSRs) का मुख्य कार्य क्या है?
- A. Enhance nuclear power capacity for decarbonization /
डीकार्बोनाइजेशन के लिए परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता को बढ़ाना
- B. Produce low-cost energy for households / घरों के लिए कम लागत
वाली ऊर्जा का उत्पादन करना
- C. Develop alternative fuel sources / वैकल्पिक ईंधन स्रोतों का विकास
करना
- D. Support agricultural innovations / कृषि नवाचारों का समर्थन करना

- Which state conducted India's first coastline and wader bird census?
भारत की पहली तटरेखा और वॉडर बर्ड जनगणना किस राज्य ने आयोजित की?
- **A. Gujarat / गुजरात**
- B. Kerala / केरल**
- C. Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु**
- D. Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र**

- What type of bird is the "Shankhlo" (Crab Plover), found in Jamnagar's Marine National Park?
जामनगर के समुद्री राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में पाए जाने वाले "शंखलो" (क्रैब प्लोवर) पक्षी का प्रकार क्या है?
- **A. Predator / शिकारी**
- **B. Wader bird / वांडर पक्षी**
- **C. Migratory bird / प्रवासी पक्षी**
- **D. Endangered bird / संकटग्रस्त पक्षी**

- What major theme will be discussed at the AI Summit in Paris?
पेरिस में एआई शिखर सम्मेलन में कौन सा प्रमुख विषय चर्चा में होगा?
- **A. Global governance of AI / एआई का वैश्विक शासन**
- **B. AI in education / शिक्षा में एआई**
- **C. AI for healthcare / स्वास्थ्य देखभाल के लिए एआई**
- **D. Renewable energy powered by AI / एआई द्वारा संचालित नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा**

- Which country developed the Scorpene-class submarines in partnership with India?

किस देश ने भारत के साथ साझेदारी में स्कॉर्पीन-क्लास पनडुब्बियां विकसित कीं?

- **A. Russia / रूस**
- B. France / फ्रांस**
- C. USA / अमेरिका**
- D. Germany / जर्मनी**

- What is the main challenge associated with the development of the Great Knot bird habitat in Gujarat?
गुजरात में ग्रेट नॉट पक्षी के आवास के विकास से संबंधित मुख्य चुनौती क्या है?
- **A. Habitat loss due to tourism / पर्यटन के कारण आवास की हानि**
- B. Overhunting / अत्यधिक शिकार**
- C. Pollution in coastal waters / तटीय जल में प्रदूषण**
- D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी**

- What is the expected launch year for ISRO's Mission ShaktiSAT?
इसरो के मिशन शक्तिSAT के लॉन्च का अपेक्षित वर्ष क्या है?
- **A. 2025**
- B. 2026**
- C. 2027**
- D. 2028**

- What is Green GDP?
ग्रीन जीडीपी क्या है?
- A. GDP calculation without environmental costs / पर्यावरणीय लागतों के बिना जीडीपी गणना
- B. GDP that includes environmental benefits and costs / जिसमें पर्यावरणीय लाभ और लागत शामिल हैं
- C. GDP based on renewable energy outputs / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा उत्पादन पर आधारित जीडीपी
- D. None of the above / उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं

- What unique feature is highlighted in the Marine National Park of Gujarat?

गुजरात के समुद्री राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में कौन सी अनोखी विशेषता उजागर की गई है?

- **A. Hosts over 50 species of wader birds / 50 से अधिक वॉडर पक्षियों की प्रजातियों की मेजबानी करता है**
- **B. India's first designated marine park / भारत का पहला नामित समुद्री पार्क**
- **C. Conservation of mangroves and biodiversity / मैंग्रोव और जैव विविधता का संरक्षण**
- **D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी**

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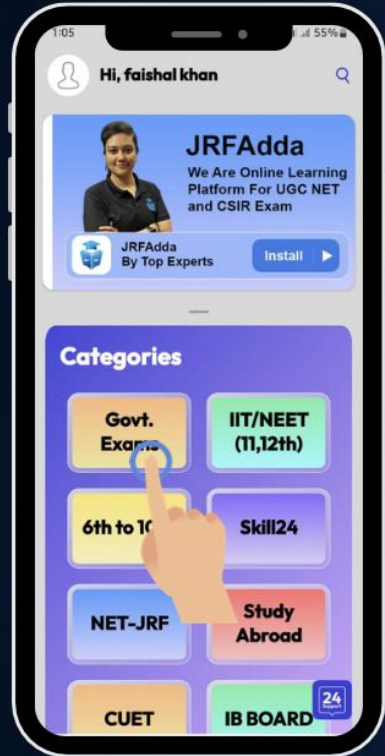
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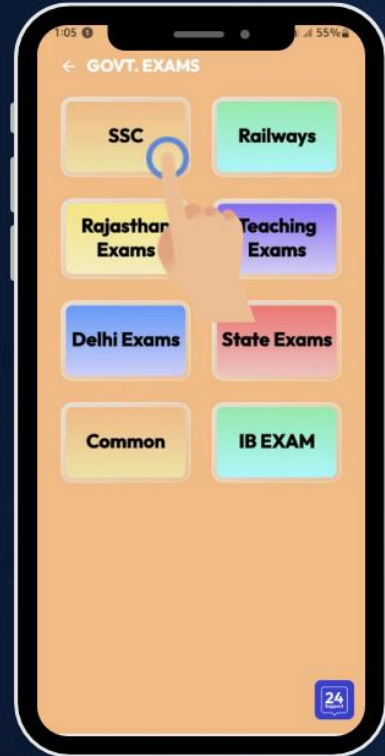
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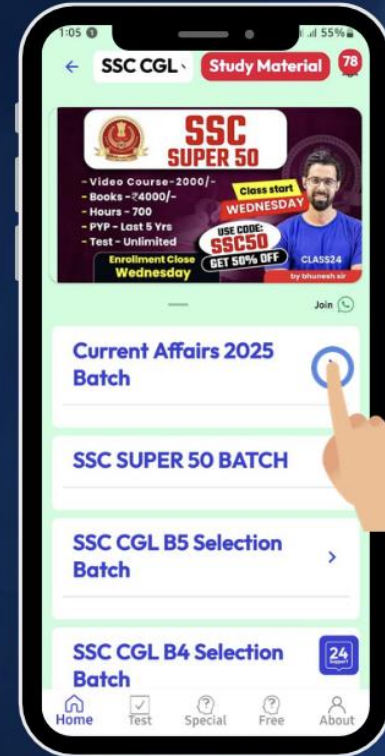
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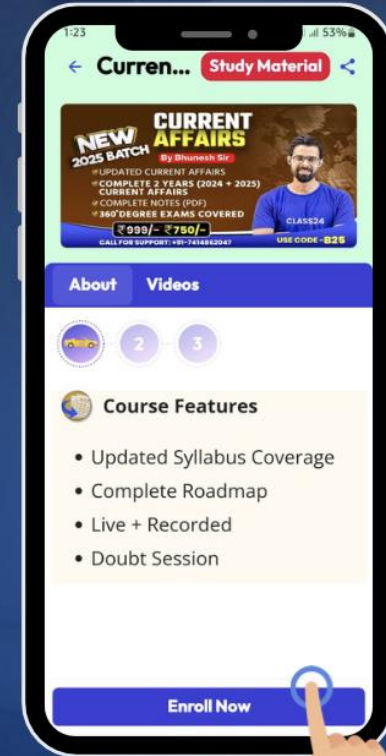
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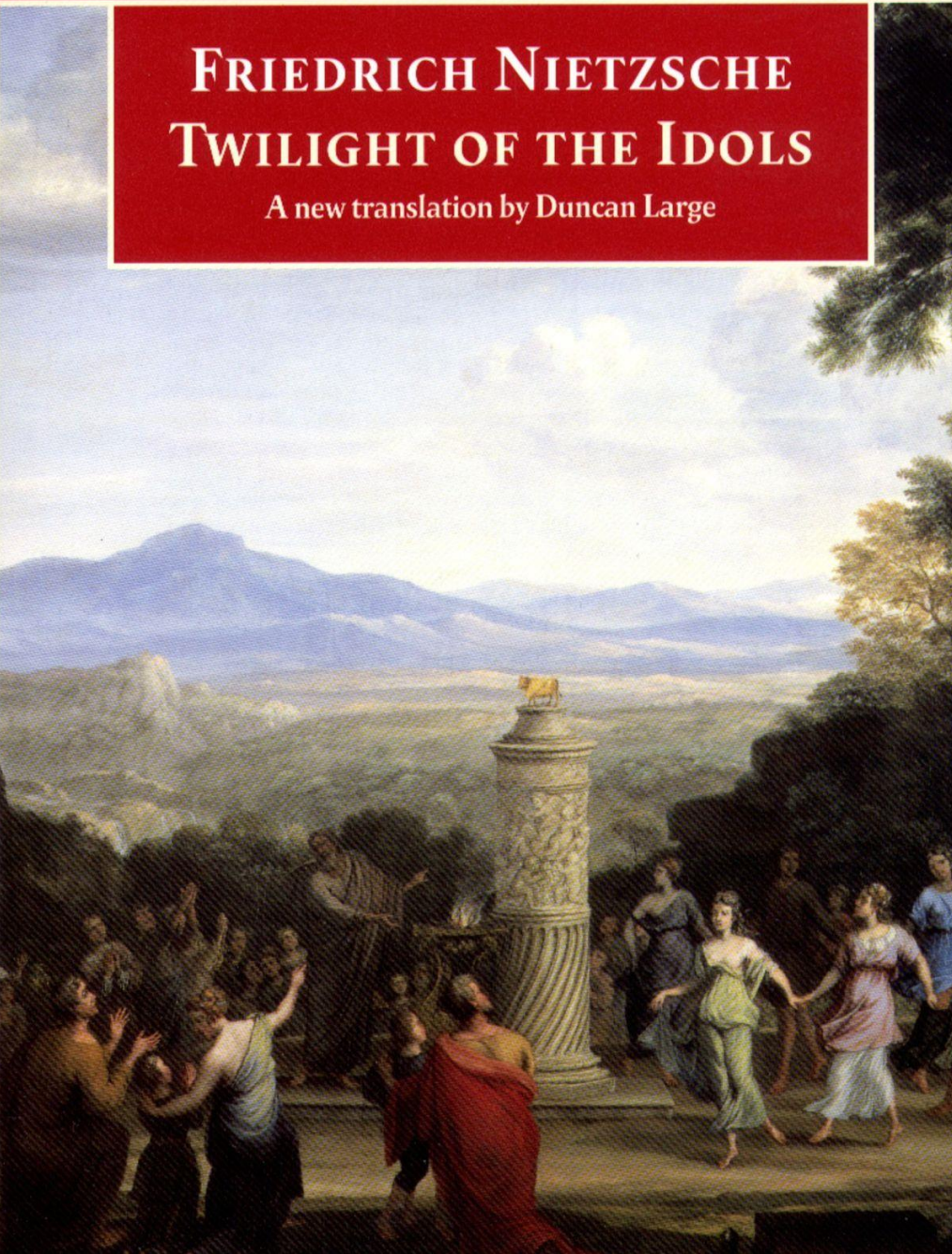


Step 4



FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE
TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS

A new translation by Duncan Large



Friedrich Nietzsche,
Twilight of the Idols

- *“He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.” –*



42ND DAY ON FAST
SC committee meets
farmer leader Dallewal
NEWS > PAGE 4



WORLD'S BIGGEST DAM
Brahmaputra
dam won't hit
water flow to
India: China
NEWS > PAGE 4



BASTAR JOURNALIST MURDER
Prime accused held
from Hyderabad
NEWS > PAGE 4



NOTES OF DISCORD
Rumblings in the
ruling alliance
CPI(M) leader's outburst
reveals tensions in the
ruling front in T.N.
OPINION > PAGE 9



AT THE HELM
Smriti to lead India
against Ireland
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE
U.S. to take Indian
entities out of
restricted lists

NEW DELHI
The U.S. will soon remove
Indian scientific and nuclear
entities from the "restricted
lists" to "re-engage" the nuclear
of the India-U.S. nuclear deal,
visiting U.S. Security adviser
Jake Sullivan said here on
Monday. > PAGE 4

**S. Korea's Yoon
avoids detention
by deadline**

SEOUL
Impached South Korean
President Yoon Suk Yeol
evaded arrest after a warrant's
Monday deadline passed, but
anti-graft investigators say
they have sought a fresh
warrant to enforce his
detention. > PAGE 14

IED blast by suspected Maoists kills 9 in Bijapur

Eight of the dead were security personnel returning from an anti-Maoist operation in the Abujmad forests; a civilian driver was also killed, but his body is yet to be recovered; explosive material planted a long time ago, says a police officer; Naxalites resorting to 'cowardly acts' out of frustration with ongoing operations, says Union Home Minister

Specialised forces of the Chhattisgarh Police raised to combat left-wing extremism in the Bastar region. The civilian was driving the vehicle. When the IED reached the blast site in the afternoon, it saw dismembered bodies and equipment strewn all around. A piece of uniform worn by the jawans was found on the branch of a tree 50 feet above the ground. Forensic experts said the elliptical crater created by the explosion was around eight feet deep and 10-16 feet wide in some places. Around 4.45 p.m., police officers said that while the remains of the jawans in their uniforms had been recovered, they were



Ground zero: The site where an IED blast blew up a vehicle of security personnel in Bijapur district on Monday. Swaminathan said

said she had heard the explosion from 2 km away. She said the Kudri Bedre road is usually busy with hundreds of vehicles passing by each day. With the latest incident, security forces have lost nine personnel in just the first six days of 2025, as against 19 in the whole of 2024. In terms of casualties, this is the first major IED blast since April 2023, when 10 DRG personnel and a civilian driver were killed in a similar blast in Santawada. The modus operandi in Monday's blast was similar to the Dantewada incident where the blast was triggered using electrical wires. The blast happened on

the Kudri Bedre road near Ambeli village in the Kurru police station limits, nearly 450 km from the State capital Raipur, and close to the Maharashtra boundary. A senior police officer told presspersons that prima facie, it seems 60-70 kg of explosive material was used, which had been planted long ago as the wire connected to it was trapped well beneath the ground and grass had grown over it. The officer admitted to negligence, while some personnel cited the absence of a road-opening party, which provides safety to such convoys when they are returning from long and tiring operations. Union Home Minister

Amit Shah and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed their condolences on X. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the loss of DRG soldiers in an IED blast in Bijapur (Chhattisgarh). I express my deepest condolences to the families of the brave soldiers. It is impossible to express this grief in words, but I assure you that the sacrifice of our soldiers will not go in vain. We will end Naxalism from the land of India by March 2026," Mr. Shah said. Mr. Sai said Naxalites were frustrated with the ongoing counter-insurgency operation in the Bastar region and therefore resorted to such cowardly acts.

After the storm



Capitol watch: An ATF K9 seen near the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Monday. A winter storm slammed into the region shutting down federal offices and schools as Congress prepared to certify the 2024 presidential election results. GETTY IMAGES

HMPV occurrence not new to India, no cause for alarm: Health Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) has been in circulation globally, even in India, the Health Ministry said on Monday, while stating that none of those infected in India have any travel history and all are recovering well. "The virus occurrence in India is not new," it said. The clarification came after the infection was confirmed in two states in Karnataka and one in Gujarat.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, in a video statement, said, "Health experts have clarified that the HMPV is not a new virus. It was first identified in 2001 and it has been circulating in the world for many years. HMPV spreads



Necessary precautions: People walk past a wall mural promoting awareness on using face masks, in Bengaluru on Monday. AP

through air, by way of respiration. This can affect persons of all age groups. The health systems and surveillance networks of the country are vigilant, and there is no reason to worry," He said agencies in India were closely watching the situation in China and neighbouring countries.

severe acute respiratory illness in India.

In a social media post, Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist, WHO, said HMPV was not cause for panic. "Rather than jump at detection of every pathogen, we should all take normal precautions when we have a cold: cover a mask, wash hands, avoid crowds, consult doctor if there are severe symptoms."

Dr. Neeraj Nischal, Additional Professor, Internal Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Science, Delhi, said the HMPV could not be compared with the novel coronavirus, which was completely new and people did not have any immunity against it. (With inputs from State Bureaus)

Tamil Nadu Governor Ravi walks out of Assembly, alleges 'insult' to National Anthem, Constitution

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on Monday walked out of the Legislative Assembly without reading out the customary address for the first session of the New Year.

The Raj Bhavan later said the Governor had left the House "in deep anguish" as the "Constitution of Bharat" and the National Anthem were once again "insulted" in the Assembly. "Today on arrival of Governor to the House only Tamil Thalai Vaazhtha (State anthem) was sung. Governor respectfully reminded the House of its constitutional duty and fervently appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who is the Leader of the House and the Hon'ble Speaker for singing the National Anthem. However, they cussedly refused. It is

a matter of grave concern. Not to be a party to such brazen disrespect to the Constitution and the National Anthem, Governor in deep anguish left the House," the Raj Bhavan said in a social media post. Since July 1991, as per the convention in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, the State song is played at the beginning and the National Anthem at the conclusion of the Governor's address. The Raj Bhavan, however, said the National Anthem is sung or played before and after the Governor's address in every State Assembly in the country. "It is also mandatory as per the National Anthem Code," it said. Last year, the Governor expressed inability to read out the address, saying it contained passages with misleading claims and facts and reading them would have amounted to

Today on arrival of Governor (R.N. Ravi) to the House only Tamil Thalai Vaazhtha was sung. Governor respectfully reminded the House of its Constitutional Duty. They cussedly refused RAJ BHAVAN

The repeated actions of the Governor to consistently insult the people of Tamil Nadu and the government have elected and the Tamil Nadu Assembly are not in keeping with the dignity of the post of the Governor. M.K. STALIN, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

House Duraimurugan to take on record only the approved text of the Governor's address. Thereafter, Speaker M. Appavu read out the Tamil version of the same. Describing the Governor's action as "childish", Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in a social media post said while it was part of the tradition for the Governor to deliver his customary address to the Assembly, it has "become the habit of the Governor" to violate the practice. The Governor, "who included and deleted some parts in the prepared text" earlier, has chosen not to read out the speech this time. This is "childish," he contended. "The repeated actions of the Governor to consistently insult the people of Tamil Nadu and the government they have elected and the Tamil Nadu Assembly are not in keeping with the dignity of the post of the Governor," he charged. Mr. Stalin said the question lingering on everyone's mind was why should he (Governor) stick to his post if he was unwilling to discharge his constitutional duties.

CONTROVERSY
> PAGE 8

Trudeau quits as party chief, to continue as PM for now

Associated Press
TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on Monday in the face of rising discontent over his leadership, and after the abrupt ouster of his Finance Minister, signalling growing turmoil within his government.

He planned to stay on as Prime Minister until a new leader of the Liberal Party is chosen in a by-election. "I don't easily back down faced with a fight, especially a very important one for our party and the country. But I do this because the interests of Canada and the well-being of democracy is something that I hold dear," he said.



Justin Trudeau

An official familiar with the matter said parliament, which had been due to resume on January 27, will be suspended until March 24. The timing will allow the Liberal Party leadership race.

so a spring election to pick a permanent replacement was almost assured. Mr. Trudeau came to power in 2015 after 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and had initially been hailed for returning the country to its liberal past. But the 53-year-old became deeply unpopular with voters in recent years over a range of issues, including the soaring cost of food and housing, and soaring immigration. The political upheaval comes at a difficult moment for Canada internationally. U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods the government does not stem what Mr. Trump calls a flow of migrants across the U.S. — even though far fewer of each crosses into the U.S. from Canada than from Mexico.

Trudeau quits as party chief, to continue as PM for now

Associated Press

TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on Monday in the face of rising discontent over his leadership, and after the abrupt departure of his Finance Minister signaled growing turmoil within his government.

Mr. Trudeau said it had become clear to him that he cannot “be the leader during the next elections due to internal battles.”

He planned to stay on as Prime Minister until a new leader of the Liberal Party is chosen.

“I don’t easily back down faced with a fight, especially a very important one for our party and the country. But I do this job because the interests of Canadians and the well being of democracy is something that I hold dear,” he said.



Justin Trudeau

An official familiar with the matter said parliament, which had been due to resume on January 27, will be suspended until March 24. The timing will allow for a Liberal Party leadership race.

Opposition plans

All three main opposition parties have said they plan to topple the Liberal Party in a no-confidence vote when parliament resumes,

so a spring election to pick a permanent replacement was almost assured.

Mr. Trudeau came to power in 2015 after 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and had initially been hailed for returning the country to its liberal past. But the 53-year-old became deeply unpopular with voters in recent years over a range of issues, including the soaring cost of food and housing, and surging immigration.

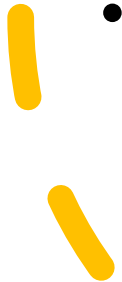

The political upheaval comes at a difficult moment for Canada internationally.

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods if the government does not stem what Mr. Trump calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the U.S. – even though far fewer of each crosses into the U.S. from Canada than from Mexico.



- **Overview:**

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation as the leader of the Liberal Party due to internal unrest and growing dissatisfaction within his government. However, he will continue as Prime Minister until a new party leader is elected.

- 
- कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री जस्टिन ट्रूडो ने अपनी सरकार के भीतर बढ़ती असंतोष और आंतरिक संघर्ष के कारण लिबरल पार्टी के नेता पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया है। हालांकि, वह नए पार्टी नेता के चुने जाने तक प्रधानमंत्री बने रहेंगे।
- 



- **Reasons for Resignation:**


- Trudeau cited internal battles and dissatisfaction after the sudden resignation of his Finance Minister as key factors for stepping down.

- वित्त मंत्री के अचानक इस्तीफे और आंतरिक संघर्षों को टूटो ने पद छोड़ने के मुख्य कारण बताया।

- **Interim Role:**



- Trudeau will remain as PM until the Liberal Party selects a new leader in a race expected to conclude by March 24.

- टूटो नए नेता के चयन तक प्रधानमंत्री बने रहेंगे, जो मार्च 24 तक पूरा होने की संभावना है।



1. Opposition's Stand:

1. All three main opposition parties plan to move a no-confidence vote against the Liberal Party when Parliament resumes.
2. तीनों प्रमुख विपक्षी पार्टियां संसद के फिर से शुरू होने पर लिबरल पार्टी के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव लाने की योजना बना रही हैं।

- 
- Trudeau came to power in 2015, ending 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and was initially praised for restoring Canada's liberal identity.
 - ट्रूडो 2015 में सत्ता में आए, जिससे कंजर्वेटिव पार्टी के 10 साल के शासन का अंत हुआ और उन्हें कनाडा की उदारवादी पहचान बहाल करने के लिए सराहा गया।
- 

Challenges and Criticism:

Domestic Issues:


- Trudeau faced unpopularity in recent years due to rising costs of food, housing, and challenges with immigration.
- हाल के वर्षों में दूधो को बढ़ती खाद्य और आवास लागत और प्रवास संबंधी मुद्दों के कारण अलोकप्रियता का सामना करना पड़ा।

International Pressure:

- U.S. President-elect Donald Trump threatened to impose 25% tariffs on Canadian goods unless stricter measures were taken to control immigration.
- अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति-चयनित डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कनाडा से प्रवासन नियंत्रण को लेकर सख्त कदम उठाने की मांग की, अन्यथा 25% टैरिफ लगाने की धमकी दी।



- **Future Implications:**

- Trudeau's resignation sets the stage for significant political upheaval in Canada, with an almost assured spring election to select a permanent replacement.
 - ट्रूडो का इस्तीफा कनाडा में राजनीतिक अस्थिरता का कारण बन सकता है, और वसंत में एक स्थायी उत्तराधिकारी चुनने के लिए चुनाव लगभग तय है।
- 

RISE & FALL Of Trudeau's Political Fortunes

OCT 2013 | **Justin Trudeau**, the son of former PM Pierre Trudeau, wins the Liberal Party leadership; Liberals at this point had been out of power for 7+ years, and are third-placed party in the House of Commons

OCT 2015 | Trudeau's Liberals, campaigning on a message of **change and hope**, win federal election

DEC 2017 | Ethics commissioner rules **Trudeau broke conflict-of-interest rules** by accepting a vacation, gifts, flights from spiritual leader Aga Khan in 2016

FEB 2019 | Former justice minister **Jody Wilson-Raybould** accuses gov't officials of pressuring her to help construction company **SNC-Lavalin** avoid a corruption trial. In Aug, the ethics commissioner rules Trudeau and his officials breached ethics rules

SEPT | **Photos emerge of Trudeau wearing blackface** when he was younger. Trudeau, a strong advocate for multiculturalism, apologises

OCT | In Oct 21, 2019 election, **Liberals are reduced to a minority** in the House of Commons, obliging them to strike deals with opposition legislators to govern

AUG 2020 | **Finance minister Bill Morneau** resigns amid friction with Trudeau over



how much funding was needed to help Canada recover from Covid-19 pandemic

SEPT 2021 | Trudeau triggers a **national vote for Sept 20, 2021**, but he returns with a second successive minority

JUNE 2024 | **Liberals lose one of their safest seats** in a special election in Toronto. Trudeau says he will stay in office

SEPT | New Democrats Party (NDP), led by Jagmeet Singh, that had kept Trudeau in office **withdraws support**

DEC 16 | Finance minister Chrystia Freeland resigns after Trudeau **asks her to take a lesser position**, taking away one of his most loyal allies over the past decade

DEC 20 | **Jagmeet Singh** says will present a **formal motion of no-confidence** to oust Trudeau after the House of Commons elected chamber returns from a winter break



Main accused in Bastar journalist murder case held

Shabbhomoy Sikdar
BUDAPEST

Suresh Chandrakar, a construction contractor, who is the prime accused in the murder of Bastar-based journalist Mukesh Chandrakar, has been arrested, the Chhattisgarh police said on Monday.

While this is the fourth arrest in the case, Suresh has been evading arrest after the murder and was held in Hyderabad late on Sunday, said Inspector General of Police (Bastar) Rango Sundarra. The other three accused are Suresh's brothers Ritesh Chandrakar and Dinesh Chandrakar and supervisor Mahendra Ramteke.

Mukesh, a freelance journalist, went missing on January 1. His body was found on January 3 in a septic tank on a property owned by Suresh Chandrakar in Rigpur town, the police had said. Days before his death, Mukesh, along with a fellow journalist, had filed a news report highlighting alleged corruption in a road construction work in Rigpur.

This report was aired on

This is the fourth arrest in the case which comes after the arrest of Suresh's three brothers

NITV for which Mukesh worked as a freelance journalist, besides running a YouTube channel, 'Bastar Junction', that had 1.59 lakh subscribers at the time of his death. The said construction work was linked to contractor Suresh Chandrakar and is said to be the motive behind the murder.

Mukesh's death has sparked a widespread outcry with protests from journalists across the State. The ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress traded charges over the issue. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma claimed that Suresh was a Congress member, and the party shared his picture with State Congress chief Deepak Raj. Meanwhile, Mr. Baj on Monday met family members of Mukesh and said the government would stop the politics and help the family.

A foreigner facing charges cannot leave country: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said when a foreigner's presence was required in India to answer a criminal charge, permission to leave the country must be refused. A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Okla clarified the law in a case of a Nigerian national involved in a narcotics case.

The top court made it plain that a court, on granting bail to a foreigner, must direct the state or the securing agency to immediately inform the registration officer concerned under the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1952. The registration officer should then communicate the bail order to the relevant agencies, including the civil authority. The Bench said the Foreigners Order of 1948 authorises the civil authority to impose restrictions on the movements of a foreigner.

Serving a cause



Food for the needy: A young girl from the Sikh community joins her relatives in Kolkata on Monday, preparing the Angkor (communal meal) on the occasion of Guru Gobind Jayanti in Kolkata on Monday. ANI

SC panel urges Dalwala to accept medical help

SC-appointed high-powered committee meets farmer leader at Khanauri; KMM coordinator Pandher criticises Centre for its 'indifferent approach'; court adjourns hearing to January 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

A Supreme Court-appointed high-powered committee constituted to negotiate with farmers protesting on the Punjab-Haryana interstate boundary on Monday met farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dalwala, whose hunger strike entered the 42nd day.

The former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge Justice Nawab Singh, who is heading the committee, told presspersons that the panel had urged Mr. Dalwala to take medical aid in the interest of his health.

"We repeatedly requested Mr. Dalwala to take medical aid. He said for him, farming comes first and health later. We all want and pray that he should stay healthy. We do not have to come here to say that the agitation should end but to say that your (Mr. Dalwala) health should be good. Also, we conveyed that whenever he says, we



Reaching out: A member of the court-appointed panel meets farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dalwala in Patiala on Monday. ANI

will be available," he said after the meeting at Punjab's Khanauri.

Mr. Dalwala, who is the convener of the umbrella body Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political), has been on an indefinite hunger strike at the protesting site in support of several demands, including a legal guarantee for purchasing crops at the minimum support price (MSP).

He has been on a fast

along with the State's Advocate-General Gurmitinder Singh, that the farmers have agreed to meet Justice Singh.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant expressed hope that "better sense prevails upon everyone" while assuming that the committee would be filing a report in court on the meeting.

Besides Justice Singh, the committee included retired IPS officer B.S. Sandhu, agriculture expert Devidhar Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghumra and Dr. Sukhpal Singh, agricultural economist from the Punjab Agricultural University. The farmers' inclination to meet the committee was seen by the court as a positive signal as they had previously refused an invitation through the State. The farmers' reluctance had made the court to declare that they could present their grievances directly to the Supreme Court itself.

since November 26. At Chandigarh, Kisan Mazdoor Morcha coordinator Mr. Dalwala, who is the convener of the umbrella farmers' group, criticised the Union government for its indifferent approach towards the farmers' struggle and the agrarian crisis. Earlier, the Supreme Court adjourned the case related to the protest to January 10 when informed by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Punjab

Meet farmers, SKM urges President after she declines request

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha has urged President Droupadi Murmu to reconsider her decision not to meet a farmers' delegation on the issue of the hunger strike of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dalwala.

The SKM had sought an appointment with Ms. Murmu and her office told them in a letter that their request had been considered, but "could not be acceded to due to paucity of time". The SKM said in a statement here on Monday that it expresses its deep regret that the President could not accede to meet the farmers' delegation.

"The SKM expects review on this crucial request for her intervention since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Supreme Court are so far unable to resolve the impasse and to take constructive steps to save the life of the Mr. Dalwala fasting for the last 41 days," it added.

The SKM said being the head of the State of India, Ms. Murmu had the responsibility to help the con-



The SKM expressed regret that the President could not meet the farmers' delegation.

stitutional institutions to adhere to democratic principles and hold discussions with the farmers.

"Instead of discussions to resolve their distress, the NDA-3 Government has been facilitating fresh onslaught by the agribusiness corporations on agriculture and livelihoods of the farmers, agricultural workers, small traders and petty producers and on the federal rights of the State Governments through the introduction of the new National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing (NPFAM) that is dangerous than the repealed 3 Farm Acts," it said.

No sanction given for death sentence, Houthi's handling nurse's case: Yemen Embassy

Kalilol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

In a new development, the Embassy of Yemen in India has announced that the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, Rashad Al-Alimi, has not "ratified" the death sentence of Indian nurse Nimisha Priya and declared that the Houthi militia of the country handled the "entire case".

The announcement came days after it was reported that the death sentence for the nurse had been approved by Mr. Alimi.

"The Yemeni government emphasises that the entire case has been handled by the Houthi militia and therefore, His Excellency Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi, Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, Republic of Yemen has not ratified the judgement," a statement issued by the Embassy of Yemen de-

clared on Monday while responding to reports published by a media outlet in Kerala.

The statement further said that Ms. Priya is "currently detained in Sana'a under the authority of the Houthi militia."

The statement comes days after a high-level Iranian official had declared that Tehran would "take up" Ms. Priya's case. While the declaration by the Yemen embassy has added a new dimension to the case,

a statement from the External Affairs Ministry is awaited. The opposing statements are a sign of the prevailing political situation in Yemen where the country is divided amongst three different entities. While the Houthi militia control Sana'a, the rest of the country is controlled by an internationally recognised and Saudi-backed government and the United Arab Emirates-backed Southern Transition Council. The Yemen Embassy in Delhi represents the Saudi-backed government; the Houthi militia does not have any official connection with India.

Houthi militants of Yemen are organised along the Ansar Allah group, which controls capital Sana'a and around 50% of the population. Ms. Priya was given the death sentence in Sana'a for the murder of her business partner Talal Abdo Mahdi in 2017.

China says its planned dam will not affect water flows to India

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

China on Monday reiterated its plan to build the world's biggest dam over the Brahmaputra in Tibet near the Indian border, saying the planned project "will not have any negative impact on downstream countries".

Rather, it will, to some extent, help with their disaster prevention and reduction and climate response," he said, replying to a question that India has expressed its concerns over the dam and the issue figured in the Indian officials talks with the visiting U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

Last month, China approved plans to build a dam over the Brahmaputra called Yarlung Zangbo in Tibet. Close to the Indian border.

SC moots Benches of Armed Forces Tribunal to address backlog

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday suggested constituting Benches of the Armed Forces Tribunal in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to deal with the growing pendency in defence related cases from these two areas.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kottawar Singh said that at present APT Chandigarh was handling the burden of cases from there while setting up circuit Benches at Jammu and Kashmir, Shimla and Dharanahala would considerably relieve the backlog.

"There are sitting judges of this court who head committees. Even I head some of the committees which look after the appointment of members of

the tribunals. Sometimes the workload is so high that the process gets delayed. We have to devise a mechanism so that a process for filling of the vacancies gets started six months before the prospective vacancy arises in a tribunal," Justice Kant addressed Attorney General R. Venkatesh on Monday appearing for the Centre.

"Collate data" The Supreme Court asked Mr. Sullivan to collate data of the total sanctioned strength of tribunals and vacant posts in these judicial bodies, and furnish suggestions on systematically filling these posts. The Centre was further directed to furnish the details of the ongoing processes for filling the posts in the tribunals within four weeks.

U.S. to remove Indian entities from restricted lists, says Jake Sullivan

Kalilol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The United States will soon remove Indian scientific and nuclear entities from the "restricted lists" in order to "fully realise" the potential of the India-U.S. nuclear deal that was signed between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush, visiting U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said here on Monday.

Speaking at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Mr. Sullivan emphasised the space and nuclear sectors as arenas of greater cooperation between the two sides.

"So today I can announce that the U.S. is now finalising the necessary regulations to remove longstanding regulations that have prevented civil nuclear cooperation between India's leading nuclear en-



Strong ties: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

ties and U.S. companies. The formal paper work will be done soon," said Mr. Sullivan declaring the initiative. He described the move by the Biden administration as an "opportunity to turn the page on some of the frictions of the past and create opportunities for the Indian entities that have been on the res-

stricted list of the United States". He called upon the scientists and technologists to collaborate with Indian entities to "move civil nuclear cooperation" between the two countries.

Mr. Sullivan met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his

visit. Following the meeting, Mr. Modi remarked, "The India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership has scaled new heights, including the areas of technology, defence, space, biotechnology and critical intelligence. Look forward to building upon the momentum in ties between our two democracies for the benefit of our people and global good."

The External Affairs Ministry, in a statement, announced that Mr. Sullivan has also announced, in part, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and the Biden administration to the U.S. missile export control policies under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) that will boost U.S. commercial cooperation with India.

Firms choosing to invest abroad rather than at home: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The reluctance of the private sector to invest in India is a "corporate motion of no-confidence" in the Narendra Modi government, the Congress said on Monday.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh urged the government to focus on stimulating and sustaining domestic investment in the Union Budget. Claiming that the investment environment in India had been sluggish in the "Modi decade", Mr. Ramesh said the Gross Fixed Capital Formation had fallen from an average of 32% of the GDP during Manmohan Singh's Prime Ministerial decade to consistently being below 29% of the GDP in the past 10 years.

"Investment is sluggish because mass consumption is not accelerating, tax and other authorities are threatening and intimidating businesses, and be-

Jairam Ramesh urges the govt. to focus on sustaining domestic investment in the upcoming Budget

cause of the growing perception that only four to five business groups can grow in the Modi regime. Now comes fresh evidence of the private sector's reluctance to invest in India under this government - net foreign direct investment (FDI) fell to a 12-year low in April-October this year (2024). Gross FDI inflows have stagnated," he said, citing a news report.

"Indian firms are increasingly choosing to invest abroad rather than at home. This is a corporate motion of no-confidence in the Modi government," he said. "How to stimulate and sustain production. Investment has to be the central concern of the Union Budget to be presented days from today," Mr. Ramesh said.

Women leaders play key role in driving change, says Birla

At Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0 event, Lok Sabha Speaker hails role of women representatives, says their better and more sensitive leadership effectively addresses community concerns

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Highlighting the positive impact of women leading representative institutions at the panchayat level, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said the inclusion and empowerment of women, especially from rural and tribal communities, were pivotal for socio-economic change.

Mr. Birla emphasised the importance of leveraging women's leadership in addressing pressing rural issues. He praised the entrepreneurial spirit of tribal women who had been creating self-reliant villages through initiatives in traditional crafts, organic business, and local production.

Addressing "Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0", an event to facilitate women's participation in the panchayat representatives, the Speaker sought further



Fostering progress: The Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0 event saw the participation of more than 500 tribal women representatives.

Women's personal experiences with societal difficulties enable them to develop more robust solutions to local challenges, he said, attributing this to their innate problem-solving skills, which facilitate a deeper understanding of issues and the formulation of strategic approaches.

Mr. Birla stressed the crucial role of women's participation in the democratic systems, and said their increased involvement would yield greater socioeconomic transformation in people's lives.

The Speaker noted that from the grassroots level in panchayat to the national level, women's leadership of women had been instrumental in driving change, ensuring accountability, and creating inclusive development models. He lauded the growing presence of women in panchayat raj institutions, with several States surpassing the mandated 33% reservation for women, reaching over 50% in some cases. These measures, he stressed, are not symbolic but significant steps toward sustainable and inclusive governance.

The event saw the participation of more than 500 tribal women representatives from panchayat raj institutions of 22 States and Union Territories.

HC gives six weeks for action on Bhopal waste disposal

Mehal Malbani
PITHAMPUR

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Monday gave the state government six weeks to act on the issue of the disposal of Union Carbide waste, while adhering to safety measures. The court issued directions to the media not to give incorrect information to the public.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice S.K. Kailash and Justice Vivek Jain in Jabalpur granted the government time after it filed an affidavit informing the court regarding the movement of the waste from

Bhopal to Pithampur and the subsequent unrest in the industrial town near Indore.

Saying that misinformation had caused the unrest in Pithampur, the government sought time from the court "to infuse confidence in the public and dispel their myths by giving them factual inputs so that they may not be misguided by the fake news and the wrong information floated by miscreants and vested interests."

"...we direct the respondent to take into consideration all safety measures and comply the order dated



The waste disposal facility at Pithampur where waste from Bhopal's Union Carbide factory has been brought for disposal.

January 3, 2024," the order read. The next hearing of the court is scheduled for February 18. Welcoming the order, Chief Minister Mohan Va-

day said he was satisfied that the court had accepted the government's request to grant time. "In the meantime, all the parties and if anyone else wants to

keep their side then they can present it before the court and the State government would follow the decision of the court," he said.

Mr. Yadav also said that the government's first priority was to gain the trust of the people. The government sought the court's permission to open the 12 large containers currently parked at the incineration facility and spread the waste.

It said that the waste could not be kept in the containers for a long period. The court, however,

said, "In the order dated December 3, 2024, this court directed to take waste material from Bhopal and dispose of the same as per directions. Thus, no further order is required to be passed to unload the waste material. It is for the State to unload and dispose of the waste material as per direction of this court."

On December 3, the High Court had pulled up authorities and set a four-week deadline for the disposal of the waste. In compliance with the order, the State authorities moved the waste to an incineration facility in Pithampur.

India's first organic fish cluster in Sikkim

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Rajy Kanjan Singh launched the country's first organic fisheries cluster in Sikkim on Monday. The Ministry said the organic fish cluster in the Soreng district of Sikkim will boost farmer incomes and promote sustainability in aquaculture. The project aims to sell antibiotic, chemical-free and pesticide-free organic fish in eco-conscious markets across the globe.

Mr. Singh also inaugurated and laid the foundations for 50 key projects worth ₹50 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), covering all northeastern States except Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in Guwahati, "introducing organic fisheries and aquaculture will align with the State's broader vision of promoting organic, sustainable, and environmentally friendly practices across all sectors," the Fisheries Ministry said in a statement.

It added that the organic fisheries cluster focuses on an ecologically healthy fish farming system. "This ensures minimal environmental pollution and prevents damage to local ecosystems, contributing to sustainable fish production practices," the Ministry claimed.

Sweet treat



Feastful call: Jagjyoti was preparing a unit in Kawaasampatu near Vellore in Tamil Nadu on Monday. Jagjyoti is a widely used ingredient in dishes for the upcoming Pongal celebration. © VISHVAKANTH/APRINT

Saamana picks on PM's lifestyle after his comment on Kejriwal's bungalow

Darunima Sah
MUMBAI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scathing attack on AAP's national convener, Arvind Kejriwal, the Centre's Central Information Commission (CIC) mouthpiece, Saamana, has come out in support of the former New Delhi Chief Minister and criticised the Prime Minister.

On Monday, Saamana's editorial lashed out at the PM's speech and came in support of Mr. Kejriwal and

said it is the PM who has built a palace for himself. "Mr. Kejriwal spending ₹1.5 crore on his government bungalow may be a matter of criticism but what about the houses of other Ministers? Ministers who have gone royal in decorating their government bungalows? In Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde as a CM had three government bungalows; even after stepping down from the post, he continues to hold possession of two bungalows.

When Devendra Fadnis was Deputy CM, he too had two bungalows. This extravagance is larger than the sheeshi malhotra allegation against Mr. Kejriwal who is also accused of making gold in the Central Information Commission editorial read.

It said that the PM bought an airplane worth ₹15,000 crore for his world tour. "How can a person claim to be 'Jai' who spends ₹10 to 15 lakh on one suit, and wears branded spectacles, clothes,

watches and footwear. Because of his luxurious lifestyle, the people of India are paying hefty taxes."

The editorial said the Saamana's piece, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule slammed Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray for naming such an editorial and said, "PM Narendra Modi started his life with a very humble background as a tea seller. He became PM through his hard work and dedication."

X's Grok AI brings concern about deepfakes ahead of Delhi Assembly election

Aruna Deep
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party posted an Artificial Intelligence-generated deepfake of I.K. Ambedkar supposedly blessing former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal last month, prompting an AI-generated response from the ruling party.

In the run-up to the Delhi Assembly election, the exchange has reignited the debate over the use of AI in political campaigning and its role in elections. This use of deepfakes has been growing since Grok - the AI chatbot and image generation service offered by X - became available to create [a] parody account of the policy followed by other AI chatbots. X owner Elon Musk has decided against prohibiting imagery based on real-life figures, leading to a mashrooming of such content on Grok.

Power parody For instance, an X account riffs on the constant blaming of PM Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the country's economic problems. "The account, @TheNeuru, has



The use of deepfakes is not restricted to political parties and parody accounts alone.

gained over 20,000 followers. The account is "based on the real-life figure of I.K. Ambedkar and imitates Grok over direct messages on X. "So I got the idea to create [a] parody account and mock the statements," the account says. "I am a comedian who writes on Indian humour, and one of the contributors to a satirical page called Humans of Delhi, [citing] Humans of Bombay and other such pages), was skeptical about AI being a sustainable industry mainstay for a crop of accounts."

"Satirical pages pretending to be politicians aren't new, but AI tools do make it easier for them to flood our timelines with trash that ultimately make any satire or commentary meaningless and inseparable from any other kind of noise," Mr. Singh said. "I feel it really de-

pends on who is using it for what." He added that there were concerns with this kind of content becoming more common. "Satire, misinformation, and hate speech being used interchangeably with no accountability. People and even news sources mistake satire pages for genuine news isn't even news any more. It's not sustainable, but here we are, in the post-singularity AI shop pit."

Political impact Indeed, the use of deepfakes in this way is not restricted to political parties and parody accounts alone. One political commentator posted a picture of Congress leader Rahul Adhiraj Singh, a comedian who writes on Indian humour, and one of the contributors to a satirical page called Humans of Delhi, [citing] Humans of Bombay and other such pages), was skeptical about AI being a sustainable industry mainstay for a crop of accounts.

"Satirical pages pretending to be politicians aren't new, but AI tools do make it easier for them to flood our timelines with trash that ultimately make any satire or commentary meaningless and inseparable from any other kind of noise," Mr. Singh said. "I feel it really de-

IN BRIEF



Anti-Sikh riots case: SC to hear appeal filed by Sajjan Kumar

The Supreme Court on Monday posted for July appeal filed by former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and party's former councillor Balwan Khokhar after they were sentenced to imprisonment in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. A Bench headed by Justice J.K. Maheshwari said the petitioners would be at liberty to request the court to suspend their sentence if the hearing was further delayed. In July 2024, the apex court had asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to respond to Khokhar's plea seeking a reprieve. Khokhar's life sentence was upheld by the Delhi High Court in 2018, whereas it reversed Kumar's acquittal by a trial court in 2013.

Bengal CM alleges custodial torture of Indian fisherfolk

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, during her visit to Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas district on Monday, alleged that 95 Indian fisherfolk, who were arrested for allegedly crossing Bangladesh's maritime boundaries, had been subjected to torture in the neighbouring country. The fisherfolk were handed over to the District Magistrate on Monday morning. "Their hands were tied with ropes and they were beaten with large sticks," Ms. Banerjee said. "They tortured us a lot. They hit me on my head, on my waist and knees. They seized our belongings too," one of the repatriated fisherfolk said.

Naveen launches scathing attack on Odisha govt.

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and Leader of the Opposition Naveen Pattnaik on Monday criticised the Mohan Majhi-led Odisha government, terming it a "double engine, double blow" administration. "Prices of essential commodities continue to rise, yet no concrete measures have been taken. While this government claims to represent the people, it appears disconnected from their joys and struggles," the former Chief Minister said. "The so-called double engine has delivered a 'double blow' - on one hand, the relentless burden of inflation, and on the other, GST imposed on virtually everything," he added.

India's first organic fish cluster in Sikkim

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the country's first organic fisheries cluster in Sikkim on Monday. The Ministry said the organic fish cluster in the Soreng district of Sikkim will boost farmer incomes and promote sustainability in aquaculture. The project aims to sell antibiotic, chemical, and pesticide-free organic fish in eco-conscious markets across the globe.

Mr. Singh also inaugurated and laid the foundations for 50 key projects worth ₹50 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), covering all northeastern States except Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in Guwahati. "Introducing organic fisheries and aquaculture will align with the State's broader vision of promoting organic, sustainable, and environmentally friendly practices across all sectors," the Fisheries Ministry said in a statement.

statement.

It added that the organic fisheries cluster focuses on an ecologically healthy fish farming system. "This also ensures minimal environmental pollution and prevents damage to aquatic ecosystems, contributing to sustainable fish production practices," the Ministry claimed.



| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Launch Date | September 10, 2020 |
| Launched By | Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Government of India |
| Objective | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Boost fish production and productivity.- Enhance aquaculture infrastructure and income for fishers.- Ensure sustainable fisheries development. |
| Budget | ₹20,050 crore (over 5 years, 2020–2025) |
| Target | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase fish production to 22 million metric tons by 2024-25.- Double fishers' incomes. |
| Key Components | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Infrastructure development (harbors, cold storage, etc.).- Fish production and productivity enhancement.- Marketing and branding.- Welfare of fishers and fish farmers. |
| Coverage | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All States and Union Territories.- Focus on coastal, inland, and marine fisheries. |
| Beneficiaries | Fishers, fish farmers, cooperatives, and entrepreneurs in fisheries and aquaculture sectors. |
| Key Features | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promotes sustainable fishery practices.- Supports startups and entrepreneurs.- Emphasizes fish health and insurance. |
| Significance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aims to create 55 lakh direct and indirect jobs.- Strengthens India's position as a global fisheries exporter. |
| Implementation Agencies | - State governments, UTs, and other implementing agencies under the guidance of the Ministry of Fisheries. |
| Major Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Address critical gaps in the fisheries value chain.- Promote sustainable and blue economy growth. |

Announce 8th Pay Commission soon, trade unions tell FM

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Ten Central Trade Unions (CTUs) in the Opposition camp and the Sangh Parishad-backed Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) have demanded the Centre constitute the eighth Pay Commission immediately.

The trade unions made the demand at a pre-Budget discussion with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here.

Senior BMS leader Pawan Kumar said they also demanded wage negotiations in public sector undertakings (PSUs) must begin immediately and income threshold for income tax raised to ₹10 lakh with existing exemptions.

“Pensioners must be made exempt from paying income tax on pensions,” as per BMS memorandum.

The platform of 10 CTUs said in a statement after the meeting they demanded the Centre address the unemployment issue, fill up sanctioned vacant posts in PSUs and government departments, lift the ban on creating new posts, end outsourcing and contractualisation of jobs, increase in the number of days under MGNREGA to 200 with a wage increase to ₹600 per day and launch of a new urban employment guarantee policy.

Rollback privatisation

“We demanded the Centre to rollback the policies of privatisation, disinvestment and sale of PSUs and government services to



Nirmala Sitharaman

private players. We asked them for an increase in the threshold of Provident Fund and State Insurance coverage for employees as well as to extend the cover for the benefit of the informal economy workforce including gig/app-based workers and domestic workers steadily to make the statutory schemes inclusive,” said AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur.

BMS wanted Centre to ensure appropriate funding for unorganised sector social security boards.

“Ensure funding for different industrial boards like the beedi workers welfare board, contract labour board, etc. which were earlier (before the GST regime) funded via cess. Provide special packages for labour-intensive sectors like plantation, beedi, agriculture, and fisheries,” the BMS demanded.

They also asked the FM to raise the minimum pension for PF pensioners from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 as a first step and then get 50% of minimum wages notified and link it to variable dearness allowance.

- **Trade Unions Demand 8th Pay Commission and Key Economic Reforms**

- **Overview:**

- Ten Central Trade Unions (CTUs) and the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to announce the 8th Pay Commission immediately during pre-Budget discussions.
- दस केंद्रीय ट्रेड यूनियनों (CTUs) और भारतीय मजदूर संघ (BMS) ने केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण से पूर्व-बजट चर्चा के दौरान तुरंत 8वें वेतन आयोग की घोषणा करने की मांग की।

Key Demands:

Constitution of the 8th Pay Commission:

- Immediate establishment of the commission to revise wages for government employees.
- सरकारी कर्मचारियों के वेतन संशोधन के लिए तुरंत 8वें वेतन आयोग का गठन किया जाए।

Income Tax Reforms:

- Raise the income tax exemption threshold to ₹10 lakh and exempt pensioners from paying tax on pensions.
- आयकर छूट सीमा को ₹10 लाख तक बढ़ाने और पेंशनभोगियों को पेंशन पर कर से छूट देने की मांग।

1. Wage Revision:

1. Initiate wage negotiations in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and revise wages under MGNREGA to ₹600 per day with 200 workdays annually.
2. सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (PSUs) में वेतन वार्ता शुरू करें और मनरेगा के तहत मजदूरी को ₹600 प्रतिदिन और काम के दिनों को 200 तक बढ़ाया जाए।

2. Privatisation Rollback:

1. Revoke privatisation policies, disinvestment, and outsourcing of government services.
2. निजीकरण की नीतियों, विनिवेश और सरकारी सेवाओं के आउटसोर्सिंग को वापस लिया जाए।

Demands for the Informal Sector:

Social Security for Gig and Domestic Workers:

- Extend Provident Fund (PF) and State Insurance benefits to gig/app-based and domestic workers.
- गिग/ऐप-आधारित और घरेलू श्रमिकों को भविष्य निधि और राज्य बीमा लाभ का विस्तार किया जाए।

Sector-Specific Funds:

- Ensure funding for labour-intensive sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and beedi workers.
- कृषि, मत्स्य पालन और बीड़ी श्रमिकों जैसे श्रम-प्रधान क्षेत्रों के लिए धन सुनिश्चित किया जाए।

Minimum Pension Revision:

- Raise minimum pension for PF subscribers from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 and link minimum wages to inflation.
- भविष्य निधि पेंशनभोगियों की न्यूनतम पेंशन ₹1,000 से ₹5,000 तक बढ़ाई जाए और न्यूनतम वेतन को महंगाई से जोड़ा जाए।

Proposals to Address Unemployment:

Job Creation:

- Fill vacant posts in PSUs and government departments, lift the hiring freeze, and create new positions.
- सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र और सरकारी विभागों में खाली पदों को भरा जाए, भर्ती पर लगे प्रतिबंध को हटाया जाए और नए पद सृजित किए जाएं।

Urban Employment Guarantee:

- Introduce an urban employment guarantee scheme similar to MGNREGA.
- मनरेगा की तर्ज पर शहरी रोजगार गारंटी योजना शुरू की जाए।

Historical Context:

- Pay Commissions have been pivotal in revising government wages since the first Pay Commission in 1946.
- वेतन आयोग 1946 से सरकारी वेतन संशोधन का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा रहे हैं।

Economic Implications:

- Meeting these demands could increase fiscal strain but enhance workers' purchasing power.
- इन मांगों को पूरा करने से राजकोषीय दबाव बढ़ सकता है, लेकिन श्रमिकों की क्रय शक्ति में सुधार होगा।

Political Impact:

- The demands highlight discontent with privatisation and labour reforms, which could influence electoral dynamics.
- मांगें निजीकरण और श्रम सुधारों से असंतोष को उजागर करती हैं, जो चुनावी समीकरणों को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।

Key Details of Pay Commission

| Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Definition | A government-appointed body tasked with revising the pay structure of central government employees and defense personnel. |
| Purpose | To align government salaries with economic realities, inflation, and ensure parity with private sector wages. |
| Constitution | Constituted every 10 years by the Central Government. The commission includes economists, bureaucrats, and experts in finance. |
| Applicability | Covers Central Government employees , including all ministries, departments, defense forces, and autonomous bodies under the government. |
| Recommendations | Includes revisions in basic pay, allowances (HRA, DA, etc.), pensions, and salary structures. |
| Implementation | Recommendations are reviewed by the Cabinet before final approval and implementation. The decisions are binding for the central government and may serve as guidelines for states. |
| Frequency | Typically constituted once every 10 years , though the timing may vary based on government priorities. |

Working of Pay Commission

| Step | Details |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Formation | The government appoints the Pay Commission, usually consisting of a chairman, members, and a secretary. |
| 2. Data Collection | The commission collects data on existing salary structures, allowances, economic conditions, and inflation. |
| 3. Consultation | Consultations are held with employee unions, economists, ministries, and other stakeholders to address grievances and suggestions. |
| 4. Recommendations Draft | A draft report is prepared with proposed changes in pay scales, allowances, and pensions. |
| 5. Submission to Government | The report is submitted to the Finance Ministry and reviewed by the Union Cabinet for approval. |
| 6. Implementation | Approved recommendations are implemented, often retrospectively from a specific date. |

Important Pay Commissions in India

| Pay Commission | Year Established | Key Recommendations/Changes |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| 1st (1946) | 1946 | Set the foundation for government salary structures after independence. |
| 4th (1983) | 1983 | Introduced the concept of time-bound promotions . |
| 6th (2006) | 2006 | Introduced Grade Pay system , major hikes in salary, and significant increase in allowances. |
| 7th (2016) | 2014 | Abolished the Grade Pay system, introduced Pay Matrix , and increased the minimum basic pay to ₹18,000/month. |
| 8th (Proposed) | 2024 (Expected) | Anticipated to address salary parity, gig workers' inclusion, and rationalization of allowances. |

BEVERLY HILLS
The Brutalist and Emilia Perez triumph at 82nd Golden Globes



Brady Corbett's postwar epic *The Brutalist* and Jacques Audiard's Spanish language musical comedy *Emilia Perez* — won best director at the 82nd Golden Globes. *The Brutalist* won Best Director for Brady Corbett and Best Actor for Adrien Brody. *Emilia Perez* won best film, comedy or musical along with three more awards. AP

LONDON
Starmer defends record over child sex gangs after Musk criticism



Keir Starmer defended his work as Britain's top prosecutor on Monday, refusing to mention U.S. billionaire Elon Musk by name but addressing his criticism that, long before he became Prime Minister, he had failed to prosecute gangs who sexually abused girls. Starmer also slammed "those spreading lies and misinformation". STUTTES

WASHINGTON
Venezuela opposition seeks Army backing, leader to meet Biden



Venezuela opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia called on Sunday for the military to recognise him as commander-in-chief, as he continued an international tour seeking to pressure President Nicolas Maduro to relinquish power. He has been recognised by the U.S., Italy and several Latin American nations as president-elect. AP

MOSCOW
Russia claims to have captured industrial town of Kurakhove



Russia said its forces had captured the "important logistics hub" of Kurakhove in eastern Ukraine in what would be a key advance after months of steady gains. The industrial town of Kurakhove, which had a pre-conflict population of around 22,000 people, is located next to a reservoir and is home to a power station. AP

Attack on bus carrying Israelis in occupied West Bank kills 3 persons

Two women in their 60s and man in his 40s killed in the shooting incident; Israeli PM Netanyahu vows to settle accounts with murderers; at least 838 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank since the start of Gaza war

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Gunmen opened fire on a bus carrying Israelis in the occupied West Bank on Monday, killing at least three persons and wounding seven others. Violence has surged in the territory since Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack out of Gaza ignited the ongoing war there.



Out of the buses Israeli soldiers at the site of the shooting attack in the village of al-Funduq in West Bank on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

The attack occurred in the Palestinian village of al-Funduq, on one of the main east-west roads crossing the territory. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said two women in their 60s and a man in his 40s were killed, and the military said it was looking for the attackers. Palestinians have carried out scores of shooting, stabbing and car-ran-

dom attacks against Israelis in recent years. Israel has launched near-nightly military strikes in the West Bank since the start of the war in Gaza. Most appear to have been militants killed in battles with Israeli troops, but the dead also include participants in violent protests and civilian bystanders. The Palestinian Health Ministry says at least 838 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank since the start of the war in Gaza. Most appear to have been militants killed in battles with Israeli troops, but the dead also include participants in violent protests and civilian bystanders. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to "reach the despicable murderers" behind Monday's attack and "settle the accounts with them and with everyone who assisted them. No one will be spared."

Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to "reach the despicable murderers" behind Monday's attack and "settle the accounts with them and with everyone who assisted them. No one will be spared."

Hamas praised the attack in a statement but did not claim responsibility for it. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 West Asian war, and the Palestinians want all three territories for their future state.

Some 3 million Palestinians live in the West Bank under seemingly open-ended Israeli military rule, with the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority administering population centers. Over 500,000 settlers with Israeli citizenship live in well over 100 settlements across the territory, ranging from small hilltop outposts to sprawling communities that resemble suburbs or small towns. Most of the international community considers the settlements illegal. Meanwhile, the war in Gaza is raging with no end in sight, though there has reportedly been recent progress in long-running talks aimed at a ceasefire and hostage release. Israel's air and ground offensive has killed over 45,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to local health authorities, who say women and children make up more than half of those killed. They do not say how many of the dead were militants. The Israeli military says it has killed over 17,000 fighters, without providing evidence.

S. Korea's Yoon avoids arrest by deadline, extension sought

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

Impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol evaded arrest after a warrant's Monday deadline passed, but anti-graft investigators asked for more time to enforce his detention. The former star prosecutor has defiantly refused questioning three times over a bungled martial law decree last month and remained holed up in his residence surrounded by hundreds of guards preventing his arrest.



Supporters of impeached South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol take out a rally near his residence in Seoul on Monday. AP

Investigators said they sought a fresh warrant that expired at the end of Monday (GMT+9), and earlier asked for support from the health authorities, who say would help and may arrest anyone shielding the impeached Mr. Yoon. "The Joint Investigation Headquarters today refused a warrant with the Seoul Western District Court to extend the arrest warrant for defendant Yoon," the Corruption Investigation Office (CIO) said in a statement late Monday. "Details regarding the validity period cannot be disclosed at this time."

The court has not announced its decision on the new warrant request, but CIO deputy director Lee Jae-sung told reporters before it was filed that the likelihood for the court to not grant an extension was "very low". Officials have sought more time and help because of the difficulties they have faced, including being met by hundreds of security forces when they entered Yoon's presidential compound on Friday. "We will consider the option of arresting any persons from the Presidential Security Service during the execution of the second warrant," a police official said on Monday, on condition of anonymity.

No decision yet The court has not announced its decision on the new warrant request, but CIO deputy director Lee Jae-sung told reporters before it was filed that the likelihood for the court to not grant an extension was "very low". Officials have sought more time and help because of the difficulties they have faced, including being met by hundreds of security forces when they entered Yoon's presidential compound on Friday. "We will consider the option of arresting any persons from the Presidential Security Service during the execution of the second warrant," a police official said on Monday, on condition of anonymity.

Bangladesh ICT puts out second warrant against ex-PM Hasina

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh's International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) on Monday issued arrest warrants against deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 11 others, including former military generals and a former police chief, for their alleged role in incidents of enforced disappearances.

This was the second arrest warrant by the ICT against Ms. Hasina, who fled to India after her Awami League government's toppling following unprecedented anti-government protests in August last year. The tribunal has so far recorded three arrest warrants against her. "Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mohtamir, chairman of the tribunal, issued the arrest warrant after hearing a prosecution plea," an ICT official said.

February deadline The IC of Police was ordered to arrest the twelve persons, including Ms. Hasina, and produce them before the tribunal on February 12 in the case filed over complaints of enforced disappearances of several hundred people. "The deposed premier's then-defence adviser Major General (ret'd) Tariqul Ahmed Siddique and former ICP Benzair Ahmad are among those named in the case. While Mr. Siddique is currently under arrest, Mr. Ahmad is believed to be on the run. ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam

The warrant pertains to the case filed over the enforced disappearances of several hundred people

did not disclose the names of most of the accused "in the interest of investigations and their arrest". He, however, said if the investigation report could not be submitted by then, the law enforcement agencies would have to provide a progress report on the arrests. Mr. Islam told the tribunal that the ousted regime had established a culture of enforced disappearances under state sponsorship.

The chief prosecutor alleged that those involved in carrying out these disappearances were rewarded. He added that agencies like the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), the police's Detective Branch (DB), the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Centre (CTTC) unit, and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) were most frequently used for the purpose. Last month, Dhaka officials sought Hasina's extradition from India. While New Delhi acknowledged the receipt of the letter, it refrained from commenting on it. The ICT issued the first arrest warrant against the ex-premier on January 17 on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the July-August protests and uprising.

'President's pie'



French President Emmanuel Macron cuts the Epiphany cake after his speech to the French Bakery and Pastry Federation members during the traditional Epiphany cake ceremony at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Monday. AFP

India 'unequivocally condemns' Pakistani bombing of Afghan targets

Kalal Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Monday "unequivocally condemned" the latest Pakistani airstrike on targets inside Afghanistan. India's remarks came days after Pakistani Air Force bombed targets in Pakitka during days of skirmishes between Pakistani forces and Taliban border guards.

"We have noted the media reports on airstrikes on Afghan civilians including women and children, in which several precious lives have been lost. We unequivocally condemn any attack on innocent civilians. It is an old practice of Pakistan to blame its neigh-



Pakistan targeted areas in Afghanistan's Barmal on December 24 and 25 that led to the killing of at least 46 people. AFP

External Affairs said. "Pakistani Air Force jets bombed targets in Barmal district of Pakitka December 24 and 25 that led to the killing of at least 46 people. Following the attacks, the Taliban regime's Defence Ministry said, "The Islamic Emirate considers this brutal bombing a violation of international principles and a clear act of aggression." Afghanistan and Pakistan troops have clashed in the Durand area near Pakitka for several weeks. Pakistan said that the aerial attacks were aimed at assets of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, a designated terror group in Pakistan. Islamabad has in the past accused the Taliban of carrying out attacks against military bases, schools and other civilian targets.

Russia is 'guilty' over downed Azerbaijan plane, says Aliyev

Agence France-Presse
BAKU

Azerbaijan's President said on Monday that Russia was guilty over the downing of an airline last month that Baku says was shot by Russian air defences. An Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190 jet crashed landed in Kazakhstan on December 25, killing 38 of the 67 people on board, after being diverted from a scheduled landing in the southern Russian city of Grozny.

Moscow has admitted its air defences were operational in the area at the time, which it said was under attack from Ukrainian forces. Russian President Vladimir Putin has apologised for the "incident" occurred in his country's air defence, Ministry said.

"The Islamic Emirate considers this brutal bombing a violation of international principles and a clear act of aggression." Afghanistan and Pakistan troops have clashed in the Durand area near Pakitka for several weeks. Pakistan said that the aerial attacks were aimed at assets of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, a designated terror group in Pakistan. Islamabad has in the past accused the Taliban of carrying out attacks against military bases, schools and other civilian targets. Azerbaijan's President said on Monday that Russia was guilty over the downing of an airline last month that Baku says was shot by Russian air defences. An Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190 jet crashed landed in Kazakhstan on December 25, killing 38 of the 67 people on board, after being diverted from a scheduled landing in the southern Russian city of Grozny. Moscow has admitted its air defences were operational in the area at the time, which it said was under attack from Ukrainian forces. Russian President Vladimir Putin has apologised for the "incident" occurred in his country's air defence, Ministry said. "The Islamic Emirate considers this brutal bombing a violation of international principles and a clear act of aggression." Afghanistan and Pakistan troops have clashed in the Durand area near Pakitka for several weeks. Pakistan said that the aerial attacks were aimed at assets of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, a designated terror group in Pakistan. Islamabad has in the past accused the Taliban of carrying out attacks against military bases, schools and other civilian targets. Azerbaijan's President said on Monday that Russia was guilty over the downing of an airline last month that Baku says was shot by Russian air defences. An Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190 jet crashed landed in Kazakhstan on December 25, killing 38 of the 67 people on board, after being diverted from a scheduled landing in the southern Russian city of Grozny. Moscow has admitted its air defences were operational in the area at the time, which it said was under attack from Ukrainian forces. Russian President Vladimir Putin has apologised for the "incident" occurred in his country's air defence, Ministry said.



Ilham Aliyev

stia's "concealment" of the causes and "delusional versions" being put forward "cause us justifiable anger". Initial statements by Russia's transport agency that the plane had been forced to divert after a bird strike had been informed in Baku. Mr. Aliyev said air defence measures for Grozny — the capital of Russia's southern "Chechen" region, where the plane was set to land — were only announced after the plane had been "shot from the ground". "If there was a danger to Russian airspace, then the captain of the plane should have been informed straight away," Mr. Aliyev said.

He also questioned why the plane was sent hundreds of kilometres (miles) across the Caspian Sea to the Kazakh city of Aktau for an emergency landing. "Why it was directed to Aktau, we have no information," Mr. Aliyev said. Azerbaijan says preliminary results of its investigation show the plane was hit accidentally by a Russian air defence missile. On Monday he said Rus-

BEVERLY HILLS

The Brutalist and *Emilia Perez* triumph at 82nd Golden Globes



AP

Brady Corbet's postwar epic *The Brutalist* and Jacques Audiard's Spanish language trans musical *Emilia Perez* — won top honours at the 82nd Golden Globes. *The Brutalist* won Best Director for Brady Corbet and Best Actor for Adrien Brody. *Emilia Pérez* won best film, comedy or musical along with three more awards. AP

Date January 5, 2025

Hosted by [Nikki Glaser](#)

Highlights

Best Film: Drama *The Brutalist*

Best Film: Musical or Comedy *Emilia Pérez*

Best Drama Series *Shōgun*

Best Musical or Comedy Series *Hacks*

Best Miniseries or Television movie *Baby Reindeer*

Most awards Film: *Emilia Pérez* (4)
TV: *Shōgun* (4)

Most nominations Film: *Emilia Pérez* (10)
TV: *The Bear* (5)

Television coverage

Network [CBS](#)
[Paramount+](#)
(streaming)

Golden Globe Awards

Current: *82nd Golden Globe Awards*

GOLDEN
GLOBES

Golden Globe Award logo (as of 2024)

Awarded for Excellence in international [film](#) and [television](#)

Country [United States](#)

Presented by [Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association](#) (1943–1954)
[Foreign Correspondents of Hollywood](#) (1951–1954)
[Hollywood Foreign Press Association](#) (1955–2023)
[Golden Globe Foundation](#) (since 2024)

First awarded January 20, 1944; 80 years ago

Website goldenglobes.com [↗](#)

Television/radio coverage

Network [KTTV](#) (1960–1964)
[NBC](#) (1965–1968, 1978, 1996–2021, 2023)
[CBS](#) (1981–1982; since 2024)
[Syndicated](#) (1983–1988)
[TBS](#) (1989–1995)
[Peacock](#) (2023)
[Paramount+](#) (since 2024)

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas



- The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention, the largest gathering of the Indian diaspora, will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from January 8 to 10, 2025.



Observed annually on **January 9**, marking Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa in

Started in: First celebrated in 2003 and revised to a biennial event in 2015.

Ministry: Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Aim: To strengthen engagement with the Indian diaspora and celebrate their achievements globally.

2025 Host City: Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Theme 2025: “Diaspora’s Contribution to a Viksit Bharat”, emphasizing the diaspora’s role in building a developed India.

| Day | Year | Venue | State |
|------|------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st | 2003 | New Delhi | Delhi |
| 2nd | 2004 | New Delhi | Delhi |
| 3rd | 2005 | Mumbai | Maharashtra |
| 4th | 2006 | Hyderabad | Telangana |
| 5th | 2007 | New Delhi | Delhi |
| 6th | 2008 | New Delhi | Delhi |
| 7th | 2009 | Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 8th | 2010 | New Delhi | Delhi |
| 9th | 2011 | New Delhi | Delhi |
| 10th | 2012 | Jaipur | Rajasthan |
| 11th | 2013 | Kochi | Kerala |
| 12th | 2014 | New Delhi | Delhi |
| 13th | 2015 | Gandhinagar | Gujarat |
| 14th | 2017 | Bengaluru | Karnataka |
| 15th | 2019 | Varanasi | Uttar Pradesh |
| 16th | 2021 | VIRTUAL | Delhi [2] ↗ |
| 17th | 2023 | Indore | Madhya Pradesh |
| 18th | 2025 | Bhubaneswar | Odisha |



Jammu Railway Division



- Prime Minister will inaugurate the newly established Jammu Railway Division, fulfilling a long-standing demand for better rail management in India's northernmost region.
-



About Railway Division:

What it is: A railway division is an administrative unit under Indian Railways, managing operations, maintenance, and infrastructure within its jurisdiction.

Organizational Hierarchy:


- Indian Railways has **19 zones (including Metro Railway, Kolkata)** and **70 divisions**.
- Each zone is led by a General Manager (GM), while each division is headed by a Divisional Railway Manager (DRM).



- **Jammu Railway Division:**

- **Zone:** Jammu Division falls under the Northern Railway Zone, previously managed by the Ferozpur Division.



- **Significance:**

1. **Enhanced Connectivity:** Will oversee iconic projects like the ***Anji Khad Bridge*** (India's first cable-stayed rail bridge) and the ***Chenab Rail Bridge*** (world's highest railway arch).
 2. **USBRL Project:** Manages the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link, critical for connecting Kashmir to the rest of India.
 3. **Strategic Importance:** Boosts regional development, accessibility, and tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.
 4. **Modern Infrastructure:** Equipped with hi-tech facilities leveraging IT for efficient rail operations.
- 

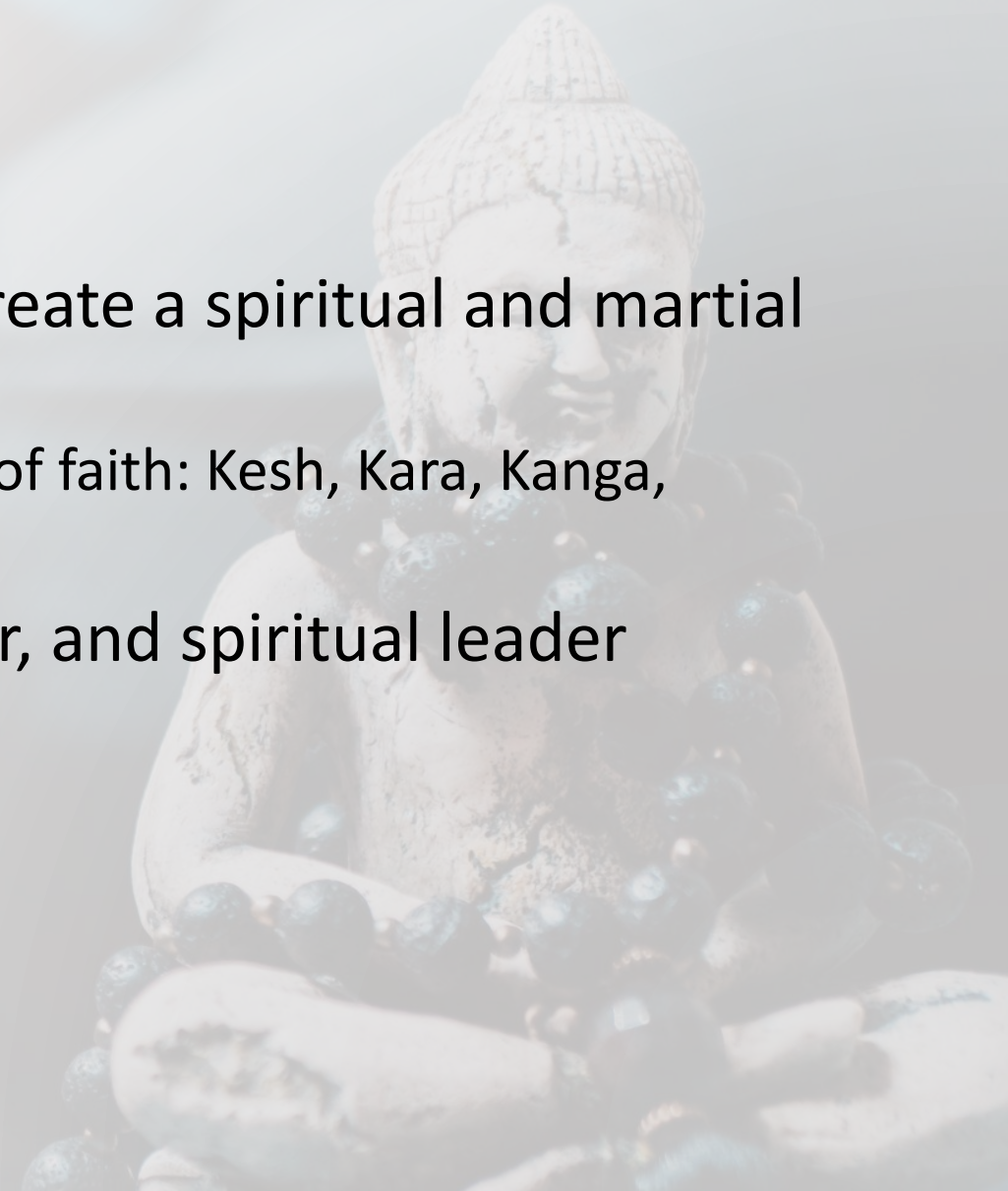
358th Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh





- 
- **Guru Gobind Singh** was born on **Paush Shukla Saptami** in **1666** in Patna Sahib, **Bihar**.
 - He was the **son of Guru Tegh Bahadur**, the ninth Sikh Guru, who was martyred by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.
 - He became the **tenth** and final Guru of the Sikhs at the age of 9 after his father's death.
 - He Passed away in **1708** at the age of 41 following a battle with Mughal forces.
- 

- **Role in Shaping Sikhism and Its Principles**
- **He founded the Khalsa Panth in 1699** to create a spiritual and martial community.
 - **The Khalsa identity** is marked by five articles of faith: Kesh, Kara, Kanga, Kachera, and Kirpan.
- **Sikh Literature:** He was a poet, philosopher, and spiritual leader



He composed the **Dasam Granth**, a collection of hymns and poetry which covers topics of spirituality, ethics, and warfare.



He also compiled the **Zafarnama**, a letter to Emperor Aurangzeb, which is a unique blend of courage, philosophy, and dignity.

- **Promotion of Equality and Unity:** He advocated for the dismantling of caste and societal barriers. He also promoted the concept of **Sarbat da Bhala (welfare for all)**, highlighting service to humanity as a key tenet of spiritual progress.



CSIR Paracetamol Technology



- 
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has announced that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed an **indigenous paracetamol drug**, which would help **reduce India's dependence on imported raw materials**.
 - **Paracetamol:**
 - Paracetamol, chemically known as **N-acetyl-para-aminophenol**, is widely used for **pain relief and fever reduction**.
- 

- In the United States and Japan, it is called **acetaminophen** (derived from its chemical structure), while most other countries, including India, use the name “**paracetamol.**”
- It works by inhibiting prostaglandins, which amplify pain, and targets the hypothalamus for fever reduction.





- **Risk and Threats:** Paracetamol poisoning quietly causes thousands of deaths globally, with over 60,000 emergency visits and more than 500 deaths annually in the U.S. alone.
 - The issue is underreported, especially in Asia, South America, and Africa, and is rarely discussed despite its scale.




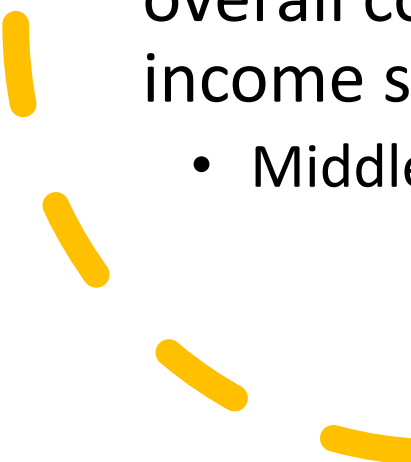
Decline in Rural Poverty: SBI Research



- 
- Recently, SBI's economic research department (ERD) released a report on Rural Poverty.
 - **About Research: Findings**
 - India's poverty rate has dropped significantly from **22% in 2011-12 to below 5% in 2023-24**, with minimal extreme poverty.
 - Rural poverty fell from 25.7% in 2011-12 to 4.86% in 2023-24, and urban poverty decreased from 4.6% in 2022-23 to 4.09% in 2023-24.
- 

- **Threshold:** The report sets the new poverty line for FY24 at Rs 1,632 for rural areas and Rs 1,944 for urban areas, adjusted for inflation and the imputation factor.
 - **Suresh Tendulkar's poverty line** (estimated in 2011-12) was Rs 816 for rural areas and Rs 1,000 for urban areas.



- 
- **Urban-Rural Consumption Disparity:** The gap in monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) between rural and urban areas decreased to 70% in 2023-24 from 84% in 2011-12, reflecting sustained rural consumption growth.
 - **Impact of Inflation and Consumption:** Rising inflation led to lower overall consumption, with a more pronounced effect in rural, low-income states.
 - Middle-income states helped sustain consumption demand.
- 

ISRO's CROPS Experiment





- A batch of cowpea seeds which were taken into orbit by an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission has unveiled their first leaves.

- **About**



- **CROPS payload:** The space agency sent eight cowpea seeds as part of the Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS) experiment.



- 
- **Aim:** It is conducted by the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** to study **plant growth in microgravity conditions**.
 - **CROPS** is part of a larger initiative to evolve ISRO's capabilities in sustaining flora in extraterrestrial environments, with future phases expected to focus on **longer-term plant growth in space**.
- 

The graphic features a large white circle centered on an orange background. A dashed yellow line follows the top-left curve of the white circle. A solid blue circle is positioned at the bottom-right edge of the white circle. The text "World Braille Day 2025" is centered within the white circle.

World Braille Day 2025

- 
- January 4 is marked as World Braille Day.
 - **About**
 - **Established:** The day was adopted in **2018** by the **United Nations General Assembly**.
 - The day is a tribute to **Louis Braille who was born on January 04 1809**, the visionary behind the **braille system**.
- 



Louis Braille

who invented a system
of reading and writing for
visually impaired people was
born on 4 January 1809

Braille used a system of raised dots to represent
alphabets, words & numbers



Due to an eye injury he was left completely blind at the age of 3.

Braille System: It is used by both blind and partially sighted people worldwide to read books and periodicals.

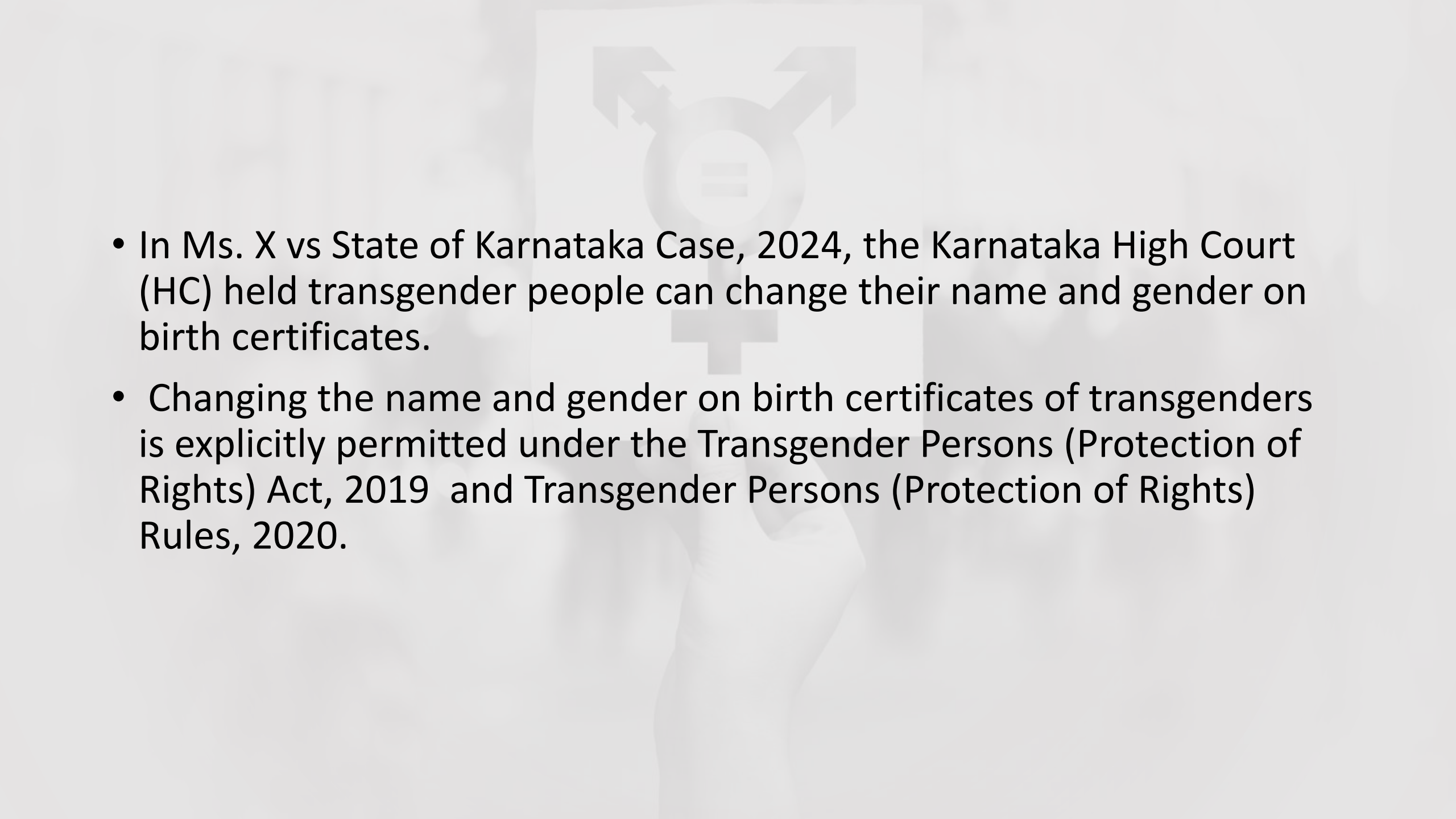
- It was accepted by the Institute in Paris in **1854**.

Significance:

- Braille is used in nearly every language worldwide.
- It is not only a means of communication but also a bridge to education, employment, and social inclusion for people who are blind or visually impaired.



Transgender Rights and Related Concerns

- 
- In Ms. X vs State of Karnataka Case, 2024, the Karnataka High Court (HC) held transgender people can change their name and gender on birth certificates.
 - Changing the name and gender on birth certificates of transgenders is explicitly permitted under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020.

What are the Key Facts of the Ms. X vs State of Karnataka Case, 2024?

Background: The petitioner was diagnosed with gender dysphoria and she underwent sex-reassignment surgery and legally changed her name and gender identity on her Aadhaar card, driving license, and passport.

However, her request to **change** the gender and name on her **birth certificate was rejected**.

Gender dysphoria refers to **psychological distress** that occurs when a person's sex assigned at birth does not match his gender identity.



Legal Objection: Section 15 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 permits changes to birth certificates only if the information is erroneous or was entered fraudulently or incorrectly.

Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 governs the granting of birth and death certificates.

Violation of Fundamental Rights:

The petitioner argued that the restrictive nature of Section 15 of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 violated her right to life with dignity under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

She also claimed that documents showing different identities create a dual identity, leading to potential harassment and discrimination.

- 
- **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019:** It states that transgender people can be issued a “**certificate of identity**” as proof of their identity (**Section 6**) which can be revised if they choose to opt for a **sex-reassignment surgery (Section 7)**.
 - The law **explicitly** says the gender of a transgender person “**shall be recorded in all official documents**” per this certificate.
- 

In India, Legal Services Authorities provide free legal services to which of the following type of citizens?(2020)

Person with an annual income of less than Rs 1,00,000

Transgender with an annual income of less than Rs 2,00,000

Member of Other Backward Classes (OBC) with an annual income of less thanRs `3,00,000

All Senior Citizens

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only



(b) 3 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

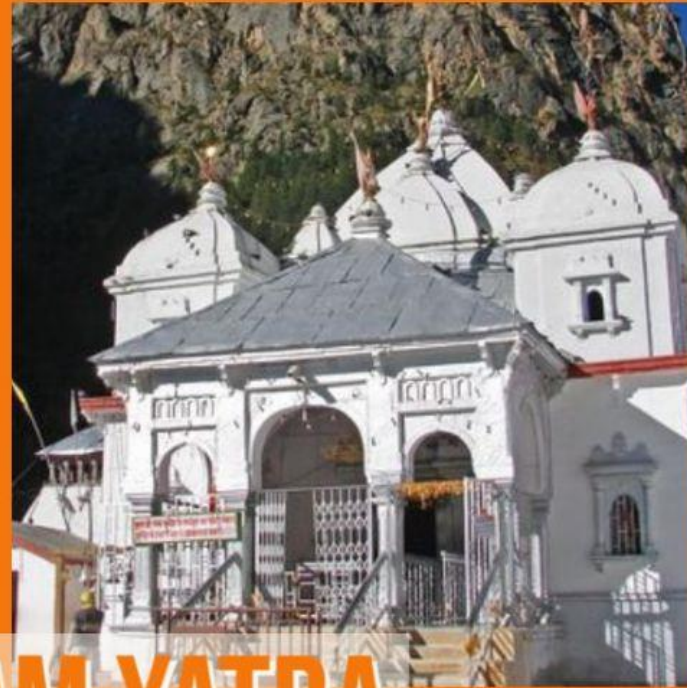
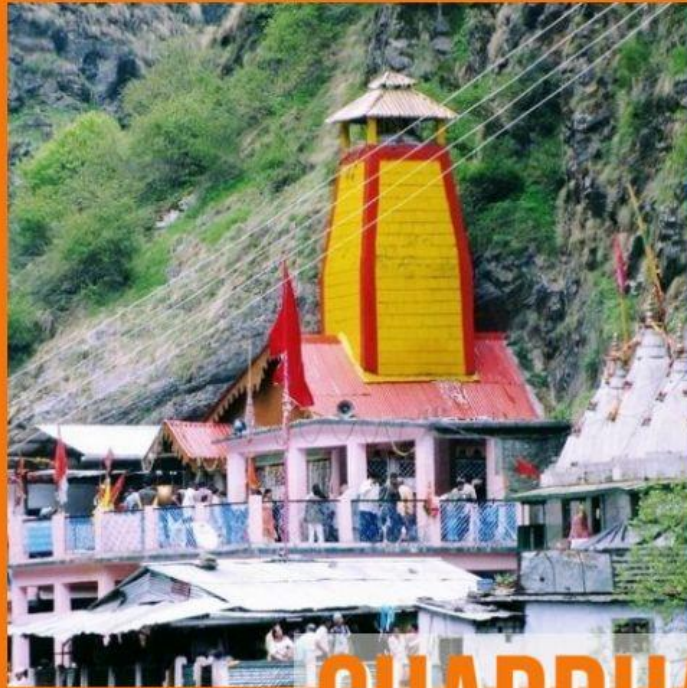
(d) 1 and 4 only



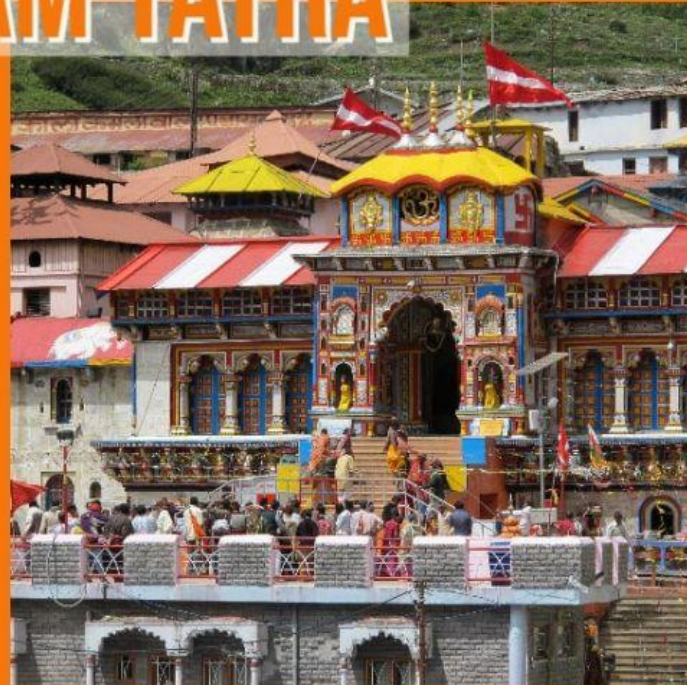
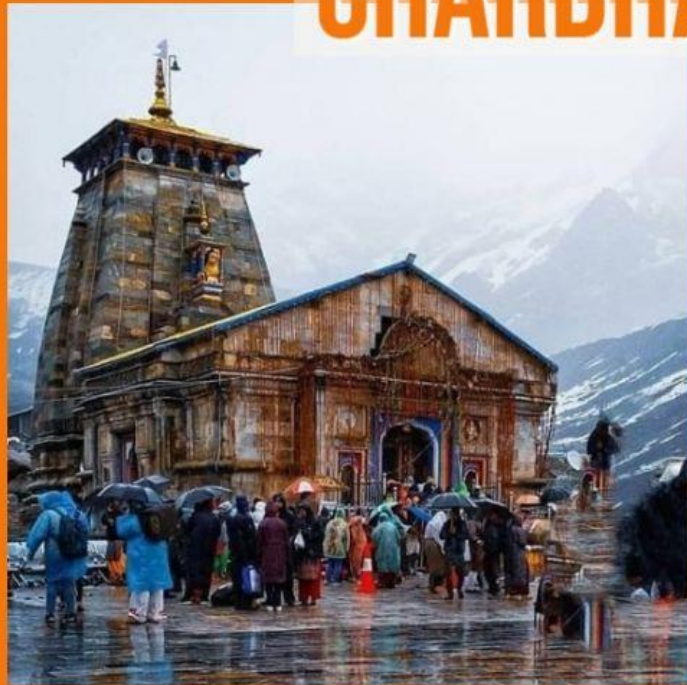
Winter Char Dham

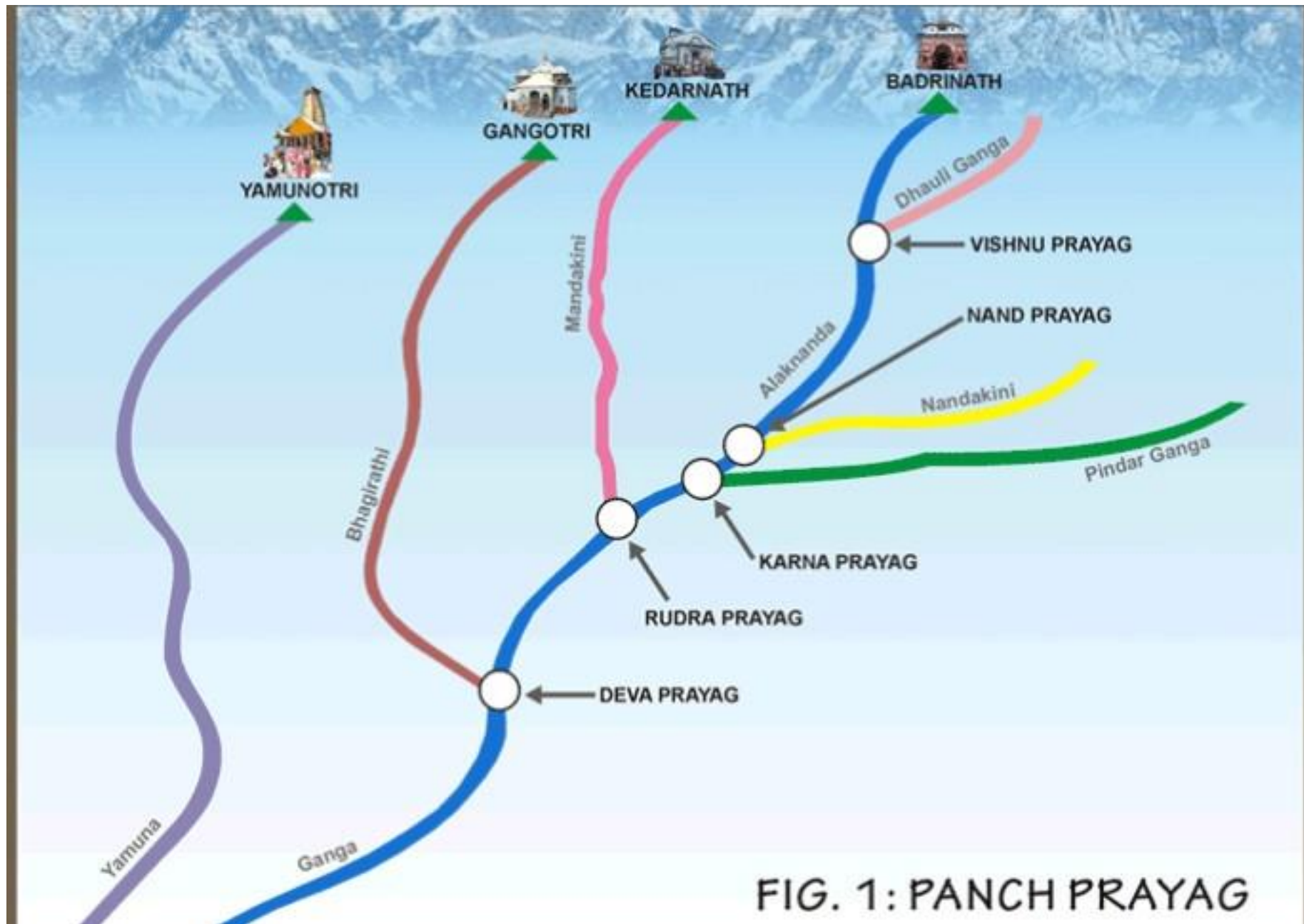
- 
- Recently, Uttarakhand has launched the Winter Char Dham circuit to promote year-round tourism and attract visitors to the state during the off-season winter months.
 - Char Dham shrines (4 revered shrines) are four holy sites i.e., Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath and are located in the Garhwal Himalayas. They are traditionally visited between May and November.
- 









CHARDHAM YATRA





- 
- During the **winter months**, the **presiding deities** of these temples are brought to shrines at **lower altitudes** at:
 - **Kedarnath**: Omkareshwar Temple in Ukhimath (Rudraprayag)
 - **Badrinath**: Pandukeshwar in Chamoli.
 - **Gangotri**: Mukhba in Uttarkashi
 - **Yamunotri**: Kharsali in Uttarkashi
- 

- 
- Adi Shankaracharya (exponent of the Advaita Vedanta) established the Char Dhams in four different directions of the country which include Badrinath, Puri, Dwarka and Rameshwaram.
- 

| Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath: A Comparison | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aspect | Yamunotri | Gangotri | Kedarnath | Badrinath |
| Location | Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand | Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand | Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand | Chamoli district, Uttarakhand |
| River Associated | Yamuna River | Ganga River | Mandakini River | Alaknanda River |
| Significance | Origin of Yamuna, first stop of Char Dham | Origin of Ganga, second stop of Char Dham | One of the 12 Jyotirlingas, part of Char Dham | Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, part of Char Dham |
| Altitude | 3,293 meters (10,804 ft) | 3,415 meters (11,204 ft) | 3,583 meters (11,755 ft) | 3,300 meters (10,827 ft) |
| Key Temple | Yamunotri Temple | Gangotri Temple | Kedarnath Temple | Badrinath Temple |
| Presiding Deity | Goddess Yamuna | Goddess Ganga | Lord Shiva | Lord Vishnu (Badri Vishal) |
| Best Time to Visit | May to June, September to October | May to June, September to October | May to June, September to October | May to June, September to October |
| Accessibility | 6 km trek from Janki Chatti | Accessible by road to Gangotri town | 18 km trek from Gaurikund or via helicopter | Accessible by road |
| Unique Features | Hot water springs at Janki Chatti | Surrounded by majestic Himalayan peaks | Famous for Panch Kedar and trekking routes | Known for the Tapt Kund (hot spring) and Mana village |
| Opening/Closing Dates | April/May to October/November (seasonal) | April/May to October/November (seasonal) | April/May to October/November (seasonal) | April/May to October/November (seasonal) |

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

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- **1. What is the significance of World Braille Day, celebrated on January 4?**

4 जनवरी को मनाए जाने वाले विश्व ब्रेल दिवस का महत्व क्या है?

- **A. Tribute to Helen Keller / हेलेन केलर को श्रद्धांजलि**
- **B. Commemorates Louis Braille's contributions / लुई ब्रेल के योगदान को याद करना**
- **C. Promotes technology for the visually impaired / नेत्रहीनों के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी को बढ़ावा देना**
- **D. Celebrates global literacy programs / वैश्विक साक्षरता कार्यक्रमों का उत्सव**

- Who has the right to change their name and gender on birth certificates, as upheld in the Ms. X vs State of Karnataka case, 2024?
Ms. X बनाम राज्य कर्नाटक मामले, 2024 में, जन्म प्रमाण पत्र पर नाम और लिंग बदलने का अधिकार किसे है?
- **A. Women only / केवल महिलाओं को**
- **B. Transgender individuals / ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों को**
- **C. Men only / केवल पुरुषों को**
- **D. All individuals / सभी व्यक्तियों को**

- Which newly inaugurated railway division is expected to boost connectivity in northern India?
कौन सा हाल ही में उद्घाटन किया गया रेलवे डिवीजन उत्तर भारत में कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ाने की उम्मीद है?
- **A. Jammu Railway Division / जम्मू रेलवे डिवीजन**
- B. Firozpur Railway Division / फिरोज़पुर रेलवे डिवीजन**
- C. Srinagar Railway Division / श्रीनगर रेलवे डिवीजन**
- D. Leh Railway Division / लेह रेलवे डिवीजन**

- What major project does the Jammu Railway Division oversee?
जम्मू रेलवे डिवीजन कौन सी प्रमुख परियोजना की निगरानी करता है?
- **A. Anji Khad Bridge / अंजी खड ब्रिज**
- B. Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train / मुंबई-अहमदाबाद बुलेट ट्रेन**
- C. Chenab Rail Bridge / चिनाब रेल ब्रिज**
- D. Both A and C / ए और सी दोनों**

- What technology was developed by CSIR to reduce India's dependency on imported raw materials?
सीएसआईआर द्वारा विकसित कौन सी तकनीक भारत की आयातित कच्चे माल पर निर्भरता को कम करती है?
- **A. Indigenous paracetamol drug / स्वदेशी पैरासिटामोल दवा**
- B. Renewable energy tech / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्रौद्योगिकी**
- C. AI-based health monitoring systems / एआई-आधारित स्वास्थ्य निगरानी प्रणाली**
- D. Advanced vaccine development / उन्नत वैक्सीन विकास**

- What new poverty line has been set for rural areas in FY24 according to SBI Research?

एसबीआई अनुसंधान के अनुसार FY24 में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए नई गरीबी रेखा क्या निर्धारित की गई है?

- **A. ₹1,000**
- B. ₹1,632**
- C. ₹2,000**
- D. ₹1,944**

- What percentage of India's poverty rate has decreased as per the latest report by SBI Research?
एसबीआइ अनुसंधान की नवीनतम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत की गरीबी दर कितने प्रतिशत कम हुई है?
- **A. Below 10% / 10% से नीचे**
- B. Below 8% / 8% से नीचे**
- C. Below 5% / 5% से नीचे**
- D. Below 3% / 3% से नीचे**

- What is the aim of ISRO's CROPS experiment involving cowpea seeds?
काउपी बीजों के साथ इसरो के सीआरओपीएस प्रयोग का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Study plant growth in microgravity / माइक्रोग्रेविटी में पौधों की वृद्धि का अध्ययन करना**
- B. Develop disease-resistant crops / रोग प्रतिरोधी फसलों का विकास करना**
- C. Test soil composition in space / अंतरिक्ष में मिट्टी की संरचना का परीक्षण करना**
- D. Study genetic mutations / आनुवंशिक परिवर्तनों का अध्ययन करना**

- Which year marked the adoption of **World Braille Day** by the United Nations General Assembly?
संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा **विश्व ब्रेल दिवस** को किस वर्ष अपनाया गया था?
- **A. 2015**
- **B. 2016**
- **C. 2018**
- **D. 2020**

Word of the day

Cognate:

one related by blood or origin, especially on sharing an ancestor with another; a word is cognate with another if both derive from the same word in an ancestral language;
related in nature

Synonyms: akin, blood-related, consanguine, kin, blood relative

Usage: *In this part of the world, society was organised on cognate kinship.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/cognatepro

International Phonetic


Alphabet: /'kɒɡ.neɪt/, /'kɒɡ.nɪt/, /'kɒɡ.nət/



Fun Fact



Myth : Christopher Columbus discovered America.

- **Truth:** Indigenous peoples had been living in the Americas for thousands of years before Columbus arrived in 1492. Additionally, **Leif Erikson** and the Vikings reached parts of North America centuries earlier.
- 

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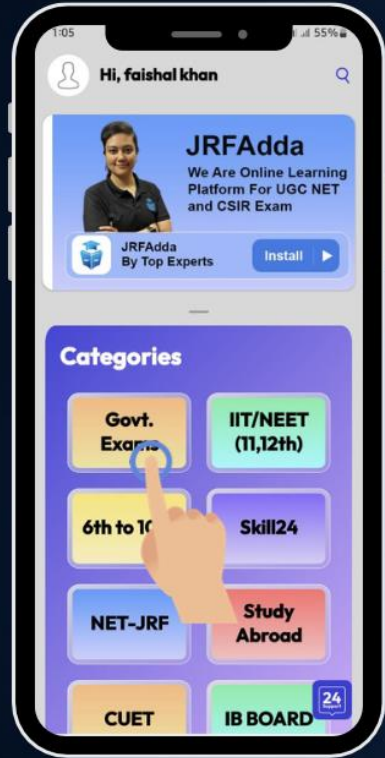
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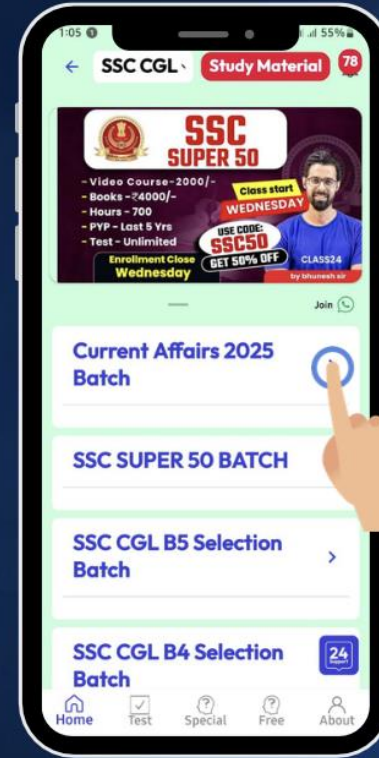
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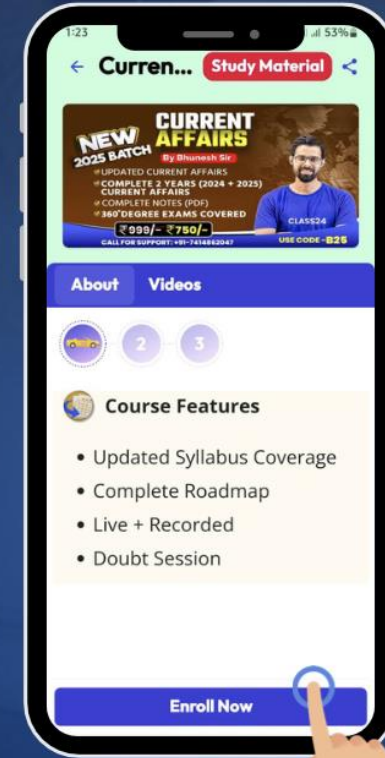
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Step 3



Step 4





Thank you
guys.
