

# Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



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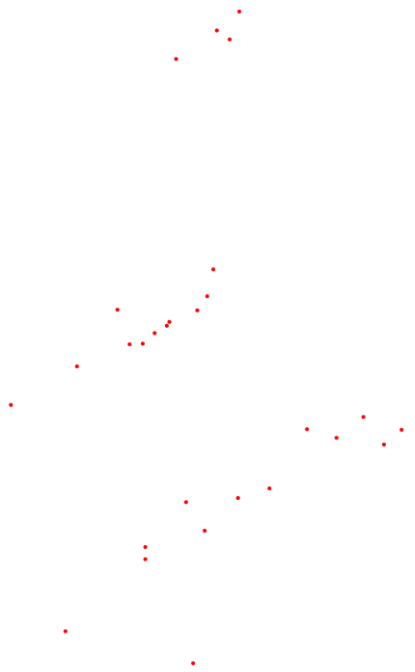
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10 MCQ QUIZ



10 MCQ from the session

- Which countries will face retaliatory tariffs imposed by the U.S. under Donald Trump's new trade policy?
- डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की नई व्यापार नीति के तहत किन देशों को अमेरिकी जवाबी टैरिफ का सामना करना पड़ेगा?
- A. India and China / भारत और चीन  
B. Russia and Brazil / रूस और ब्राज़ील  
C. Japan and Canada / जापान और कनाडा  
D. Germany and France / जर्मनी और फ्रांस

- What is India's total export value to the U.S. as per the latest trade data?
- नवीनतम व्यापार आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत का अमेरिका को कुल निर्यात मूल्य कितना है?
- A. \$45.8 billion
- B. \$52.9 billion
- C. \$60.2 billion
- D. \$71.5 billion

- What is India's largest export category to the U.S.?
- भारत की अमेरिका को सबसे बड़ी निर्यात श्रेणी कौन सी है?
- A. Textiles and Apparel / वस्त्र और परिधान
- B. Electrical Machinery / इलेक्ट्रिकल मशीनरी
- C. Automobile Parts / ऑटोमोबाइल पार्ट्स
- D. Organic Chemicals / जैविक रसायन

- What is India's major import category from the U.S.?
- भारत की अमेरिका से प्रमुख आयात श्रेणी कौन सी है?
- A. Pharmaceuticals / फार्मास्यूटिकल्स
- B. Mineral Fuels & Oils / खनिज ईंधन और तेल
- C. Electronic Goods / इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामान
- D. Defense Equipment / रक्षा उपकरण



- What is the significance of Gum Arabic in global trade?
- वैश्विक व्यापार में गम अरबी का क्या महत्व है?
- A. It is a key ingredient in carbonated drinks / यह कार्बोनेटेड पेय पदार्थों का एक प्रमुख घटक है
- B. It is primarily used for fuel production / यह मुख्य रूप से ईंधन उत्पादन के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है
- C. It is a rare metal essential for electronics / यह इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स के लिए आवश्यक एक दुर्लभ धातु है
- D. It is a primary component in fertilizers / यह उर्वरकों में प्राथमिक घटक है

- **Which country is the largest producer of Gum Arabic?**
- **गम अरबी का सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक देश कौन सा है?**
- **A. Nigeria**
- **B. Sudan**
- **C. Chad**
- **D. Mali**

- What is the main advantage of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks?
- हाइड्रोजन-संचालित भारी ट्रकों का मुख्य लाभ क्या है?
- A. Higher fuel efficiency than diesel / डीजल की तुलना में अधिक ईंधन दक्षता
- B. Zero carbon emissions / शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन
- C. Lower maintenance costs / कम रखरखाव लागत
- D. Faster acceleration than electric vehicles / इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों की तुलना में तेज़ त्वरण

- Under which Indian government initiative are hydrogen-powered trucks being developed?
- हाइड्रोजन-संचालित ट्रकों का विकास भारत सरकार की किस पहल के तहत किया जा रहा है?
- A. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles (FAME)  
B. National Green Hydrogen Mission  
C. Renewable Energy Deployment Program  
D. Sustainable Mobility Initiative

- **Where is India's first hydrogen refueling station for heavy-duty trucks being set up?**
- **भारी वाहनों के लिए भारत का पहला हाइड्रोजन रिफ्यूइलिंग स्टेशन कहां स्थापित किया जा रहा है?**
- **A. Faridabad**
- **B. Vadodara**
- **C. Pune**
- **D. All of the above**

- **What is the Wallace Line?**
- **वॉलेस लाइन क्या है?**
- **A. A trade route between Africa and Asia / अफ्रीका और एशिया के बीच एक व्यापार मार्ग**
- **B. An imaginary boundary separating Asian and Australian fauna / एशियाई और ऑस्ट्रेलियाई जीवों को अलग करने वाली एक काल्पनिक सीमा**
- **C. A tectonic plate boundary in the Pacific Ocean / प्रशांत महासागर में एक टेक्टोनिक प्लेट सीमा**
- **D. A global conservation project for wildlife protection / वन्यजीव संरक्षण के लिए एक वैश्विक परियोजना**

80/100

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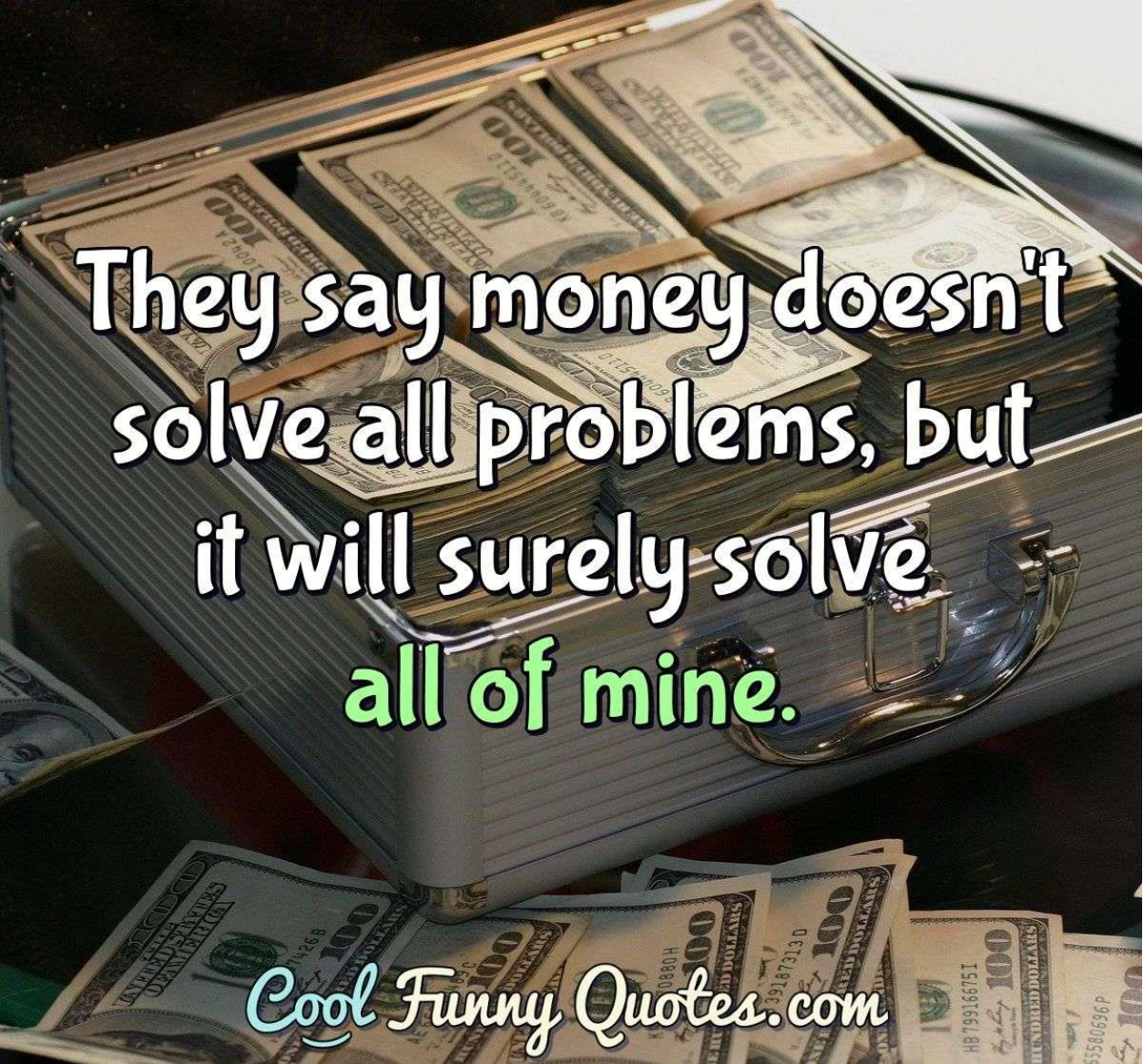
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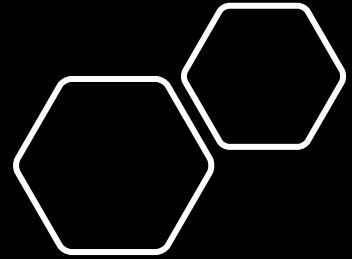
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They say money doesn't  
solve all problems, but  
it will surely solve  
all of mine.

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# 'Trump's priorities work for India'

EAM Jaishankar welcomes initiatives that will keep energy prices affordable

He says U.S. interest in multi-polarity, technology and connectivity 'promising'

President seems open to connectivity plans of 'collaborative nature', he adds

**Sriram Lakshman**

LONDON

Citing the shifting geopolitical order, energy, technology and connectivity initiatives, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday said that several priorities of U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration were promising for India.

"I think we see a President and an administration which, in our parlance, is moving towards multi-polarity. And that is something which suits India," he said, clarifying that by practising multi-polarity, the Trump administration was in fact promoting it.

Mr. Jaishankar was speaking at Chatham House, a London-based think tank on Wednesday, during an official visit to the U.K.

The U.S. had been thought of as a bloc with the West since 1945, rather than as a nation, but now the U.S.'s own self-perception is more as a nation, the Minister said.



Union Minister S. Jaishankar speaking with Chatham House Director and CEO Bronwen Maddox in London on Wednesday. ANI

"I think, from President Trump's perspective, the one big shared enterprise that we have is the Quad [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue]," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to the grouping of India, the U.S., Australia and Japan.

Each Quad member was paying its "fair share", he said, and so there were no spats about burden sharing. Financial burden-sharing has become a central

issue between the U.S. and several European countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military alliance.

Mr. Trump "appears open to connectivity initiatives of a certain collaborative nature" Mr. Jaishankar said. "We have a deep interest in that," he added.

The Minister was presumably referring to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), which

finds mention in the India-U.S. joint statement that emerged from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent discussions with Mr. Trump at the White House.

The statement also refers to other current and future connectivity initiatives, such as the newly announced Indian Ocean Strategic Venture.

On energy, Mr. Jaishankar said India welcomed Mr. Trump's actions that

would keep energy prices stable and affordable. Mr. Trump is a strong proponent of fossil fuels and is changing U.S. policy to drill for more petroleum and natural gas.

The Trump administration's emphasis on the development of technology and its use "as a game changer in global politics" offered a lot of possibilities, according to Mr. Jaishankar.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in Washington DC, to discuss a trade deal with the Trump administration, a fact that Mr. Jaishankar brought up. India-U.S. relations are at probably their best, Mr. Jaishankar said.

"So we have absolutely no interest in undermining the dollar at all," he said, adding that the problem in India's region was the lack of availability of the dollar. Mr. Jaishankar was asked about the internationalisation of the rupee and whether India supported the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency. He said that the govern-

ment was promoting the internationalisation of the rupee as part of the effort to promote the globalisation of India. He cited a growth in India's trade, external investments and Indian tourists abroad. Sometimes there was a lack of hard currency, especially the dollar, necessitating the use of trade settlements, or a need for cashless payments between India and other countries, the Minister said.

Later in the discussion, Mr. Jaishankar said the dollar was the source of international economic stability and, right now, there is a need for stability.

In February, Mr. Trump had threatened at least 100% tariffs on BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries if they wanted "to play games with the dollar". The BRICS countries have a diversity of views on the dollar, Mr. Jaishankar said. "The assumption that somewhere there's a united BRICS position against the dollar, I think, is not borne out by facts," he said.

- 1. Key Highlights
- (मुख्य विशेषताएँ)
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated that several of former U.S. President Donald Trump's priorities align with India's interests. (विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कहा कि पूर्व अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की कई प्राथमिकताएँ भारत के हितों के अनुरूप हैं।)
- Trump's administration emphasized multi-polarity, technology, and connectivity, which are beneficial for India. (ट्रंप प्रशासन ने बहु-ध्रुवीयता, प्रौद्योगिकी और कनेक्टिविटी पर जोर दिया, जो भारत के लिए लाभकारी है।)

- **2. U.S. Foreign Policy and Multi-Polarity**

- **(अमेरिकी विदेश नीति और बहु-ध्रुवीयता)**

- **The U.S. is shifting from being seen as a bloc with allies to acting more independently as a nation.**

**(अमेरिका अब अपने सहयोगियों के साथ एक समूह के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि एक स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र के रूप में कार्य कर रहा है।)**

- **Trump's administration supported the Quad alliance (India, U.S., Australia, Japan).**

**(ट्रंप प्रशासन ने क्वाड गठबंधन (भारत, अमेरिका, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जापान) का समर्थन किया।)**

- **Burden-sharing within NATO has become a central issue, with the U.S. expecting European countries to contribute more.**

**(NATO में भार-साझाकरण एक प्रमुख मुद्दा बन गया है, जहाँ अमेरिका यूरोपीय देशों से अधिक योगदान की अपेक्षा कर रहा है।)**






- **3. Connectivity and Trade Agreements**

- **(कनेक्टिविटी और व्यापार समझौते)**

- **Trump supports connectivity initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) and the Indian Ocean Strategic Venture. (ट्रंप भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप कॉरिडोर (IMEC) और भारतीय महासागर रणनीतिक पहल जैसे कनेक्टिविटी परियोजनाओं का समर्थन करते हैं।)**

- **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in the U.S. discussing trade deals with Trump's team.**

- **(वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल वर्तमान में अमेरिका में ट्रंप प्रशासन के साथ व्यापार समझौतों पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं।)**



- 4. Energy Policies and Their Impact on India
- (ऊर्जा नीतियाँ और भारत पर प्रभाव)
- Trump's strong support for fossil fuels and petroleum drilling helps keep global energy prices stable and affordable for India.  
(ट्रंप द्वारा जीवाश्म ईंधन और पेट्रोलियम ड्रिलिंग का समर्थन वैश्विक ऊर्जा कीमतों को स्थिर और सस्ती बनाए रखने में मदद करता है।)
- Stable energy prices benefit India's economic growth and energy security.  
(स्थिर ऊर्जा मूल्य भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के लिए लाभदायक हैं।)

- 5. Role of Technology in India-U.S. Relations
- (भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों में प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका)
- Trump's administration saw technology as a "game changer" in global politics.  
(ट्रंप प्रशासन ने प्रौद्योगिकी को वैश्विक राजनीति में "गेम चेंजर" के रूप में देखा।)
- India welcomes U.S. initiatives on AI, defense technology, and digital infrastructure.  
(भारत एआई, रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी, और डिजिटल अवसंरचना में अमेरिकी पहल का स्वागत करता है।)



- 6. International Trade and Dollar's Role
- (अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार और डॉलर की भूमिका)
- Jaishankar emphasized that India has no interest in undermining the U.S. dollar.  
(जयशंकर ने कहा कि भारत अमेरिकी डॉलर को कमजोर करने में कोई रुचि नहीं रखता।)
- India is promoting the internationalization of the rupee, but dollar-based trade remains dominant.  
(भारत रुपये के अंतरराष्ट्रीयकरण को बढ़ावा दे रहा है, लेकिन डॉलर-आधारित व्यापार अभी भी प्रमुख बना हुआ है।)
- Trump previously threatened to impose 100% tariffs on BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) if they moved away from the dollar.  
(ट्रंप ने चेतावनी दी थी कि यदि BRICS देश डॉलर से हटते हैं, तो उन पर 100% टैरिफ लगाया जाएगा।)

### BSP is being controlled by BJP, says Cong. leader

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Udit Raj on Thursday said Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati had sacked her nephew Akash Anand under pressure from the Bharatiya Janata Party. He had called for an alliance of the BSP with the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election.

At a press conference, Mr. Raj, who heads the Dalit, OBC, Minorities and Adivasi (DOMA) Confederation, said the BSP, which started as a movement before becoming a political party, had now become "BJPised". He invited Mr. Anand to join the Congress.

The Congress leader said that BSP twice making Mr. Anand the party coordinator and then removing him showed that the party was being "controlled by the BJP". Mayawati would not have taken such a suicidal step without pressure. Akash Anand had said that there should be an alliance between Congress-SP in the upcoming Assembly election, otherwise we will remain zero. This has troubled the BJP internally.

## Pro-Khalistan protester breaches security at Jaishankar's London event

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson condemns incident, calling upon the U.K. to live up to its diplomatic obligations. U.K. says such attempts to intimidate, threaten, or disrupt public events are completely unacceptable and it remains committed to ensuring security of all diplomatic visitors

Sriram Lakshman  
LONDON

A pro-Khalistan protester rushed in from the front of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's car as he was leaving an event in London on Wednesday night. The Minister had just engaged in an hour-long discussion focused on India and the changing world order, as part of his visit to the U.K. to open consulates and develop the bilateral relationship.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, condemning the incident, calling upon the U.K. to live up to its diplomatic obligations.

"We condemn the provocative activities of this small group of separatists and extremists. We deplore the misuse of democratic freedoms by such elements. We expect the host government in such cases to fully live up to their diplomatic obligations," the spokesperson for the MEA said.

In video footage posted on social media, the protester can be seen shouting

"Khalistan" and tearing a cloth with the colours of the Indian national flag. He approached the front of Mr. Jaishankar's SUV. The individual and a few others were standing apart from a larger group of protesters who lined up across the road, holding yellow "Khalistan" flags, opposite the entrance to Chatham House in St. James' Square, where the Minister's event was being held.

The protesters had gathered earlier and were shouting slogans. The individual in question was not behind a security barricade like the other protesters, presumably because he was holding a cloth that resembled the Indian flag.

When the protester rushed in from Mr. Jaishankar's car, the Minister was already seated at the front of the car. The Minister was holding a microphone and addressing the crowd. The incident took place outside Chatham House yesterday (Wednesday) during the External Affairs Minister's visit to the U.K. as a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) spokesperson said.

"Unacceptable action" The U.K. on Thursday strongly condemned the



Khalistan supporters outside the venue where External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated in a discussion in London, ANI

breach, saying such attempts to "intimidate, threaten, or disrupt" public events are "completely unacceptable". The Metropolitan Police acted swiftly to address the situation, and we remain fully committed to ensuring the security of all our diplomatic visitors to the U.K. as a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) spokesperson said.

"While the U.K. upholds the right to peaceful protest, any attempts to intimidate, threaten, or disrupt public events are completely unacceptable." The British High Commissioner to India (Alex Ellis) at the time was summoned by the Foreign Secretary and security for him and the British High Commissioner in Delhi was diminished in what appeared to be retaliation by the government. After assurances from the Foreign Secretary, the U.K. government issued and police officers were permanently stationed outside

the High Commission, Mr. Jaishankar visited London on Wednesday. He was accompanied by the Consul General, the Consul, and a few others at the relationship a boost.

Power changed hands from the Conservative to Labour in July 2024 - after a period of 14 years. With that came the decision to further reset as the Labour Party had declared that it would change its relationship with the government and Indian Britons, whose support for the party was waning, over the party's positions on the Modi government's policies, especially around Kashmir.

The British government has been pulling out all the stops for the Minister on this visit, with Mr. Jaishankar and his wife Kyoko Jaishankar spending time with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy and his wife Nicola Green on a working visit to the Foreign Secretary's official country residence, Chevening House, in Kent.

Mr. Jaishankar also met with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during his November 2023 visit. (With PTI inputs)

### 'Cautiously optimistic about FTA talks with U.K.'

Sriram Lakshman  
LONDON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday that he was "cautiously optimistic" that the pace to give the free trade agreement (FTA) talks with the U.K. would improve soon.

India and the U.K. are currently discussing an FTA with talks that began in 2022, being relaunched last month under the Keir Starmer government.

"With the EU, we are in our third decade [of trade negotiations]... it's not an experience I recommend to anybody else," he said. Mr. Jaishankar said there was no "big boulder" in the negotiations that had to be moved out of the way (i.e., no single, large sticking point) and countered what he had read in the press about visas being a block to concluding the trade deal. He said the only visas under discussion were visas for inter-corporate (i.e., within company) transfers.

Concluding the FTA with the U.K. would have an impact beyond trade, said Mr. Jaishankar, adding it would encourage people to explore opportunities in education and nuclear energy.

Mr. Jaishankar also met with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during his November 2023 visit. (With PTI inputs)

## India, T.N. must help protect livelihoods of fisher folk in north Sri Lanka: Colombo

Meera Srinivasan  
COLOMBO

"The governments of India and Tamil Nadu must take decisive action against illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters to ensure that the livelihoods of northern Sri Lankan fishermen are protected," Sri Lankan Minister Bimal Rathnayake told Parliament as the enduring Palk Bay fisheries conflict came under sharp focus in the island nation.

Intervening in the House on Wednesday, Mr. Rathnayake, who is Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation and Leader of the House, said Sri Lanka has greatly appreciated the thoughtful assistance from India and Tamil Nadu during the years of war, by protecting people who fled to India and the more recent support during the economic crisis and floods.

"The real help, however, will be to help protect our northern fishermen livelihoods by enforcing

Bimal Rathnayake

the law on the Indian side and taking decisive action against illegal fishing," he said. "The people of the House on Wednesday are fishing for a living. I request the Indian government, as well as the Tamil Nadu government, to ensure that this main source of livelihood is not snatched away from them," he said.

The sensitive bilateral issue is back under the spotlight in Sri Lanka after Indian northern Provincial Council (PTAK) legislator Thurairaj Kavalaran, who represents the Vanni electoral district, recently moved an adjournment motion on the issue, amid the ongoing

Budget session. Making a passionate plea to Indian authorities as well as the Sri Lankan government and Navy on Wednesday, he said: "Please let our fishermen live!"

For well over a decade now, war-affected northern Sri Lankan fishermen have been urging their counterparts in Tamil Nadu to stop using destructive bottom-trawling method, which has severely depleted their catch, while threatening their fragile livelihoods. In 2024, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested over 540 Indian fishermen on charges of illegal fishing. This year, more than 400 Indian fishermen have been arrested in the first two months.

Last week, former Chief Minister of Sri Lanka's northern Provincial Council C.V. Wigneswaran wrote to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, urging him to take steps to ending the bottom-trawling method of fishing.

## PM likely to visit Sri Lanka in April, launch solar power plant project

Meera Srinivasan  
COLOMBO/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Sri Lanka in early April, Sri Lankan media has reported, ahead of an official announcement from either side confirming the visit.

According to Colombo-based publication, Mr. Modi will be in Sri Lanka during the first week of April. Apart from bilateral meetings in Colombo, Mr. Modi is expected to launch a solar power plant project in the eastern town of Sampur, in Trincomalee district, coming up as a joint venture between the Ceylon Electricity Board and National Thermal Power Corporation of India.

Sources in the Ministry of External Affairs said there was no decision on the visit yet, but an official said Mr. Modi was likely to attend the regional BIMSTEC Chief Minister's meeting in Thailand, indicating that he will transit through Colombo before or after the event. While Sri Lanka is likely



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Sri Lanka, PTI

to have a high-level participation at the BIMSTEC summit, all eyes will be on interactions between Mr. Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, as well as Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli. Given its social media ties with both countries in the past few months, Mr. Modi's Sri Lanka visit comes in response to an invitation from President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who was in New Delhi in December 2024,

energy projects and the Palk Bay fisheries conflict were among the key issues discussed by the leaders. Mr. Modi will be the first head of government to visit Sri Lanka after Mr. Dissanayake and his People's Power coalition rose to power late last year.

Last month, Pan Yue, director of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission of China, was in Sri Lanka during the first week of April. Apart from bilateral meetings in Colombo, Mr. Modi is expected to launch a solar power plant project in the eastern town of Sampur, in Trincomalee district, coming up as a joint venture between the Ceylon Electricity Board and National Thermal Power Corporation of India.

Neither Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo issued an official statement on the visit. However, Sri Lanka's Minister of Buddhanasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Hantuduma Sunil Senedira mentioned on his social media page about a meeting with the visiting Chinese official. Mr. Pan also visited the University of Peradeniya in Kandy, "to promote enhanced educational exchange and cooperation" in the infrastructure, connectivity,

### RSS leader's remark on Marathi sparks row

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Suresh Bahaya ji Joshi claiming that "Marathi is not the people of Mumbai" and that those coming to the city need not "learn or understand Marathi" drew the Opposition ire this week. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray demanded that a case of treason be registered against the RSS leader, and led a protest along with his Maha Vikas Aghadi allies.

The reaction forced Mr. Joshi, who made the comment at an event in Mumbai on Wednesday, to partially backtrack on his statement, and the BJP-led State government to defend the RSS leader's remarks.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said he had not heard Mr. Joshi's statement, but added that the BJP government's stand was clear that Marathi was a "must" in Mumbai and Maharashtra.

## Congress flags IMF's Indiareport on 'tepid' private investment

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said that a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had flagged the issue of "tepid" private investment growth in India. The party said boosting capital investment had become a key assumption, adopting predictable economic policies, and rationalising trade policies were some of the key measures to exit the current "economic slump".

In a statement, Congress general secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the IMF had devoted an entire section to "Reigniting Private In-

vestment in India" in its annual "India Article" Consultation Report. "Somewhat unusually, it is the first time that the critique of the Modi government's policies and actions," he said.

He said the report underlined the need to incorporate investment had been sluggish, especially when compared with historical averages. "Notably, the report also notes that investment, since 'nominal' investment growth by private corporates appear to have decelerated further from 21% in 2022/23 to 13% in 2023/24," the Congress leader said.

## Maharashtra to start media monitoring centre to identify 'misleading reports'

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

In a move to monitor and analyse news across print, electronic, and digital platforms, the Maharashtra government has approved the establishment of a state-of-the-art media monitoring centre with a budget of ₹10 crore.

The decision was formalised through a government resolution issued on Wednesday. According to the resolution, the proposed centre will systematically collect and analyse news from various media outlets, identifying both factual and misleading reports. The initiative aims to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information related to government



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Operational aspects To be operational from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, the centre will be overseen by the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations. The government has granted full administrative and financial autonomy to the project. To streamline operations, a professional consultant will be appointed

## SC order on Forest Act 'strong rebuke' to Modi govt.: Congress

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Hailing the Supreme Court order on pleas against the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, the Congress on Thursday said it was a "stinging rebuke" to the Modi government's systematic efforts to dilute the institutions as well as the environment. The order, which is a landmark decision on the conservation of the country.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "The Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2023, was among the most draconian laws introduced by the Modi government. Ever

### PM likely to visit Sri Lanka in April, launch solar power plant project

Meera Srinivasan  
COLOMBO/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Sri Lanka in early April, Sri Lankan media has reported, ahead of an official announcement from either side confirming the visit.

According to Colombo-based publication, Mr. Modi will be in Sri Lanka during the first week of April. Apart from bilateral meetings in Colombo, Mr. Modi is expected to launch a solar power plant project in the eastern town of Sampur, in Trincomalee district, coming up as a joint venture between the Ceylon Electricity Board and National Thermal Power Corporation of India.

Sources in the Ministry of External Affairs said there was no decision on the visit yet, but an official said Mr. Modi was likely to attend the regional BIMSTEC Chief Minister's meeting in Thailand, indicating that he will transit through Colombo before or after the event. While Sri Lanka is likely

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# Maharashtra to start media monitoring centre to identify 'misleading reports'

**The Hindu Bureau**

MUMBAI

In a move to monitor and analyse news across print, electronic, and digital platforms, the Maharashtra government has approved the establishment of a state-of-the-art media monitoring centre with a budget of ₹10 crore.

The decision was formalised through a government resolution issued on Wednesday.

According to the resolution, the proposed centre will systematically collect and evaluate news content, identifying both factual and misleading reports; it will generate comprehensive factual



The initiative aims to ensure accurate dissemination of news, the government said.

analyses and issue real-time clarifications in cases of inaccurate or negative coverage, it said.

The initiative aims to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information related to government

policies, schemes, and initiatives, the resolution read.

The government said there was a need for a centralised system to monitor how news about its activities is being reported and perceived by the public.

## **Operational aspects**

To be operational from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, the centre will be overseen by the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR). The government has granted full administrative and financial approval for the project.

To streamline operations, a professional consultant will be appointed

through an e-tender process, it said. The consultant will be responsible for collecting government-related news in PDF format and categorising it into segments such as positive, negative, departments, issues, incidents, and individuals. For electronic media, the consultant will provide hourly updates on news trends, mood, and tone.

The consultant's initial contract will span one year, with the possibility of extension to two years based on performance, as determined by the DGIPR. However, the government resolution specifies that the total term shall not exceed three years.

- **1. Key Announcement**


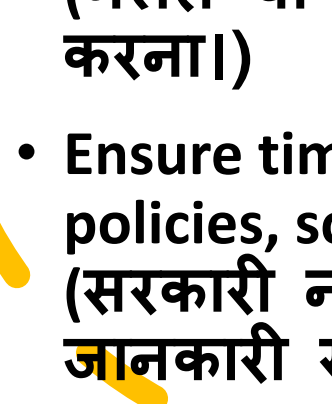
- **(मुख्य घोषणा)**

- **Maharashtra government has approved the establishment of a media monitoring centre with a budget of ₹10 crore.**

**(महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने ₹10 करोड़ के बजट के साथ एक मीडिया निगरानी केंद्र की स्थापना को मंजूरी दी है।)**

- **The centre will systematically analyze and evaluate news content across print, electronic, and digital platforms.**

**(यह केंद्र प्रिंट, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक और डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों पर समाचार सामग्री का व्यवस्थित रूप से विश्लेषण और मूल्यांकन करेगा।)**

- 
- **2. Objectives of the Media Monitoring Centre**
  - **(मीडिया निगरानी केंद्र के उद्देश्य)**
  - **Identify both factual and misleading reports.**  
**(तथ्यात्मक और भ्रामक दोनों प्रकार की रिपोर्टों की पहचान करना।)**
  - **Provide real-time clarifications for inaccurate or negative coverage.**  
**(गलत या नकारात्मक कवरेज के लिए वास्तविक समय में स्पष्टीकरण प्रदान करना।)**
  - **Ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information related to government policies, schemes, and initiatives.**  
**(सरकारी नीतियों, योजनाओं और पहलों से संबंधित समय पर और सटीक जानकारी सुनिश्चित करना।)**
- 



- **3. Need for the Monitoring System**

- **(निगरानी प्रणाली की आवश्यकता)**

- **To centralize the monitoring of news related to government activities.**

**(सरकारी गतिविधियों से संबंधित समाचारों की निगरानी को केंद्रीकृत करना।)**

- **To track how the public perceives government actions and policies.**

**(यह ट्रैक करना कि जनता सरकार की नीतियों और कार्यों को कैसे देखती है।)**



- **4. Operational Aspects**

- (संचालन संबंधी पहलू)

- The centre will function daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

(यह केंद्र प्रतिदिन सुबह 8 बजे से रात 10 बजे तक संचालित होगा।)

- It will be overseen by the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR).

(इसका संचालन सूचना और जनसंपर्क महानिदेशालय (DGIPR) द्वारा किया जाएगा।)

- A professional consultant will be appointed through an e-tender process.

(एक पेशेवर सलाहकार को ई-टेंडर प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से नियुक्त किया जाएगा।)

- The consultant will categorize government-related news into segments such as positive, negative, and issue-based.

(सलाहकार सरकारी समाचारों को सकारात्मक, नकारात्मक और मुद्दों पर आधारित खंडों में विभाजित करेगा।)



- **5. Responsibilities of the Consultant**

- **(सलाहकार की जिम्मेदारियाँ)**

- **Collect government-related news and provide updates in PDF format.  
(सरकारी समाचार एकत्र करना और PDF प्रारूप में अपडेट प्रदान करना।)**

- **Analyze news trends, mood, and tone of media coverage.  
(मीडिया कवरेज के समाचार प्रवृत्तियों, भावनाओं और स्वर का विश्लेषण करना।)**

- **Provide hourly updates on electronic media content.  
(इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया सामग्री पर प्रति घंटे अपडेट प्रदान करना।)**







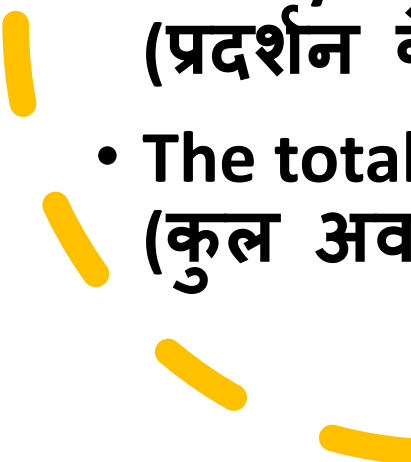
- **6. Contract and Duration**

- **(अनुबंध और अवधि)**

- **The initial contract for the consultant will be for one year.  
(सलाहकार का प्रारंभिक अनुबंध एक वर्ष का होगा।)**

- **It may be extended for up to two years based on performance.  
(प्रदर्शन के आधार पर इसे दो वर्षों तक बढ़ाया जा सकता है।)**

- **The total term shall not exceed three years.  
(कुल अवधि तीन वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होगी।)**



# How does a cricket ball swing? How does saliva help in its movement?

SRIRAM VEERA  
MUMBAI, MARCH 6

INDIAN PACER Mohammad Shami on Thursday appealed to the ICC to lift the ban on using saliva to shine cricket balls that was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since 2011, two balls have been used per innings in ODIs. This means that balls are not as scuffed up as they used to be. Add to this the prohibition on using saliva, generating reverse swing has gotten much more difficult.

"We are trying to reverse, but you are not getting the use of saliva into the game," Shami told reporters in Dubai.

## What is swing? Why does a ball swing?

Swing refers to the lateral movement of a cricket ball in the air, before it lands on the pitch. It is essentially a product of an air pressure differential on either side of the ball.

A thin layer of air forms along the ball's surface after it is released by the bowler. But

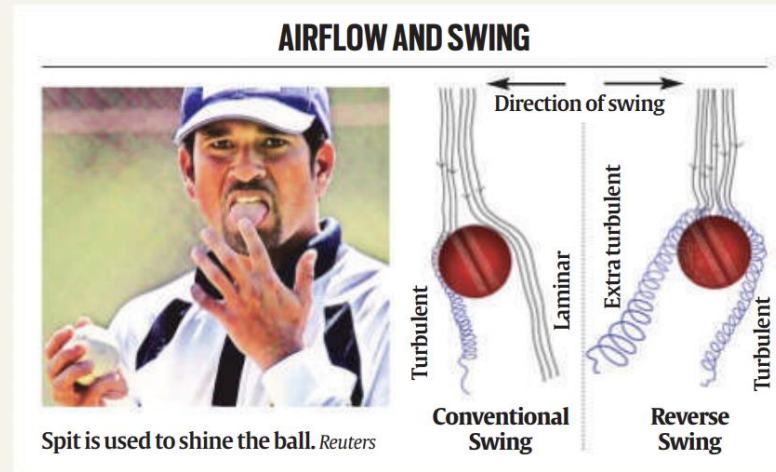
the so-called "boundary layer" must separate from the surface at some point. Where this separation occurs on either side of the ball determines the air pressure on that side.

Bowlers generally tilt the seam towards one direction or the other. In a new ball, the raised seam disturbs the airflow on the side towards which it is tilted. This turbulent flow on the seam side sticks to the ball's surface longer and travels faster than the smooth laminar flow on the other side.

According to Bernoulli's principle, faster travelling air pressure on that side, making the ball swing in that direction. In theory, a new ball that is held straight — with the seam perfectly aligned to the direction it is travelling — will not swing because the airflow on both sides of the ball is even.

## What is reverse swing? Why does it occur?

What has been discussed so far is conventional swing which generally occurs with a new ball. Things get more interest-



Spit is used to shine the ball. Reuters

ing when the ball gets older, its lacquer wears off, and its surface gets more abrasive. This is when the ball starts to reverse, that is, move in the direction opposite to the seam side.

From the moment they are handed the ball, the fielding team makes efforts to shine

one side. Consequently, as the ball gets older, one side is smoother than the other. That said, the so-called shiny side is nonetheless rougher than a new ball. This means that this side still generates sticky, turbulent airflow.

However, the rougher side generates

even more turbulent airflow than the shinier side, which can be further aggravated with the help of the seam. This extra turbulent airflow is not as sticky as the turbulent airflow on the other side. It shears off — meaning that the point of separation for the boundary layer moves towards the front of the ball. As a consequence, the air pressure on the seam side is now relatively higher than on that on the shiny side. This makes the ball swing on the side opposite to the seam.

To aid reverse swing, bowlers also try to ensure that the shiny side is slightly heavier than the other side. This gives the ball a natural tendency to fall in that direction.

## Where does saliva figure in all this?

Cricketers have traditionally used saliva to shine one side of the ball, smoothen the surface, and make it a tad heavier on that side. The idea is to create as great of a contrast between the two sides of the ball as possible, which helps generate reverse swing. Cricketers have chewed on all kinds of mints and candy to aid the shining process — sugary saliva is heavier, and thus

considered more effective for shining a cricket ball.

Can something else be used in saliva's place? In theory, yes. But saliva is the most readily accessible shining agent that works the way cricketers want it to.

Take sweat, for example. Rubbing the ball with sweat is legal but sweat is not as good a polishing agent as saliva, presumably because it does not contain mucus.

Moreover, the ball tends to soak up sweat — too much sweat can soften the ball which is not something bowlers want. Softer balls do not bounce as much, they do not turn as quickly, or retain much pace after pitching. In short, they are easier for a batter to deal with.

Then there is the fact that unlike saliva, sweating is condition-dependent. Players simply do not sweat enough in cold conditions for it to be an effective shining substance.

Other substances like vaseline have also been touted, although they are not as effective. Notably, vaseline is lighter than sweat. As former Indian pacer Ashish Nehra once said: "Vaseline can help keep the shine, but it does not make the ball heavier on one side".

## 1. Understanding Swing in Cricket

(क्रिकेट में स्विंग को समझना)

Swing refers to the lateral movement of a cricket ball in the air before it lands on the pitch.  
(स्विंग का तात्पर्य गेंद के पिच पर गिरने से पहले हवा में पार्श्व गति से है।)

It is caused by the air pressure differential on either side of the ball.  
(यह गेंद के दोनों किनारों पर वायु दाब के अंतर के कारण होता है।)

A side-view photograph of a male cricket player in a white uniform running across a green field. He is captured in mid-stride, with his right leg forward and arms pumping. The background is a solid, bright green color.

NZ 2-0

MakeAGIF.com



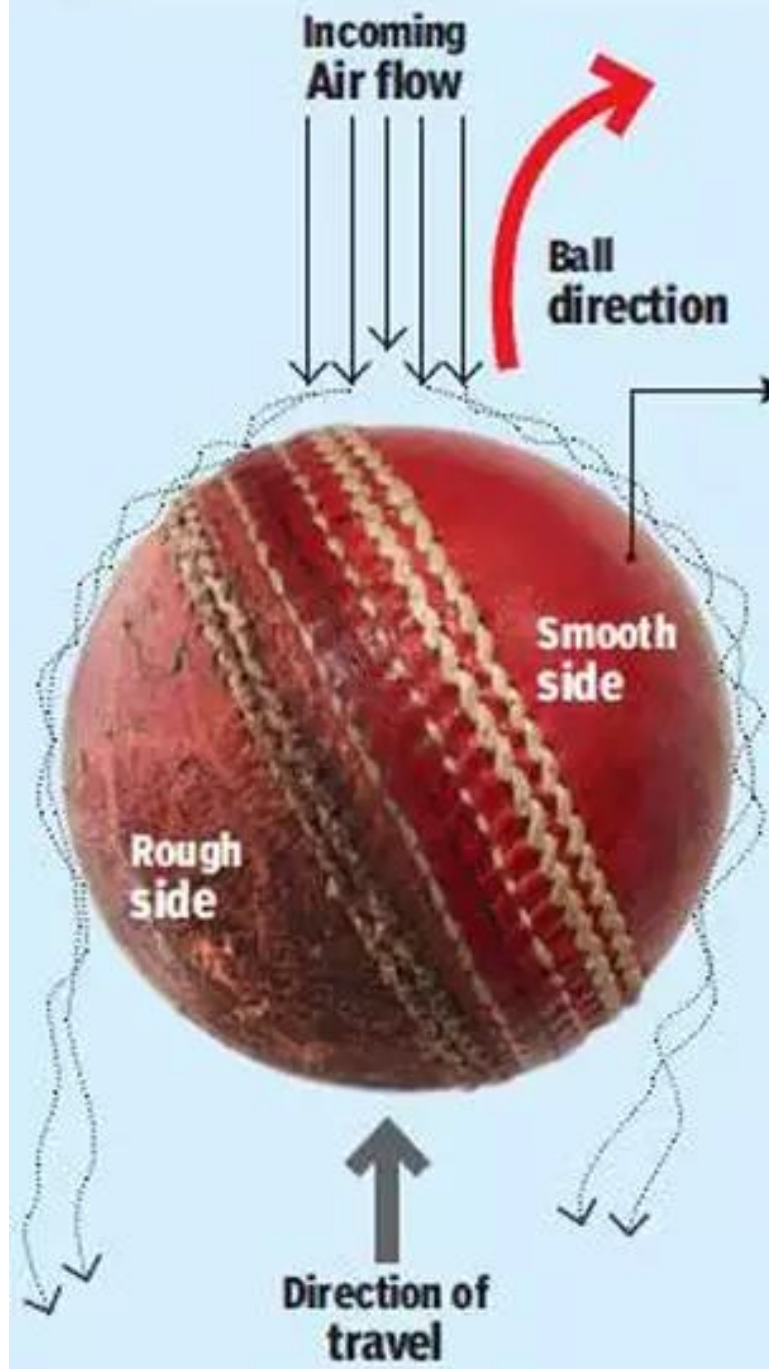


- 
- Science Behind Swing
  - (स्विंग के पीछे का विज्ञान)
  - When a bowler releases the ball, a thin layer of air (boundary layer) forms along its surface. (जब गेंदबाज गेंद को छोड़ता है, तो उसकी सतह के साथ एक पतली वायु परत (बाउंड्री लेयर) बनती है।)
  - The position of the seam and the airflow over the ball determine its movement. (सीम की स्थिति और गेंद के ऊपर वायु प्रवाह इसके आंदोलन को निर्धारित करता है।)
  - Bernoulli's Principle:
    - Faster airflow results in lower pressure, causing the ball to swing towards the seam direction.
    - (तेज़ वायु प्रवाह कम दबाव उत्पन्न करता है, जिससे गेंद सीम की दिशा में स्विंग करती है।)

- **A. Conventional Swing (सामान्य स्विंग)**
- **Occurs when the ball is new.**  
(यह तब होता है जब गेंद नई होती है।)
- **Bowlers tilt the seam slightly, making airflow turbulent on one side.**  
(गेंदबाज सीम को थोड़ा झुका देते हैं, जिससे एक तरफ वायु प्रवाह अशांत हो जाता है।)
- **The smooth side experiences laminar airflow, leading to movement towards the seam.**  
(चिकनी सतह पर लैमिनार वायु प्रवाह होता है, जिससे गेंद सीम की ओर घूमती है।)



- **B. Reverse Swing (रिवर्स स्विंग)**
- **Happens when the ball gets older and rougher.**  
(यह तब होता है जब गेंद पुरानी और खुरदरी हो जाती है।)
- **The rough side generates more turbulent air, shifting pressure balance.**  
(खुरदरी सतह अधिक अशांत वायु उत्पन्न करती है, जिससे दबाव संतुलन बदलता है।)
- **Instead of moving towards the seam, the ball swings in the opposite direction.**  
(गेंद सीम की दिशा में जाने के बजाय विपरीत दिशा में घूमती है।)





## HOW IT WORKS

It's imperative to keep one side of the ball shiny while roughing the other side up. In case of reverse swing, the ball moves towards the shine as opposed to conventional swing, where the ball moves in the direction opposite to that of the shinier side.

## DEADLY WHEN DONE PERFECTLY

It's more difficult to tackle because the ball tends to move a tad later and more prodigiously, giving batsmen little time to adjust to the movement. Most importantly, it takes the pitch out of the equation as the ball can reverse on the flattest of surfaces.

- **Role of Saliva in Swing**
- **(स्विंग में लार की भूमिका)**
- **Saliva is traditionally used to shine one side of the ball, making it smoother. (लार का उपयोग पारंपरिक रूप से गेंद के एक पक्ष को चमकाने के लिए किया जाता है, जिससे यह चिकना हो जाता है।)**
- **A shinier side creates a greater contrast with the rough side, enhancing swing. (चमकदार सतह और खुरदरी सतह के बीच अधिक अंतर स्विंग को बढ़ाता है।)**
- **Saliva is effective because it contains mucus, which helps polish the ball better. (लार प्रभावी होती है क्योंकि इसमें म्यूकस होता है, जो गेंद को अच्छी तरह से चमकाने में मदद करता है।)**

- 
- **Why is sweat not as effective? (पसीना क्यों प्रभावी नहीं है?)**
  - **Sweat is lighter than saliva and doesn't help polish the ball as well. (पसीना लार की तुलना में हल्का होता है और गेंद को उतना चमकाने में मदद नहीं करता।)**
  - **Excess sweat softens the ball, making it easier for batters to play. (अधिक पसीना गेंद को नरम कर देता है, जिससे बल्लेबाजों के लिए खेलना आसान हो जाता है।)**
- 

- 6. Ban on Saliva Due to COVID-19
- (कोविड-19 के कारण लार पर प्रतिबंध)
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) banned the use of saliva in 2020.  
(अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट परिषद (ICC) ने 2020 में लार के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।)
- This has made reverse swing more difficult to achieve.  
(इससे रिवर्स स्विंग हासिल करना और कठिन हो गया है।)
- Many cricketers, including Mohammad Shami, have urged ICC to lift the ban.  
(कई क्रिकेटर्स, जिनमें मोहम्मद शमी भी शामिल हैं, ने ICC से इस प्रतिबंध को हटाने का अनुरोध किया है।)

- 
- **7. Alternatives to Saliva for Shining the Ball**
  - (गेंद को चमकाने के लिए लार के विकल्प)
  - **Sweat:**
    - Legal but not as effective as saliva.
    - (कानूनी है लेकिन लार जितना प्रभावी नहीं है।)
  - **Vaseline & Other Substances:**
    - Some bowlers experimented with Vaseline, but it does not add weight to the ball.
    - (कुछ गेंदबाजों ने वैसलीन का प्रयोग किया, लेकिन यह गेंद में अतिरिक्त वजन नहीं जोड़ता।)
  - **Artificial Polishing Agents:**
    - Have been suggested but remain controversial.
    - (इनका सुझाव दिया गया है लेकिन यह विवादास्पद बना हुआ है।)

## MEITY LAUNCHES AI DATASET & COMPUTE PLATFORMS

# Made-in-India GPUs in 3-4 yrs

● Country will be among top 5 tech nations: Vaishnaw

JATIN GROVER  
New Delhi, March 6

THE COUNTRY WILL develop its own graphics processing units (GPUs) within the next three to four years, marking a major milestone in technological advancements, electronics and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday.

“We are working on developing our own chipsets. Extensive consultations with experts are underway. In the coming three to four years, India will have its own GPUs,

### WORK-IN-PROGRESS

■ The initiative to build indigenous GPUs is significant as the global AI chip industry is dominated by US companies

■ The Centre is also focusing on developing its own foundational AI models

■ The government has invited private companies to contribute to the datasets platform

ASHWINI VAISHNAW  
ELECTRONICS AND IT MINISTER

We are working on developing our own chipsets. Extensive consultations are underway




competing globally and securing a place among the top five technology nations in the world,” Vaishnaw said at the launch of the IndiaAI Datasets – AI Kosha and AI compute platforms.

The initiative to build indigenous GPUs is signifi-

cant as the global AI chip industry is currently dominated by US-based companies. Additionally, with potential US restrictions on AI chip exports, India’s capability to develop indigenous GPUs will be crucial for technological self-reliance.

The government is also focusing on developing its own foundational AI models within the next eight to ten months, a move that will further strengthen the country's AI infrastructure.

Continued on Page 10



- (मुख्य घोषणा)

- India will develop its own Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) within the next 3-4 years.

(भारत अगले 3-4 वर्षों में अपने स्वयं के ग्राफिक्स प्रोसेसिंग यूनिट्स (GPUs) विकसित करेगा।)

- This marks a significant technological milestone.

(यह एक महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी उपलब्धि होगी।)





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- **2. Government's Vision and Initiative**

- (सरकार की दृष्टि और पहल)

- **Electronics & IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that extensive consultations with experts are ongoing.**

(इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आईटी मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि विशेषज्ञों के साथ व्यापक चर्चा जारी है।)

- **India aims to be among the top five technology nations globally.**

(भारत का लक्ष्य वैश्विक स्तर पर शीर्ष पांच तकनीकी राष्ट्रों में शामिल होना है।)

- **The initiative will boost India's technological self-reliance.**

(यह पहल भारत की तकनीकी आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत करेगी।)

- 
- **3. Importance of Indigenous GPUs**
  - (स्वदेशी GPUs का महत्व)
  - **Currently, the global AI chip industry is dominated by US-based companies.**  
(वर्तमान में, वैश्विक एआई चिप उद्योग अमेरिकी कंपनियों द्वारा नियंत्रित है।)
  - **Developing indigenous GPUs will reduce dependence on foreign technology.**  
(स्वदेशी GPUs का विकास विदेशी तकनीक पर निर्भरता को कम करेगा।)
  - **It will help counter potential US restrictions on AI chip exports.**  
(यह एआई चिप निर्यात पर संभावित अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों का सामना करने में मदद करेगा।)

- 4. Government's AI Development Plan
- (सरकार की एआई विकास योजना)
- India is also working on developing its own foundational AI models.  
(भारत अपने स्वयं के फाउंडेशनल एआई मॉडल विकसित करने पर भी काम कर रहा है।)
- This will be completed within 8-10 months.  
(यह 8-10 महीनों के भीतर पूरा किया जाएगा।)
- The government has invited private companies to contribute to the AI datasets platform.  
(सरकार ने निजी कंपनियों को एआई डेटा सेट प्लेटफॉर्म में योगदान देने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है।)

- 
- **5. Historical & Technological Aspects**
  - **(ऐतिहासिक और तकनीकी पहलू)**
  - **India's semiconductor industry has traditionally relied on imports.  
(भारत का सेमीकंडक्टर उद्योग पारंपरिक रूप से आयात पर निर्भर रहा है।)**
  - **The launch of IndiaAI Datasets – AI Kosha will help strengthen India's AI infrastructure.  
(IndiaAI Datasets – AI Kosha की शुरुआत भारत के एआई इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मजबूत करने में मदद करेगी।)**
  - **GPUs are critical for AI, gaming, and high-performance computing applications.  
(GPUs एआई, गेमिंग, और उच्च-प्रदर्शन कंप्यूटिंग अनुप्रयोगों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।)**



- **3. Role of Private Companies**

- **(निजी कंपनियों की भूमिका)**

- **Ten companies, including Jio Platforms, E2E, NxtGen, Yotta, and Tata Communications, have been empanelled.**

**(जियो प्लेटफॉर्मस, E2E, NxtGen, Yotta और टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस सहित दस कंपनियों को सूचीबद्ध किया गया है।)**

- **These companies will provide AI compute infrastructure for India's AI ecosystem.**

**(ये कंपनियां भारत के एआई पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए एआई कंप्यूट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रदान करेंगी।)**

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- **4. Government Support & AI Development**

- (सरकारी समर्थन और एआई विकास)

- The government is offering a 40% subsidy to lower GPU access costs for startups and researchers.

(सरकार 40% की सब्सिडी प्रदान कर रही है ताकि स्टार्टअप्स और शोधकर्ताओं के लिए GPU की लागत कम हो सके।)

- As a result, AI compute access will be available for under ₹100 per hour.

(इससे एआई कंप्यूट एक्सेस ₹100 प्रति घंटे से कम दर पर उपलब्ध होगी।)

- 67 proposals for AI model development have been received from startups.

(67 स्टार्टअप्स से एआई मॉडल विकास के लिए प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं।)

- Initially, 3-5 mature proposals will be selected for further development.

(प्रारंभ में, 3-5 परिपक्व प्रस्तावों को आगे के विकास के लिए चुना जाएगा।)

# Taxpayers declare foreign assets worth ₹29,000 cr

● Declarations come after CBDT rolled out awareness campaign

PRIYANSH VERMA  
New Delhi, March 6

AS MANY AS 30,161 taxpayers voluntarily declared foreign assets worth ₹29,208 crore for assessment year (AY) 2024-25 to the income tax (I-T) department under a special campaign launched in November 2024, official sources said.

Under the 'compliance-cum-awareness campaign', the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had urged taxpayers to declare their foreign assets and income in revised income tax returns (ITRs).

This campaign followed a system-driven and taxpayer-friendly approach, utilising the information received through 'common reporting standards' (CRS) and Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

While the campaign helped improve compliance, tax experts said severe penalties under the Black Money Act forced many taxpayers to disclose the foreign assets.

The CBDT's move was in the wake of reports of a rising trend of Indians acquiring foreign assets, in part as a measure to evade taxes.

Under the campaign, the tax department has facilitated taxpay-

## MONEY MATTERS

**24,678** taxpayers reviewed their ITRs & **5,483** filed belated returns for AY2024-25, declaring **₹29,208 cr** foreign assets and additional **₹1,089.88 cr** foreign income

**6,734** taxpayers also revised their residential status from resident to non-resident



■ Number of taxpayers disclosing foreign assets and income on a voluntary basis has steadily grown from **60,000** in AY2021-22 to **231,452** in AY2024-25

■ Under its awareness campaign, CBDT had urged taxpayers to declare foreign assets and income in revised income tax returns

■ Tax experts, however, say severe penalties under the Black Money Act may have also forced many taxpayers to disclose their foreign assets

ers by providing a step-by-step guide to filling schedule foreign assets and schedule foreign source income, along with explanatory materials to help them understand the information received under these frameworks, said the sources.

As part of the campaign, SMS and emails were sent to 19,501 taxpayers with high foreign account balances or significant foreign income from interest or dividends above a specified threshold.

The campaign yielded significant results, with 24,678 taxpayers reviewing their ITRs and 5,483 taxpayers filing belated returns for

AY2024-25, declaring foreign assets worth ₹29,208 crore and additional foreign income of ₹1,089.88 crore, they said.

Furthermore, 6,734 taxpayers revised their residential status from resident to non-resident. Overall, approximately 62% of nudged taxpayers responded positively, voluntarily revising their ITRs to declare foreign assets and income, the sources said.

The number of taxpayers disclosing foreign assets and income on a voluntary basis has steadily grown from 60,000 in AY2021-22 to 231,452 taxpayers in AY2024-

25, the sources stated. "This year, due to extensive outreach and awareness efforts, voluntary disclosures witnessed a significant 45.17% growth compared to AY2023-24."

At the heart of this campaign lies the Trust First approach, which prioritises voluntary compliance over enforcement. Instead of immediate verification or intrusive actions, the CBDT has trusted taxpayers first, giving them ample opportunity to make true and complete disclosures of their foreign income and assets, said the sources.

By fostering transparency, education, and cooperation, the initiative has reinforced a compliance-friendly tax environment, ensuring that taxpayers can correct their filings proactively before any formal verification measures are undertaken, they said.

This shift towards a collaborative and trust-driven approach marks a significant step in strengthening India's tax compliance framework while maintaining fairness and encouraging responsible financial disclosures, the sources added.

Sandeep Sehgal, partner-tax, AKM Global, said that for this particular campaign, CBDT intends taxpayers to report their foreign assets, if they haven't done so already. "Most of the taxpayers are doing it now due to severe penal provisions under the Black Money Act," he said.

---

- **1. Key Announcement**

- **(मुख्य घोषणा)**

- **Over 30,161 taxpayers voluntarily declared foreign assets worth ₹29,208 crore for AY 2024-25.**

**(30,161 से अधिक करदाताओं ने आकलन वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए ₹29,208 करोड़ की विदेशी संपत्ति स्वेच्छा से घोषित की।)**


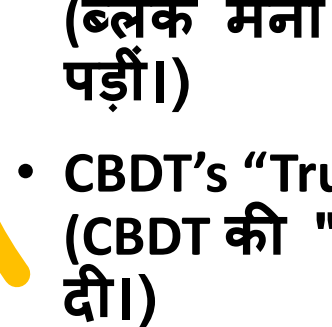
- **This was done under a compliance-awareness campaign launched by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).**

**(यह केंद्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड (CBDT) द्वारा शुरू किए गए अनुपालन-जागरूकता अभियान के तहत किया गया।)**



- **2. Government's Initiative and Campaign**
- **(सरकार की पहल और अभियान)**
- **CBDT urged taxpayers to declare foreign assets and income in revised income tax returns (ITRs).**  
**(CBDT ने करदाताओं से विदेशी संपत्तियों और आय को संशोधित आयकर रिटर्न (ITR) में घोषित करने का आग्रह किया।)**
- **The campaign followed a system-driven approach using data from Common Reporting Standards (CRS) & Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).**  
**(अभियान ने कॉमन रिपोर्टिंग स्टैंडर्ड्स (CRS) और फॉरेन अकाउंट्स टैक्स कंप्लायंस एक्ट (FATCA) से प्राप्त डेटा का उपयोग करते हुए एक प्रणालीगत दृष्टिकोण अपनाया।)**

- 
- **3. Key Statistics and Trends**
  - **(मुख्य आंकड़े और प्रवृत्तियाँ)**
  - **24,678 taxpayers reviewed their ITRs, and 5,483 filed belated returns for AY 2024-25. (24,678 करदाताओं ने अपने ITR की समीक्षा की, और 5,483 ने AY 2024-25 के लिए विलंबित रिटर्न दायर किए।)**
  - **An additional ₹1,089.88 crore was declared as foreign income. (अतिरिक्त ₹1,089.88 करोड़ की विदेशी आय घोषित की गई।)**
  - **6,734 taxpayers revised their residential status from "resident" to "non-resident". (6,734 करदाताओं ने अपनी निवास स्थिति को "निवासी" से "गैर-निवासी" में संशोधित किया।)**

- 
- 4. Reasons for Increased Foreign Asset Disclosures
  - (विदेशी संपत्ति खुलासे में वृद्धि के कारण)
  - Reports of rising trends in Indians acquiring foreign assets to evade taxes.  
(भारतीयों द्वारा कर से बचने के लिए विदेशी संपत्तियाँ प्राप्त करने की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ने की रिपोर्ट।)
  - Severe penalties under the Black Money Act forced taxpayers to declare assets.  
(ब्लैक मनी एक्ट के तहत कड़ी सजा के कारण करदाताओं को संपत्तियाँ घोषित करनी पड़ी।)
  - CBDT's "Trust First" approach prioritized voluntary compliance before enforcement.  
(CBDT की "ट्रस्ट फर्स्ट" नीति ने प्रवर्तन से पहले स्वैच्छिक अनुपालन को प्राथमिकता दी।)
- 



- 5. Impact of the Awareness Campaign

- (जागरूकता अभियान का प्रभाव)

- The number of voluntary foreign asset disclosures increased from 60,000 (AY 2021-22) to 2,31,452 (AY 2024-25).

(स्वैच्छिक विदेशी संपत्ति खुलासे की संख्या 60,000 (AY 2021-22) से बढ़कर 2,31,452 (AY 2024-25) हो गई।)

- The campaign reinforced a compliance-friendly environment, allowing corrections before verification.

(अभियान ने एक अनुपालन-अनुकूल माहौल को मजबूत किया, जिससे सत्यापन से पहले सुधार की अनुमति मिली।)

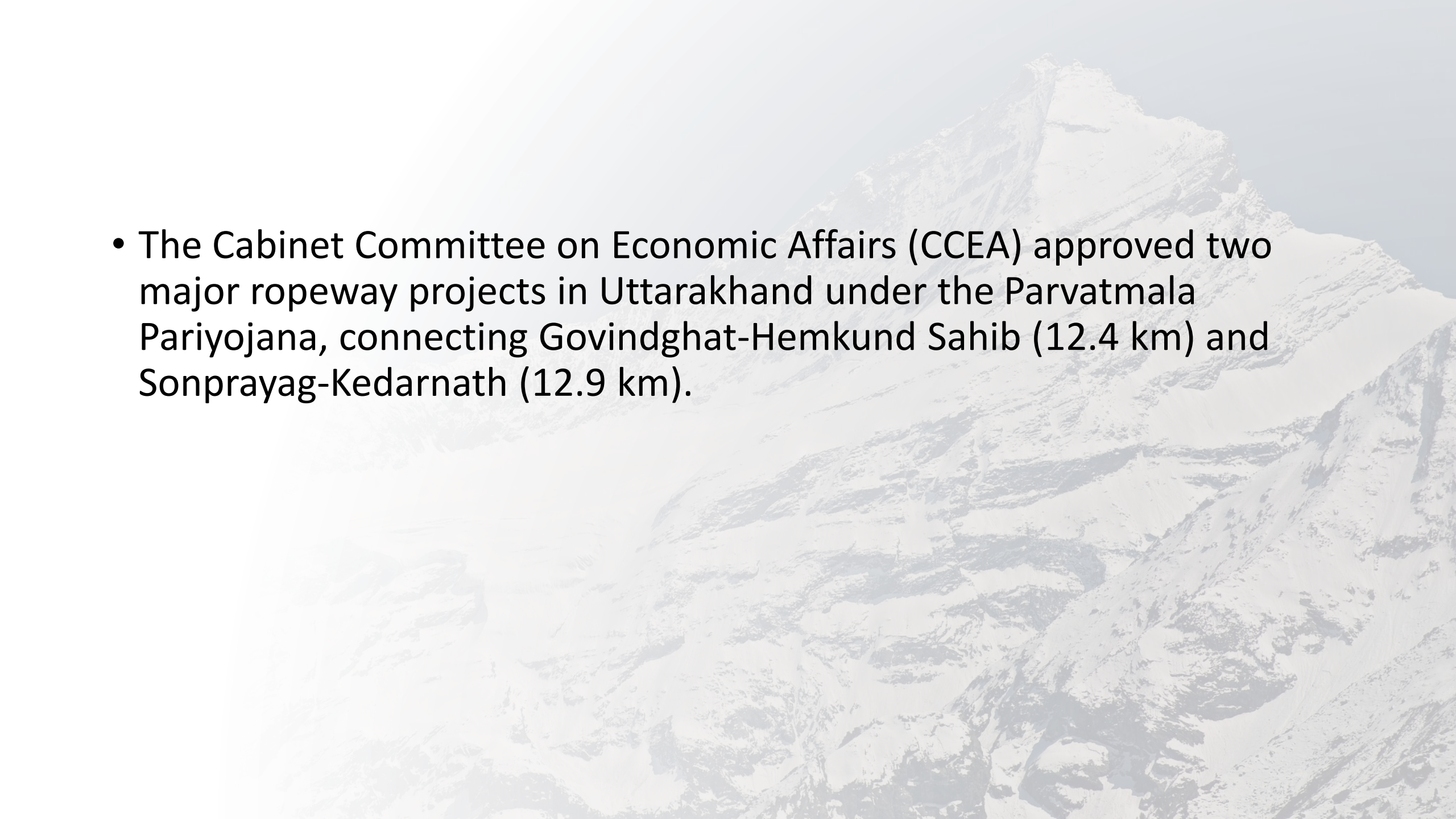
- Encouraged full financial disclosures without fear of immediate penalties.

(तत्काल दंड के डर के बिना पूर्ण वित्तीय खुलासे को प्रोत्साहित किया गया।)



# Parvatmala Pariyojana



- 
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved two major ropeway projects in Uttarakhand under the Parvatmala Pariyojana, connecting Govindghat-Hemkund Sahib (12.4 km) and Sonprayag-Kedarnath (12.9 km).



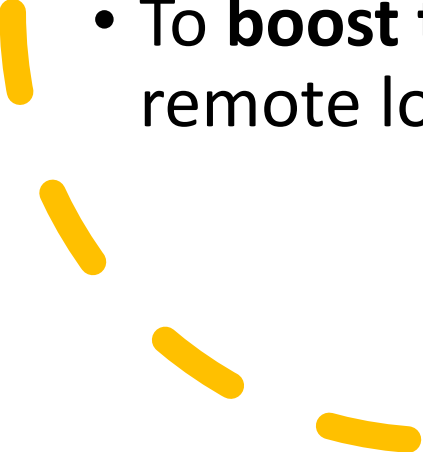
- **About Hemkund Sahib Ji:**
- **Location:** Situated in the **Chamoli district of Uttarakhand**, at an altitude of **4,632 meters** in the **Garhwal Himalayas**.
- **Connectivity:** Currently accessible via a **21-km trek** from **Govindghat**, soon to be connected via **ropeway**.
- **Features:**
  - One of **Sikhism's holiest shrines**, dedicated to **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**.



- **What is Parvatmala Pariyojana?**
- A **National Ropeways Development Programme** aimed at **boosting ropeway connectivity in hilly areas.**
- **Launched In:**
- Announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23** by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).**
- **Ministry:**
- Implemented by **MoRTH** under the **National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML).**



- **Aim:**

- To **enhance connectivity** in difficult terrains and **reduce travel time** in hilly areas.
  - To **promote eco-friendly and cost-effective transport solutions**.
  - To **boost tourism and local economy** by facilitating better access to remote locations.
- 



Japan

- Japan is facing its biggest forest fire in three decades, with over 2,000 firefighters deployed to control the flames in Iwate Prefecture.



- **Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture:**
- **Location:** Situated in **northern Japan**, within **Iwate Prefecture** on the **Honshu Island**.
- **Habitat:** A coastal city with **dense forests, mountainous terrain, and a humid climate**.
- **Significance:** Known for **fisheries, tourism, and rich biodiversity**, now battling an unprecedented wildfire.

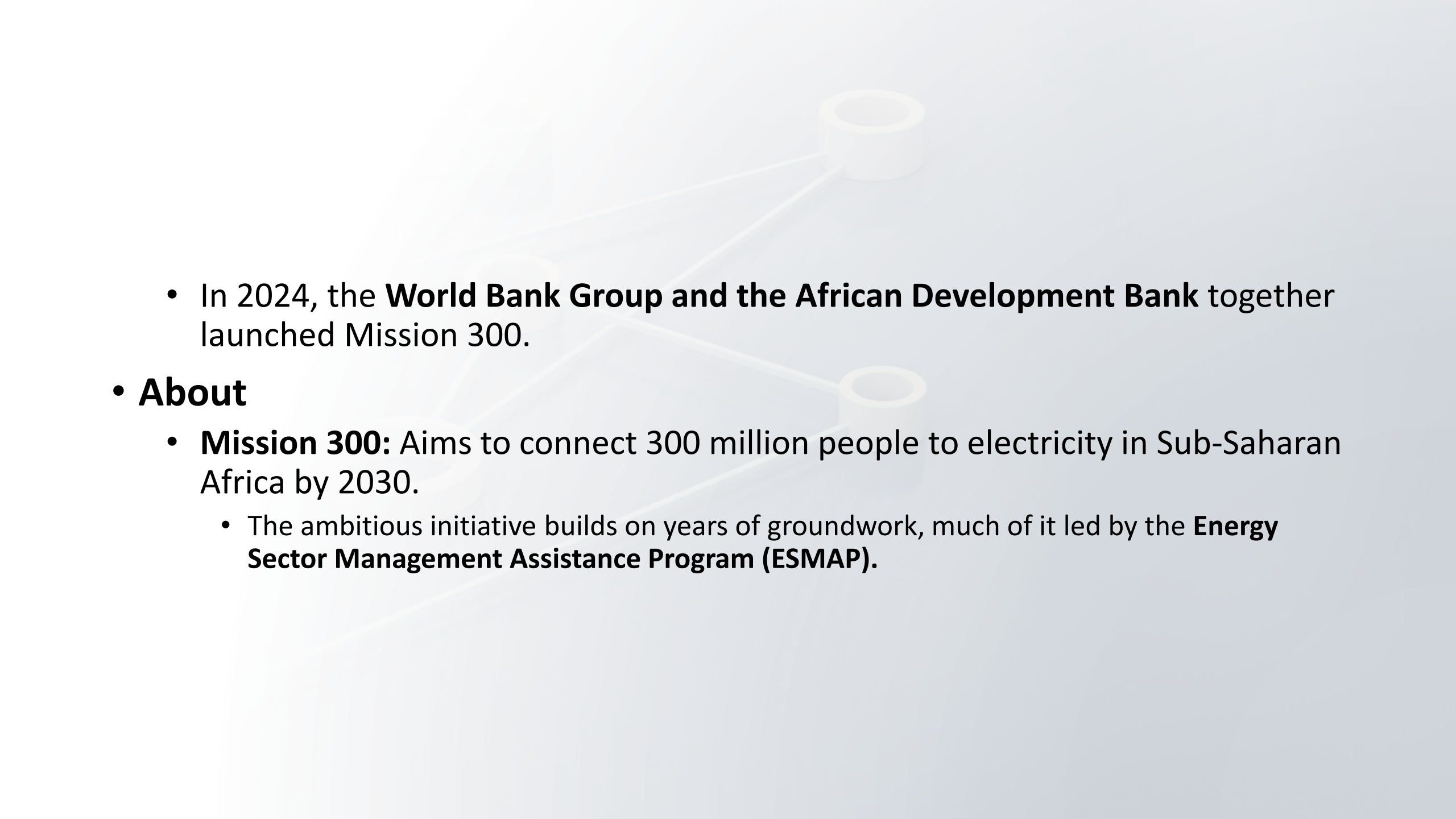
- **Over 80% of Japan** is covered in **mountains**.
- **Mount Fuji** (3,776 meters): The **highest peak** and a **dormant volcano**.
- Lies on the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, making it **prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity**.

### **3. Rivers & Climate**

- **Major Rivers:** Shinano River (longest), Tone River, Kiso River.
- **Climate:** Varies from **humid subtropical in the south** to **cold continental in the north**.

**Mission 300**



- 
- In 2024, the **World Bank Group and the African Development Bank** together launched Mission 300.

- **About**

- **Mission 300:** Aims to connect 300 million people to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.
  - The ambitious initiative builds on years of groundwork, much of it led by the **Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP)**.



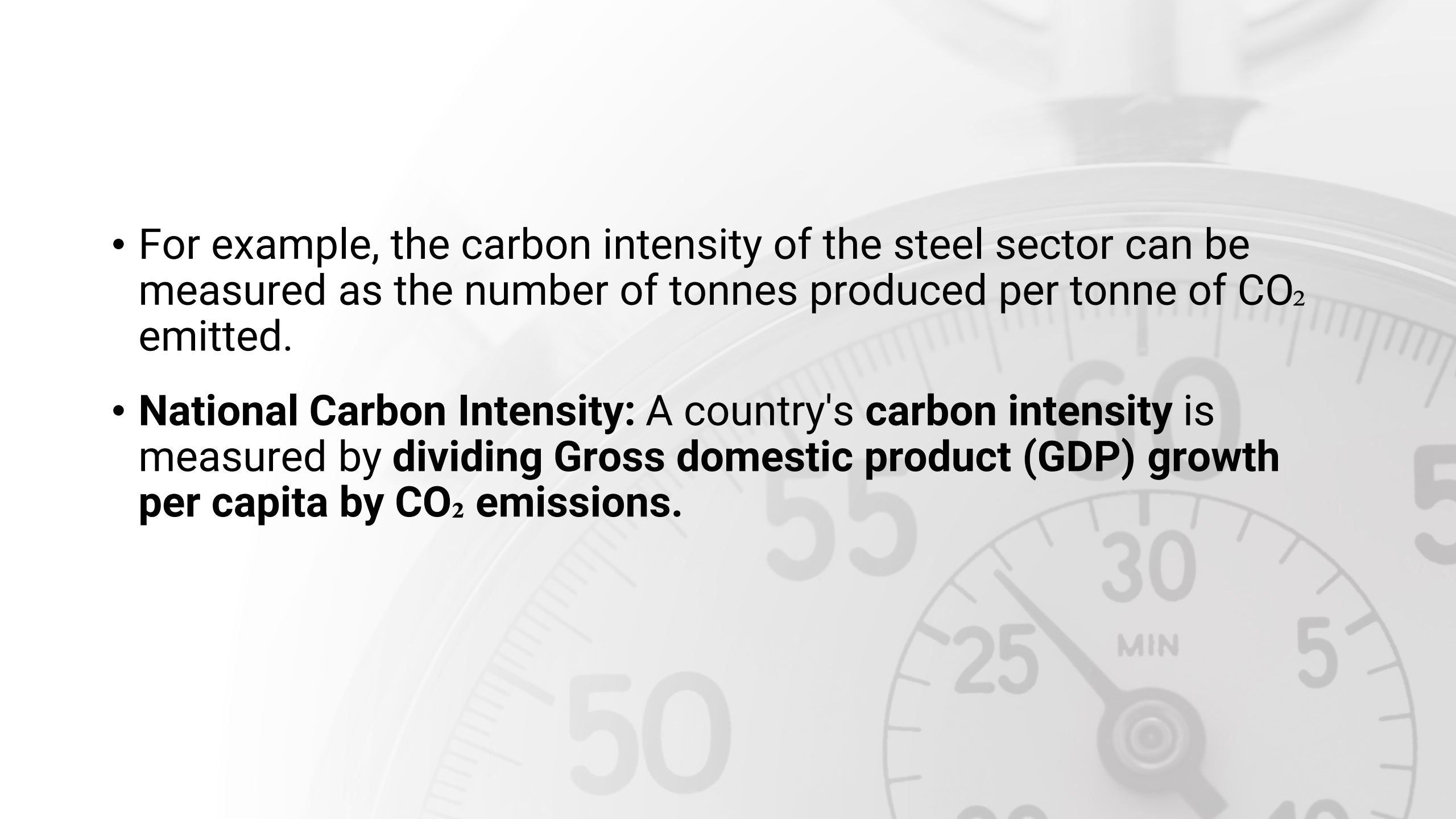
- **Goal:** Accelerate electrification while ensuring cleaner, diversified energy sources, economic growth, and job creation.
- **Current Challenge:** Nearly 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa lack electricity, making up **83% of the global unelectrified population.**
- **Key Focus Areas:**
  - Investment in generation, transmission, distribution, and regional interconnection.
  - Sector reform to ensure reliable, affordable, and quality power.



# Carbon Intensity

**Carbon intensity** measures the amount of **carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** emitted per unit of output in a **specific sector or economy**.

It helps track progress in **reducing emissions** while accounting for economic growth or production levels.

- 
- For example, the carbon intensity of the steel sector can be measured as the number of tonnes produced per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted.
  - **National Carbon Intensity:** A country's **carbon intensity** is measured by **dividing Gross domestic product (GDP) growth per capita by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

- Significance for India & Climate Goals:
- Carbon intensity plays a crucial role in assessing climate commitments under the Paris Agreement (2015) and reducing Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from 2005 level.
- Carbon intensity supports sustainable economic growth while lowering environmental impact.



## CARBON FOOTPRINT

**Carbon footprint** refers to the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are directly or indirectly caused by an individual, organization, or product.

**Units:** Carbon footprint is usually measured in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which is a standard unit used to express the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Scope:** Carbon footprint measures the impact of our daily activities on the environment.

**Impact:** Reducing carbon footprint can help to reduce the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with an individual, organization, or product.

## CARBON INTENSITY

**Carbon intensity** measures the amount of carbon dioxide emitted per unit of economic activity. It is a measure of the efficiency of an economy or a sector in terms of its greenhouse gas emissions.

**Units:** Carbon intensity is usually measured in terms of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per unit of GDP or per unit of energy use.

**Scope:** Carbon intensity measures the overall efficiency of a system or product. In other words, it considers the larger picture of emissions and looks at ways to reduce them on a larger scale.

**Impact:** Reducing carbon intensity can help to improve the efficiency of an economy or a sector.

**Two important concepts in the context of climate change.**

**By reducing our carbon footprint, we can reduce the overall carbon intensity of the systems and products we use.**

**Vary between and within countries and are affected by a range of factors such as income, demographics, settlement structures, and lifestyles**

**Reducing both carbon footprint and carbon intensity is crucial to mitigating the impacts of climate change.**



The image shows three large satellite dishes in a desert landscape at night. The sky is filled with stars, and the Milky Way galaxy is visible in the background. The dishes are mounted on metal structures and are pointing towards the sky. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a focus on the technology of satellite communication.

# Starlink and Eutelsat



Ukraine's military and civilians rely on Starlink for communication, but SpaceX's restrictions on its use for attack drones have raised concerns.





As a result, Eutelsat, a European satellite company, is being considered as an alternative.



Starlink: Developed by SpaceX, it is a satellite-based internet service designed to provide high-speed, low-latency connectivity, especially in remote areas.



- 
- Starlink's around 7,000 low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites form a mega-constellation, ensuring global coverage.
  - India has not approved Starlink due to security, privacy, and pricing concerns, along with opposition from the local telecom and satellite industry.
  - **Eutelsat:** Eutelsat, Starlink's closest competitor, operates 630 LEO satellites and 35 geostationary satellites, offering speeds up to 150 Mbps.
- 



10 MCQ from the session

- What is the main objective of the media monitoring centre approved by the Maharashtra government?
- महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित मीडिया निगरानी केंद्र का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. To control media reporting / मीडिया रिपोर्टिंग को नियंत्रित करना  
B. To ensure accurate dissemination of government-related news / सरकार से संबंधित समाचारों का सटीक प्रसार सुनिश्चित करना  
C. To promote positive news about the government / सरकार के बारे में सकारात्मक समाचारों को बढ़ावा देना  
D. To monitor international news coverage / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समाचार कवरेज की निगरानी करना

- Which entity will oversee the operations of the media monitoring centre?
- मीडिया निगरानी केंद्र के संचालन की देखरेख कौन करेगा?
- A. Press Information Bureau (PIB) / प्रेस सूचना ब्यूरो (PIB)  
B. Directorate General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR) / सूचना और जनसंपर्क महानिदेशालय (DGIPR)  
C. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting / सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय  
D. Election Commission of India / भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

- Under which initiative were two major ropeway projects in Uttarakhand approved?
- उत्तराखंड में दो प्रमुख रोपवे परियोजनाओं को किस पहल के तहत मंजूरी दी गई?
- A. Bharatmala Pariyojana / भारतमाला परियोजना
- B. Parvatmala Pariyojana / पर्वतमाला परियोजना
- C. Sagarmala Pariyojana / सागरमाला परियोजना
- D. National Ropeway Mission / राष्ट्रीय रोपवे मिशन

- What is the main aim of the Parvatmala Pariyojana?
- पर्वतमाला परियोजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. To build highways in mountainous areas / पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में राजमार्गों का निर्माण करना
- B. To develop ropeway connectivity in hilly areas / पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में रोपवे कनेक्टिविटी विकसित करना
- C. To promote rural development / ग्रामीण विकास को बढ़ावा देना
- D. To construct railway tunnels in high-altitude regions / ऊँचाई वाले क्षेत्रों में रेलवे सुरंगों का निर्माण करना

- Which organization recently launched "Mission 300" to improve electricity access in Africa?
- अफ्रीका में बिजली पहुंच में सुधार के लिए हाल ही में "मिशन 300" किस संगठन ने शुरू किया?
- A. United Nations (UN) / संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)
- B. World Bank and African Development Bank / विश्व बैंक और अफ्रीकी विकास बैंक
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF) / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF)
- D. International Energy Agency (IEA) / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IEA)

- What is the primary goal of Mission 300?
- मिशन 300 का मुख्य लक्ष्य क्या है?
- A. To connect 300 million people in Africa with electricity by 2030 / 2030 तक अफ्रीका में 300 मिलियन लोगों को बिजली से जोड़ना
- B. To promote green hydrogen technology in developing countries / विकासशील देशों में ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन प्रौद्योगिकी को बढ़ावा देना
- C. To provide funding for clean water projects in Africa / अफ्रीका में स्वच्छ जल परियोजनाओं के लिए वित्तपोषण प्रदान करना
- D. To enhance rural internet connectivity / ग्रामीण इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी में सुधार करना



- What does "carbon intensity" measure in a country?
- किसी देश में "कार्बन तीव्रता" क्या मापती है?
- A. Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from industries / उद्योगों से कुल CO<sub>2</sub> उत्सर्जन
- B. Amount of carbon emitted per unit of GDP growth / जीडीपी वृद्धि की प्रति इकाई उत्सर्जित कार्बन की मात्रा
- C. Energy consumption of a country / किसी देश की ऊर्जा खपत
- D. Level of carbon sequestration in forests / वनों में कार्बन अवशोषण का स्तर

- Which country is facing its worst forest fire in three decades?
- कौन सा देश तीन दशकों में अपनी सबसे बड़ी जंगल की आग का सामना कर रहा है?
- A. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
- B. Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- C. Japan / जापान
- D. Brazil / ब्राजील

- What is Starlink, and why has India not approved it?
- Starlink क्या है, और भारत ने इसे क्यों अनुमोदित नहीं किया?
- A. It is a cryptocurrency; India banned it due to financial risks / यह एक क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी है; भारत ने वित्तीय जोखिमों के कारण इसे प्रतिबंधित कर दिया
- B. It is a satellite internet service; India has security and pricing concerns / यह एक सैटेलाइट इंटरनेट सेवा है; भारत को सुरक्षा और मूल्य निर्धारण से संबंधित चिंताएँ हैं
- C. It is a global financial network; India prefers its own banking systems / यह एक वैश्विक वित्तीय नेटवर्क है; भारत अपने स्वयं के बैंकिंग सिस्टम को प्राथमिकता देता है
- D. It is a military intelligence system; India has strategic concerns / यह एक सैन्य खुफिया प्रणाली है; भारत को रणनीतिक चिंताएँ हैं

- Which country has the fastest police cars, including Lamborghinis, Ferraris, and Bugattis?
- किस देश के पास सबसे तेज पुलिस कारें हैं, जिनमें लैम्बॉर्गिनी, फेरारी और बुगाटी शामिल हैं?
- A. United States / संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
- B. Germany / जर्मनी
- C. United Arab Emirates (UAE) / संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE)
- D. Italy / इटली

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\_\_\_\_\_ police force has some of the fastest and most expensive supercars, including Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Bugattis, and Aston Martins.





Thank you  
guys.

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