

# Daily Current Affairs



**जनसत्ता**



**The Indian EXPRESS**

**THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS**



4  
**The Hindu**



3  
**PIB, PRS & Other  
newspaper**



1  
**The Indian  
Express**



0  
**Jansatta**



1  
**Financial  
Express**

# Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

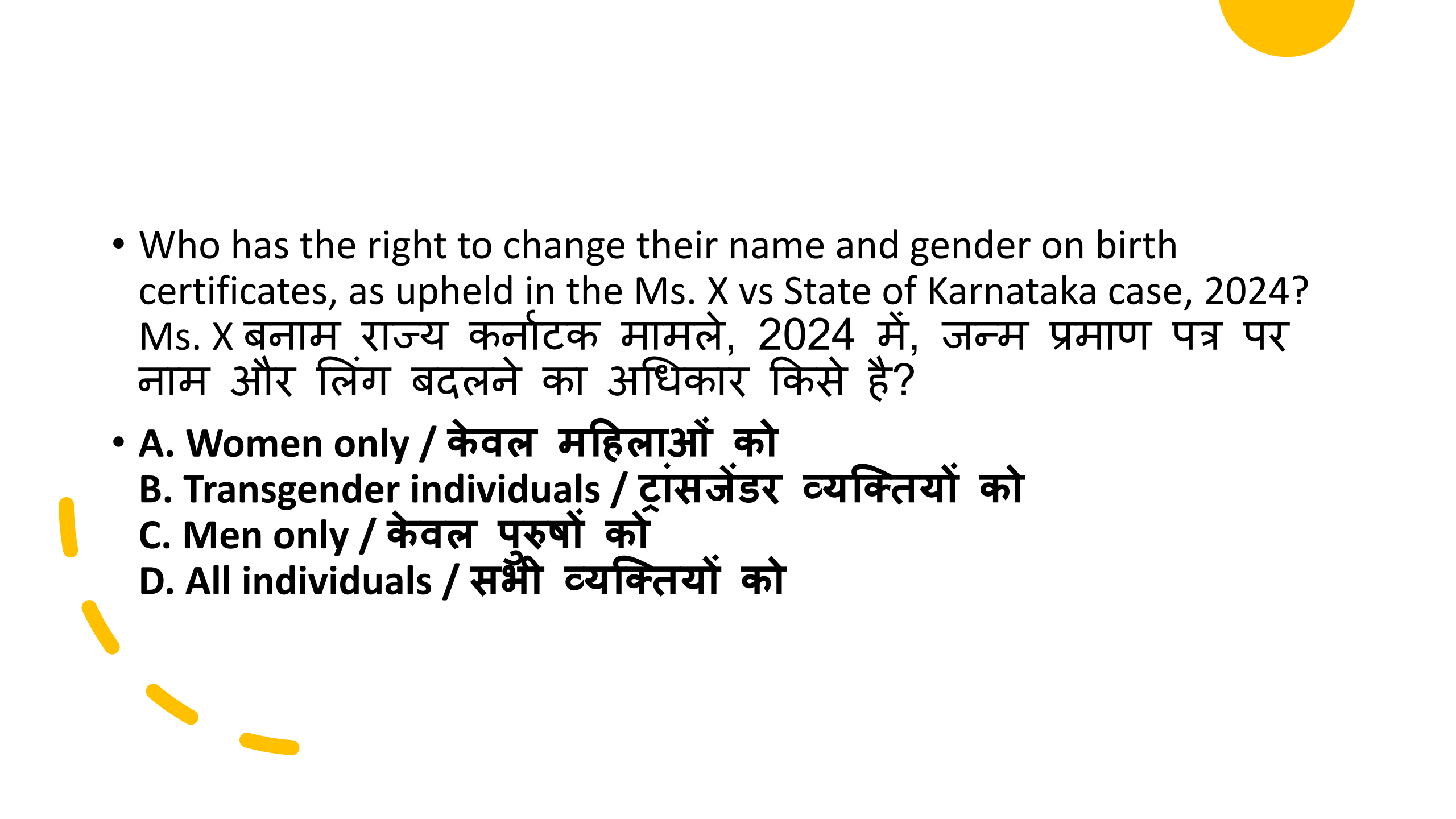
A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit by large windows, creating a soft, out-of-focus atmosphere. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

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?


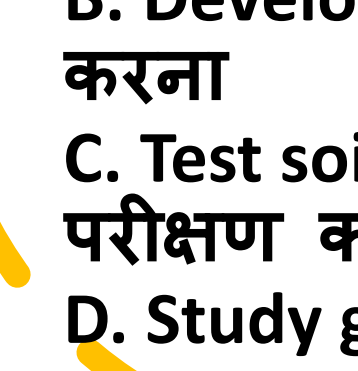
एसबीआई अनुसंधान के अनुसार FY24 में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए नई गरीबी रेखा क्या निर्धारित की गई है?

- 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?

एसबीआई 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**

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE 2 YEARS (2023 + 2024) CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES (PDF)
- ✓ 360° DEGREE EXAMS COVERED

~~₹999/-~~ ₹499/-

NEW  
2025 BATCH

Happy New Year



CLASS24

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS
- ✓ SCIENCE

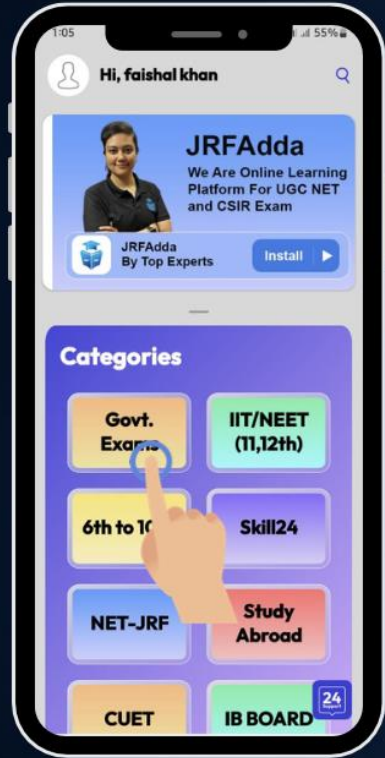
~~₹999/-~~ ₹499/-

USE CODE - B50

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047

USE CODE - B50

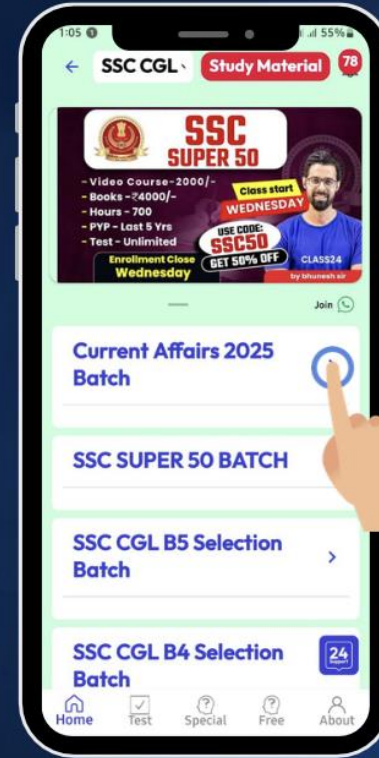
# Step 1



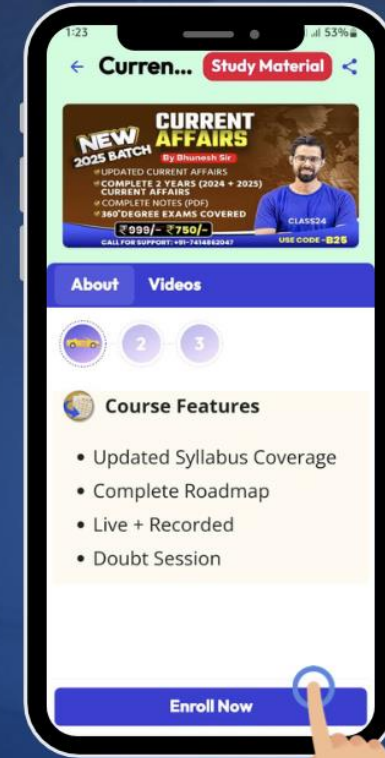
# Step 2



# Step 3



# Step 4



*“The things you  
own end up owning  
you.”*

---

– Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club*



Instaread

# Fight Club

Chuck Palahniuk

Key Insights & Analysis





Domestic • International • Bangalore • Hyderabad • Mysore • Kerala • Chennai • Coimbatore • Kolkata • Guwahati • Bhopal • Lucknow • Patna • Ranchi • Shimla • Dehra Dun • Jammu • Srinagar • Thiruvananthapuram • Pondicherry • Silvassa • Dadra and Nagar Haveli • Diu • Chandigarh • Jammu and Kashmir • Ladakh • Arunachal Pradesh • Assam • Bihar • Chhattisgarh • Goa • Gujarat • Haryana • Himachal Pradesh • Jharkhand • Karnataka • Kerala • Madhya Pradesh • Maharashtra • Manipal • Meghalaya • Mizoram • Nagaland • Odisha • Punjab • Rajasthan • Tamil Nadu • Telangana • Uttar Pradesh • West Bengal • Andaman and Nicobar Islands • Lakshadweep • Chandigarh • Jammu and Kashmir • Ladakh

**ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SC calls out Centre, States over RTI delays**  
NEWS » PAGE 5

**HPMV SURVEILLANCE**  
**'No rise in respiratory illnesses'**  
NEWS » PAGE 6

**COMBINED ENDEAVOUR**  
**U.S. to join India to make sonobuoys**  
NEWS » PAGE 4

**DATA POINT**  
**Maoists losing ground but threat persists**  
Recent attacks show they remain a threat  
OPINION » PAGE 9

**NEW HORIZON**  
**V. Narayanan named new ISRO Chairman**  
NEWS » PAGE 6

### INSIDE

**Karnataka HC quashes Centre's Electricity Rules**  
BENGALURU In a major setback to the Centre, Karnataka High Court has struck down the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, which were framed for green energy generation, purchase, and consumption of green energy including the energy from waste-to-energy plants through open access. » PAGE 3

**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas events to begin today**  
BHUBANESWAR The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is set to commence in Odisha on Wednesday. The three-day event, based on the theme "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat", will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the second day of the convention. » PAGE 6

**Automobile retail sales decline 12% YoY in December**  
MUMBAI Auto retail sales in December slid 12% year-on-year (y-o-y) and 43.26% month-on-month (m-o-m), as per Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) data, signalling a persistent demand crunch in a slowing economy. All categories, except tractors, saw a contraction. » PAGE 13

**Dissanayake to visit China from January 14 to 17**  
COLOMBO President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will visit China from January 14 to 17, the Cabinet spokesman announced on Tuesday, confirming the Sri Lankan leader's second state visit abroad. » PAGE 14

**Bangladesh revokes Sheikh Hasina's passport**  
NEW DELHI Bangladesh on Tuesday revoked the passports of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 96 others linked to the crackdown on protesters during the July-August 2024 uprising. The cancellation is expected to create hurdles for India, where Ms. Hasina is presently stationed. » PAGE 14

## Delhi votes on February 5 in Assembly polls

Election will be held in a single phase, counting on February 8; the AAP and BJP have sparred over additions and deletions in the voter list; every step of the electoral roll process is rooted in transparency and accountability, asserts CEC; bypolls to Assembly constituencies of Erode (East) in T.N. and Milkpur in U.P. will be held the same day

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI Voting for the 70-member Delhi Assembly will be held in a single phase on February 5, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday. By-elections to the Assembly constituencies of Erode (East) in Tamil Nadu and Milkpur in Uttar Pradesh will be held on the same date. Counting of votes will take place on February 8. While the last date for filing nominations is January 17, the scrutiny of nomi-



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and the Election Commissioner announcing the poll schedule, 2024-25. MANU VERMA

inations will be completed by January 18. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is January 20. The entire poll process will be completed by February 10. The term of the current Assembly in Delhi ends on February 25. **Choice of date** Announcing the dates at a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the polling date had been deliberately placed on a Wednesday (weekend) as in Maharashtra so that more people could vote. According to the final

mi Party (AAP), led by former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, is seeking a third term in office. In the 2020 Assembly polls, the AAP won 62 seats, BJP eight, and the Congress nil. Both AAP and BJP have sparred over additions and deletions in the voter list in the national constituencies of the election. Allaying all apprehensions, the CEC said, every step of the electoral roll process is rooted in transparency and accountability. Deletion of names is not possible without adhering to strict protocols, and every party has the right to raise

objections at various stages. The by-election was necessitated in Milkpur as Awadhesh Prasad of the Samajwadi Party quit the seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha from Ayodhya, and in Erode (East), due to the death of Congress MLA E.V.K.S. Elangovan. Of the 70 seats in Delhi, 58 are general and 12 reserved. More than 13,000 polling stations will be set up in Delhi, Mr. Kumar said. The CEC said that bypolls due in two other Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir — Budgam and Nagrota — would be held later because of heavy snowfall there. "We have time till April and we will complete these elections before that," he said. Mr. Kumar said that bypolls were due in two more constituencies, Basirhat, Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal and Visavadar Assembly seat in Gujarat. However, as there were pending election petitions in both cases, the bypolls have to wait. **ON ELECTORAL ROLLS** » PAGE 5



Bubble remains: Damaged houses in Xigaze, Tibet, after the earthquake hit the area. AFP

## Earthquake in Tibet kills 126, injures 188; tremors felt in India and Nepal

**Agence France Presse**  
A devastating earthquake in China's remote Tibet region killed at least 126 people on Tuesday, state media reported, with tremors also felt in neighbouring Nepal's capital Kathmandu and parts of India. Around 188 people were injured as the earthquake struck the rural, high-altitude Tingt County. The China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC) measured its magnitude as 6.8, while the U.S. Geological Survey reported it as 7.1. A 6.8-magnitude earth-

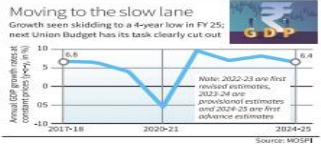
quake struck near one of Tibet's holiest sites on Tuesday, killing at least 95 people and injuring 130 others with tremors also shaking buildings and forcing people to run to the streets in parts of neighbouring Nepal and India. According to regional disaster relief headquar-

ters, the earthquake jolted Tingt County in Xigaze of Tibet Autonomous Region in China at 9:55 a.m. on Tuesday (Beijing Time). Xigaze, also known as Shigatse, is close to the border with India. **FULL REPORT** » PAGE 14

## GDP growth projected to fall to four-year low at 6.4%

**Vikas Dhoat**  
NEW DELHI

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to rise at a four-year low pace of 6.4% in this financial year, down from 8.2% in 2023-24, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said on Tuesday in its first advance estimates of GDP for 2024-25. This implies that the country's economy, that grew 6% in the first half of this financial year, is expected to rebound with a 6.8% surge in the second half. The real Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Indian economy is reckoned to rise 6.4% as well, relative to a 7.2% uptick in 2023-24. Just two of eight broad economic sectors are seen to clocking a higher growth than last year — Agriculture that is expected to rise 3.8% from 1.4% last year, and Public Administration, Defence and Other Services, seen growing 9.1% from a 7.8% rise in 2023-24.



Manufacturing GVA growth is expected to nearly halve from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% this year, while GVA in Mining and Quarry-

ing is estimated to rise just 2.9% from 7.1% a year ago. **Investment growth** A broader worry is the NSO's projection that gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), an indicator of fresh investments in the economy, is expected to grow at a pace of just 6.4% compared with a 9% rise in 2023-24. **Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices** is estimated to attain a level of ₹184.88 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25, a 6.4% increase over the estimate of ₹173.82 lakh crore," the NSO said. The NSO's first advance estimates of GDP growth for the year, used for fram-

ing the Union Budget for the next fiscal to be presented on February 1, suggest reviving the economy's engines back to the 7%-plus growth recorded in the preceding three years will be the key challenge for Budget 2025-26 to address. India's GDP growth had slipped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July to September 2024 quarter. Following this, the Reserve Bank of India had pared its growth projection for the full year to 6.6% from 7.2% estimated earlier. Subsequently, the Finance Ministry also reformed its growth expectation for 2024-25 from a range of 6.5% to 7% to 'around 6.5%'. **SOURCE: MOSPI**

## Rescue operations continue for nine trapped coal miners in Assam



Joint search: Efforts under way to rescue the trapped miners in Dima Hasao of Assam on Tuesday. PTI

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI Deep divers from the Navy on Tuesday joined the operations to rescue nine miners trapped in a water-filled coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district since Monday morning. One person, Punish Nunisa, was arrested in connection with the incident. The miners were trapped around 8 p.m. on Monday and the district authorities received information about the mishap around 2 p.m. The district administration said three bodies were seen from the ground. "The bodies are yet to be recovered. Dewatering has been stopped for the time being," the administration said in a statement. "The Navy team is now spearheading the rescue efforts," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X. Assam's Special Director-General of Police, Harmeet Singh, told presspersons that the Navy team from Visakhapatnam after being equipped with deep diving equipment. "There are tunnels inside the mine and more equipment will be required to go there," he said. Mr. Sarma said the mine, prima facie, ap-

peared to be illegal and the Umraingo police had been asked to investigate the incident. "Punish Nunisa was arrested in connection with a case registered by the police under Section 305/305 BNS, read with Section 210(i) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957," the CM said. The Navy team flew from Visakhapatnam after the case along with a National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, and police personnel made a rescue of the trapped miners. Sarat Gogoy, 37, all from the nearest police sta-

tion in Umraingo, in the morning. Officials said the water level in the mine, about 20 feet in radius and 300 feet in depth, rose to more than 100 feet when the rescue operations started in the morning. The Chief Minister released the names of the trapped miners on Monday night. They are Ganga Bahadur Shresth, 38, from Assam; Sanjit Sarkar, 35, from West Bengal; Hussain Ali, 30, Jakir Hussain, 38, Sarpa Barman, 46, Mustafa Sekh, 44, Khushi Mohan Sarma, 35, and Sanjit Sarat Gogoy, 37, all from Assam. Coal mine mishaps are quite frequent in the northeast. In January 2024, a fire in a coal mine in Nagaland's Wokha district left six workers dead and four others injured. In May of the same year, a mine in Assam's Tinsukia district caved in, killing three miners. In September 2022, three coal miners were killed in the Tinsukia district by inhaling suspected toxic gas. The biggest coal mine disaster in about a decade was the death of 15 miners in a flooded rat-hole coal mine in Meghalaya's Kcan area on December 13, 2018.

# GDP growth projected to fall to four-year low at 6.4%

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to rise at a four-year low pace of 6.4% in this financial year, down from 8.2% in 2023-24, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said on Tuesday in its first advance estimates of GDP for 2024-25.

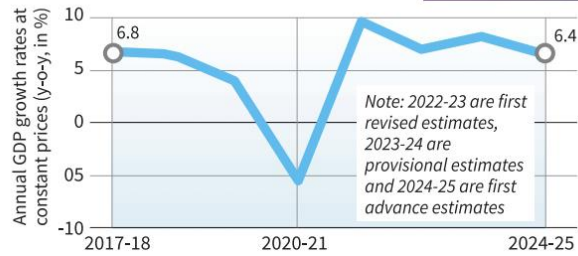
This implies that the country's economy, that grew 6% in the first half of this financial year, is expected to rebound with a 6.8% surge in the second half.

The real Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Indian economy is reckoned to rise 6.4% as well, relative to a 7.2% uptick in 2023-24. Just two of eight broad economic sectors are seen to be clocking a higher growth than last year – Agriculture that is expected to rise 3.8% from 1.4% last year, and Public Administration, Defence and Other Services, seen growing 9.1% from a 7.8% increase recorded in 2023-24.

Manufacturing GVA growth is expected to nearly halve from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% this year, while GVA in Mining and Quarry-

## Moving to the slow lane

Growth seen skidding to a 4-year low in FY 25; next Union Budget has its task clearly cut out



Source: MOSPI

ing is estimated to rise just 2.9% from 7.1% a year ago.

### Investment growth

A broader worry is the NSO's projection that gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), an indicator of fresh investments in the economy, is expected to grow at a pace of just 6.4% compared with a 9% rise in 2023-24.

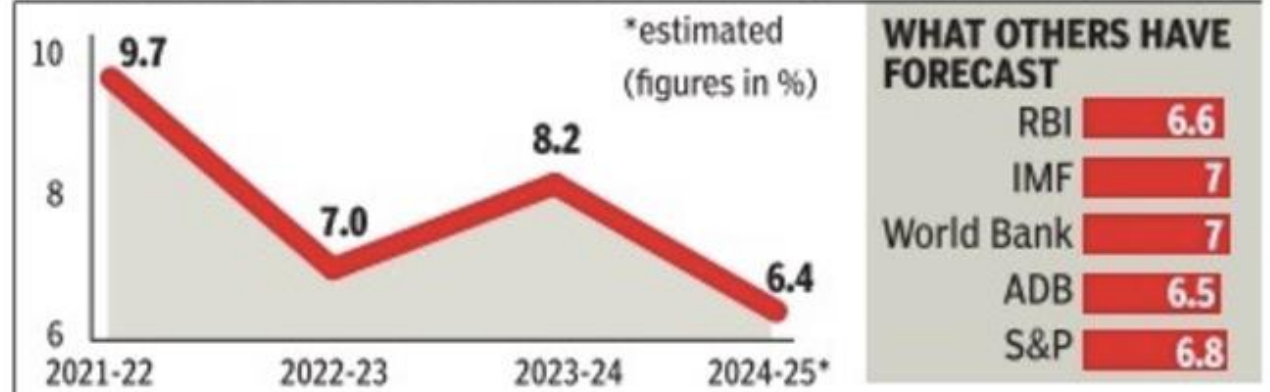
"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹184.88 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25, against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2023-24 of ₹173.82 lakh crore," the NSO said.

The NSO's first advance estimates of GDP growth for the year, used for fram-

ing the Union Budget for the next fiscal to be presented on February 1, suggest reviving the economy's engines back to the 7%-plus growth recorded in the preceding three years will be the key challenge for Budget 2025-26 to address.

India's GDP growth had slipped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July to September 2024 quarter. Following this, the Reserve Bank of India had pared its growth projection for the full year to 6.6% from 7.2% estimated earlier. Subsequently, the Finance Ministry also reframed its growth expectation for 2024-25 from 'a range of 6.5% to 7%' to 'around 6.5%'.

## LOWER THAN ESTIMATES OF RBI, OTHER AGENCIES



### KEY DRIVERS OF GROWTH

- Farm sector growth could more than double at 3.8%
- Construction sector growth healthy at 8.6%
- Private consumption set to revive

### AREAS OF CONCERN

- Slowdown in manufacturing
- Investment remains sluggish
- Global uncertainty

Aspect	Details (English)	Details (Hindi)
<b>GDP Growth Estimate</b>	GDP growth for FY 2024-25 is projected to be <b>6.4%</b> , down from <b>8.2%</b> in FY 2023-24.	FY 2024-25 में GDP वृद्धि दर <b>6.4%</b> रहने का अनुमान है, जो FY 2023-24 के <b>8.2%</b> से कम है।
<b>Source</b>	Based on the <b>National Statistics Office (NSO)</b> first advance estimates.	यह अनुमान <b>राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO)</b> के पहले अग्रिम अनुमानों पर आधारित है।
<b>Historical Comparison</b>	This marks the lowest growth in <b>four years</b> , attributed to weaker investment and manufacturing.	यह पिछले <b>चार वर्षों</b> में सबसे कम वृद्धि को दर्शाता है, जिसका कारण निवेश और विनिर्माण में कमजोरी है।
<b>Sector-Wise Performance</b>		
- <b>Agriculture</b>	Growth expected at <b>3.8%</b> , up from <b>1.4%</b> in the previous year.	कृषि क्षेत्र में वृद्धि दर <b>3.8%</b> रहने की उम्मीद है, जो पिछले वर्ष के <b>1.4%</b> से अधिक है।
- <b>Manufacturing</b>	Growth expected to decelerate to <b>5.3%</b> , down from <b>9.9%</b> in FY 2023-24.	विनिर्माण क्षेत्र की वृद्धि दर <b>5.3%</b> रहने का अनुमान है, जो FY 2023-24 के <b>9.9%</b> से कम है।

<p><b>- Public Administration</b></p>	<p>Expected to grow at <b>9.1%</b>, higher than <b>7.8%</b> in FY 2023-24.</p>	<p>सार्वजनिक प्रशासन क्षेत्र में वृद्धि दर <b>9.1%</b> रहने की संभावना है, जो FY 2023-24 के <b>7.8%</b> से अधिक है।</p>
<p><b>- Mining and Quarrying</b></p>	<p>Growth slowing compared to the previous fiscal year.</p>	<p>खनन और उत्खनन क्षेत्र की वृद्धि दर पिछले वित्त वर्ष की तुलना में धीमी रहेगी।</p>
<p><b>Gross Value Added (GVA)</b></p>	<p>GVA expected to rise <b>6.4%</b>, compared to <b>7.2%</b> in FY 2023-24.</p>	<p>सकल मूल्य वर्धित (GVA) में वृद्धि दर <b>6.4%</b> रहने का अनुमान है, जो FY 2023-24 के <b>7.2%</b> से कम है।</p>
<p><b>Investment Growth</b></p>	<p>GFCE, an indicator of investments, projected to grow by <b>6.4%</b>, slower than the <b>9%</b> in FY 2023-24.</p>	<p>सकल स्थिर पूंजी निर्माण (GFCE), जो निवेश का संकेतक है, की वृद्धि दर <b>6.4%</b> रहने का अनुमान है, जो पिछले वर्ष के <b>9%</b> से कम है।</p>
<p><b>Fiscal Implications</b></p>		
<p><b>- Union Budget Challenge</b></p>	<p>Reviving GDP growth above <b>7%</b> in the upcoming Budget 2025-26 will be a critical focus area.</p>	<p>आगामी बजट 2025-26 में GDP वृद्धि दर को <b>7%</b> से ऊपर ले जाना एक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौती होगी।</p>

<p><b>- Economic Engines</b></p>	<p>Slower manufacturing and investment growth highlight areas requiring government intervention.</p>	<p>विनिर्माण और निवेश में धीमी वृद्धि सरकार से हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता को दर्शाती है।</p>
<p><b>RBI Adjustments</b></p>	<p>RBI revised its growth forecast for FY 2024-25 to <b>6.6%</b> after a <b>7-quarter low</b> GDP growth of 5.4%.</p>	<p>RBI ने FY 2024-25 के लिए GDP वृद्धि दर को संशोधित कर <b>6.6%</b> कर दिया, जब 7 तिमाहियों में सबसे कम वृद्धि दर 5.4% रही।</p>
<p><b>Real GDP Projection</b></p>	<p>Real GDP is expected to reach <b>₹184.88 lakh crore</b>, up from <b>₹173.82 lakh crore</b> in FY 2023-24.</p>	<p>वास्तविक GDP FY 2024-25 में <b>₹184.88 लाख करोड़</b> तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है, जो FY 2023-24 के <b>₹173.82 लाख करोड़</b> से अधिक है।</p>
<p><b>Policy Implications</b></p>		
<p><b>- Growth Revival</b></p>	<p>Measures to boost manufacturing, infrastructure, and job creation will be pivotal.</p>	<p>विनिर्माण, अवसंरचना और रोजगार सृजन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपाय आवश्यक होंगे।</p>
<p><b>- Agriculture Focus</b></p>	<p>Positive momentum in agriculture needs continued policy support for higher productivity.</p>	<p>कृषि क्षेत्र में सकारात्मक गति को बनाए रखने के लिए नीतिगत समर्थन की आवश्यकता होगी।</p>





**Rubble remains:** Damaged houses in Xigaze, Tibet, after the earthquake hit the area. AFP

## Earthquake in Tibet kills 126, injures 188; tremors felt in India and Nepal

**Agence France-Presse**  
BEIJING

A devastating earthquake in China's remote Tibet region killed at least 126 people on Tuesday, state media reported, with tremors also felt in neighbouring Nepal's capital Kathmandu and parts of India.

Around 188 people were injured as the earthquake struck the rural, high-altitude Tingri county.

The China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC) measured its magnitude as 6.8, while the U.S. Geological Survey reported it as 7.1.

A 6.8-magnitude earth-

quake struck near one of Tibet's holiest cities on Tuesday, killing at least 95 people and injuring 130 others with tremors also shaking buildings and forcing people to run to the streets in parts of neighbouring Nepal and India.

According to regional disaster relief headquar-

ters, the earthquake jolted Tingri County in Xigaze of Tibet Autonomous Region in China at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday (Beijing Time).

Xigaze, also known as Shigaste, is close to the border with India.

**FULL REPORT**  
» PAGE 14

**Tibet is a seismically active zone.** It logged more than 100 earthquakes of magnitude of at least 3.0 last year. But quakes of magnitude 7.0 and above are rare, with just nine since the turn of the 20th century. Some notable quakes in Tibet in recent decades:

**NOV 18, 2017**

6.9-quake in Mainling, triggers 300+ aftershocks, **3 hurt**

**OCT 6, 2008**

6.6-quake in Damxung **kills 10, injures 34**

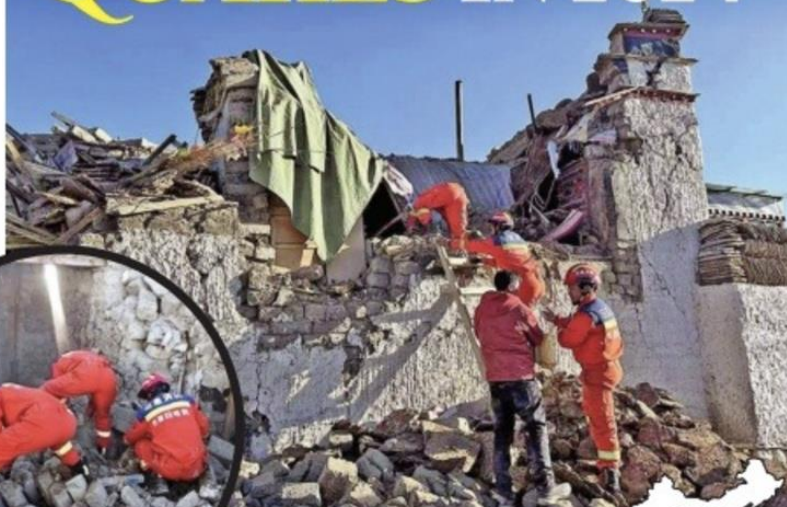
**NOV 18, 1951**

8-quake in Damxung was second temblor of magnitude 8.0 or above since 1950. It **formed a rupture in the ground** that spanned 81 kilometres

**AUG 15, 1950**

8.6-temblor in Medog is one of the strongest earthquakes recorded globally in the 20th century, **killing 3,000+ in Tibet and 1,000+ in Assam**

# TIBET SAW 100+ QUAKES IN 2024



Rescue workers search for survivors among rubbles in Dingri on Tuesday



## Quakes In China

Earthquakes in China happen most frequently on the Tibetan Plateau or its fringes. The seismically active area is where the India and Eurasia plates clash and cause uplifts that can be strong enough to change the heights of Himalayan peaks. Some major recent earthquakes:

**May 2008**

7.9-quake leaves nearly 90,000 people dead or missing in Sichuan province

**April 2010**

7.1-temblor kills 2,698 in Qinghai province

**April 2013**

7.0-quake in Sichuan, 196 die

**July 2013**

6.6-earthquake kills 95 in Gansu province

**Aug 2014**

Magnitude 6.1 quake in Yunnan province, 617 die

**Sept 2022** 6.8-quake kills 93 in Sichuan

**Dec 2023**

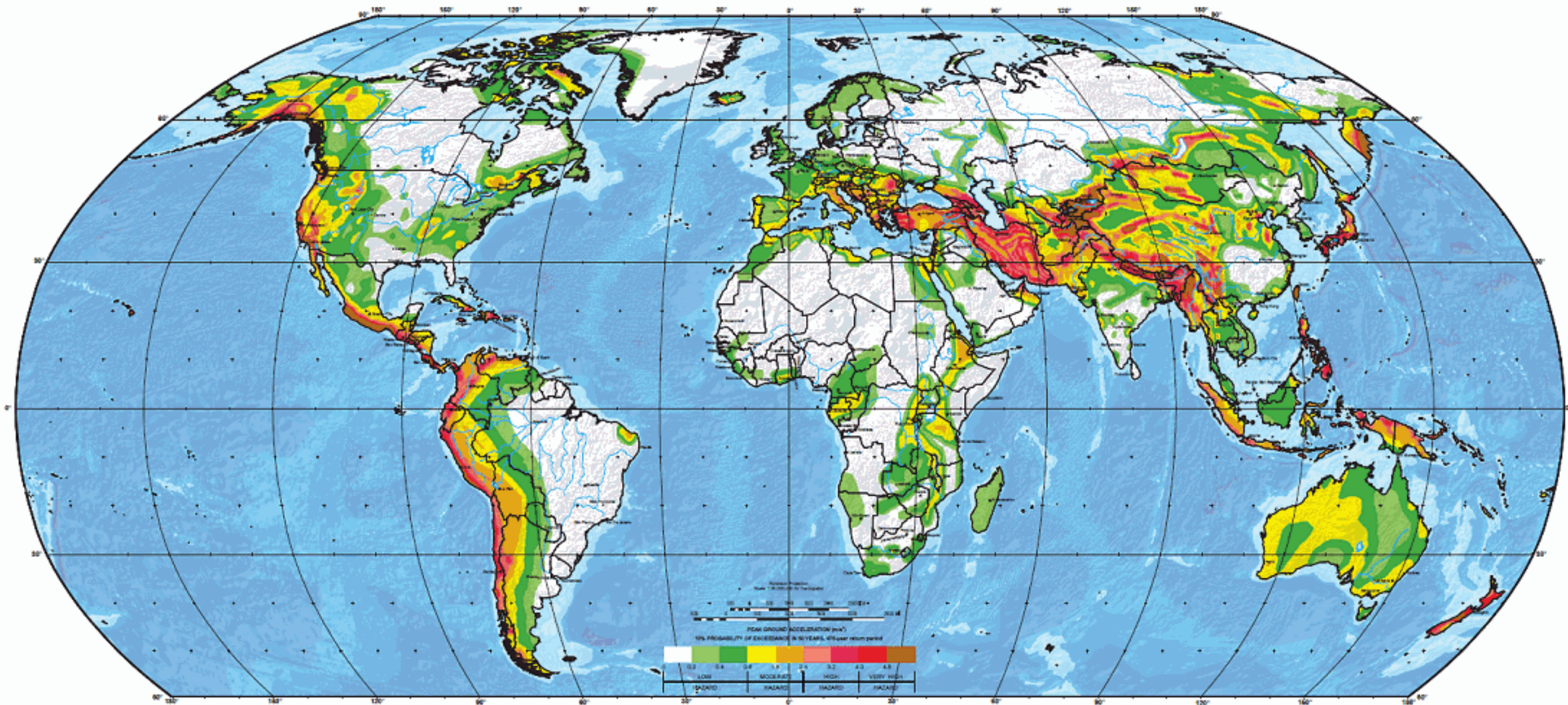
Magnitude 6.2 quake kills 126 in Gansu and Qinghai provinces

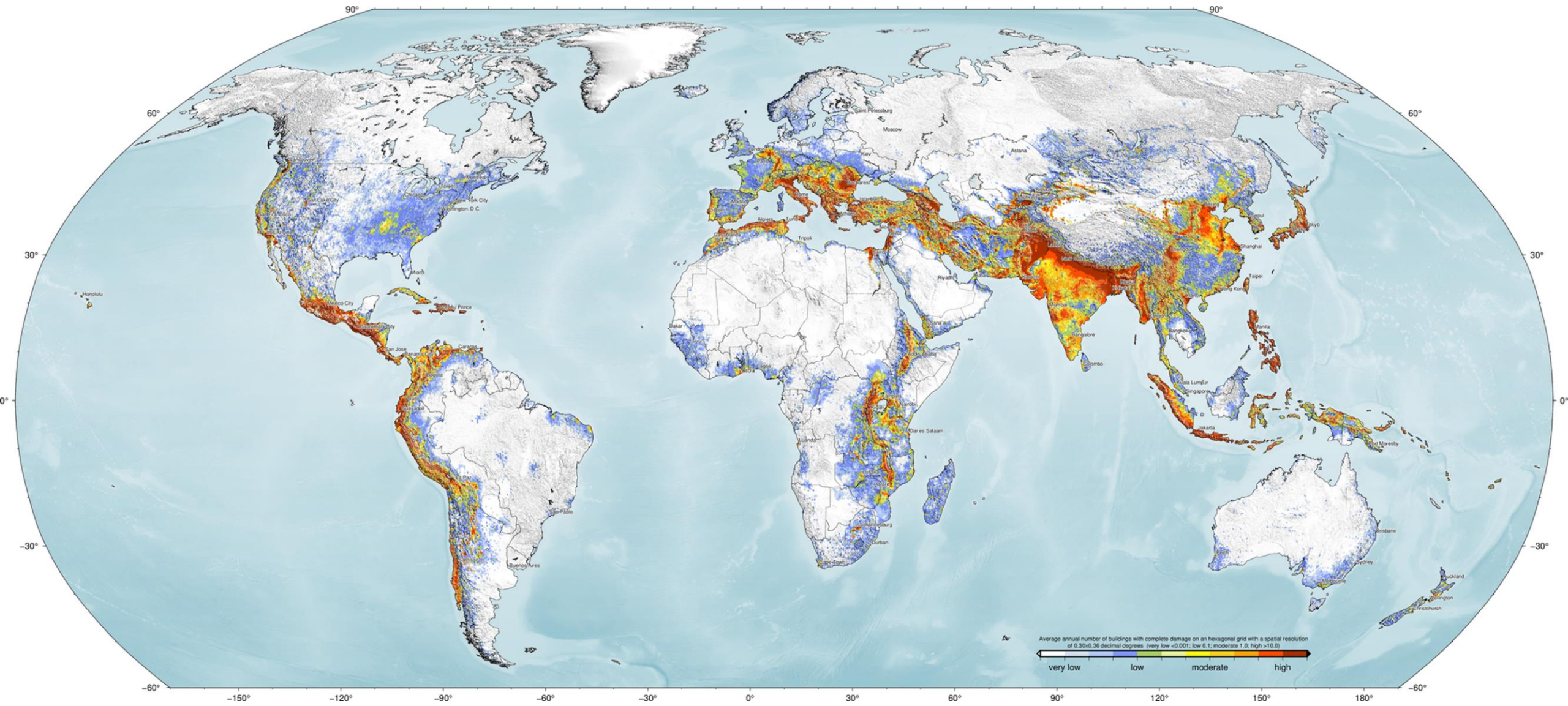


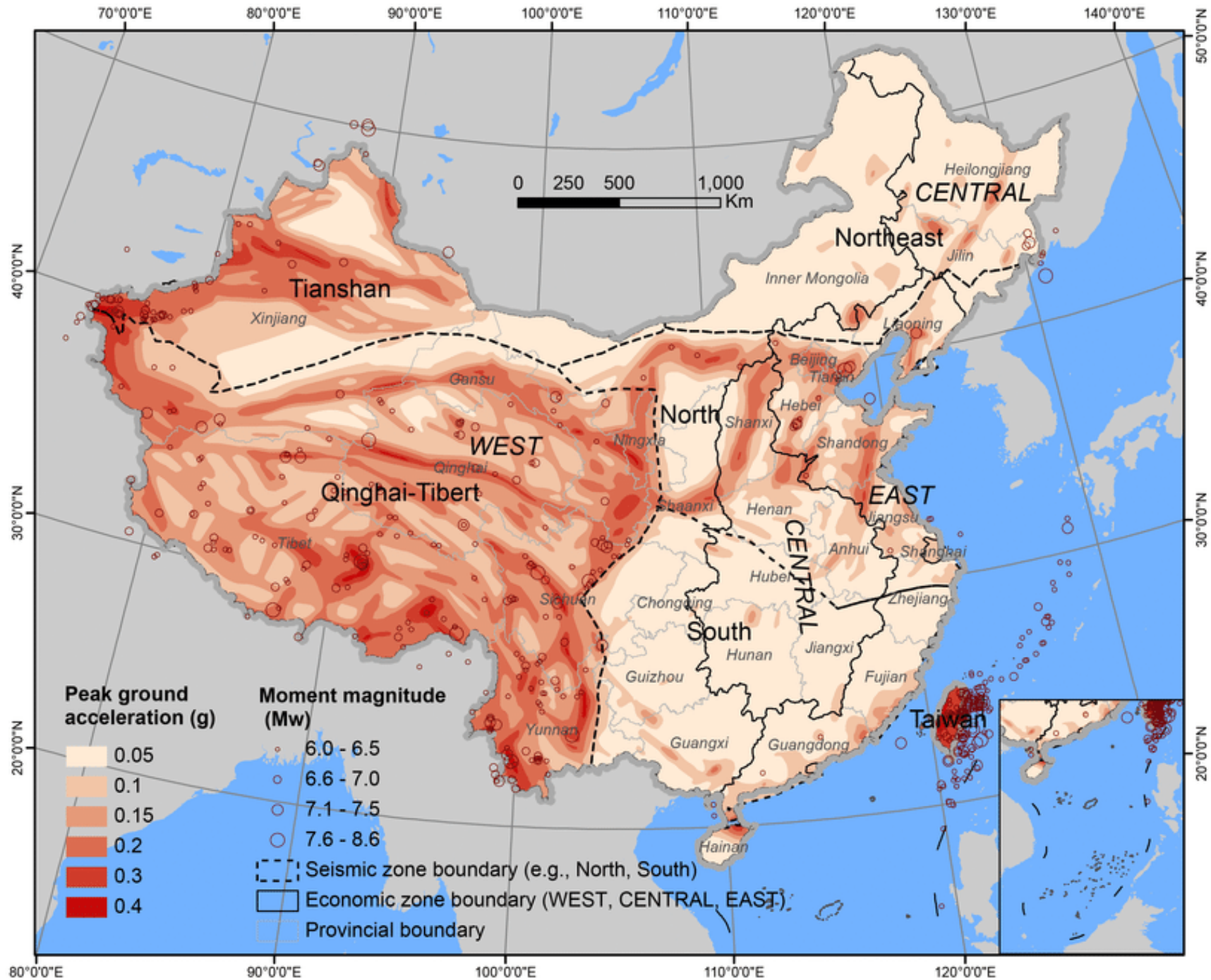
# GLOBAL SEISMIC HAZARD MAP

Produced by the Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program (GSHAP),  
a demonstration project of the UN/International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction, conducted by the International Lithosphere Program.

Global map assembled by D. Giardini, G. Grünthal, K. Shedlock, and P. Zhang  
1998



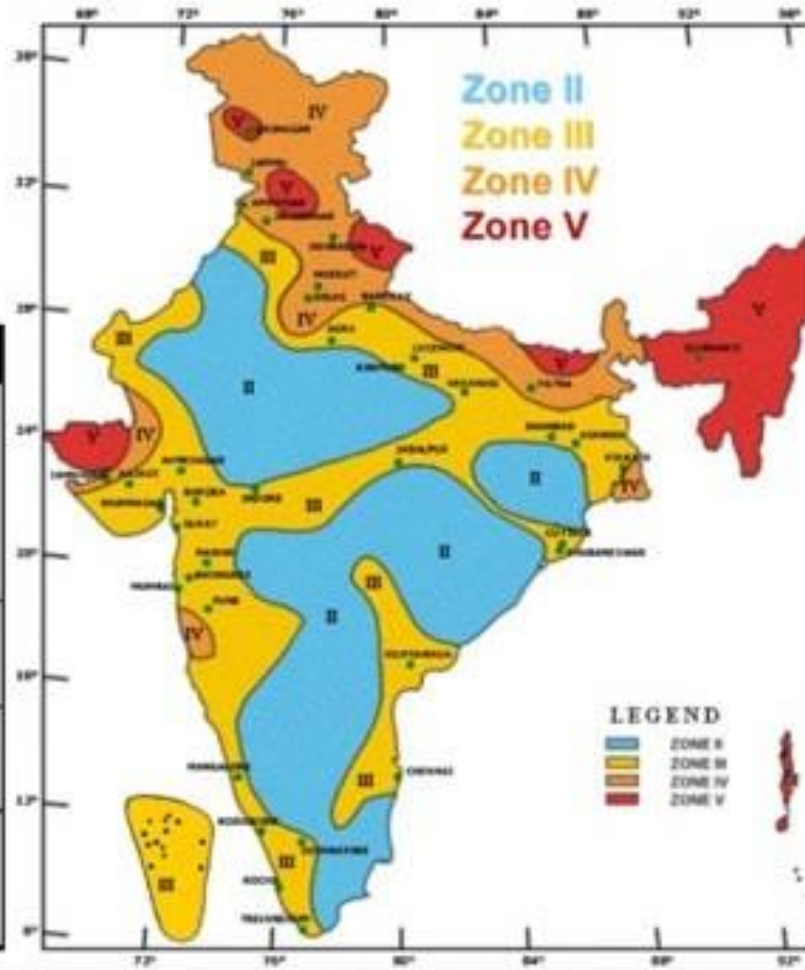




## Seismic Zone Map of India: -2002

About 59 percent of the land area of India is liable to seismic hazard damage

Zone	Intensity
Zone V	<b>Very High Risk Zone</b> Area liable to shaking Intensity IX (and above)
Zone IV	<b>High Risk Zone</b> Intensity VIII
Zone III	<b>Moderate Risk Zone</b> Intensity VII
Zone II	<b>Low Risk Zone</b> VI (and lower)

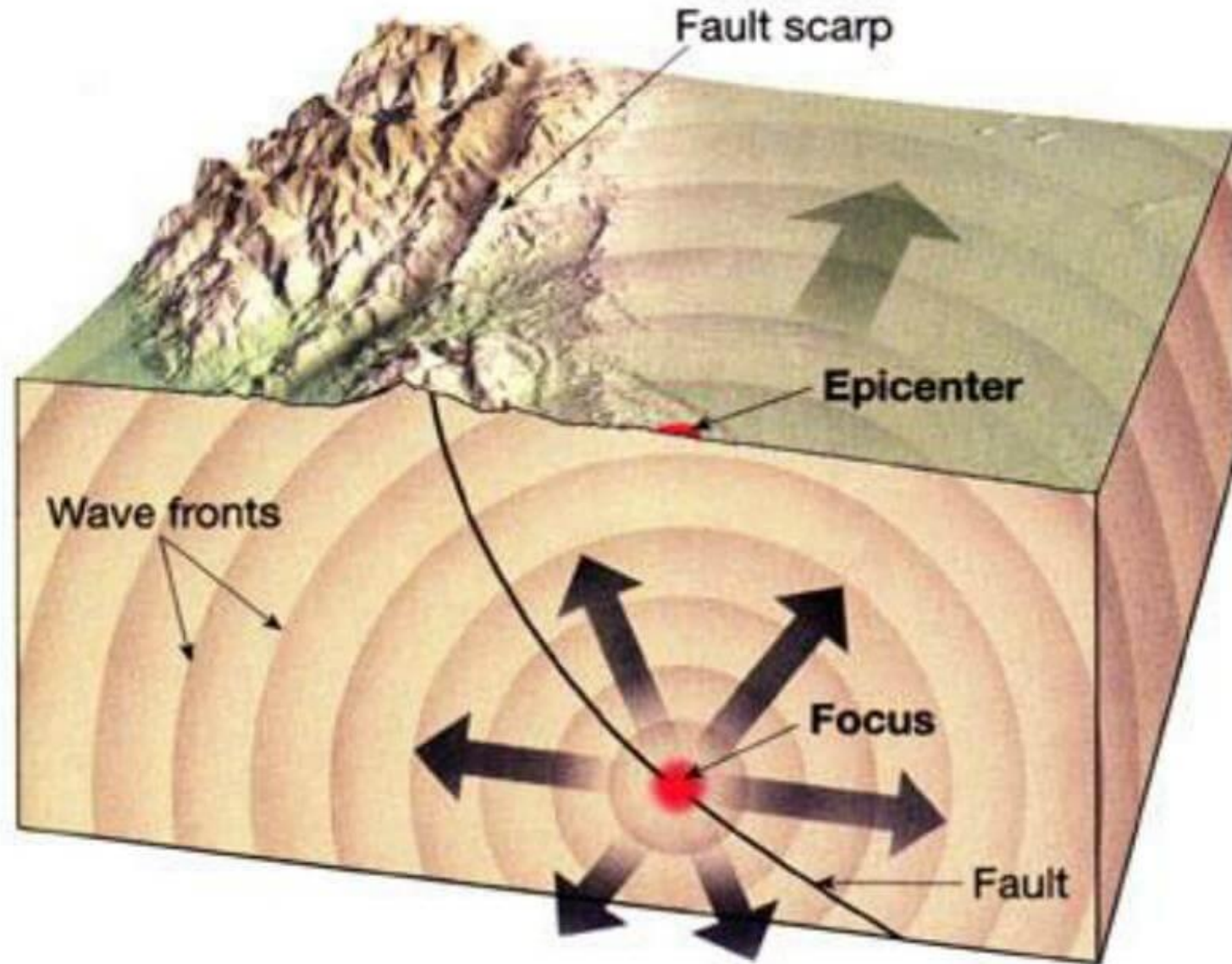


## EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDE SCALE



# Seismic Zones in India

# Spread of the Seismic Waves



# Why the location of China's earthquake matters

What is a terrane? Was China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam near the area where the 7.1 quake happened? What is the significance of the location?

## The Hindu Bureau

### The story so far:

**A**t 6:35 am IST on January 7, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.1 struck Tibetan China and Nepal. The epicentre was located 10 km below a spot around 80 km north of Mt Everest. As of 7 pm, Chinese state media had reported 95 people dead, 130 injured, and hundreds of houses flattened on its side of the border. Updates on damage and casualties from other areas, including Nepal, are awaited. There have also been reports of the tremors being felt as far away as Kathmandu, Thimphu, and Kolkata.

### Where did the quake occur?

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre, the point on the surface below which the epicentre lay was located in Tingry county in the Shigatse region of

Tibet. This region lies 4-5 km above sea level on average and is home to some eight lakh people; the county itself is home to around 7,000 people.

The region's capital city is the seat of the important Panchen Lama of Tibetan Buddhism and thus bears considerable spiritual significance. The Dalai Lama issued a statement in which he said: "I offer my prayers for those who have lost their lives and extend my wishes for a swift recovery to all who have been injured." Tingry county is also a 'gateway' to Mt Everest and the surrounding terrain, which is a popular tourist destination. Local authorities have said however that the number of tourists is lower in winter. According to *Xinhua*, China has already closed tourists' access to the region since the earthquake struck.

### Does the quake's location matter?

According to preliminary assessments,

the quake's mainshock may have emerged in the Lhasa terrane. A terrane is a specific fragment of the crust.

The Lhasa terrane includes sites involved in China's construction of the world's largest hydroelectric-power dam. The Chinese government approved the project last month. Once completed, the project will straddle the Yarlung Tsangpo River and generate around 300 billion kWh per year.

The project has elicited expressions of concerns from India since the river subsequently flows into Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, where it becomes the Brahmaputra.

Experts have said the dam could affect the river's perennial status.

Second, the wider Himalayan region is considered to be the planet's 'third pole' for the amount of water it holds in its rivers, glaciers, and lakes and the effects their natural cycles have on the millions

of people who depend on this water. Earthquakes have been known to force rivers to change course and to destabilise glaciers and lakes and increase the risk of flooding.

Third, the cause of the quake is also related to the significance of its location.

### What caused the quake?

The tale of how the Himalayan mountains were created is well-known. Around 50 million years ago, the Indian plate collided with the Eurasian plate, causing rocks to fold and rise to create the mountains.

The tension between the two plates has continued to build as the Indian plate is still pushing in at around 60 mm/year. Earthquakes and tremors occur when the rock formations in the region shift ever so slightly as they adjust to the tension.

Since 1950, geologists have recorded more than 21 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or higher in the Lhasa terrane alone. The strongest of these occurred near Mainling in 2017 with a magnitude of 6.9, according to *Reuters*. Mainling is 960 km east of Tingry county.

To understand where the next quake might occur in the region and how powerful it might be, geologists need to understand the ancient plate collision in great detail, estimate how much tension is accumulating in different parts today, and how much of it has been released in past events.



- **Mercalli Scale**

- The scale represents the **intensity** of the earthquake by analyzing the after-effects like how many people felt it, how much destruction occurred etc. The range of intensity is from 1-12.



- **Richter Scale**

- The scale represents the **magnitude** of the earthquake. The magnitude is expressed in absolute numbers from 1-10. Each whole number increase in the Richter scale represents a tenfold increase in the power of an earthquake.





# India, U.S. to jointly manufacture interoperable sonobuoys for Navy

These undersea instruments are niche equipment effective in detecting submarines lurking deep in the oceans; both countries are cooperating on high-end technology amid rapid expansion of Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

In a significant development, India and the United States announced cooperation on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys for undersea domain awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy, a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in the deep seas and oceans.

This is the latest in a series of cooperation measures between the two countries as both grow wary of the rapid expansion of Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

“Welcoming the advancement of discussions between Ultra Maritime (UM) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to enhance undersea domain awareness through a first-of-its-kind partnership on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys in support of the U.S. and Indian defence industrial bases,” said a fact sheet titled ‘The U.S. and India committed to strengthening strategic technology partnership’ issued on Tuesday at the end of U.S.



**State of the art:** Discussions are on between Ultra Maritime and Bharat Dynamics Ltd. on a partnership for the co-production of sonobuoys. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan’s visit to India on the aspect of deepening defence innovation and industrial cooperation.

Mr. Sullivan, on his final trip to the region as NSA, held a capstone meeting with his Indian counterpart, Ajit Doval.

“In line with the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) launched in May 2022, the Ultra Maritime and BDL teams will also pursue new sonobuoy technologies to optimise their acoustic performance in the unique environment of the Indian Ocean, enabling wide area search through bespoke multi-static active solutions,” Ul-

tra Maritime, a U.S.-based world leader in the design and production of undersea warfare capabilities, said in a statement.

They will jointly manufacture and supply sonobuoys for the Indian Navy as per U.S. Navy standards, with production split across the U.S. and India, in accordance with “Make in India” principles, it stated.

“The announcement today by NSA Jake Sullivan reflects Ultra Maritime’s commitment to the Indian Navy in partnering with BDL for production and delivery of world-class sonobuoys, and our resolute commitment to continue to develop forward leaning

solutions to unique undersea challenges,” said Ultra Maritime CEO Carlo Zaffanella in the statement.

BDL Chairman Commodore A. Madhavarao (retd.) said BDL was completely aligned with the Indian Navy to meet the operational demand for ‘Make in India’ sonobuoys and committed to joint production with Ultra Maritime in Visakhapatnam.

Highlighting the aspect of interoperability, a key focus area, Rear Admiral Mark Kenny (retd.), senior vice-president at Ultra Maritime for strategy and business development, said: “The UM sonobuoys co-produced in India are interchangeable and interoper-

erable between U.S. Navy, Indian Navy and allied P-8, MH-60R and the MQ-9B Sea Guardian aircraft.”

## Significant move

This is particularly significant as India has over the years acquired a series of military platforms from the U.S. that are also operated by other countries in the region, especially Australia and Japan, all four of which comprise the Quad grouping and also hold the Malabar naval exercise.

The Indian Navy operates the P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft, is inducting the MH-60R multi-role helicopters and has two MQ-9A armed High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems on lease and signed a \$3.5 billion contract in October 2024 for 31 MQ-9B - 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 Sky Guardians, eight each for the Army and Air Force, with deliveries to begin from January 2029. After Maritime Domain Awareness, UDA has emerged as a key focus area for India and among the Quad.

- India and the United States have agreed to co-produce interoperable **sonobuoys** for the Indian Navy. These advanced undersea instruments will enhance undersea domain awareness (UDA), enabling effective detection of submarines lurking in the deep seas।  
भारत और अमेरिका ने भारतीय नौसेना के लिए इंटरऑपरेबल **सोनोबॉय** के संयुक्त उत्पादन पर सहमति जताई है। ये अत्याधुनिक उपकरण गहरे समुद्र में पनडुब्बियों का पता लगाने और अंडरसी डोमेन जागरूकता (UDA) को बढ़ाने में मदद करेंगे।

- The collaboration involves **Ultra Maritime (U.S.)** and **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, leveraging the **Make in India** initiative for local production and supply chains |

यह साझेदारी अल्ट्रा मरीन (अमेरिका) और भारत डायनेमिक्स लिमिटेड (BDL) के बीच है, जो मेक इन इंडिया पहल के तहत स्थानीय उत्पादन और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला का उपयोग करेगी।

- **Technological Significance:**

Sonobuoys are high-tech devices used to detect submarines through multi-static acoustic capabilities, critical for naval operations |

सोनोबॉय पनडुब्बियों का पता लगाने के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले उन्नत उपकरण हैं, जो बहु-स्थैतिक ध्वनिक क्षमताओं का उपयोग करते हैं और नौसैनिक अभियानों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- **Operational Scope:**

The devices will be interoperable with **U.S., Indian, and allied navies**, enhancing the effectiveness of platforms like **P-8I, MH-60R**, and **\*\*MQ-9 Sea Guardians**।

ये उपकरण अमेरिकी, भारतीय और सहयोगी नौसेनाओं के साथ इंटरऑपरेबल होंगे, जिससे P-8I, MH-60R, और MQ-9 सी गार्जियंस जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म की दक्षता बढ़ेगी।

Aspect	Details	विवरण
<b>Major Defense Partner Status</b>	In 2016, the U.S. designated India as a Major Defense Partner, facilitating deeper defense cooperation.	2016 में, अमेरिका ने भारत को प्रमुख रक्षा भागीदार के रूप में नामित किया, जिससे रक्षा सहयोग में वृद्धि हुई।
<b>Foundational Agreements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>GSOMIA (2002)</b>: Facilitates sharing of military intelligence.</li> <li>- <b>LEMOA (2016)</b>: Allows mutual logistical support.</li> <li>- <b>COMCASA (2018)</b>: Enables secure communications interoperability.</li> <li>- <b>BECA (2020)</b>: Allows sharing of geospatial information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>GSOMIA (2002)</b>: सैन्य खुफिया जानकारी साझा करने में सहायक।</li> <li>- <b>LEMOA (2016)</b>: पारस्परिक लॉजिस्टिक समर्थन की अनुमति देता है।</li> <li>- <b>COMCASA (2018)</b>: सुरक्षित संचार अंतर-संचालन को सक्षम बनाता है।</li> <li>- <b>BECA (2020)</b>: भू-स्थानिक जानकारी साझा करने की अनुमति देता है।</li> </ul>
<b>Defense Trade</b>	The U.S. has become one of India's top defense suppliers, with defense trade increasing significantly over the past decade.	अमेरिका भारत के शीर्ष रक्षा आपूर्तिकर्ताओं में से एक बन गया है, पिछले दशक में रक्षा व्यापार में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि हुई है।

<b>Joint Military Exercises</b>	Regular joint exercises such as 'Yudh Abhyas' (Army), 'Malabar' (Navy), and 'Cope India' (Air Force) enhance interoperability.	नियमित संयुक्त अभ्यास जैसे 'युद्ध अभ्यास' (सेना), 'मालाबार' (नौसेना), और 'कोप इंडिया' (वायु सेना) अंतर-संचालन को बढ़ाते हैं।
<b>Defense Technology and Industrial Cooperation</b>	Initiatives like the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) aim to co-develop and co-produce defense technologies.	रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी और व्यापार पहल (DTTI) जैसी पहल रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों के सह-विकास और सह-उत्पादन का लक्ष्य रखती हैं।
<b>Recent Developments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>SOSA Agreement (2024):</b> Signed to ensure security of supply arrangements.</li><li>- <b>Purchase of MQ-9B Drones (2024):</b> India signed a deal to procure 31 armed drones from the U.S.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>SOSA समझौता (2024):</b> आपूर्ति व्यवस्था की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हस्ताक्षरित।</li><li>- <b>MQ-9B ड्रोन की खरीद (2024):</b> भारत ने अमेरिका से 31 सशस्त्र ड्रोन खरीदने के लिए समझौता किया।</li></ul>

IN BRIEF



Pak. pilgrims arrive at Ajmer dargah to participate in Urs

A group of 89 pilgrims from Pakistan arrived in Ajmer early on Tuesday to participate in the ongoing 18th Urs at the dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Mohammad Chishti. Strict security arrangements were made for the pilgrims, who were taken to the Government Central Girls' Senior Secondary School at Purani Mandi for the stay. The pilgrims, accompanied by two officers of the Pakistan High Commission, travelled to Ajmer by train from New Delhi after crossing the border at Attari. They will offer a ceremonial chadar (sheet of cloth) at the 17th century shrine and are likely to stay in Ajmer till January 19.

States have no money to give doles but not to judges: SC

States have enough money to give freebies to people who do not work but they claim financial constraints when it comes to paying salary and pension to judges of the district judiciary, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday. A Bench of Justices J.R. Kavaj and Augustine George Masih made the oral observation after Attorney General K. Venkatesh submitted that the government has to consider financial constraints when deciding the pay and retirement benefits of judicial officers. "Come elections, you declare Ladli Behna and other new schemes where you pay fixed amounts. In Delhi, we have had announcements saying they will pay ₹2,500 if they come to power," the Bench remarked.

Collegium recommends Patna HC Chief Justice to SC

The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday recommended Patna High Court Chief Justice K. Vinod Chandran for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. The collegium noted that there was currently no judge in the Supreme Court with the Kerala High Court as the parent court. Justice C.T. Ravikumar, who was from the Kerala High Court, retired last week. Justice Chandran is now the senior-most among the High Court judges hailing from Kerala. The collegium has also recommended the transfer of Bombay High Court Chief Justice Dinesh Kumar Upadhyaya to Delhi and the Telangana High Court Chief Justice Abok Aradde to the Bombay High Court.

Fresh tiger pug marks in south Bengal create panic

Fresh tiger pug marks and sightings have created panic in the Sundarbans and Purulia regions of West Bengal. The development comes only days after Zeenat, a female tiger from Odisha, created panic among people of south Bengal for over two weeks. The pug marks were discovered on Monday morning. Multiple pug marks were seen in the Baikunthapur area in the Sundarbans. This caused panic as the marks were very close to the human settlements in the area. Similar pug marks were reported from Purulia district. Local forest officials are constantly conducting mass campaigns in the area to keep residents away from the forests.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to begin today in Odisha

Over 3,000 delegates from 70 nations have arrived in the State; event will be inaugurated by Modi

Satyasandar Barik BHUVANESHWAR



A. Jaishankar and his wife Kyoko Jaishankar during their visit to Bahugour artists' village in Puri district on Tuesday.

Over 3,000 delegates from 70 countries have arrived in Odisha to participate in the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), which will get under way here on Wednesday. The three-day event, based on the theme "Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat", will be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the second day of the convention. The previous edition was held in Indore in January 2023, in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh government.

"Christine Carla Kangaolo, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, will be the chief guest of the 18th PBD, and she would be virtually addressing the convention. Dr. Dev Prasad, CEO and co-owner of Newsweek, will be the guest of honour at the Youth PBD on January 8." Mr. Modi has given us the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. We have taken the initiative of not only sharing this vision with our erstwhile diaspora, but have also urged them to partner our journey towards this cherished goal," he said. "The Indian diaspora has an important role to play in the vision of Viksit Bharat. It acts as a living bridge between their motherland and their adopted homeland. That is why the Government of India has chosen the diaspora contribution to a Viksit Bharat as the overarching theme of the 18th PBD."

He said Union Minister would chair plenary sessions while eminent Indians from various fields moderate the sessions.

Inter-ministerial committee is needed to strengthen AI governance: IndiaAI Mission

Arora Deep NEW DELHI

In a recognition that artificial intelligence (AI) has impact on a wide range of fields, a Union government panel mandated to develop AI guidelines has recommended that an inter-ministerial committee be set up to enforce AI rules and ensure effective governance of the country's emerging AI ecosystem.

An advisory group of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's IndiaAI Mission, headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser, is seeking public feedback on a report released on Monday by its AI guidelines sub-committee.

The panel's report is notable as it is the most detailed articulation yet of the government's approach towards AI in India.

regulators. This would help to "pool the multi-disciplinary expertise", map stakeholders in the AI ecosystem, and assess risks, along with other research, it recommends.

The report outlines the following principles for AI governance: transparency of AI systems with "meaningful information on their development" and capabilities; accountability from developers to employers of AI systems; safety, reliability and robustness of AI systems; design; privacy and security of AI systems; fairness and non-discrimination; human-centred values and non-harm; inclusive and sustainable innovation to "distribute the benefits of innovation equitably"; and "digital by design" governance to "leverage digital technologies" to operationalise these principles.

It appears that the Centre seeks to maximise gains from investments in AI, while having tight regulatory frameworks to act as guardrails against any potential harm. Apart from an inter-ministerial AI coordination committee on government group to oversee AI in India, the panel recommends that the IT Ministry should house a "technical secretariat" to brief ministers on deputations from other departments and

Union govt. says no rise in respiratory illnesses in India

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union government has advised the States to strengthen awareness of preventive measures against infection by the H5N1 virus, and intensify surveillance of influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infection.

The direction followed a virtual meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Parvya Salla Srivastava recently with officials of the States and Union Territories. They reviewed the prevalence of respiratory illnesses and the status of HMPV cases, following media reports of a surge in the infection in China, and the public health measures for their management.

Senior Health Ministry officials attended the meeting, which reiterated that the data collected so far does not indicate any unusual rise in prevalence of respiratory illnesses among the population regarding prevention of transmission of the virus with simple measures such as washing hands often with soap and water, avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands and so on.

"No cause of concern" There was no cause of concern over HMPV, which has been present globally since 2001. She advised the States to strengthen and

The States were asked to strengthen awareness of preventive steps and intensify surveillance

review surveillance.

The Ministry reiterated that prevalence of respiratory illnesses was usually high during winter, while adding that the country was well prepared for any potential surge.

HMPV is one of the many respiratory viruses that can cause infections in people of all ages particularly during winter and early spring. The viral infection is usually a mild and self-limiting condition and most cases recover on their own.

The meeting was informed that adequate diagnostic facilities are available with the ICMR/ICMR laboratories.

V. Narayanan, spacecraft and rocket propulsion expert, appointed ISRO Chairman

The Hindu Bureau BHUVANESHWAR

V. Narayanan has been appointed the new Space Secretary. Dr. Narayanan is currently the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), and will be the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and he will take over from S. Somnath on January 14.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of V. Narayanan, Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, as Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, Space Commission for a period of two years with effect from 14.01.2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," stated an order from the Ministry of Personnel and Training.

Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). He has also contributed significantly for the ISRO's geosynchronous launch vehicles namely GSLV Mk-II & GSLV Mk-III.

"As the Chairman of the National Expert Committee constituted to study the reasons for hardlanding of Chandrayaan-2 lander ship, contributed in pinpointing the reasons and corrective actions required to overcome the observations. Realised and delivered all the Population System for Chandrayaan-2. Dr. Narayanan's role as rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, joined the ISRO in 1984 and functioned in various capacities before becoming Director of the LPSC.

During the initial phase of his career he worked in order from the Ministry of Personnel and Training. of sounding rockets and

TH CROSSWORD 14377

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: 13 Where one may be from originally (4), 14 Regularly furnish on board a wobbly (8), 15 Complain! It's urine problem (8), 16 Some retired player, still active (4), 22 A service store (5), 24 State university team ordered to participate in the festival (8), 26 Crazy speed on winding road - it's criminal (8), 27 Make the bed list that someone (5), 28 Sea cow had hair all over (7), 29 Don't play guitar - that's a remedy (7), Down: 1 Wrong diagnosis - do I leave and appoint someone? (8), 2 It's silly to give extra protection for a legendary creature (8), 3 Usual diet eaten (5), 4 Criminal dealt with guns, and drug (3,4), 5 Ask about interest balance (5), 6 Having been analysed before investing money - bullish (8), 7 A trapezoid place coming up in a hilly district (5), 8 First over a growing plant (6), 14 Feet above me first used in a soup (5,4), 15 Shortly acquiring - enquire at a Canadian city (8), 17 Waste cans filled after some time in a British town (8), 18 Police teams outside New York - going one after another (8), 20 No issue about never ending crime (5), 21 People after midnight show good manners (5), 25 Bet the poles support the first lady (5)

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers: 5 7 4 6, 8 4 2 9, 8 1 9 6, 9 2 7 5, 8 7 9 4 5 1 8, 4 3

FAITH

Thiruchengode's speciality In the Thiruchengode temple, Lord Murugan is known as Senguttavayan. He stands alone on top of a hill, and faces East. In His right hand, He holds a spear, and in His left hand He holds a rooster, which faces His feet. This is a unique form of Murugan, not seen anywhere else. The vigraha is made of an amalgam of nine ingredients and is white in colour. Murugan is generally referred to as Seivel, the red haad One. But He is white in colour here, because of the specially made idol. The vigraha shows the symbolic meanings behind Soora sambhara, said T. Rajaratnam in a discourse.

The aura Soorapadman, even after being killed by Murugan, reappeared in the form of a mango tree. Murugan used His spear to split the tree into two. One half turned into a peacock which became Murugan's vahana. The other half turned into a rooster, which became the emblem on Murugan's flag. There is rich symbolism behind the Soorapadman story. The spear indicates jnana sadhana and the rooster is representative of Naada. The peacock becoming Murugan's vahana indicates Murugan destroying Soorapadman's illusion. The rooster becoming the emblem on the flag indicates the destruction of Soorapadman's karma. The spear shows the destruction of Soorapadman's ego. Pamban Swamikal has praised Thiruchengode as the place that brings out all the deep meanings of the Soorapadman story. Arunagirathan's Kandar Alankaram is entirely about Lord Murugan of Thiruchengode. Arunagirathala wishes that Brahma had given him 4,000 eyes to see Senguttavayan.

Answers to crossword: Across: 1 Country song describing soldiers (7), 5 Feel sorry having to carry rifle - showing honesty (7), 9 Instrument on board to detect crime - take up the issue first (5), 10 He denies profits, even wanted first (8), 11 Metal frame of artwork is a painting done in monochrome (8), 12 Living banks on John at whitehouse (5), Down: 1 Wrong diagnosis - do I leave and appoint someone? (8), 2 It's silly to give extra protection for a legendary creature (8), 3 Usual diet eaten (5), 4 Criminal dealt with guns, and drug (3,4), 5 Ask about interest balance (5), 6 Having been analysed before investing money - bullish (8), 7 A trapezoid place coming up in a hilly district (5), 8 First over a growing plant (6), 14 Feet above me first used in a soup (5,4), 15 Shortly acquiring - enquire at a Canadian city (8), 17 Waste cans filled after some time in a British town (8), 18 Police teams outside New York - going one after another (8), 20 No issue about never ending crime (5), 21 People after midnight show good manners (5), 25 Bet the poles support the first lady (5)

# V. Narayanan, spacecraft and rocket propulsion expert, appointed ISRO Chairman

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

V. Narayanan has been appointed the new Space Secretary. Dr. Narayanan, who is currently the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), will be the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and he will take over from S. Somanath on January 14.

“The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved appointment of V. Narayanan, Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Valiamala, as Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, Space Commission for a period of two years with effect from 14.01.2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier,” stated an order from the Ministry of Personnel and Training.



V. Narayanan

**He will take over from Somanath, who oversaw landmark missions such as Chandrayaan-3**

Dr. Narayanan, who is a rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, joined the ISRO in 1984 and functioned in various capacities before becoming Director of the LPSC.

During the initial phase of his career he worked in the solid propulsion area of sounding rockets and

Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). He has also contributed significantly for the ISRO's geosynchronous launch vehicles namely GSLV Mk-II & GSLV Mk-III.

“As the Chairman of the National Expert Committee constituted to study the reasons for hardlanding of Chandrayaan-2 lander, contributed in pinpointing the reasons and corrective actions required to overcome the observations. Realised and delivered all the Propulsion Systems for Chandrayaan-3,” Dr. Narayanan's profile says.

He will take over from Mr. Somanath, who oversaw landmark missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Aditya L1 and the first developmental flight of the Gaganyaan mission.



- 
- V. Narayanan, a renowned expert in spacecraft and rocket propulsion, has been appointed as the **Chairman of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** and **Secretary of the Department of Space**.
  - He will assume office on **January 14, 2025**, succeeding S. Somanath, who led landmark missions like Chandrayaan-3.

## Professional Background

Joined ISRO in **1984**, serving in various capacities before becoming the **Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**.

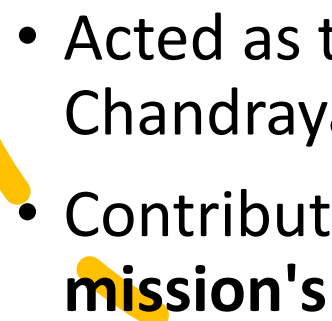
Worked extensively in the **solid propulsion area** of sounding rockets and launch vehicles during the initial phase of his career.



- **Contributions to Space Programs**

- Played a pivotal role in developing propulsion systems for critical missions like **GSLV Mk-II** and **GSLV Mk-III**.
- Instrumental in **Chandrayaan-2**'s analysis and overcoming challenges, ultimately delivering propulsion systems for **Chandrayaan-3**.

- **Leadership in Projects**

- Acted as the **Chairman of the National Expert Committee** to investigate Chandrayaan-2's lander issues and implement corrective actions.
  - Contributed to significant projects such as **Aditya L1** and the **Gaganyaan mission's** initial developmental flight.
- 

ISRO, established in 1969, has consistently achieved global recognition under visionary leaders like Vikram Sarabhai, Satish Dhawan, and S. Somanath.

Narayanan's appointment continues the tradition of promoting internal talent for leadership roles.

Mission Name	Launch Vehicle	Planned Launch Year	Purpose	Notes
<b>SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment)</b>	PSLV-C60	December 30, 2024	Demonstrate in-space docking capabilities.	Involves two satellites, "Chaser" and "Target," to perform docking maneuvers, essential for future crewed missions and space station operations. <a href="#">WIKIPEDIA</a>
<b>Proba-3 Mission</b>	PSLV-XL	December 5, 2024	Study the Sun's corona.	A European Space Agency mission launched by ISRO to observe solar phenomena like coronal mass ejections. <a href="#">REUTERS</a>
<b>NVS-02 (IRNSS-1K)</b>	GSLV Mk II	January 2025	Navigation satellite for India's regional navigation system.	Part of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) to provide accurate position information services. <a href="#">WIKIPEDIA</a>

<b>NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)</b>	GSLV Mk II	Q1 2025	Earth observation for ecosystem disturbances, ice-sheet collapse, and natural hazards.	A joint mission with NASA to co-develop and launch a dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar satellite. <a href="#">WIKIPEDIA</a>
<b>DISHA Satellites</b>	PSLV	2025	Study the Earth's ionosphere and its dynamics.	Consists of two satellites in Low Earth Orbit to observe ionospheric disturbances and their effects on communication and navigation systems. <a href="#">WIKIPEDIA</a>
<b>Gaganyaan</b>	GSLV Mk III	2025	India's first crewed spaceflight mission.	Aims to send Indian astronauts to Low Earth Orbit, marking India's entry into human space exploration. <a href="#">REUTERS</a>

<b>Venus Orbiter Mission (Shukrayaan-1)</b>	GSLV Mk II	Late 2024 or 2025	Study Venus's surface and atmosphere.	Mission to explore various aspects of Venus, including its geological and atmospheric properties. <small>ISRO</small>
<b>Chandrayaan-4</b>	GSLV Mk II	2025	Lunar sample return mission.	Aims to collect lunar samples and bring them back to Earth for detailed analysis. <small>ISRO</small>

## IN THE RECKONING

**Bumrah nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month award**



Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for December 2024, after his standout performance against Australia in the just-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Competing with Bumrah for the award is Australian skipper Pat Cummins and South Africa's Dane Paterson.

## MISSING A TRICK

**Shastri, Ponting express surprise over Shami's long absence**



Ravi Shastri and Ricky Ponting feel pacer Mohammed Shami could have tilted the series in India's favour in Australia. "I was surprised with the communication going on in the media as to what exactly happened to Shami," Shastri said. "I was really surprised when he wasn't flown out even halfway through the series," said Ponting.

## INTENSE RIVALRY

**We know how to beat Aussies, says Rabada about WTC final**



South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada says facing Australia in the WTC final in June has sparked anticipation and motivation in his side. "South Africa versus Australia has always been an intense rivalry because of the way we play here. We play here, they're going to come hard at us. But we also know how to beat them," Rabada said.

## DIFFERENT PARTS

**Neeraj does not need Zelezny 365 days a year: Sumariwalla**



Neeraj Chopra will not train with his coach Jan Zelezny throughout the year and seek his guidance only when required, outgoing AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said. "There are different parts to coaching strength conditioning, technique, biomechanics, etc. These days, there is no coach attached to one athlete for 365 days," Sumariwalla said.

## Lancers bring high-flying Bengal Tigers down

**Brinkman stars with a brace while the young Dhani unleashes a spectacular reverse hit to help their side register a maiden win while the opponent suffers its first loss this season**

III.  
Y.B. Sarangi  
ROURKELA

**D**utch forward Thierry Brinkman struck a brace as Vedanta Kalinga Lancers trounced table-topper Shraichi Rath Bengal Tigers 6-0 to script its first win in the Hockey India League at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Tuesday. The host, with just one point so far, bounced back in style after three consecutive defeats to upset the off-colour Tigers, who tasted their first loss, and spread cheers in the stands.



Surging ahead: The Kalinga players celebrate after taking a 3-0 lead. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lancers switched flanks and explored the gaps through their fine distribution to have a stunning start, pumping in three goals within six minutes. Captain Aran Zalewski sent in a pass from the right to Dilpreet Singh and the Indian crossed it to an unmarked Brinkman on the left to shoot home in the third minute. Within a minute, Sanjay pounced on a rebound to convert Lancers' first penalty corner. Alex Hendricks used a

diagonal angle to convert another short corner before Tigers could get their act together. In the second quarter, Tigers moved better and closed the gaps to make Lancers work harder. They also threatened the home citadel but could not beat a tight defence, led by an alert Krishan Patk under the bar. Dilpreet spoiled a golden chance for Lancers too. Lancers made it 4-0 on the stroke of half-time. Hendricks displayed some superb counters and ex-

ploded their lead in the fourth quarter. The ever-active Brinkman traded passes with Barak on the left and completed his brace. Tigers missed a couple of opportunities, including the brilliant run of Sukhjeet Singh and Aman Yousef in tandem and a penalty corner, as Patk held his nerve and guarded his post. Dilpreet spoiled a golden chance for Lancers too. Lancers made it 6-0 on the stroke of half-time. Hendricks displayed some superb counters and ex-

ploded their lead in the fourth quarter. The ever-active Brinkman traded passes with Barak on the left and completed his brace. Tigers missed a couple of opportunities, including the brilliant run of Sukhjeet Singh and Aman Yousef in tandem and a penalty corner, as Patk held his nerve and guarded his post. Dilpreet spoiled a golden chance for Lancers too. Lancers made it 6-0 on the stroke of half-time. Hendricks displayed some superb counters and ex-

## Hardik riddle to dominate CT selection meeting

Amol Karhadkar  
MUMBAI

The hardcore Indian cricket fans may still be coming to terms with a prolonged season of Test cricket that turned out to be a bitter pill to swallow. But the team management and the national selection panel have started planning for the next big test that's lying ahead for the men's cricket team, albeit in a different format.

With the ICC Champions Trophy – popularly touted as the mini World Cup – starting in six weeks, the deadline for submitting the squad is fast approaching. As a result, the selection committee is convinced about Hardik Pandya. The enigmatic all-rounder will feature on top of the agenda with regard to the balance of the squad.

After getting injured during the 2023 World Cup, Hardik had not made himself available for any of the six ODIs India has played since then. He had been informed that he had to prove his match fitness by featuring in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.



Dilettante: Hardik has been asked to prove his match fitness via domestic white ball tournaments. FILE PHOTO: K. HARSH NIKHAR

As a result, the selectors are unlikely to tinker around with the combination. However, the biggest talking point will be the selection committee is convinced about Hardik Pandya. The enigmatic all-rounder will feature on top of the agenda with regard to the balance of the squad. After getting injured during the 2023 World Cup, Hardik had not made himself available for any of the six ODIs India has played since then. He had been informed that he had to prove his match fitness by featuring in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

## Sindhu, Lakshya and Satwiksairaj-Chirag pair to spearhead the Indian challenge

Sports Bureau  
NEW DELHI

P.V. Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and R. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty will spearhead the country's challenge at the third Yonex Sunrise India Open next week with India fielding its largest-ever contingent in the competition.

The Super 750 event from January 14 to 19 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium – with a prize pool of \$9,50,000 and 11,000 ranking points for the winners will have 21 Indian entries – men's singles (three), women's singles (four), men's doubles (two), women's doubles (two), mixed doubles (four) – but it won't be a cakewalk for any of them with most of the top names confirming their participation at the biggest event in the country's badminton calendar.

Eight of the top-10 men in the world, including the medallists at the Paris Olympics, will be in action with World No. 1 Shi Yuqi, Indonesian Jonatan Christie and Olympic champion Dane Viktor Axelsen top-



At the helm: P.V. Sindhu, Sindhu, and the duo of Satwiksairaj and Chirag will lead the Indian charge. FILE PHOTOS: SANKEEP SAKSINA, PTI

ping the seedings in the men's singles. While Lakshya, who won here in 2022, will likely run into fifth seed Li Shi Feng in the second round, Sindhu will go against another Chinese challenge in Wang Hong Yang in the opening round, against whom he has a 3-3 record.

Eight of the top-10 men in the world, including the medallists at the Paris Olympics, will be in action with World No. 1 Shi Yuqi, Indonesian Jonatan Christie and Olympic champion Dane Viktor Axelsen top-



firm participation including Olympic champion and World No. 1 An Se Young of Korea and bronze medallist Gregoria Marisa Tunjung of Indonesia. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty, returning to competition after her marriage, drawn against compatriot Anupama Upadhyaya, at least one Indian is confirmed in the second round but it won't be as easy for Malvika Bhatnagar and Akarushi Kashyap Chirag and Satwiksairaj (2024), currently participating in the Malaysia Open, will also look to re-



gain their top position in the world, opening their campaign against the Malaysian pair of Han Wei Chong and Kai Wen Tee. The duo participated in only one tournament since the Paris Olympics with Swasti, struggling with shoulder injury. They are the only ones to have reached the medal round since the event was upgraded to a Super 750 event in 2023 as part of the BWF World Tour.

Indian participants: Men: Lakshya Sen, H.S. Prannoy, Prityusha Rajawat, Double: Ching Shetty & R. Satwiksairaj, K. Sai Prathmesh K. Roy, Women: P.V. Sindhu, Malvika Bhatnagar, Anupama Upadhyaya, Akarushi Kashyap, Double: Treasa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand, Ashwini Ponnappa & Tanisha Crasto, Anupama Panda & Svetlana Pezina, Manika Bawa & Gayatri Baner, Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gauram, Sakshi Subhawani & Apoorva Gadhwal, Sarika Sikandar & Rashmi Ganesh, Muskan Singh, Anshika & Parvathi Akavkar, Mixed doubles: Divya Kapila & Tanisha Crasto, K. Satish Kumar & Anshika Verma, Rohan Kapoor & C. Rutwik Shrivastava, Ashish Surya & Anurutha Pramuthesh.

## Former Asian Games gold medallist Sagoo elected new AFI president

Sports Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Asian gold medallist shot-punter and Padma Shri Bahadur Singh Sagoo was elected as the new AFI secretary general, replacing Ravindra Bhanuwar.

The biggest announcement, however, was the institution of a major javelin competition to cater to and build on the interest in the event in the country.

"It will be an invitational event with 10-15 throwers in the world coming and participating. Neeraj Chopra will be organising it, along with AFI, ISW and a foreign firm all working together to create this new competition. It will be held some time later in the year," Sumariwalla revealed, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major



Change of guard: Sagoo takes over from Sumariwalla. XGAMI

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major

competitions in the coming years. India will host its first bronze level continental four event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major



# Former Asian Games gold medallist Sagoo elected new AFI president

**Sports Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Asian gold medallist shot-putter and Padma Shri Bahadur Singh Sagoo was elected as the new president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on the opening day of its two-day Annual General Meeting here on Tuesday even as outgoing president Adille Sumariwalla announced new events and future plans for the federation.

With no other contender in the fray Bahadur, who won gold at the 2002 Asian Games, was elected unanimously to replace Sumariwalla, who stepped down after three consecutive terms.

Delhi Athletics' secretary Sandeep Mehta was elected as the new AFI secretary general, replacing Ravinder Chaudhary.

The biggest announcement, however, was the institution of a major javelin competition to cater to and build on the interest in the event in the country.

"It will be an invitational event with the top-10 throwers in the world coming and participating. Neeraj (Chopra) is also a part of organising it, along with AFI, JSW and a foreign firm all working together to create this new competition. It will be held sometime later in the year," Sumariwalla revealed, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major



**Change of guard:** Sagoo takes over from Sumariwalla. X@AFI

competitions in the coming years.

India will host its first bronze level continental tour event on August 10 in Bhubaneswar. "The bids are open at the moment for major World Athletics Championships and we have already submitted our Expressions of Interest for the 2029 World Junior and Senior Championships, World Relays and we are also looking at the World Half Marathon," said Sumariwalla, adding that the AFI was also keen on hosting other major competitions in the coming years.

About his tenure, Sumariwalla expressed satisfaction at the progress made by Indian athletics in the

past 12 years. "The AFI was not in a good way when I took over... our president and secretary faced a lot of issues after the 2010 CWG and we had to bring it up from there. We worked on a two-pronged strategy – grassroots and elite.

"In elite, we brought in foreign coaches in seven events and in grassroots, we put in a lot of work to spread. It started with 100 districts 20 years ago and last year, we had 619 districts. I feel we are on the right path," he hoped.

He admitted things could have been better. "In hindsight, everything could have been better. One of the areas I would like to improve is doping. It's a serious problem and

we will continue to fight it. The second is overage which looks under control but needs to be continued. Third is early overspecialisation and training, again a deep-rooted problem but it's a continuous process."

#### **AFI office-bearers:**

**President:** Bahadur Singh Sagoo; **Senior vice-president:** Anju Bobby George; **Vice-presidents:** Abu Metha, Jayanta Malla Baruah, A.K. Sharma; **Secretary:** Sandeep Mehta; **Treasurer:** Stanley Jones Senior; **Joint secretary:** S. Srinibas Patnaik. **Joint-secretaries:** Sharat Chandra Singh, Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Finley L. Pariat; **Executive council members:** Sudha Singh, Harjinder Singh Gill, Sharda Devi Jadam, Priyanka Bhanot, Rachita Mistry, A. Rajavelu, K. Sarangapani.

- Bahadur Singh Sagoo, an Asian Games gold medallist and Padma Shri recipient, has been elected as the new **President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** during the Annual General Meeting. He succeeds Adille Sumariwalla, who served three consecutive terms.


- एशियन गेम्स के स्वर्ण पदक विजेता और पद्म श्री सम्मानित बहादुर सिंह सागू को एथलेटिक्स फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (AFI) का नया अध्यक्ष चुना गया है। उन्होंने तीन कार्यकाल तक अध्यक्ष रहे अदिले सुमरिवाला का स्थान लिया।



- **Major Javelin Competition**

A new **javelin competition** for top throwers worldwide will be hosted in India later this year, involving Neeraj Chopra, AFI, JSW, and other stakeholders.

एक प्रमुख भाला फेंक प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन भारत में इस वर्ष के अंत में किया जाएगा, जिसमें नीरज चोपड़ा, AFI, JSW और अन्य भाग लेंगे।



---

## 1. Bids for International Events

AFI submitted bids for hosting:

1. **2029 World Junior Championships**
2. **World Relays**
3. **World Half Marathon**

AFI ने 2029 वर्ल्ड जूनियर चैंपियनशिप, वर्ल्ड रिले और वर्ल्ड हाफ मैराथन की मेजबानी के लिए बोली लगाई है।

## 2. Hosting New Continental Event

India will host its first **continental tour event** on **August 10 in Bhubaneswar**.

भारत अपना पहला **कॉन्टिनेंटल टूर इवेंट** 10 अगस्त को भुवनेश्वर में आयोजित करेगा।



# Minimum Support Price

- Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's indefinite fast entered its 43rd day as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, has recommended a "legally binding" MSP.
- 





- **What is MSP?**

- **Definition:** MSP is the price at which the government purchases crops from farmers to ensure they do not incur losses.

- **Established by:** Recommended by the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** under the Ministry of Agriculture, final approval by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

- **Crops Covered:** MSP is declared for **23 crops**, including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and commercial crops like cotton and jute.

- **Purpose:** Protect farmers from price fluctuations, provide income stability, and ensure agricultural growth




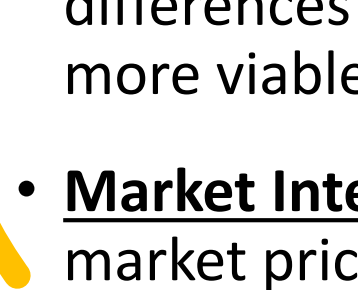
- **Need for MSP for Farmers:**
- **Income Stability:** MSP protects farmers from losses due to **market price dips** caused by overproduction or low demand.
- **E.g.** In 2024, moong prices in Rajasthan were ₹6,467 per quintal, far below the MSP of ₹8,682 (Indian Express).
- **Inequitable Market Dynamics:** Farmers lack bargaining power compared to traders, leading to lower price realization.
- **E.g.** CACP data shows over 80% of farmers rely on local markets, where prices often fall below MSP.



**Cost of Production:** Rising input costs and stagnant yields necessitate MSP to ensure profitability.

E.g. Fertilizer and diesel prices increased by **15-20%** between 2020 and 2024 (Ministry of Agriculture).

**Addressing Rural Poverty:** With **86%** of farmers being smallholders, MSP prevents distress sales, ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

- 
- **Feasibility of Legalizing MSP:**
  - **High Fiscal Cost:** Procuring all MSP crops could cost ₹7.5 lakh crore annually, consuming 17% of the Union Budget, limiting resources for other developmental initiatives.
  - **Direct Compensation Model:** Implementing a compensation mechanism for price differences would require ₹30,000-₹50,000 crore annually, which is financially more viable.
  - **Market Intervention:** Establishing floor prices in APMC auctions can stabilize market prices and reduce the burden on government procurement.
- 



**Approval process:** The final decision on MSP is made by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister.



**Crops under MSP:** MSP is announced for 22 crops, including 14 Kharif, 6 Rabi, and 2 commercial crops. Fair Remunerative Price (FRP) is set for sugarcane.



**Types of Production Costs:**  
**CACP uses three cost projections:**

**A2:** Paid-out costs for inputs like seeds, labor, and fertilizers.

**A2+FL:** Includes unpaid family labor.

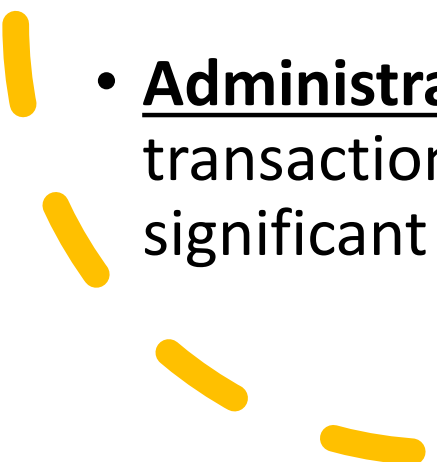
**C2:** Comprehensive cost including rent and capital interest, used as a benchmark reference.



- **Limitations of Legalizing MSP:**

- **Budgetary Stress:** Allocating 17% of the budget for MSP would strain fiscal resources, affecting investments in health, education, and infrastructure.



- **Market Disruption:** Enforcing MSP might deter private sector engagement, reducing efficiency and competitiveness in agricultural markets.



- **Administrative Challenges:** Monitoring and implementing MSP transactions for millions of farmers across diverse crops would require significant infrastructure and human resources.

# UGC Draft Regulations 2025



- 
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled the UGC Draft Regulations 2025, which introduce significant reforms in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (VCs) and academic staff, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
  - Draft Guidelines for Vice-Chancellor Appointment:
  - Organisation involved: University Grants Commission (UGC).
- 

- 
- **Key features of VC appointment guidelines: Authority for Selection:** Chancellors or Visitors are empowered to form a **three-member search-cum-selection committee** for appointing VCs.
  - **Selection Process:**
    - Applications are invited via **all-India newspaper advertisements** or through nomination/talent search processes.
    - A committee consisting of nominees from the Visitor/Chancellor (Chairperson), UGC Chairperson, and the university's apex body (e.g., Senate, Syndicate) selects the VC.



- **Eligibility:**

- Distinguished professionals from academia, industry, public administration, or policymaking with proven academic contributions are eligible.

- **Inclusivity:** Encourages representation of economically weaker sections (EWS), SC, ST, OBC, and persons with disabilities.

- **Transparency:** Mandates public notification and objective assessment methods.





# Maiya Samman Initiative

---

- 
- Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren transferred ₹1,415.44 crore to 56.61 lakh women under the **Maiya Samman Yojana**.
  - **About Maiya Samman Yojana**
  - The scheme increased the amount from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500 per woman aged 18 to 50.
  - The scheme requires women to have bank accounts, bringing millions of women into the formal banking system.
  - The ₹2,500 installment was transferred for December, and January's installment will be transferred later.

## Importance

The cash transfer is described as a transformative boost to women's household income, especially in rural areas.

- Research shows women-directed cash transfers improve family health, education, and nutrition.
- The government aims to involve women in economic activities to promote the state's economic growth.

# Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA)



- United States banks Citigroup and Bank of America are exiting the **Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA)**.
- **About**
- The Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) is a **coalition of banks** that have committed to **aligning their financing activities** with the goal of achieving **net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050**.



The alliance was established in **2021** under the **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)**.



It is part of the larger **Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)**, which includes other financial institutions and focuses on promoting climate action across the global finance industry

---

# Word of the day

## **Beleaguer:**

annoy persistently; surround so as to force to give up

---

**Synonyms:** badger, bug, pester, tease, besiege, circumvent, hem in, surround

---

**Usage:** *As the number of protesters grew, the policemen became increasingly beleaguered.*

---

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

---

**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /bɪ'liː.gə/, /bə'liː.gə/

---

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



- What does the Mercalli Scale measure?  
मर्काली स्केल क्या मापता है?
- **A. Magnitude of earthquakes / भूकंप की तीव्रता**
- **B. Intensity of earthquakes based on after-effects / आफ्टर-इफेक्ट्स के आधार पर भूकंप की तीव्रता**
- **C. Destruction caused by tsunamis / सुनामी द्वारा हुई तबाही**
- **D. Seismic activity under oceans / महासागरों के नीचे भूकंपीय गतिविधि**

- What technological capability do Sonobuoys provide?  
सोनोबाँय कौन सी तकनीकी क्षमता प्रदान करते हैं?
- **A. Detection of submarines through acoustic signals / ध्वनिक संकेतों के माध्यम से पनडुब्बियों का पता लगाना**
- B. Monitoring air pollution / वायु प्रदूषण की निगरानी**
- C. Enhancing satellite communication / सैटेलाइट संचार को बढ़ाना**
- D. Data collection for weather predictions / मौसम पूर्वानुमान के लिए डेटा संग्रह**

- Who was recently appointed as the Chairman of ISRO and Secretary of the Department of Space?  
हाल ही में इसरो के अध्यक्ष और अंतरिक्ष विभाग के सचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया?
- **A. S. Somanath / एस. सोमनाथ**  
**B. V. Narayanan / वी. नारायणन**  
**C. Rakesh Sharma / राकेश शर्मा**  
**D. K. Sivan / के. सिवन**

- What role did V. Narayanan play in the Chandrayaan missions?  
चंद्रयान मिशनों में वी. नारायणन की क्या भूमिका थी?
- **A. Designed propulsion systems for Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 / चंद्रयान-2 और चंद्रयान-3 के लिए प्रणोदन प्रणाली डिजाइन की**
- **B. Head of the spacecraft design team / अंतरिक्ष यान डिजाइन टीम के प्रमुख**
- **C. Chief scientist for navigation systems / नेविगेशन सिस्टम के मुख्य वैज्ञानिक**
- **D. Coordinated international collaborations / अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग का समन्वय किया**

- What is the purpose of the Maiya Samman Yojana in Jharkhand?  
झारखंड में माईया सम्मान योजना का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Provide financial assistance to women aged 18-50 / 18-50 आयु वर्ग की महिलाओं को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना**
- **B. Promote girl child education / बालिका शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देना**
- **C. Provide healthcare benefits to rural women / ग्रामीण महिलाओं को स्वास्थ्य लाभ प्रदान करना**
- **D. Empower self-help groups / स्वयं सहायता समूहों को सशक्त बनाना**

- Which banks recently exited the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA)?  
हाल ही में कौन से बैंक नेट-जीरो बैंकिंग एलायंस (NZBA) से बाहर हुए?
- **A. Citigroup and Bank of America / सिटीग्रुप और बैंक ऑफ अमेरिका**
- **B. Wells Fargo and HSBC / वेल्स फारगो और एचएसबीसी**
- **C. Deutsche Bank and Standard Chartered / डॉयचे बैंक और स्टैंडर्ड चार्टर्ड**
- **D. Barclays and JP Morgan / बार्कलेज और जेपी मॉर्गन**

- What is the major limitation of legalizing MSP?  
एमएसपी को कानूनी रूप देने की मुख्य सीमा क्या है?
- **A. High fiscal cost / उच्च वित्तीय लागत**
- **B. Lack of public support / सार्वजनिक समर्थन की कमी**
- **C. Opposition from international trade bodies / अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार निकायों का विरोध**
- **D. None of the above / उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं**

- What are the major events planned by the Athletics Federation of India in 2029?

2029 में एथलेटिक्स फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा योजनाबद्ध मुख्य कार्यक्रम क्या हैं?

- **A. World Junior Championships, World Relays, and World Half Marathon / वर्ल्ड जूनियर चैंपियनशिप, वर्ल्ड रिले और वर्ल्ड हाफ मैराथन**

**B. Asian Games and Olympics / एशियाई खेल और ओलंपिक**

**C. Continental Cup and Global Track Meet / कॉन्टिनेंटल कप और ग्लोबल ट्रैक मीट**

**D. None of the above / उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं**



- What major myth about the Mughal Empire was recently debunked?  
मगल साम्राज्य से संबंधित कौन सा प्रमुख मिथक हाल ही में खारिज किया गया?
- **A. Mughals ruled all of India / मुगलों ने पूरे भारत पर शासन किया**
- **B. Mughals introduced the caste system / मुगलों ने जाति व्यवस्था शुरू की**
- **C. Mughals had no naval presence / मुगलों की नौसेना नहीं थी**
- **D. Mughals abolished local governance / मुगलों ने स्थानीय शासन को समाप्त कर दिया**



Fun Fact

# Myth : The Mughal Empire ruled all of India.

- **Truth:** While the Mughal Empire was powerful, it never controlled **southern India** completely. Regions like the **Vijayanagara Empire** and **Maratha Confederacy** maintained independence during various periods.



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE 2 YEARS (2023 + 2024) CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES (PDF)
- ✓ 360° DEGREE EXAMS COVERED

~~₹999/-~~ ₹499/-

NEW  
2025 BATCH

Happy New Year



CLASS24

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS
- ✓ SCIENCE

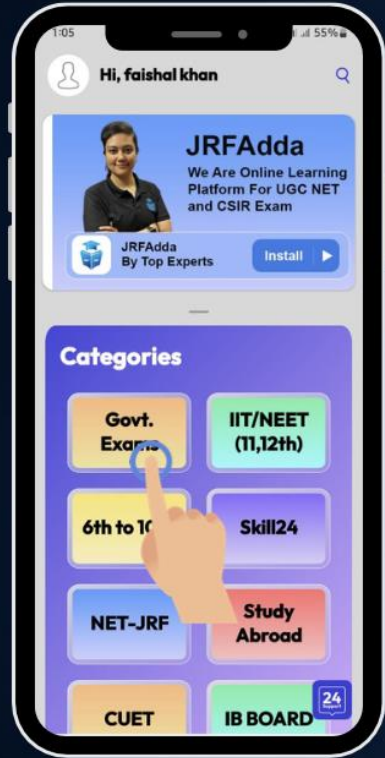
~~₹999/-~~ ₹499/-

USE CODE - B50

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047

USE CODE - B50

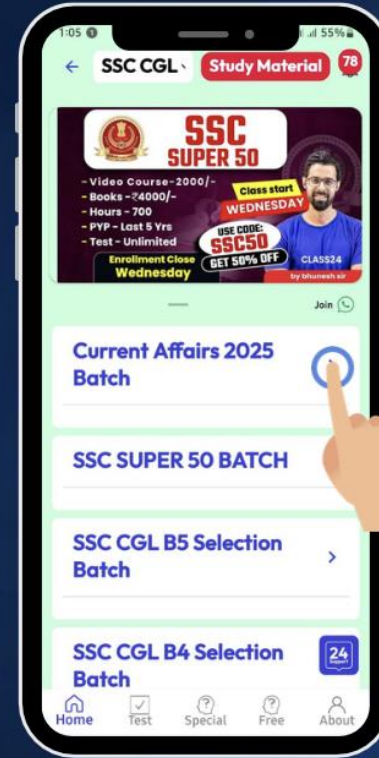
# Step 1



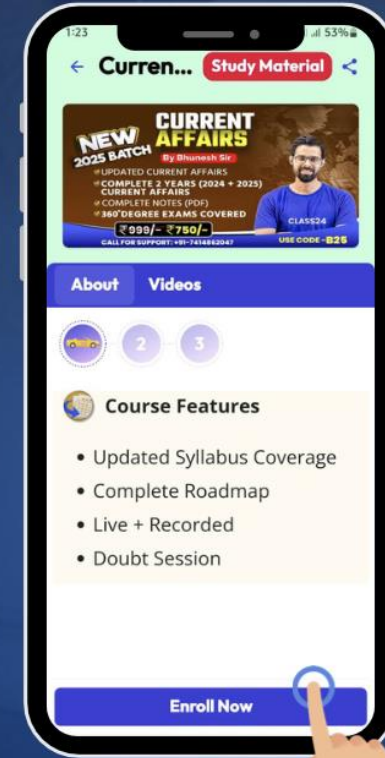
# Step 2




# Step 3



# Step 4



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you  
guys.

---