

Daily Current Affairs



जनसक्ता



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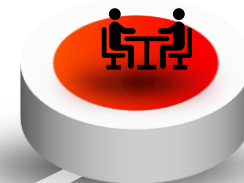
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PIB, PRS & Other newspaper



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10 MCQ QUIZ

10 MCQ

- Why did the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) extend the SO₂ emission compliance deadline for thermal power plants?
- पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) ने तापीय ऊर्जा संयंत्रों के लिए SO₂ उत्सर्जन अनुपालन की समय सीमा क्यों बढ़ाई?
- A. Lack of proper technology in India / भारत में उचित तकनीक की कमी
- B. Financial constraints of power companies / पावर कंपनियों की वित्तीय बाधाएं
- C. Ongoing discussions on Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) feasibility / फ्लू गैस डीसल्फराइजेशन (FGD) की व्यवहार्यता पर चल रही चर्चाएं
- D. Low demand for electricity / बिजली की कम मांग

- What was the key finding of IIT Delhi's 2022 study on Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD)?
- आईआईटी दिल्ली के 2022 के अध्ययन में फ्लू गैस डीसल्फराइजेशन (FGD) के बारे में क्या प्रमुख निष्कर्ष निकला?
- A. FGD improves air quality but has high operational costs / FGD वायु गुणवत्ता में सुधार करता है लेकिन इसकी परिचालन लागत अधिक है
- B. FGD is ineffective in reducing emissions / FGD उत्सर्जन को कम करने में अप्रभावी है
- C. FGD technology is still under development / FGD तकनीक अभी भी विकास के चरण में है
- D. FGD increases power production efficiency / FGD बिजली उत्पादन की दक्षता बढ़ाता है

- What change did the Supreme Court of India make regarding ad-hoc judge appointments in 2025?
- 2025 में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने अस्थायी न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति के संबंध में क्या बदलाव किया?
- A. Allowed retired judges to be appointed on an ad-hoc basis for criminal appeal cases / सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीशों को अस्थायी रूप से आपराधिक अपील मामलों के लिए नियुक्त करने की अनुमति दी
- B. Banned ad-hoc appointments completely / अस्थायी नियुक्तियों पर पूरी तरह से प्रतिबंध लगा दिया
- C. Allowed ad-hoc judges to be appointed in all types of cases / सभी प्रकार के मामलों में अस्थायी न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति की अनुमति दी
- D. Restricted ad-hoc appointments only to Supreme Court cases / अस्थायी नियुक्तियों को केवल सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के मामलों तक सीमित किया

- Which Article of the Indian Constitution allows ad-hoc appointment of retired High Court judges?
- भारतीय संविधान का कौन सा अनुच्छेद सेवानिवृत्त उच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीशों की अस्थायी नियुक्ति की अनुमति देता है?
- A. Article 124 / अनुच्छेद 124
- B. Article 214 / अनुच्छेद 214
- C. Article 224-A / अनुच्छेद 224-A
- D. Article 312 / अनुच्छेद 312

- What was the reason behind the RBI's recent interest rate cut?
- RBI की हालिया ब्याज दर कटौती के पीछे क्या कारण था?
- A. Easing inflation and boosting economic growth / मुद्रास्फीति में कमी और आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देना
- B. Pressure from international financial institutions / अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्तीय संस्थानों का दबाव
- C. Reducing real estate prices / अचल संपत्ति की कीमतों को कम करना
- D. Strengthening the Indian rupee against the dollar / भारतीय रुपये को डॉलर के मुकाबले मजबूत करना

- What sanction did U.S. President Donald Trump impose on the International Criminal Court (ICC)?
- अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध न्यायालय (ICC) पर कौन सा प्रतिबंध लगाया?
- A. Freezing assets and travel bans on ICC officials / आईसीसी अधिकारियों की संपत्तियों को फ्रीज करना और यात्रा प्रतिबंध लगाना
- B. Completely banning ICC from operating in the U.S. / आईसीसी को अमेरिका में काम करने से पूरी तरह प्रतिबंधित करना
- C. Imposing financial penalties on ICC members / आईसीसी सदस्यों पर वित्तीय दंड लगाना
- D. Declaring ICC as a foreign terrorist organization / आईसीसी को विदेशी आतंकवादी संगठन घोषित करना

- What was the book "Voyages Retraced: India's Influence in East Asia" about?
- "Voyages Retraced: India's Influence in East Asia" पुस्तक किस बारे में थी?
- A. India's maritime trade history with Europe / भारत का यूरोप के साथ समुद्री व्यापार का इतिहास
B. India's cultural and historical impact on Southeast Asia / भारत का दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया पर सांस्कृतिक और ऐतिहासिक प्रभाव
C. India's struggle for independence / भारत के स्वतंत्रता संग्राम का इतिहास
D. Economic relations between India and the U.S. / भारत और अमेरिका के बीच आर्थिक संबंध

- What is Jevons Paradox?
- जेवन्स पराडॉक्स क्या है?
- A. Increased efficiency leads to higher overall resource consumption / बढ़ी हुई दक्षता समग्र संसाधन खपत को बढ़ाती है
- B. Decreased efficiency leads to conservation of resources / घटी हुई दक्षता संसाधनों के संरक्षण की ओर ले जाती है
- C. Renewable energy sources reduce overall energy demand / नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्रोत कुल ऊर्जा मांग को कम करते हैं
- D. Economic growth leads to technological stagnation / आर्थिक वृद्धि तकनीकी ठहराव की ओर ले जाती है

- What is the primary objective of the GREAT scheme under the National Technical Textiles Mission?
- राष्ट्रीय तकनीकी वस्त्र मिशन के तहत GREAT योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Funding startups in technical textiles / तकनीकी वस्त्रों में स्टार्टअप्स को वित्तपोषण प्रदान करना
- B. Promoting traditional textile industries / पारंपरिक वस्त्र उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देना
- C. Reducing imports of synthetic fabrics / सिंथेटिक कपड़ों के आयात को कम करना
- D. Increasing India's textile exports to Europe / यूरोप को भारत के वस्त्र निर्यात को बढ़ाना

- Why did the U.S. withdraw from WHO and UNHRC?
- अमेरिका ने WHO और UNHRC से क्यों हटने का फैसला किया?
- A. Alleged bias against Israel and poor handling of COVID-19 / इज़राइल के खिलाफ पूर्वाग्रह और COVID-19 के खराब प्रबंधन का आरोप
- B. Financial mismanagement by these organizations / इन संगठनों द्वारा वित्तीय कप्रबंधन
- C. U.S. policy shift towards isolationism / अमेरिका की अलगाववाद नीति
- D. Pressure from European allies / यूरोपीय सहयोगियों का दबाव

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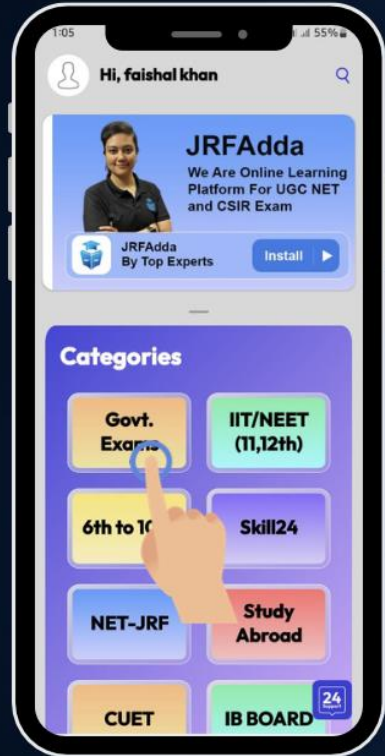
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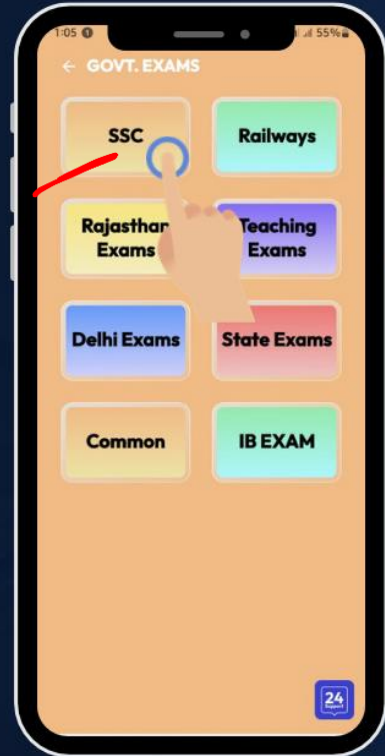
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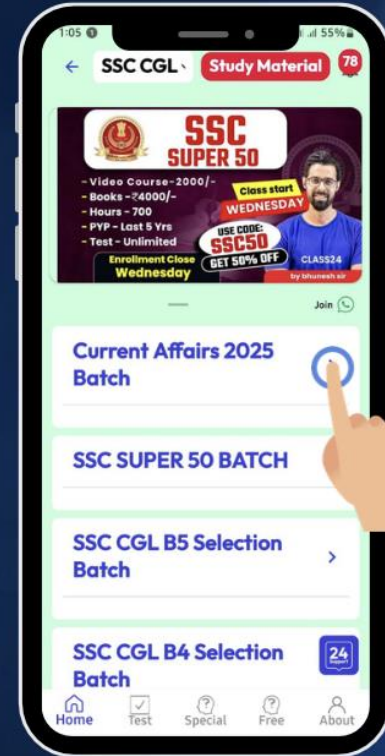
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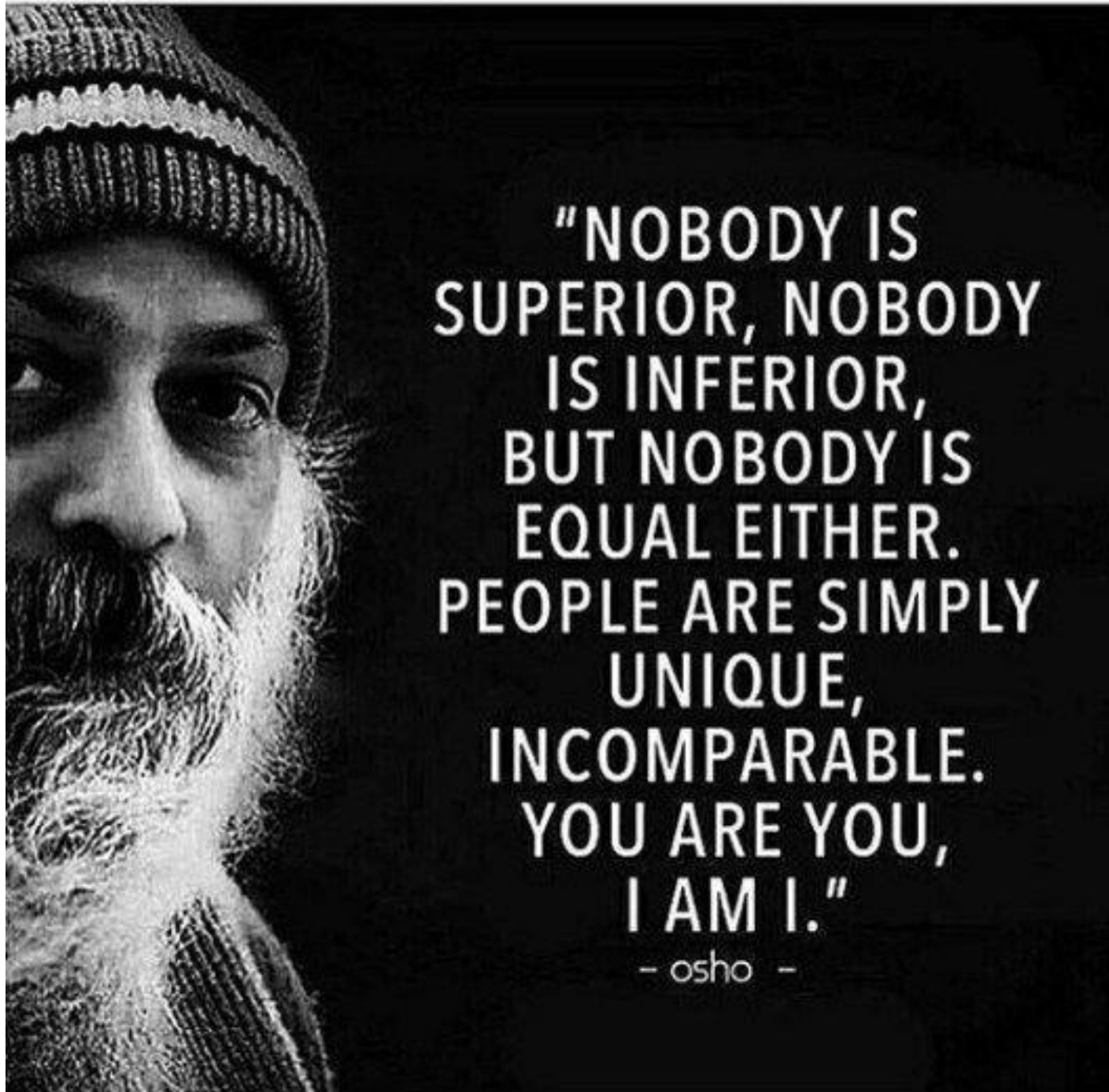


Step 3



Step 4





"NOBODY IS
SUPERIOR, NOBODY
IS INFERIOR,
BUT NOBODY IS
EQUAL EITHER.
PEOPLE ARE SIMPLY
UNIQUE,
INCOMPARABLE.
YOU ARE YOU,
I AM I."

- osho -



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Growing appetite for insect protein


Demand for edible bugs is expected to explode by the end of the decade. Is India ready to capitalise on it?



MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

Heart failure patients in India die 10 years earlier: study

SCIENCE » PAGE 10



What will be the impact of Trump's trade war?

FAQ » PAGE 8



Kohli returns as India eyes series win against England

SPORT » PAGE 23



INSIDE

National Mission for Manuscripts to get autonomy

NEW DELHI Steps have been initiated to make the National Mission for Manuscripts autonomous, with the Centre allocating nearly ₹500 crore over the next six years separately to the institution through a Special Finance Committee. » PAGE 3

Regional leaders call for ceasefire in eastern DR Congo

BUKAVU Rwandan President Paul Kagame and his Congolese counterpart Felix Tshisekedi at a summit in Tanzania on Saturday urged leaders called for "immediate ceasefire" in the Democratic Republic of Congo. » PAGE 12

Hamas frees 3 more hostages over Gaza truce

DEIR AL-BALAH Hamas-led militants released three Israeli hostages on Saturday, and Israel freed 183 Palestinian prisoners as part of a fragile agreement that has paused the war in the Gaza Strip. The fragile condition of the hostages has sparked outrage in Israel. » PAGE 12

Reserve Bank in sync with govt. on growth focus: FM

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following up the Budget's demand stimulus for the slowing economy with a long-awaited interest rate cut, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday that fiscal and monetary policy working in harmony to spur growth. "The Reserve Bank and the government are in sync with govt. on growth focus," she said. "Whether it is inflation or growth, we should yield a bigger boost to the economy." The Minister was speaking to the media after addressing the RBI's Central Board in the capital. "The government expected India's tepid private investment trends to reverse," Ms. Sitharaman indicated, citing anecdotal inputs from industry lead-

BJP sweeps capital

BJP bags 48 seats, set to return to power in Delhi after two decades | AAP wins only 22 seats; Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia lose | Congress fails to win any seat for the third consecutive time

Return after a long gap

NEW DELHI The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a majority in the 2025 Delhi Assembly election, bagging 48 out of 70 seats. The incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lost its seat shares across all regions, winning only 22 seats. The Congress once again failed to win any seats despite a slight increase in vote share (+2%).

Party	Seats won	Vote share (%)
BJP*	48	47.2
AAP	22	43.8
Cong.	0	6.3
Others	0	2.9

The results of the election declared on Saturday delivered a jolt to the AAP with party supremo Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia losing their seats. Atishi, who had taken over as Chief Minister from Mr. Kejriwal, managed to retain her Kalkaji seat. The Congress failed to win a single seat for the third time in a row. With a majority of its candidates losing their deposits, while the BJP increased its tally from eight to 48, there was only a 2% difference in the vote share of the AAP and the BJP.

Celebrations erupted in BJP offices as trends showed that the party would sail past the majority mark of 36. Mr. Kejriwal was defeated by Parvash Verma (New Delhi constituency) and Mr. Sisodia by Tarvinder Singh Marwah (Jangpura).

Atishi emerged victorious over her BJP rival, Kamal Bishnoi, in Kalkaji. Mr. Kejriwal, who had resigned as Chief Minister in September last year after being ousted from prison on bail, had said that he

was seeking a "certificate of honesty from the Delhi voters". He had announced that he would not sit on the Chief Minister's chair until the public delivered an electoral verdict. "Constructive Oppn." Mr. Kejriwal said the AAP's political journey had never been about power but about public service. "Now that the people have given their verdict, we will not only play the role of a constructive Opposition but also continue serving society."

Training its eyes on a "double engine" government for the benefit of the capital, the BJP had appealed to voters through roadshows, rallies and Jan sabhas, in which it pro-

posed to continue all welfare schemes in the capital such as free electricity and water, even promising to make them better. The party had hit out at the AAP for not delivering on its promises, corruption investigation against its top leaders and the alleged extravagant spending on the renovation of the house allotted to Mr. Kejriwal when he was Chief Minister. The BJP did not announce a Chief Minister face during its campaign and asked for votes in the name of Mr. Modi. It will now have to pick a Chief Minister to deliver on its promises.

FULL COVERAGE
» PAGES 4 & 5

52.6% Vote share secured by the BJP in the "richest" constituencies in 2025, its strongest performance among all classes.

45.6% The BJP's vote share in 2025, its highest since 1993, the year when Delhi's Legislative Assembly was revived.

-12.3% points Decline in AAP's vote % compared with 2020, in seats with a higher voter base in previous polls.

-8.2% points Decline in Congress' vote % compared with 2020, in seats with a higher concentration of the city's "poorest" residents.

PM promises to make Delhi a 'modern city'

Satvika Mahalan
NEW DELHI Celebrating the Bharatiya Janata Party's thumping victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed the party's senior leadership and workers at the BJP's national headquarters here.

Taking a jibe at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), he said, "AAP came with promise to usher in politics of change but turned out to be the most dishonest party."

The Prime Ministersaid, "For the first time since independence, the BJP will now have governments in Delhi and all adjoining States."

He said that with the BJP in power, "Delhi will be transformed into a modern city".

FULL COVERAGE
» PAGE 4

BJP scores big win in U.P.'s Milkipur bypoll

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the high-stakes Milkpur Assembly by-election in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, with Chandrabhanu Paswan defeating the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Ajit Prasad by an impressive margin of 61,710 votes.

While the BJP celebrated the win as a victory for its "double-engine" government, the SP called it a "false victory", repeating the allegations of large-scale electoral fraud that it had raised on polling day. Milkipur is a seat reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates and lies in the Ayodhya district. It witnessed a no-holds barred

campaign, with the BJP aggressively pushing its Hindutva plank while the SP countered it with its PDA narrative, which stands for Pichda, Dalit, and Alpa-sankhyak or the backward class, and minority communities.

ELECTORAL FRAUD, SAYS SP
» PAGE 5

DMK romps home in Erode (East) bypoll

The Hindu Bureau
ERODE

The ruling DMK won the by-election in the Erode (East) Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu with a massive lead on Saturday.

Its candidate, V.C. Chandrabhanu, won by a margin of over 90,000 votes, in the constituency where 1,54,890 votes were counted in all.

His closest rival was the Naam Tamilar Katchi's M.K. Sethulakshmi who secured 15,59% of the votes. A total of 6,109 votes went to NCTA.

The counting went off without any major incident. The bypoll, which was held on February 5, was necessitated after the

death of Congress MLA E.V.K.S. Elangovan in December 2024, who himself won the seat in the by-election held in February 2022.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the victory was people's recognition for the welfare measures and progressive schemes of the DMK government.

U.S. judge blocks Elon Musk's government reform team from accessing Treasury Department data

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

A U.S. judge issued an emergency order early Saturday blocking Elon Musk's government reform team from accessing personal and financial data stored at the Treasury Department.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer's order restricts giving access to Treasury Department payment systems and other data to

financially provide more benefit to our economy and people. With the Trump decision, I am sure that together, things can move in the right direction that we need," she said.

TO RECEIVE DEMAND
» PAGE 11



People protest against U.S. President Donald Trump and ally Elon Musk outside the Department of Labor near the Capitol. AP

Mr. Musk is neither a federal employee nor a government official, although U.S. media had earlier reported that Mr. Musk had

been registered as a "special government employee". The judge's temporary restrictive order will be in effect until a February 14 hearing. The case was brought against Mr. Trump, the De-

Temporary halt to USAID shutdown

Washington Post
WASHINGTON

A federal judge on Friday dealt President Donald Trump and ally Elon Musk a major setback in their efforts to dismantle the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), ordering a temporary halt to plans to pull thousands of agency staffers off the job. » PAGE 12

partment of the Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Friday by attorneys-general from 19 States. They alleged that the administration violated the law by expanding access to sensitive Treasury Department data to staff

An internal assessment from the Treasury called the DOGE team's access to federal payment systems "the single biggest insider threat the Bureau of the Fiscal Service has ever faced", U.S. media reported.

BJP sweeps capital

BJP bags 48 seats, set to return to power in Delhi after two decades

AAP wins only 22 seats; Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia lose

Congress fails to win any seat for the third consecutive time

Jaideep Deo Bhani
Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party, winning 48 seats in the Assembly election, has returned to power in the national capital after a gap of over 26 years, scuttling the Aam Aadmi Party's bid for a fourth straight term. The AAP won 22 seats. The Delhi Assembly election was held on February 5.

The results of the election declared on Saturday delivered a jolt to the AAP with party supremo Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia losing their seats. Atishi, who had taken over as Chief Minister from Mr. Kejriwal, managed to retain her Kalkaji seat.

The Congress failed to win a single seat for the third time in a row, with a majority of its candidates losing their deposit. While the BJP increased its tally from eight to 48, there was only a 2% difference in the vote share of the AAP and the BJP.

Celebrations erupted in BJP offices as trends showed that the party would sail past the majority mark of 36.

Mr. Kejriwal was defeated by Parvesh Verma (New Delhi Assembly constituency) and Mr. Sisodia by Tarvinder Singh Marwah (Jangpura).

Atishi emerged victorious over her BJP rival, Ramesh Bidhuri, in Kalkaji.

Mr. Kejriwal, who had resigned as Chief Minister in September last year after he walked out of prison on bail, had said that he

Return after a long gap

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a majority in the 2025 Delhi Assembly election, bagging 48 out of 70 seats

■ The incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lost vote shares across all regions, winning only 22 seats

■ The Congress once again failed to win any seats despite a slight increase in vote share (+2%)

Party	Seats won	Vote share (%)
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AAP	22	43.6
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Others	0	2.9



Victory lap: BJP workers celebrate the party's victory in Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

26 years

The BJP broke its 26-year jinx by returning to power in Delhi. Back in 1993, when they secured majority, they won 49 seats — one more than in 2025

52.6%

Vote share secured by the BJP in the "richest" constituencies in 2025, its strongest performance among all classes

45.6%

The BJP's vote share in 2025, its highest since 1993, the year when Delhi's Legislative Assembly was revived

-12.3% points

Decline in AAP's vote % compared with 2020, in seats with over 25% Muslim voters — a key support base in previous polls

-8.2% points

Decline in AAP's vote % compared with 2020, in seats with a relatively higher concentration of the city's 'poorest' residents

* BJP's allies Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) did not win any seats

was seeking a "certificate of honesty from the Delhi voters". He had announced that he would not sit on the Chief Minister's chair until the public delivered an electoral verdict.

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Mr. Kejriwal said the AAP's political journey had never been about power but about public service. "Now that the people have given their verdict, we will not only play the role of a constructive Opposition but also continue serving society."

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The party had hit out at the AAP for not delivering on its promises, corruption investigation against its top leaders and the alleged extravagant spending on the renovation of the house allotted to Mr. Kejriwal when he was Chief Minister.

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FULL COVERAGE
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PM promises to make Delhi a 'modern city'

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NEW DELHI

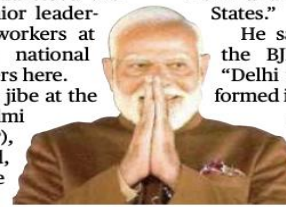
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FULL REPORT
» PAGE 4

SEATS WON AND VOTES SECURED

Table 1 shows seats won and the change from 2020. Table 2 shows the vote share secured (%) and the change from 2020 in percentage points

TABLE 1

SEATS WON		
Party	2025	↑↓
NDA*	48	+40
AAP	22	-40
INC	0	0
Others	0	0

TABLE 2

VOTE SHARE		
Party	2025	↑↓
NDA	47.2	+7.8
AAP	43.6	-10
INC	6.3	+2
Others	2.9	+0.2

*Apart from BJP, it includes JD(U) and LJP(RV), who did not win any seat

Is private investment expected to rise?

Will the tax incentives and other measures announced in the Budget help spur consumer demand?

Prashanth Paramal

The story so far:

With the government providing a tax stimulus through income tax breaks to boost consumer spending and the RBI cutting interest rates for the first time in nearly five years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said she was quite optimistic of the tide turning on private investments in the months to come. Addressing the media, she said, "anecdotal evidence suggests a pick-up in investment activity." Ms. Sitharaman said that she had heard from different sources that orders for Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) for the period April to June were already getting booked, and that "industry is clearly seeing the signs of a possible recovery of consumerism."

Why was there a concern?

Private investment in India, which has been on a downward trajectory for more than a decade, showed further signs of weakening in the latest quarter. Private investment plans dropped by 1.4% in the December 2024-2025 quarter. Even though investments overall increased by 9.9% due to a significant rise in public investments by the Centre and State governments, which grew by 11.8% and 34.6%, respectively.

Private investment matters because it helps build physical, human, and other forms of capital that ultimately help increase the amount of goods and services produced in an economy. It should also be noted that private investment is generally considered to be more efficient than public investment, which is undertaken by the government. This is because private investors are subject to the discipline of profits and losses in which market discipline ensures that capital is allocated towards the most urgent needs of consumers. Public investments are not subject to the same degree of market discipline. But notably, public investment is viewed as a major reason behind the high growth numbers reported by India in recent years.

What determines private investment?

It is generally believed that money deposited as savings in banks by ordinary citizens is loaned out to fund large-scale investments. But in reality, private investment depends not on savings levels in the economy but on the pace at which loans are created by the banking system. This is because banks can create loans electronically through simple accounting entries that deposit money in borrowers' accounts even without savings to back these loans. So, there is strong positive relationship between bank credit growth and the level of private investment, with healthy bank credit growth driving private sector investment higher. In fact, bank credit growth averaged about 22% between 2005 and 2014 when economic growth was high, before dropping precipitously to just around 9% between 2014 and 2021 when the economy began to slow down.

Why has private investment been sluggish?

Many economists have blamed the lack of sufficient consumer demand for the lack of strong private investment in the country. They argue that unless the government does something to increase the amount of money that consumers have in their hands to spend, investors would be unwilling to take the risk of investing in business projects. Given this backdrop, making incomes up to ₹12 lakh tax-free is seen as an attempt to put more money in the hands of individuals to boost consumer spending and spur private investment. However, over the decades, there has been an inverse or negative relationship between private investment and consumer spending.

Private final consumption expenditure stood at a high of 90% of GDP way back in 1950-51, from where it dropped gradually over the decades to hit a low of 54.7% of GDP in 2010-11. At the same time, private investment as a percentage of GDP rose from around 10% in the decades between independence and economic liberalisation to around 27% in 2007-08.

Interestingly, from around the time when private investment hit a peak in 2011-12, private consumer spending that had been rising, had fallen. In other words, over the last decade or so, consumer spending has actually risen at the same time that private investment has dropped from its peak. This suggests that the negative relationship between private investment and consumer spending could simply be due to the fact that the money in an economy that is not invested is spent on consumption or vice-versa. Given this, policy uncertainty and unfriendly government policies are cited as the major reasons behind the slowdown in private investment. Many analysts have pointed to the drop in the pace of economic reforms as discouraging private investors from undertaking long-term capital-intensive investment projects.

What will be the impact of Trump's trade war?

Why has the U.S. announced steep tariffs on imports from China, Canada and Mexico? What are the potential risks to such measures? How will it affect world trade? How has China responded? In the case of Mexico and Canada, doesn't it violate the free trade pact they have with the U.S.?

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

U.S. President Donald Trump has sought to deliver, in the early days of his second term in office, on his most vociferous campaign promise — to slap a range of the U.S.'s trading partners with significant tariffs in a bid to tamp down on undocumented migrant and illicit drug inflows, while presumably incentivising companies to favour creating jobs on U.S. soil. His administration's initial action in the space, to use executive orders to impose a 25% tariff on Canadian and Mexican goods and a 10% tax on energy products from Canada and a wide range of goods from China, rolled stock markets across the world, especially in Asia.

What followed the announcement?

As Beijing vowed to file a lawsuit with the World Trade Organization against the U.S. for "wrongful practice" and Ottawa and Mexico City announced plans for retaliatory tariffs, Mr. Trump appeared to back down from his position. Following discussions with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Canadian officials, Mr. Trump said the White House had agreed to "pause" the tariff action for a moment in the wake of Mexico committing 10,000 National

Mr. Trump's moves could seriously dampen world trade at a precarious time for global economic growth prospects

Guard troops to man its northern border and a longer-term bilateral deal in the works. Similarly, a 30-day pause on tariff action would be applied to Canada given its Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's commitment to "wax together" as his government sought to appoint "a fentanyl czar, list Mexican cartels as terrorist groups and launch a Canada-U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organised crime, fentanyl and money laundering."

While the tariffs on Chinese goods are in force, Mr. Trump temporarily exempted small-value packages imported from there after the U.S. postal service was plunged into chaos as it struggled to deal with new regulations.

What is the broader context for the tariffs?

Although in the traditional macroeconomic policy context, tariffs are imposed to rectify trade imbalances due to artificial price barriers, the justification given by Mr. Trump White House for their tariff plan was that it would address the "national emergency" resulting from "the extraordinary threat posed by illegal aliens and drugs, including deadly fentanyl."

This expansive rationale for imposing tariffs across the board potentially risks blowback from other nations' inevitable retaliatory tariffs. The resulting trade war could set back the current world trade at a precarious time for global economic growth prospects. The irony is that escalating tit-for-tat tariffs will likely exert strong upward pressure on the prices that U.S. consumers pay for imported products and ignite a broader inflationary trend through higher input prices across industries.

The second cause for concern of the Trump administration's tariff plan is that it tacitly endorses the widespread use of tariffs as a countermeasure against unrelated inter-country disputes — in this case the inflow of undocumented migrants and illicit drugs — rather than rely on traditional law enforcement activity to ensure less porous borders.

How have Mexico and Canada responded? In China adds to pre-existing levies imposed by trafficking organisations have an "intolerable alliance with the government of Mexico", and the latter has "afforded safe havens for the cartels to engage in the manufacturing and business of narcotics, which has resulted in collectively have led to the overdose deaths of hundreds of thousands of American victims."

Mr. Trump administration has also said that there is a "growing presence of Mexican cartels operating fentanyl and nitazene synthesis labs in

Canada," with a recent study recognising Canada's "heightened domestic production of fentanyl, and its growing footprint within international narcotics distribution." These facts, according to Mr. Trump's administration, suggest that this is an alliance that endangers the national security of the U.S., requiring the eradication of the influence of these "dangerous cartels."

Perhaps emboldened by his success in forcing Colombia to accept deportees from the U.S. flown to Bogota via military aircraft, Mr. Trump has used tariffs to bring Mexico and Canada to the negotiating table, even if his proposal violates the terms of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade pact. Mexico has now already deployed most, if not all, of the promised troops to surveil and protect the U.S. border from unauthorised crossings. Reports also suggest that Mexican authorities have seized 20 million doses of fentanyl since Ms. Sheinbaum's term began in October.

Mr. Trudeau initially responded with greater defiance, announcing retaliatory tariffs on \$106 billion worth of imports from the U.S. However, despite reportedly being told that "Canada could avoid tariffs by becoming the 51st member of the U.S.," he revived a border security package said to be worth \$900 million, announced last year, and promised to appoint a "fentanyl czar."

Where does China stand?

Mr. Trump's 10% tariff levy on Chinese products is relatively modest compared to the 60% tariff rate that he had earlier threatened to hit Beijing with. Nevertheless, China was quick to announce a 15% counter-tariff to be levied upon imports of U.S. coal and liquefied natural gas, crude oil, agricultural machinery and certain cars — measures that are set to kick in on February 10.

The Chinese government further opened an antitrust probe into Google, placed several top U.S. fashion and biotech companies on an "unreliable entities" list, and set limits on exports of critical minerals for high-tech products.

Nevertheless, analysts suggest that both sides have refrained from excessive or knee-jerk reactions, even though the 10% U.S. tariff on the U.S. in the days ahead in his mission to level the playing field, the risk of trade skirmishes derailing global growth prospects remains high.



New order: Workers transport boxes of avocados at a packing plant in the municipality of Uruapan, Michoacan state, Mexico, on February 5 A.P.

Are freebies and welfare schemes different?

Can schemes such as the midday meal, the public distribution system, and child development services be considered as welfare? How do targeted cash transfer programmes impact lives? What are the fiscal risks of freebie-driven politics?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

At three major political parties in the Delhi Assembly elections, won by the Bharatiya Janata Party, unveiled a barrage of freebies and subsidies to woo voters. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) pledged a ₹2,100 monthly allowance for all women, an additional ₹2,000 for pregnant women, and subsidised LPG cylinders at ₹500 for women from low-empowered backgrounds. The BJP followed suit, offering ₹500 per month to women from low-income families, and "free electricity" through its solar energy initiative. The Congress too joined the fray.

Were these electoral sops or welfare politics?

The core challenge in this debate is the absence of a clear consensus on what constitutes a freebie. Some argue that freebies amount to bribery and discourage voters from making informed choices. Others, however, claim that such a narrative strips voters of their agency and delegitimises welfare politics. "What some perceive as a freebie may be regarded as welfare by others. For instance, while one segment of society may view free transport as an unwarranted concession, for another, it constitutes a vital welfare measure. Ironically, those who criticise free transport as a subsidy

A growing reliance on freebies will inevitably deepen the revenue deficit

often benefit from the availability of cheap labour. Affordable transport enables people to travel in search of work, making such labour possible," Dr. K.K. Kallash, Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, told *The Hindu*.

The National Food Security Act, enacted by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2013, transformed key welfare schemes such as the mid-day meal, the Public Distribution System, and child development services into legal entitlements. According to data released by the Centre, the law's beneficiaries include 79% of the rural population and 50% of the total population — roughly 800 million people in total.

A 2023 study by the Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI) found that carefully designed cash transfer programmes, which channel funds directly to women, can benefit households, not only empower women but also help mitigate the risks of intimate partner violence.

Where does one draw the line?

According to Dr. Kallash, welfare provisions — unlike freebies — enhance human capabilities and freedoms, aligning with the "capability approach" to development proposed by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. "For instance, access to nutritious, fresh food through mid-day meal schemes strengthens immunity, and enables individuals to lead dignified lives. In contrast, investing in nutrition from an early age yields significant long-term benefits for both individuals and society," he explained.

Cash transfer schemes have recently found electoral success in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Haryana, cementing their role as staples of electioneering. However, Dr. Kallash cautioned that while such schemes stimulate market activity by boosting consumer spending, they ultimately fall short of creating genuine economic opportunities. Freebie-driven politics poses a serious fiscal threat, particularly to heavily indebted State governments. The RBI's latest report on State finances highlights how such measures have led to a sharp increase in subsidy expenditure. It further urges States to

rationalise these subsidies to ensure they do not displace critical investments.

Radhika Pandey, Associate Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), cautioned that the growing reliance on freebies will inevitably deepen the revenue deficit for States. "Delhi reported a revenue surplus of ₹1,487 crore in 2022-23. In 2023-24, this figure was budgeted at a significantly lower ₹5,769 crore, with revised estimates reflecting a further 13% decline. For 2024-25, the projected surplus stands at just ₹3,231 crore — a sharp 38% drop from the previous year's revised estimates.

With the rising fiscal burden of freebies, the revenue account is likely to slip into deficit unless States substantially scale up their revenue generation," she told *The Hindu*. She further pointed out that the wide array of freebies — including cash transfers for women, pensions for senior citizens, and subsidised electricity — would increase annual revenue expenditure by ₹10,000-₹12,000 crore. In the long run, this could result in higher taxes and reduced consumption among the middle class.

Does the judiciary have a role?

In August 2022, the Supreme Court referred a series of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of electoral freebies to a three-judge Bench. The lead petition, filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay, contended that such populist measures undermine the constitutional guarantee of free and fair elections.

During the proceedings, a bench led by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana even suggested forming an expert panel to solicit recommendations from key stakeholders. This marked a significant departure from the Court's earlier position. In *S. Subramaniam Balaji vs Government of Tamil Nadu* (2013), the Supreme Court ruled that such matters fell within the domain of legislative policy and were beyond judicial scrutiny. It further underscored that such expenditures could neither be deemed unlawful nor characterised as a "corrupt practice," particularly since they sought to advance the Directive Principles of State Policy. However, there has been no effective hearing in the challenge since November 23, 2023.

According to senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, there is little that courts can do to distinguish welfare measures from populist sops and pre-election inducements. "It is the legislature's prerogative to rein in unchecked competitive populism. The judiciary should not intervene in the choices made between voters and their elected representatives," he said.

Political Freebies in Elections

Delhi Assembly Elections:

- **AAP:** ₹2,100/month allowance for women, ₹21,000 for pregnant women, subsidized LPG cylinders.
- **BJP:** ₹2,500/month for low-income women, free electricity under solar energy scheme.
- **Congress** also joined the trend.

Raises questions on **whether these are welfare measures or electoral politics.**

- **Freebies vs. Welfare Politics**
- **Core challenge:** No clear definition of **what constitutes a freebie.**
- Some argue that **freebies amount to bribery** and discourage voters from making informed decisions.
- Others argue that **freebies can empower voters** and act as **targeted social welfare.**



Where Does One Draw the Line?

Dr. K.K. Kailash's Perspective (Political Science,
University of Hyderabad):

- Welfare provisions **enhance rights and freedoms**, such as mid-day meals and public transport.
- Freebies **do not improve human capabilities** but **create dependency**.



• **Cash Transfer Schemes:**

- Have **increased electoral success** in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Haryana.
- However, they **fail to stimulate market activity** and may **create economic distortions**.

Economic Impact of Freebies

Fiscal Deficit Concerns:

- **Delhi's revenue surplus:** ₹14,457 crore (2022-23) but revised estimates for 2024-25 predict a **sharp drop to ₹3,331 crore.**
- **Rising freebies = declining revenue account = higher taxes or reduced public spending.**

Study by Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI):

- Cash transfers **empower women** but also **mitigate risks of domestic violence**.

Judiciary's Role in Freebie Culture

2022 Supreme Court Proceedings:

- Considered a PIL **seeking guidelines** to regulate freebies.
- BJP leader **Ashwini Upadhyay** argued freebies **distort free elections**.

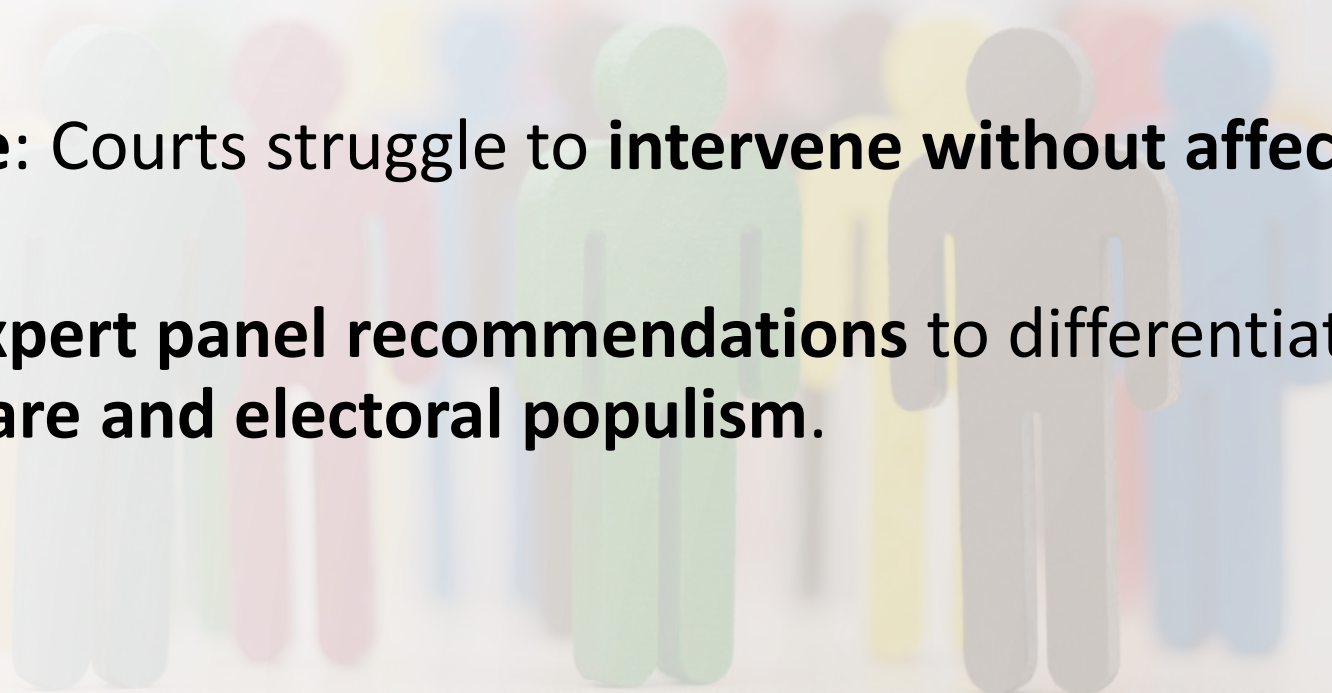
CJI's View:

- Suggested **forming an expert panel** to collect stakeholder recommendations.

Legal Complexity:

- **I.T. Subramaniam Balaji v. Govt. of Tamil Nadu (2013):** SC ruled that **courts cannot define what constitutes a freebie.**

- **Conclusion**
- **Distinguishing Welfare from Freebies:** Welfare schemes aim for **long-term economic stability**, while freebies **often lead to revenue deficits**.
- **Judiciary's Challenge:** Courts struggle to **intervene without affecting competitive politics**.
- **Possible Solution:** **Expert panel recommendations** to differentiate between **social welfare and electoral populism**.



"HEINOUS CRIMES"
Parents of Walyar girls to be prosecuted
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RAT-HOLES OF MEGHALAYA
Regional party pins hope on Article 371 to resume mining
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CLEARING APPREHENSIONS
Telangana Minister meets OBC leaders
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Keeping an eye on the growing arc of violence
The warnings should not be ignored
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Rohit finds his touch as India seals series
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INSIDE

'Israel willing to execute Trump's Gaza proposal'
WASHINGTON
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has hailed U.S. President Donald Trump's plan, which has sparked concern and condemnation across the world, to move Palestine out of the war-battered Gaza Strip, saying Israel is willing to "do the job". » PAGE 14

Change in nuclear law may enthrone U.S., French firms
NEW DELHI
Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris and Washington beginning on Monday, government's announcement that it would amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act, 2010, and the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, is likely to enthrone American and French nuclear power companies, whose projects have been deadlocked due to legal concerns. » PAGE 4

U.S. aircraft to be a major draw at Aero India
BENGALURU
The U.S. will showcase the fifth-generation F-35 fighter jet, the aerial refuelling aircraft tanker KC-135 Stratotanker, the B-1 supersonic heavy bomber, and F-16 fighter jets at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. This is the 15th time that the U.S. is participating in Asia's biggest air show, which will be held from February 10 to 14. » PAGE 6

Biren quits as Manipur CM after meeting Shah

Governor accepts resignation, asks him to continue till alternative arrangements made; Union Home Secretary reviews security situation in State, forces asked to be available at short notice; Rahul reacts to resignation, says for nearly two years, CM Biren Singh instigated division in Manipur, PM Modi allowed him to continue despite the violence

Vijalata Singh
NEW DELHI
Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stepped down from the post following a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Sunday.
Mr. Singh, who was summoned to the national capital by Mr. Shah, tendered his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhatia soon after reaching Imphal.
The Governor accepted the resignation and asked him to continue in office till "alternative arrangements are made", the Raj Bhavan said in a statement.
A senior government official said that President's Security forces were asked to maintain high alert amid likelihood of violence by vested interests



N. Biren Singh hands in his resignation as Manipur Chief Minister to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhatia in Imphal on Sunday.

and were asked to be ready for deployment at "short notice".
The Army and police were instructed to deploy checkpoints on arterial roads to prevent the infiltration of Meitei insurgent groups from neighbouring Myanmar, watch out for

CM appears to have lost support before resigning
GUWAHATI
Out of 46 MLAs of Manipur's ruling National Democratic Alliance, 15 members include the Naga People's Front and the Janata Dal (U), only 20 turned up for a meeting held by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh before his resignation. » PAGE 5

State coupled with availability of a large number of looted police weapons with civilians and other armed radical groups. Disrupting the peace in the hills, Kakching, Imphal, Moirang and Thoubal were identified as "likely hot-spots" for violence.

A no-confidence motion was expected to be moved against Mr. Singh by Congress legislators in the Assembly session which was set to begin on Monday.
Late on Saturday, Mr. Singh, along with five others, had landed in New Delhi on a chartered flight. On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Singh met Mr. Shah for 15-20 minutes at the latter's residence and upon his return to Imphal, he submitted the resignation to the Governor. He was accompanied by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Manipur in-charge Sambit Patra and State party president A. Sharda Devi.
More than 250 people have been killed in the ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023.
More than 60,000 people have been displaced.
The resignation also comes in the wake of a February 4 order by the Supreme Court to ascertain the veracity of the alleged audio recordings said to be that of Mr. Singh, where the speaker is heard claiming credit for orchestrating violence against the Kuki-Zo community.
Reacting to the development, Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said on X that "for nearly two years, BJP's CM Biren Singh instigated division in Manipur".
He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi allowed him to continue despite the violence, loss of life, and the destruction of the idea of India in Manipur.

Come hell or high water



Tuskers cross the Ashramud Lake to participate in a temple festival at Puzhamburuthu in Kollam, Kerala on Sunday. Elephants are widely used in festivals in the State, often in difficult environments. © Suresh/Anadolu

BJP begins talks on selecting Delhi CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after winning 48 out of 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly election, a delegation of the BJP's winning candidates in the capital, led by Delhi BJP president Vinendra Sachdeva, met Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Sunday.
Mr. Sachdeva was accompanied by Parvash Sahib Singh, who defected to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi, Kailash Gahlot, former AAP Minister who switched over to the BJP in November 2024, and Arvind Singh Lovely, who was the Chief of the Congress's Delhi unit until the party's winding up in May last year.

BJP sources said it was a courtesy call and another meeting with other new MLAs was yet to be scheduled. Left office sources said the meeting's time had not been fixed.
The BJP's topmost leadership, including party president J.P. Nadia and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will meet the election in-charge Bajajant Panda and Mr. Sachdeva to discuss the selection of a Chief Minister for the capital.
Sources in the party added that since Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be abroad for a few days, the oath-taking of the new MLAs will happen once he is back. The Chief Minister will be announced accordingly.
Earlier, the BJP MLAs stated their party was ready with roadshows and rallies, thanking the Bengaluru police action for the victory of the party.
The 48 MLAs later met at the Delhi BJP Headquarters.

31 Maoists, 2 police killed in Chhattisgarh



One of the two constables injured in an encounter with Maoists being brought to a private hospital in Raipur on Sunday.

Shubhomov Sikdar
RAIPUR
In the biggest anti-Maoist operation of the year, at least 31 alleged extremists were gunned down by security forces in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday, police said.
Two security personnel were killed and two injured in the gun battle. Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range) P. Sundarraj said the encounter had taken place when a security team conducted a search in the National Park jungles on a tip-off about the presence of Maoists.
The encounter began around 8 a.m. and the exchange of fire continued intermittently till 4 p.m. The bodies of 31 uniformed Maoists — 20 men and 11 women — were recovered, Mr. Sundarraj said.
The bodies of head constable Narash Dhrup of the District Reserve Force and constable Vait Raote of the Special Task Force were taken to the district headquarters. The two injured personnel, said to be of danger, were flown to Raipur for treatment.
Arms and ammunition, including AK-47, FN30 and .303 rifles and grenade launchers, and other explosives were recovered, the police said.

Beatles moment in Bengaluru for Ed Sheeran, as police break up his impromptu concert

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

British policemen objecting to the Beatles' impromptu concert on the rooftop of their Abbey Road studios in London is part of the legendary music band's lore. Eighteen years later, U2's rooftop performance of *Where The Streets Have No Name* got similar treatment in 1987, iconic events and incidents that marked the Fab Four's decade-long musical reign have seen parallels in the lives of charmers to the Beatles mantle.
On Sunday afternoon, another impromptu performance on a city street, this time by British pop singer Ed Sheeran on Church Street in Bengaluru, was stopped abruptly by the police. The global musician, who is in the city for



The police stop an impromptu performance by Ed Sheeran on Church Street in Bengaluru on Sunday.

his Mathematics concert, was singing his pop hit number *Shape of You* on Church Street when a policeman disconnected his microphone. Mr. Sheeran could be heard saying, "We have permission to be here."
He took to Instagram and shared a story saying, "We had permission to busk by the way. Hence, us

on Church Street on Sunday. "Event managers approached us seeking permission. But we do not allow for such events on the busy street, as there are chances of large crowds gathering and the artists themselves being mobbed. So we rejected permission. However, Mr. Sheeran turned up and began to busk on the street. We even received a call from the public to our emergency helpline 112, following which our personnel went and stopped the artist's performance," he said.
Last year, when the police evicted street vendors from Church Street, buskers were also advised not to perform on the street. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Civic Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath said: "There is a rule that permission needs to be taken for busking. But people continue to play and sometimes action is taken."
Meanwhile, those who were on Church Street at the time of the gig expressed disappointment about what happened. "Just saw Ed Sheeran on Church Street. He sang his song, but sadly the police stopped him in the middle," an X user posted.
The Beatles broke up soon after their impromptu performance. U2's star faded somewhat after their Joshua Tree splash. Sheeran, who, playing himself, accepted the musical superstition of the Beatles in Danny Boyle's film *Yesterday*, would be hoping that in a reversal of history, the Bengaluru police action would signal an extended, successful career.

Biren quits as Manipur CM after meeting Shah

Governor accepts resignation, asks him to continue till 'alternative arrangements made'; Union Home Secretary reviews security situation in State, forces asked to be available at short notice; Rahul reacts to resignation, says for nearly two years, CM Biren Singh instigated division in Manipur, PM Modi allowed him to continue despite the violence

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stepped down from the post following a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Sunday.

Mr. Singh, who was summoned to the national capital by Mr. Shah, tendered his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla soon after reaching Imphal.

The Governor accepted the resignation and asked him to continue in office till "alternative arrangements are made", the Raj Bhavan said in a statement.

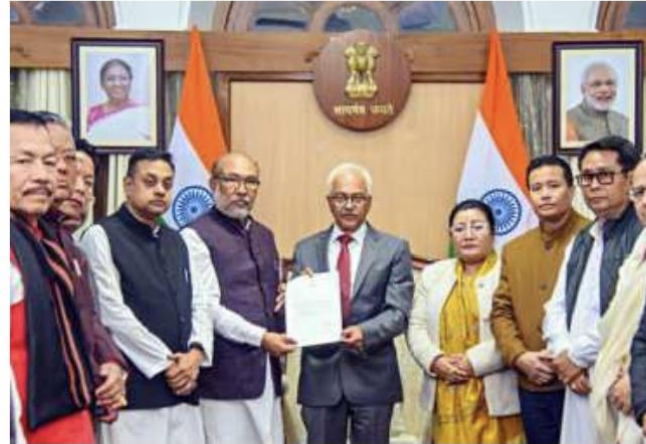
A senior government official said that President's Rule is a likely option in the State only if no other party or BJP member stakes

claim to form the government. The BJP State leadership was said to be in a huddle to decide the next course of action.

The Assembly session that was to be convened on Monday was declared null and void by the Governor on Sunday evening.

Internal security

A top government source told *The Hindu* that around 11 a.m. on Sunday, ahead of Mr. Singh's resignation, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a virtual meeting to review the internal security situation in Manipur. The meeting was attended by the Army, Assam Rifles and Manipur Security Adviser Kuldip Singh. Security forces were asked to maintain high alert amid likelihood of violence by vested interests



N. Biren Singh hands in his resignation as Manipur Chief Minister to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal on Sunday. ANI

and were asked to be ready for deployment at "short notice".

The Army and police were instructed to deploy checkpoints on arterial roads to prevent the infiltration of Meitei insurgent groups from neighbouring Myanmar, watch out for

protests by women groups such as Meira Paibis, and were asked to keep a check on the activities of the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in the hills.

The source said that the meeting was convened owing to the expected political developments in the

CM appears to have lost support before resigning

GUWAHATI

Out of 46 MLAs of Manipur's ruling National Democratic Alliance, whose constituents include the Naga People's Front and the Janata Dal (U), only 20 turned up for a meeting held by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh a day before his resignation. » PAGE 5

State coupled with availability of a large number of looted police weapons with civilians and other armed radical groups. Districts such as Jiribam, Kakching, Imphal, Moirang and Thoubal were identified as "likely hotspots" for violence.

A no-confidence motion was expected to be moved against Mr. Singh by Congress legislators in the Assembly session which was set to begin on Monday.

Late on Saturday, Mr. Singh, along with five others, had landed in New Delhi on a chartered flight. On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Singh met Mr. Shah for 15-20 minutes at the latter's residence and upon his return to Imphal, he submitted the resignation to the Governor. He was accompanied by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Manipur in-charge Sambit Patra and State party president A. Sharda Devi.


More than 250 people have been killed in the ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023.


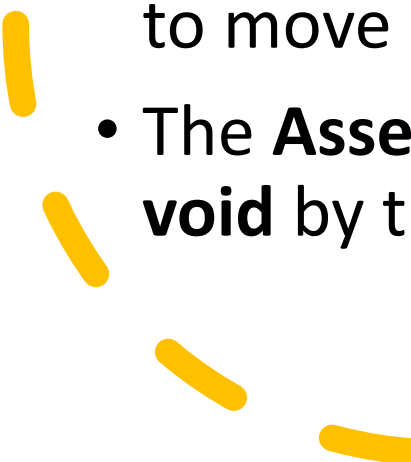
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The resignation also comes in the wake of a February 4 order by the Supreme Court to ascertain the veracity of the alleged audio recordings said to be that of Mr. Singh, where the speaker is heard claiming credit for orchestrating violence against the Kuki-Zo community.



Reacting to the development, Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said on X that "for nearly two years, BJP's CM Biren Singh instigated division in Manipur".

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi allowed him to continue despite the violence, loss of life, and the destruction of the idea of India in Manipur.

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- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh** resigned following a **meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah** in New Delhi.
 - His resignation was **submitted to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla** upon his return to Imphal.
 - The **Governor accepted the resignation** and asked Singh to **continue in office until an alternative arrangement is made.**
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- **Political Developments:**
 - **Loss of Support:** Out of **46 MLAs** in Manipur's ruling **NDA** alliance, only **20** attended **Singh's** final meeting, indicating a **loss of confidence**.
 - **Expected No-Confidence Motion:** Congress legislators were preparing to move a **no-confidence motion** against him.
 - The **Assembly session** scheduled for **Monday** was declared **null and void** by the Governor.
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- **Security Concerns:**
 - A **high-level security meeting** was held, chaired by **Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan**, with representatives from the **Army, Assam Rifles, and Manipur Security Advisor Kuldeep Singh**.
 - **Forces were placed on high alert** to prevent any violence. **Checkpoints were deployed** on arterial roads to prevent infiltration from Myanmar.
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- **Rahul Gandhi's Reaction:** The **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha** accused **Singh** of instigating division in **Manipur** and **blamed PM Narendra Modi** for allowing him to continue in office despite the violence.
 - **What's Next?**
 - **President's Rule** may be an option if no **BJP leader** stakes claim to form the government in Manipur.
 - **State BJP leadership** is deliberating on the next course of action for governance.
- 

Official Language	Meitei (Manipuri)
Known as/for	The 'Switzerland of India' – Lord Irwin Jewel of India – Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Physical Characteristics	About 90% of the land are mountainous. Physiographically, Manipur may be characterized in two distinct physical regions – an outlying area of rugged hills and narrow valleys and the inner area represents the features of flat plain topography with all associated landforms.
Natural Vegetation	(1) Tropical Semi-ever Green (2) Dry Temperate Forest (3) Sub-Tropical Pine (4) Tropical Moist Deciduous

Major Regional Festivals	Lai Haraoba, Ningol Chakouba, Cheiraoba, Chumpha, Gang Ngai, Heikru Hitongba, Kut
Major Art Forms	Dance – Ras Lila, Pung Cholom, Maibi, Khamba Khamba Thoibi, Nupa Cholom or Kartal Cholom (Cymbal dance) Music – Kullong Ishei, Lai Haraoba Ishei, Pena Ishei, Thoubal Chongba, Nat Sangkritan, Nupi Pala, RasLila, Khubak Ishei
Industry	Handlooms, Sericulture, soap making, carpentry, tanning, bamboo and sugarcane products
Minerals	Chromite, limestone, serpentinites (green marble), hydrocarbon

Geographical Indications	Shaphee Lanphee, Wangkhei Phee, Moirang Phee (All are textiles) Kachai lemon
State Animal	Sangai
State Bird	Nongyeen
State Flower	Siroi Lily
State Tree	Uningthou
World Heritage Sites	—
Ramsar Sites	Loktak Lake – known for its circular floating swamps called <i>phumdis</i> , making it the only floating National Park in the world. Phumdis, resembling miniature islands, refers to a collection of the heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil, and organic matter at various stages of decomposition.
Biodiversity Hotspots	Indo-Burma (Purvanchal Hills)

National Parks	Keibul Lamjao National Park situated on the southern shore of the Loktak Lake. The park was initially declared as a Sanctuary in 1966, to preserve the natural refuge of the endangered Brow-antlered Deer – Sangai (<i>Rucervus eldi eldi</i>).
Biosphere Reserve	—
Wildlife Sanctuaries	Khongjaingamba Ching WLS, Yangoupokpi-Lokchao WLS

IN BRIEF

President to visit Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj today

President Droupadi Murmu will visit the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Monday and take a holy dip at the Sangam, her office said...

Shinde extends financial aid to kin of Tukaram descendant

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has extended financial assistance of ₹32 lakh to the family of the late kirtankar (religious singer) Shrirish Maharaj More...

In a first, chiefs of Air Force and Army fly together in light combat aircraft Tejas

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh and Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi created history on Sunday as they flew together on the light combat aircraft Tejas on the eve of Aero India 2025.

The two service chiefs, who were course mates at the National Defence Academy in Pune, took off on a Tejas trainer aircraft from the Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, and landed a few minutes later upon completion of a successful sortie. This is the first time that two service chiefs were aboard a military jet.



Making waves: Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, right, and General Upendra Dwivedi after taking a sortie in a Tejas on Sunday. PFI

The Army Staff General Bipin Rawat had also flown in the trainer version of the aircraft during Aero India 2019.

Global confidence in India's aerospace capabilities is growing, says Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister hails participation of over 90 countries in Aero India show; Defence Secretary says government hopeful that supply of LCA Tejas from 2025-26 would be as per the original plan

Dinakar Perri BENGALURU



Charting progress: Rajnath Singh speaks at a press conference ahead of Aero India 2025, in Bengaluru on Sunday. HIMALAYAN K.

The light combat aircraft (LCA) production line has stabilised, not only at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) but also for General Electric (GE) engines, Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, said on Sunday.

"We are sure from 2025 onwards, LCA Tejas supply will be as per the original plan," he said. He also noted that the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Defence Ministry were discussing various approaches and that "appropriate options would be addressed" to keep the armed forces ready for all kinds of situations.

"We are working with our American partner GE so that their supply gets streamlined in 2025-26 and going forward," he added. Earlier in the day, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited HAL and saw the LCA-Mk1A jets, the delivery of which has been delayed due to engine delays and other issues.

Amid delays in modernisation and falling fighter squadron strength, both the Russian Su-57 and American F-35, both fifth-generation fighters, will be present at Aero India. This year's Aero India, in its 15th edition, is spread over a total area of over 42,000 sq. m, with the confirmed participation of 931 exhibitors, including 150 foreign companies, making it the biggest till date.

Mr. Rajnath Singh termed the participation of more than 90 countries a testament to the growing global confidence in India's aerospace and defence capabilities.

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The fifth-generation F-35 fighter jet, the aerial refuelling tanker aircraft KC-45 Stratotanker, the B-1 supersonic heavy bomber, and F-16 fighter jets are among the aircraft from the U.S. that will be on display at the Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru.

This is the 15th time that the U.S. is participating in Asia's biggest air show, which will be held from February 10 to 14.

Over 20 exhibitors at Aero India, more than two dozen U.S. exhibitors will engage with Indian counterparts, explore new business opportunities, and demonstrate innovative solutions in aviation and defence. These companies will display advanced systems, fighter aircraft, advanced avionics, and defence electronics.

Jorgan Andrews, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, will lead the high-level delegation of representatives



Supersonic flights: A view of the fifth generation F-35 fighter jet, which will be on display at Aero India 2025. AP

from the U.S. Departments of State, Defence, and Commerce. "The United States is excited to once again participate in Aero India, and to spotlight our strong defence ties with India. Our cooperation in defence trade, and training is integral to our growing strategic partnership," Mr. Andrews said.

SUDOKU

5x5 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to the previous puzzle, showing the completed 5x5 grid.

Aero India, biggest air show in Asia, to begin today in Bengaluru



Soaring high: Indian Air Force fighter jets perform during the final rehearsal ahead of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Saturday. AAI

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Starting Monday, the sound and sight of roaring military jets will rock the Bengaluru skies as the Aero India air show will kick off at the Yelahanka Air Force Station here.

The 15th edition of Asia's biggest air show will be inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The first three days are dedicated to business visitors, while the last two days are open to the general public.

Aero India 2025 will witness the participation of two of the world's most advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft - the Russian Su-57 and the American F-35 Lightning II. It marks a milestone in global defence collaboration and technological advancement, offering aviation enthusiasts and defence experts an unparalleled prospect to witness these state-of-the-art warplanes," the Defence Ministry said.

Among the aircraft which will be on display are the fifth-generation fighter jet, the Su-57, from Russia, the F-35, the KC-45 Stratotanker, and B-1B Lancer from the U.S., and the Warrior transport aircraft KC-390 Millennium from Brazil. While the Su-57 will be making its debut at the Aero India, this will be the second outing for the F-35 at the show.

Mr. Singh will host the Defence Ministers' Conclave on February 11 in hybrid mode. The theme "Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement (BRIDGE)" underscores the importance of global aviation, trade and strategic collaboration in defence, officials said.

U.S. aircraft to be a major draw at Aero India

General Kevin Schneider, Commander, U.S. Pacific Air Forces; Brigadier-General Patrick Teague, senior defence official, U.S. Mission in India; and Consul-General Chris Hodges, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, will also be part of the U.S. delegation.

Deepened defence ties Since Aero India 2023, the U.S. and India have deepened defence ties, including through technology innovation, expanded trade, and increased cooperation in maritime security, cyber, and counter-terrorism operations.

General Schneider said: "Aero India 2025 is an ideal forum to showcase U.S. defence aircraft and equipment and ultimately contribute toward our compatibility and interoperability with other nations."

FAITH

Plight of Sita at Asokavana

Children will feel disgusted if anybody speaks ill of their parents, and a disciple will feel sorry if any slanders are hurled at his Guru. Devotees will become upset if anyone indulges in the vilification of God. A woman cannot tolerate derogatory remarks about her husband.

Tenderness of heart, compassion of the extreme type, fidelity, wisdom of the most genuine kind, courage of the heart, and endurance are all qualities that make Sita a heroic abode.

Sri Hanmodara Dilshakar said in a discourse that Sita was upset while captive at Asokavana. All that Sita looked upon was hateful, and all that she heard from Ravana was murderous in the extreme. Ravana and the demons not only threatened her but dispraised her beloved husband, Rama.

Sita felt her family was tormented like people struggling in a capsized boat. Sita told Ravana, "However independent, I did not get permission from Rama. Otherwise, I would burn and reduce you to ashes. It would be a disgrace to Rama if I had killed you." She said destiny would follow people in different forms, and it came to her through a golden deer.

THE CROSSWORD 14404

15x15 crossword puzzle grid with some letters filled in.

- Across: 1 Got state transport, didn't like it at first (8,5); 10 Get them out in the next spell - both evacuated (5); 11 Dash for poor loser... in case (9); 12 Both sides accept only the French style, for example (4,5); 13 Indian city traffic millions follow (5); 14 At sea escort a small vessel (7); 15 Observes from the east gets up to attack (3,4); 16 To be paid more than expected (7); 17 Order a state to consume Indian stuff (7); 18 Fish for Jack - he never ate any fat (5); 19 Demoralised domes in UP - places to go on a trip (5,4); 20 Desperately clings to a wrist (9); 21 Talking about reality - some of it is bizarre (5); 22 Change of heart in love, provoke for doing a patch-up job (7,6); 23 Down: 1 Carbon copy - everyone came up to see a star (7); 2 Came together to eat most of the fruit - that was never-ending (9); 3 Ran with one inside two parts of a circle (5); 4 Reveals record mixes (9); 5 Treats one is not totally against (5); 6 Spinner gets to bowl to a hooker (7); 7 The green man could be found here (5,8); 8 Mrs. Lee manages to do it (6,7); 9 Told to study, say 'heart of a music maker' (4,5); 10 To allow briefly to gather pace - a brave monument (5,4); 11 A sure shot - India borders on a supercontinent (7); 12 Support a black leader - send up some coffee (7); 13 Mark one in two (5); 14 Old South American preserved (5)

U.S. aircraft to be a major draw at Aero India

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The fifth-generation F-35 fighter jet, the aerial refuelling tanker aircraft KC-135 Stratotanker, the B-1 supersonic heavy bomber, and F-16 fighter jets are among the aircraft from the U.S. that will be on display at the Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru.

This is the 15th time that the U.S. is participating in Asia's biggest air show, which will be held from February 10 to 14.

Over 20 exhibitors

At Aero India, more than two dozen U.S. exhibitors will engage with Indian counterparts, explore new business opportunities, and demonstrate innovative solutions in aviation and defence. These companies will display advanced



Supersonic flight: A view of the fifth generation F-35 fighter jet, which will be on display at Aero India 2025. AP

cements in unmanned aerial systems, fighter aircraft, advanced avionics, and defence electronics.

Jorgan Andrews, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, will lead the high-level delegation of representatives

from the U.S. Departments of State, Defence, and Commerce.

"The United States is excited to once again participate in Aero India and to spotlight our strong defence ties with India. Our cooperation in defence, trade, and training is inte-

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Deepened defence ties



Since Aero India 2023, the U.S. and India have deepened defence ties, including through technology innovation, expanded trade, and increased cooperation in maritime security, cybersecurity, logistics, and counter-terrorism operations.


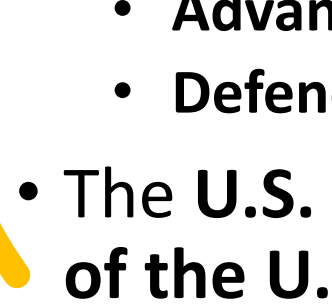
General Schneider said: "Aero India 2025 is an ideal forum to showcase U.S. defence aircraft and equip-

ment and ultimately contribute toward our compatibility and interoperability with other nations."

"The growth in Indian and U.S. bilateral defence trade has corresponded with growing interoperability through information sharing, liaison officers, training exercises, and defence enabling agreements. The importance of our partnership continues to grow, particularly as we face an increasingly complex and dynamic security environment in the Indo-Pacific," he added.

Final Approach, the 10-member ensemble of the the United States Air Force Band of the Pacific, will perform for the public at Aero India on February 13 and 14 and at 5 p.m. on February 11 at the Christ University auditorium.

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- The **fifth-generation F-35 fighter jet, KC-135 Stratotanker (aerial refueling tanker), B-1 supersonic heavy bomber, and F-16 fighter jets** will be among the **U.S. aircraft** showcased at **Aero India 2025** in Bengaluru.
 - **Aero India 2025** will be held from **February 10 to 14** and marks the **15th time the U.S. is participating in Asia's largest air show.**
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- **U.S. Presence at Aero India 2025:**
 - **Over 20 exhibitors** from the **U.S.** will engage with Indian counterparts in:
 - **Unmanned aerial systems**
 - **Fighter aircraft**
 - **Advanced avionics**
 - **Defence electronics**
 - The **U.S. delegation** will be led by **Jorgan Andrews, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.**
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- **Strengthening U.S.-India Defence Ties:**
- The event will **highlight deepening defence cooperation between India and the U.S.**, particularly in:
 - **Technology innovation**
 - **Expanded defence trade**
 - **Cybersecurity & counter-terrorism operations**
 - **Maritime security & logistics**

The U.S. delegation will include:

- **General Kevin Schneider**, Commander of U.S. Pacific Air Forces
- **Brigadier-General Patrick Teague**, Senior Defence Official, U.S. Mission in India
- **Consul-General Chris Hodges**, U.S. Consulate General, Chennai

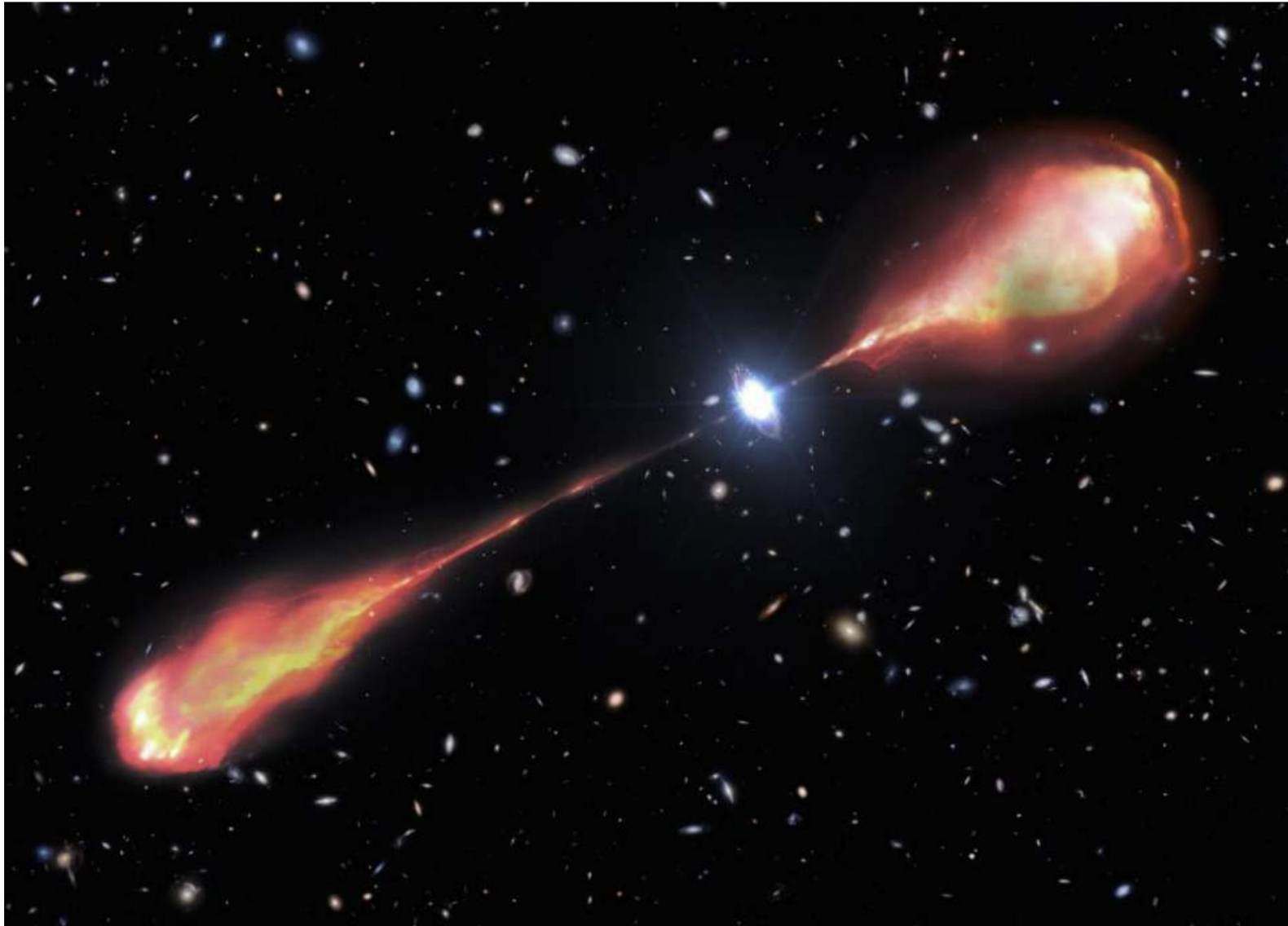
U.S. Emphasizes Indo-Pacific Security Cooperation:

The U.S. aims to strengthen defence interoperability with India to address the evolving security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.


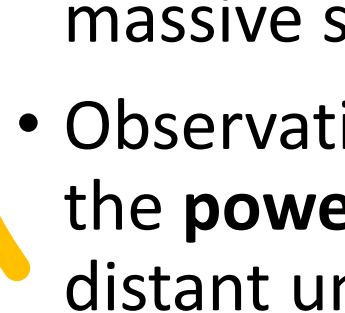
General Schneider highlighted Aero India 2025 as a key forum to showcase U.S. defence capabilities, partnerships, and military cooperation with India.



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- **Cultural Presence at Aero India 2025:**
 - **Final Approach**, the **10-member ensemble of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific**, will perform at **Aero India on February 13 & 14**, and also at **Christ University Auditorium on February 11 at 5 p.m.**
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Defense Pact	Year Signed	Purpose	Key Features
General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)	2002	Secure exchange of military intelligence	Protects classified military information shared between India and the U.S.
Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)	2016	Logistics support and cooperation	Allows mutual use of military bases for refueling, repair, and resupply.
Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)	2018	Secure communication interoperability	Enables India to access secure U.S. military communication equipment.
Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)	2020	Geospatial intelligence sharing	Provides real-time satellite and geospatial data for enhanced targeting and navigation.
Industrial Security Agreement (ISA)	2019	Protects classified defense information	Allows private Indian companies to collaborate with U.S. firms on defense projects.
Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)	2023	Defense technology cooperation	Focuses on AI, quantum computing, and advanced defense manufacturing.



Telescopes around the world spotted a colossal radio jet issuing from a quasar dating back to the first billion years of the universe. Twice as wide as the Milky Way galaxy, this jet of radio waves is the biggest ever detected so early in the history of the universe, astronomers reported on February 6. NOIRLAB/NSF/AURA/M. GARLICK

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- **Astronomers have detected an enormous radio jet** emerging from a quasar dating back to the first billion years of the universe.
 - This jet of **radio waves is the largest ever observed from such an early epoch** in cosmic history.
 - The jet is **twice as wide as the Milky Way galaxy**, indicating its massive scale.
 - Observations were made using **telescopes worldwide**, showcasing the **power of modern astronomical instruments** in studying the distant universe.
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- **Significance:**
 - **Understanding Early Cosmic Structures:** This discovery helps scientists study how early quasars and their black holes influenced the formation of galaxies.
 - **Insights into Radio Jets:** These jets are produced by supermassive black holes and play a **crucial role in galaxy evolution**.
 - **Breakthrough in Astronomy:** Finding such a massive jet in the **first billion years of the universe** provides new insights into early cosmic activity and the nature of quasars.
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India's opportunity at the AI Action Summit

In early January, India accepted France's invitation to co-chair the AI Action Summit on February 10 and 11 in Paris. This summit will be the third of its kind, following meetings focussed on AI safety in the U.K. (2023) and South Korea (2024). In addition to AI safety, the agenda at Paris is to focus on innovation, public interest AI, future of work, and AI governance issues — presenting India an opportunity to continue its global engagement on AI safety and also amplify the voice of the Global South on broader AI issues.

This article outlines how India can leverage the opportunity to advance three key priorities for the Global South. Doing this well could also strongly position India to host the next such summit, which brings together decision makers on AI policy, industry at the forefront of AI development, and civil society representatives for an inclusive dialogue on AI.

Voice of the Global South
The first meeting in Bletchley Park focussed on the safety of frontier AI models, the emerging risks of AI, and launched the U.K. AI Safety Institute (AIISI). The second meeting in Seoul expanded the scope of the conversation to multilateral collaboration on AI risk management through a network of AIISIs with countries/blocs such as the U.S., France, Singapore, Japan, and the European Union. With ministerial and high-level bureaucratic representatives from both the meetings, India has actively engaged in the global discourse on AI safety. As a next step, India's IT Minister recently announced plans of setting up an AI Safety Institute in India.

In other multilateral fora with leadership roles, India has championed the safety of AI in the Global South, which has not leveraged the transformative potential of AI as much as more developed parts of the world have. Under India's presidency in 2023, the G20 endorsed a "pro-innovation



Shatakata Sahu
Senior Research Analyst, Technology and Society Program, Carnegie India

regulatory/governance approach" to balance AI innovation and the need to develop guardrails for AI. Soon after, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) meeting hosted by India in December 2023 emphasised the need for "equitable access to critical resources for AI research and innovation" and underscored the need for enabling AI applications for developing AI applications.

Priorities in Paris
India's vision for the Global South could now benefit from the broad agenda of the Paris meeting. To maximise this opportunity, India should focus on three key strategic priorities. First, India must advocate for democratising access to AI resources across the entire AI value chain. While India's domestic initiative of establishing a common computing facility with over 18,600 GPUs and 40% government subsidy sets a compelling example, the scope must expand beyond computing hardware. This includes ensuring equitable access to data sets, data storage infrastructure, cloud computing platforms, foundation models, and application development platforms.

In addition, India should promote distributed computing solutions, an alternative to traditional computing infrastructure, and access to innovative safety tools like watermarking technology. The promotion of open-source AI models deserves particular attention. DeepSeek's success demonstrates both the potential of open-source models and the need to address export control measures that currently constrain AI model development. India must advocate for more flexible cross-border transfer of AI technologies while maintaining appropriate safety standards.

Second, India should work for developing a framework for identifying and prioritising AI use-cases relevant to the Global South's unique contexts. This approach ensures that AI applications serve local needs

rather than becoming solutions in search of problems. Instances include early disease detection systems adapted to local healthcare infrastructure, personalised learning platforms that account for diverse educational contexts, and agricultural productivity tools calibrated to regional farming practices. The establishment of an AI use-cases repository following the summit could provide guidance for the Global South in determining its priorities.

Third, India must emphasise the importance of contextualising AI risks and safety measures for the Global South. The challenges faced by developing nations often differ significantly from those of the Global North. Cultural erosion through exposure to large language models trained on "western data" represents one such unique risk. The Yonbaa Benjo-led expert report on International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI highlights that risk is derived from the "probability of an occurrence of harm and severity of that harm." Risks are thus future-looking but grounded in already occurred harm. In Paris, India must thus call for collecting evidence of AI-related harms, in contexts, to inform their risk mitigation strategies. A repository of AI-related harms could also help inform any future regulatory approaches of the Global South.

Looking ahead
As co-chair of the Paris meeting, India must leverage its position to advance the key AI priorities of the Global South.

Doing so would also position India as an ideal candidate to host the next AI Action Summit, which would ensure continued focus on the Global South perspective on AI. This would, in turn, cement India's role as a bridge between the AI superpowers in the Global North and developing nations catching up in the global AI sphere.

The death penalty is a quick-fix approach adopted by governments to quell anger

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sabay Singh
shiv.sabay.singh@rediffmail.com

In February 7, the Calcutta High Court rejected the West Bengal government's appeal seeking the death penalty for the man convicted for the rape and murder case of a woman at the R.G. Kar Medical College in Kolkata last year.

The judgment was criticised by many people for noting that the crime, which involved extreme brutality, did not fall under the "rarest of rare" category, and there was a clamour again for the death penalty for the convict. About a month after the incident, it passed the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the State Assembly, which contains provisions for the death penalty in almost all cases involving rape. The Bill is awaiting a nod from the Union government.

However, on January 20, the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sealdah, Anirban Das, spared the convict of the murder case stating that the crime does not fall in the category of "rarest of rare" crimes. While awarding the convict life imprisonment, the judge stated that the nature of the crime was not to match "brutality with brutality", but to elevate humanity through wisdom, compassion, and a deeper understanding of justice. "In the realm of modern justice, we must rise above the primitive instinct of 'an eye for an eye' or 'a tooth for a tooth' or 'nail for a nail' or 'a life for a

life," he noted in the order. The judge added that the temptation of bowing to public pressure or emotional appeals.

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While inordinate delays in investigation and trial often frustrate the faith of the people in the judicial system (justice delayed is justice denied), hurried investigations and trials can be equally dangerous (justice hurried is justice buried).

The Justice J.S. Verma Committee, formed in 2012 to reform laws related to sexual assault in India, was not inclined to recommend the death penalty for rape even in the "rarest of rare" cases. The Committee had pointed out that "there is considerable evidence that the deterrent effect of the death penalty on serious crimes is actually a myth".

Tackling crimes against women requires a multi-pronged strategy. This includes better police and ensuring safer workplaces for women. It was shocking that the convict in the R.G. Kar case, a civic police volunteer, had walked into the seminar room of the State-run health facility in the dead of the night without facing any checks at the hospital gates. It is a fact that hardly any background checks are conducted while recruiting contractual staff, who are entrusted with helping the law enforcement discharge their duties. These are the issues that need urgent redress and were in fact some of the demands of the protesters who had hit the streets last August. Even the parents of the victim believe that the death penalty is not the only way to ensure justice. They had said that they want the investigative agencies to look at the "larger conspiracy" and are seeking punishment for others involved in the crime.

The death penalty is a quick-fix approach adopted by governments to quell anger and protests. The trial court judge had rightly recognised and resisted it.

China contributes substantially to U.S.' biggest imports

The highest share of Washington DC's imports comes from the three nations hit by President Donald Trump's newest trade tariffs

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump announced additional tariffs on imports from China, Canada, and Mexico amidst what the White House referred to as a national emergency caused by "illegal aliens and drugs". In retaliation, China said it would implement counter tariffs.

Of the more than 75 countries with which the U.S. maintains trade relations, China accounted for 18% of all of its imported services between 2018 and 2023, which is the highest share, followed by Mexico (14%) and Canada (13%).

The U.S. imported goods worth \$17,000 billion between 2018 and 2023. Of these, electrical machinery and equipment accounted for 15%, vehicles and their parts accounted for 11%, and nuclear machinery and appliances, 9%. Chart 1 shows the top 15 goods and services imported by the U.S. between 2018 and 2023 (in %).

Charts 2-10 show the country-wise share of the top nine goods and services imported by the U.S. China's share was the highest in eight of the 15 listed items, including two of the three most imported products — electrical and nuclear machinery. China accounted for the highest share of imported iron or steel, plastics and clothing (20-30%); furniture (about 40%); and toys (nearly 80%). It also contributed the second highest share in the imports of measuring instruments, organic chemicals, and rubber.

Mexico contributed to the highest share of imported vehicles and measuring instruments. It was also among the top three countries exporting electrical and nuclear machinery, furniture, iron or steel, and rubber to the U.S.

Canada contributed to almost half of the mineral imports to the U.S., as well as high shares of plastic, vehicles, and iron or steel.

Trading blows

The data for the charts were sourced from the United Nations' Comtrade Database

Chart 1: Top exporters of electrical machinery and equipment to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
China	33.35%
Mexico	17.50%
Vietnam	7.66%
Malaysia	6.93%

Chart 2: Top exporters of vehicles and related parts to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
Mexico	32.97%
Canada	15.36%
Japan	15.18%
Germany	8.21%

Figures indicate country-wise share of major U.S. goods imports.
*Includes other optical, photographic, measuring instruments.
Not Elsewhere Specified

Country	Share (%)
China	27.66%
Mexico	16.98%
Japan	8.28%
Germany	6.92%

Chart 3: Top exporters of nuclear machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
China	21.24%
Mexico	17.99%
Japan	8.06%
Germany	6.91%
Other Asia, NES*	6.79%
Canada	6.05%

Chart 4: Top exporters of mineral products to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
Canada	46.69%
Mexico	7.65%
Saudi Arabia	6.41%
Russian Federation	4.17%
Iraq	3.24%

Chart 5: Top exporters of apparel and clothing accessories to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
China	26.6%
Vietnam	16.94%
Bangladesh	7.85%
Indonesia	5.30%
India	5.13%

Country	Share (%)
China	12.49%
Germany	11.02%
Ireland	7.72%
Japan	6.81%

Chart 6: Top exporters of apparel and clothing accessories to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
China	26.6%
Vietnam	16.94%
Bangladesh	7.85%
Indonesia	5.30%
India	5.13%

Chart 7: Top exporters of precious stones and metals to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
India	15.33%
Switzerland	13.20%
South Africa	9.30%
Canada	9.01%
Israel	7.43%

Chart 8: Top exporters of surgical instruments* to the U.S.

Country	Share (%)
Mexico	16.87%
China	12.49%
Germany	11.02%
Ireland	7.72%
Japan	6.81%

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1975

Tobacco industry to come under Union Govt. control

New Delhi, Feb. 9: The tobacco industry will be brought under the control of the Union Government and a cess will be levied on the entire production of virginia tobacco and on exports of all types of tobacco to finance the proposed tobacco board.

Provisions to this effect are contained in the Tobacco Board Bill that has been introduced in the Lok Sabha at its last session. The Bill is expected to come up for consideration and adoption in the budget session.

The board with its headquarters at Guntur will have 21 members including the Chairman, three ex-officio MPs, who will be selected by the two Houses of Parliament, the other members will be appointed by the Union Government. They will include representatives of the Union Ministers dealing with agriculture, commerce, finance and industrial development, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments.

Besides these, the Centre will appoint two members to represent the tobacco-growing States, other than Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by rotation in alphabetical order. There will also be eight members to represent tobacco growers, dealers, and exporters/manufacturers of tobacco products and exports in tobacco.

The Board will regulate production and curing of virginia tobacco, keep a watch on virginia tobacco market, and ensure fair and remunerative price for the growers, develop new markets for Indian tobacco, recommend minimum export price for virginia tobacco, and make purchases from growers to give price support to growers.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1925

Service ideal in journalism

Calcutta, Feb. 9: Speaking at a meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association yesterday, Mr. Arthur Moore, acting editor of *The Statesman*, said a newspaper does not exist as a publicity organ for aspiring people to find their names in its pages, but there were certain responsibilities on the editorial side of a newspaper whose main function was provision of news and formation of public opinion. A journalist must cultivate a spirit of service.

Trading blows

The data for the charts were sourced from the United Nations' Comtrade Database

Chart 2: Top exporters of electrical machinery and equipment to the U.S.



Chart 3: Top exporters of vehicles and related parts to the U.S.

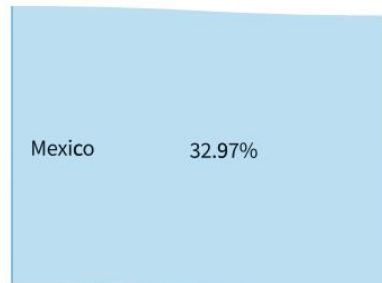


Chart 1: Top 15 goods imported by the U.S. between 2018 and 2023 (in %)



Chart 4: Top exporters of nuclear machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S.

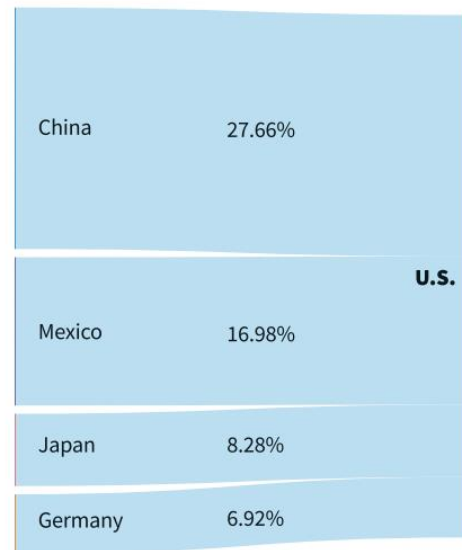


Chart 6: Top exporters of machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S.

Chart 5: Top exporters of mineral products to the U.S.

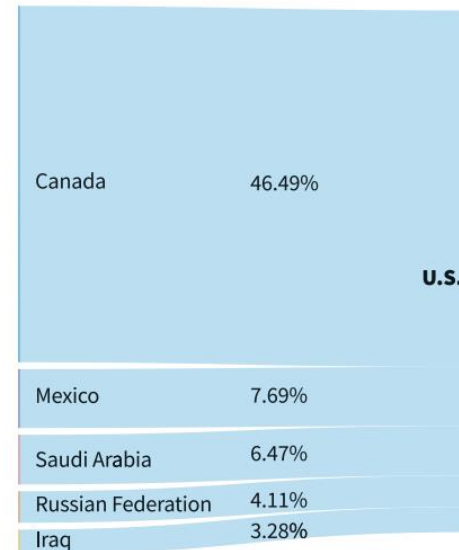


Chart 7: Top exporters of pharmaceutical products to the U.S.

Chart 8: Top exporters of surgical instruments* to the U.S.



Chart 9: Top exporters of apparel and clothing accessories to the U.S.



Chart 10: Top exporters of precious stones and metals to the U.S.



Chart 6: Top exporters of machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S.



Chart 7: Top exporters of pharmaceutical products to the U.S.



Chart 10: Top exporters of precious stones and metals to the U.S.



Figures indicate country-wise share of major U.S. goods imports.

* Includes other optical, photographic, measuring instruments

^ Not Elsewhere Specified

SUPER SUNDAY
Rohit becomes fourth-highest run-getter for India in ODIs



Rohit Sharma, in his 50th ODI as India captain, scored 119 against England on Sunday. He became the fourth-highest run-getter (30,887) for India in the 50-over format, overtaking Rahul Dravid (20,889), Sachin Tendulkar (18,426), Virat Kohli (13,311) and Sourav Ganguly (11,363) occupy the top three spots.

LIGHTS OFF
Floodlight failure halts proceedings in Cuttack



Play in the second India-England ODI in the over-six-decade-old Barabati Stadium was stopped as one of the six towers of the floodlights malfunctioned. The incident happened when the tower adjacent to the iconic clock tower malfunctioned, resulting in a brief stoppage at 6.15 p.m. The lights were restored at 6.45 p.m.

TRUST
Indian dressing room has always backed skipper Rohit, says Jadeja



Ravindra Jadeja showered praise on skipper Rohit Sharma. "The entire world may be behind him but in our dressing room, there was no such atmosphere. He is such a great player that he knows exactly how to build his innings. It didn't even occur to me he hadn't scored runs in the previous innings," Jadeja said on Sunday.

TERRIFIC TOUR
Australia wins second Test, secures series sweep against Sri Lanka



Australia wrapped up a dominant 2-0 sweep of the Test series against Sri Lanka at Galle on Sunday, romping to a nine-wicket victory before lunch on day four. The scores: Sri Lanka 257 & 231 in 68.1 overs (Matthews 76, Kasu 50; Kulmarnani 4163, Lyon 4164) vs Australia 414 & 75/1 in 17.4 overs. **PolM:** Carey. **Pos:** Smith.

Rohit roars back to form as Team India thrashes England, seals series in style

The skipper's 32nd ODI century helps the Men in Blue chase down a target of 305 with ease; Gill proves able foil with a stroke-filled half-century

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Y.B. Saranani
CUTTACK

Rohit Sharma shone bright in the Silver City to end a prolonged lean patch with a magnificent hundred and guide India to a convincing four-wicket win against England in the second ODI and seal the three-match series at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday.

Electing to bat, England relied on Ben Duckett and Joe Root's fitness to score a challenging 304. India rode on skipper Rohit's breezy knock (60, 12x4, 7x6) to cruise to the target and delight the home fans in the run-up to the Champions Trophy.

Opening the innings with Shubham Gill, Rohit broke the shackles off the seventh ball he faced by charging down and getting a four in the 13th man region. Showcasing his old touch, the India captain flicked the next delivery over midwicket for a six to a rousing approval from a partisan crowd.

A lofted shot over cover and a stunning straight-batted six off Saqib Mahmood in consecutive overs underlined Rohit's class. His riveting tale of revival, relying on his self-belief, dented the lanky Gill's graceful half-century (60, 5x2, 2x4, 1x6). The 100-ball 136-run opening stand feared some dangerous strokes on the leg-side.

Rohit, who did not lose his focus despite an interruption due to floodlights malfunctioning, played trademark shots on both sides of



Demolition man: Rohit's blistering 119 snuffed out England's challenge. K.R. DEEPAK

the wicket. Virat Kohli, who replaced Yashasvi Jaiswal after missing the first ODI due to a knee problem, took guard much to the delight of his fans.

Kohli lasted just eight balls before DRS overturned the on-field umpire's decision and ruled him caught behind.

Rohit continued to light up the night sky with his blitzkrieg and brought up

his 32nd hundred in style by stepping out and hotting leg-spinner Adil Rashid for a six over long-off. His dazzling performance ended when he sided Liam Livingstone to mid-wicket.

India lost Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul and Hardik Pandya before Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja finished the task.

Earlier, England openers Duckett and Phil Salt batted smartly as they played the ball late and found the gaps to post their third 50-plus partnership on the trot.

Varun breaks through
Debutant spinner Varun Chakravarthy provided the breakthrough in his second over. Salt, left out on six, mistimed one and Jadeja took a high catch at mid-on in the 11th over.

Southpaw Duckett (65, 5x6, 1x4x4), who cut, pulled and flicked, fell shortly after England crossed 100.

The accurate Jadeja, who kept it tight, struck in his opening over as Duckett found Hardik at long-on.

Joe Root (69, 7x2, 6x4), who survived two lbw shouts, and Harry Brook forged a 66-run stand.

Harshit Rana broke the association as Gill ran to his right from mid-off to pluck a spectacular catch and send back Brook.

Root, who pulled and reverse-swept with class, and Jos Buttler added 51 off 53 deliveries. Hardik removed Buttler with Gill taking a low catch at mid-off.

Root scooped one to Kohli at long-off and Jamie Overton was caught by Gill — the fielder's third of the night — as Jadeja completed his 100.

Livingstone's cameo took England past the 300-mark but it wasn't enough once Rohit found his range.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND
Phil Salt c. Rahul b. Varun 26 (22), 2x4, 1x6; Ben Duckett c. Hardik b. Jadeja 65 (66), 2x6; Joe Root c. Kohli b. Jadeja 69 (72), 6x4; Harry Brook 2, Gill b. Harshit 31 (22), 3x1, 2x4; Jos Buttler c. Gill b. Hardik 36 (36), 2x4; Liam Livingstone 41 (28), 2x4, 2x6; Jamie Overton c. Gill b. Jadeja 5 (20); Ashwin c. Kohli b. Shami 3 (7); Adil Rashid run out 4 (18), 3x1; Mark Wood run out 0 (2); Saqib Mahmood (not out) 4 (2); Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-2), 15; Total (in 49.5 overs): 304.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-81 (Salt, 10.5 overs), 2-152 (Duckett, 23.5), 3-186 (Brook, 29.4), 4-219 (Buttler, 38.4), 5-248 (Root, 42.3), 6-258 (Overton, 48.4), 7-272 (Ashwin, 47.2), 8-297 (Rashid, 48.5), 9-304 (Livingstone, 49.4).

INDIA BOWLING
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ENGLAND BOWLING
Mahmood 6-0-36-0, Ashwin 7-0-5-1, Wood 8-0-27-1, Rashid 10-0-78-1, Overton 5-0-27-2, Livingstone 7-0-29-1, Root 1-3-0-15-0.

TESTING: Pankaj Ravi
India won by four wickets with 33 balls remaining to beat

Third and final ODI: February 13, Ahmedabad, 1.30 p.m.

Fiery Teichmann rules the day

MUMBAI OPEN WTA 125

Tarun Shastri
MUMBAI

In a showdown of contrasting styles, Switzerland's Jil Teichmann's aggressive game trounced Thailand's Samnanchaya Sawangkaew's deft touches at the Cricket Club of India on Sunday. The 27-year-old former World No. 21 overwhelmed Sawangkaew 6-3, 6-4 in the final to clinch the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125 title.

Teichmann took the opening game of the first set with a combination of net play, powerful serves, and solid forehand. The 22-year-old Thai, currently ranked 121, responded well, hitting a stunning ace to level. However, the relentless Teichmann quickly asserted her dominance, showcasing remarkable



Teichmann.

stamina. She dominated rallies, producing stunning cross-court shots and backhand winners. Her perfect execution served down the "T" was a key weapon, helping her win four consecutive games to establish a 3-3. However, Teichmann held firm with her exceptional groundstrokes to win the final with relative ease in straight sets.

Earlier in the doubles final, the Indo-Dutch duo of Prarthana Thombare and Ariane Hartono went down to Anshika Anshika and Elena Prtidankina 7-6 (4), 6-2, [10-7].

Buoyed by French support, Jacquet pockets the title

CHENNAI OPEN

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Kyrian Jacquet ensured that it was a rather memorable maiden visit to the SDAF tennis stadium for budding nine-year-old fan Tamara, as the Frenchman beat Sweden Elias Ymer 7-6 (0), 6-4 in the final to clinch the Chennai Open ATP Challenger title here on Sunday.

Buoyed by the support from his companions in the stands, he earned \$22,730 and 100 ranking points.

Jacquet banked on his strengths — slicing often to break his opponent's rhythm and rushing the net for winners.

The 23-year-old hit three successive backhand slices



Jacquet at J. Jothi Ramanigam

in a 10th rally when he was 4-3 up in the first set. He later produced the most spectacular stroke of the match: a mid-air between-the-legs volley.

It helped Jacquet that his opponent was alarmingly error-prone. Jacquet won

the first set tie-break 7-1, courtesy of Ymer's six unforced errors. The champion played a forehand cross-court pass to Ymer's drop from the net for his first point. Ymer won his sole point when Jacquet double-faulted.

From there, Ymer made at least 13 unforced errors, including a double fault, until he won 1-4 in the second set.

He caught up and made it 4-4, before making three unforced mistakes to help his opponent hold serve with a 10-9 tie-break. He saved a match point in the next game in the tie-break, but immediately after for Jacquet to break serve and win the match.

"I would like to dedicate thanks to my grandfather who passed away in December," said Jacquet.

Quartermiler Aishwarya triumphs

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

Quartermiler Aishwarya Mishra has thrown up many surprises in the past. She has skipped meets and then popped up with some very fast times, but on Sunday she produced a season-opening stunner that virtually knocked out everybody watching her in the 38th National Games athletics competition at the Ganga Stadium here.

The 24-year-old from Maharashtra clocked a personal best 51.12s — the fourth-fastest Indian time ever — while winning the 400m gold by a huge margin and breaking her own three-year-old National Games record by more than one second.

Vibha Ramraj, the defending champion, was more than three seconds behind for the silver.

"I couldn't believe that I have run a personal best, I really thought it would be something like 52s. I was like in a trance for five to 10 minutes," Aishwarya, the Asian silver medalist, told *The Hindu*.

"I felt like I was running 300m, not in 400. I'm very happy about that."

Nobody, not even National record-holder Hima Das (record 50.79s, Jakarta Asian Games 2018) has started the season like this. Are there bigger things coming as the season gets into full swing?

"I'm hoping to break the National record if everything goes well," said Aishwarya whose previous best (51.18) came in April 2022.

Aishwarya said she had been training at Dehradun for the last 20 days.

Women's 400m: 1. Aishwarya Mishra (Mah) 51.12s MR, OR own 52.20, 2. Vibha Ramraj (TN) 54.43, 3. Devyani Zala (Guj) 54.44.

100m hurdles: 1. Jyothi Varug (AP) 13.10s MR, OR own 13.22, 2023; 2. Mounita Mondal (WB) 13.36, 3. Nithya Ramon (TN) 13.60.

Long jump: 1. Mounita Mondal (WB) 6.21m, 2. Sandra Babu (Ker) 6.12, 3. Deepanshi Singh (UP) 6.11.

Javelin throw: 1. Jyoti Rakesh (Hr) 55.50m, 2. Karishma Seneel (Ker) 55.53, 3. Ramyashree Jain (Ker) 54.85.

4x100m relay: 1. Karnataka 45.99s, 2. Kerala 44.94, 3. Telangana 47.58.

Tennis: Women's doubles semifinals: Vandheha Chaudhari & Zeev Ingal (Guj) vs Jyoti Rathi & Aditi Tyagi (Hr) 6-1, 7-6 (5).

Peepu Ingal & Anshika Anshika (Mah) Diya Chaudhary & Jaya Kapoor (UP) 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

Stunning run: Maharashtra's Aishwarya broke her own women's 400m National Games record while winning. RITU RAJ KONWAR



Record breaker: Andhra's Jyothi bettered her women's 100m hurdles mark on her way to gold. RITU RAJ KONWAR

SUPER SUNDAY

Rohit becomes fourth-highest run-getter for India in ODIs


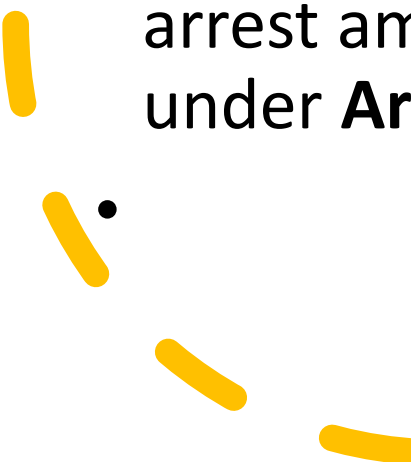




K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit Sharma, in his 50th ODI as India captain, scored 119 against England on Sunday. He became the fourth-highest run-getter (10,987) for India in the 50-over format, overtaking Rahul Dravid (10,889). Sachin Tendulkar (18,426), Virat Kohli (13,911) and Sourav Ganguly (11,363) occupy the top three spots.



**Informing Accused
Grounds of Arrest
Constitutional
Requirement**

- 
- The Supreme Court of India has ruled that informing an accused of the grounds of arrest is not a mere formality but a mandatory constitutional requirement.
 - **Supreme court ruling**
 - The Court held that failing to inform the accused of the reasons for arrest amounts to a **violation of fundamental rights** enshrined under **Article 22, Part III** of the Constitution.
- 

- 
- The information must be conveyed in a manner that effectively communicates the grounds of arrest to the accused in a language they understand.
 - The court also referred to **Article 21** and said no person could be deprived of their liberty except in accordance with the legal procedure.
- 

- **Constitutional Provisions**
 - **Article 22(1)** of the Indian Constitution states; No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as possible, of the grounds for such arrest.
 1. The arrested person shall not be denied the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice.




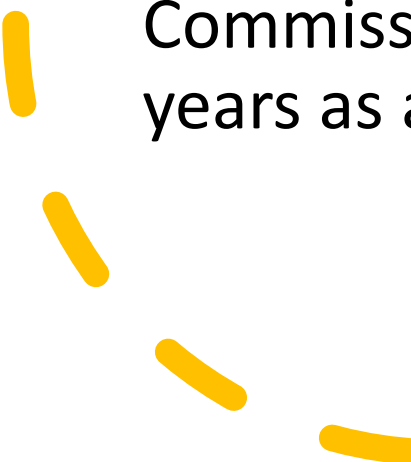
Significance



Burden of Proof on Law Enforcement: If an accused alleges a violation of Article 22(1), the police must prove compliance with the mandate.


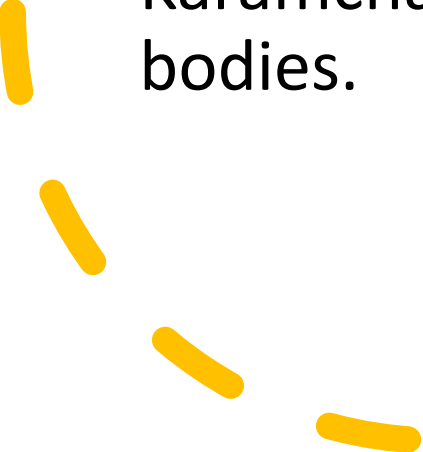
Judicial Oversight: Judicial magistrates, when granting remand, are required to ascertain whether compliance with Article 22(1) and other legal safeguards has been met.

The logo features a large white circle centered on an orange background. A dashed yellow arc is positioned on the left side of the white circle, and a solid blue circle is located at the bottom right edge of the white circle. The text "National Commission for Safai Karamcharis" is centered within the white circle in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

- 
- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** tenure until March 31, 2028, with a financial implication of around Rs 51 crore.
 - **About the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**
 - It was established on 12th August 1994 under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, initially for a period of 3 years as a statutory body.
- 

- 
- The Act was extended until 2004, after which the Commission became a **non-statutory body** under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - The Commission takes suo-motu notice of issues affecting Safai Karamcharis based on media reports or observations.
 - **Composition** : The Commission consists of a Chairperson (Union Minister of State rank), a Vice-Chairperson (Secretary rank), five members (including one woman member), and a Secretary (Joint Secretary rank).
- 

- 
- **Mandate of the Commission:** Recommend programs for the elimination of inequalities for Safai Karamcharis (sanitation workers). Evaluate and study social and economic rehabilitation programs for Safai Karamcharis and scavengers.
 - Monitor working conditions (health, safety, wages) of Safai Karamcharis employed by various employers, including government bodies.
- 



India's Single Largest Solar Cell Making Unit

- The CM of Tamil Nadu inaugurated India's single largest solar cell and module manufacturing unit at the Gangaikondan SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre.

- **About**

- The Gangaikondan SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre is an industrial park in the village of Gangaikondan, **Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.**

-



It was set up by Tata Power's solar energy manufacturing arm, TP Solar Limited.



Capacity: The facility would produce photovoltaic cells and modules for solar power generating units having an annual capacity of around 4 GW.




Production: The unit will produce mono of 182mm and multi-crystalline cells of 158.25mm sizes.



**Bill Proposing
100 days
Parliamentary
Sitting**



Senior Opposition leaders in the Rajya Sabha have introduced Private Member Bills seeking to mandate a minimum of 100-120 parliamentary sittings per year to enhance legislative accountability and scrutiny.



About Proposed 100 Days Sitting in a Year:



Objective of the Proposal:

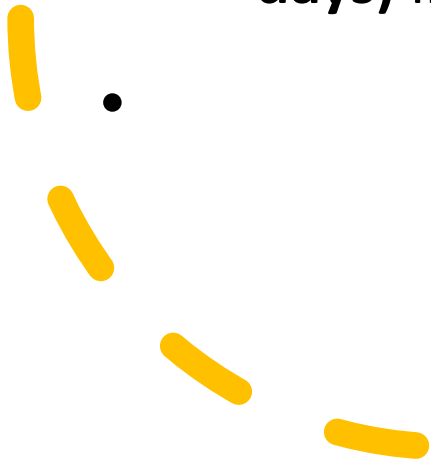
Seeks to **ensure minimum working days (100-120 days) for Parliament** to strengthen deliberative functions and **improve governance accountability**.

Inspired by the **General Purposes Committee (1955)** and **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC, 2002)**.



- **Current Scenario of Parliamentary Sitzings:**

- No constitutional mandate for **minimum sittings**, only **Article 85** and **Article 174** mandate that Parliament and state legislatures must meet at least **twice a year**.
- The **17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024)** had the **lowest full-term sitting (274 days)** in Indian history.



United Kingdom (150-160 days), USA (133-140 days), Canada (130-140 days) have higher parliamentary sittings ensuring **robust debates and scrutiny**.

Legislative Powers with Respect to Sittings:

Article 85 & Article 174 of the Constitution

- Mandates that the gap between two sessions should **not exceed six months**, but **does not specify a minimum number of sittings**.

International Laws Regarding Deportation:



- 1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948)**
 - o Article 13: **Right to freedom of movement** but with **state sovereignty** over immigration policies.
- 2. UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)**
 - o Prohibits deportation of individuals facing **persecution** in their **home country** (**non-refoulement principle**).
- 3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966)**
 - o Article 12: Protects against **arbitrary expulsion** and **guarantees** fair legal proceedings.
- 4. Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963)**
 - o Mandates **prior notification to home** countries before deportation of their nationals.
- 5. Bilateral Agreements & U.S. Immigration Laws:**
 - U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)** governs deportation for visa violations, illegal entry, and criminal offenses.



Top 10 MCQ from the session

- What is the key challenge in distinguishing between welfare and freebies in politics?
- राजनीति में कल्याणकारी योजनाओं और मुफ्त योजनाओं के बीच अंतर करने में मुख्य चुनौती क्या है?
- A. No clear definition of freebies / मुफ्त योजनाओं की कोई स्पष्ट परिभाषा नहीं है
- B. Welfare schemes always lead to economic growth / कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ हमेशा आर्थिक वृद्धि लाती हैं
- C. Freebies do not affect electoral outcomes / मुफ्त योजनाएँ चुनावी परिणामों को प्रभावित नहीं करती
- D. All freebies are illegal under Indian law / सभी मुफ्त योजनाएँ भारतीय कानून के तहत अवैध हैं

- What is one of the negative effects of cash transfer schemes as observed in India?
- भारत में नकद अंतरण योजनाओं का एक नकारात्मक प्रभाव क्या देखा गया है?
- A. They fail to stimulate market activity / वे बाजार गतिविधि को प्रोत्साहित करने में विफल रहती हैं
- B. They increase tax revenue / वे कर राजस्व बढ़ाती हैं
- C. They always reduce fiscal deficit / वे हमेशा राजकोषीय घाटे को कम करती हैं
- D. They increase industrial investment / वे औद्योगिक निवेश को बढ़ाती हैं

- Why did Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resign?
- मणिपुर के मुख्यमंत्री एन. बीरेन सिंह ने इस्तीफा क्यों दिया?
- A. Due to pressure from opposition parties / विपक्षी दलों के दबाव के कारण
- B. Following a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah / केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के साथ बैठक के बाद
- C. Due to a Supreme Court order / सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के कारण
- D. As part of an election campaign strategy / चुनाव अभियान रणनीति के रूप में

- What major security measure was implemented after Singh's resignation?
- सिंह के इस्तीफे के बाद कौन सा प्रमुख सुरक्षा उपाय लागू किया गया?
- A. High alert for security forces / सुरक्षा बलों के लिए उच्च सतर्कता
- B. Imposition of President's Rule immediately / तुरंत राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया
- C. Suspension of all internet services / सभी इंटरनेट सेवाओं को निलंबित कर दिया गया
- D. Curfew imposed in the entire state / पूरे राज्य में कर्फ्यू लगा दिया गया

- Which major U.S. fighter jets will be showcased at Aero India 2025?
- एयरो इंडिया 2025 में कौन से प्रमुख अमेरिकी लड़ाकू विमान प्रदर्शित किए जाएंगे?
- A. F-35, KC-135 Stratotanker, B-1 Bomber, F-16 / एफ-35, केसी-135 स्ट्रेटोटैंकर, बी-1 बॉम्बर, एफ-16
- B. Rafale, Su-30MKI, Tejas, F-22 / राफेल, सु-30एमकेआई, तेजस, एफ-22
- C. C-17, MiG-29, Mirage-2000, Apache / सी-17, मिग-29, मिराज-2000, अपाचे
- D. F-22, F-35, Su-57, J-20 / एफ-22, एफ-35, सु-57, जे-20

- What was the significance of the newly detected radio jet from a quasar?
- एक क्वासर से नए खोजे गए रेडियो जेट का महत्व क्या था?
- A. It was the largest ever observed from an early universe quasar / यह प्रारंभिक ब्रह्मांड के क्वासर से अब तक का सबसे बड़ा देखा गया था
- B. It proved the existence of new galaxies / इसने नई आकाशगंगाओं के अस्तित्व को साबित किया
- C. It confirmed the presence of water in space / इसने अंतरिक्ष में पानी की उपस्थिति की पुष्टि की
- D. It showed that quasars do not emit radiation / इसने दिखाया कि क्वासर विकिरण उत्सर्जित नहीं करते

- What constitutional right was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court regarding arrests?
- सप्रीम कोर्ट ने गिरफ्तारियों के संबंध में किस संवैधानिक अधिकार की पुष्टि की?
- A. Right to be informed of the grounds of arrest / गिरफ्तारी के कारणों की सूचना पाने का अधिकार
- B. Right to remain silent during questioning / पूछताछ के दौरान चुप रहने का अधिकार
- C. Right to free legal aid / मुफ्त कानूनी सहायता का अधिकार
- D. Right to refuse police custody / पुलिस हिरासत से इनकार करने का अधिकार

- What is the role of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)?
- राष्ट्रीय सफाई कर्मचारी आयोग (NCSK) की भूमिका क्या है?
- A. Monitoring working conditions of sanitation workers / सफाई कर्मचारियों की कार्य स्थितियों की निगरानी करना
- B. Conducting cleanliness awareness campaigns / स्वच्छता जागरूकता अभियान चलाना
- C. Providing financial aid to all municipal workers / सभी नगरपालिका कर्मचारियों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना
- D. Implementing Swachh Bharat Abhiyan policies / स्वच्छ भारत अभियान की नीतियों को लागू करना

- Where was India's largest solar cell manufacturing unit recently inaugurated?
- भारत की सबसे बड़ी सौर सेल निर्माण इकाई हाल ही में कहाँ उद्घाटित की गई?
- A. Noida, Uttar Pradesh / नोएडा, उत्तर प्रदेश
- B. Pune, Maharashtra / पुणे, महाराष्ट्र
- C. Gangaikondan, Tamil Nadu / गंगईकोंडन, तमिलनाडु
- D. Gandhinagar, Gujarat / गांधीनगर, गुजरात

- What does the proposed bill on parliamentary sittings aim to achieve?
- संसदीय बैठकों पर प्रस्तावित विधेयक का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Mandate a minimum of 100 days of parliamentary sittings per year / प्रति वर्ष न्यूनतम 100 दिनों की संसदीय बैठकें अनिवार्य करना
- B. Reduce the number of parliamentary sittings / संसदीय बैठकों की संख्या कम करना
- C. Make virtual parliamentary sessions permanent / आभासी संसदीय सत्रों को स्थायी बनाना
- D. Allow MPs to vote remotely from their constituencies / सांसदों को अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से दूरस्थ रूप से मतदान करने की अनुमति देना

Word of the day

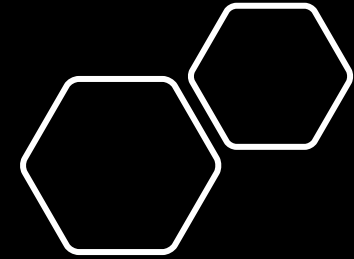
Canard:

a deliberately misleading fabrication; a false or improbable account

Usage: *The book should refute the old canard that he is guilty.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/canardpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kə'nɑːd/



Fun fact



80% of _____'s land is covered by mountains,

The World's Largest Residential Palace

- The **Istana Nurul Iman**, the Sultan's palace, is the **largest residential palace in the world**, with **1,788 rooms**, **257 bathrooms**, and a garage for **110 cars**.





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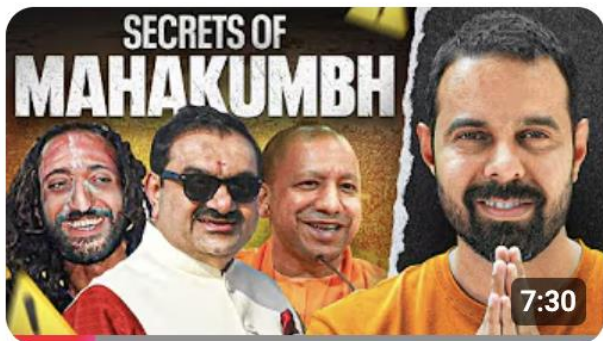


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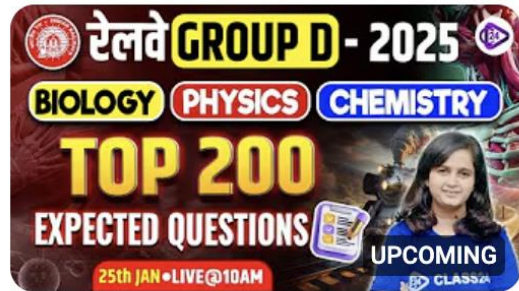


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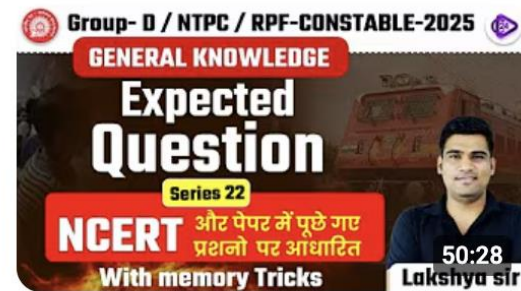


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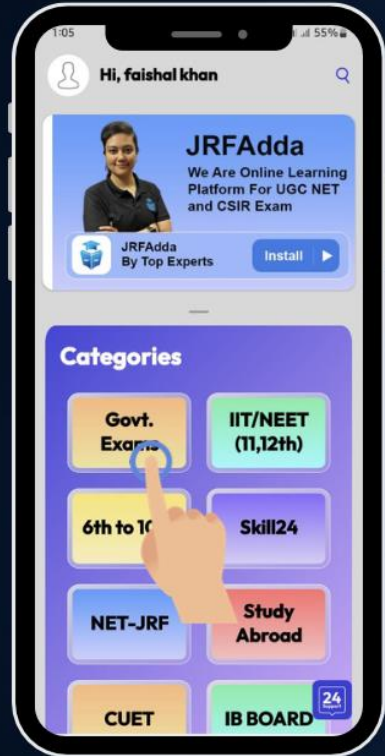
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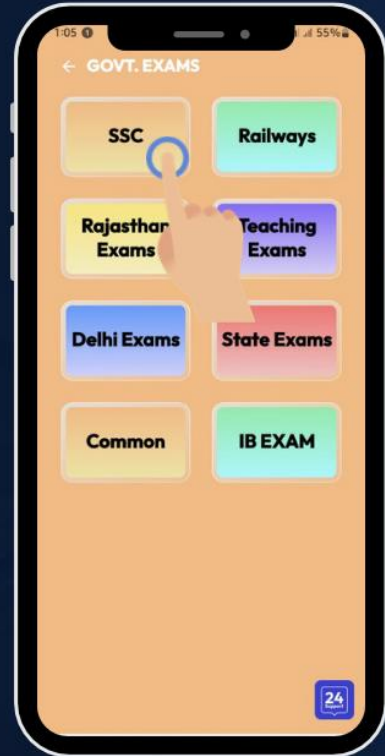
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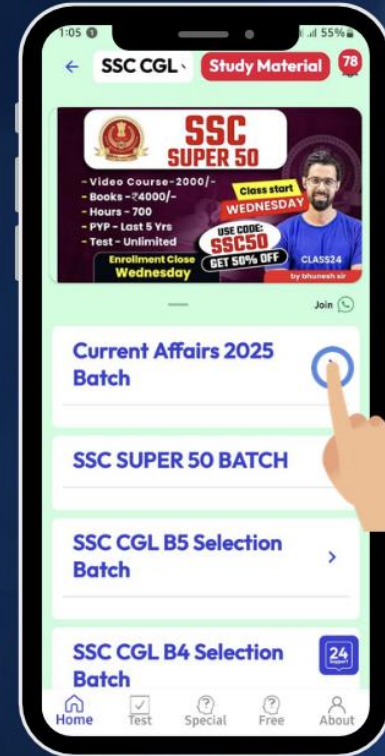
Step 1



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 low, with a soft glow from a window on the right. There are some red dots and an orange bar in the top left corner, and a white line under the text.

Thank you
guys.
