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## NATIONAL

### Contaminated water supply in Indore

- 13 people died due to consumption of contaminated drinking water supplied by the **Indore Municipal Corporation**.
- The whole thing started when patients began pouring into hospitals late in the evening of 29th December after a leakage at Bhagirathpur in the city led to sewage mixing with drinking water mixing with drinking water.

### The Issue of Connectivity network at Airports

- The Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited has established its own "Airport Wi-Fi" ('In Building Solutions' : IBS). In the premises of the airport, mobile phone users could connect with the rest of the World only through this facility. This was revealed through a public display board at the airport.
- This facility will not allow the networks of Jio, Airtel... & other Mobile Network Service Providers unless they pay for it to the operating company.
- It means the Limited will not grant 'Right of Way' (RoW) at the recently opened airport for deploying infrastructure to provide cellular services to air travellers.
- To grant the RoW, the company has sought nearly Rs. 92 lakh per month per telecom company.
- **In this way, the Limited has :**
  - declined to grant the necessary permissions to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)
  - directed TSPs to mandatorily utilize a network deployed by it, at exorbitant and commercially untenable charges.

- The reason, for not granting the RoW to these Cellular Operators, has been extended by the Limited that the airport being a sensitive zone, an IBS type facility must be there to ensure uninterrupted and quality connectivity and exert full control over the system.
- The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI), through a written application, has sought the intervention of the Department of Telecommunication.
- According to the COAI, the airport qualifies as a public entity as per the provisions of **the Telecommunications Act, 2023** and **the Telecommunications (right of Way) Rules, 2023** and due to this reason, the airport operator is statutorily obliged to grant RoW permission in a "non-discriminatory and time-bound manner" for installation of telecommunications structure.
- According to the COAI, the Limited has conferred upon itself exclusive RoW rights under the guise of being a 'neutral host'.
- Such a grant of exclusive RoW or creation of 'monopolistic arrangements' for provision of RoW for the purpose of building the telecommunications network were not permissible under the Law.

### Salvo launch of Pralay by DRDO

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), on December 31, 2025, carried out a salvo launch of two indigenous Pralay missiles from the same launcher at the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- Pralay is an indigenously developed solid propellant quasi-ballistic missile employing state-of-the-art guidance and navigation to ensure high precision. The missile is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads against various targets.





- **Pralay is equipped with**
  1. an advanced Inertial Navigation System (INS),
  2. complemented by a radio frequency seeker to ensure accurate guidance throughout its flight.
- The Pralay test came just a day after India conducted the first flight test of the Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket, also from Chandipur, on Monday and test-fired a **3,500-km range K-4 ballistic missile** from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal on Dec 23

### New taxation regime for tobacco

- The Union Finance Ministry has issued notification to give effect to the new taxation regime for tobacco products from **February 1, 2026**.
- This will be implemented through the Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025, along with the provisions of the Health Security se **National Security Act, 2025**.
- This will end the GST compensastion cess. The cess was originally introduced for a period of five years to compensate States for any loss arising out of the implementation of GST.

### Through this new notification, the new rates for tobacco products will come into existence :

1. Beedis, have been moved to the 18% category from the now-defunct 28% slab.
2. All other tobacco products have been moved to the 40% slab.

### Piprahwa Relics of the Buddha

- Piprahwa is a village/town located in the Siddhartha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The site was the burial place of the ashes of Lord Buddha, which were given to his Shakya clan. A large stupa has also been found here.
- This stupa was excavated by William Claxton Peppe in 1897.

- This relic was taken to England during the British period and was brought back to India through auction in July 2025 held in HongKong. It's auction was stopped by the combined efforts of the **Govt. of India and the Godrej Group**.
- The relic was exhibited in exhibition, named **"The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the awakened one"** in Delhi's Rai Pithauragarh Cultural Complex.
- It was inaugurated by the PM, which was his first public engagement in 2026.

### 72nd National Volley ball Championship

- 4-11 January, 2026, In Varanasi, Inaugurated virtually by the PM.

### India's Oil Imports

- From Russia, India imported oil in November 7.7 million tonnes accounting 35.1% of India's total oil imports that month. It was 7% higher than oil imported in November, 2024. This is 6-month high. Highest volume of oil was imported from Russia, in May 2025 (9 billion tonnes). Value of this import from Russia was \$3.7 billion, which accounts 34% of it's oil bill in that month.
- Last November, India's oil imports from the U.S. jumped to a seven-month high of nearly 2.8 million tonnes, with a **total value of \$1.4 billion**.
- As a result, the U.S. saw its share in Indian oil imports jump to 12.6% that month, from 4.2% and 5.1% a month and a year earlier, respectively.
- According to the European Research Institute, "Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air", in December 2025, **India's total imports of hydrocarbon from Russia was 2.3 arab euro**. (it was 3.3 arab euro in November, 2025)
- According to new data, after China, Turkiye has emerged as the second importer from Russia. India has slipped to third place.



## SC : on Quota candidates & General Category

- The SC bench of **Dipankar Datta and A. G. Masih** ruled that candidates belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs & EWSs are entitled to be recruited to General Category posts if they secure the cut-off marks stipulated for the general category.
- This judgment was given when SC dismissed a petition by **Rajasthan HC** which, while recruiting candidates for certain posts, had barred reserved category candidates from getting appointed against general category posts despite their securing more marks than the cutoff fixed for the general category.

1. When a division bench of HC ruled in favour of reserved category candidates who wanted to be considered for general category posts, the HC moved the apex court, arguing that considering reserved category candidates for general category posts would amount to their being granted double benefit.

- In the Judgment, it is said that as general category is a 'open category, so it must remain open and it could not be closed for those who secure higher marks. The SC said that such denial amounts to **violation of article 14 & 16**.

### Another important judgment

- In its another important judgment on 6 January 2026, the SC (bench of J.K. Maheshwari & Vijay Bishnoi) ruled that if a candidate has availed the facility of the reserved category at an earlier stage, he can't claim benefit of reservation at a later stage.

### What was the matter?

- A **SC candidate in the IFS exam** was declared successful in the reserved category because he had scored less than the general category cut-off of 267 in the preliminary exam (233, which was higher than the reserved category cut-off).

- In the main examination, the candidate secured more marks than the cut-off for the general category but was declared successful in the reserved category only.

1. **Reason:** Because he availed the benefit of reservation due to which he could be considered a candidate of reserved category only and not of general category.

- The candidate's side argued that since he had scored more marks than the General cut-off in the main examination, his result should be declared in the General category on that basis.
- The candidate went to the Karnataka High Court with his complaint along with his side where his side was upheld.

### SC's Judgment

- The Supreme Court rejected the argument of the candidate side and said that once someone has availed the benefit of reservation, then later (in the second or next phase) he will be considered a candidate of the reserved category only, not of the general category.

### iPhone exports from India

- The Apple Company had exported **iphones from India in 2025 worth \$50 billion**.
- With this, electronic goods have been included in top three category of goods exported from India.

### Important Days: World

- 4 January : World Braille Day, on the Birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who
- invented the Braille Script for blind people.

### India

- 3 January : 195th Birth anniversary of Savitri Bai Phule  
5 January : National Bird Day, Theme: "Every bird counts - your observations matter"



## Army's Animal Contingent in Republic Day Parade, 2026

Animal Contingent of the Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) will march in the National Capital During the Republic Day Parade, 2026.

It will be represented by two Bactrian camels, four Zanskar ponies, four raptors, 10 Indian-breed Army dogs, along with six conventional military dogs currently in service. It will highlight the contribution of animals in safeguarding the nation's frontiers.

- Bactrian camels, recently inducted for operations in the cold deserts of Ladakh. Perfectly adapted to extreme cold, thin air and altitudes above 15,000 feet, these camels can carry loads of up to 250 kilograms and traverse long distances with minimal water and feed.
  - the Zanskar ponies, are renowned for extraordinary endurance, carrying **40 to 60 kilograms over long distances at altitudes exceeding 15,000 feet** and in temperatures dropping to minus 40 degrees Celsius.
    1. Since their induction in 2020, they have served in some of the harshest terrains, including the Siachen Glacier.
    2. Beyond logistics, Zanskar ponies play a key role in mounted patrols, sometimes covering up to 70 kilometres in a single day, standing shoulder to shoulder with soldiers in high-risk areas.
  - Raptors (bird of prey, such as hawks, eagles. Owls etc) used for bird- strike control and surveillance, reflecting the Army's innovative use of natural capabilities for operational safety and effectiveness.
  - Army Dogs, often called the "**Silent Warriors**" of the Indian Army. Raised, trained and nurtured by the Remount & Veterinary Corps at the RVC Centre and College, Meerut, these dogs support troops in counter-terrorism operations, explosive and mine detection, tracking, guarding, disaster response and search-and-rescue missions.
- It will serve as a poignant reminder that India's defence strength is not built by machines and soldiers alone. From the icy heights of Siachen to the cold deserts of Ladakh and disaster-hit civilian areas, these animals have quietly shared the burden of duty, courage and sacrifice. They march not just as support elements, but as warriors on four legs, living symbols of resilience, loyalty and the Indian Army's unwavering resolve to protect the nation under all conditions.
  - The corps was initially raised in Bengal in 1779 as the 'Stud Department'. The Army Veterinary Corps was officially established on 14 December 1920. The partition in 1947 led to the division of the assets of the Veterinary and Military Farms corporations in a 2:1 ratio for the Indian and Pakistani armies. The combined Remount, Veterinary and Farms Corporation separated as independent corps in May 1960.

## SC on (J) Verma's new claims

- On 7 January, 2026 the SC (Dipankar Datta & Satish Chandra Sharma) disagreed with the claims of Verma regarding the power of the LS Speaker to form an Inquiry Committee 'unilaterally' in the case the motion was rejected by the Dy. Chairman of the RS.

## Mr. Verma's view (represented by his advocate Mukul Rahtogi) was that

- when two notices of motion, one to the LS Speaker and other to the RS Chairman were given by the MPs on the same day (21 July in this case, on this day the motion was moved in the RS), both House 'have' (compulsorily) to admit the motions and the inquiry committee should be formed jointly by the Chairman and the Speaker (according to the provision of Section 3(2) of the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968).
- What happened in this case that on 21 July, the chairman of the RS had resigned in the evening on the same day, which was accepted by the President on the same day. In this way the post of the Vice- President was declared vacant.



1. For this situation, Article 91(1) provides that While the Office of Chairman is 'vacant', the 'duties of the office' shall be performed by the Dy. Chairman.
2. On the basis of this provision, the Dy. Chairman of the RS assumed the charge of the Chairman of the RS.

- The first proviso of **Section 3(2) of the Act mandated that both Houses had to admit notices** of motion given on the same day and a committee was to be formed jointly by the Chairman and the Speaker in such cases.

- He said the motion had to start afresh as the proviso was silent on the course of action if the notices given on the same day were rejected by one House and admitted by the second House.

- **Mr. Tushar Mehta, representing the Lok Sabha Speaker** and the Secretaries Gen-eral of both Houses of Parliament, said that on 11 August, 2025, the motion was rejected by the Dy. Chairman. In this situation the necessity of formation of an Inquiry Committee 'jointly' by the Chairman and the Speaker was vanished.

1. **On 12 August the Speaker** 'unilaterally' constituted a three-member inquiry committee under the Act, comprising SC Judge Arvind Kumar, CJ of Madras HC M. M. Srivastava and senior advocate Vasudeva Acharya.

- Here, Mr. Rohtagi's point of view was that in light of the **Article 91(1), Dy. Chairman** was supposed to step in only to regulate the House and not in the full charge of the Chairman of the RS.

1. Mr. Rohtagi said the motion had to start afresh as the proviso was silent on the course of action if the notices given on the same day were rejected by one House and admitted by the second House.
2. "Both Houses had to apply their minds to the notices of motion. Not doing that has caused prejudice to me," **Mr. Rohatgi argued on behalf of Justice Varma.**

- The matter was finally heard next on 8 January. While the judgment was kept reserved, the SC directed Justice Varma to appear before the Committee constituted by the Speaker.

The Committee had sought his response in November 2025. The deadline was extended once till January 12, 2026. He was also asked to appear before the committee on January 24.

#### Background:

#### Why is it in the news?

1. On the night of **March 14, 2025**, fire brigade personnel found a large amount of currency while extinguishing a fire at the residence of **Delhi High Court Judge Yashwant Verma** at 30 Tughlaq Crescent Road.
2. No information was provided about the presence of the currencies.

- Delhi High Court Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyay conducted a preliminary investigation into the matter and submitted the report to Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna (on March 22).
- All documents related to the case were publicly uploaded by the Supreme Court.
- Justice Yashwant Verma was relieved of judicial duties.

- The CJI formed a three-member committee to investigate the matter.

- It was Constituted by the CJI, on March 22 (An in-house committee report), consisting of

1. **Sheel Nagu (Punjab & Haryana HC-CS)**
2. **G.S. Sanghawaliya (Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh HC)**
3. **Justice Anushiv Raman (Justice of Karnataka HC)**





- The above committee in its report dated 3rd May has confirmed the allegation of finding a “huge amount” of burnt notes from Justice Verma’s residence at Tughlag Crescent Bungalow (Delhi). The committee has also confirmed the disappearance of such bundles of notes on the night of the incident on 14-15th March.
- The committee submitted its report to the CJI on 4 May, 2025.
- After receiving, the CJI asked Verma to either resign or face impeachment proceedings. Mr. Verma declined to resign.
- Then the report of this committee and the response of the Judge was forwarded by the CJI to the President and the PM. Such report is sent to the President and PM when the accused judge does not agree to resign or take voluntary retirement.
- This paved the way for the Initiation of removal Proceedings against Justice Verma in Parliament.

#### Previous examples:

- **SC Judge V.Ramaswami** : A motion against him was debated and defeated in the Lok Sabha. (In 1991)
- **Justice Saumitra Sen (Calcutta HC)**: Calcutta High Court Judge Soumitra Sen resigned while the debate was still going on in the House. He was accused of embezzling 3.2 million (approximately \$1.2 million) during his tenure as a court-appointed receiver in 1993. He resigned in September 2011 after an impeachment motion.

#### Several other judges have been accused of corruption:

1. Justice Nirmal Yadav (Punjab-Haryana HC) (2008) in a Rs. 15 lakh case, the case is pending.
2. Justice S.N. Shukla (Allahabad HC) (2019) in the Lucknow medical college case.
3. Justice P.D. Dinakaran (Sikkim HC - CJ) (2010) resigned (2011) in connection with the acquisition of substantial assets.

#### UIADI mascot “UDAI”

UIADI (Unique Identification Authority of India) Chairman Neelkanth Mishra released a mascot named “UDAI” on 8th January, 2026.

#### Janshikayat in Bihar

Now, the State government has issued directions to the State officials to hear public grievances on each Monday & each Friday.

#### Electrification of Indian Railways

99.2% of the Indian Railways has been electrified.

#### 1% interest on Agri loan in Bihar

- From 2025-26, farmers will be granted agricultural loans on only 1% interest in Bihar.
- For this an MoU has been signed between the Agriculture Department of Bihar & NABARD on 9 January, 2026.
- The Bihar Govt. has provided 500 crore rupees for 2025-26.

#### Varanasi Tent City violates environmental norms

- The NGT has declared the Varanasi Tent City, inaugurated by PM on January 13, 2023, an violator of Varanasi Tent City.
- The Varanasi Tent City was set up in the riverbed of the Ganges in 2023 in Varanasi.

#### Retail Inflation in December, 2025

Retail Inflation in December, 2025 was 1.33%. It was 0.71% in November, 2025. In September, it was 1.44%.





## India-Germany

Both countries signed 27 MoUs, ranging from Defence production, Semiconductor, Renewable energy.

## UN's special honour to Indian lady soldier

- Indian soldier Major Miss Swati Shantha Kumar has been awarded the prestigious UN Secretary-General's award 2025 for her contribution to gender-inclusive peacekeeping during her tenure in the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- In South Sudan she worked as a part of peacekeeping soldier with her project titled "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace".

## Foreign tourists in Sri Lanka

In 2025, Sri Lanka received a total of 2.3 million tourists out of which 5,31,511 were from India.

## India's pharma exports

- India's pharmaceutical exports during April-November 2025 was 20.48 billion dollar.
- Brazil and Nigeria have emerged as key export destination for Indian Pharma.

## SC : A Judgment, even by mistake, cant be changed

- The SC, in its Judgment rejected a Judgment of the Patna High Court, in which an earlier judgment was changed and bail granted, was cancelled.
- The change by the Patna High Court was made when a mistake was detected that in the judgment, "allowed" was typed, instead of "rejected".

- According to the SC, when a Judgment is signed by the Judge, it can't be changed, in anyway.
- The judgment by the Patna High Court was delivered in case in which an accused in a narcotics case, was granted bail on the basis of that mistake.

## Lithium Reserve in the world

largest lithium reserve - Chile

Three countries having 63% of total Lithium reserve of the world are known as Lithium triangle are

1. Chile
2. Argentina
3. Bolivia

## लोकसभा में महिलाएँ

पहली लोकसभा में - 22 महिलाएँ - 4.50% प्रतिशत

सबसे कम 6th लोकसभा में - 19 महिलाएँ- 3.51%

15 वी लोकसभा में (2009-14) = 58 महिलाएँ -10.68%. (यह पहला अवसर था जब महिलाओं की प्रतिशत Doble digit में रही)

16 वी लोकसभा (2014-19) = 62 महिलाएँ- 11.42%

17 वी लोकसभा (2019-24)=78 महिलाएँ- 14.36%.

18 वी लोकसभा (2024-2029)=74 महिलाएँ-13.63%.

## Fastest growing defence budget

During the period of 2014-24, following countries have fastest growing defence Budget -Total expenditure

- (1) Ukraine = 32.2% growth (64.4 bUSD in 2024)
- (2) Poland = 13.9% growth (38.0 bUSD)
- (3) Israel = 10.1% growth (46.5 bUSD)
- (4) Mexico = 9.5% growth (16.7 bUSD)
- (5) Netherlands = 8.4 growth (23.2 bUSD)
- (6) India = 5.4% (86.1 bUSD)



## Arawali : again in the SC

- On 29 December, 2025 the SC took the case suo motu and a bench under the CJI Suryakant was constituted.
  - On 21 January, 2026, after hearing the matter, the Court ordered to constitute a bench comprising experts from “different walks of life”, including environmentalists, scientists, foresters, and “special experts in regulated mining wherever the law permits”.
  - The court had asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and amicus curiae, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, to suggest names.
  - According to the Court, a team of domain experts help “define” the Aravalli Range, and draw a road map for permissible activities, including the possibility of regulated mining in one of the oldest and ecologically sensitive mountain systems in the world.
  - The experts would work “under the umbrella” of the Supreme Court, directly under the court’s supervision and control, Chief Justice Kant said.
  - Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for an intervenor, questioned the very exercise of trying to define the Aravalli. “Mountains cannot be defined. The Himalayas cannot be defined. These are sub-tectonic strata. If you try to define them, you will run into problems,” Mr. Sibal advised the court.
  - Chief Justice Kant on Wednesday admitted the intervention application represented by Mr. Sibal, saying this was not an adversarial litigation, and views and ideas were welcome.
- The Supreme Court, while staying its own judgment on the definition of the range, had found that only 1,048 Aravalli hills out of a total 12,081 in Rajasthan alone would meet the 100metre elevation threshold and, consequently, the lower ranges would be “stripped off” the environmental protection, exposing them to unregulated mining. The court had agreed that it would be a “significant regulatory lacuna” in safeguarding the Aravalli. “This stay shall remain in effect until the present proceedings reach a State of logical finality, ensuring that no irreversible administrative or ecological actions are taken based on the current framework,” the court had ordered. It had barred fresh or renewed mining leases in the Aravalli region without prior permission of the apex court.

### Background:

- ये अरावली का पूरा मामला शुरू होता है, सुप्रीम कोर्ट के एक निर्णय से जिसके तहत वैसे भू-आकृति (लैंडफॉर्मर्स) जो कम से कम 100 मीटर की ऊँचाई के हैं, को ही अरावली हिल्स माना जायेगा।
- अब अगर फारेस्ट सर्वे ऑफ़ इंडिया के रिपोर्ट को देखा जाए तो इसके सभी राज्यों (दिल्ली, गुजरात, राजस्थान, हरियाणा) में फैले 12,081 पहाड़ियों में से केवल 1048 पहाड़ियां (यानी 8.7% ही) इस क्राइटेरिया के आधार पर अरावली हिल्स के अंतर्गत आयेंगे। बाकी खनन/विकास के नाम पर धीरे-धीरे समाप्त होते चले जायेंगे।
- अरावली थार डेजर्ट को दिल्ली और पूरब की तरफ फैलने से रोकता है और इस कारण दिल्ली और ये सभी जगह डेजर्ट नहीं बने।

### सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पास अरावली से सम्बंधित दो मामले काफी लम्बे समय से चल रहे थे :

1. M.C Mehta versus Union of India (W.P.(c) No. 4677 of 1985);
2. T.N. Godavaman Thirumalpad versus Union of India (W.P.(c) No. 202 of 1995;



M.C Mehta मामले में कोर्ट ने हरियाणा के अरावली में खनन गतिविधियों की निगरानी कर रहा था | M.C Mehta पेशे से एक वकील हैं जिन्होंने पर्यावरण से सम्बंधित कई मामलों में न्यायलय से कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय प्राप्त किये हैं, जो देश और समाज सभी के लिए लाभदायक सिद्ध हुए हैं | इन्हें गोल्डमैन पर्यावरण पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया | इन्हें 1997 में लोक सेवा के लिए एशिया का रेमन मैग्सेसे पुरस्कार मिला | भारत सरकार ने उन्हें 2016 में पद्म श्री का नागरिक सम्मान प्रदान किया।

- इसी मामले में 16 फ़रवरी 2010 को राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा रिचर्ड मर्फी (Richard Murphy) वर्गीकरण की आधार पर अरावली हिल्स की एक परिभाषा बना कर सर्वोच्च न्यायलय में सौंपा गया | लेकिन सर्वोच्च न्यायलय ने 19 फ़रवरी को ही उस परिभाषा को खारिज कर दिया |
- रिचर्ड मर्फी (Richard Murphy) वर्गीकरण के तहत तीन इंडिपेंडेंट वेरिएबल्स (Independent Variables) का प्रयोग किया गया है : Structural geology, Topographic variables (Morphometry) and Erosional/ Depositional processes.

#### Under the Topographic variables (Morphometry) :

- **Mountains** : over 300 meters of local relief;
- **Hills** : 90 to 300 meters of local relief;
- **Plains** : less than 90 meters of relief and gentle slopes.
- T.N. Godavarman मामले में कोर्ट राजस्थान के अरावली में खनन-निगरानी कर रहा था |
- जनवरी 2024 एन न्यायलय द्वारा अरावली की परिभाषा की समस्या को चिन्हित किया गया और अरावली की एकसमान परिभाषा की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया गया |
- 9 मई 2024 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा सामान परिभाषा के लिए MoEF & CC, राज्यों के वन विभागों, फारेस्ट सर्वे ऑफ़ इंडिया, Central Empowered Committee तथा GSI से गठित एक मल्टी एजेंसी कमिटी गठित किया गया |
- अक्टूबर 2025 में कमिटी ने अरावली की एक परिभाषा दी जिसमें 100 मीटर ऊँचाई वाले भू-आकृति को अरावली पहाड़ी माना और वैसे क्षेत्र जिनमें दो पहाड़ियों के बीच 500 मीटर की दूरी हो उसको पहाड़ी का क्षेत्र (range) माना गया |

- सी जे आई बी. आर. गवई की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच, जिसमें के.वी.चंद्रन एवं एन वी. अन्जारिया (Anjaria) भी थे; द्वारा इस पर सुनवाई करते हुए 12 नवम्बर, 2025 को फैसला सुरक्षित कर लिया | यह फैसला 20 नवम्बर, 2025 को डिलीवर किया गया | सी जे आई बी. आर. गवई 23 नवम्बर, 2025 को सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले थे |

#### The Court held that

- only landforms rising at least 100 metres above the local relief would qualify as Aravalli Hills,
- and that clusters of such hills located within 500 metres of each other would form an 'Aravalli Range'
- The Forest Survey of India has reported that of 12,081 hills mapped across multiple states, only 1,048 (8.7 percent) meet the 100 metres criterion. (न्यायालय ने माना कि केवल वे भू-आकृतियाँ जो स्थानीय भू-भाग से कम से कम 100 मीटर ऊपर उठती हैं, अरावली पहाड़ियों की श्रेणी में आएंगी, और ऐसी पहाड़ियों के समूह जो एक दूसरे से 500 मीटर की दूरी पर स्थित हैं, अरावली पर्वतमाला का निर्माण करेंगे। भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण ने बताया है कि विभिन्न राज्यों में मानचित्रित 12,081 पहाड़ियों में से केवल 1,048 (8.7 प्रतिशत) ही 100 मीटर की मानदंड को पूरा करती हैं।) (इस परिभाषा के अनुसार, स्थानीय भूभाग से 100 मीटर या उससे अधिक ऊँचाई वाली कोई भी भू-आकृति अरावली पर्वत कहलाती है; और एक दूसरे से 500 मीटर की दूरी पर स्थित पहाड़ियों का समूह अरावली पर्वतमाला कहलाता है।)
- फैसले में सम्पूर्ण अरावली के लिए एक सामान परिभाषा (जो उस कमिटी द्वारा दी गयी थी) को स्वीकार करते हुए सभी प्रकार के माइनिंग पर रोक लगाने का आदेश दिया गया |
- चूँकि अरावली काफी पुराना (2.5 अरब वर्ष) पर्वतमाला है, ये जितना जमीं से ऊपर दिखाई पड़ता है, इसका एक बड़ा भाग जमीं के नीचे है | तो जो 100 मीटर की ऊँचाई के नीचे की अरावली है (और जो सर्वोच्च न्यायलय की परिभाषा के अनुसार अरावली पहाड़ी नहीं है) उसका माइनिंग किया जाएगा और इस तरह अरावली का एक बड़ा भाग नीचे में पहाड़ी रहते हुए भी वह ऊपर से समाप्त हो जाएगा, अदृश्य हो जायेगी |
- **इसके आलावा कोर्ट ने निर्देश दिया कि :**
- न्यायालय ने संपूर्ण अरावली पर्वतमाला को कवर करते हुए सतत खनन के लिए एक विस्तृत प्रबंधन योजना (Management Plan for Sustainable Mining : MPSM) तैयार करने का निर्देश दिया।



- इस योजना में उन क्षेत्रों का सीमांकन करना आवश्यक है जहां खनन पूर्णतः निषिद्ध होना चाहिए, उन क्षेत्रों की पहचान करना आवश्यक है जहां सीमित और अत्यधिक विनियमित खनन की अनुमति दी जा सकती है, संवेदनशील पर्यावासों और वन्यजीव गलियारों का मानचित्रण करना आवश्यक है, संचयी पारिस्थितिक प्रभावों का मूल्यांकन करना आवश्यक है, पारिस्थितिक वहन क्षमता का निर्धारण करना आवश्यक है, और बहाली एवं पुनर्वास उपायों को स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित करना आवश्यक है। (The plan must demarcate areas where mining must be absolutely prohibited, identify zones where limited and highly regulated mining may be permitted, map sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors, evaluate cumulative ecological impacts, determine ecological carrying capacity, and articulate restoration and rehabilitation measures.)

#### The Forest Survey of India (FSI) on what makes up 'Aravalli Hills and Ranges.' In 2010, the FSI had said hills with

1. slope  $>3^\circ$ ,
2. oothill buffer = 100m,
3. inter hill distance or valley width= 500m and
4. the area enclosed by above defined hills from all sides," would make up Aravalli hill and ranges.

(भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण (एफएसआई) द्वारा भी 'अरावली पर्वतमाला' की परिभाषाओं में भिन्नता पाई गई है। वर्ष 2010 में, एफएसआई ने कहा था कि जिन पहाड़ियों की ढलान “

- (i)  $3^\circ$  से अधिक,
- (ii) तलहटी का बफर = 100 मीटर,
- (iii) पहाड़ियों के बीच की दूरी या घाटी की चौड़ाई = 500 मीटर और
- (iv) ऊपर परिभाषित पहाड़ियों से चारों ओर से घिरा क्षेत्र” हो, वे अरावली पर्वतमाला और पर्वतमाला का हिस्सा होंगी।

- Amicus curae श्री के. परमेश्वर द्वारा 100 मीटर के इस एकसमान परिभाषा को कोर्ट द्वारा स्वीकार किये जाने के विरुद्ध सलाह दी थी। उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि समिति द्वारा निर्धारित 100 मीटर की सीमा छोटी पहाड़ी संरचनाओं को बाहर कर देगी, पर्वत श्रृंखला की निरंतरता को भंग कर देगी और संभावित रूप से नए क्षेत्रों को खनन के लिए खोल देगी।
- जबकि एडिशनल सोलिसिटर जनरल ऐश्वर्या भट्टी ने कमिटी द्वारा दिए गए 100 मीटर वाले एकसमान परिभाषा का समर्थन किया और उसे अधिक समावेशी बताया।

- वैसे तो पहले से सरकार द्वारा दिए गए लाइसेंस के आधार पर खनन चल रहा था, लेकिन 2009 में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हस्तक्षेप करते हुए हरियाणा के फरीदाबाद, गुरुग्राम और मेवात जिलों में खनन पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। मई 2024 में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस क्षेत्र में नए खनन पट्टे देने और उनके नवीनीकरण पर रोक लगा दी और अपनी केंद्रीय अधिकार प्राप्त समिति (सीईसी) को विस्तृत जांच करने का निर्देश दिया।

#### केंद्रीय अधिकार प्राप्त समिति (सीईसी) ने मार्च 2024 में कई सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत की गईं। सीईसी ने एक व्यापक दृष्टिकोण का प्रस्ताव रखा जिसमें

1. क्षेत्र का संपूर्ण वैज्ञानिक मानचित्रण शामिल था
  2. सभी राज्यों में अरावली पर्वतमाला का विस्तार;
  3. खनन गतिविधियों का व्यापक पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव आकलन; और
  4. संरक्षित आवासों, जल निकायों, बाघ गलियारों, प्रमुख जलभंडार क्षेत्रों और राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आने वाले पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में खनन पर सख्त प्रतिबंध लगाने की बात कही गई।
  5. इसमें पत्थर तोड़ने वाली इकाइयों के कड़े नियमन का आग्रह किया गया। साथ ही यह भी सिफारिश की गई कि उचित मानचित्रण और प्रभाव आकलन पूरा होने तक किसी भी नए खनन पट्टे या नवीनीकरण की अनुमति न दी जाए।
- स्तुत: न्यायालय ने CEC की इन्हीं सिफारिशों को स्वीकार कर लिया।
  - सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा नियुक्त समिति द्वारा 2018 में हुए एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि राजस्थान में अवैध खनन के कारण 50 वर्षों में अरावली की 128 पहाड़ियों में से 31 पहाड़ियाँ गायब हो गईं और अरावली पर्वतमाला में 10-12 बड़े दर्रे खुल गए।
  - जून 2025 में केंद्र सरकार ने अरावली 'ग्रीन वॉल' परियोजना शुरू की। इस योजना के तहत गुजरात, राजस्थान, हरियाणा और दिल्ली के 29 जिलों में अरावली पर्वतमाला के आसपास के पांच किलोमीटर के बफर क्षेत्र में हरित आवरण का विस्तार किया जाएगा। सरकार ने कहा कि यह पहल 2030 तक 26 मिलियन हेक्टेयर खराब भूमि को पुनर्स्थापित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी।

#### अरावली, 'अरा' और 'वली' से बना है जिसमें वली का मतलब एक निरंतर पंक्ति (line) तथा यहाँ 'अरा' का तात्पर्य अरण्य यानी जंगलों, पर्वतों से है। कुल मिला कर अरावली का अर्थ पर्वतों, जंगलों की एक निरंतर लाइन।

- Formation : formed in Proterozoic Eon, also known as Precambrian Era, around 2-2.5 Arab years ago (2500 million years ago)



- Type : Oldest Fold Mountain
- States: four States (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana), spread in 39 districts.
- Minerals : Copper, Zinc,

चूँकि पहाड़ पुराना है, इसलिए इसका पत्थर भी काफी पुराना है और इसकी क्वालिटी काफी अच्छी है | इस कारण से इसकी मांग और मूल्य काफी अधिक होती है |

#### अरावली का पर्यावरणीय महत्त्व:

- यह दिल्ली, हरियाणा

#### मुद्दे : निरंतरता;

#### SC on SIR

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Election Commission (EC) is blessed with the “widest discretions” but its “deviations” while revising electoral rolls, as in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, cannot be “untrammelled or unregulated” in breach of principles of natural justice and procedure prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960.
- Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, submitted that the SIR was “sustainable” under Article 324 read with Section 21 (3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Section 21(3) clothes the EC with a residuary power to direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in “such manner as it may think fit”.
- Mr. Dwivedi conceded that the EC’s deviations from procedure must embrace the constitutional guarantee of equality before the law, equal protection of the laws enshrined in Article 14, constitutional norms of transparency, and ease of voters.

- He, however, contended that Section 21(3) of the 1950 Act allowed the EC to travel beyond the prescribed limits to revise electoral rolls as long as the reasons were recorded and the procedure was fair and just. Section 21(3) unshackled the EC, he said.

#### Sanjha Shakti

It refers to a Military Civil Fusion (MCF) Exercise to enhance coordination between military and civil agencies for

- disaster management & response,
- counter-terrorism and
- internal security

It was held at the Dighi Hills (Diggi) Range, Khadki Military Station by the Indian Army, under the aegis of the Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa Area of the Southern Command on 8-9 January 2026.

#### 16th IRENA Assembly

- 16th IRENA Assembly was held in Abi Dhabi, UAE from January 10-12, 2026.
- Theme: “Powering Humanity : Renewable Energy for shared Prosperity”

#### Henley Passport Index

- सबसे ताकतवर पासपोर्ट = सिंगापुर (192 देशों की वीजा की यात्रा)
- At the second position: Japan & South Korea.
- At the third position : Denmark, Luxemburg, Spain, Sweden & Switzerland
- भारत 80 वें स्थान पर (55 देशों की वीजा की यात्रा (पिछले वर्ष 85 वर्ष))
- There are total 101 ranks.
- 101st rank: Afghanistan, 100th Rank : Syria (26 destinations), Iraq : 99 (29 Countries).



- जापान दुसरे स्थान पर (195 देशों की visa free यात्रा)
- चीन = 60वें स्थान पर
- सबके नीचे = अफगानिस्तान
- यूरोपीय देश: 5वाँ स्थान
- फ्रांस जर्मनी, इटली, स्पेन, फिनलैंड, द० कोरिया = तीसरे स्थान पर
- UAE में सबसे अधिक सुधार = 10 वा (32 अंकों का सुधार)
- Henle Passport Index was launched in 2005.  
HQ= London
- 199 passports of the world थि 227 destinations.
- 2024 में India का position 80 वा था 2006 में इसका rank 71 था
- प्रथम 10 में 32 देश है
- फिनलैंड तीसरे स्थान पर है
- Is index में अंतिम स्थान 106 वा था जो अफगानिस्तान को था। उसके पासपोर्ट से 26 देशों/लोकेशन पर visa free यात्रा की जा सकती है।
- 105 वे पर सीरिया है। (27 देशों का)
- इराक 104 वे पर (31 देशों का)
- पाकिस्तान 103 वे पर है (33 देशों में visa free)
- Bangladesh 100 पर है।
- इंडिया 2021 में 90th पर पहुंच गया था।
- USA – 9th (7th in 2024)
- china – 60th (62 in 2024) (94th in 2015)
- Rawanda का 76 वा है।
- कनाडा – 7th

### Governors skip cabinet passed address speeches

- Governors of Kerala, T.N. and Karnataka took the same action to skip the whole or a part of the mandatory address speech in the first session of 2026 of the respective Legislative Bodies.
- **Article 176 (1)** mandates that Governors, at the commencement of the first session of each year, “shall” address the Legislative House/s and inform the Legislature of the causes of its summons.

### Himalayan Ecocide

- Himalayan regions, in 2025, saw nearly 331 days of near continuous climate impacts, the human cost was staggering: over 4,000 deaths attributed to climate-induced disasters in 2025 alone, with Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand bearing the heaviest toll. Towns such as Dharali, Harsil, Uttar-Kashi, Chamoli, Kullu, Mandi and Kishtwar were ravaged by sudden cloud-bursts, landslides, and avalanches that morphed into deadly flash floods, obliterating lives and livelihoods.
- This onslaught of scorching heat, catastrophic floods and land subsidence appears to be the new normal.
- This region, located north of the Main Central Thrust (MCT), is classified as a critical zone where major infrastructure is explicitly discouraged. There are also hanging glaciers and the area is fed by the Gangotri, one of the world’s fastest receding glaciers, which sustains several unstable, moraine-laden glaciers in the valley. One of these glacier avalanches contributed to the disaster in Dharali.
- In such situation, the Uttarakhand Forest Department, on November 12, approved the felling of these trees, diverting 43 hectares of forest land for the Char Dham Road Widening Project (CDRWP), with 10 hectares meant for muck dumping.



- As a result of this decision, nearly 7,000 Devdar trees and countless native species will be finished.
- The Project relies on the flawed DLPS (double-lane with paved shoulder) standard that mandates a 12-metre paved surface in an area demon-strably prone to disasters.

### True Value of these trees

The Devdar (Deodar) forests are crucial ecological assets in the delicate Himalayan landscape. Their extensive root systems

- stabilise slopes,
- prevent landslides and
- serve as natural barriers against avalanches and glacial debris flows, safeguarding downstream communities.
- The unique antimicrobial qualities of Devdar trees (from terpenoids, essential oils, and phenolic compounds found in the wood, bark and resin) fundamentally influence river ecology.
- As leaf litter and organic material enter mountain streams, they inhibit harmful bacteria while promoting the development of beneficial microbial communities, resulting in a naturally regulated, biologically active river system, especially in the upper reaches where industrial pollution remains limited.
- These forests also maintain cooler microclimates, regulate water temperature in snowmelt-fed streams, and help sustain dissolved oxygen levels essential for aquatic life.

These forests are also essential for the water quality of the Ganga.

This is important as they are situated within the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone, a nearly 4,000-square-kilometre buffer that was established in 2012 to protect the river's last pristine stretch.

Deforestation would trigger warmer air and water, reduced oxygen, diminished bacteriophage activity, and an irreversible shift in the river's ecological character. This is why the Supreme Court, in its judgment, discouraged the felling of precious deodar trees in the area.

### False approach

- It is claimed that the government (forest department) is just “translocating” these ancient trees – an ecologically flawed notion.
- Uprooting centuriesold Devdars is tantamount to cutting them down.
- Their complex, site-specific ecological functions cannot be replicated else-where, and no suitable alternative terrain exists.
- Their preservation is not a matter of convenience but of environmental necessity.

### Critics it as a project built on falsehoods

- The Char Dham Road Widening Project has been built on falsehoods. Its execution is a case study in how not to build in the Himalayas.
- This is evident in the bypassing of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, through project fragmentation, the adoption of an incorrect roadwidth standard contrary to its own mandate, the destabilising practice of vertical hillcutting on fragile slopes, and the indiscriminate dumping of muck in vital water sources.
- As a result, along the nearly 700 kilometres of widened road, over 800 active landslide zones have emerged. Key border routes have been closed for extended periods, and the government's touted “allweather road” is now derisively called an “all-paidal (allpedal)” road by locals.



- To prevent such damage, the government needed only to regulate road width and prioritise stability over excessive widening, as warned by experts. Yet the Union Minister's recently proposed remedy, which is belated and inadequate – to retrofit slopes with Swiss fibreglass bolts and wire mesh – comes eight years after largescale destabilisation.
- The fundamental failure lies not in the absence of reinforcement, but in the original engineering decision to execute excessively steep hill cuts. Cutting slopes at angles that violate the natural “angle of repose” of Himalayan geology is a profound act of either ignorance or hubris. No amount of anchoring later can rectify this intrinsic flaw that was engineered into the landscape from the outset.
- The Union Government's current developmental initiatives directly contradict a key policy framework: the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE). Approved in 2014 under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, the NMSHE was established to protect the fragile Himalayan ecology. Its mandate includes monitoring glaciers and biodiversity, mitigating natural hazards and securing sustainable livelihoods for Himalayan communities. It was designed to build scientific capacity and guide policymakers toward genuinely sustainable development.

### Questionnaire for first phase of Census notified

- The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) on Thursday notified 33 questions that residents will have to answer in the first phase of Census 2027, which will be conducted between April 1 and September 30.
- While the notification published on January 7, 2020 for Census 2021, which was delayed due to the COVID19 pandemic and never took off, had 31 questions, the current notification has 33

### Many firsts in this census :

- the first digital Census,
- the first to count caste and also
- the first where respondents will be able to self-enumerate through a yet-to-be announced portal.

### Questionnaires for for the second phase are yet to be notified.

- Population Enumeration (PE), the second phase of Census 2027 where caste will be enumerated, will be done in February 2027.

### The questions are:

- building number (municipal or local authority or Census number)
- Census house number
- Predominant material of floor of the Census house; predominant material of wall of the Census house; predominant material of roof of the Census house
- Use of Census house; condition of the Census house; household number; total number of persons normally residing in the household
- Name of the head of the household
- Sex of the head of the household; whether the head of the household belongs to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/ Other
- Ownership status
- Number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household; number of married couple(s) living in the household
- Main source of drinking water
- Availability of drinking water source
- Main source of lighting; access to latrine; type of latrine; waste water outlet





- Availability of bathing facility
- Availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection;
- Main fuel used for cooking;
- Radio/transistor; television;
- Access to Internet; laptop/computer;
- Telephone/mobile phone/ smartphone;
- Bicycle/scooter/motorcycle/moped;
- Car/jeep/van; main cereal consumed in the household; and
- Mobile number (for Census-related communications only).

The pretest or the preparatory exercise for the first phase of Census was held from November 1030, 2025 in select areas across the country.

### Supreme Court On “Romeo-Juliet” clause

- A bench of justices, Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh of the Supreme Court has called on the Union government to consider introducing a "Romeo-Juliet clause" in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to protect genuine consensual relationships between adolescents from criminal action.
- Here, the term adolescents refers to young persons who are either close in age or of similar age with a minimum 16-year-old having a relationship with a maximum age gap of 3 years.
- After the it's introduction, these people would not attract criminal charges.
- The law got its name from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, a famous play about two young Italian lovers from feuding families.

- The law was first introduced in the United States because there was concern that teenagers in consensual relationships were being unfairly criminalised for statutory rape.
- The SC said that instead of being used only to protect children from sexual abuse, such laws are also being applied in cases where teenagers are in genuine consensual relationships. It noted that families often oppose these relationships and, in several instances, file criminal cases against the adolescents.

1. In such situations, the boy is often accused of statutory rape, even if the girl consented. The girl is automatically treated as a "victim" who cannot legally give consent.
2. The statutory age of consent under the POCSO Act has been raised in 2012 to the age of consent to 18 years for everyone. The legal age of consent for girls in India had been 16 years, since the 1940s.

- The new age of 18 follows the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1990), which defines anyone under 18 as a child.
- Any sexual activity with a person under 18 is considered "statutory rape", regardless of consent, according to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013.

### Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas or NRI Day Is observed on 9 January

### National Youth Day

National Youth Day is observed on 12th January, 2026 on the occasion of Swami Vivekanand Jayanti.

### Indian Army Day

Indian Army Day is observed on 15 January to remember the occasion when General Cariappa took over the command of the Indian Army from the last British Commander-in-chief Sir FRR Bucher in 1949.





## Sagar Island Bridge

It is a 5-km bridge over the river Muriganga in west Bengal.

## India Energy Week

27-30 January, in Goa

## UGC's New Guidelines

- In 2008, the Union Education Ministry had directed the UGC to frame regulations against discrimination. In the light of that direction, the UGC framed UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012.
- After the incidents of Rohit Vemula (17 Jan 2016) and Payal Tadvi (22 May 2019), their parents filed a petition to implement the 2012 UGC anti-discrimination regulations seriously and strictly.
- The Supreme Court, while hearing the petition, directed the UGC to submit updated rules while hearing a petition related to the implementation of the 2012 UGC anti-discrimination regulations.
- Accordingly, the Centre informed the Court that it is in the process of amending the 2012 regulations to make it better. In January 2025 the Gol released a draft regulation and demanded public feedback. After that it was finally notified on 13th January, 2026, a new set of rules, titled University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026.

### It's demerits :

- According to the new regulations, it was applicable only in those Universities and Colleges who come under the section 3 of the UGC Act 1956. In this way, it included 1168 Universities and 45473 Colleges and excluded 23 IITs, 21 IIMs and 12,002 autonomous educational institutions. IITs are established and are governed under the IIT Act, 1961 and the IIMs are established under the IIM Act, 2017.

1. In the same way various Polytechnic, Teachers Training Institutions and Nursing Institutions are also autonomous institutions.

- Second demerit is that it does not identify the determinations as it was done in the 2012 Regulations. In that, 28 types of discriminations were identified on the basis of the Untouchability Act, 1955 and Atrocities Act, 1989.
- Third demerit is that the head of an institution has been made ex-officio head of the
- **Equity Committee.**

1. In this way, Head of an institution will play a double role: as head of the equity committee, he will recommend decision and, on the other side, as the head of the institution, he will take decision on those recommendations.

- The regulations come amid long-standing concerns over discrimination in higher education.
- Rohith Vemula, a PhD scholar at the University of Hyderabad, died by suicide in 2016, allegedly after facing caste-based harassment. In 2019, Payal Tadvi, a resident doctor at Mumbai's Topiwala National Medical College and BYL Nair Hospital, also died by suicide, with allegations of casteist harassment by seniors.
- The new framework aims to put in place institutional mechanisms to prevent discrimination and ensure timely redressal within higher education campuses.
- It lays down a structured framework for grievance redressal, inclusion, and support for disadvantaged groups across universities and colleges.
- Under the new rules, every higher education institution must establish an Equal Opportunity Centre (EOC).



### The centre will be responsible for

1. Overseeing the implementation of equity-related policies and programmes
2. Providing academic, financial, social, and personal guidance to disadvantaged groups
3. Promoting diversity and inclusion on campus
4. If a college does not have at least five faculty members to run an EOC, its functions will be carried out by the Equal Opportunity Centre of the university it is affiliated with.
5. Coordination with authorities and civil society

### The regulations state that the Equal Opportunity Centre will coordinate with:

1. Civil society groups
2. Local media
3. Police and district administration
4. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
5. Faculty members, staff, and parents

- In addition, the centre will work with District and State Legal Services Authorities to facilitate legal aid in deserving cases.

### Appointment of a co-ordinator :

- Each institution's executive council, governing body, or management committee will nominate a regular professor or senior faculty member as the coordinator of the Equal Opportunity Centre.
- 
- The coordinator must be someone with a demonstrated interest in the welfare of disadvantaged social groups.

### Equity Committees: Composition and role

- Every Equal Opportunity Centre will have an Equity Committee, constituted by the head of the institution, to manage the centre's functioning and to enquire into discrimination complaints.

### The regulations mandate representation on the committee from:

1. Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
2. Scheduled Castes (SCs)
3. Scheduled Tribes (STs)
4. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)
5. Women

- Members will have a tenure of two years, while special invitees will serve for one year.

### Introduction Of Equity Squads

1. The rules also require institutions to set up Equity Squads - smaller bodies tasked with maintaining a vigil on campus and preventing discriminatory practices.
2. The composition of these squads will be decided by individual institutions based on their specific requirements.

### What happens if an institution does not comply?

If an institution does not follow these regulations, the UGC can take action, including :

1. Banning the institution from UGC schemes
2. Stopping degree programmes
3. Stopping online and distance learning programmes
4. Removing the institution from the official UGC list
5. More than one action can be taken, depending on the case.

### SC's stay

- On 29th January 2026, the Supreme Court Bench of the CJI and Justice Joymalya Bagchi stayed the regulations after a hearing on a petition.



- The 2026 Regulations draw their strength from Article 15 (nondiscrimination) of the Constitution. The inclusion of the provision is testimony to the historical oppression faced by marginalised communities for centuries. Article 15(1) imposes an enforceable obligation on the State to not discriminate against citizens on any of several grounds, including caste. Article 15(2) was adopted to specifically prohibit the discrimination faced by marginalised communities in accessing public services and resources.
- In its judgment in the Sukanya Shantha case, the apex court, while dealing with caste discrimination within prisons, upheld the principle of substantive equality, that is, the law must endeavour to correct historical injustices.

### Republic Day Awards

It includes : one Ashok Chakra, three Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakra

### Mark Tully died

- Sir William Born on 24 October 1935 in Tollygunj, Kolkata. At the age of nine, he was sent to England for studies.
- In 1964, he was appointed as the BBC correspondent in India.
- He had to face opposition from the religious activists when he was covering the incident of the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and he was locked in a room amid the chanting of “death to Mark Tully. However, he was saved by the local administration.

### Death of a Leopard

- A leopard was found dead in the area on the outskirts of Gangda village in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat on 28 January, 2026.

- In this connection, a case has been registered against Mr. Naranbhai Vaja and his 27-year old son Shardul under the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 for killing the endangered animal.

### 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' meet

2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' meet was held on 30-31 January, 2026.

### Menstrual Health in Schools comes under Article 21

- The Supreme Court Bench comprising J.B.Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan through a judgment in a writ petition filed by Dr. Jaya Thakur, ruled that the right to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) measures in educational institutions is a part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21.
- It's judgment the court said that denial of menstrual hygiene measures denies girls equal participation in school.
- According to the judgment, the right to free and compulsory education under Article 21 includes free sanitary napkins in schools.
- Menstrual poverty hinders girls from exercising their right to education with dignity equal to that of their male counterparts of students who can afford sanitary products.
- Through the judgment the court also issued several directions to States and Union Territories to ensure that every school, whether government or privately managed, in both urban and rural areas, are provided with functional gender-segregated toilets. These schools must make oxo-biodegradable (OBD) sanitary napkins readily accessible to students free-of-cost, preferably within the toilet premises, through sanitary napkin vending machines.



## Delhi Blast 2025 : White collar terror module

- According to a report of Vijaita Singh published in the Hindu on 31st January, 2026. The report is based on the inputs from the investigators who had told The Hindu as they were told by the arrested persons in this connection.
- According to a report, it is revealed that the blasts were made by the “white collar terror module”, which had been active for the past four years, with an objective to bomb the outlets of a global coffee chain, whose founder is a Jew.
- By attacking the coffee chain outlets in Delhi and other major Indian cities, the accused wanted to send a message against Israel’s military actions in Gaza.
- The group wanted to revive the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AguH), the Indian offshoot of the global terror outfit al-Qaeda, a senior government official said. The AguH was founded by Zakir Musa, who was killed in an encounter with the security forces in 2019 in south Kashmir’s Tral. The accused doctors wanted to resurrect the AGuH and “establish Islamic law in the country” after the terror group’s last known commander, Muzamil Ahmad Tantray, was also killed in an encounter in 2021.
- The Red Fort car explosion was preceded by a 20-day-long probe by the Jammu and Kashmir Police to find a “terror module” linked to two terror outfits – the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and the AguH – after a JeM pamphlet surfaced in Srinagar on October 19, 2025. The poster, which asked local people not to cooperate with the police, and refuse them entry in their shops, led the J&K Police to a cleric in Shopian, and the unravelling of the alleged terror plot and discovery of 2900 kg of explosive substances and sophisticated weapons during raids in Faridabad on November 9, 2025 and November 10, 2025. The JeM is a banned Pakistan-based terror organisation.
- “The accused watched online videos and intended to create bombs from scratch. That is why thousands of kilos of urea bags were recovered from them. They had experimented a lot by mixing various chemicals, ensuring that the bombs are prepared from locally available materials, thereby not raising any red flags,” the source said.

## Sunetra Pawar

- Sunetra Pawar took oath of Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 31 January, 2026.
- She is the first female Deputy Chief Minister of the State.
- She resigned from the membership of Rajya Sabha before taking the oath.
- Cost of Living Index This index is published by Nombeo, a data platform company of Serbia. It has published the ranking of 506 cities of the world on the basis of data between 2023-26. Zurich of Switzerland is the costliest city of the world. Geneva, Basel, Lausanne, Lugano, Bern rank after Zurich in the index.
- New York, with a score of 100, came on seventh rank in the index.
- After New York, Reykjavik (Iceland), Honolulu and San Francisco were in the top 10 list.
- Nabi likely hurriedly assembled around 40 kg explosives in the car which exploded near the Red Fort on November 10, 2025, the second official added. The action was likely hastened after other members of his group were arrested.
- The only Asian City in top 20 in the index is Singapore(14th rank)
- In India, Mumbai is the costliest city. After that, Delhi (on second rank) and Bengaluru are costliest.



### Epstein claim on India's PM

- In a newly released emails on 31 January, 2026, from the American late Jeffrey Epstein (financier nad sex-offender), it is claimed that US President Trump had played a role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in 2017.
- Epstein referred to India and Mr. Modi, expressing a desire to enhance U.S.India engagement. He claimed he would set up a meeting with the Prime Minister for Trump associate Steve Bannon, shortly after the 2019 general election. Epstein also appeared to be engaged in correspondence with businessman Anil Ambani about many of these issues.
- Epstein had linked a Modi-Trump meeting on June 25 and 26, 2017 to the PM's subsequent Israel visit from July 4 to 6 that same year, claiming that the Israel visit had "worked" because Mr. Modi had followed the advice of the U.S. President.
- A specific email sent by Epstein on July 6, 2017, purportedly advising an influential Qatari person by the name "Jabor Y", who is reportedly close to the Qatari royal family, on being more vocal against terrorism. "The Indian Prime Minister Modi took advice and danced and sang in Israel for the benefit of the U.S. President," Epstein said in the mail sent on the day Mr. Modi's visit to Israel ended.

### Miya People in Assam

- The Miya people denote the Sunni mulim people, progeny of Bengali Muslim migrants originating from the contemporary Mymensingh District, Rangpur, and Cumilla Divisions (once part of Kamrup empire of Assam). These individuals established residence in the Brahmaputra valey during the 20th century, coinciding with the period of British period in Assam.

- The migration of the Miya people was actively promoted by the Colonial British Government from the Brngal Province, spanning the years 1757 to 1942. This migratory trend persisted until the year 1947. Presently, the term "Miya" is considered a pejorative word.
- Their population is around 10 million.

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, 2025

- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, 2025 has been awarded to Mozambican Human Rights activist Mrs. Graca Machel.
- This award is managed by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. The Prize includes Rs. 1 crore (Rs.10 million), a citation and a trophy. It is conferred annually since 1986.

### Pamela Conti, Coach of Indian Team

Mrs. Pamela Conti of Italy has been appointed as the Coach of the India's National Women U-17 Team.

### Mother of all Deals

- 27 January, 2026 को यूरोपियन यूनियन और भारत के बीच 'फ्री ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट' पर हस्ताक्षर किया गया |
- इस समझौते के माध्यम से यूरोपियन यूनियन के 27 देशों एवं भारत के संसद द्वारासंपुष्टि की जाएगी उसके पश्चात यह समझौता पूर्ण रुपें लागू होगा | अभी यूरोपियन यूनियन एवं भारत साकार के बीच सहमति पत्र के रूप में है |
- इस समझौते को संपन्न करने के लिए पिछले 18 वर्षों से वार्ता चल रही थी | दोनों के बीच वर्तमान में करीब 11 हजार अरब डॉलर के व्यापार हिता है |
- भारत और यूरोपियन यूनियन का संयुक्त रूप से वैश्विक जी.डी.पी. में 25% का योगदान है |
- दोनों पक्षों द्वारा आपसी व्यापार को दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य तय किया गया है |



- इस समझौते के अनुसार यूरोप से आने वाली कारों पर आयात शुल्क को 110% से घटाकर 10% कर दिया जायेगा | यह सुविधा हर वर्ष 2.5 लाख गाड़ियों तक सीमित रहेगी | यूरोप से आयात होने वाली बीयर पर भी आयात शुल्क 110% से घटकर 55% किया जाएगा | स्पिरिट्स यानी व्हिस्की और स्कॉच पर ड्यूटी 150% से घटाकर 40% होगी | इसी तरह वाइन पर भी आयात शुल्क 150% से घटाकर 20-30% होगी |
- India will get a priority on 97% tariff line which will constitute 99.5% of it's total value. The agreement will eradicate tariff on approx. 70% products.
- This is termed as the "Mother of all deal".
- It has been signed by the Indian Foreign minister Mr. Jayshankar and the EU' foreign minister Miss. Kaja Kallas at the EU-India summit in New Delhi.
- Earlier, in 2023, a Learjet 45XR plane was broken into pieces while landing at Mumbai airport. Even in that situation, it's 8 passengers were saved.
- Prior to this accident, only three fatal accidents (hull loss) have occurred out of it's 45 family aircraft worldwide over three decades.
- Get-there-itis : it is a VIP syndrome in which whole system feels pressurized to reach at the destination despite warnings and unsafe weather (in this weather and the laws of physics are avoided).
- In this case, Pilot faced problem of visibility.

### अजित पवार प्लेन क्रैश

- 28 January, 2026 को 8.44 बजे महाराष्ट्र के उप-मुख्यमंत्री अजित पवार (22 July 1959 – 28 January 2026) की एक प्लेन क्रैश में मृत्यु हो गयी | इसमें उनके अतिरिक्त विमान में सवार 4 अन्य व्यक्तियों की भी मृत्यु हो गयी |
- यह क्रैश महाराष्ट्र के बारामती में आपातकालीन लैंडिंग के दौरान रनवे 11 से 100 फीट की दूरी पर हुई | इसमें प्लेन का जेट फ्यूल भीषण तरीके से फटने के कारण (exploded explosively) हुआ |
- The plane was the Learjet 45XR (registration VT-SSK) mid-size business jet manufactured by Bombardier Aerospace in 1990s. (actually it is the Bombardier Aerospace, which had acquired it's original manufacturing company, the LearJet Company, founded by Mr. Powell Lear in 1960). The production of LearJet planes has been stopped since 2021.
- It's range was approximately 2000 nautical miles and a cruising speed of Mach 0.81. The aircraft was being operated by the VSR Ventures Private Limited. It is a Delhi-based company which provides private jet services, aircraft management and aviation consulting services..

### Padma Awards 2026

- A total of 131 persons were awarded Padma Awards in 2026 on the occasion of the Republic Day. This comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri. The list of 131 awardees consists of 19 women, 6 persons are from the categories of foreigners / OCIs / NRIs/PIOs Out of the list, 6 are awarded posthumously.

#### From Bihar :

No person in the list of the Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan

3 persons have been included in the list of the Padma Shree :

- Bharat Singh Bharati – Art, (Born on 20 November, 1936 in Nounar village in Agiaon block of Bhojpur district, he was associated with the Akashvani. He was a Bhojpuri singer. His contribution was to add a new distinct genre in Bhojpuri folk music. Main theme of Purabi is separation, pathos and the easterly winds, depicting emotions of the rural life. A sample song of this genre : bata da chand, kekara se kahaan mile jaa la? (Sung by many); aag laage saiyon tohra ropeya kamaila ke... (Chandan Tiwari)





- Late Vishva Bandhu (Art, Posthumously) : Associated with Bihar folk song “dom kach”. He was also honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akadamy
- Gopal ji Trivedi (Sc. & Engineering) : He is a scientist in Agriculture Science.

### Parakram Diwas

- 23 January is observed as Parakram Diwas, birth anniversary of S.C. Bose.

### Muna Island : World’s Oldest rock art

- The painted outline of a human hand inside a cave on the Muna Island in Indonesia has been termed by historians as the world’s oldest rock art in the world.
- 
- It is around 67,800 years old.

### Highlights of the President’s Address, 2026

- In the light of the Article 87 of the constitution, the President of India, Ms. Droupadi Murmu, addressed a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on January 28, 2026.
- The Article provides two instances when the President specially addresses both Houses of Parliament. The President of India addresses both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha at the beginning of the first Session after each general election when the reconstituted lower house meets for the first time. The President also addresses both the houses at beginning of the first session of each year.
- In her address, she outlined the major policy achievements and objectives of the government..

### Economy

- GST reforms have led to citizens saving more than one lakh crore rupees.
- Last year, income above Rs 12 lakh per annum was exempted from taxation. The Income Tax law was replaced.

### Infrastructure and Transport

- Last year, around 18,000 kilometres of rural roads were added. Almost the entire rural population is now connected by roads.
- More than 150 Vande Bharat trains have been introduced. Vande Bharat sleeper trains were introduced between Bengal and Assam.
- India’s metro network crossed 1,000 kilometres, making it the third largest network in the world. In the last decade, more than four crore pucca houses have been built for the poor. Possession of 32 lakh houses was handed over last year.
- In the five years of Jal Jeevan Mission, 12.5 crore household have been provided piped water connection. Of this, one crore households were added in the last year.
- In the last 11 years, more than 7,200 kilometres of National Highways have been constructed in the North-Eastern region. Further, 50,000 kilometres of rural roads have been built. More than Rs 80,000 crore have been invested in development of railways in the region.

### Industry and Commerce.

- The Production Linked Incentive scheme has attracted investment of around two lakh crore rupees. Production worth more than Rs 17 lakh crore has been achieved.
- The production of electronics reached Rs 11 lakh crore, increasing sixfold in the last 11 years. Over 25 lakh jobs have been created in electronics manufacturing. India became the second largest country in mobile manufacturing.





- In 2025, four more semiconductor manufacturing units were sanctioned. A total of 10 such units are going to commence operations.
- A package of Rs 70,000 crore has been announced for the shipping sector. Large ships have been granted infrastructure status. Older maritime laws have been replaced.
- India has become the third largest startup ecosystem in the world. Around two lakh startups have been registered in the country, of which around 50,000 registered in the last year.
- In 2025-26, India's smartphone exports crossed one lakh crore rupees. India has started exporting electric vehicles to more than 100 countries.
- Under the Prime Minister Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, more than 3.5 crore new jobs are being created.
- More than 20 lakh youths are employed with the two lakh registered start-ups.
- Under PM Setu scheme, Rs 60,000 crore is being spent to upgrade more than 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- More than 60,000 youths have been trained for the semiconductor industry and 10 lakh youths are being trained in the Artificial Intelligence sector.
- Under the PM Vishwakarma scheme, more than 20 lakh artisans have received training and banking support.

### Energy

- SHANTI Act has been enacted to achieve the target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2047.
- Through PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, around 20 lakh rooftop solar systems have been installed.
- Under the Ujjwala Yojana, more than 10 crore households have been provided with LPG connections so far.
- Under PM SVANidhi scheme, 72 lakh street vendors have been provided with financial assistance worth Rs 16,000 crore.
- Research and innovation are being promoted through Anusandhan National Research Foundation, Atal Innovation Mission and Atal Tinkering labs.

### Health

- Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, more than 11 crore free medical treatments have been provided until 2025. Of these, 2.5 crore treatments were provided last year.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, claims worth more than Rs 24,000 crore have been disbursed to provide insurance cover.
- In the last 18 months, around one crore senior citizens have received Vay Vandana cards. Around eight lakh senior citizens have received free medical treatment.
- Around 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been set up across the country.

### Labour, skilling and job creation

- For the protection and welfare of workers, dozens of labour laws have been consolidated into four Codes.
- The Viksit Bharat G RAM G Act (which replaced MGNREGA) will ensure 125 days of guaranteed employment in villages.
- Under the Mudra Yojana, more than Rs 38 lakh crore has been provided to small entrepreneurs. Around 12 crore loans have been disbursed for first-time self-employment.





- More than 6.5 crore citizens have been screened under Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.

### Agriculture

- Last year over 350 million tonne of food grains were produced. Around 150 million tonne of rice was produced.
- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has attracted private investment of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore.
- Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, more than four lakh crore rupees have been transferred to farmers.
- In 2024-25, fish production reached around 200 lakh tonnes.
- A new policy has been formulated to provide fisherman living along the coastline benefits of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

### Social Justice

- In the last decade, 25 crore citizens have overcome poverty. ♣ Last year, more than 6.75 lakh crore rupees have been transferred to beneficiaries through Direct benefit Transfer.
- Around 95 crore citizens have social security cover.
- Under PM JANMAN scheme, more than 2.5 lakh houses have been provided in tribal villages. Along with the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, more than one lakh crore rupees has been spent on these two schemes.
- In the last 11 years scholarships worth Rs 42,000 crore have been granted to students belonging to Scheduled Caste communities.
- More than 400 Eklavya Model Residential schools have been established for the education of tribal children.

### Women empowerment

- Around 10 crore women have been connected to Self-Help Groups.
- More than 60 lakh women became Lakhpati Didi in the last year, increasing the number of Lakhpati Didi in the country to two crore.
- Under the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar' campaign, around seven crore women have received health check-ups.
- The first batch of women cadets graduated from the National Defence Academy.

### Governance

- Through the Jan Vishwas Act, 2025, more than 300 offenses have been decriminalised. Defence and Internal affairs
- The number of maoist affected districts has been reduced from 126 to eight. Of these, only three districts remain most affected. In the last year, around 2,000 maoists have surrendered.
- In 2025, India's defence production crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Defence exports crossed Rs 23 thousand crore.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Mamdani took oath as mayor

- Zohran Mamdaani took oath for the post of 112th Mayor of New York at an historic subway Station City Hall which is closed since 80 years.

### Protest in Iran

- On the issue of prevailing economic crisis in Iran, people protests were started against the Govt at large scale since 28 December, 2026.
- Iran is facing 42.5% inflation, fall of the Riyal (currency of Iran) to 14.2 lakh Riyal per US Dollar.
- Approx 600 people have been killed according to some estimate but approx 6000 according to the TIME magazine.
- At present, Iran is under the rule of the Islamic Republic Government, which was formed on 1 April 1979 after the Islamic Revolution.
- Apart from the economic conditions, other factors have also pushed the protests significantly.
- These factors are : Islamic theocracy, Religious persecution, Sex Segregation, Mandatory hijab enforcement, Hyperinflation.
- Initially it was believed that it was natural protests against economic hardships of people. Later, Reza Pahlavi (son of the last Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi) emerged as a remote leader.

### USA attacked Venezuela : Operation Absolute Resolve

- On 3rd January, 2026, the U.S. President Donald Trump displayed macho disposition when he took to the podium at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida retreat, when he announced U.S. military action under "Operation Absolute Resolve" against Venezuela.
- Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela and his wife, Cilia Flores were captured to face trial on charges of "narcoterrorism" in New York was a "spectacular assault".
- He announced that the U.S. would "run" the country and use its oil wealth to compensate U.S. companies whose corporations had been nationalised some two decades back.
- Under it, more than 150 US Armed Forces airplanes under the 'Delta Force' with close to 200 American troops, took off to conduct airstrikes across northern Venezuela and otherwise support the helicopters of an 'apprehension force' that landed in the capital city of Caracas at 02:01 local time (06:01 GMT).
- The Delta Force is military's top counter-terrorism unit and it did this job successfully with the help of a CIA source in Venezuelan government which helped the US track his location.
- This was disclosed by Mr. himself who said Maduro tried to enter a steel-fortified safe room and made it past the door, but was unable to close it.

### Spies, drones and blowtorches: How the US captured Maduro

- Maduro and his wife were taken on board the USS Iwo Jima and then a plane, which later landed at Stewart Air National Guard Base in New York state.





- The capture of Maduro and his wife is violation of Article 2 of the UN Charter.
- The pair were then transported to Metropolitan Detention Center, a federal facility in Brooklyn, New York.
- Maduro was produced in a Manhattan federal court on 5 January 2026.
- US officials have indicated that air strikes around Caracas were used as cover for the extraction operation.
- Trump's claimed that the US would run Venezuela until "a safe and proper and judicious transition" is made.
- Was U.S. military action in Venezuela actually about countering narcoterrorism? : Since 2000, drug overdoses have claimed almost a million and a quarter U.S. lives. But, nearly 69% were on account of fentanyl – precursor chemicals of which are produced in China. Venezuela is only a “modest” source of cocaine in the U.S.
- However, Venezuela does have the largest proven oil reserves in the world. Mr. Trump’s declaration that U.S. oil companies, which are the “biggest anywhere in the world,” would now enter the South American nation, left little need for further confirmation of his intentions.

#### According to the BBC five following locations were targeted by the USA :

1. Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda Air Base, an airfield known as La Carlota
  2. Fuerte Tiuna, a key military facility in Caracas
  3. Port La Guaira, Caracas' main conduit to the Caribbean Sea
  4. Higuero Airport, just east of Caracas
  5. Antenas El Volcan, a telecomms towers
- During the operation 80 persons of Venezuela died while 2 American soldiers were injured.
  - In fact the USA had started the preparation since August 2025 when it had increased it’s marine power in the Southern Carribbean Sea in the name of ‘to control narco-terrorism’.
  - The USA ensured the support of Trinidad and Tobago.
  - After the successful completion of the operation, Mr. Trump characterized the action as an application of the ‘Monroe Doctrine’ (named after the 5th President James Monroe : 1817-25), which he styled as the "Donroe Doctrine", and added that "American dominance in the western hemisphere will never be questioned again."
  - The U.S’s action in Venezuela is one of the most flagrant violations of international law.
  - It violated the core of the UN charter [Article 2(4)] which prohibits the “threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State” except with the approval of the UN Security Council or in selfdefence (Article 51).

#### Violation of international law

#### A balance of power

- The attack on Venezuela calls to mind how power dynamics played out in the Indian subcontinent during the Bangladesh War in December 1971. It frustrated the machinations of the visceral antiIndian administration of President Richard Nixon. When Washington moved the US Seventh Fleet Task Force TF74 to intimidate New Delhi into submission, a Soviet counterdeployment of cruisers, destroyers, and submarines neutralised the threat.
- Similarly, when the third army of Egypt was threatened with annihilation in the 1973 Yom Kippur War at the hands of Israel, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev moved airborne divisions to staging grounds, as Egypt was a close ally of Moscow. A worried U.S. declared DEFCON 3 (a U.S. defence readiness/threat alert). Israel capitulated, and the Soviet warning saved the Egyptian army.



- However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the world lost the sole power capable of challenging the unchecked exercise of power by the U.S. Emboldened, Washington has given itself the right to engage in preemptive war. It has toppled regimes in Iraq, Egypt, Libya and Syria either through direct action or supported movements.
- In the immediate future, only China can emerge as a counterbalance to the U.S. A loose axis between Russia and China could challenge the existing unipolar structure, though differences between the major powers may prevent an enduring partnership.
- With the U.S. proving yet again that it is insensitive to India's security interests, New Delhi needs to go a long way before it can be a counterbalancer. It needs to evolve an imaginative and outofthebox strategy to build its militaryindustrial complex and strengthen its defence.
- He said "we're going to be taking a tremendous amount of wealth from the ground" which would go to people in Venezuela and to the US, adding "we're going to get reimbursed for everything we've spent".
- He also said the US would sell oil to other countries.
- Venezuela's government described the attack as an attempt to seize Venezuela's strategic resources, particularly its oil and minerals" in an attempt to "forcibly break the political independence of the nation".
- Venezuela holds the world's largest proven oil reserves, but it is so-called "heavy, sour" oil. This is harder to refine but useful for making diesel and asphalt, while the US typically produces "light, sweet" oil used to make petrol.

#### Who's now in charge in Venezuela?

- However, in the light new scenario, Vice-President of Venezuela Mrs.Delcy Rodríguez, who was part of Maduro's inner circle, is now the interim president after being sworn in by the nation's Supreme Court.
- Trump characterised Venezuela's opposition leader María Corina Machado, as having neither the support nor the respect within Venezuela to become its leader.
- Machado had earlier called for Edmundo González to assume power.
- She had rallied support for González in the 2024 presidential election and vote tallies released by her party suggest he won by a landslide.

#### What next for Venezuela?

- Trump also said US oil companies would move in to fix infrastructure "and start making money for the country".

#### What has Maduro been charged with?

- US attorney General Pam Bondi said Maduro and his wife were indicted in the Southern District of New York.
- They have been charged with conspiracy to commit narco-terrorism and import cocaine, possession of machine guns and destructive devices, and conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices against the US.
- They will soon face the full wrath of American justice on American soil in American courts," Bondi wrote on X.

#### Who is Maduro and why has he been captured?

- Maduro rose to prominence under the leadership of left-wing President Hugo Chávez, succeeding him as president in 2013.
- Maduro has been at odds with Trump over the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan migrants in the US and the movement of drugs into the US, in particular fentanyl and cocaine.



- But counter-narcotic experts say Venezuela mainly acts as a country through which drugs produced elsewhere are smuggled, while fentanyl is mainly produced in Mexico and typically enters the US via their shared land border.
- Trump has designated two Venezuelan drug gangs, Tren de Aragua and Cartel de los Soles, as Foreign Terrorist Organisations (FTOs) and has alleged that the latter was led by Maduro himself.
- Maduro has vehemently denied being a cartel leader and has accused the US of using its "war on drugs" as an excuse to try to depose him and get its hands on Venezuela's oil.
- In recent months, US forces carried out more than two dozen strikes in international waters on boats they allege were used to traffick drugs, killing more than 100 people.
- During the first term of Mr. Trump, in 2020 a Newyork Court indicted Mr. Maduro for smuggling of Drugs (narco-terrorism, illegal trading of Cocaine) in the USA.
- USA put a reward of \$50 million in August 2025.
- argest Oil Reserve.
- Around 1920, the USA was largest buyer of oil of Venezuela.
- Later, President Regan, when he was fighting against Communism in the Latin Ameica, termed Venezuela as the symbol of Democracy in theWestern hemishpere.
- In & around 1982 the USA had sold 24 F-16 fighter planes worth \$1.75 billion. That symbolizes good relationship between the two Countries.

### Issue of Dutch disease

- The strong Oil business of Venezuela brought an anomaly named "dutch disease" (also called as the curse of resources). In this, due to high earnings, the Nation started ignoring manufacturing of goods and started relying heavily on imports. Inflow of Dollars caused devaluation or steep fall in the Currency of Venezuela.
- This destabilized it's economy. Started ruining domestic industries. Economic disparity widened. Poors were affected badly.
- In this situation, the philosophy of Communism attracted the attention of the affected poor and working class people.
- In this situation, a leader emerged and he was Mr. Hugo Chavez. In 1998, he won the election.
- In 2002, an effort was made to topple him but due to his popularity among the people, he returned to the power within two days.
- The relations between the USA & Venezuela deteriorated.
- In 2006, Mr. Chavez termed the USA President Mr. bush as 'shaitan'. In this scenari, Venezuela came closer to Russia, China & other such countries. High price rise of oil, placed Chavez in good position. Mr. Chavez started free services in the country, which made people happy with him but it overburdened the Nation. Moreover, he fixed the value of his currency. The foreign goods became cheaper, which further worsened the domestic industry.
- In 2013 Chavez dief due to cancer. Maduro succeeded him. In 2014 oil price fell steeply.
- By 2017, economic situation worsened. In 2018, inflation had reached 17 lakh %. Unusual promotion of military personnels, power and corruption in Military made Maduro stable.



- GDP fell by 75%.
- But Maduro remained Strong.
- In 2024, Maduro banned opposition leader Machado and won elections by force. Mr. trump returned back to power and started accusing Venezuela of promoting narco-terrorism.

#### Impact:

- USA may attack Iran & perhaps due to that Trump wants to have a safe control on Venezuela's oil reserve for it's own benefit.
- Putin may follow the same pattern by arresting Zelensky.
- China & Russia may enter into the scene and in this way the world order may be disordered.

#### Role of UN:

- According to the "Global Peace Index", out of it's total 193 member-States, 78 are engaged in one or another war/civil wars.
- After the Second World War, it is the first time that such a large number of Countries are engaged in wars.
- Out of these 78 Countries, in 17, more than 1000 have been killed only in 2025.

#### China factor:

The American attack on Venezuela was (possibly) largely due to the China Factor:

- Venezuela' heavy purchase of arms from China which ws major shift from it's earlier heavy dependency on the USA. Since 2014, China has accounted for 47% of all arms imports by Venezuela (while it was only 1.09% for the USA).
- Secondly, Venezuela is one of China's key trade partners in Latin America.

1. China formed less than 1% of Venezuela's mineral exports in the early 2000s but reached a peak of 28% by 2018. A Reuters analysis showed that for some months in mid 2025, almost all the oil exports from the country went to China. China has also surpassed the U.S. as the primary source of imports for Venezuela. In 2023, the U.S. accounted for only one-fourth of Venezuela's imports, with China accounting for onethird in the same period. This, however, was not always the case. In the mid-1990s, the share of the U.S. in Venezuela's imports crossed the 40% mark consistently for many years. However, in the last two decades, the U.S.'s share had almost halved, compensated by the increase in China's share.

Thirdly, one of the reasons behind the Trump administration's latest move is also supposedly to counter the Chinese influence in the region.

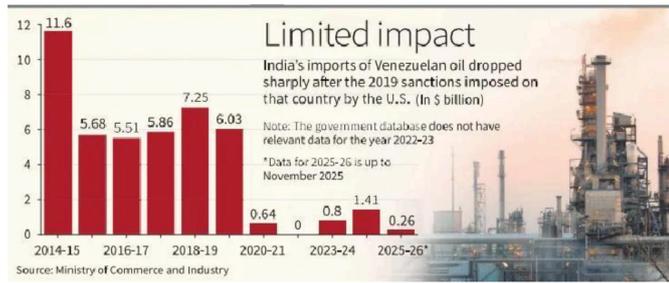
- China's investments in the Latin America region, in forms of aid, loans and grants, total up to more than \$300 billion between 2001-2023. Of which more than one third (about \$106 billion) was invested just in Venezuela, making it the biggest recipient of Chinese investments in the region.
- Not only within Latin American, Venezuela is also the fourthlargest recipient of Chinese aid globally, figures from AidData, a research lab, show. China has committed to more than 170 projects in the country during this period. Almost all of these funds have been disbursed as loans, and over 26% has been invested in key sectors such as energy, mining and other related industries.

#### Some are happy

- In Argentina a large section of people publicly expressed happiness on arrest of Maduro because it's President Javier Milei has been critical of Maduro's dictatorship.



## India & Venezuela



## Oil economy

- The largest proven reserves of crude oil in the world at 303 billion barrels (2023) is in Venezuela.

## Country Reserves (in billion barrels)

- Venezuela 303
- Saudi 267
- Iran 209

Yet, it ranks much lower in the production and refining of oil. Most of its resources are extraheavy crude oil, whose extraction and processing require specialised technology and refineries.

## Production

Rank	Country	Production (1000 B/D)
1.	USA	13,208
2.	Russia	9193
3.	Saudi	8955
16.	Venezuela	921

## Refinery

Rank	Country	Refinery Throughput (1000 B/D)
1.	USA	16,623
2.	China	14,250
3.	Rusia	5347
35.	Venezuela	335

- However, internal issues and international sanctions have starved it of the capital required for this.

- While the state run oil company Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA) owns and operates five refineries in Venezuela, it also suffers from years of under investment, mismanagement, and a lack of technical expertise. Specifically, following a failed coup attempt in April 2002 and the subsequent general strike/oil lockout in December 2002 - February 2003, the then President, Hugo Chavez, was forced to replace PDVSA's management. Critics say this led to a bureaucratisation of the company.

In 2024, the country produced 9,21,000 barrels of crude oil per day, at least 56% lower than its production in the 1980s.

- In the 1970s, Venezuela benefited when oil prices soared due to the Yom Kippur War, and its per capita income became the highest in Latin America. It was then a largely unequal country. However, the figure has only dwindled since 2014 following sanctions and the oil downturn.
- Venezuela's GDP per capita in recent years has become almost similar to what it was three decades ago. No other country's GDP per capita has slid to this extent in this period.
- Consequently, despite being a founding member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Venezuela has the highest general government gross debt compared to other OPEC members (Chart 3). While others have steered through global oil price crashes, the country continues to reel under economic pressure. This points to the fact that the economic crisis in Venezuela cannot be attributed to global crude factors alone.
- Venezuela formed over 4% of the global oil exports in the 1990s, second only to Saudi Arabia's share. However, this dwindled to around 0.35% in 2023.



- U.S. sanctions have played a major role in curbing the petroleum sector in Venezuela. The first Trump administration imposed sanctions in August 2017, prohibiting Caracas from accessing U.S. financial markets. It then imposed more sanctions in 2019, on PDVSA, preventing it from being paid for exports to the U.S. The sanctions also froze PDVSA's U.S. assets and disallowed the supply of diluents. There was some easing in 2023 under the Joe Biden regime, but sanctions were reinstated later, before the naval blockade imposed by the second Trump regime.

### Test of Nuclear Thermal Rocket

- A Nuclear Thermal Rocket is being developed by the NASA and American Defence Agency (DARPA : Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) under a space mission named DRACO (Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations). It will facilitate faster deep-space travel to planets like Mars. It can reduce the travel time by at least 25% and upto 50%.
- It will be powered by the Nuclear Energy (fuelled by low-enriched Uranium).
- It's nuclear reactor will remain off as long as it will be present in the earth's atmosphere, it will be started only when it will enter in the orbit of the Earth.
- In traditional rocket, gas is released by putting fire, while in this nuclear thermal rocket, the nuclear energy will produce immense heat which heats the Liquid Hydrogen to enable it to spread and push the rocket.
- Today's rockets have limited mileage capacity which is known in scientific language as "specific impulse". Rockets have 450-second efficiency.
- This new rocket will have 900-second efficiency (two times).

### Bangladesh refuses to play T20 World Cup

- The Bangladesh Cricket Board announced on 4th January that its team will 'not travel to India' for T-20 World Cup.
- T-20 World Cup, 2026 will be hosted jointly by India & Sri Lanka.

### Countries/region on Trump's target after Venezuela

- Columbia
- Mexico
- Iran
- Cuba
- Greenland

### Deaths in 2025 in the World due to wars/civil wars

- In 2025, in 10 various International wars and 33 Civil wars, approx 2,40,000 persons have been killed.
- It includes 20,000 in Gaza, 80,000 in Russia-Ukraine and 1 lakh in others.

### Minerals in Greenland

- Greenland, having a population of 56,000 has reserve of various minerals:
- Uranium, Iron & other.
- As ice is melting, extraction of minerals is becoming easier.

### About Greenland:

#### आर्कटिक

1. जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण बर्फ पिघल रही है।
2. नए रणनीतिक अवसर उभर रहे हैं।
3. जीवाश्म ईंधन, दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्व, फॉस्फेट और तांबे जैसे प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के अप्रयुक्त भंडार।
4. मछली पकड़ने के लिए आकर्षक मैदान।



- Arctic क्षेत्र के resources अभी तक ice के कारण accessible नहीं थे | परंतु अब ice melting के कारण अब थे पहुँच के लायक बनते जा रहे हैं |
- South Pole पर स्थित Antarctic is demilitarised and environmentally protected by a dedicated international treaty.
- Arctic मुख्य रूप से UN convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) के द्वारा governed होता है |
- इसके कारण विभिन्न देश उस क्षेत्र में कुछ पर अपना दावा करते रहे हैं तथा Military base जमा सकते हैं |

#### Arctic में विभिन्न islands 8 देशों द्वारा नियंत्रित किए जाते हैं :-

1. Canada
2. Denmark
3. Finland
4. Iceland
5. Norway
6. Sweden
7. Russia
8. USA

- Arctic के लिए ARCTIC COUNCIL
- US Pituffik Military base : पिटुफ़िक कमांडर को निकाल दिया गया : USA VP J.D. Vance के Greenland visit के बाद Greenland के Pituffik us space force base की प्रमुख col. Susan Meyers को "Loss of confidence in her ability to lead" के कारण हटा दिया गया है।
- कनाडा एवं USA के बीच "Northwest Passage" को लेकर भी विवाद रहा है।
  - North west passage is a potential Arctic shipping route that winds through Canada Arctic Archipelago.
  - Canada इसको अपने internal waters का हिस्सा मानता है, जबकि Washington इसको international jurisdiction के अंतर्गत मानता है।
- Arctic के कई क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं जो विवादित रहे हैं -
  1. **Norway's Arctic island of Svalbard** (Russia says it should fall under its own control)
  2. **GIUK (Greenland – Iceland – UK) gap**
- A critical choke point for NATO's Naval defences.
- इस पर भी Russia अपना दावा जताता है |

- आर्कटिक क्षेत्र में विश्व के 13% अज्ञात तेल भंडार तथा 30% अप्रयुक्त प्राकृतिक गैस भंडार मौजूद हैं।
  1. दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्वों का सबसे समृद्ध भंडार।
- आर्कटिक समुद्री बर्फ के पिघलने से नए वाणिज्यिक व्यापार मार्गों के खुलने में भी रुचि पैदा हुई है।
- पूर्वोत्तर मार्ग, जो कभी रूस के आर्कटिक तट से होकर नहीं गुजरता, चीनी व्यापार के लिए विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है। बेरिंग नदी से नॉर्वे तक फैला यह मार्ग, स्वेज नहर के पारम्परिक मार्ग की तुलना में पूर्वी एशिया और यूरोप के बीच मुख्य दूरी को लगभग 8000 किलोमीटर तक कम कर सकता है। इस मार्ग से वाणिज्यिक शिपिंग को आगे बढ़ाने से बीजिंग को परिवहन लागत में अरबों की बचत हो सकती है।
- ध्रुवीय रेशम मार्ग
- China अपने को "near Arctic state" कहता है।

#### 5 महत्वपूर्ण कारक जिसके कारण ट्रम्प ने ग्रीनलैंड को निशाना बनाया -

1. दुनिया का 11वां सबसे बड़ा क्षेत्र
2. दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
3. अमेरिका द्वारा संचालित एक बड़ा सैन्य अड्डा।
4. डेनमार्क की आबादी केवल 8% है
5. इस तट पर अकेले रहने वाले 95% लोग

#### ग्रीनलैंड

- राजधानी - नुउक
- आर्कटिक और अटलांटिक महासागरों के बीच स्थित है।
- दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा द्वीप।
- पीएम - मेटे फ्रेडरिकसेन
- कुल क्षेत्रफल = 21, 66,086 वर्ग किमी।
- जनसंख्या लगभग 56000, इसमें से 20,000 नुउक में रहते हैं
- Greenland was annexed by Denmark in the 18th century and has remained politically connected to Europe.
- However, geographically it is closer to North America and the USA than to Copenhagen. The United States protected Greenland when Denmark was under Nazi German occupation.



- In 1946, the United States offered to buy Greenland from Denmark, but Greenland refused.
- Greenland was granted Home Rule Status in 1979.
- By the way, America has an Aribase on Greenland.
- Trump had talked about buying Greenland during his first term.
- This time he is more serious.
- He said that USA's control and ownership of Greenland is an absolute necessity (for national security and independence). He has talked about military and economic coercion to control Greenland.

#### Issues

- New Shipping route due to metting of Glaciers
- Russia and china have already agreed to develop new trading routes in the Arctic waters @ tensions with west and west Asia.
- In November 2014, Russia and China have developed a subcommittee for Cooperation on the northern Sea route, Which spans 56000 tum from the Baren'ts Sea near scandinavia to the Bering stait near Alaska.
- The island is rich is minerals. As per Survey, 25 of 34 Critical raw material which are used in EVS and Batteries were found is Greenland.
- The melting of almost 28000 square km of Greenland's ice sheets drilling for oil, gas and other makes Critical raw materials easier
- At present china is the largest exporter and producer of critical minerals

#### If Trump does this as President, the USA is

- ignoring the fundamental principle of the UN Charter which states "Recognizing the Sovereignty of Nations."
- NATO agreement.
- Under the UN convention, Arctic Ocean waters are considered a global common.

#### Trump Greenlits "Sanctioning Russia Bill"

- The USA President has greenlit the Russian Sanctions Bill on 7 January, 2026.
- The Bill provides for imposition of 500% tariff on countries that buy oil or uranium from Russia.

#### About the "Sanctioning Russia Bill"

- The "Sanctioning Russia Bill" (S1241) was introduced in the 119th US Congress on April 1, 2025 by Republican Senators Lindsey Graham & Richard Blumenthal .
- The Bill has been co-sponsored by 84 (out of total 100 senators, Republican 53, Democrats :45, IND : 2)
- While it was introduced in the House of Representatives by Brian Fetzpatrick.
- The Bill has been co-sponsored by 151 (out of total 435, Republican 218, Democrats :213, Vacant : 4)
- After that the introduction, the bill was referred to multiple Committees such as the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs & others.



## Circumstances leading to the bill

- Since the beginning of 2025, President Donald Trump made various efforts to resolve the Russia-Ukraine war, which repeatedly failed to achieve a peace treaty. Trump's approach has been characterized as lenient toward Russia, with most of the pressure falling on Ukraine thus creating little incentive for President Vladimir Putin to compromise. As Trump conceded to more of Moscow's demands, Putin refused to compromise and his conditions for ending the war expanded.
- This negotiation strategy has been widely criticized by members of Congress, particularly Democrats and a number of Republicans.
- In response to continued Russian aggression, including a deadly drone attack on Kyive in May 2025, the Sanctioning Russia Act was introduced as a bipartisan effort to pressure Putin into serious and conclusive peace negotiations to end the conflict in Ukraine. China and India are the major consumers of Russian energy.

## USA left 66 International Organisations

- Under the USA's America First policy, Trump announced to left 66 international Organisations termin them as futile expenditure. He aslo said that these organisations' functions are against the interests of the USA.
- These organisations include 31 UN bodies and 35 Non-UN bodies.

## UN Year of 2026

### UN has designated 2026 as three International Years:

1. The International Year of Rangelands and Pastorals
2. The International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development
3. The International Year of Women Farmer

## Somaliland

Israel has become the first UN member country to officially recognize Somaliland on 26th December, 2025. It's Capital is Hargesia.

Israel's decision to recognise Somaliland as an independent sovereign state marks a significant diplomatic rupture in the Horn of Africa. Beyond the immediate diplomatic fallout, the move carries wider risks.

- It may intensify Cold War-style proxy conflicts,
- It may provoke economic and political coercion, and
- It may further militarise an already volatile maritime corridor of the Red Sea and beyond.

So far, most of the debates have focused on Israel's maritime calculations and the reactions of regional actors, West Asian nations and Türkiye; the most acute strategic dilemma belongs to China.

China has condemned Israel's decision as an endorsement of separatism, reiterating that Somaliland is an "inseparable part" of Somalia. This language is consistent with Beiing's longstanding position, driven primarily by its domestic sensitivities over Taiwan.

### For Beijing, Somaliland sits at the intersection of three core interests:

- safeguarding the "One China" principle,
- securing the Red Sea corridor, and
- controlling the intensifying great-power competition in Africa.

### Safeguarding the "One China" principle

Under the first (safeguarding the "One China" principle), China has condemned Israel's decision as an endorsement of separatism, reiterating that Somaliland is an "inseparable part" of Somalia. This language is consistent with Beiing's longstanding position, driven primarily by its domestic sensitivities over Taiwan.





- Yet, China may find it harder to reject Somaliland's claim to sovereignty compared to many other contested territories. Unlike many separatist territories, Somaliland has maintained relative peace, built functioning institutions, and held competitive elections for over three decades.
- Somaliland's stability contrasts sharply with Somalia's chronic insecurity.
- Although China continues to reject internal legitimacy as a sufficient parameter for statehood, Somaliland's persistence as a de facto state exposes the limits of Beijing's rigid sovereignty doctrine.

The Taiwan factor sharpens China's dilemma considerably.

- In 2020, Somaliland decided to establish official ties with Taipei, which directly challenged the "One China" principle. Taiwan's representative office in Hargeisa, alongside growing technical, medical, and economic cooperation, has turned
- Israel's recognition has pushed Hargeisa to the centre of great power competition in the Horn of Africa

In this way, Somaliland, along with Eswatini (former Swaziland) has become exceptional two African countries who have established official relationship with Taiwan (going against China). For this reason also, China is uncomfortable in recognizing Somaliland.

#### Securing the Red Sea corridor

- Beijing has repeatedly described the route as a "jugular vein" for global commerce.
- The Bab el-Mandeb Strait, linking the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, is a critical choke point for Chinese trade and energy flows under the Maritime Silk Road. Beijing has repeatedly described the route as a "jugular vein" for global commerce. Its first overseas military base in the neighbouring Djibouti was established in 2017 precisely to protect these interests and ensure a sustained Chinese security presence near this choke point.

#### Controlling the intensifying great-power competition in Africa

- Israel's recognition of Somaliland threatens to disrupt the carefully curated regional chessboard. If Somaliland gains wider international legitimacy, it may emerge as an alternative security and logistics hub along the Gulf of Aden, especially if backed by Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and potentially the United States. For China, the prospect of a rival intelligence and security ecosystem taking shape near Djibouti is deeply unsettling. It risks diluting Beijing's leverage in a region where it has invested heavily in ports, bases, and political relationships.

#### China's further move

- Beijing thus faces an uncomfortable strategic tradeoff. It is obliged to oppose Somaliland's recognition by any country and block any diplomatic space for Taiwan.
- Beijing may resort to hybrid warfare, which will include economic coercion against Somaliland, lobbying political elites, as well as targeted information campaigns.
- There are signs that this approach may already be taking shape.
  1. For example, Chinese media networks, including StarTimes, which currently operates in over 30 African countries, provide tools to shape narratives around territorial integrity and external interference.
- Diplomatically, China can leverage its position in the UN Security Council to block any momentum toward broader international recognition of Somaliland.



- The wider geopolitical context makes China's dilemma even sharper. Ethiopia's memorandum of understanding, in 2024, to recognise Somaliland in exchange for port access, growing U.S. congressional interest in Somaliland as a democratic and strategic partner, and tacit support from the UAE, all suggest that Israel's move could trigger a geopolitical recalibration. Each additional recognition would weaken China's ability to isolate Somaliland diplomatically and increase the strategic costs of maintaining the status quo.
- Ultimately, China's challenge is not merely to block Somaliland's recognition, but rather to prevent greater Taiwanese visibility, deeper Israeli and western access to the Red Sea, and the emergence of a rival security architecture near Djibouti. Israel's decision has thus forced Beijing into an uncomfortable balancing act between principle and pragmatism.
- What is clear is that Somaliland is no longer a diplomatic footnote. Israel's recognition has pushed it to the centre of greatpower competition in the Horn of Africa. In doing so, it has exposed the limits of China's approach to sovereignty, security, and influence in a region that is becoming increasingly important to global trade and geopolitics.
- Taliban was successful in appointing its nominee to the Consulate in Mumbai, Ikramuddin Kamil.
- India, along with most other countries, does not recognise the Taliban as the legitimate government in Afghanistan as it used force to oust the democratically elected government led by former President Ashraf Ghani in 2021.
- India has improved ties with the Taliban after reestablishing a technical mission in Kabul in 2022. On October 21 last year, the Ministry of External Affairs announced it would upgrade the mission to "Embassy status", joining a number of countries including China, Russia, Pakistan and others in the Gulf region and Central Asia, to allow the Taliban to post diplomats in their countries.

### Operation Hawkeye Strike

- Operation Hawkeye Strike was started on 19 December 2025 by the USA with the support of Jordan to strike IS Centres spread over various regions of Syria.
- This operation is still going on with certain intervals.

### Trump, Greenland & the EU

- The Trump administration has announced to slap a raft of European countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) with a 10% tariff on "any and all goods" beginning on February 1 which is then set to increase to 25% on June 1, until an agreement is reached on the U.S. demand to purchase or otherwise acquire the Denmark-administered Arctic territory of Greenland.
- The targeted nations, have condemned the decision and have sent a small number of troops to Greenland for what they have called a 'reconnaissance mission', essentially for military exercises that signal and reinforce Europe's collective commitment to defending the autonomous Arctic territory.

### Afghan Embassy & Taliban Ambassador

- The first Taliban appointed diplomat Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor, a senior official in the Taliban's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has arrived in Delhi on 9 January, 2026 and is expected to take over as the Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy.
- This is an outcome of an agreement between India and the Afghan regime after the visit of Taliban Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi to Delhi in October 2025.
- A previous attempt by the Taliban to appoint a Charge d'Affaires in Delhi was foiled in April 2023 after the appointee was rejected by staffers at the embassy. Subsequently, the



Leaving aside the neo-imperialist impulse that is implicit in the Trump administration's plans to control non-allied nations' territories based on the threat of military action, or to bully allies by weaponising tariffs against them, such actions are tantamount to a violation of international law, and in the case of the EU, risk degrading years of progress made on transatlantic trade agreements.

- First, there is a serious issue of no legislative backing by the U.S. Congress and legal basis for the unilateral action taken by the Trump administration in targeting Denmark and other European countries.
- Second, the Trump administration is likely to face, this week, a judicial ruling against its use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose tariffs across the board.
- Third, European nations may bring into force what is known as the "anti-coercion instrument", a counter-tariff facility that would limit the trade of major U.S. tech firms and related service providers that conduct significant business in the EU.

Whatever the denouement of this Trump-made conflict, it will likely take years, if not decades to heal the worsening transatlantic rift that has beset the region. Meanwhile a weakened NATO will stand less able to assist Ukraine in facing off against the depredations of an aggressive Russia on the eastern front. The need of the hour is enlightened leadership, a far cry from what is presently on offer in Washington.

#### Trade of the EU

Country	Export	Import	Total
USA	535.4	464.3	1000.7
UK	462.3	33.7	793.0
China	249.7	416.2	203.1
India	60.3	64.3	124.6

### China's ageing problem

- China's population is continuously decreasing since 2022.
- According to the UN, by 2050 the chinese population will be around 1.3 billion from a peak of 1.4 billion.
- If this pattern is continued, around 40% of the population will be over 40%.
- **Major steps taken by the Chinese govt to mitigate the ageing challenge :**
  1. On January 1, 2026, the government added 13% VAT on contraceptives and condoms.
  2. In 2025, the government announced a subsidy of 3,600 yuan (equivalent to \$500 dollars) for new parents for the first three years.
  3. There has also been a waiver of fees for students in the last year of kindergarten while also reducing the fees of kindergartens in the private sector. Moreover, the salaries of kindergarten teachers have been included in fiscal guarantees to ensure that they are timely.

### Last year, Beijing also raised the retirement age.

1. For men, this stands now at 63 (up from 60) and
2. For women it is 58 (up from 55 in white collar jobs) and 55 (up from 50 in blue collar jobs).
3. China has also increased the age cutoff for certain civil service exams from 35 to 38 (people with masters and doctoral degrees can apply till the age of 43).
4. There is also a government backed campaign to encourage young people to marry and have children and to build a "birth-friendly society".
5. There is also an effort to reduce the 'bride price' (transfer of money from groom's family to the bride's) too.
6. Moreover, the government has plans to introduce love courses for single students in universities.





- This was adopted not only to manage the declining workforce but also to postpone the added strain on the government with regards to pension funds.
- The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) has predicted that at the current rate the state pension fund will run out of money by 2035, due to lesser number of people joining the workforce.
- However, the Chinese government continues to insert itself in the lives of its citizens as there have been instances of officials calling young married women asking their menstruation dates and their plans of having children.
- There is also an effort to reduce the 'bride price' (transfer of money from groom's family to the bride's) too. Moreover, the government has plans to introduce love courses for single students in universities.
- Now during the present rule of Ali Khamenei, most suppression and restrictions have been faced by the Iranian Women. Perhaps it is so because the new rule knows the strength of women and they want to regulate them in such a way they they could not became able to launch such powerful movement.
- In spite of that, the event related to Mahisa Amini took place
- After that, Nargis Mohammadi became symbol of powerful women resistance in Iran when in spite of being kept behind the bars, world recognized her by conferring Nobel Peace Prize, 2023 (still in jail).

### Significance of women in Iran

- In 1911, it were the Iranian womwn who had staged stong protests before Parliament against Russia.
- In 1937, Reza Shah Kabir transformed the conditions of the women by providing them better education and opportunities.
- In 1964, when Ali Khumenei was ousted form Iran, it were the women who staged string protest in favour of Ali Khumenei.
- By 1979, these newly empowered women became main force behind the Islamic Revolution, which overthrew the Shah's rule and placed Ali Khamenei on the throne. They were frontrunners and main revolutionaries. It means due to the revolution by the Iranian Women, the rule was changed and the rue of Ali Khamenei came.

### Board of Peace

- It was announced on 29 September 2025, mandated on 17 November 2025 and established on 15 January 2026 under the 20-pint Gaza Peace Plan, proposed by Mr. Trump in September, 2025.
- It has been established by virtue of UNSC Resolution 2803. It was drafted by the USA. It was adopted by on 17 November 2025.
- On 12 October, 2025, trump announced that "The War is over"
- On 13th October, 2025, an International summit at Sharm El Shheikh, Egypt.
- France has not supported the idea if the Board of Peace. On 19 January, 2026 Trump said he would impose a tariff of 200% on French wine and champagne.

### The issue of Chagos

- The Chagos archipelago with an area of 60 square kilometres is a group of atolls comprising 58 islands



- It is located approximately 2200 km northeast of the main island of Mauritius and about 1700 km south west of Thiruvananthapuram
- Diego Garcia is the largest and Southern most island in the chagos archipelago.
  1. Diego Garcia is home to a joint US-UK naval facility.
  2. Actually in 1967, Britain forced an entire indigenous people to move out of it and handed over it to the USA on rent to establish its military base.
- Mauritius claims its sovereignty on Chagos and insists that it should be returned to it.
- On March 12, 1968 Mauritius got independence from Britain but Britain denied to handover Chagos to Mauritius.
- In fact Britain threatened Mauritius that if it will insist on chagos, the independence of Mauritius will land in danger.
  1. Due to such compulsions Mauritius leader shiv sagar Ramgulam accepted Britain's terms of independent
  2. But he raised this issue In UN. In 2019 Mauritius raised this issue is the International Court of Justice Hague.

### Chagos sovereignty to Mauritius

- UK handed the sovereignty of Chagos islands to Mauritius through a treaty signed between the UK and Mauritius on 22 may 2025.
- Through the same treaty, the Diego Garcia Where the UK-US military base is situated has been given to the uk on to a lease of 99 years.
- For this lease, the UK will Pay 10 million GBP (136 million USD) to Mauritius.
- Chagos islands or chagos archipelago is situated in the Indian Ocean it's largest island is Diego Garcia.

### ग्रीनलैंड की सुरक्षा पर ट्रम्प-रूटे वार्ता

- 21 जनवरी 2026 को ग्रीनलैंड को 'गोल्डन डोम' मिसाइल रक्षा प्रणाली प्रदान करने पर ट्रम्प और नाटो महासचिव मार्क रूटे के बीच वार्ता संपन्न हुई | इससे कुछ महत्वपूर्ण निष्कर्ष की जानकारी नहीं दी गयी है | उम्मीद है वार्ता जारी रहेगी |
- 'बोर्ड ऑफ़ पीस' हस्ताक्षर समारोह
- दावोस में विश्व आर्थिक मंच (WEF) के अवसर पर ट्रम्प द्वारा 21 जनवरी 2026 को 'बोर्ड ऑफ़ पीस' पर हस्ताक्षर के लिए एक समारोह का उद्घाटन किया गया | प्रथम दिन ही 23 देशों ने उसपर हस्ताक्षर किया | इसमें निम्नांकित देश शामिल हैं :
  1. पाकिस्तान, इजराइल, अर्मेनिया, अज़रबैजान, बहरीन, मिस्र, मोरक्को, वियतनाम, बेलारूस, हंगरी, कजाकिस्तान, अर्जेंटीना, इंडोनेशिया, जॉर्डन, कोसोवो, कतर, सऊदी अरब, तुर्किये, उज्बेकिस्तान, बुल्गारिया, मंगोलिया |
  - बोर्ड ऑफ़ पीस में शामिल होने के लिए ट्रम्प ने 60 देशों को आमंत्रित किया था जिसमें से उपरोक्त 23 देशों सहित 35 देशों द्वारा इसपर सहमति व्यक्त की जा चुकी है |
  - फ्रांस, नोर्वे और स्वीडेन ने इसमें शामिल होने से इनकार कर दिया है जबकि भारत, कनाडा और चीन ने अभी तक कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी है |
  - रूस ने सहमति व्यक्त की है | वह अमेरिका द्वारा अपनी ज्वल सम्पत्तियों में से 1 बिलियन की राशि कटवा कर स्थायी सदस्यता के लिए भी सहमति व्यक्त कर चुका है |
  - ट्रम्प 'बोर्ड ऑफ़ पीस' को यू. एन. के समानांतर स्थापित करना चाहते हैं | वह खुद इसके आजीवन अध्यक्ष रहेंगे |

### Pax Silica

- It is a US led strategic effort to build a secure , resilient and innovation-driven silicon chain, covering sectors from critical minerals to AI infrastructure.
- Pax (latin word) means Peace & stability. Silicon refers to the compound foundational to the Computer Chips



### BRICS Presidency

- Brazil has handed over the BRICS 18th presidency to India
- Theme: “ Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”

### America's new national defense policy

- On January 23, the Pentagon, the headquarters of the US Department of Defense, released a new 34-page National Defense Policy. This change was made in 2022.
- It criticizes partners from Europe to Asia. Under this new policy, America's allies will have to reduce their dependence on the United States to deal with threats from Russia to North Korea.

### Number of killings in Gaza

- Israel's military has accepted that around 70,000 palestinians were killed during war in Gaza.
- Apart from that number, it should also be noted that around 1,72,000 people were injured and 15000 to 20,000 are still missing.

### भारत और चिली के बीच एफ़ टी ए संभव

- भारत और चिली के बीच एफ़ टी ए पर वार्ता जारी है। इस समझौते से घरेलू व्यवसायों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों तक पहुंच आसान हो जाएगी। मालूम हो कि दक्षिण अमेरिकी देश चिली के पास लिथियम, तांबा, रेनियम, मोलिब्डेनम और कोबाल्ट जैसे प्रमुख खनिजों का विशाल भंडार है। ये इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, वाहन और सौर ऊर्जा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- यह हमारे लिए महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के रास्ते खोल देगा। भारत और चिली ने 2006 में एक तरजीही व्यापार समझौते (पीटीए) को लागू किया था और अब इसे एक व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौते (सीईपीए) में बदलने के लिए बातचीत कर रहे हैं।

### Alberta of Canada

- Alberta is the wealthiest province of Canada on accounts of its energy reserves and production. It accounts for more than 90% of Canada's proven oil reserves and 80% of its current production.
- Here, separatist sentiments have been fueled by an organization named “Alberta Prosperity Project” (APP) in connivance with the USA.
- App has reportedly requested USA for \$500 billion line of credit from the USA treasury. This amount will be used to finance the formality of transition to independence, “Day One”, if the would-be referendum on the issue succeeds.
- Under Alberta Law, to trigger a referendum, the group must collect 1,77,732 valid signatures by early May

### China's Economy

- GDP of China: 140 trillion yuan (approx.. 20 trillion USD in 2025).
- It shows a year-on-year increase of 5%.
- China's contribution to global economic growth is expected to reach around 30%.
- The primary engine of China's growth is its domestic demand.
- In 2025, Final Consumption Expenditure contributed 52% to economic growth.

### China on various parameters:

- the average number of mobile phones owned per person is 1.28, which is among the world's leading levels.
- The average daily protein intake is 124.6 grams, which is higher than that of the U.S. and Japan.





- The average annual vegetable consumption is 109.8 kilogrammes, the highest in the world.

**China-India trade has reached a historic high of \$155.6 billion in 2025**

### DOSTI Exercise

- Trilateral Coastguard exercise involving India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

**It's 17th edition took place between 17-19 January, 2026.**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Nimesulide restricted in India

- The Union Health Ministry banned the Production, sales and distribution of Nimesulide above 100 mg.
- The order has been issued under the powers conferred by section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and after Consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board
- Nimesulide is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for its pain-relieving, anti-inflammatory and fever-reducing effects.

### Microplastics are limiting Oceans

Microplastics are limiting the carbon absorption capacity of Oceans.

### Hydrogen Train & Car

- Preparations to run Hydrogen train on 89 km long route between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana are in full speed.
- Two diesel engines has been sent for retrofitting of hydrogen fuel system in which will have a capacity of 220 kg hydrogen.

- To provide uninterrupted energy supply. An 11 KW Hydrogen Plant has been established in Jind with a storage capacity of 3,000 kg.

- It's maximum speed will be 150 km per hr.

### Gas leak at ONGC oil well

- On 5 January, the incident of gas leakage and subsequent fire took place at the ONGC Oil well at the Mori-5 well in the district of Konaseema in Andhra Pradesh.

- This Oil well is operated by a contractor Deep Industries Ltd.

- Probably, the incident occurred during repair works aimed at enhancing the natural gas flow. The crude oil and gas reportedly shot up to 100 feet in a ball of fire.

### Biomaterials

- Biomaterials are materials derived wholly or partly from biological sources, or engineered using biological processes, that are designed to replace or interact with conventional materials. They are increasingly used across sectors such as packaging, textiles, construction, and healthcare.

**Biomaterials can be broadly categorised into three types:**

- drop-in biomaterials, which are chemically identical to petroleum-based materials and can be used in existing manufacturing systems (such as bio-PET);
- drop-out biomaterials, which are chemically different and require new processing or end-of-life systems (such as polylactic acid or PLA); and
- novel biomaterials, which offer new properties not found in conventional materials, such as self-healing materials, bioactive implants, and advanced composites.



### Why does India need biomaterials?

- For India, biomaterials address multiple goals, including environmental sustainability, industrial growth, revenue generation, and supporting farmer livelihoods through a single pathway.
- Indigenous biomaterials biomanufacturing can reduce India's heavy dependence on fossil based imports for plastics, chemicals, and materials.
- It would also enable diversified value for agricultural feedstocks and residues, offering farmers new income streams beyond food markets.
- As global regulations and consumer preferences shift toward low-carbon and circular products, biomaterials position the Indian industry to remain competitive in export markets.
- Biomaterials also support domestic policy goals around waste reduction, such as the ban on single-use plastics and climate action goals.

### Where does India stand today?

- India's biomaterials sector, spanning bioplastics, biopolymers, and bioderived materials, is rapidly emerging as a strategic industrial and sustainability opportunity, with the bioplastics market alone valued at around \$500 million in 2024 and forecast to grow strongly through the decade.
- Balrampur Chini Mills planned PLA plant investment in Uttar Pradesh is one of the biggest investments in India.
- Domestic innovation includes startups like Phool.co, converting temple flower waste into biomaterials and Praj Industries, who have their own demonstration level bioplastics plant in progress.

- Although India has a rich agricultural base, in some sectors, there is foreign dependence for the technologies required for the transformation of feedstocks into market-ready final products.

### What is the way forward?

- India has an advantage in building a biomaterials industry, but some issues would need to be addressed first. If feedstocks also do not scale with increased demand, there could be feedstock competition with food sources. Similarly, aggressive agricultural practices could lead to water stress and soil deterioration. Further, weak waste-management and composting infrastructure could undermine environmental benefits. Fragmented policy coordination across agriculture, environment, and industry may slow adoption, and failure to move quickly could leave India dependent on imports as other countries scale faster.
- To capitalise on this sector, policy actions include scaling biomanufacturing infrastructure (especially fermentation and polymerisation capacity), improving feedstock productivity for crops such as sugarcane, maize, and agricultural residues using emerging technologies, and investing in R&D and standards to develop both drop-in and novel biomaterials.
- Clear regulatory definitions, labelling norms, and endoflife pathways (recycling or industrial composting) are essential to build consumer and industry confidence.
- Government procurement, time bound incentives under frameworks, and support for pilot plants and shared facilities can help de-risk early investments.



### Nvidia's Rubin

- Rubin is a next-generation GPU architecture and tightly integrated AI supercomputing platform developed by the Nvidia.
- Rubin is Nvidia's first extreme-co-designed platform and will comprise six AI chips, alongside various networking technologies and system software, all working together as a single computing unit.
- It was launched by Nvidia founder and CEO Jensen Huang on Monday, January 5 at CES 2026 (Consumer Electronic Show) held in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

### National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL)

- India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL) and the world's fifth National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration (NPF-SCC) at New Delhi.

#### What it is?

- The National Environmental Standard Laboratory is an apex national facility for testing, calibration, and certification of air pollution monitoring equipment under Indian climatic and environmental conditions.
- The National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration is an advanced metrology facility for high-precision calibration of solar cells, ensuring global-standard photovoltaic (PV) measurements.

### New Years's first launch of ISRO failed

- On 12th January, 2026, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s PSLVC62 mission carrying the EOSN1 (earth observation satellite a Hyperspectral Imaging Sataellite, codenamed: anvesha) developed by DRDO and 15 copassenger satellites lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 10.18 a.m. but failed to finish its intended trajectory due to an anomaly at the end of the third stage of the launch vehicle, resulting in the loss of the satellites.
- All the 16 satellites got destroyed.
- The PSLV-C62 has four stages, went as expected till the third stage, but at the close to the end of the third stage, some disturbance in the vehicle roll rates, and subsequently, a deviation was observed in the flight path.
- It was a commercial mission of New Space India Limited (NSIL). EOSN1 and 14 copassenger satellites were to be injected into a 512 km high Sun Synchronous Orbit, and the KID Capsule into a reentry trajectory.
- After the injection of the EOSN1 and 14 satellites, the PS4 stage was to be restarted to deboost and enter a reentry trajectory, followed by the KID Capsule separation.
- Both PS4 stage and KID capsule had to re-enter Earth's atmosphere and the impact was to be in the South Pacific Ocean.

#### This mission had following foals :

1. strategic observation on border areas,
2. In agriculture, to analyse moisture in soils, health of crops, about diseases in the crops
3. In disaster management, to enhance the prediction capacity of floods, landdslides, cyclones
4. To earn foreign currency and to strngthen Inda's space economy.





- This was second consecutive failure of PSLV. Before this, PSLV-C61, EOS-09 mission launched in May, 2025 had also failed.

### Clean/Green Vehicles in India

- India is third largest vehicle market after China & the USA.
- India targets to achieve the target of Net-zero carbon economy by 2070. For this it is required to bring our Emission and fuel efficiency standards on the par with the global standards (in compliance with 'Euro-7'). It will be implemented from November, 2026.
- On the other hand, Bharat VECTO (Vehicle Energy Consumption Calculation tool) is to be implemented for Heavy-Duty Vehicles (HDVs).
- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has proposed under CAFÉ-3 (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) that those cars who are less than 4 meters, less than 909 kg in weight with an engine of sub-1200 cc, must get in Carbon Emission computation.
- Some Car manufacturers protested this proposal saying that the cars should be classified on the basis of their weights rather than on the basis of length & engine capacity.
- Although SIAM data released in Mint refer that during last six years, sales of less than 3.6 metres have been reduced by 71%.
- According to a market intelligence agency, the present EV market is worth \$54 billion which is estimated to be doubled by 2029.
- In 2025, 20 lakh EVs were sold in India and 19 lakh in 2024.
- The second stage of fuel efficiency standards, CSFC-II (Constant Speed Fuel Consumption, stage II) & CAFÉ-3 for heavy vehicles shall be implemented from 1 April, 2027.

- To encourage sales of clean vehicles, the Govt. brings the schemes like PLI-Auto, PM e drive & others.

### ISRO's major challenges

ISRO's major challenges can be distilled to three:

1. its capacity to execute more complex missions;
2. questions about how clearly the space programme is and can be governed in a newly liberalised sector; and
3. constraints on ISRO's competitiveness that are as industrial and financial as they're technological.

### Cyber Security Unit in Bihar

Bihar CM inaugurated Cyber Crime & Security Unit.

### Humanoid Robots

- The use and demand of the Humanoid robots has been increasing day by day. On the other side, its increasing use is being criticized at large scale in countries like the USA.
- In the USA, these robots are used in conduction ultrasound and other medical activities.
- The Chinese company UBTECH is the largest manufacturer and supplier of these Humanoid robots. Example of these Humanoid robots : Walker S-2
- In their success, the main important role is played by modern batteries.
- In the global market, the value of trade in robotics has been estimated at 50-88 billion dollars during 2025-26.
- In India, this value was 1.98 billion dollars in 2025. By 2034, it could reach up to 7.38 billion dollars.
- In the use of robotics, India occupies 6th or 7th rank in the world.



### Deaths due to Nuclear weapon

- In the report issued by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons(ICAN) and the Nuclear Policy Architects (NPA), since 1945 to 2017, around 40 lakh people died due to Nuclear weapon tests across the world.
- Most important Nuclear weapon test was **Castle Bravo**, the first in a series of high-yield thermonuclear weapon tests conducted by the USA at Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands, as part of *Operation Castle*, detonated on 1 March 1954.
- It was the device remains the most powerful nuclear device ever detonated by the United States and the first lithium deuteride-fueled thermonuclear weapon tested using the Teller-Ulam design.[1][2] Castle Bravo's yield was 15 megatons of TNT [Mt] (63 PJ), 2.5 times the predicted 6 Mt (25 PJ), due to unforeseen additional reactions involving lithium-7,[3] which led to radioactive contamination in the surrounding area.
- After the decade of 1990, only North Korea has conducted the tests.

### 9th International Spice Conference

- Kochi, 23-26 February, 2026.
- Theme: "spice 360- Getting Future Ready"

### Earth Rotation Day

- Earth Rotation Day is observed on 8th January, 2026.
- It was on this day in 1851, that French physicist Leon Foucault had proved that the Earth revolves on it's axis.

### India's Dust Experiment

- India (ISRO) conducted it's first ever Dust Experiment (DEX) regarding behavior of the Interplanetary Dust Particles (IDPs).

- For this, an instrument was made and designed by the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.
- The instrument was flown on PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) of the PSLVC-58 XPoSat mission launched on 1st January, 2024.
- ISRO confirmed that the DEX confirmed that the IDPs enters Earth's atmosphere approximately every 1000 seconds.

### Bio-bitumin

India has become the first country to commercially produce bio-bitumin for road construction.

### Mpemba Effect

Mpemba Effect refers to the counterintuitive phenomenon where hot water freezes faster than cold water under specific experimental conditions. It is named after Erasto mpemba, a Tanzanian student who had reported it scientifically in 1969.

### SC on Stem Cell Therapy

- On 30th January, 2026, a SC Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan criticised the Union government for its failure to act against those offering such therapies, which has led parents and guardians to seek an unproven method of treatment for their children suffering from ASD at a huge financial cost.
- It said that the Stem cell 'therapies' cannot be offered as a clinical service for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It cannot be offered outside of an approved and monitored clinical trial or research setting.
- The court directed the government to constitute a dedicated authority for regulatory oversight over stem cell research across the country.



- The Bench held that the therapeutic use of stem cells in ASD cases, based on uncertain scientific knowledge or evidence about its effectiveness as a cure or the possible repercussions, would fail the “reasonable standard of care” that doctors owed their patients.
- “There is a dearth of established scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of therapeutic use of stem cells in ASD. As a result, the doctors do not have ‘adequate information’ to provide their patients in the first place,” the court observed.
- The court clarified that parents, guardians, and caregivers cannot demand that stemcell therapy be administered as a clinical service.
- “Even consent obtained from patients would not be valid as the prerequisite to disclose adequate information cannot be satisfied,” the court said.
- Though consent is a mode of exercising patient autonomy, it cannot be “stretched to seek an entitlement to subject oneself to a clinical procedure that is scientifically unvalidated, ethically impermissible, and outside the bounds of reasonable medical practice”, the court reasoned
- Besides, the court said, ‘consent’ means an “informed authorisation, grounded in adequate disclosure of the nature, procedure, purpose, benefits, effects, alternatives, substantial risks; and adverse consequences of refusing treatment”.
- The judgment came on the basis of a series of petitions raising concerns about the rampant promotion, prescription and administration of stem cell therapy for the treatment of ASD by clinics across the country.

### DRAM Chips (Global Memory Crisis)

- DRAM Chips refers to the Dynamic Random Access Memory a type of volatile semiconductor memory used in computers, smartphones and servers for temporary, high-speed storage.
- DRAM chips for phones, tablets, laptops and other smart devices. Supply is so tight now that the three key suppliers have stocks for only 2-3 weeks, down from an average of 17 in 2024. Analysts expect memory prices to rise 40% by June. Some leading phone makers have said they may raise prices by 20%. No respite is likely, because building new factories takes a couple of years. Besides, the big three memory makers are wary of a future glut – such things have happened before.
- Instead, they are investing “bigly” in making a different kind of memory called HBM that’s needed to run AI. Now, an HBM chip is basically a stack of four to twelve DRAM chips, the kind found in your phone. But because this stacking is a complex task, each HBM is worth much more than the sum of its parts. Hence, extremely lucrative. And AI firms want millions of HBMs, at once. Open AI, Google, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, Alibaba, ByteDance...the list of firms willing to pay top dollar for them is long. For its Stargate project, OpenAI alone wants twice the current monthly global production of HBMs – every month until 2029.
- Hence, the DRAM shortage for ordinary folks. It’s like what happens when rich people demand ethanol to run cars – food gets costlier for poor people, and they might have to eat less. Analysts see smartphone and laptop sales falling this year. There’s nothing we can do about this shortage, but coming back to the Budget, govt shouldn’t do anything to make devices on our wishlists costlier.



## New Rules for better solid waste mgmt. notified

- केंद्रीय पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय ने ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन (एसडब्ल्यूएम) नियम, 2026 को अधिसूचित किया है, जो ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम, 2016 का स्थान लेंगे। ये नियम पर्यावरण (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम, 1986 के अंतर्गत अधिसूचित किए गए हैं और 01 अप्रैल, 2026 से पूर्ण रूप से लागू होंगे। संशोधित नियम परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था एवं विस्तारित उत्पादक उत्तरदायित्व के सिद्धांतों को एकीकृत करते हैं, जिसमें कचरे का कुशल पृथक्करण एवं प्रबंधन पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है।
- नियमों में 'प्रदूषक भुगतान सिद्धांत' के आधार पर पर्यावरण क्षतिपूर्ति लगाने का प्रावधान है, जिसमें पंजीकरण के बिना संचालन, गलत रिपोर्टिंग, जाली दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत करना या ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन जैसी गलत प्रथाएं शामिल हैं। केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) द्वारा संबंधित दिशा-निर्देश तैयार किया जाएगा जबकि राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड और प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समितियां पर्यावरण क्षतिपूर्ति लगाएंगी।

## ठोस अपशिष्ट के स्रोत का चार-स्तरीय पृथक्करण

ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम, 2026 के अंतर्गत ठोस अपशिष्ट के स्रोत का चार-स्तरीय पृथक्करण अनिवार्य किया गया है। अपशिष्ट को गीले अपशिष्ट, सूखे अपशिष्ट, स्वच्छता अपशिष्ट एवं विशेष देखभाल अपशिष्ट में अलग-अलग करना आवश्यक किया गया है।

- गीले अपशिष्ट में रसोई का कचरा, सब्जियां, फलों के छिलके, मांस, फूल आदि शामिल हैं, जिन्हें निकटतम सुविधा केंद्र में खाद बनाने या जैव-मेथेनिकरण द्वारा संसाधित किया जाएगा।
- सूखे अपशिष्ट में प्लास्टिक, कागज, धातु, कांच, लकड़ी और रबर आदि शामिल हैं, जिन्हें छंटाई एवं पुनर्चक्रण के लिए सामग्री पुनर्प्राप्ति सुविधाओं (एमआरएफ) में भेजा जाएगा।
- स्वच्छता अपशिष्ट में उपयोग किए गए डायपर, सैनिटरी पैड, टैम्पोन और कंडोम आदि शामिल हैं, जिन्हें सुरक्षित रूप से लपेटकर अलग से संग्रहित किया जाना चाहिए।
- विशेष देखभाल अपशिष्ट में पेंट के डिब्बे, बल्ब, थर्मामीटर और दवाइयां आदि शामिल हैं, जिन्हें अधिकृत एजेंसियों द्वारा एकत्रित किया जाना चाहिए या निर्दिष्ट संग्रहण केंद्रों पर जमा किया जाना चाहिए।

## थोक अपशिष्ट उत्पादकों की स्पष्ट परिभाषा

- थोक अपशिष्ट उत्पादक संस्थाओं में वे संस्थाएं शामिल हैं जिनका क्षेत्रफल 20,000 वर्ग मीटर या उससे अधिक है, या जिनकी जल खपत 40,000 लीटर या उससे अधिक प्रतिदिन है, या जिनका ठोस अपशिष्ट उत्पादन 100 किलोग्राम या उससे अधिक प्रतिदिन है। इनमें केंद्र एवं राज्य सरकार के विभाग, स्थानीय निकाय, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम, संस्थान, वाणिज्यिक प्रतिष्ठान और आवासीय समितियां आदि शामिल हैं।
- नए नियमों में **विस्तारित थोक अपशिष्ट उत्पादक उत्तरदायित्व (ईबीडब्ल्यूजीआर)** को भी शामिल किया गया है, जिसके अंतर्गत थोक अपशिष्ट उत्पादकों को उनके द्वारा उत्पन्न ठोस अपशिष्ट के लिए जवाबदेह बनाया गया है।

## स्थानीय निकायों एवं सामग्री पुनर्प्राप्ति सुविधाओं (एमआरएफ) के कार्य

- संशोधित नियमों के अंतर्गत, स्थानीय निकाय ठोस कचरे के संग्रहण, पृथक्करण एवं परिवहन के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। उन्हें एमआरएफ के साथ समन्वय स्थापित करना होगा, जो ई-कचरा, विशेष देखभाल वाला कचरा, स्वच्छता संबंधी कचरा और अन्य प्रकार के कचरे को आगे की प्रक्रिया के लिए एकत्रित करने वाले केंद्र के रूप में भी कार्य कर सकते हैं। एमआरएफ को ठोस अपशिष्ट की **छंटाई** के लिए औपचारिक रूप से मान्यता प्रदान की गई है।
- स्थानीय निकायों को कार्बन क्रेडिट उत्पन्न करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया है। इसके अलावा, राज्य या केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्वच्छता एवं ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन के लिए जिम्मेदार विभाग को शहरी उपक्षेत्रों पर विशेष ध्यान केंद्रित करने का निर्देश दिया गया है।

## उद्योगों द्वारा अपशिष्ट से प्राप्त ईंधन (आरडीएफ) का उपयोग

नए नियमों में अपशिष्ट से प्राप्त ईंधन (आरडीएफ) को उच्च कैलोरी वाले नगरपालिका ठोस अपशिष्ट को छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों में काटकर एवं सुखाकर उत्पादित ईंधन के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है, जिसमें मुख्य रूप से गैर-पुनर्चक्रणीय प्लास्टिक, कागज और वस्त्र शामिल हैं।

**सीमेंट संयंत्रों और अपशिष्ट-से-ऊर्जा संयंत्रों** सहित औद्योगिक इकाइयां जो वर्तमान में ठोस ईंधन का उपयोग करती हैं, उन्हें इसे आरडीएफ से बदलने के लिए अनिवार्य किया गया है। ईंधन प्रतिस्थापन दर वर्तमान 5 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर छह वर्षों में 15 प्रतिशत हो जाएगी।



## लैंडफिलिंग पर प्रतिबंध एवं पुराने अपशिष्ट स्थलों की सफाई

- इन नियमों से लैंडफिलिंग पर प्रतिबंध को और ज्यादा सख्त बनाया गया है और पुराने अपशिष्ट स्थलों के सुधार पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है। लैंडफिल में केवल गैर-पुनर्चक्रणीय, गैर-ऊर्जा-पुनर्प्राप्त योग्य एवं अक्रिय पदार्थ ही डाले जा सकेंगे। स्थानीय निकायों के लिए अविभाजित कचरे को स्वच्छता लैंडफिल में भेजने के लिए उच्च लैंडफिल शुल्क निर्धारित किए गए हैं। अविभाजित कचरे के लिए लैंडफिल शुल्क, विभाजित कचरे के पृथक्करण, परिवहन एवं प्रसंस्करण की लागत से अधिक होगा। इन नियमों में राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों द्वारा लैंडफिल का वार्षिक ऑडिट अनिवार्य किया गया है और लैंडफिल की निगरानी जिला कलेक्टरों द्वारा की जाएगी।
- इन नियमों के अंतर्गत सभी पुराने अपशिष्ट स्थलों का मानचित्रण एवं मूल्यांकन अनिवार्य है और समयबद्ध जैव खनन एवं जैव उपचार का प्रावधान है, जिसमें ऑनलाइन पोर्टल के माध्यम से त्रैमासिक प्रगति रिपोर्टिंग शामिल है।

## पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों एवं द्वीपों में ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन

पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों एवं द्वीपों में ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन के लिए विशेष प्रावधान लागू किए गए हैं। इनमें पर्यटकों से उपयोगकर्ता शुल्क वसूलना एवं उपलब्ध अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन सुविधाओं के आधार पर स्थानीय निकायों द्वारा पर्यटकों के आगमन को नियंत्रित करना शामिल है।

इन क्षेत्रों में गैर-बायोडिग्रेडेबल अपशिष्ट के लिए विशेष संग्रहण केंद्र स्थापित किए जाएंगे। स्थानीय लोगों को अपशिष्ट स्थानीय निकायों को सौंपने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाएगा और उन्हें कूड़ा फैलाने से रोका जाएगा। होटल और रेस्तरां एसपीसीबी या पीसीसी द्वारा निर्धारित मानदंडों के अनुसार गीले अपशिष्ट का विकेंद्रीकृत प्रसंस्करण करेंगे।

- नियमों में प्रभावी रूप से लागू करने के लिए केंद्रीय एवं राज्य स्तरीय समितियों की स्थापना का भी प्रावधान है। राज्य स्तर पर या केंद्र शासित प्रदेश स्तर पर, राज्य के मुख्य सचिव या केंद्र शासित प्रदेश प्रशासन के प्रमुख की अध्यक्षता वाली एक समिति केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड को नियमों के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन की सिफारिश करेगी।

## ACC- PLI scheme for EV battery

- ACC- PLI refers to the Advanced Chemistry Cell Production Linked Incentive which is an ambitious Rs. 18,000 crore scheme to facilitate the manufacture of advance chemistry cell batteries in India. It was launched in October, 2021

- It had a target of making battery cells worth 50 gigawatt-hour (GWh) by 2025, but only 1.4 GWh has been installed
- Advanced Chemistry Cells are a new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.
- Lithium-ions – the mainstay of cellphone batteries- are the most prominent today among this class of batteries. However, the scheme is 'technology agnostic' and is open to another combinations such as nickel manganese cobalt, lithium-ion phosphate and sodium-ion batteries.

## Source code of a phone

### Is the government seeking phones' source code?

What is the issue around the government seeking source code data from companies? What is source code, and why don't companies want to give access to it? Will keeping the code open for review risk security threats and cyberattacks? What has the government

### Why in news?

According to the Reuters the Indian government was contemplating a requirement for smartphone makers to disclose their source code to third party testing agencies, and make this code open for review. A further requirement the agency reported was that phone makers would have to notify the government before pushing major software updates to user devices.

### What is source code?

Source code is the core repository of software programmes and their associated digital assets that drives a digital system. While some parts of the code, especially of Android phones, is open to begin with, there are significant modifications and adaptations that phone manufacturers make to that codebase.





Also, each firm jealously guards the technology driving these respective changes. Source code is kept secret not just for commercial reasons, but also as a security measure.

If a software system's complete inner workings are visible to a malicious attacker, then the system is at risk of being probed for weaknesses that can be exploited, and can lead to data breaches and other types of cyberattacks.

### Why is such a demand controversial?

It is highly unusual for source code of any kind of system to be disclosed outside a company, except perhaps in sensitive fields like defence, and that too in specific countries. Apple Inc., for instance, has not disclosed its source code to the Chinese government, even as the firm has carved out policies specific to that country to make user data stored on the cloud potentially more accessible in response to legal requests.

These reports have come shortly after a bruising episode for the government; just weeks before, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) was at the receiving end of massive political and public pushback due to an order it sent to smartphone manufacturers to "preinstall" the spam reporting app Sanchar Saathi.

There were widespread concerns that the app could be used for snooping at worst, and represent a security threat by a third party attacker at best. This was also a demand global smartphone makers generally don't entertain.

But source code disclosure would be a far more intrusive demand, as it would require smartphone makers to essentially expose their entire code base to a third party. Cyber attackers that find and take advantage of software vulnerabilities often do so with aspects of computer systems that are visible externally; internal visibility would greatly amplify the risks of such vulnerabilities being found, especially if the source code includes detailed documentation on a system's inner workings.

As such, mobile phone operating systems, even if they are running on open source Android, do not expose every detail of their actual implementation.

### Is the Indian government demanding that source code be made public?

In 2023, the National Centre for Communication Security (NCSS), under the DoT, finalised a document called an Indian Telecom Security Assurance

Requirement (ITSAR) for "consumer equipment". ITSARs are technical standards used in the Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment (MTCTE) framework, a key bureaucratic step for importing telecom gear into India.

The MTCTE framework stems from the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017. However, shortly after the Telecommunications Act, 2023 was passed, the DoT and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) decided that the MTCTE regime should be done away with for smartphones, which already go through a certification process for India administered by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

A senior MeitY official told The Hindu that since the baton had now been passed to the IT Ministry, the discussions were picking up where the DoT had left off. A press statement by MeitY stated that the IT Ministry was keeping an "open mind" and would decide on what was best for the country and for consumers.

The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), which represents some smartphone firms, also downplayed the seriousness of the discussions.

The Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights advocacy group, pushed back on that denial, pointing out that the meetings the government was holding were not transparently conducted, and that the ITSARs remain public.



“If the government claims these proposals do not exist, it must explain the specific documentation currently hosted on its own website and also disclose the minutes of meetings,” IFF said in a statement.

“IFF asserts that “stakeholder consultation” cannot be limited to closeddoor meetings with big tech giants. If the PIB’s claim that “no final regulations have been framed” is true, then the government should have no hesitation in releasing the current draft of the ITSAR for public scrutiny immediately.

## ECONOMY

### IIP in December 2026

- The growth rate of IIP in December 2025 was registered at 7.8% and it rose upto 170.3 from 158.7 in November, 2025 in which the growth rate was 7.2%..
- This level of the IIP was highest between the period from December 2024 to November, 2025. The highest level during the period was 166.3 (March 2025)

### Economic Data : GoI

- The Union Government released the First Advance Estimates on 7th January.
- According to it, the Growth Rate in the Real GDP during the FY 2025-26 will stand at 7.4%, while the Growth Rate in the Nominal GDP during the FY 2025-26 will stand at 8.0%.
- The Government issues data regarding a particular Financial Year in the form of first Advance Estimates (January) & second Advance Estimates on 27 February. After 30 May, Provisional Estimates are released.
- Till now, about the Fiscal Year 2025-26, GoI had revealed that the growth rate during Q1 = 7.8%, Q2 = 8.2% and during H1, it was 6.8%

### India’s exports to china

- According to data released by the Commerce Ministry of India, China has been emerging as an important export destination for India.
- During the period of April-November FY '26, Indian exports to China increased by 33% to reach \$12.22 billion (from \$9.2 billion in the same period last year, same period).

### India’s Forex reserve Update

In the week, end on 2 January, India’s forex reserve stood at 686.80 billion dollar. It was 9.81 less than 696.61 billion dollar.

### Central-State economic federalism

#### Transfer to States by the Centre:

- based on the recommendations of successive Finance Commissions (FCs), which determine both the overall share to States and the formula for tax devolution,
- through grants-in-aid and
- centrally sponsored schemes (CSS).

#### Issues regarding :

- the erosion of the fiscal autonomy of States following
- the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST),
- revenue losses arising from GST rate cuts,
- the increasing dominance of CSS that constraint Statelevel spending flexibility,
- the Centre’s growing cesses and surcharges that are not shared with States, and
- declining devolution shares of high performing States.



### Moreover, most FCs have prioritised equity over

- efficiency,
- having relied heavily on debatable criteria such as
  1. income distance and population,
  2. and frequently altered the weights assigned to these variables.

### Tax collection versus tax contribution

- States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu argue that they contribute disproportionately to central tax revenues but receive relatively smaller shares through tax devolution.
- This claim, however, is often contested on the grounds that direct tax figures reflect the location of collections rather than the GSDP share is a meaningful indicator of the accrual of central taxes at the State level actual place where income is generated. Individuals and companies may pay taxes in locations different from where economic activity occurs.
  1. For example, automobile manufacturers in Tamil Nadu may sell vehicles across India, but their tax payments are recorded in the State where their registered office is located. Similarly, plantation companies in Kerala earn profits nationwide, though taxes are paid in Kerala.

### GSDP as proxy for State-level tax accrual

- From 202021 to 202425, the Centre devolved 41% of its gross tax revenues to States in line with the 15th FC's recommendations, along with additional transfers through grants-in-aid and CSS.
- According to the Ministry of Finance (Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 236, dated December 2, 2025), total transfers during this five-year period amounted to Rs. 75.12 lakh crore.

### Central tax collections, transfers and GSDP

GSDP, reflecting accrual of central taxes, strikes a balance between efficiency and equity in tax devolution

State-wise direct tax and gross GST collections, central transfers and GSDP from 2020-21 to 2024-25

States	Direct tax and GST collection		Central transfers		FC devolution		GSDP		Transfers using GSDP share		Loss or gain
	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	(₹ lakh crore)	
Andhra Pradesh	3.32	2.97	3.23	4.30	4.07	64.35	4.97	3.74	0.51		
Assam	0.75	0.67	2.93	3.90	3.13	24.48	1.89	1.42	-1.51		
Bihar	0.76	0.68	6.5	8.65	10.06	38.48	2.97	2.23	-4.27		
Chhattisgarh	1.68	1.50	2.36	3.14	3.41	23.03	1.78	1.94	-1.02		
Gujarat	7.69	6.98	2.55	3.39	3.48	108.38	8.97	6.29	3.74		
Haryana	6.02	5.39	0.83	1.10	1.09	48.82	3.77	2.83	2.00		
Himachal Pradesh	0.48	0.43	1.19	1.58	0.83	9.58	0.74	0.56	-0.63		
Jharkhand	1.58	1.41	2.22	2.96	3.31	20.69	1.60	1.20	-1.02		
Karnataka	14.14	12.65	2.93	3.90	3.65	113.94	8.60	6.61	3.68		
Kerala	1.81	1.62	2.03	2.70	1.93	51.19	3.96	2.97	0.94		
Madhya Pradesh	2.17	1.94	5.56	7.40	7.85	61.26	4.73	3.56	-2.00		
Maharashtra	40.3	36.06	4.99	6.64	6.32	179.83	13.90	10.44	5.45		
Odisha	2.61	2.34	3.32	4.42	4.53	36.40	2.81	2.11	-1.21		
Punjab	1.47	1.32	1.57	2.09	1.81	34.71	2.68	2.02	0.45		
Rajasthan	2.83	2.53	4.57	6.08	6.03	67.96	5.25	3.94	-0.63		
Tamil Nadu	8.5	7.61	3.5	4.66	4.08	120.41	9.30	6.99	3.49		
Telangana	4.32	3.87	1.84	2.45	2.10	64.81	5.01	3.76	1.92		
Uttar Pradesh	5.14	4.60	11.88	15.81	17.94	116.28	8.98	6.75	-5.13		
Uttarakhand	0.9	0.81	1.24	1.65	1.12	14.84	1.15	0.86	-0.38		
West Bengal	4.46	3.99	5.23	6.96	7.52	74.64	5.77	4.33	-0.90		
5 small States	0.82	0.73	4.63	6.16	5.79	20.07	1.55	1.17	-3.46		
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.75</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>76.12</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.02</b>	<b>1294.15</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>76.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>		

### Net Direct Tax collection

- In the FY'26, from April 1 to 11 January, 2026, the net direct tax collection has been increased by 8.82% to Rs. 18.38 lakh crore. It consists of Rs.8.63 lakh crore from corporate tax and Rs.9.30 lakh crore from non-corporate taxes.
- During this period, security transaction Tax collection remained at Rs.44,867 crore.
- Gross Direct Tax collection increased at the rate of 4.14% to become Rs.21.50 lakh crore.
- The Union government has set it's target for direct tax collection at Rs.25.20 lakh crore.

### Mobile production in India

- 75 arab dollar, out of which mobiles worth 30 arab dollar will be exported.

### India's Credit-Deposit (C-D) Ratio

- As of 15 december, 2025, India's C-D Ratio has been registered at 82% (it was 53% in 2000-01).
- It signifies better financial development and strong economic growth.

### USA imposed 25% Tariff on trade with Iran

- On 12 January, 2026 USA imposed 25% Tariff on the countrie doing trade with Iran.





- India will be affected because during 2024-25, India-Iran bilateral trade was at 1.68 billion dollar:
  1. Export of 1.24 billion dollar and
  2. Imports of the value of 0.44 billion dollar
- Iran is the largest buyer of Indian Basmati rice. During 2025-26 (April-Nov), India has exported 5.99 lakh tonnes of the value of 468.10 million dollar.
- India's Chabahar project will also be affected (although special waiver was granted w.e.f 29 October, 2025).
- During 2018-19 the bilateral trade between India and Iran, was of the total value of 17.03 billion dollar (Export: 3.51, Imports : 13.53 billion USD).
- Other important countries who will be badly affected : China, EU, Turkiye, UAE, Russia, Iraq, among others

### India's Vehicle exports (2025)

- In 2025, India's vehicle exports reached up to 63,25,211. It was 24.1% more than 50,98,474 in 2024.
- Out of this, exports of the passenger vehicles increased by 16% to reach at 8,63,233 (it was 7,43,979 in 2024)
- The exports of utility vehicles increased by 32% to reach 4,27,219.
- The exports of passenger cars increased by 3% to reach 4,25,396.

### WEF's Annual Meet, Davos

- WEF's Annual Meet was held in Davos from 19-23 January, 2026. Its theme was "A Spirit of Dialogue"
- From India, apart from NSA, 4 Union Ministers, 6 CMs participated.

### Gold price crossed 1.5 lakh mark

On 20 January, 2026, the price of gold in India increased by 5100 rupees to reach at 1,53,000 rupees per 10 gm

### Rupee versus Dollar

On 21st January, the value of Indian rupee reached at 91.37 per dollar.

### Coffee exports in 2025

- In 2025, the value of exports increased by 22% to reach at 2.05 arab dollar.
- However, its quantity was decreased by 4.47% to come down at 3.84 lakh tonnes. In 2024 India's Coffee exports was 4.02 lakh tonnes.

### FDI in India increased in 2025 : UN

- According to the UN, FDI in India increased in 2025 by 73% to reach at 47 arab dollar.
- According to it, It decreased in China by 8% to drop at 107.5 arab dollar. According to the UN, China's FDI has been decreasing since three consecutive years

### India's Forex Reserve

In the last week, ended on 16 January, India's Forex Reserve was at 701.36 billion USD, with an increase of 14.16 billion USD. Its all time high is 704.89 billion USD in September 2024.

### India's Forex Reserve

- In the last week, ended on 30 January, India's Forex Reserve reached at the new all time high level of 723.77 billion USD.
- Before this, in the last week, ended on 23 January, India's Forex Reserve had reached at the all time high level of 709.41 billion USD, with an increase of 08.05 billion USD.





- It's previous all time high was 704.89 billion USD in September 2024.

### EU suspended GSP

- EU suspends export benefits under GSP (Generalised Scheme of Preferences) on 87% of Indian shipments. This suspension will remain operational from 1 January, 2026 to 31 December, 2028.
- GSP is a unilateral trade arrangement under which developed economies extend customs duty concessions on select products imported from developing nations.
- The European Union currently extends GSP benefits to exporters from 67 countries. However, from January 1, 2026, India's exports to the EU are facing higher tariffs after suspension of GSP benefits and exporters need to pay the full 12% duty instead of 9.6%
- The EU market accounts for about 17% of India's total exports,
- the European Commission established regulations on 25 September 2025, regarding the 2026-2028 suspension of specific tariff incentives for GSP participants India, Kenya, and Indonesia.

### BIHAR

#### Chairman : BSSC

- IPS Alok Raj has been appointed as the full time Chairman of BSSC w.e.f. 1 January, 2026.
- However, he resigned from the post on 6 January.

### CJ of Patna High Court

- Justice Sangam Kumar Shahu has taken oath for the post of the 47th Chief Justice of the Patna High Court on 8th January, 2026
- The President, on 1st January, 2026 approved the appointment of Justice Sangam Kumar Sahu of the Orissa High Court as Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. Official notification regarding the appointment has been issued.
- Article 222 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President for this.
- It was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment as Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.
- On 22 October 2025, after the retirement of P. B. Bajinathri on 22 October, the senior most judge Sudhir Singh was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court on 23 October 2025.
- In the year 2025, several Chief Justices and Acting Chief Justices have been appointed in Patna High Court.
- Senior Judge of Patna High Court Ashutosh Kumar has been appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court.
- This post fell vacant due to the appointment of Krishnan Vinod Chandran as a judge of the Supreme Court, he served as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court till 15 January 2025.
- Subsequently, on 21 July 2025, Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi was appointed as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court, who served till 28 August 2025.
- Justice P. B. Bajinathri was appointed as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court with effect from August 29, 2025.



## बिहार में एड्स मरीज

- बिहार एड्स कंट्रोल सोसाइटी के एडिशनल प्रोजेक्ट डायरेक्टर एन के गुप्ता के अनुसार पटना में एड्स मरीजों की संख्या : 1200 , पूर्वी चंपारण : 400 एवं पश्चिमी चंपारण : 340

## बिहार में भूमि बैंक एवं विशेष आर्थिक जोन

- बिहार में उद्योगों की स्थापना के लिए इस वर्ष 15,000 एकड़ भूमि का भूमि बैंक (लैंड बैंक) तैयार किया गया है।
- इसके अतिरिक्त बिहार में 250 एकड़ क्षेत्रफल में दो विशेष आर्थिक जोन (बक्सर एवं बेतिया) में विकसित की जा रही है

## PM Rashtriya Baal Puraskaar 2025

Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Cricket)

## Barrages in Bihar

On September 29, 2025, the Project Appraisal Organization under the Screening Committee of the Central Water Commission had approved the construction of the following three barrages in Bihar:

1. Two barrages (Dhanjha and Kataunjha) on the Bagmati River
  2. One barrage (Tayyabpur) on the Mahananda River
- At present, there are no barrage on Mahananda & Bagmati river.
  - Mahananda bring flood in Seemanchal area
  - Whereas, Bagmati brings flood in Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur., Darbhanga, and Khagaria districts.
  - In January, 2026, survey has been started.

**Bihar currently has three operational barrages:**

- (1) Birpur on the Kosi River
- (2) Valmikinagar on the Gandak River
- (3) Indrapuri on the Son River

- This will now bring Bihar's total number of barrages to six.

## First six-lane NH & First expressway of Bihar

- First six-lane NH of Bihar is the Varanasi-Aurangabad NH.
- First expressway of Bihar is the Amas-Darbhanga Expressway.

## Marcha Chura (Bihar)

- "Marcha Rice", whose product is popular Marcha Chuda, was given GI tag in Nov 2023. It is widely cultivated in Ramnagar, Gaunaha, Mainatand, chanpatiya, Narkatiyaganj and Lauriya blocks of West Champaran district.
- After GI tag, it's cultivation increased from 1000 to 3000 hectares.
- Marcha rice is variety of non-Basmati, short grained aromatic rice.
- Cause of it's uniqueness : This rice variety develops a unique aroma due to specific agro-climatic conditions. The soil, in which it is cultivated, is enriched with minerals from the water from the Himalayan terrain that enriches the soil with minerals. A micro-climate with low temperature during Oct and November enhances the aroma is present in the field from the seedling to the flowering stage.
- March Rice has become second rice variety from Bihar after Katarni rice and the 23rd type of good from Bihar to earn the GI tag.

## Monetary help to weavers in Bihar

- The State Govt. will provide Rs.15,000 to all 70-75 thousand weavers (Boonkars) of Bihar.



### Lowest temperature in Bihar since 2021

- On 6 January 2026, 4.6 degree celcius was recorded in Sabaur in Bhagalpur. It was coldest since 2023, when the minimum temperature was recorded at 6.4 degree celcius.

### Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana

- Under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana (Chief Minister Women's Employment Scheme) assistance of Rs. 10,000 each has been provided to 15.6 million women so far.
- Applications have been invited from women involved in livelihood schemes for the remaining Rs. 2.00,000 by December 31st.
- By December 31st, 19 lakh more applications has been received. (14 lakh from Urban areas, 5 lakh from Rural areas)
- Under this scheme, assistance of Rs. 1 crore 56 lakh women has been given till now.
- For the remaining Rs. 2 lakh 10 thousand, applications have been sought from the women associated with Jeevika till 31st December.
- Till 29 Nov. 2025, 14,600 crore rupees has been transferred in the accounts of 1.56 crore beneficiaries of this scheme.
- Before elections, 1.46 women had received 10-10 thousand rupees in their accounts.

### 1% interest on Agri loan in Bihar

- From 2025-26, farmers will be granted agricultural loans on only 1% interest in Bihar.
- For this an MoU has been signed between the Agriculture Department of Bihar & NABARD on 9 January, 2026.
- The Bihar Govt. has provided 500 crore rupees for 2025-26.

### Solar rooftop panels in Bihar

- Solar rooftop panels have been installed on 14,600 homes in Bihar under the PM Surya Ghar Mufti Bijli Yojana.
- It comprises 9885 installations in South Bihar and 4715 in North Bihar.
- Consumers receive subsidies of upto Rs.78000 and loans at 5.75 interest.

### Samridhi Yatra of Bihar CM

Bihar CM Mr. Nitish Kumar will start his 16th State Yatra named "Samridhi Yatra". It's first phase will start from 16th January while its second phase will be started from 27th January from Madhubani.

### Cyber Security Unit in Bihar

Bihar CM inaugurated Cyber Crime & Security Unit.

### Saffron cultivation in Bihar

- The agricultural scientists of the Bihar Agriculture University, Sabour have developed a methodology to cultivate saffron in Bihar using the technique of Plant Tissue Culture. According to scientists, it is possible under controlled temperature, moisture and protected environment.
- It has been developed on the basis of In-vitro (n glass) direct fertilization. It has received a Patent certificate from the Patent Office of the GoI. The seedlings, obtained through such methods of in-vitro technique could be used in polyhouse, net houses and modern parks/farms. The interested farmers shall be provided these lab-developed seedlings after which trial of cultivation shall be started.
- The saffron cultivation is considered resilient in the J & K Climate.



## Sone river water issue between Bihar- Jharkhand

- The issue of water sharing of the Sone river on the basis of the Vansagar Agreement (signed in 1973) has been resolved.
- According to the agreement, Indrapuri reservoir (earlier name as Kadwan reservoir) was to be constructed at Mateeaaon, 80 km from Indrapuri Dam in Rohtas district. It's DPR was submitted to the Union Government. It's FRL (Full Reservoir Level) was 173 metre.
- The construction, specially the FRL was objected by the UP Govt. So, before 2000, it was a dispute between Bihar & UP.
- When Jharkhand was created in 2000, it became another party of the dispute.
- The dispute with UP was resolved when FRL was reduced to 169 metre and Maximum Water Level was fixed at 171 metre.
- Now, the dispute between Bihar nad Jharkhand has been resolved.

### According to the newly agreed terms :

Out of 7.75 million acre feet (MAF) water of the Sone river, Bihar will get 5 MAF

- 1.8 Districts (Patna, Gaya, Arwal, Bhojpur, Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Buxar) will get it's benefit.
2. Production of 150 MW hydro-electricity.

Jharkhand will get 2.75 MAF.

## Maharana Pratap

- The death anniversary of Maharana Pratap was observed on 19th January as Swabhiman Diwas.

## Tourists in Bihar

- During 2025, more than 6.30 crore Indian tourists and 7 lakh foreigners visited Bihar. In 2025, total 6.60 crore tourists visited Bihar.

## मखाना की खेती पर संकट

- पिछले कुछ वर्षों में मखाना पर केंद्र एवं राज्य सरकार द्वारा कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिए गए एवं उनका क्रियान्वयन किया गया
- इसके फलस्वरूप मखाना को GI टैग मिला, राष्ट्रीय मखाना बोर्ड की स्थापना की गयी , 475 करोड़ रु. का विकास पैकेज दिया गया करीब 55 देशों में करीब 22 हजार टन का निर्यात होने लगा, उसकी कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि हुई |
- वर्तमान में बिहार में मखाना की खेती मुख्य रूप से 10 जिलों में होती है : मधुबनी, दरभंगा, सुपौल, सहरसा, पूर्णिया, कटिहार, किशनगंज, अररिया, मधेपुरा, खगड़िया |
- आज बिहार में करीब 40 हजार हेक्टेयर में इसकी खेती होती है |
- बिहार में देश का 85% तथा विश्व के 80 मखाना का उत्पादन होता है |

### लेकिन मखाना की खेती, कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही है :

- पारंपरिक तरीका श्रम प्रधान तथा जोखिमपूर्ण होने के कारण नयी पीढ़ी की रूचि नहीं, मोहभंग |
- जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण जलाशय सूख रहे हैं |
- तालाब से बाजार तक की सफ़र में मेहनत के अनुसार मुनाफा नहीं |
- गुड़ी (बीज) को फोड़कर लावा बनाने के लिए कुशल मजदूर नहीं उपलब्ध हैं | नयी मशीनें कारगर नहीं हैं |
- मेहनत को कम करने वाली उचित तकनीक और मशीन का आभाव है |

2026 के गणतंत्र दिवस पर दिल्ली के मुख्य समारोह में बिहार राज्य की झांकी का थीम "मखाना : लोकल से ग्लोबल की थाली में सुपरफूड" था |

## Sports Promotion in Bihar

- Sports clubs have been formed in 8,000 gram panchayats and 154 municipal councils.
- 4,840 playgrounds have been developed in the panchayats



### Ethanol Plants in Bihar face crisis

- All 14 grain-based ethanol production plants in Bihar are facing 50% cut in ethanol purchases by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- The plants are now staring at imminent closure, along with the looming threat of bankruptcy.
- At present, in Bihar has 8 operational ethanol production plants based on sugar cane juice and 14 based on grain, including maize and rice.
- The total production stands at around 84 crore litres per month, but purchases are limited to about 44 crore litre, forcing plants to operate for 15 days a month.
- Under existing rules and contractual terms, ethanol cannot be sold in the open market and can only be supplied to OMCs.
- Nationally, around 350 grain-based ethanol plants across various States are facing a similar situation.

### There are three major causes behind the crisis confronting Bihar's grain-based ethanol plants :

- First, several new plants have come up in other states which, in OMC marketing terminology, are classified as "deficit zones". OMCs are increasingly procuring ethanol from these areas to promote production there, doing so at the cost of supply from existing grain-based plants. This has hit Bihar's plants particularly hard, despite the industry being barely four years old. The first grain-based ethanol plant in the state, inaugurated by CM Nitish Kumar on April 30, 2022, is located at Ganeshpur-Parora in Purnia district. Since then, similar plants have been set up in Muzaffarpur, Begusarai, Vaishali, Nalanda and Buxar districts with Muzaffarpur alone accounting for four units. The rapid expansion followed the Centre's decision in 2018 to raise ethanol blending with petrol to 20%, which promoters saw as a major opportunity.
- The second reason is overproduction. Under the Centre's 20% ethanol blending programme, grain-based ethanol supply nationwide, including from Bihar, has risen sharply from an initial demand estimate of 1,050 crore litres to about 1,700 crore litres. Supply has surged, while demand has stagnated or remained capped.
- The third is the restriction that ethanol can only be sold to OMCs and not in the open market. Initially, grain-based ethanol promoters in Bihar, as elsewhere, entered into tripartite agreements involving the promoter, the OMC and the bank.

### Waterways in Bihar

- The State government has made a roadmap to develop waterways in Bihar which was revealed at the third meeting of the 'Inland Waterways Development Council'.
- The Inland Waterways Development Council was established in 2013 under the guidance of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)
- It is Chaired by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The concerned ministers of the State/UTs governments are its members.
- Its first meeting was held on 8th January, 2024 on board the MV Ganga Queen in Kolkata.
- Bihar has 7 National Waterways (total 111 in India) which covers the length of 1187 km.
- Inland water transport provides a cheaper alternative (average cost of 1.3 per tonne-km, compared with Rs. 2.41 by rail and 3.62 by road).
- It will decrease road traffic by 30-40%. National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI) is situated in Patna. The State Government is planning to establish Inland waterways Navigation Training Institutes at Buxar, Bhagalpur and Darbhanga under the guidance of the NINI.





- Kalughat Intermodal Terminal (IMT) has been built by IWAI with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank.
  - The Kalughat Intermodal Terminal (IMT) is strategically located in Saran district of Bihar and designed to handle a wide range of cargo, improving trade and connectivity in the region. It can handle 77,000 container loads annually, with seamless water, rail and road connectivity reducing time and cost of freight movement.
1. Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) works to strengthen waterways infrastructure on National Waterway-1.
  2. The Kalughat Intermodal Terminal in Bihar has been formally handed over to SAPL - Summit Alliance Port East Gateway (India) Pvt. Ltd. for operations and maintenance.
- The State Government will also focus on dredging in rivers like Kosi & Sone for smooth navigation and to create smooth freight corridors.
  - According to the Roadmap, the National Waterways passing through Bihar will be developed. Apart from this, Inland Waterways in Bihar will also be developed.
  - The State Government will also put emphasis on developing Urban Water Transport. A Patna Water Metro with an estimated budget of 1200 crore Rs. will be developed (on the pattern of the Kochi Water Metro).
1. Currently, trials are underway for one electric hybrid water metro and another water metro will arrive in Patna soon.
  2. These two water metros will operate between Kangan Ghat, Digha ghat, Gai ghat, Gandhi ghat, Digha ghat, Narial ghat, panapur, Konhara ghat, kali ghat (Sonepur), and Chhechhar ghat.
- Three new Quick Point Of Mobilisation (QPOM) at Digha, Danapur and Fatuha. At present one QPOM is functional at Ara. Two hybrid electric catamaran vessels are arriving to operate in both battery and hybrid modes. These will be zero-emission and quiet, boosting commercial and tourism activities. Cruise terminals are being developed at Digha Ghat and Kangan Ghat in Patna, along with a ship repair facility. Bihar also demanded for revision of the water carrier scheme, seeking a reduction in the minimum distance from 300 km to 100 km to suit Bihar's City network. In Bihar, there are a total of 1550 ghats where transportation of around 7000 are conducted.
  - A state-of-art ship repair centre shall be established with an estimated cost of approx. Rs. 243 crore. It has been announced by the Sate Transport Minister Sharawan Kumar On 2 February.
1. For this, 20,000 square metere of land has been identified on the Southern bank of Ganga in Patna.
  2. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has expedited the tender process.
  3. The Centre will be completed within 24 months of the commencement of work.
- The ship repair centre will include vessel handling and lifting infrastructure like slipway structure (sloping concrete platform, ship lift and transfer system, 800-tonne capacity maritime boat hoist and hydraulic trailer.
  - There will also be a primary repair bay, small vessel bay, additional raft foundation slab.
  - Under the central govt's Vision 2047, the goal is to increase the use of waterways for passenger transport across the country from 6% to 12%.
  - At present, the only ship repair facility on the NW-1 is in Kolkata.. Therefore, all ships are sent to Kolkata for repair.



- There is a proposal to acquire 22 hybrid vessels for regular ferry services from Patna and surrounding ghats. These vessels can operate even in water as shallow as one metre.

### Arthshila Patna Censatre, PATNA

- A Cultural Centre with a cost of 45 crore Rs. has been established in Gola Road, Patna. It is designed by famous architect Saurabh Gupta. It is 7 storied with a capacity of 120 persons.
- It was inaugurated on 27th January, 2026. Its foundation was laid in 2016 in the presence of Gulzahr, Shyam Benegal, Pt. Birju Maharaj, Sanjana Kapoor & others.
- Its amphitheatre is constructed at the depth of 40 feet.

### Ganga water distribution and Bihar

- An internal committee of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has recommended that Bihar be allocated 900 cusecs of Ganga River water, though Bihar had requested 2,000 cusecs.
- The Ganges River in Bihar is 445 km long and flows through 12 districts.
- The water shortage is greatest during the dry season from January to May. This allocation is recommended only for the dry season.
- The 30-year-old water treaty signed between India and Bangladesh on 12 December 1996 and is due for renewal by December this year. A new formula for sharing the Ganga river water is being considered for a new agreement. Therefore, a new demand was made by Bihar in this process. This recommendation is the result of that renewed demand.

### Garbage heaps at 261 places in Bihar

- In Bihar, at 261 locations in various urban local bodies, are home to heaps of garbage. The main reason for this lack of disposal is that many of these locations lack disposal plants.

### Five types of plants are proposed for waste disposal:

#### 1. Composting Plants (Aerobic Treatment) :

Composting facilities decompose organic waste (food scraps, yard trimmings) naturally in the presence of oxygen, turning it into nutrient-rich soil amendments (compost). This process reduces landfill waste and enriches the soil.

#### 2. Recycling Centers/Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) :

These facilities process materials such as plastics, paper, metal, and glass, separating and converting them into new, usable products. They play a key role in the circular economy by reducing the need for virgin raw materials.

#### 3. Incineration Plant (Waste-to-Energy) :

These plants burn waste at high temperatures, reducing its volume by up to 90% and transforming it into ash, gas, and heat. Modern incinerators (Waste-to-Energy or WTE) use the heat produced to generate electricity or steam.

#### 4. Biomethanation Plants (Anaerobic Digestion):

In these plants break down biodegradable organic waste (food waste, agricultural waste, animal waste) in the absence of oxygen to produce methane-rich biogas and nutrient-rich digestate (sludge). They reduce landfill dependency while generating renewable energy and fertilizer. and



### 5. Sanitary Landfills :

In these plants, unlike open dumps, modern sanitary landfills are engineered sites where waste is buried in layers, compacted, and covered with soil. They are designed to prevent groundwater contamination using protective liners and include systems for leachate collection and landfill gas management.

#### Harmful effects of garbage dumps:

1. Toxic smoke and foul smell causing breathing problems,
  2. risk of dengue, malaria, diarrhea and skin diseases,
  3. waterlogging during rainy season
  4. increase in mosquito and flies,
  5. risk of groundwater pollution.
- A total of 6519 tons of waste is generated daily across all municipalities in the state, of which 2093 tons are being processed. This represents approximately 32% of the total waste.

### Sub-Divisional Revenue Officer

- On 29th January, 2026, the Cabinet of Bihar approve creation of a new post with a designation of Sub-Divisional Revenue Officer (SDRO)
- The SDRO will replace the post of the Deputy Collector- Land Revenue (DCLR)
- However, after a meeting between the BiRSA (Bihar Revenue Service Association), now finally it has been decided that the post of the DCLR shall be filled through promoted COs
- 26 thousand medical waste is generated every day from Bihar.

### बिहार की नदियों का अध्ययन

- बिहार सरकार द्वारा राज्य की छोटी-बड़ी नदियों को संकट से बचाने के लिए एक कार्ययोजना तैयार करने के लिए पाच सदस्यों की एक विशेषज्ञ कमिटी का गठन किया जायेगा |

- ए.आर.पी तथा पी.आई.एम, वाल्मी के रिसर्च प्राध्यापक रविन्द्र कुमार शंकर की अध्यक्षता में इस कमिटी को गठित किया गया है |
- प्रारम्भ में यह कमिटी उतर बिहार की नदियों पर अध्ययन करेगी | इन नदियों में गाद की समस्या पर अध्ययन महत्वपूर्ण होगा |
- यह कमिटी एक माह के अन्दर अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करेगी |

### Bihar Cabinet Approves Semiconductor Policy, 2026

- The Bihar Government Cabinet, on 29 January, 2026 approved the semiconductor policy to transform itself into eastern India's next technology hub, aligned with the chief minister's "Saat Nischay-3: Prosperous Industry, Empowered Bihar" vision, seeks to establish semiconductor fabrication units, display fabs and chip design facilities within the state.
- This decision could draw investments of up to Rs 25,000 crore and generate more than 200,000 direct and indirect jobs over the coming years.
- Industries Department Secretary Kundan Kumar said companies investing in the State will get a subsidy of 60% of the capital expenditure; while the Central government gives 50% as subsidy, Bihar will subsidise 60% of the remaining amount.
- The State govt. aims to develop Bihar as a technology hub of eastern India by 2030.

### Padma Awards 2026 & Bihar

- A total of 131 persons were awarded Padma Awards in 2026 on the occasion of the Republic Day. This comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri. The list of 131 awardees consists of 19 women, 6 persons are from the categories of foreigners / OCIs / NRIs/PIOs Out of the list, 6 are awarded posthumously.



**From Bihar :**

No person in the list of the Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan

3 persons have been included in the list of the Padma Shree :

- Bharat Singh Bharati – Art, (Born on 20 November, 1936 in Nounar village in Agiaon block of Bhojpur district, he was associated with the Akashvani. He was a Bhojpuri singer. His contribution was to add a new distinct genre in Bhojpuri folk music. Main theme of Purabi is separation, pathos and the easterly winds, depicting emotions of the rural life. A sample song of this genre : bata da chand, kekara se kahaan mile jaa la? (Sung by many); aag laage saiyan tohra ropeya kamaila ke... (Chandan Tiwari)
- Late Vishva Bandhu (Art, Posthumously) : Associated with Bihar folk song “dom kach”. He was also honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akadamy
- Gopal ji Trivedi (Sc. & Engineering) : He is a scientist in Agriculture Science

**बिहार के 22 पुलिस कर्मियों को राष्ट्रपति पुरस्कार**

- 77वें गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा बिहार के तीन पुलिस कर्मियों को वीरता पुरस्कार (गैलेंट्री अवार्ड) पदक [इसमें 30 मार्च 2002 को घटित छपरा जेल काण्ड से सम्बंधित तत्कालीन एस.पी. कुंदन कृष्णन भी शामिल हैं], दो को विशिष्ट सेवा के लिए राष्ट्रपति पदक और 17 को सराहनीय सेवा पदक की घोषणा की गयी |
- इस अवसर पर देश में 125 पुलिस कर्मियों को वीरता पुरस्कार, 101 को विशिष्ट और ७५६ को सराहनीय सेवा पदक दिए जाने की घोषणा की गयी है |

**Dangerous Syrup: made in Bihar**

- A Syrup named ‘Almond Kit’ has been banned by the State govt. of Tamil Nadu after Ethylene Glycol has been found in the State Lab Test.

**It’s consumption may cause**

- Kidney failure
- harmful to mind and lungs.
- The syrup was made in Bihar

**Gangajal to Bihar reservoirs.**

- The Central Water Commission has approved the project to provide Ganga river water to 6 of total 23 water reservoirs in Bihar.
- For this, a 132 kilometre pipeline will be built. It will be completed in two stages.

