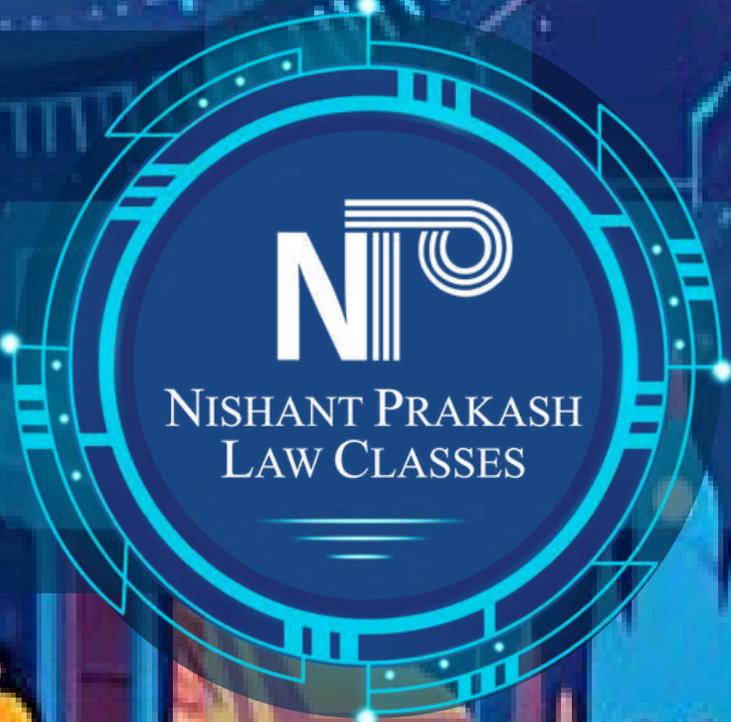


CLAT Tathya

MARCH PART II



AI IMPACT SUMMIT INDIA 2026



NPLC's TOP 10 GLORY 2025&26

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AIR

4

CLAT 2026



Arshnoor Singh

AIR

2

AILET 2025



Chaitanya Ghosh

AIR

2

CLAT 2025



Daiwik Agarwala

AIR

4

CLAT 2025



Aditya Gautam
Ankhad

AIR

4

AILET 2026



Siddhant Rohit



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AIR 04, CLAT



Arshnoor Singh



AIR 04, AILET



Siddhant Rohit



AIR 22, AILET



Aryan Gupta



AIR 30, CLAT



Aarav Sachdeva



AIR 43, AILET



Nandini Gupta



AIR 43, AILET



Yamya Alag



AIR 74, AILET



Samarth Kumar



AIR 77, AILET



Sabhyata Singh



AIR 86, AILET



Medhini Srinath

YE POSTER NAHI, PROOF HAI!



NPLC's TOP PERFORMERS 2025



AIR 02, AILET



Chaitanya Ghosh



AIR 02, CLAT



Daiwik Agarwala



AIR 04, CLAT



Aditya Ankhad



AIR 6, AILET



Dhruv Kamath



AIR 10, AILET



Vidisha Singh



AIR 24, AILET



Samyuktha Kovilakath



AIR 30, AILET



Goohika Joshi



AIR 51, AILET



Aditya Mehta



AIR 78, AILET



Yutika Kumar

YE POSTER NAHI, PROOF HAI!



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Founded in 2011, Nishant Prakash Law Classes (NPLC) has earned the reputation of being the 'Gurukul for CLAT'—a space where commitment, discipline, and mentorship come together to build India's finest legal minds. Often referred to as the 'Super 30 of CLAT', NPLC is not just a coaching institute—it's a movement for serious law aspirants.

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Nishant Prakash



Nishant Prakash, founder and chief mentor at NPLC, is a nationally recognized legal educator and policy advisor. An alumnus of one of India's premier National Law Schools, Nishant left a thriving corporate law career to dedicate himself fully to teaching and mentoring the next generation of legal leaders. For over 13 years, he has built an unparalleled reputation as a transformational teacher, guiding students with precision, compassion, and personal accountability.

He has been associated with some of the country's top-tier law firms, including Luthra & Luthra, and holds expertise in Intellectual Property, Insurance, and Trade Law, with over 30 national and international publications to his credit.

A firm believer in long-term academic mentorship, Nishant combines academic rigour with real-world legal insights to prepare students for top law schools and successful careers. His work consistently bridges the gap between textbook learning and practical application, equipping students with a clear understanding of how law operates in the real world.

Know your Mentor |



What sets Nishant apart is not just his knowledge, but his unwavering dedication to each student's growth. Every batch under his guidance is not just taught, but molded. He pushes students beyond their limits—while offering the support, discipline, and insight they need to thrive in competitive legal exams and beyond.

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Their Next Chapter



NLSIU - Bengaluru

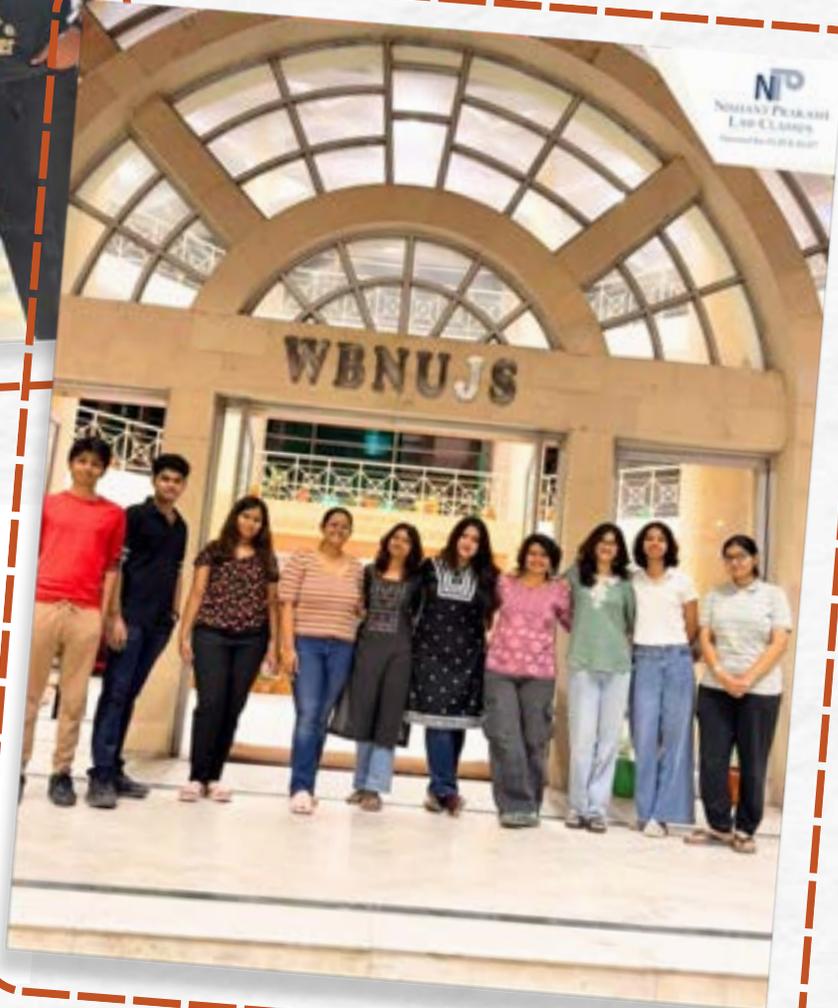
(Left to Right)

**Dainik Agarwala
Daksh Balakrishnan
Dhruv Kamath
Aditya Ankhad**

WBNUJS - Kolkata

(Left to Right)

**Reyhaan Aryan, Shashwat
Singh, Aanya Arora,
Shivakshi Dixit, Dhara
Mittal, Vaishali Bhatra,
Labonyo Banerjee, Yutika
Kumar, Janani Murugan,
Megha Malhotra**



Their Next Chapter



NLU - Delhi

(Left to Right)
**Ananya Prakash,
Amoolya Kapani, Vidisha
Singh, Goohika Joshi,
Masirah Hussain, Krish
Walia, Chaitanya Ghosh,
Aditya Mehta**



NLU - Jodhpur

(Left to Right)

**Vivaan Mehta
Khushi Gaur
Maahi Yadav
Shefali Talwar
Kaushtubh Anand**

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**NISHANT PRAKASH
LAW CLASSES**

1 India AI Summit 2026

IN FOCUS

- **India-AI Impact Summit 2026** was held in **New Delhi (16–20 February 2026)** and concluded with the adoption of the **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, endorsed by **92 countries and international organisations**.
- The Summit positioned India as the **first Global South host** of a major global AI summit and framed global cooperation around **development impact, trust, access, and efficiency** in AI systems.

Summit Snapshot

- The Summit week ran from **16 to 20 February 2026** in **New Delhi**, with the **India AI Impact Expo** running during **16–20 February 2026**.
- The Summit was anchored institutionally by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, and it linked outcomes to the **IndiaAI Mission** and the **Digital India initiative**.
- The Summit was inaugurated at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, and major venues included **Bharat Mandapam, Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Ambedkar Bhawan**, and the **Convention Centre (New Delhi)** for specific events such as the Summit Dinner.
- The official backgrounder recorded participation at the scale of **over 20 Heads of State, 60 Ministers, and 500 global AI leaders**, and described these as **tentative numbers subject to revision**.
- The **India AI Impact Expo** was expected to feature **over 300 exhibitors from 30 countries** across **more than 10 thematic pavilions**.
- The backgrounder described the Expo as a business-focused platform organised by **MeitY**, with **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** as the custodian, spread across **over 70,000 square metres** and designed to showcase transition from pilots to large-scale deployment.
- The backgrounder listed a formal agenda including **keynotes, panel discussions, roundtables, a Research Symposium (18 Feb), an Opening Ceremony and Leaders' Plenary (19 Feb), a CEO Roundtable (19 Feb), and a GPAI Council Meeting (20 Feb)**.
- Over **100 countries** engaged through the **Seven Chakra (Working Groups)** framework ahead of the Summit.



- The backgrounder also listed “notable attendees” (as a tentative list) including global tech and policy leaders such as **Sundar Pichai, Demis Hassabis, Jensen Huang, Dario Amodei, Mukesh Ambani, Bill Gates, and Børge Brende.**

Theme / Motto & Core Idea

- The guiding phrase highlighted in official communication was “**Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya**” (**Welfare for all, Happiness for all**) as a value-anchor for AI governance and diffusion.
- The Summit’s stated philosophy emphasised a **human-centric and impact-focused** approach, seeking to translate global AI deliberations into **actionable development outcomes** rather than only norm-setting.

Objectives of the Summit

1

The Summit aimed to **present AI use cases in public service delivery** and to showcase innovative AI applications that transform government services.

2

The Summit aimed to **develop AI policies tailored to regional needs** and to create context-specific frameworks for responsible AI deployment.

3

The Summit aimed to **strengthen policy frameworks** and build robust governance structures for AI implementation.

4

The Summit aimed to **demonstrate readiness for AI-driven industries** by highlighting regional capabilities for industrial AI adoption.

5

The Summit aimed to **create employment opportunities** by supporting new jobs and skill-development pathways in AI.

6

The Summit aimed to expand **State–Centre collaboration** through partnerships between State and Central Governments around AI adoption and regulation.

7

The Summit aimed to amplify **regional AI awareness** by increasing understanding and adoption of AI technologies.

8

The Summit aimed to build **long-term partnerships** among governments, academia, startups, and industry for sustained, responsible growth of the AI ecosystem.

Conceptual Framework: 3 Sutras and 7 Chakras / Pillars

A. The 3 Sutras (People, Planet, Progress)

- **People** was defined as promoting **human-centric AI** that safeguards rights, builds trust, improves access to services, and ensures equitable benefits across societies.
- **Planet** was defined as advancing **environmentally sustainable AI**, including energy-efficient systems, responsible resource use, and AI applications supporting climate action and resilience.
- **Progress** was defined as enabling inclusive economic and technological advancement through innovation, capacity building, and AI-driven productivity and development outcomes.

B. The 7 Chakras / Pillars (working structure)

- **Human Capital** focused on building an equitable AI skilling and reskilling ecosystem and supporting workforce transitions for an AI-enabled future of work.

- **Inclusion for Social Empowerment (Access for Social Empowerment)** focused on inclusive-by-design AI systems that empower diverse communities and widen access to knowledge, services, and opportunities.
- **Safe and Trusted AI (Secure & Trusted AI)** focused on governance capacity, transparency, accountability, and practical safety frameworks to build public trust while enabling innovation.
- **AI for Science (Science)** focused on using AI to accelerate research, reduce structural barriers to research infrastructure, and build international scientific collaboration.
- **Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency (Resilient, Efficient & Innovative AI Systems)** focused on energy-efficient AI systems and resilient AI infrastructure aligned with sustainability and resource constraints.
- **Democratising AI Resources** focused on equitable access to foundational AI resources such as compute, data, and infrastructure to reduce global disparities in AI capability.
- **AI for Economic Growth & Social Good (Economic Growth & Social Good)** focused on scaling AI solutions that deliver measurable socio-economic outcomes and enabling replication of high-impact use cases.

Key Outcomes

1. New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact

- The Summit concluded (leaders' outcomes phase) with adoption of the **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, described by PIB as a milestone in **global cooperation** on AI.
- The Declaration was endorsed by **89 countries and international organisations**, indicating broad multilateral support for a shared vision of **collaborative, trusted, resilient and efficient AI**.
- The Declaration explicitly anchored itself in **"Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya"**, asserting that AI benefits should be **equitably shared across humanity**.
- The Declaration emphasised **international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement**, while also reiterating the importance of **respecting national sovereignty** in AI governance.
- The Declaration structured global cooperation around **seven Chakras (pillars)** that cover democratising AI resources, economic growth and social good, secure and trusted AI, AI for science, access for social empowerment, human capital development, and resilient/efficient/innovative AI systems.
- The Declaration repeatedly described the Summit outputs as **voluntary and non-binding**, signalling a cooperative "framework + platform" model rather than a treaty-like obligation model.

2. "Major Global Deliverables" announced alongside the Declaration

- The Summit announced a **Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI** as a voluntary framework to promote affordable access to foundational AI resources and support locally relevant innovation ecosystems.
- The Summit announced a **Global AI Impact Commons** as a platform to encourage adoption, replication, and scaling of AI use cases across regions for development impact.
- The Summit announced a **Trusted AI Commons** as a collaborative repository of tools, benchmarks, and best practices to support secure and trustworthy AI systems.
- The Summit announced an **International Network of AI for Science Institutions** to connect scientific communities and pool AI research capabilities for AI-enabled science.
- The Summit announced an **AI for Social Empowerment Platform** to facilitate exchange of learning, knowledge, and scalable practices for equitable AI adoption.
- The Summit announced an **AI Workforce Development Playbook** and **voluntary reskilling principles** to support AI literacy, skilling, and workforce transition for an AI-driven economy.
- The Summit announced **Guiding Principles on Resilient & Efficient AI** supported by a playbook on AI infrastructure resilience, with explicit focus on energy-efficient AI systems.

3. AI Compendium and priority casebooks

- The official backgrounder stated that an **AI Compendium** would be released during the Summit on **17 February 2026**, and it would include thematic casebooks across priority sectors such as **AI in Health, AI in**

Energy, AI in Education, AI in Agriculture, AI in Gender Empowerment, and AI in Accessibility.

4. Flagship “Global Impact Challenges” (delivery and innovation pipeline)

- The backgrounder described three flagship challenges titled **AI for ALL**, **AI by HER**, and **YUVAI**, designed to identify scalable, development-oriented AI solutions aligned with national priorities.
- These challenges reportedly received **over 4,650 applications from more than 60 countries**, and **70 finalists** were selected to showcase solutions at the Grand Finale and awards ceremony.
- The backgrounder stated that **AI for ALL** offered awards up to **INR 2.50 crore**, **AI by HER** offered awards up to **INR 2.50 crore**, and **YUVAI** offered prizes worth up to **INR 85 lakh**.
- The backgrounder stated that **AI for ALL** was implemented with **Startup India (DPIIT)** and the **Digital India BHASHINI Division**, and that **AI by HER** was implemented with **NITI Aayog’s Women Entrepreneurship Platform**, while **YUVAI** was implemented with **MyBharat** and **NIELIT**.

5. Research Symposium

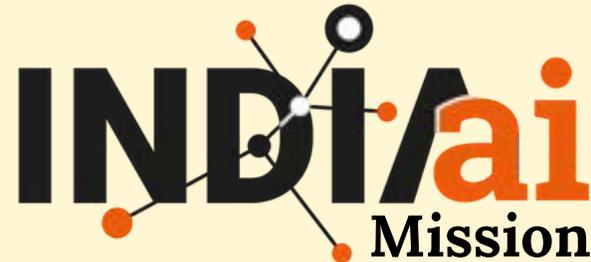
- The backgrounder stated that a **Research Symposium on AI and its Impact** was held on **18 February 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam**, with **IIIT Hyderabad** listed as the knowledge partner, and it noted around **250 research submissions** from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

6. PM’s “M.A.N.A.V.” framework (Summit-linked governance narrative)

- In his inaugural address on **19 February 2026**, the Prime Minister presented **M.A.N.A.V.** as a human-centric roadmap, expanding it as **Moral and Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible and Inclusive AI, and Valid and Legitimate Systems**.
- A Summit-linked AI responsibility campaign achieved a **Guinness World Records** milestone for the highest number of pledges in 24 hours, with **250,946 pledges** recorded.

1. Status, outlay, and implementing structure

- The Union Cabinet approved the **IndiaAI Mission** with a budget outlay of **₹10,371.92 crore** to build a comprehensive national AI ecosystem and to operationalise the vision of “Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India.”
- The Mission is implemented by the **IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD)** under the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**.



2. Seven components (as approved)

- **IndiaAI Compute Capacity** is designed to build a scalable AI compute ecosystem with **10,000 or more GPUs** through a public-private partnership model, and it includes an AI marketplace offering “AI as a service” and pre-trained models to innovators.
- **IndiaAI Innovation Centre** is mandated to develop and deploy **indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs)** and domain-specific foundational models for critical sectors.
- **IndiaAI Datasets Platform** is designed as a unified, one-stop platform to streamline access to **quality non-personal datasets** for startups and researchers.
- **IndiaAI Application Development Initiative** is designed to promote AI applications in critical sectors using problem statements sourced from **Central Ministries, State Departments, and other institutions**, focusing on solutions with large-scale socio-economic impact.
- **IndiaAI FutureSkills** is designed to expand AI education at undergraduate, master’s and PhD levels and to establish **Data and AI Labs in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities** for foundational courses.
- **IndiaAI Startup Financing** is designed to support deep-tech AI startups by enabling streamlined access to funding from idea stage to commercialisation.
- **Safe & Trusted AI** is designed to create guardrails for responsible AI, including indigenous tools, frameworks, self-assessment checklists, and governance guidelines.

3. Mission-linked capacity building and governance signals

- The Summit's Chakras stated that under IndiaAI FutureSkills, the Government is supporting **500 PhD scholars, 5,000 postgraduates, and 8,000 undergraduates** in AI research and training.
- Under the Safe & Trusted AI pillar, **13 projects** were selected through expressions of interest to develop responsible AI tools focused on safety, bias mitigation, transparency, and accountability, and it stated that an **IndiaAI Safety Institute** is being established under this pillar.
- Under Democratising AI Resources, a **secure GPU cluster for sovereign and strategic applications** is being constructed to house **3,000 next-generation GPUs**, and it also reported that **IndiaAI Kosh (AIKosh)** hosts **over 7,400 datasets and 273 AI models across 20 sectors**.

India's achievements

1. Status, outlay, and implementing structure

- The Union Cabinet approved the **IndiaAI Mission** with a budget outlay of **₹10,371.92 crore** to build a comprehensive national AI ecosystem and to operationalise the vision of "Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India."
- The Mission is implemented by the **IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD)** under the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**.

B. Conversational and enterprise AI (customer experience, automation, service delivery)

- **Uniphore** (incubated at IIT Madras) was reported by IIT Madras as an enterprise conversational automation company founded in **2008**, and it was reported to have reached a **\$2.5 billion valuation** after a major funding round.
- **Haptik** (Mumbai) is described on the IndiaAI portal as a conversational AI company, and it was acquired by **Reliance Jio Digital (Jio Platforms)** in a transaction described as about **₹700 crore** in 2019.

C. Computer vision and applied AI for industry

- **Mad Street Den** is listed on the IndiaAI portal as a computer-vision AI startup focused on the retail sector and known for its AI platform **Vue.ai**.
- **Fractal (Fractal Analytics)** describes itself as an enterprise AI company founded in **2000**, and Reuters reported its 2026 IPO preparations as a landmark for "pure-play AI" listing narratives in India.

D. AI in health and diagnostics

- **SigTuple** has been profiled by NITI Aayog's frontier tech platform as an Indian pathology/diagnostics AI company founded in **2015**, with a flagship product described as **AI100** that automates microscopic review to reduce time and error.
- **Niramai** describes its **Thermalytix®** as a patented, AI-based breast cancer screening solution that is contactless and radiation-free and is designed to support early detection of breast abnormalities.



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- How many countries and international organisations endorsed the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact at the India–AI Impact Summit 2026?
 - 87
 - 85
 - 92
 - 93
- Which of the following organisations served as the custodian of the business-focused Expo platform organised by MeitY to showcase the transition from pilots to large-scale deployment?
 - National Informatics Centre of India
 - Centre for Development of Computing
 - Software Technology Parks of India
 - National Institute of Electronics India
- Which of the following frameworks was used to engage over 100 countries ahead of the India–AI Impact Summit 2026?
 - the Global AI Forum
 - the Digital AI Forum
 - the Seven Chakra
 - the AI Policy Forum
- Which of the following guiding phrases was highlighted in official communication as the value-anchor for AI governance and diffusion at the India–AI Impact Summit 2026?
 - Lokahita Kalyan, Lokahita Shubhakar
 - Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya
 - Janahita Kalyan, Janahita Shantikr
 - Sarvahita Kalyan, Sarvahita Mangalkar
- Which of the following conceptual sutras defined the core guiding framework for human-centric, environmentally sustainable, and economically progressive artificial intelligence governance at the summit?
 - People, Planet, Progress
 - Access, Safety, Innovation
 - Trust, Equity, Sustainability
 - Governance, Growth, Inclusion
- Which of the following platforms was announced to encourage adoption, replication, and scaling of artificial intelligence use cases across regions for development impact?
 - Global AI Impact Commons
 - Global AI Innovation Forum
 - Global AI Research Network
 - Global AI Governance Forum
- Which of the following flagship challenge sets were launched at India AI Summit 2026 to identify scalable artificial intelligence solutions aligned with national development priorities?
 - AI for ALL, AI for Youth, and AI Lab
 - AI for ALL, AI by HER, and YUVAI
 - AI Hub, AI for ALL, and YUVAI
 - AI by HER, AI for ALL, and AI Hub
- Which of the following institutions served as the knowledge partner for the Research Symposium on AI and its Impact held on 18 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam?
 - IIT Delhi Centre
 - IISc Bengaluru Lab
 - NIT Tiruchirappalli
 - IIIT Hyderabad
- Which of the following frameworks was presented by the Prime Minister as a human-centric roadmap for responsible artificial intelligence governance at the summit?
 - M.A.N.A.V.
 - D.I.G.I.T.A.L
 - A.T.M.A.N.I.R
 - V.I.K.A.S.H.
- Which of the following organisations serves as the parent body under which the IndiaAI Independent Business Division implements the IndiaAI Mission?
 - National Tech Dev Centers
 - Indian Digital Gov Agency
 - National Innovation Techy
 - Digital India Corporation
- Which of the following artificial intelligence companies was selected under the IndiaAI Mission to build India's sovereign Large Language Model?
 - Krutrim AI
 - Unihore AI
 - Sarvam AI
 - Fractal AI
- Which of the following conversational artificial intelligence companies was acquired by Reliance Jio Digital in 2019 for approximately ₹700 crore?
 - Niramai
 - Haptik
 - SigTuple
 - Fractal
- Which of the following artificial intelligence platforms is associated with Mad Street Den and focuses on computer-vision solutions for the retail sector?
 - Niramai
 - Haptik
 - SigTuple
 - Fractal

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

(a) IndusAI
(c) The.ai

(b) KtrimAI
(d) Vue.ai

14. Which of the following years represents the founding year of Fractal Analytics, an enterprise artificial intelligence company preparing for a landmark IPO listing?

(a) 2000
(c) 2004

(b) 2002
(d) 2006

15. Which of the following artificial intelligence solutions developed by Niramai is designed for contactless and radiation-free breast cancer screening?

(a) IndusScan®
(c) Thermalytix®

(b) BreastCare®
(d) HealthVision®

SOLUTIONS

1. (c),
9. (a),

2. (c),
10. (d),

3. (c),
11. (c),

4. (b),
12. (b),

5. (a),
13. (d),

6. (a),
14. (a),

7. (b),
15. (c)

8. (d),

2 Elections in Bangladesh and Relations with India

IN FOCUS

- Bangladesh held its **13th parliamentary election** on **12 February 2026**, alongside a **national referendum** on a package of constitutional and institutional reforms.
- The election produced a major political transition, with the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)** forming the Government and **Tarique Rahman** being sworn in as **Prime Minister** on **17 February 2026** after an interim period led by **Muhammad Yunus**.
- The outcome matters for India because India-Bangladesh ties had become strained after **Sheikh Hasina** was ousted in 2024 and took refuge in **New Delhi**, and because Bangladesh's external balancing (especially vis-à-vis **China**) is a central election-era issue.

Background to Bangladesh's Current Political Phase

- Bangladesh entered a transition after a **mass uprising in July 2024** that led to the **ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**, followed by an **interim government** and a nationally negotiated reform process.
- The reform roadmap culminated in scheduling the **February 12, 2026** parliamentary election together with a **concurrent national referendum**, making the election a test of both political representation and the redesigned institutional rules for elections.
- The outgoing legislature was dissolved on **06 August 2024**, making the 2026 polls a "full renewal" contest for the elected seats.
- The **Awami League** did not contest the 2026 election after its registration was revoked and it was barred from participating, reshaping competition around other parties and alliances.
- The transition period also saw heightened salience of governance reforms (executive checks, election administration, interim arrangements during election periods), because these reforms were directly bundled into the referendum held with the election.



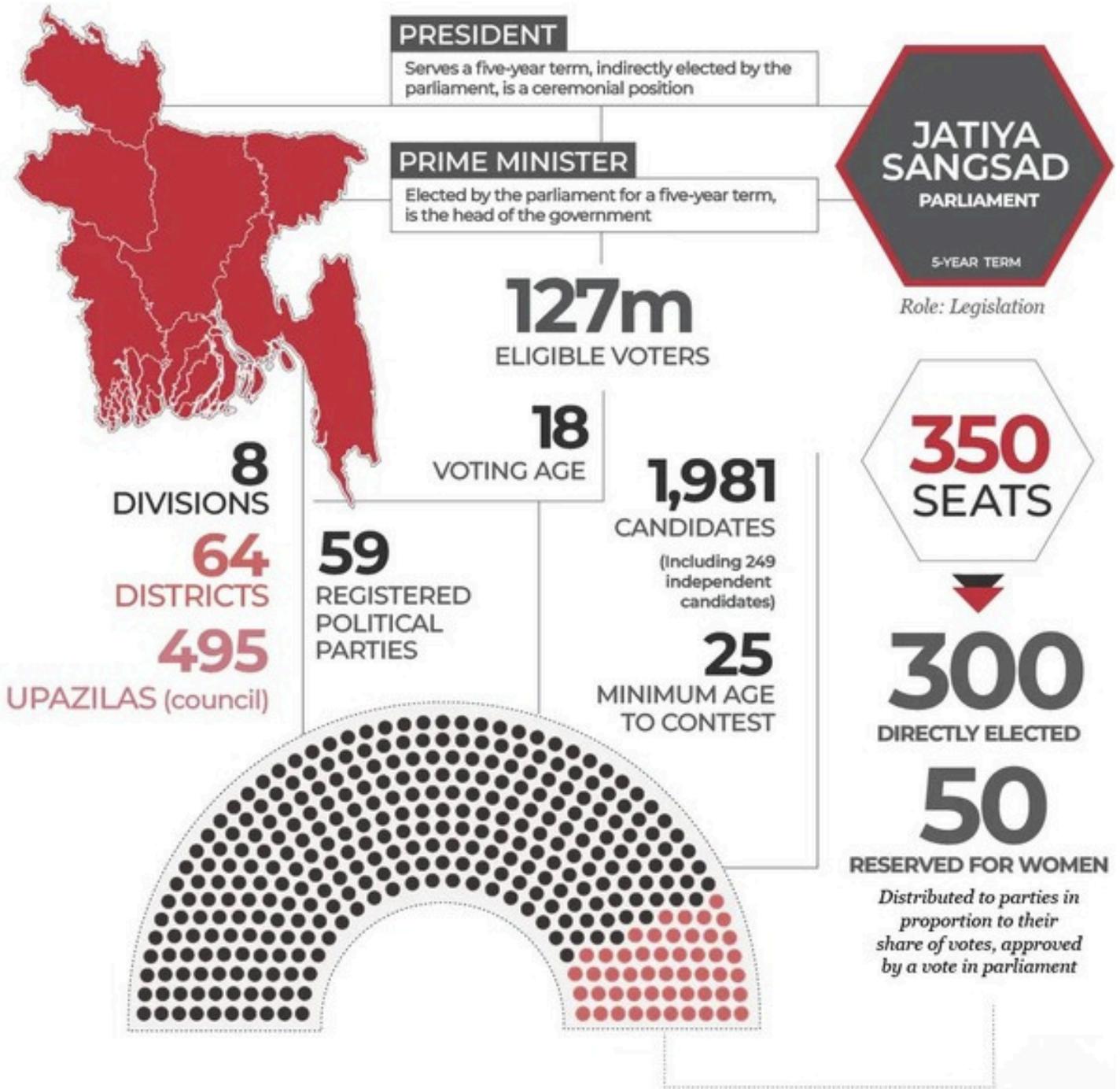
Bangladesh's Electoral System

- Bangladesh's Parliament (**Jatiya Sangsad**) has **350 seats**, with **300 members directly elected** from **single-member constituencies** under the **first-past-the-post (FPTP)** system.
- **50 seats are reserved for women** and are **allocated to parties proportionate to general-seat performance**, then filled through **indirect election** by the elected members.
- The **Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC)** is a constitutional body (chief election commissioner + four commissioners) with powers covering polling, counting, observer accreditation, enforcement of election rules, and certain corrective measures like re-polls where required.
- In 2026, the BEC also administered the **referendum** alongside the parliamentary election, with separate ballots and separate certification of results.



Bangladesh government structure

Bangladesh is currently in transition, governed by an interim administration following the overthrow of the country's longest-serving Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, in 2024.



Bangladesh Elections in a Snapshot

- **Election Day: 12 February 2026** (13th parliamentary election + concurrent national referendum).
- **Seats at stake: 300** directly elected seats (full renewal).
- **Registered voters: 127,711,793**; the voter roll included **1,351,375 registered postal ballot voters** (in-country and out-of-country), reflecting a major expansion of absentee/overseas participation mechanisms.
- **Voter eligibility cut-off:** Citizens turning **18 by 31 October 2025** were included in the rolls.
- **Ballots:** Each voter received **two ballots**—a **white ballot** for the parliamentary constituency contest and a **pink ballot** for a **Yes/No referendum** on a package of reforms.
- **Referendum design:** The referendum package targeted, among other issues, the **framework for interim/caretaker administrations during election periods, independence and powers of the BEC**, and institutional checks intended to improve electoral integrity and governance balance.
- **Turnout: 59.44%** turnout was reported for the national election and referendum.
- **Key results on elected seats (300):** BNP emerged as the largest party with **208 seats**, with **Jamaat-e-Islami** winning **68**, and smaller parties/independents taking the remainder.
- **Government formation and leadership:** **Tarique Rahman** was sworn in as Prime Minister on **17 February 2026** after the BNP's victory; the cabinet formation and early governance agenda focused on stability, economic recovery, and institutional reforms.
- **Political context of the vote:** The election was conducted under an interim administration led by **Muhammad Yunus** after the 2024 upheaval, and was internationally watched as a reset moment for Bangladesh's democratic process.

India–Bangladesh Relations: Historical foundation

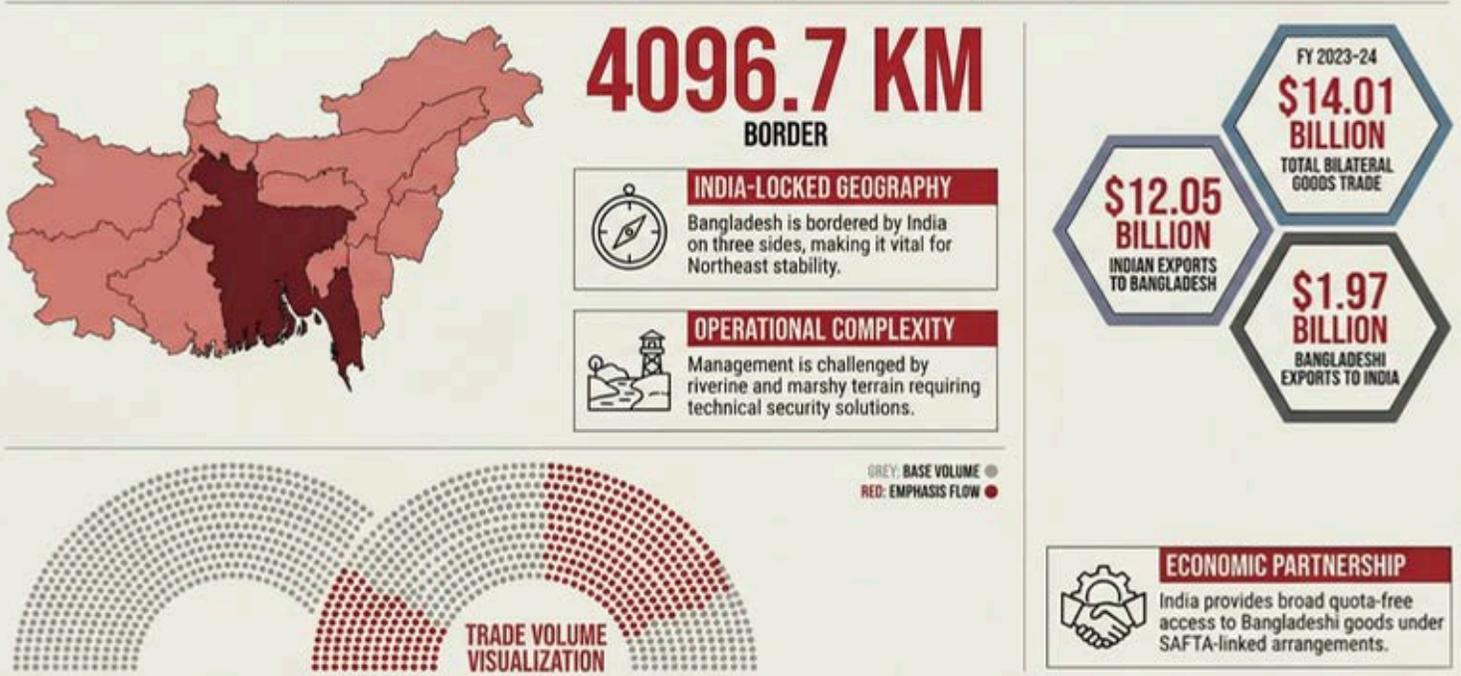
- The modern foundation of India–Bangladesh relations is rooted in the **1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**, which followed the political crisis in then **East Pakistan** and led to the creation of **Bangladesh**.
- India **recognised Bangladesh on 06 December 1971**, which was **ten days before** Bangladesh's liberation on **16 December 1971**; **06 December** is commemorated as **India–Bangladesh Maitri Diwas**.
- The 1971 conflict generated a massive humanitarian spillover into India, and by the **end of 1971**, figures provided by the Indian Government to the United Nations indicated that the refugee total had reached **10 million**.
- The war ended in the eastern theatre with the **Instrument of Surrender (16 December 1971, Dacca/Dhaka)**, under which the **Pakistan Eastern Command** agreed to surrender **all Pakistan Armed Forces in Bangladesh** (land, air, naval, paramilitary, and civil armed forces) to **Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora** (GOC-in-C of the Indian and Bangladesh forces in the eastern theatre).
- Soon after independence, India and Bangladesh signed the **Treaty of Peace and Friendship on 19 March 1972 (Dhaka)**, which committed both sides to **lasting peace and friendship, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs**.
- The 1972 Treaty included a strategic reassurance principle that each side would **not enter into or participate in any military alliance directed against the other**, reflecting the security logic of the post-1971 regional order.



- The 1972 Treaty was signed for a **25-year** term, establishing an early long-horizon political framework for cooperation between the two States.
- Water cooperation institutionalised early through the creation of the **Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission**, with the **Statute** signed at **Dacca on 24 November 1972**, creating a formal bilateral mechanism for cooperation on shared rivers and water resources.
- A landmark bilateral water treaty is the **Ganga/Ganges Water Sharing Treaty**, signed on **12 December 1996 (New Delhi)**, which governs sharing of Ganga waters during the dry season at Farakka under a treaty framework.
- A foundational border settlement instrument is the **Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed on 16 May 1974 (New Delhi)**, which set out arrangements for boundary-related issues between the two countries.
- These early pillars—**1971 recognition and war-ending surrender arrangements, 1972 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1972 Joint Rivers Commission**, and the **1974 Land Boundary Agreement**—created the core architecture for cooperation on **political ties, security reassurance, water management, and boundary stabilisation** that continues to shape India–Bangladesh relations.

THE STRATEGIC ARCHITECTURE OF INDIA–BANGLADESH RELATIONS

Bangladesh is central to India's regional strategy grounded in shared regional interests and deep strategic cooperation. This relationship is defined by a massive trade volume, complex border management challenges, and the strategic balance of the Bay of Bengal.



Key friction points

1) River water sharing (Teesta and other river issues)

- India and Bangladesh share **54 rivers**, so river management is a permanent agenda item spanning data exchange, flood management, irrigation needs, and dry-season allocations.
- The **Teesta** remains the most politically salient unresolved river issue; a draft interim understanding finalised around **2011** could not be concluded, and the pending Teesta deal continues to shape domestic politics and bilateral signalling.

- The **Ganga Water Sharing Treaty (1996)** is foundational because it is a legally structured dry-season arrangement with a defined validity period and renewal needs, making negotiations around its extension strategically sensitive for both sides.
- India and Bangladesh signed a specific river MoU on **Kushiyara** (September 2022) allowing withdrawal of **153 cusecs by each side** during the dry season, with **joint monitoring** and a **15-year** term, showing that incremental river-specific arrangements are feasible even when larger disputes persist.

2) Border management (fencing, firing incidents, smuggling)

- The India–Bangladesh border is **4096.7 km**, with **3232.218 km fenced** and the remaining gaps linked to land acquisition, operational constraints, terrain limits, and objections/issues requiring bilateral coordination.
- Border threats are multidimensional and include **smuggling, illegal crossings**, and risks from cross-border criminal networks; the operational response uses patrolling, surveillance tech, floodlights/solar lighting, riverine boats/floating posts, and coordinated action with local police.
- India and Bangladesh maintain structured force-to-force coordination: the **BSF** and **BGB** operate under long-standing guidelines and a **Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP)** signed in **2011**, alongside mechanisms like regular meetings and direct communication channels to reduce escalation.

3) Illegal migration and domestic politics spillover

- Illegal migration is repeatedly flagged as a core challenge along the border, especially for states like **West Bengal** and **Assam**, and it intersects with livelihoods, political narratives, and policing capacity.
- Apprehensions of Bangladeshi citizens along the Indo–Bangladesh border were reported month-wise from **01 January 2024 to 31 January 2025**, totalling **2601** apprehensions in that period, showing that irregular movement remains operationally significant even with fencing and surveillance.
- Domestic political debates (citizenship verification, “infiltration” narratives, and deportation processes) can spill over into bilateral relations, particularly when large-scale pushbacks, detention, or disputes about nationality become politically salient on either side.

4) Minority safety and internal stability concerns

- Safety of religious minorities in Bangladesh periodically becomes a major bilateral sensitivity; for example, **76 incidents of attacks against Hindus** were reported in Bangladesh over a two-month window (late 2024 to late January 2025), which kept minority protection on India’s diplomatic agenda.
- After the 2024 upheaval, minority safety concerns were linked to broader law-and-order stability, and Bangladesh’s interim leadership directly engaged India’s leadership on these concerns amid heightened public attention.
- Minority safety also shapes domestic political alignments and election rhetoric inside Bangladesh, and it can quickly affect visas, people-to-people exchanges, and public sentiment across the border.

5) Trade imbalances and non-tariff barriers

- The bilateral goods trade profile is structurally imbalanced in India’s favour (FY 2023–24: India exports **USD 12.05 billion** vs Bangladesh exports **USD 1.97 billion**), which can generate periodic friction over market access, standards, port/land customs capacity, and perceived non-tariff barriers.
- Logistics and transit decisions can become politically charged; India withdrew a transshipment facility (introduced in 2020) that had enabled Bangladesh to export goods to third countries via Indian land customs stations, illustrating how trade facilitation tools can be reversed when costs and domestic pressures rise.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Which of the following political parties formed the Government after the Bangladesh parliamentary election held on 12 February 2026?
 - Bangladesh Nationalist Party
 - Bangladesh Awami League Party
 - Bangladesh Workers Party Alliance
 - Bangladesh National Democratic Front
- Who was sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh on 17 February 2026 following the parliamentary election victory?
 - Muhammad Yunus
 - Sheikh Hasina
 - Khaleda Zia
 - Tarique Rahman
- Which of the following electoral systems is used for electing members to Bangladesh's Parliament from single-member constituencies?
 - Proportional Representation System
 - Mixed Member Electoral System
 - First Past The Post System
 - Single Transferable Vote System
- Who among the following forms part of the Bangladesh Election Commission in addition to the Chief Election Commissioner to ensure collective electoral governance?
 - Two election commissioners
 - Three election commissioners
 - Five election commissioners
 - Four election commissioners
- Which of the following leaders headed the interim administration in Bangladesh before the formation of the new elected Government in 2026?
 - Tarique Rahman
 - Sheikh Hasina
 - Khaleda Zia
 - Muhammad Yunus
- Which of the following colours was used for the referendum ballot issued to voters during the Bangladesh parliamentary election held in February 2026?
 - White ballot paper
 - Pink ballot paper
 - Blue ballot paper
 - Yellow ballot paper
- Which of the following dates is commemorated as India–Bangladesh Maitri Diwas marking India's recognition of Bangladesh?
 - 9 December
 - 7 September
 - 4 November
 - 6 December
- Which of the following military events formally marked the end of hostilities in the eastern theatre during the Bangladesh Liberation War?
 - Instrument of Surrender
 - Treaty of Peace Friendship
 - Ceasefire Declaration Agreement
 - Land Boundary Agreement Signing
- Which of the following bilateral agreements committed India and Bangladesh to mutual respect, peace, and non-interference in internal affairs?
 - Ganga Water Sharing Treaty
 - Land Boundary Agreement
 - Treaty of Peace Friendship
 - Joint Rivers Commission Statute
- Who commanded the Indian and Bangladesh forces in the eastern theatre and accepted the surrender of Pakistan Eastern Command in 1971?
 - Lt General Sam Manekshaw
 - Lt General K M Cariappa
 - Lt General Bipin Rawat
 - Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora
- Which of the following institutional mechanisms was created in 1972 to promote cooperation on shared rivers between India and Bangladesh?
 - Joint Water Sharing Treaty
 - Joint Rivers Commission Body
 - Land Boundary Agreement Panel
 - Bilateral Water Cooperation Forum
- Which of the following agreements signed in 1996 governs the sharing of Ganga waters between India and Bangladesh?
 - Ganga Water Peace Treaty
 - Ganga Water Allocation Treaty
 - Ganga Water Sharing Treaty
 - Ganga Water Boundary Framework
- Which of the following agreements signed on 16 May 1974 established arrangements for resolving boundary-related issues between India and Bangladesh?
 - 9 December
 - 7 September
 - 4 November
 - 6 December

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- (a) Treaty of Peace Friendship
- (b) Joint Rivers Commission Statute
- (c) Mutual Land Sharing Agreement
- (d) Land Boundary Agreement Framework

14. Which of the following mechanisms signed in 2011 provides a structured framework for operational coordination between border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh?

- (a) Coordinated Border Security Agreement

- (b) Coordinated Border Regulation Protocol
- (c) Coordinated Border Cooperation Framework
- (d) Coordinated Border Management Plan

15. Which of the following rivers represents the most sensitive unresolved water-sharing matter influencing relations between India and Bangladesh?

- (a) Teesta river
- (b) Ganga river
- (c) Barak river
- (d) Meghna river

SOLUTIONS

1. (a), 2. (d), 3. (c), 4. (d), 5. (d), 6. (b), 7. (d), 8. (a),
9. (c), 10. (d), 11. (b), 12. (c), 13. (d), 14. (d), 15. (a).

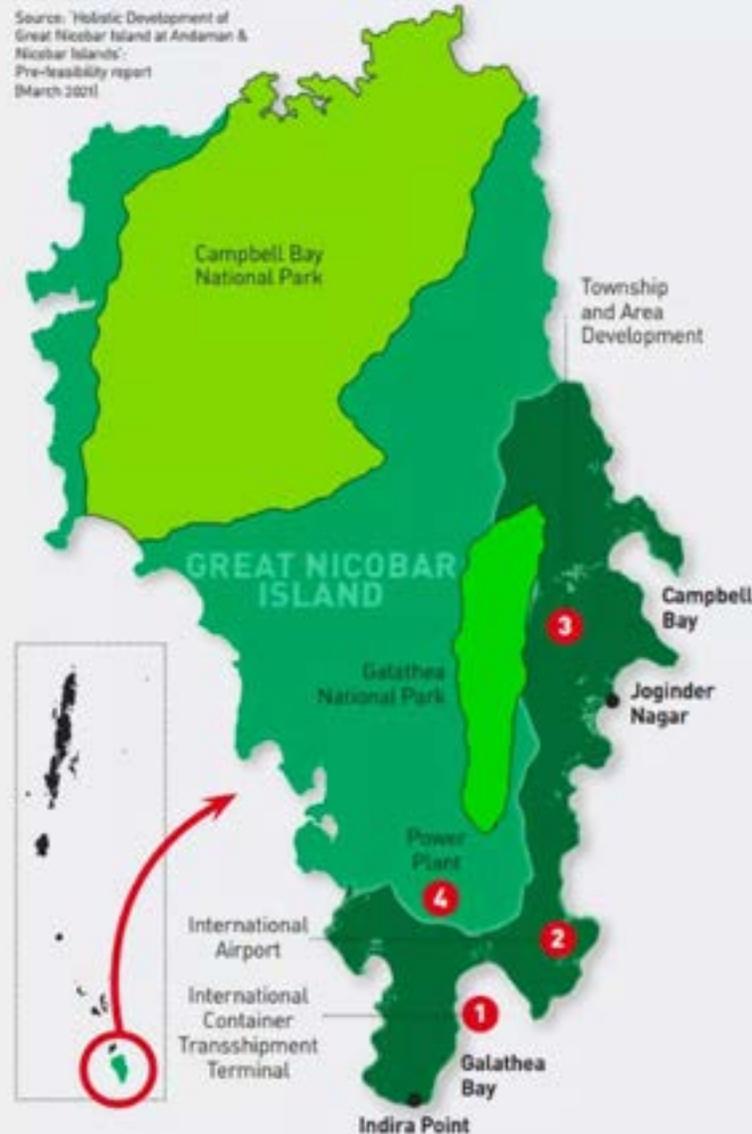
3 NGT CLEARS THE GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT

IN FOCUS

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, in its order dated **16 February 2026**, declined to interfere with the environmental clearance-related challenge in the second round of litigation concerning the Great Nicobar project, and disposed of the pending applications while directing the authorities to ensure **full and strict compliance of the EC conditions**. The matter was decided in a common order covering **OA No. 93/2024/EZ, OA No. 95/2024/EZ, and M.A. No. 23/2024/EZ in Appeal No. 32/2022/EZ**.
- The applicants had raised objections mainly regarding alleged violations of the **Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Notification, 2019**, compliance with the earlier NGT order of **3 April 2023**, and the handling of issues such as coral protection, baseline data collection, and CRZ-IA mapping.

WHAT IS THE GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT

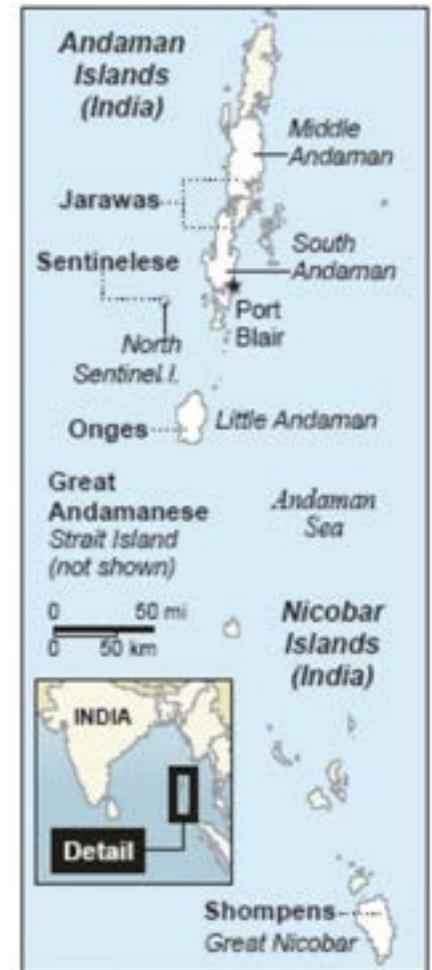
- The Great Nicobar project is an **integrated infrastructure development project** formally described in official filings as the “**Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island**” in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It combines multiple large infrastructure components into one coordinated plan rather than treating them as isolated projects.
- As per the project Form-1 on the environment clearance portal, the project includes an **International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) of 14.2 million TEU capacity**, a **Greenfield International Airport (4,000 peak-hour passengers)**, **Township and Area Development**, and a **450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant**, spread across **16,610 hectares**. The same filing records a project cost of about **₹75,000 crore** and identifies it as a **Category A** project.
- The NGT order also describes the project as an integrated development initiative in Great Nicobar involving the **ICTT, township and area development, and a 450 MVA gas and solar power plant**, with environment and CRZ clearances sought for the project. It further notes that the project was appraised by the **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** and later granted environmental clearance by the MoEF&CC.



- The Tribunal's discussion records that the project has been presented by the authorities as having **strategic, defence, connectivity, and economic importance**, including a proposed role in cargo transshipment and associated urban infrastructure development. The order also notes projected employment figures and supporting social infrastructure planning referenced in the EC material.
- In practical terms, the project is not only a port project. It is a **full ecosystem development plan**, because the port is proposed alongside an airport, power infrastructure, and urban/township support systems such as roads, utilities, and service networks. This integrated character is one reason why the appraisal and litigation have covered environmental, coastal regulation, forest, wildlife, and strategic issues together.

Location and Map-Based Significance

- **Great Nicobar Island** is the **southernmost island of India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago**, and it is central to the project's strategic significance. Official project documents for the Galathea Bay transshipment port describe Great Nicobar as the **southernmost island** of the archipelago and provide its approximate coordinates and size.
- The port component is proposed at **Galathea Bay** in Great Nicobar. Official port documents state that the proposed site is at Galathea Bay and emphasize its location advantage for a transshipment hub.
- The project is repeatedly linked to the location of **Indira Point**, which is the **southernmost tip of India** on Great Nicobar Island, in official government communications on the project. This geographical fact is important because it places the project near major sea lanes in the eastern Indian Ocean region.
- A major map-based strategic feature is the project's proximity to the **Malacca Strait shipping route**. Official port-related documents and the NGT order both refer to the project's location as being about **40 nautical miles / ~40 km (as stated in pleadings before NGT) from the major international sea route passing through the Malacca Strait**, highlighting why the proposed ICTT is seen as strategically significant for maritime trade and logistics.
- This location gives the project a dual significance. First, it supports the economic argument for a **transshipment hub** closer to major shipping flows. Second, it supports the strategic argument concerning India's maritime presence in the **Indian Ocean Region**. The NGT order explicitly records both these dimensions while discussing the project's importance.



Major Components of the Project

1) International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), Galathea Bay

- The port is a core component of the integrated project and is described as an **International Container Transshipment Terminal** with a planned capacity of **14.2 million TEU** in the environment clearance filings. The Galathea Bay location is emphasized in both the project records and port development documents.
- The project documentation also indicates that port development includes associated infrastructure such as **breakwaters, berths, dredging, reclamation, onshore storage areas, and utility/support buildings**. These details show that the port component is not limited to a quay or terminal building but involves major coastal engineering works.
- The Form-1 filing states that substantial **dredging** is proposed for ICTT development and that **reclamation** is part of the project design, especially for the port and airport areas. It also records port-related offshore structures and cargo/container terminal facilities.

2) Greenfield International Airport

- The integrated project includes a **Greenfield International Airport** planned with **4,000 peak-hour passenger (PHP)** capacity. This component is specifically listed in the Form-1 filing and in port-related official documents that describe simultaneous development under the holistic plan.
- The application material states that airport development involves **terminal building, runway, apron, taxiway, cargo and general aviation facilities**, and that land-level changes and recontouring are envisaged. It also notes that some settlement rehabilitation and site recontouring are linked to airport construction requirements.

3) Township and Area Development

- The project includes a large **Township and Area Development** component, which is central to the “holistic” framing of the project. Official filings describe land-use conversion for residential, commercial, institutional, and support uses, and refer to infrastructure needed for long-term habitation and services.
- The Form-1 material mentions elements such as **ecological centres, welcome centres, cultural centres, marinas**, and other built infrastructure under area development. It also indicates that significant portions of the total project land are linked to township/area development planning.
- The EAC record also noted that the township plan would require coordinated planning of **roads, public transport, energy, water, wastewater, and stormwater systems**, which reflects the project’s large-scale urban planning dimension.

4) 450 MVA Gas and Solar-Based Power Plant

- The project includes a **450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant**, which is listed as one of the four major pillars of the integrated development. This component is included in the Form-1 filing and repeatedly referenced in the NGT proceedings.
- The inclusion of a dedicated power component indicates that the project is designed as a self-supporting infrastructure ecosystem rather than a standalone transport project. The power plant is therefore integral to supporting port operations, airport functions, township services, and future expansion.

5) Supporting and Ancillary Infrastructure

- The Form-1 filing and NGT discussion indicate that the project also involves extensive **support infrastructure**, including utility networks, storage facilities, construction support systems, access facilities, and environmental management arrangements. The documents also refer to potential impacts and environmental mitigation responsibilities across multiple sub-components.

Implementing Agency / Institutional Setup

- The project proponent is **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO)**, which is identified in the project filing and in the NGT order. Official records show ANIIDCO as the applicant/entity associated with the proposal.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** is the key regulatory authority for environmental appraisal and clearance. The NGT order records that the project proposal was considered by the **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** and that the MoEF&CC granted environmental clearance after considering EAC recommendations.
- For the port component at Galathea Bay, official port development documents show the involvement of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** and **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK)**, which acted as a nodal agency for the proposed port development process on behalf of ANIIDCO in the EOI process.

- The NGT order also records the role of the **High-Powered Committee (HPC)** constituted after the 2023 NGT order, with representation from multiple institutions including MoEF&CC, A&N administration, **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)**, **CPCB**, NITI Aayog nominee, Shipping Ministry nominee, and **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**. This shows that the project review moved beyond a single-department appraisal and became an inter-institutional review process.
- For the CRZ-IA mapping issue, the NGT order specifically records the role of the **National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)** in authenticating maps and conducting **ground-truthing** of the project area and nearby coastal/ecologically sensitive zones.
- The NGT order further notes that the environmental clearance itself provides for **monitoring committees**, including committees for pollution-related matters, biodiversity-related matters, and the welfare/issues of **Shompen and Nicobarese** communities.

Great Nicobar Project: Regulatory Roadmap

The 5-year legal journey from proposal to final green light under strict environmental conditions (2021-2026).



Pre-Project Policy and Institutional Background

- The broader policy background lies in the Union Government's island development push under the **Islands Development Agency (IDA)**. PIB releases from 2018 and 2020 show the Government's emphasis on "holistic development of islands" and review of infrastructure-led development proposals in island territories, including Andaman and Nicobar.

2021: Proposal Stage and Appraisal Process

- The project's Form-1 filing on the environment clearance portal shows the proposal under **Proposal Number IA/AN/NCP/201159/2021**, identifying the integrated project in Great Nicobar and ANIIDCO-related applicant details. The Form also records the project area, cost, and major components.
- The NGT order records that the proposal was considered by the EAC in multiple meetings and that the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** were granted on **25 May 2021**.
- The same NGT order, while recounting the first round of litigation, notes that the **ICRZ plan/CZMP-related approvals for Great Nicobar under ICRZ 2019** had been approved before the grant of EC/CRZ clearance (referenced as **1 June 2021** in the order's narration of the earlier proceedings).

2022: Clearances

- The NGT order states that the MoEF&CC granted the **environmental clearance** to the project on **11 November 2022** after considering the EAC recommendations and environmental safeguards.

- The judgment also refers to litigation on **forest clearance**, including challenge to Stage-I forest clearance and later references to forest clearance being accorded. Since the order itself mentions dates in different contexts while narrating prior and current proceedings, it is safest to read the forest clearance chronology directly along with the first-round litigation record.

2023: First Round of NGT Litigation and High-Powered Committee

- In the first round, the NGT passed a common order on **3 April 2023** in appeals concerning forest and environmental clearances. The Tribunal broadly declined to interfere with the EC but identified certain unresolved issues (especially coral translocation, baseline data concerns, and CRZ-IA location concerns) for further review.
- The NGT then directed the constitution of a **High-Powered Committee (HPC)** to examine those specific issues and indicated that the competent authority may re-look at the EC/conditions in light of the HPC report. The Tribunal also directed that further work should not proceed except work not of irreversible nature until then.
- The NGT order in the second round records that the MoEF&CC constituted the HPC through an **Office Memorandum dated 13 April 2023** and set its ToR around the three issues identified by the Tribunal.
- The order further records that **NCSCM** undertook site visits and ground-truthing on **17-18 June 2023** for the CRZ-IA mapping issue.

2024-2026: Second Round of Litigation and Final NGT Order (Current Trigger)

The applicants filed a second round of proceedings (including **OA No. 93/2024/EZ** and **OA No. 95/2024/EZ**) raising objections regarding ICRZ, alleged non-compliance with the 2023 order, and the adequacy of the review process.

The NGT's final common order in this round was reserved on **21 November 2025** and pronounced on **16 February 2026**. The Tribunal found no sufficient ground to interfere and disposed of the matters with a direction for strict compliance with the EC conditions.

What Exactly Did the NGT Decide?

The Tribunal treated the matter as a second round of litigation and repeatedly referred back to its **3 April 2023 order**, where it had already held that the project was broadly compliant and the EC did not call for general interference, subject to review of certain identified issues.

1) On Coral Protection (Issue I)

- The applicants argued that the project would violate the ICRZ prohibition on coral destruction and raised concerns about coral colonies and translocation. The Tribunal examined the material placed on record, including the ZSI-related findings discussed before the HPC.
- The order records that the project site itself was stated to have **no major coral reef in the work area**, though scattered corals existed in adjoining areas and precautionary **translocation** was proposed. The HPC accepted ZSI recommendations for translocation and further study/monitoring of additional coral colonies.
- Based on the material before it, the NGT held that **violation of Clause 3(i) of the ICRZ Notification, 2019 (destruction of corals)** was not established in the manner alleged by the applicants.

2) On Baseline Data / One-Season vs Three-Season EIA Data (Issue II)

- The applicants argued that one season's baseline data was inadequate and that three-season data should have been considered. The Tribunal discussed the arguments around the EIA guidance/manual and the coastal erosion-related reasoning placed by the respondents.
- The order records that the HPC examined this issue and noted that the **EIA Guidance Manual for Ports and Harbours** referred to **one-season data (other than monsoon)** as per CPCB norms, and that similar port projects were appraised on that basis. The Tribunal accepted that the issue had been effectively dealt with.

At the same time, the NGT stated that it would remain the responsibility of the regulatory authorities to ensure that proposed constructions do not cause erosion or shoreline changes harming beaches and ecological functions.

3) On CRZ-IA / ICRZ-IA Allegation and Leatherback Turtle Habitat Concerns (Issue III)

- The applicants argued that part of the project area fell in **CRZ-I / ICRZ-IA**, where port activity would be prohibited, and referred to concerns linked to Galathea Bay and sensitive habitats.
- The respondents relied on the EAC proceedings and EC conditions, including the position that parts of the proposed master plan for ports falling within **CRZ IA and IB** would be excluded from the revised layout, and that construction must strictly follow the ICRZ Notification and the CZMP.
- The NGT order records that the **NCSCM** undertook ground-truthing and, after examining layout plans and site conditions, concluded that **no part of the project area fell under CRZ-IA**, and that the HPC accepted this conclusion. The Tribunal also emphasized that if EC conditions are violated during execution, such violation can expose the project to challenge.

Final Outcome

The Tribunal held that adequate safeguards existed in the EC conditions, that the issues identified in the first round had been dealt with through the HPC process, and that there was no good ground to interfere at this stage. It therefore **disposed of the OAs and MA** with a direction to the authorities/regulatory agency to ensure **full and strict compliance** with the EC conditions.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following authorities declined to interfere with the environmental clearance challenge concerning the Great Nicobar project in February 2026?
 - (a) Supreme Court of India
 - (b) National Green Tribunal
 - (c) Ministry of Environment
 - (d) Andaman Administration
2. What is the officially described name of the integrated development initiative in Great Nicobar Island?
 - (a) Integrated Development Great Nicobar Island
 - (b) Great Nicobar Strategic Infrastructure Plan
 - (c) Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island
 - (d) Great Nicobar Comprehensive Development Plan
3. Which of the following identifies the implementing agency responsible for the Great Nicobar integrated project?
 - (a) Ministry of Ports Authority
 - (b) NITI Aayog Authority Unit
 - (c) Island Infrastructure Corporation
 - (d) ANIIDCO Development Corporation
4. Which of the following is the planned container handling capacity of the International Container Transshipment Terminal component?
 - (a) 10.2 million TEU capacity
 - (b) 12.5 million TEU capacity
 - (c) 13.8 million TEU capacity
 - (d) 14.2 million TEU capacity
5. Which of the following geographical locations hosts the proposed International Container Transshipment Terminal under the project?
 - (a) Galathea Bay location area
 - (b) Campbell Bay coastal zone
 - (c) Indira Point coastal zone
 - (d) Port Blair marine zone
6. What is the planned passenger handling capacity of the Greenfield International Airport component?
 - (a) 2,000 peak-hour passengers capacity
 - (b) 3,000 peak-hour passengers capacity
 - (c) 4,000 peak-hour passengers capacity
 - (d) 5,000 peak-hour passengers capacity
7. Which of the following types of power plant is included as part of the integrated project infrastructure?
 - (a) Coal-based thermal power plant
 - (b) Hydroelectric power plant system
 - (c) Nuclear power generation plant
 - (d) Gas and solar power plant
8. Where is Great Nicobar Island geographically located within India's territorial structure?
 - (a) Northernmost Andaman island region
 - (b) Eastern coastal mainland region
 - (c) Western Lakshadweep island region
 - (d) Southernmost Andaman Nicobar island
9. What is the approximate distance of the project location from the Malacca Strait shipping route?
 - (a) 10 nautical miles distance
 - (b) 20 nautical miles distance
 - (c) 40 nautical miles distance
 - (d) 60 nautical miles distance
10. Which of the following committees was constituted after the earlier tribunal order to review specific environmental concerns?
 - (a) High Powered Review Committee
 - (b) Coastal Monitoring Expert Committee
 - (c) Environmental Compliance Authority
 - (d) Island Regulation Advisory Panel
11. Which of the following institutions authenticated coastal mapping and conducted ground verification of project-related coastal zones?
 - (a) Central Pollution Control Board Authority
 - (b) Wildlife Institute Research Organization
 - (c) National Coastal Management Centre
 - (d) Botanical Survey Scientific Institution
12. What is the total approximate land area covered under the integrated infrastructure development project?
 - (a) 12,500 hectares project area
 - (b) 14,300 hectares project area
 - (c) 15,800 hectares project area
 - (d) 16,610 hectares project area
13. Which of the following regulatory authorities granted environmental clearance after appraisal recommendations?
 - (a) Ministry of Shipping Authority
 - (b) Island Development Agency Unit
 - (c) Environment Forest Climate Ministry
 - (d) National Infrastructure Authority
14. When did the tribunal pass its earlier order directing review of specific environmental concerns through expert evaluation?

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- (a) January 2023
- (b) February 2023
- (c) April 2023
- (d) May 2023

15. Which of the following geographic features enhances the strategic importance of the project's location in maritime logistics?

- (a) Arabian Sea shipping route
- (b) Malacca Strait shipping route
- (c) Persian Gulf maritime route
- (d) Bay of Bengal coastline

SOLUTIONS

1. (b), 2. (c), 3. (d), 4. (d), 5. (a), 6. (c), 7. (d), 8. (d),
9. (c), 10. (a), 11. (c), 12. (d), 13. (c), 14. (c), 15. (b)

4 INDIA–FRANCE RELATIONS ELEVATED TO SPECIAL GLOBAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

IN FOCUS

- President Emmanuel Macron visited India from 17 to 19 February 2026 and participated in the Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026. During this visit, he held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai.
- During the visit, both leaders agreed to elevate India–France relations to a “Special Global Strategic Partnership.” This was the central political announcement of the visit.
- The two leaders also jointly inaugurated the 2026 India–France Year of Innovation in Mumbai on 17 February 2026.
- The elevation came after the two countries had already marked 25 years of the Strategic Partnership in 2023 and adopted the Horizon 2047 Roadmap for long-term cooperation.
- The joint statement described this upgradation as a step meant to guide bilateral cooperation in the coming decades and to strengthen coordination at bilateral, regional, and global levels.

What Was Announced

- **Core Political Announcement:** India and France announced the upgradation of their bilateral relationship from a Strategic Partnership to a Special Global Strategic Partnership.
- **New Institutional Mechanism:** The leaders established an annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue to regularly review the implementation of the elevated partnership and the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, especially in economic security, global issues, and people-to-people exchanges.
- **Innovation Track Launch:** The two sides jointly launched the 2026 India–France Year of Innovation as a major thematic platform for cooperation in innovation, science and technology, AI, healthcare, sustainable development, culture, and education. The outcomes list also records the launch of the India–France Innovation Network, indicating an institutional push to connect innovation ecosystems.
- **Broader Outcome Package:** The visit also produced a wide outcomes package covering defence, critical and emerging technologies, critical minerals, taxation, startup cooperation, AI-health, renewable energy, skilling, and postal cooperation.



Meaning of “Special Global Strategic Partnership”

- The phrase indicates that India and France are seeking to move beyond a traditional bilateral strategic relationship and build a more comprehensive partnership that operates at bilateral, regional, and global levels. The joint statement explicitly states this broader scope.
- The joint statement links the upgradation to a shared ambition to act as a force for global good, support prosperity and resilience, strengthen national security, and address challenges in an uncertain global environment while contributing to a stable rules-based international order.

- The upgradation also reflects the fact that India–France ties now cover a much wider agenda than the original core pillars. The statement refers to cooperation in defence, nuclear energy, space, AI, innovation, cyber, health, culture, economy, education, supply chains, and economic security.
- It also has a governance dimension because the leaders created an annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue for implementation review, which gives the upgraded partnership a more structured follow-up mechanism.
- “Special Global Strategic Partnership” is a political-diplomatic designation used by the two governments in their joint statement, rather than a standard universal treaty category used uniformly across international law. Its content is understood from the commitments and mechanisms described in the statement and related outcomes. (This is an interpretation based on the text of the announcement and the way it is framed.)

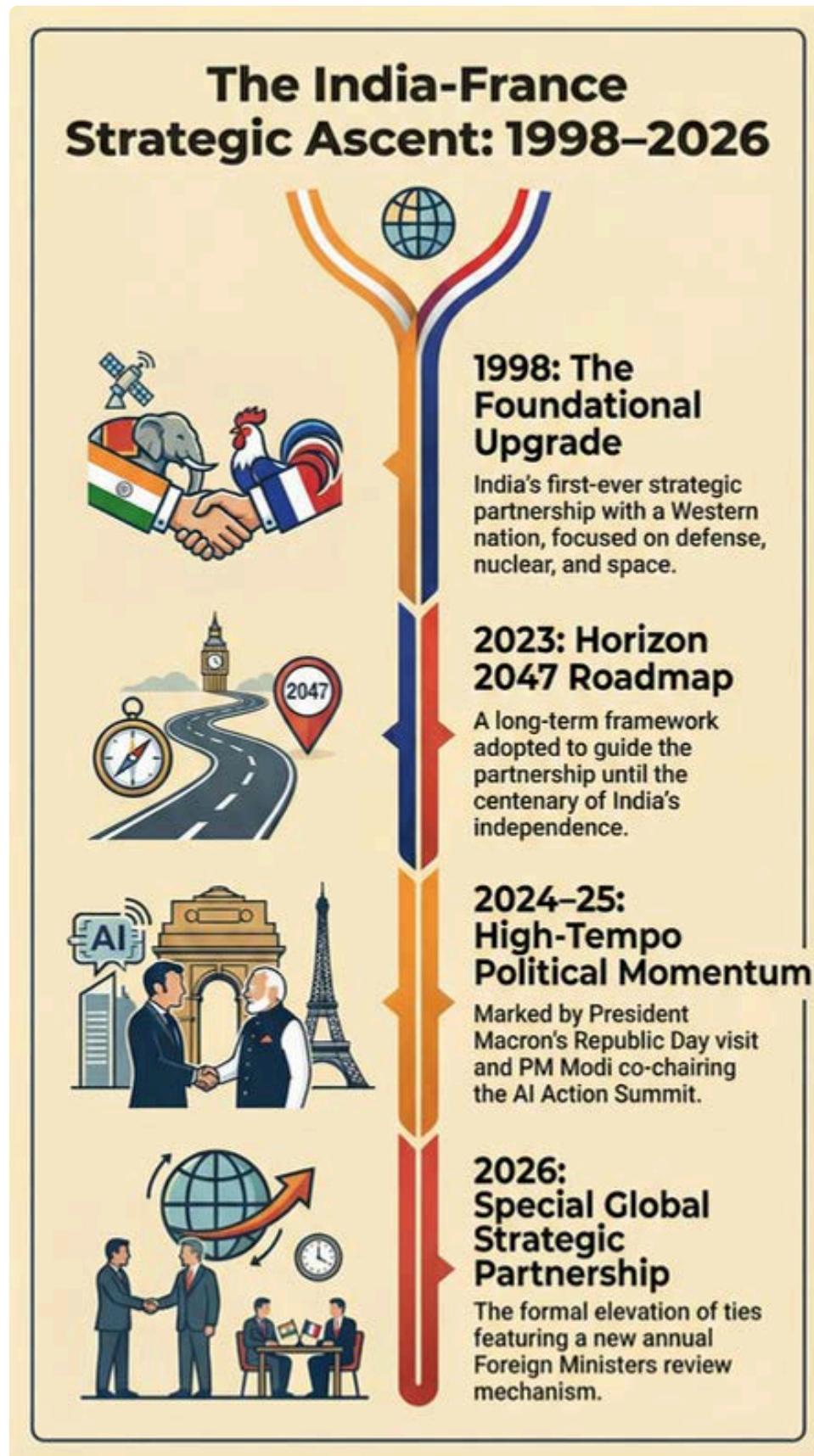
Historical Evolution of India–France Relations

Early Diplomatic Foundation

- India and France established diplomatic relations in 1947, soon after India’s independence, and have maintained close and friendly relations since then.
- The relationship developed on a foundation of shared democratic values, support for multilateralism, respect for international law, and strong cultural and people-to-people links.

Strategic Convergence and Autonomy

- The 1998 Strategic Partnership reflected a shared interest in strengthening strategic autonomy



through deeper bilateral cooperation. This feature has remained a continuing theme in India–France relations.

- In later documents, both countries continue to stress partnership “between equals,” sovereign interests, and decision-making autonomy, especially in the Indo-Pacific and technology domains.

Core Pillars and Expansion

- The traditional pillars of defence, civil nuclear energy, and space remained central, but the partnership steadily expanded into emerging sectors such as AI, cyber, innovation, digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, critical technologies, and climate cooperation.
- This broadening shows that the relationship has evolved from a security-heavy framework into a more integrated model linking security, technology, economy, climate, and society.

Indo-Pacific and Global Coordination

- India and France increasingly describe themselves as key partners in the Indo-Pacific, and both have developed institutional and policy frameworks for this region, including the 2018 Joint Strategic Vision and the 2023 Indo-Pacific Roadmap.
- The relationship has also moved beyond bilateral issues into cooperation on global governance, climate, economic security, connectivity, and multilateral institutions.

Present Stage

- The 2026 upgradation to a Special Global Strategic Partnership marks the latest stage in this evolution, formally recognizing the global and cross-sector character of the relationship.

Key Objectives of the Upgradation

To Provide a Long-Term Strategic Framework

- The leaders stated that the new designation would guide bilateral cooperation for the coming decades. This shows that the upgradation is intended as a long-range political framework rather than a short-term diplomatic slogan.



- India and France celebrated the 25th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership in 2023. On that occasion, they adopted the Horizon 2047 Roadmap to define the direction of ties up to 2047.
- The roadmap is linked to a symbolic and institutional milestone year: 2047 will mark the centenary of India’s independence, the centenary of India–France diplomatic relations, and 50 years of the Strategic Partnership.
- The Horizon 2047 text emphasizes that India and France intend to work together for international peace and stability, a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, and cooperation aligned with their sovereign and strategic interests.
- It also explicitly highlights cooperation in “sectors of the future” to reinforce sovereignty and decision-making autonomy and to respond jointly to major global challenges.

To Reflect Expanded Scope of Cooperation

- The relationship now spans defence, nuclear energy, space, AI, innovation, cyber, health, culture, economy, education, supply chains, and economic security. The upgradation acknowledges this widened reality.

To Strengthen Bilateral, Regional, and Global Coordination

- The joint statement says that through the new partnership, India and France are committed to deeper cooperation and coordination at bilateral, regional, and global levels.
- This is important because both countries increasingly work together on Indo-Pacific issues, multilateral forums, climate initiatives, and global governance questions.

To Build Resilience and Support Rules-Based Order

- The stated rationale includes building prosperity and resilience, advancing security, and collectively addressing challenges in an uncertain world while supporting a stable rules-based international order.

To Improve Implementation and Review

- The establishment of the annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue indicates that the upgradation is also meant to improve institutional follow-up, review, and execution of commitments, especially under Horizon 2047.

To Deepen People-Centred Strategic Cooperation

- The launch of the Year of Innovation during the same visit shows that the upgraded partnership is not confined to high politics and defence, but is also designed to connect startups, universities, researchers, and industry ecosystems.

Main Highlights of the India–France Joint Statement

Innovation, AI, and Emerging Technologies

- The leaders jointly inaugurated the 2026 India–France Year of Innovation, and the joint statement says it will include high-impact collaborations across innovation, science and technology, cyberspace and AI, healthcare, sustainable development, cultural and creative economy, and research and education.
- The statement links this innovation effort to the broader strategic relationship and specifically mentions cooperation among startups, academic institutions, research bodies, and industry.
- The leaders also referenced the AI summit track, recalling the earlier AI Action Summit in Paris (2025) and reaffirming commitment to secure and trustworthy AI, public interest orientation, openness, and bridging the global AI divide.

Defence and Security Cooperation

- The leaders agreed to intensify joint research, co-design, co-development, and co-production of advanced defence platforms across air, naval, and land systems, including dual-use technologies, linked to the Defence Industrial Roadmap.
- They welcomed steps such as the technical arrangement between DGA and DRDO, and they agreed to constitute a Joint Advanced Technology Development Group to co-develop emerging and critical technologies and reduce supply chain vulnerabilities.
- The statement also notes progress in aviation and naval defence cooperation, including helicopter and jet engine discussions and reference to the Rafale–Marine procurement discussions/contract context.
- In the outcomes list, defence-related items include the H125 helicopter final assembly line at Vemagal (Karnataka), renewal of the defence cooperation agreement, BEL–Safran collaboration on HAMMER missiles, and reciprocal deployment of army officers.

Space and Defence Space

- The leaders commended the strength of the CNES–ISRO partnership and supported deeper collaboration between their space industries. They also called for early convening of the third session of the India–France Strategic Space Dialogue in 2026.
- Building on the defence–space Letter of Intent, both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in sovereign access to space and space situational awareness.
- The statement also refers to cooperation in the ocean–space nexus, including collaboration involving CNES and INCOIS for ocean observation and sustainable ocean management.

Critical Minerals, Supply Chains, and Economic Security

- Recognizing the importance of critical minerals for the green and digital economy, the leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in exploration, extraction, processing, and recycling technologies for critical minerals and rare earths.
- The objective is to create diversified, sustainable, responsible, and resilient supply chains, which fits the broader emphasis on economic security and trusted partnerships.
- The outcomes list separately records a Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in critical minerals and metals.

Indo-Pacific and Connectivity

- The leaders reaffirmed commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and rules-based Indo-Pacific and called for closer regional collaboration in line with their earlier Indo-Pacific vision documents (2018 and 2023).
- They also referred to cooperation in trilateral formats with Australia and the UAE, and progress on Indo-Pacific Triangular Development Cooperation (IPTDC) in areas such as digital startups, health, and digital public infrastructure.
- The statement also reaffirmed cooperation on the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and encouraged concrete progress in 2026.

Counter-Terrorism and Security Coordination

- The two leaders strongly condemned terrorism and violent extremism, including cross-border terrorism, and reiterated cooperation against UN-listed terrorist entities and financing networks through the UN, FATF, and other multilateral platforms.
- The statement also mentions recent bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, including the NSG–GIGN Letter of Intent and continuing dialogue.

Climate, Planet, and Multilateral Environmental Cooperation

- Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Paris Agreement, effective implementation, and global climate ambition, while underlining the role of science and support for the IPCC.
- They also referred to cooperation through institutions such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), both linked to India–France multilateral climate and resilience efforts.

Civil Nuclear and New Nuclear Technologies

- The statement records continued cooperation in civil nuclear energy, including discussions on large nuclear power plants, SMRs/AMRs, and the evolving discussions related to the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant Project.
- It also refers to stronger cooperation across the nuclear value chain and continued work involving DAE and CEA institutions.

Trade, Investment, Taxation, and Business Linkages

- The leaders welcomed growth in bilateral trade and investments and emphasized realizing untapped potential through MSMEs, startups, digitalization, AI, and innovation-led businesses.
- They also welcomed the amendment to the bilateral tax treaty, which they said would support business activity and encourage investments and collaborations.
- The statement also records positive developments such as UPI acceptance in France, particularly in Paris, and the shared aim of expanding efficient digital payment acceptance for tourists.

People-to-People, Education, and Culture

- The joint statement reiterates the importance of deeper cooperation in science, technology, education, and culture, especially in the context of the Year of Innovation.
- It also notes continued cultural collaboration and reciprocal initiatives such as Villa Swagatam, reflecting a broader societal and cultural dimension of the bilateral partnership.

Concluding Political Message of the Joint Statement

- The statement concludes by saying that the establishment of the India–France Special Global Strategic Partnership opens a new chapter in the relationship and creates further opportunities for both peoples while advancing international peace, stability, and prosperity.

2026 India–France Year of Innovation

- The 2026 India–France Year of Innovation is a bilateral thematic initiative jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi and President Macron during the February 2026 visit.
- It is positioned as a major channel to deepen cooperation in science, research, technology, startups, education, and innovation ecosystems, and to connect the strategic partnership more directly with institutions and people.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Which of the following best describes the newly declared framework guiding India–France relations for deeper coordination across political, regional, and international domains?
 - Special Global Strategic Partnership
 - Comprehensive Global Strategic Framework
 - Advanced Bilateral Strategic Cooperation
 - Enhanced Multilateral Strategic Alliance
- Which of the following years marks the beginning of the formal high-level diplomatic framework established between India and France to expand long-term cooperation across strategic domains?
 - 1995
 - 1996
 - 1998
 - 2000
- Which of the following best describes the number of foundational sectors that formed the core structure of the initial long-term cooperative framework between India and France?
 - Four principal pillars
 - Three principal pillars
 - Five principal pillars
 - Six principal pillars
- Which of the following cities hosted the international summit on artificial intelligence that was jointly presided over by the leaders of India and France during Prime Minister Modi's 2025 visit?
 - Lyon
 - Nice
 - Cannes
 - Paris
- Which of the following bodies was agreed upon by India and France to promote collaborative innovation and development in emerging and critical technological domains?
 - Joint Strategic Innovation Coordination Council
 - Joint Advanced Technology Development Group
 - Joint Defence Technology Research Committee
 - Joint Emerging Technology Partnership Council
- Which of the following locations in India was selected for establishing the final assembly facility for the H125 helicopter under India–France defence industrial cooperation?
 - Hyderabad (Telangana)
 - Nagpur (Maharashtra)
 - Vemagal (Karnataka)
 - Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
- Which of the following official frameworks formally guided India–France cooperation priorities in maritime security, regional coordination, and strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific region?
 - 2017 Joint Strategic Vision and the 2022 Indo-Pacific Partnership Framework
 - 2018 Joint Strategic Vision and the 2023 Indo-Pacific Roadmap Framework
 - 2019 Joint Strategic Vision and the 2024 Indo-Pacific Partnership Framework
 - 2020 Joint Strategic Vision and the 2025 Indo-Pacific Partnership Framework
- Which of the following countries were identified as trilateral partners alongside India and France for advancing regional cooperation initiatives in the Indo-Pacific?
 - Japan and Indonesia
 - Australia and the UAE
 - Vietnam and Singapore
 - Germany and Italy
- Which of the following initiatives reflects the connectivity project supported by India and France to enhance trade, infrastructure integration, and economic linkages across multiple regions?
 - Asia–Europe–Africa Trade Connectivity Partnership
 - Transcontinental Economic Integration and Logistics
 - Global Maritime and Infrastructure Cooperation Initiative
 - India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor Initiative
- Which of the following refers to the bilateral understanding between India and France aimed at strengthening operational coordination between their specialised counter-terrorism units?
 - NSG–GIGN Counterterror
 - NSG–GIGN Letter of Intent
 - NSG–GIGN Special Forces
 - NSG–GIGN Tactical Response
- Which of the following refers to the major nuclear energy infrastructure initiative under discussion between India and France to expand large-scale atomic power generation capacity?
 - Kudankulam Nuclear Expansion Project
 - Tarapur Nuclear Energy Project
 - Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant Project
 - Kalpakkam Nuclear Reactor Project
- Which of the following organisations were identified as participating entities in strengthening institutional collaboration across the nuclear energy value chain between India and France?

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- (a) ISRO and DRDO institutions
- (b) DAE and CEA institutions
- (c) BARC and CNES institutions
- (d) NPCIL and EDF institutions

SOLUTIONS

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a), | 2. (c), | 3. (b), | 4. (d), | 5. (b), | 6. (c), | 7. (b), | 8. (b), |
| 9. (d), | 10. (b), | 11. (c), | 12. (b) | | | | |

5 Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

IN FOCUS

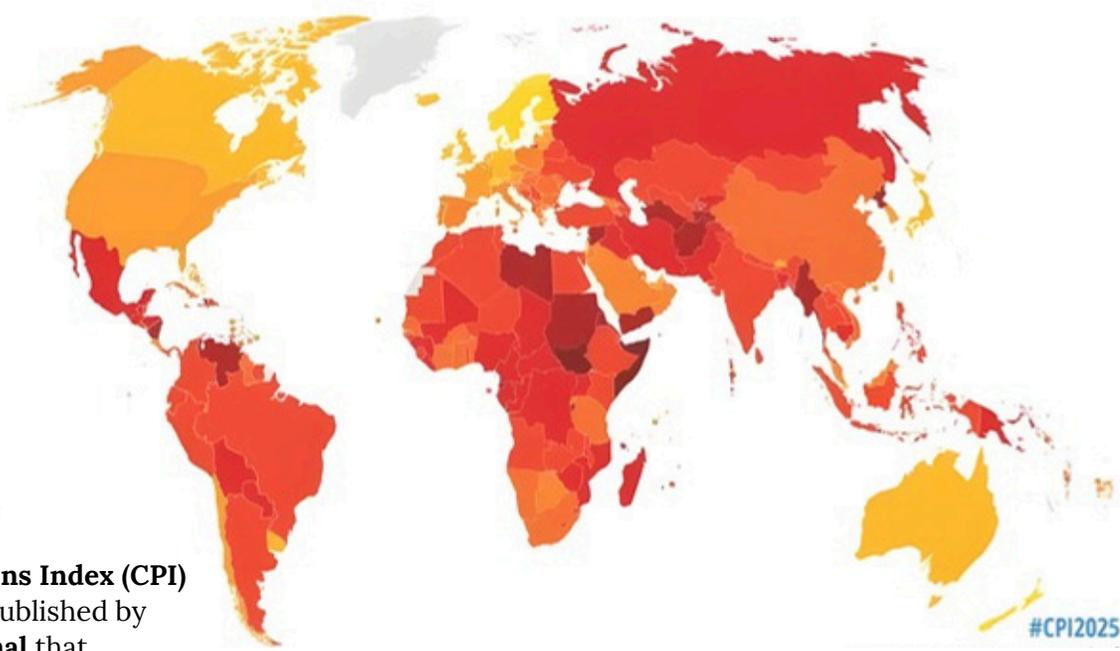
The **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025** was released by **Transparency International** on **10 February 2026**. The report drew attention because it highlighted a **global decline in anti-corruption leadership**, a **fall in the global average score to 42**, and continued concerns about weak institutions, shrinking civic space, and declining accountability in many countries.



CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 182 countries/territories around the world.

- The **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** is an annual global index published by **Transparency International** that measures the **perceived level of public sector** corruption in countries and territories. It is widely used as a comparative global indicator of public-sector corruption and is based on the views of **experts and businesspeople**, not on Transparency International's own opinions.
- For **CPI 2025**, the index covers **182 countries and territories** and assigns each a score on a scale from **0 to 100**, where **0 means highly corrupt** and **100 means very clean**.



Who publishes it and when was CPI 2025 released?

- CPI 2025 was published by **Transparency International**, and the global release was made on **10 February 2026**. Transparency International describes CPI as its flagship global corruption indicator and notes that the 2025 edition is the **31st edition** of the index.



How is CPI 2025 calculated?

- Each country's CPI score is calculated using a combination of **at least 3 data sources**, drawn from a pool of **13 external corruption surveys and assessments**. These sources include institutions such as the **World**

Bank, World Economic Forum, and other risk/consulting and research bodies.

- Transparency International explains that CPI scores are based on **perceptions of public sector corruption** gathered from experts and businesspeople. It also clarifies that the scores **do not reflect the views of Transparency International or its staff**.
- The CPI methodology has been regularly reviewed, and Transparency International notes that it was most recently reviewed by the **European Commission's Joint Research Centre (2017)**. It also states that **CPI scores from 2012 onward are comparable across years** because of the revised methodology introduced in 2012.

Score vs Rank

- Transparency International clearly distinguishes between a **score** and a **rank**. The **score** reflects the perceived level of public sector corruption on the 0–100 scale, while the **rank** shows a country's relative position among all countries included in that year's list.
- This distinction is important because a country's **rank may change even if its score does not change much**, especially when the number of countries included changes. Transparency International therefore states that the **score is generally more important than rank** for understanding corruption levels.
- Transparency International also cautions that **small year-to-year score changes are not always statistically significant**. It marks statistically significant changes in its full results table only when the change is reflected across a majority of the underlying data sources.

What does the CPI measure?

- The CPI focuses on **public sector corruption** and captures several manifestations of corruption-related risks and institutional weakness. Transparency International lists examples such as **bribery, diversion of public funds, use of public office for private gain, ability of governments to contain corruption, nepotistic appointments in the civil service, state capture, and access to information on government activities**.
- It also includes aspects related to anti-corruption systems, such as whether laws require **financial disclosure** by public officials and whether there is **protection for people reporting bribery and corruption**.

What does the CPI not measure?

- The CPI is an important index, but it has clear limitations. Transparency International states that the CPI does **not** measure citizens' direct experiences of corruption, and it does not cover areas such as **tax fraud, illicit financial flows, money-laundering, private sector corruption**, and informal markets.
- Transparency International also explains that even a country with a **high CPI score** may still have serious integrity concerns, including enabling the laundering or movement of corrupt funds across borders, because such activities may fall outside the CPI's scope.

Major Global Findings in CPI 2025



Transparency International's CPI 2025 analysis states that corruption remains a serious threat globally and that there are only **limited signs of progress**. It says the **global average score fell to 42**, which it describes as the **lowest level in more than a decade**, and notes that **more than two-thirds of countries score below 50**.



- The report also highlights a broader pattern of declining anti-corruption leadership. Transparency International notes that the number of countries scoring **above 80** has fallen from **12 a decade ago to 5 in 2025**, and it points to declines in several established democracies.



- In the global rankings, **Denmark (89)** remained the top scorer for the **eighth consecutive year**, followed by **Finland (88)** and **Singapore (84)**. At the lower end, countries such as **South Sudan (9)**, **Somalia (9)**, and **Venezuela (10)** were among the weakest performers.



- Transparency International further reports that, since 2012, **50 countries** have significantly declined, while **31 countries** have significantly improved. It links long-term improvement in some countries to reforms such as **digitisation of public services**, **professionalisation of the civil service**, and stronger governance standards.

India's Position in CPI 2025

- According to Transparency International's country page for India, **India scored 39/100** in CPI 2025 and ranked **91 out of 182 countries**, with a **+1 score change** from the previous year.
- This shows a modest improvement in India's score, but the score still places India below the global average of 42. The CPI framework indicates that India continues to face governance and anti-corruption challenges in the public sector that affect its overall perception score.
- Transparency International's Asia-Pacific CPI 2025 regional press release states that the **Asia-Pacific regional average is 45/100**, and it notes that high levels of corruption in the region have remained largely unaddressed over the past decade.
- The same regional release notes that a majority of countries in the region score below the global average, and it specifically includes **India (39)** among those below the global average. It also identifies the region's top scorers as **Singapore (84)**, **New Zealand (81)**, and **Australia (76)**.
- Transparency International also links regional anti-corruption concerns to broader issues such as **weak law enforcement**, **unaccountable leadership**, and **opacity in political funding**, and it notes rising public frustration and protest movements in parts of the region.

Key Thematic Message of CPI 2025: Leadership, Democracy, and Civic Space



- CPI 2025 centers on what Transparency International calls the "anti-corruption leadership gap." Weak political leadership is identified as a core reason for stalled or reversed anti-corruption progress globally. The report argues that meaningful reform requires committed, accountable leadership backed by strong oversight mechanisms.



- The report links corruption trends to the rollback of democratic checks and balances. Institutional weakening, erosion of accountability systems, and concentration of power are presented as structural drivers that enable corruption to persist or deepen.



- Transparency International highlights shrinking civic space as a major concern. Restrictions on journalists, NGOs, and whistleblowers undermine transparency and public scrutiny. The report stresses that protecting civil society and independent institutions is essential for sustained anti-corruption progress.

Related International Institutional Context (UNCAC Link)

- In its Asia-Pacific CPI 2025 press release, Transparency International refers to the **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)** and notes that governments met in **Doha in December 2025** for the **11th Conference of the States Parties (CoSP11)**. It mentions calls for stronger commitments on integrity in political party and campaign funding.
- This is important because CPI discussions are increasingly being linked to broader international anti-corruption commitments, especially around **political finance transparency, oversight, and institutional accountability**.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following organisations publishes the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) globally as its flagship corruption indicator?
 - (a) World Economic Forum
 - (b) International Monetary Fund
 - (c) World Bank Group
 - (d) Transparency International
2. Which of the following best describes what the Corruption Perceptions Index primarily measures?
 - (a) Perceived public sector corruption levels
 - (b) Private sector financial crime rates
 - (c) Illicit financial flows across borders
 - (d) Tax compliance enforcement effectiveness
3. Which of the following scoring ranges is used in the Corruption Perceptions Index to represent corruption levels?
 - (a) 1 to 10 scale range
 - (b) 0 to 50 score scale
 - (c) 0 to 100 score scale
 - (d) 0 to 1000 scoring index
4. Which of the following minimum number of data sources is required to calculate a country's Corruption Perceptions Index score?
 - (a) At least one data source
 - (b) At least three data sources
 - (c) At least five data sources
 - (d) At least ten data sources
5. Which of the following global average scores was reported in CPI 2025 reflecting overall corruption perception worldwide?
 - (a) Global average score reached 39
 - (b) Global average score reached 40
 - (c) Global average score reached 41
 - (d) Global average score reached 42
6. Which of the following best explains the primary distinction between a country's CPI score and CPI rank?
 - (a) Score measures regional corruption trends
 - (b) Score measures corruption perception level
 - (c) Rank measures corruption perception directly
 - (d) Rank measures corruption experience level
7. Which of the following countries ranked first globally in CPI 2025 with the highest corruption perception score?
 - (a) Finland
 - (b) Singapore
 - (c) Denmark
 - (d) New Zealand
8. Which of the following scores was achieved by India in CPI 2025 reflecting corruption perception level?
 - (a) India scored total of 35
 - (b) India scored total of 39
 - (c) India scored total of 42
 - (d) India scored total of 45
9. Which of the following best explains whose perceptions are used to calculate CPI scores?
 - (a) Public opinion survey responses
 - (b) Experts and businesspeople views
 - (c) Government officials direct reports
 - (d) Transparency International reports
10. Which of the following best describes the number of countries covered in CPI 2025 assessment?
 - (a) CPI covered total of 175 countries
 - (b) CPI covered total of 180 countries
 - (c) CPI covered total of 181 countries
 - (d) CPI covered total of 182 countries
11. Which of the following organisations reviewed the CPI methodology to ensure statistical reliability and scientific validity?
 - (a) World Bank Governance Research Division
 - (b) United Nations Statistical Methods Review Unit
 - (c) International Monetary Fund Statistical Centre
 - (d) European Commission Joint Research Centre
12. Which of the following institutions contributes corruption perception data used in CPI methodology?
 - (a) International Olympic Committee Research Division
 - (b) United Nations Cultural Statistics Programme
 - (c) World Bank Governance Indicators Programme
 - (d) International Space Research Cooperation Council
13. Which of the following countries was among the lowest performing countries in CPI 2025 corruption perception rankings?
 - (a) Somalia
 - (b) Germany
 - (c) Canada
 - (d) Australia

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

14. Which of the following corruption perception scores was reported as the Asia-Pacific regional average in CPI 2025?

- (a) Asia Pacific average score reached 41
- (b) Asia Pacific average score reached 43
- (c) Asia Pacific average score reached 45
- (d) Asia Pacific average score reached 48

15. Which of the following international agreements provides the global legal framework for anti-corruption cooperation and governance integrity?

- (a) OECD Global Anti Corruption Governance
- (b) International Financial Integrity Cooperation
- (c) United Nations Global Governance Convention
- (d) United Nations Convention against Corruption

SOLUTIONS

1. (d), 2. (a), 3. (c), 4. (b), 5. (d), 6. (b), 7. (c), 8. (b),
9. (b), 10. (d), 11. (d), 12. (c), 13. (a), 14. (c), 15. (d).

6 No-Confidence Against the Lok Sabha Speaker and Substantive Motion Against the LoP

IN FOCUS

- During the 2026 Budget Session, Opposition MPs submitted a notice seeking the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**, alleging partisan conduct in the House. Reports stated that around **120 Opposition MPs** signed the notice, while the Trinamool Congress was not among the signatories at that stage.
- Around the same time, BJP MP **Nishikant Dubey** stated that he had given notice for a **substantive motion** against Leader of the Opposition (LoP) **Rahul Gandhi**, seeking cancellation of his Lok Sabha membership. This was reported as a separate parliamentary move.

First, the Core Clarification: These Are Two Different Parliamentary Devices

- The two developments were widely discussed together in the same political context, but they are **not the same type of motion**.
- The move against the **Speaker** relates to the **constitutional process for removal of the Speaker** under **Article 94(c)** of the Constitution, read with the Lok Sabha Rules.
- The move against the **LoP (a member of the House)** was described as a **substantive motion**, which is an independent motion meant to obtain a decision of the House on a specific matter.
- Therefore, one concerns the **office of the Speaker**, while the other concerns alleged conduct of a **member of the House**.



What Happened in the Notice Against the Lok Sabha Speaker

- The Opposition notice accused the Speaker of conducting proceedings in a **“blatantly partisan manner”** and cited specific grievances, including alleged denial of speaking opportunities to Opposition leaders and the suspension of some Opposition MPs during the Budget Session.
- The report also noted that the notice relied on **Article 94**, under which a Speaker can be removed by the House, subject to the constitutional notice requirement.
- The same report mentioned that the Speaker asked the Secretariat to examine the notice and expedite the process.

Constitutional Basis for Removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker

- **Article 94(c)** of the Constitution provides that the Speaker (or Deputy Speaker) may be removed from office by a **resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then members of the House**.
- The Article also requires that **at least 14 days’ notice** must be given before moving such a resolution.
- This is an important point for exams because the required majority is **not merely a simple majority of members present and voting**, but a majority of **all the then members** of the House.

What Happens Procedurally in Lok Sabha for Removal of the Speaker

- The Lok Sabha Rules contain a separate chapter on “**Resolution for Removal of Speaker or Deputy Speaker from Office**” (Rules 200 onwards).
- Under **Rule 200**, a member wishing to move such a resolution must give notice in writing to the Secretary-General and furnish the full text of the resolution.
- Rule 200 also provides that, on receipt of notice, a motion for leave to move the resolution is entered in the List of Business on a day fixed by the Speaker, and that day must be **after 14 days** from receipt of notice.
- **Rule 200A** lays down admissibility conditions, including that the resolution should be specific, clearly expressed, and should not contain arguments, inferences, imputations, or defamatory statements.
- Under **Rule 201**, when such a motion is taken up, the sitting is presided over in accordance with **Article 96** and **Article 95(2)**, meaning the Speaker whose removal is under consideration does not preside.

Article 96 & Why It Matters

- **Article 96** states that when a resolution for removal of the Speaker is under consideration, the Speaker shall **not preside**, even if present in the House.
- The Article further provides that the Speaker has the **right to speak and take part** in the proceedings, and can vote in the **first instance**, but not in case of equality of votes during such proceedings.
- This provision is designed to balance two principles: **fairness in presiding** and **the right of the office-holder to defend himself/herself before the House**.

What Is a “Substantive Motion” in Parliament

- A substantive motion is an **independent and self-contained proposal** placed before the House so that the House can express a formal decision or opinion on a specific matter. The Indian Express article cites M.N. Kaul and S.L. Shakhder’s parliamentary practice text for this explanation.
- Such motions are distinct from motions that are merely incidental to another discussion. A substantive motion stands on its **own footing**.
- The same article notes examples of substantive motions, including resolutions for removal of the Speaker/Deputy Speaker and certain motions relating to conduct of members.

Substantive Motion Against the LoP: What Was Reported

<p>Notice Filed Against the LoP</p>  <p>BJP MP Nishikant Dubey submitted the notice to initiate a formal substantive motion.</p>	<p>Demand for Membership Cancellation</p>  <p>The motion specifically calls for the termination of Rahul Gandhi’s Lok Sabha membership.</p>	<p>Allegations of Misleading the House</p>  <p>The notice is based on claims that Gandhi provided false information during House proceedings.</p>	<p>A Non-Routine Procedural Move</p>  <p>Unlike a routine privilege motion, this is a distinct “substantive motion” regarding conduct.</p>
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Process-Related Features of a Substantive Motion

- A substantive motion generally requires **notice**, and it is ordinarily moved by the member who has given the notice (subject to limited exceptions, such as a Minister moving on behalf of another Minister).
- Its admissibility and listing are subject to the **procedural control of the Chair/Speaker** under the Rules and parliamentary practice.
- If admitted and taken up, the House may debate and decide the matter by voting, depending on the nature of the motion and applicable rules.

Important Distinction: “No-Confidence” Against Government vs Motion for Removal of Speaker

- In political reporting, the phrase “no-confidence motion against the Speaker” is commonly used, but constitutionally and procedurally, the relevant mechanism is a **resolution for removal of the Speaker** under **Article 94(c)** and Rules 200 onwards.
- This should not be confused with a **no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers** (government), which is a separate parliamentary mechanism.

Important Rules and Parliamentary Norms Relevant to Such Controversies

- The Lok Sabha Rules contain general provisions on motions and admissibility, and the Speaker has important powers to regulate whether and how motions are admitted and taken up.
- The Rules also contain safeguards regarding allegations in the House. For example, they require prior notice before making allegations of a defamatory or incriminatory nature against a person, reflecting the importance of procedural discipline in parliamentary debate.
- Therefore, many high-political-content disputes in Parliament are ultimately filtered through **procedural rules, admissibility standards, and the authority of the Chair**.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following constitutional provisions governs the removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker from office?
 - (a) Article 94 clause c provision
 - (b) Article 95 clause two provision
 - (c) Article 96 clause one provision
 - (d) Article 100 clause one provision

2. Which of the following minimum notice period must be given before moving a resolution to remove the Lok Sabha Speaker?
 - (a) Minimum notice period of 7 days
 - (b) Minimum notice period of 10 days
 - (c) Minimum notice period of 12 days
 - (d) Minimum notice period of 14 days

3. Which of the following type of majority is required in Lok Sabha to remove the Speaker from office?
 - (a) Simple majority of present members
 - (b) Two thirds majority of total members
 - (c) Absolute majority of voting members
 - (d) Majority of all the then members

4. Which of the following Article provides that the Speaker shall not preside when removal resolution is under consideration?
 - (a) Article 96 constitutional provision
 - (b) Article 94 constitutional provision
 - (c) Article 100 constitutional provision
 - (d) Article 102 constitutional provision

5. Which of the following parliamentary rule requires written notice to the Secretary General for removal resolution?
 - (a) Rule 199 procedural notice requirement
 - (b) Rule 200 procedural notice requirement
 - (c) Rule 202 procedural notice requirement
 - (d) Rule 205 procedural notice requirement

6. Which of the following best describes a substantive motion in parliamentary procedure?
 - (a) Independent self contained parliamentary proposal
 - (b) Supplementary procedural parliamentary clarification
 - (c) Informal parliamentary procedural discussion item
 - (d) Temporary procedural parliamentary scheduling tool

7. Which of the following parliamentary authority controls admissibility and listing of substantive motions?
 - (a) Parliamentary Affairs Ministry administrative authority
 - (b) Cabinet Secretariat procedural coordination authority
 - (c) Speaker parliamentary procedural authority control
 - (d) Election Commission constitutional supervisory authority

8. Which of the following best describes the difference between removal resolution and no confidence motion?
 - (a) Both target same constitutional authority
 - (b) Both require identical procedural steps
 - (c) Removal resolution targets Speaker office
 - (d) Removal resolution targets government executive

9. Which of the following parliamentary authorities receives notice of resolution for Speaker removal?
 - (a) President constitutional executive authority
 - (b) Secretary General parliamentary authority
 - (c) Prime Minister executive authority office
 - (d) Cabinet Secretariat administrative authority

10. Which of the following best explains the Speaker voting rights during removal proceedings?
 - (a) Speaker may vote but not casting vote
 - (b) Speaker may vote and casting vote
 - (c) Speaker cannot vote at all
 - (d) Speaker presides and votes normally

11. Which of the following parliamentary rule requires admissibility standards avoiding defamatory statements?
 - (a) Rule 198 admissibility procedural standard
 - (b) Rule 199 admissibility procedural standard
 - (c) Rule 200 admissibility procedural standard
 - (d) Rule 200A admissibility procedural standard

12. Which of the following parliamentary procedural principles ensures the Speaker cannot preside during removal debate?
 - (a) Speaker may vote but not casting vote
 - (b) Speaker may vote and casting vote
 - (c) Speaker cannot vote at all
 - (d) Speaker presides and votes normally

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- (a) Parliamentary procedural neutrality convention
- (b) Parliamentary administrative coordination practice
- (c) Parliamentary scheduling procedural mechanism
- (d) Constitutional procedural neutrality safeguard

13. Which of the following parliamentary authorities examines and processes notice submitted for removal of the Speaker?

- (a) Lok Sabha Secretariat administrative authority
- (b) Parliamentary Affairs Ministry coordination authority
- (c) Cabinet Secretariat executive administrative authority
- (d) Election Commission constitutional supervisory authority

14. Which of the following parliamentary devices allows House decision on specific independent matters?

- (a) Privilege motion parliamentary device
- (b) Substantive motion parliamentary device
- (c) Calling attention parliamentary device
- (d) Adjournment motion parliamentary device

15. Which of the following best explains the procedural role of parliamentary rules in motion admissibility?

- (a) Ensuring procedural discipline governance
- (b) Ensuring political decision governance
- (c) Ensuring executive authority expansion
- (d) Ensuring judicial review mechanism

SOLUTIONS

1. (a), 2. (d), 3. (d), 4. (a), 5. (b), 6. (a), 7. (c), 8. (c),
9. (b), 10. (a), 11. (d), 12. (d), 13. (a), 14. (b), 15. (a)

7 Iran Temporarily Closes the Strait of Hormuz

IN FOCUS

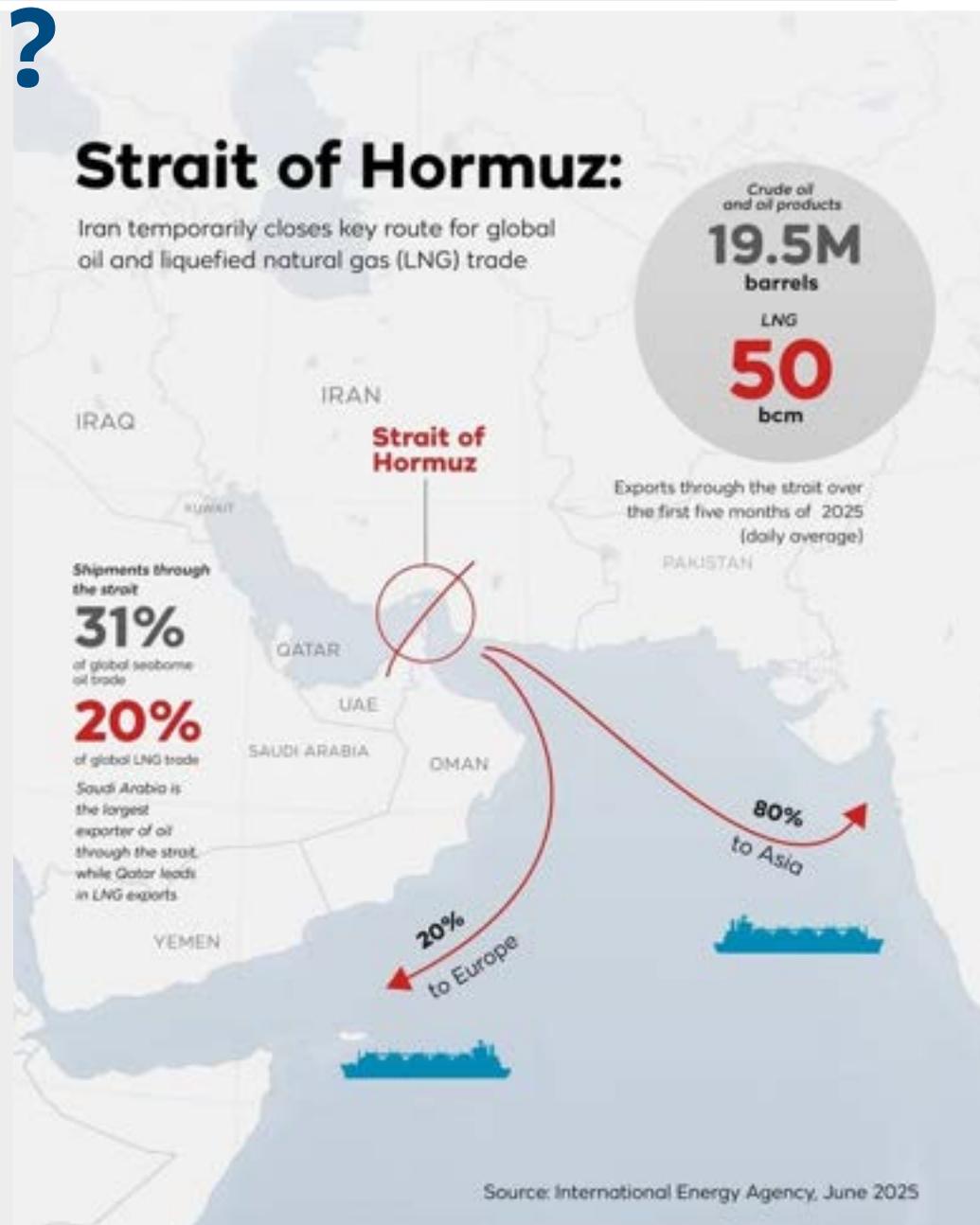
- On 17 February 2026, Iran temporarily closed parts of the Strait of Hormuz for a few hours during IRGC live-fire military drills, and the closure was justified as a security precaution for shipping safety.
- The temporary closure coincided with renewed indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States in Geneva, which increased the strategic sensitivity of the move.

What Happened?

- Maritime traffic was restricted for several hours in parts of the Strait of Hormuz to conduct live-fire drills.
- The restriction was framed as a short-duration operational closure linked to drill safety, not as a declared long-term blockade.

About the Strait of Hormuz and why it matters

- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage between Iran (north) and Oman (south) that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, which makes it the single most important maritime exit route for Gulf energy exports.
- At its narrowest point, the strait is only 29 nautical miles (54 km) wide, and international shipping typically uses two 2-mile-wide navigable channels (one inbound and one outbound) separated by a 2-mile buffer zone, which makes navigation highly corridor-dependent.
- The strait is the world's most critical oil transit chokepoint because a very large volume of crude oil and petroleum products move through it every day, and the



share is large enough to influence global pricing even when physical supply is not immediately disrupted.

- In **2024**, oil flow through the strait averaged around **20 million barrels per day**, which is about **20% of global petroleum liquids consumption**, and flows in the first quarter of 2025 remained broadly flat compared with 2024.
- Around **one-quarter of global seaborne oil trade** transits the strait, and bypass options are limited, so even a short disruption creates immediate uncertainty for shippers, insurers, refiners, and markets.
- The strait is equally important for natural gas because LNG exports from the Gulf, especially from **Qatar** and the **UAE**, rely heavily on this route, and there are no practical alternative sea routes for LNG originating from these liquefaction terminals.
- A closure or perceived closure risk matters because it affects not only physical shipments but also the availability of **spare production capacity**, much of which is held in the Gulf, and market expectations about whether that spare capacity can actually reach buyers in a crisis.
- The economic impact is global because oil and LNG are globally priced commodities, so a disruption signal at Hormuz typically raises benchmark prices and then transmits inflationary pressure through fuel, transport, fertiliser, logistics, and imported input costs worldwide.

Countries and Markets Most Exposed

- In **2024**, about **84% of crude oil and condensate** and **83% of LNG** moving through the strait went to **Asian markets**.
- **China, India, Japan, and South Korea** were the top Asian destinations for crude oil and condensate transiting the strait, accounting for a **combined 69%** of all Hormuz crude oil and condensate flows in 2024.
- **Saudi Arabia** was the largest source of crude and condensate moving through the strait in 2024, accounting for **38%** of total Hormuz crude flows (about **5.5 million b/d**).

Alternatives and Bypass Options



Pipeline alternatives exist, but they are limited compared to total volumes that normally transit the strait.



Spare bypass capacity estimates vary by methodology and assumptions:

- About **2.6 million b/d** of capacity from Saudi and UAE pipelines could be available to bypass the strait in a disruption scenario (one estimate).
- A separate factsheet estimate places potentially available alternative pipeline export capacity at about **3.5 to 5.5 million b/d** through Saudi Arabia and UAE routes.



- The **UAE pipeline to Fujairah** (on the Gulf of Oman) provides a direct bypass route, and higher day-to-day usage can reduce spare capacity available during emergencies.

International Law Dimension

- The Strait of Hormuz is a classic example of a **strait used for international navigation**, where international law places strong emphasis on ensuring that international shipping can pass through without unjustified obstruction.
- Under **UNCLOS Part III**, ships and aircraft of all states enjoy the right of **transit passage** through such straits, and transit passage is intended to be **continuous and expeditious**, meaning passage should not be suspended or impeded except within the narrow limits allowed by international law.

- Coastal states bordering a strait may adopt safety measures such as **designating sea lanes** and prescribing **traffic separation schemes**, but these measures are framed as regulation for safety and navigation management, not as a general power to block the strait.
- Transit passage is not unconditional for the transiting vessel, because vessels and aircraft must proceed without delay and must refrain from activities unrelated to passage, and they must comply with generally accepted international regulations for safety at sea.
- Iran's legal position adds sensitivity because Iran has **signed but not ratified UNCLOS**, and on signing UNCLOS Iran declared that it would apply the transit passage regime only to states that have ratified the convention, while applying other passage rules to non-parties.
- Even when legal arguments differ on whether **transit passage** or **innocent passage** applies in practice, both regimes prohibit unjustified blocking of passage for international shipping, which is why any "closure" narrative quickly becomes a legal and diplomatic flashpoint.
- Because of the chokepoint's centrality to global energy security, any operational restriction, whether framed as a drill safety zone or an emergency measure—tends to attract international scrutiny regarding proportionality, necessity, notification practices, and the effect on international navigation.

Why This Matters for India

- India is highly exposed to global oil price volatility because it is a major net importer of crude oil, and India's oil import dependency has been reported at around **high-80% levels** in recent fiscal years, which makes the import bill and inflation sensitive to any Gulf-related price shock.
- A Hormuz disruption risk affects India through two channels at the same time: it increases the probability of **physical delivery delays** for Gulf-origin crude and LNG, and it creates an almost immediate increase in **global benchmark prices**, which raises costs even if Indian cargoes are not stopped.
- India is directly relevant in Hormuz flow patterns because Gulf exports through Hormuz are predominantly Asia-bound, and the strait's crude flows are heavily oriented towards Asian importers including **China and India**.
- LNG risk is also important for India because the strait is a critical route for Gulf LNG exports, and LNG disruption would tighten Asian LNG markets and raise spot prices, which then affects power generation costs and city gas distribution pricing pressures.
- Freight and insurance costs typically rise in a tension scenario around Hormuz, and the added premium increases the landed cost of crude oil, petroleum products, and LNG, even before any physical shortage occurs.
- India's recent diversification towards non-Middle East crude sources, including higher purchases from Russia, reduces some direct Gulf-supply concentration, but it does not eliminate price exposure because Brent-linked global benchmarks still respond sharply to Hormuz risk.
- India's mitigation capacity depends partly on strategic storage and operational flexibility, and India has been expanding its strategic petroleum reserves and planning additional capacity, but a prolonged disruption would still stress the market because the strait handles volumes far exceeding any single country's reserve buffer.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- What was the immediate operational activity associated with Iran's temporary closure of parts of the Strait of Hormuz on 17 February 2026?
 - Maritime emergency evacuation readiness drill
 - RGC live-fire military drills for security precaution
 - Strategic oil tanker escort coordination drill
 - International naval surveillance monitoring drill
- Which of the following cities hosted the renewed indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States that coincided with the Strait of Hormuz restriction?
 - Vienna
 - Doha
 - Muscat
 - Geneva
- Which of the following terms most accurately characterizes the operational classification of the Strait of Hormuz restriction during the military exercise?
 - Long-term strategic maritime denial enforcement
 - short-duration operational closure for drill safety
 - Economic sanctions enforcement maritime blockade
 - Permanent international shipping restriction measure
- Which of the following countries lies to the south of the Strait of Hormuz?
 - Oman
 - Iran
 - Iraq
 - Qatar
- Which of the following water bodies ultimately receives maritime traffic after vessels pass from the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz?
 - the Red Sea
 - the Mediterranean Sea
 - the Arabian Sea
 - the Black Sea
- Which of the following represents the approximate minimum width of the Strait of Hormuz at its narrowest location?
 - 45 nautical miles
 - 29 nautical miles
 - 60 nautical miles
 - 90 nautical miles
- Which of the following best represents the approximate share of global seaborne oil trade that passes through the Strait of Hormuz?
 - one-tenth
 - one-fifth
 - one-third
 - one-quarter
- Which of the following energy resources is highly dependent on maritime transit through the Strait of Hormuz due to lack of alternative sea routes?
 - crude oil
 - coal exports
 - natural gas
 - refined fuels
- Which of the following destinations received the largest share of crude oil and LNG transported through the Strait of Hormuz in 2024?
 - European markets
 - Asian markets.
 - African markets.
 - American markets
- Which of the following countries collectively accounted for the largest share of crude oil and condensate flows transiting through the Strait of Hormuz in 2024?
 - Germany, France, Italy, and Spain
 - Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and Argentina
 - China, India, Japan, and South Korea
 - Egypt, Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus
- Which of the following countries was the largest source of crude oil and condensate transported through the Strait of Hormuz in 2024?
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - United Emirates
 - Saudi Arabia
- Which of the following locations serves as the terminal point of the UAE pipeline that provides an alternative export route outside the Strait of Hormuz?
 - Muscat
 - Fujairah
 - Doha
 - Kuwait
- Which of the following legal provisions ensures that ships and aircraft can move through international straits without unjustified interruption?
 - UNCLOS Part II
 - UNCLOS Part IV
 - UNCLOS Part III
 - UNCLOS Part V
- Which of the following maritime chokepoints creates both supply delay risk and global price increase exposure for India's crude oil and LNG imports?
 - Malacca
 - Hormuz
 - Bab-el
 - Bospore
- Which of the following groups represents the primary destination category for crude oil transported through the Strait of Hormuz?
 - Asian importers
 - African importers
 - European importers
 - American importers

SOLUTIONS

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b), | 2. (d), | 3. (b), | 4. (a), | 5. (c), | 6. (b), | 7. (d), | 8. (c), |
| 9. (b), | 10. (c), | 11. (d), | 12. (b), | 13. (c), | 14. (b), | 15. (a) | |

8 US Supreme Court Strikes down Trump Tariffs

IN FOCUS

- The U.S. Supreme Court, in a **6–3 decision** delivered on **20 February 2026**, struck down a major set of tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump under the **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)**. The Court held that **IEEPA does not authorize the President to impose tariffs**. The ruling was delivered in the consolidated cases **Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump** and **Trump v. V.O.S. Selections, Inc.**
- The decision became significant because the tariffs covered a very wide range of imports and were central to the administration's global trade strategy. The ruling also created immediate practical questions relating to tariff refunds, continuity of trade arrangements, and the legal route available for future tariff action.



What Exactly Happened?

- The Supreme Court examined whether IEEPA's power to **"regulate ... importation"** could serve as a legal basis for imposing tariffs. The Court answered this in the negative and held that IEEPA **does not grant tariff-imposition power** to the President.
- In procedural terms, the Court issued different formal outcomes in the two consolidated matters. In **No. 24-1287**, the lower court judgment was **vacated** and the case was **remanded** for dismissal on jurisdictional grounds. In **No. 25-250**, the lower court judgment was **affirmed**. Despite these procedural differences, the central legal conclusion remained the same: **IEEPA cannot be used to impose tariffs**.

Background of the Tariff Measures Challenged in the Case

- The judgment records that Trump invoked IEEPA after declaring national emergencies linked to two claimed external threats.
- First, the emergency declarations referred to the **influx of illegal drugs** connected to flows from **Canada, Mexico, and China**.
- Second, the emergency declarations referred to **large and persistent trade deficits**.

- Tariffs were imposed in relation to these emergency declarations. These included tariffs on imports from **Canada, Mexico, and China**, and broader “reciprocal” tariffs affecting a very large number of trading partners. The tariff regime was later modified multiple times through increases, reductions, and other changes.
- The set of tariffs invalidated in this ruling included the widely discussed “Liberation Day” reciprocal tariffs and trafficking-linked tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China. At the same time, many sector-specific tariffs imposed under other statutes continued because they rested on a different legal basis.

Core Legal Question Before the Court?

- The central legal issue was a question of statutory interpretation with major constitutional implications. The Court had to decide whether IEEPA’s language allowing the President to “**regulate ... importation**” includes the power to impose **tariffs**.
- The government relied on a broad interpretation of IEEPA. The Court rejected that interpretation and held that the statute’s text, structure, historical usage, and constitutional context did not support such a sweeping delegation of tariff authority.

Main Reasoning of the Court

- **Constitutional Structure and the Taxing Power:** The Court emphasized that **Article I, Section 8** of the U.S. Constitution places the power of taxation, including duties and imposts (which include tariffs), with **Congress**. The opinion highlighted that the Executive does not possess inherent peacetime tariff authority. The Court also noted that the government effectively conceded that the President had no inherent peacetime power to impose tariffs and relied exclusively on IEEPA as the claimed source of authority.
- **Textual Reading of IEEPA:** The Court held that the power to “regulate ... importation” in IEEPA does not automatically include the distinct and

Trump Imposed Tariffs Through The IEEPA

Full name
International Emergency Economic Powers Act

When was it created
Established by the US Congress in 1977

Purpose
If the United States faces a major threat from another country, the government can take immediate economic action.

Use of IEEPA?

- To freeze foreign assets
- To control dollar transactions and banking
- To impose restrictions on imports and exports
- To implement immediate economic decisions

80+ IEEPA has been used more than 80 times so far

Donald Trump has used it the most

Trump used it for the first time to impose tariffs

- consequential power to impose tariffs. The Court treated tariffs as a specific fiscal instrument that Congress typically delegates expressly and with defined limits. The Court also emphasized that IEEPA contains no clear reference to tariffs or duties, and it treated this omission as significant, particularly because Congress has used explicit tariff language in other statutes.
- **Historical Practice and Statutory Context:** The Court considered it important that, across IEEPA's history, no prior President had used it to impose tariffs of this kind and scale. The Court treated the absence of precedent as evidence against the government's broad interpretation.
- **Major Questions Doctrine (Only in Part of the Decision):** A part of the principal opinion, joined by Justices Gorsuch and Barrett, applied reasoning associated with the major questions doctrine. This reasoning stressed that a delegation of authority with such vast economic significance requires clear congressional authorization. However, not all justices in the majority relied on this doctrine in the same way.

How the Bench Split



US Supreme Court Building

- The outcome was 6–3, but the reasoning was spread across multiple opinions.
- Chief Justice Roberts announced the judgment and wrote the principal opinion, with different justices joining different parts.
- Justices Sotomayor, Kagan, and Jackson joined only certain parts of Roberts' opinion.
- Justice Gorsuch and Justice Barrett wrote separate concurring opinions.
- Justice Kagan, joined by Justices Sotomayor and Jackson, wrote a concurrence in part and in the judgment, agreeing with the outcome but differing on aspects of the reasoning.
- Justice Jackson also wrote separately.
- Justice Thomas dissented, and Justice Kavanaugh also dissented, with Justices Thomas and Alito joining Kavanaugh's dissent.
- This division is important because it shows broad agreement on the result that IEEPA does not authorize tariffs, while showing differences on the precise doctrinal route used to reach that outcome.

Which Tariffs Were Struck Down, and Which Tariffs Continued

Tariffs Struck Down

The ruling struck down the sweeping tariffs imposed using **IEEPA**, including broad reciprocal/global tariffs and the trafficking-linked tariffs that were challenged in the litigation.

Tariffs Not Automatically Struck Down

Many tariffs imposed under other statutes were not invalidated by this judgment. Sector-specific tariffs imposed under **Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962** (such as those affecting steel and aluminum) continued because they rest on a separate statutory basis.

This distinction is legally important because the ruling was not a general ban on all tariffs. It was a ruling on the limits of one specific statute—**IEEPA**—as a source of tariff authority.

Immediate Aftermath and Policy Response

After the ruling, the administration moved toward alternative legal tools for tariff action. A major route involved reliance on **Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974** to impose a temporary global tariff, including a **10% temporary tariff for 150 days**, with discussion of raising it to **15%**.

There was also growing pressure around the issue of refunds for tariffs already collected. The legality of the

IEEPA-based tariffs was settled by the Supreme Court's holding, but the financial and administrative consequences were expected to continue through further litigation and implementation processes.

TARIFF PLAN B: SECTION 122



Important Laws, Courts, and Institutions Involved

- **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 1977:** IEEPA was the central statute in the case. It allows the President to regulate certain economic transactions after declaring a national emergency tied to external threats. The Court held that it does **not** authorize tariff imposition.
- **U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 8):** Article I, Section 8 was central to the Court's reasoning because it places taxing and tariff-related powers with Congress.
- **Trade Act of 1974, Section 122:** Section 122 became important after the ruling because it served as an alternative statutory route for temporary global tariff action.
- **Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Section 232:** Section 232 remains a separate and important tariff pathway, especially for national-security-linked sectoral tariffs, and was not directly affected by the ruling on IEEPA.
- **Judicial Institutions Involved:** The litigation involved the **U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia**, the **U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT)**, the **Federal Circuit**, and ultimately the **U.S. Supreme Court**, which consolidated the disputes.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statutes was held by the U.S. Supreme Court not to authorize the President to impose tariffs?
 - (a) International Emergency Economic Powers Act
 - (b) Trade Expansion and Tariff Authority Control Act
 - (c) Emergency Trade and Economic Regulation Powers Act
 - (d) International Trade and Emergency Tariff Powers Act
2. Who delivered the principal opinion announcing the judgment in the 6-3 decision?
 - (a) Chief Justice Thomas
 - (b) Chief Justice Roberts
 - (c) Chief Justice Kagan
 - (d) Chief Justice Gorsuch
3. Which of the following constitutional provisions places the taxing and tariff authority with Congress?
 - (a) Article II, Section 2
 - (b) Article III, Section 1
 - (c) Article I, Section 8
 - (d) Article IV, Section 4
4. Which of the following legal doctrines was invoked by part of the majority to emphasize the need for clear authorization for economically significant actions?
 - (a) Major questions doctrine
 - (b) Political question doctrine
 - (c) State delegation doctrine
 - (d) Nondelegation doctrine
5. Which of the following courts consolidated the disputes before delivering the final ruling?
 - (a) U.S. International Court
 - (b) U.S. Supreme Court
 - (c) Federal Circuit Court
 - (d) U.S. District Court
6. Which of the following statutes remained unaffected by the ruling and continues to authorize certain sector-specific tariffs?
 - (a) International Trade Act of 1960
 - (b) Trade Expansion Act of 1962
 - (c) State Revenue Act of 1934
 - (d) Tariff Adjustment Act of 1961
7. Which of the following statutes became central as an alternative legal route for temporary global tariff action after the ruling?
 - (a) Revenue Act of 1926, Section 121
 - (b) Reciprocal Tariff Act, Section 120
 - (c) Reciprocal Trade Act, Section 123
 - (d) Trade Act of 1974, Section 122
8. Which of the following countries were specifically linked to emergency declarations associated with drug-related concerns?
 - (a) France, Germany, Italy
 - (b) Canada, Mexico, China
 - (c) India, Japan, Korea
 - (d) Brazil, Chile, Peru
9. Which of the following types of tariffs were invalidated in the ruling?
 - (a) National security tariffs
 - (b) Broad reciprocal tariffs
 - (c) Anti-dumping trade tariffs
 - (d) Measures under WTO rules
10. Which of the following case numbers corresponded to the matter in which the lower court judgment was vacated and remanded for dismissal on jurisdictional grounds?
 - (a) No. 23-1145
 - (b) No. 25-1136
 - (c) No. 24-1287
 - (d) No. 26-1314
11. Which of the following provisions under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 continued to authorize certain sector-specific tariffs despite the Supreme Court ruling?
 - (a) Section 201
 - (b) Section 232
 - (c) Section 301
 - (d) Section 122
12. Which of the following justices wrote a dissenting opinion on the case related to tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump?
 - (a) Justice Gorsuch
 - (b) Justice Barrett
 - (c) Justice Kavanaugh
 - (d) Justice Sotomayor
13. Which of the following doctrines concerns the need for explicit delegation when economic significance is vast?
 - (a) Major questions doctrine
 - (b) Chevron deference rule
 - (c) Mootness doctrine
 - (d) Standing doctrine

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

14. Which of the following bodies ultimately resolved the statutory interpretation dispute?

- (a) U.S Federal Circuit
- (b) U.S Trade Court
- (c) U.S. Supreme Court
- (d) U.S. District Court

15. Which of the following consolidated case numbers was associated with the Supreme Court affirming the lower court judgment?

- (a) No. 25-250
- (b) No. 24-1287
- (c) No. 26-410
- (d) No. 23-990

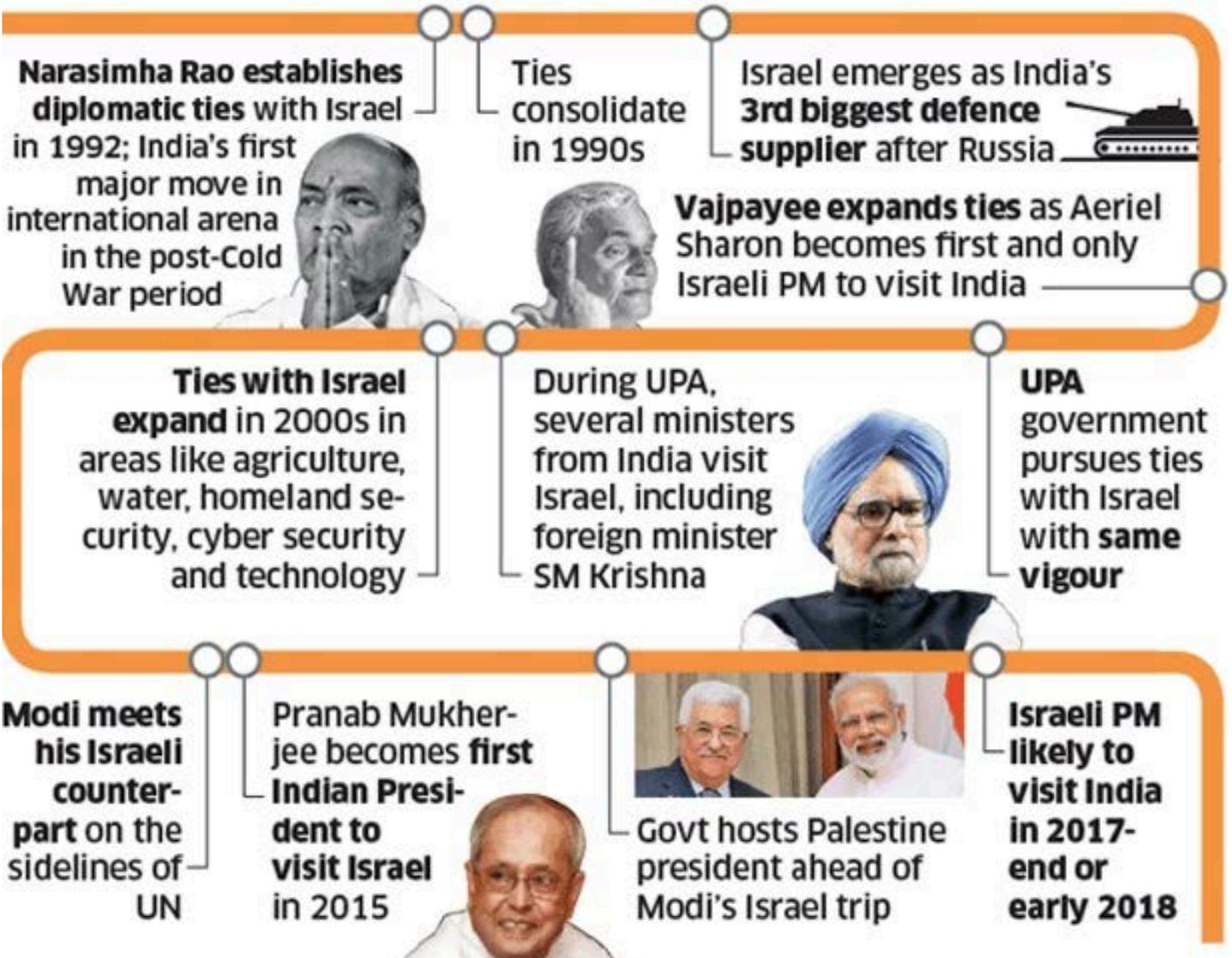
SOLUTIONS

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|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a), | 2. (b), | 3. (c), | 4. (a), | 5. (b), | 6. (b), | 7. (d), | 8. (b), |
| 9. (b), | 10. (c), | 11. (b), | 12. (c), | 13. (a), | 14. (c), | 15. (a) | |

9 PM's visit to Israel and India-Israel Relations

IN FOCUS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a two-day state visit to Israel on 25–26 February 2026, his second such visit since the historic 2017 trip, marking a significant milestone in the bilateral relationship.
- During the visit, the bilateral relationship was formally elevated from a Strategic Partnership to a **Special Strategic Partnership** for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity, signalling a deepened institutional commitment across multiple domains.
- The first round of negotiations for the **India-Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** was successfully concluded in New Delhi, alongside the signing of over a dozen Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), Letters of Intent (LoIs), and Implementation Protocols spanning technology, trade, defence, agriculture, and labour mobility.





Evolution of the Bilateral Relationship

- India officially recognised Israel in 1950 but established full diplomatic relations only in 1992, a delay shaped by Cold War alignments and India's traditional support for the Palestinian cause.
- The 2017 visit by Prime Minister Modi to Israel marked the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country and formalised a shift to a "de-hyphenation" policy, under which India began treating its relationship with Israel independently of its stance on Palestine.
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's return visit to India in 2018 further consolidated the partnership and together the two visits laid the foundation for a new era of collaboration across emerging technologies, cyber, agriculture, water management, health, entrepreneurship, defence, and security.

Economic and Trade Trajectory

- Bilateral trade between India and Israel grew from USD 200 million at the time of diplomatic normalisation in 1992 to USD 3.75 billion in the financial year 2024–25, despite periodic regional disruptions.
- India is Israel's second-largest country partner in Asia for merchandise trade, with India exporting pearls and precious stones, diesel, chemicals, machinery, textiles, and agricultural products, while importing diamonds, fertilisers, petroleum products, machinery, and defence equipment.
- India's cumulative Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) to Israel stood at USD 443 million for the period 2000–2025, while Israeli Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India reached USD 334.2 million for the period 2000–2024.
- Bilateral investments were estimated at approximately USD 800 million prior to the signing of the new **Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)** in September 2025.

Defence and Security Background

- India is among the largest importers of Israeli defence equipment globally, and the two countries have jointly co-developed the Barak-8 missile system.
- Defence ties include the Indian Navy conducting regular port calls at Haifa, and Indian participation in multilateral exercises such as Blue Flag.
- A Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation was signed on 4 November 2025, providing the structural basis for the defence roadmap discussed during the February 2026 state visit.

Agriculture and Water Cooperation Background

- India hosts 43 Indo-Israel Centres of Excellence (CoE) in agriculture, which serve as high-tech, intensive agricultural hubs established to facilitate the transfer of Israeli agri-technologies adapted to local conditions.
- A 2016 MoU on Water Resources has driven joint initiatives in conservation, irrigation reform, and integrated water management between the two countries.
- More than one million Indian farmers have been trained across these Centres of Excellence to date.

Evacuation Operations

- **Operation Ajay (2023):** India evacuated over 1,300 citizens from Israel following the Hamas attacks.
- **Operation Sindhu (2025):** Approximately 818 Indians were evacuated during the Israel–Iran conflict, via Jordan and Egypt.

Agreements and Announcements from the State Visit

Artificial Intelligence

An MoU on Cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** was signed to promote AI development and capacity building, supporting ethical AI, civilian applications, academic research, and public-private partnerships for sustainable growth.

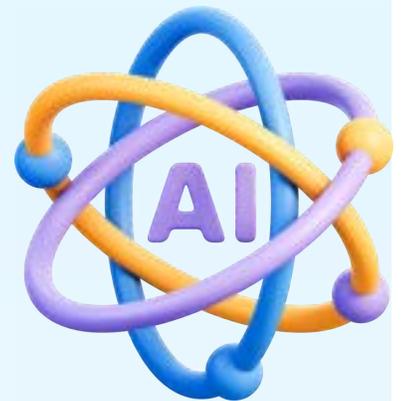
A separate MoU between the Ministries of Education of both countries was signed on Cooperation in Advancing Education through the Use of AI, focusing on innovative pedagogy, teacher development, regulatory frameworks, equitable AI access, research exchange, and integration of AI and data literacy for inclusive education.

Both leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in AI talent and expertise and welcomed efforts to develop enabling frameworks that strengthen linkages between AI professionals, research institutions, and innovative enterprises.

Cybersecurity

A Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed for the establishment of an **Indo-Israel Cyber Centre of Excellence** in India, designed to showcase cybersecurity best practices, emerging technologies, and digital resilience, and to foster collaboration among government, industry, and academia.

Both leaders committed to developing a multi-year strategic programme to guide bilateral cybersecurity collaboration, including a joint roadmap covering human capacity building, cybersecurity and AI integration, applied research, Security by Design principles, and regular joint table-top exercises.



The successful convening of the inaugural India–Israel Cyber Policy Dialogue in March 2025 was acknowledged as a foundational step toward institutionalising comprehensive cyber cooperation.

Critical and Emerging Technologies

- A new initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (CET) was launched, to be led by the National Security Advisors of both countries, with the aim of synergising individual national strengths in niche technologies for a focused and futuristic partnership.
- The Joint Commission on Science and Technology (JCM) was elevated to the Ministerial level, with both sides agreeing to hold the JCM at Ministerial level at the earliest possible occasion in India or Israel.

Research and Innovation Mechanisms

- Both Prime Ministers reviewed the functioning of the India–Israel Industrial Research and Development and Innovation Fund (I4F), jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of India and the Israel Innovation Authority, and reaffirmed its role in advancing industrial collaboration.
- The contribution by each side to the India–Israel Joint Research Calls (IIJRC), implemented jointly by DST India and the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (MOST) Israel, was agreed to increase from USD 1 million to USD 1.5 million each, to promote joint research between universities through shared use of facilities, materials, equipment, and exchange visits of scientists. Both sides agreed to mandate the Joint Scientific Committee to coordinate and advance the Joint Research Call.
- A Declaration of Intent was signed to establish a Horizon Scanning/Strategic Foresight Mechanism to identify emerging global trends in technology, economy, and society, leveraging data, AI, and expert insights to support strategic planning and decision-making.
- Both leaders agreed to explore the development of Tech Gateway mechanisms to facilitate collaborative Research and Development (R&D) initiatives, technology validation, pilot projects, and joint development activities between Indian and Israeli innovation ecosystems.



Bilateral Investment Agreement

- The India–Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) was signed by the two Finance Ministers in New Delhi in September 2025, making Israel the first Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) country to adopt India's new investment treaty model, replacing the earlier Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed in 1996 and terminated in 2017.
- The BIA is expected to enhance investor confidence, promote two-way investments, and ensure transparency, predictability, and protection through a clear framework for the treatment of investments and an independent dispute resolution mechanism.



Digital Payments and Fintech

- An MoU between NPCI International Payments Limited and MASAV, Israel's national clearing system, was signed to examine linkages between the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Israel's fast payment system for enabling cross-border remittances and enhancing interoperability.
- An India–Israel Financial Dialogue was launched to boost closer financial cooperation.
- An MoU between the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Israel Securities Authority (ISA) was signed to advance cooperation in financial services through information exchange, best practices, fintech and regtech collaboration, and updates on key sector developments.
- Both leaders welcomed the strategic partnership in the financial-cyber domain, covering enhancement of financial ecosystem resilience through exchange of financial-cyber intelligence, joint development of methodologies, and multilateral financial-cyber simulations operationalised through Financial Computer Security Incident Response Teams of both countries.
- **Commercial Arbitration:** An Agreement on Cooperation was signed between the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) and the Israeli Institute of Commercial Arbitration (IICA) to promote cooperation through knowledge exchange, best practices, and joint training to strengthen arbitration and mediation expertise in both countries.



Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Both leaders encouraged greater Indian participation in Israel's infrastructure sector, particularly in metro, rail, road, airports, desalination plants, and wastewater treatment projects.
- Both sides expressed the desire to expand direct air connectivity between Tel Aviv and major Indian cities and encouraged both Indian and Israeli airlines to initiate direct flight operations.
- The successful conclusion of the 4th India–Israel Chief Executive Officers (CEO) Forum and Business Summit in Tel Aviv in November 2025 was welcomed, along with the presentation of the Joint Report to both governments.



Labour Mobility

- Three separate **Implementation Protocols on Labour Mobility** were signed to cover regulated channels for Indian workers across. Commerce and Services Sector: covering retail, cleaning, logistics, warehousing, food processing, hospitality, and recycling.
- Manufacturing Sector: covering textiles, metals, electronics, chemicals, food processing, wood and paper, plastics, rubber, and other industrial sectors.
- Restaurant Sector: covering recruitment in restaurants, cafés, and other food preparation and sales businesses.
- Both leaders agreed that up to 50,000 additional Indian workers may arrive in Israel within the next five years under these frameworks.
- The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was tasked to meet frequently to discuss and resolve outstanding issues related to workers.
- The importance of ensuring safety, security, and legal rights of Indian workers was emphasised, as was expanding opportunities for Indian professionals in high-skill sectors such as data science, AI, and hi-tech.



Defence and Security

- Prime Minister Netanyahu and Prime Minister Modi acknowledged the significant growth in defence cooperation in both scope and scale following the MoU on Defence



- Cooperation signed on 4 November 2025.
- Both leaders provided a vision and roadmap for future defence cooperation, reflecting the elevated status of the bilateral relationship to a Special Strategic Partnership.



PM Modi Getting medal in israel

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the “Medal of the Knesset” (also reported as the “Speaker of the Knesset Medal”) in Jerusalem by the Speaker of the Knesset, Amir Ohana, during his State Visit to Israel.
- The honour was presented immediately after Modi addressed a Special Plenary of the Knesset, Israel’s Parliament.
- As per official Indian release, Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Knesset, making the event a landmark parliamentary moment in India-Israel ties.
- The award was described in Indian reporting as the highest parliamentary honour of Israel’s Parliament, recognising political goodwill at the legislature level.
- Israel’s Speaker’s office cited the basis of the honour as Modi’s role in significantly strengthening India-Israel relations and deepening strategic cooperation between the two countries.
- MEA also published an official photo note confirming that Modi was bestowed the Medal of the Knesset by Speaker Amir Ohana in Jerusalem.
- The occasion was linked to India-Israel’s broader agenda of expanding cooperation in security, economic ties, and technology collaboration, as highlighted in contemporaneous reporting on the visit.
- International coverage noted that Modi received a standing ovation in the Knesset after his speech, underlining the ceremonial and political weight attached to the address and the medal.
- The event also carried visible symbolism: reporting noted that the Knesset building was illuminated in India’s tricolour around Modi’s arrival.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Which of the following best describes the upgraded framework of relations announced during the February 2026 state visit between India and Israel?
 - Global strategic innovation alliance
 - Comprehensive defence technology pact
 - Special strategic partnership framework
 - Regional economic cooperation mechanism
- Which of the following years marks the establishment of full diplomatic relations between India and Israel?
 - 1950
 - 1992
 - 2005
 - 2017
- Which of the following digital payment platforms is being examined for linkage with Israel's fast payment system?
 - Bharat bill digital payment interface
 - Unified payments interface platform
 - National electronic transfer banking
 - Real time gross settlement banking
- Which of the following missile systems represents a major joint defence development project between India and Israel?
 - Akash surface defence missile system
 - Astra beyond visual range missile
 - Barak advanced air defence system
 - Pralay tactical ballistic missile system
- Which of the following indicates the number of joint fellowships announced for Indian researchers to undertake agricultural research at the Volcani Agriculture Research Organization?
 - 10
 - 20
 - 30
 - 40
- Which of the following organisations jointly implements the India–Israel Industrial Research and Development Innovation Fund?
 - Commerce ministry innovation authority partnership
 - Science department innovation authority partnership
 - Trade and Commerce ministry innovation partnership
 - Technology council bilateral innovation partnership
- Which of the following initiatives aims to strengthen cooperation in advanced technological sectors led by national security advisors?
 - Critical emerging technology cooperation initiative
 - Strategic defence innovation collaboration programme
 - Advanced technology research partnership platform
 - Global digital innovation strategic cooperation plan
- Which of the following organisations partnered with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for agricultural innovation cooperation?
 - Israel international development cooperation agency
 - Israel national agricultural and research institute
 - Israel international agricultural cooperation agency
 - Israel ministry agricultural technology authority
- Which of the following operations evacuated Indian citizens from Israel after the Hamas attacks in 2023?
 - Operation Vijay
 - Operation maitri
 - Operation dost
 - Operation ajay
- Which of the following financial clearing systems in Israel signed an agreement with NPCI International Payments Limited?
 - TEL AVIV national banking clearing network
 - MASAV national payments clearing system
 - Israel financial digital transaction network
 - Israel banking electronic payment authority
- Which of the following international groupings includes India, Israel, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates?
 - Indo pacific regional strategic cooperation group
 - Asian economic technology cooperation alliance
 - India israel united states uae cooperation forum
 - west asia strategic economic partnership group
- Which of the following universities signed an academic cooperation agreement with Nalanda University?
 - Indo pacific regional strategic cooperation group
 - Asian economic technology cooperation alliance
 - India israel united states uae cooperation forum
 - west asia strategic economic partnership group

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- (a) Hebrew university jerusalem academic institution
- (b) Tel aviv university academic cooperation institute
- (c) Haifa university advanced research institute
- (d) Technion israel technology research institute

13. Which of the following connectivity initiatives links India with the Middle East and Europe through infrastructure corridors?

- (a) Trans Asia European infrastructure corridor project
- (b) Asia Europe strategic connectivity corridor project
- (c) Global South maritime economic corridor project
- (d) India Middle East Europe economic corridor

14. Which of the following countries became the first OECD member to adopt India's new model investment treaty framework?

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) France
- (d) Japan

15. Which of the following indicates the number of implementation protocols signed to regulate labour mobility channels for Indian workers across multiple sectors during the India-Israel cooperation initiatives?

- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 5
- (d) 6

SOLUTIONS

1. (c), 2. (b), 3. (b), 4. (c), 5. (b), 6. (b), 7. (a), 8. (c),
9. (d), 10. (b), 11. (c), 12. (a), 13. (d), 14. (b), 15. (a).

10 State of India's Environment 2026

IN FOCUS

- The **State of India's Environment 2026** (SOE 2026) report was released on February 25, 2026, at Nimli near Alwar, by **the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth magazine**, documenting escalating ecological degradation, breaches of planetary safety limits, and behavioural changes in tigers across India.
- The report findings were presented at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2026, where Himanshu Nitnaware, Senior Correspondent, Down To Earth, presented the analysis on shifting tiger behaviour triggered by habitat change and invasive species.
- The SOE 2026 report warns that seven of the nine **planetary boundaries** have now been transgressed, including the recently breached ocean acidification boundary, signalling that human activity is pushing Earth beyond its safe operating space.
- The report documents a persistent and statistically comparable pattern of human fatalities near tiger reserves—43 deaths in January–June 2025 against 44 deaths in the same period in 2024—raising concerns about increasing human–tiger conflict driven by habitat loss and ecological disruption.

Environment Report



About the Report

- The SOE 2026 report is published jointly by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth magazine and analyses available research studies, government data, and expert inputs to document the condition of India's and the world's environment.
- The 2026 edition covers two broad thematic clusters: the global breach of planetary boundaries and the changing behaviour of tigers in India due to ecological transformation.

The Planetary Boundaries Framework

- The **Planetary Boundaries framework** defines the safe operating limits within which humanity can function without destabilising Earth's life-support systems.
- The framework was first proposed in 2009 by scientists led by Johan Rockstrom and was updated in 2023; it identifies nine critical Earth system processes that regulate planetary stability.
- Crossing these limits increases the risk of abrupt and irreversible environmental changes that threaten ecosystems, economies, and human survival, and the boundaries are interconnected such that disruption in one system can trigger cascading impacts across others.
- The framework assists policymakers and scientists in assessing whether human activities are pushing Earth beyond its safe operating space.



Status of the Nine Planetary Boundaries

1

Transgressed Boundaries (Seven)

- **Climate Change:** Rising greenhouse gas concentrations trap heat and alter global temperatures and climate patterns, and increasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels have pushed this boundary beyond safe limits. The world is described as being close to breaching the **1.5°C global warming** threshold, signalling the onset of irreversible climate impacts. Climate disruptions are arriving earlier than previously predicted, pushing ecosystems such as coral reefs and the Amazon rainforest toward critical tipping points.
- **Biosphere Integrity (Biodiversity Loss)** Accelerated species extinction and ecosystem degradation are undermining Earth's ecological balance and resilience. Species extinction rates exceed 100 per million species years, which is ten times the safe limit, while global forest cover has fallen to 59 per cent, far below the 75 per cent threshold considered safe.
- **Land System Change:** Deforestation, agricultural expansion, and urbanisation have reduced global forest cover below safe levels, weakening carbon sequestration capacity and accelerating biodiversity loss.
- **Freshwater Change:** Human disruption of rivers, lakes, and soil moisture cycles threatens water security, ecosystem functioning, and climate regulation, with freshwater reserves under severe stress from overuse and climate change.
- **Biogeochemical Flows:** Excess nitrogen and phosphorus inputs from fertilisers are disrupting nutrient cycles, causing eutrophication and broad ecosystem imbalance across aquatic and terrestrial systems.
- **Novel Entities:** Plastics, synthetic chemicals, and genetically modified organisms are entering ecosystems without adequate prior safety assessment, posing long-term ecological and human health risks.
- **Ocean Acidification:** Ocean acidification has emerged as the seventh transgressed boundary; ocean acidity has increased by 30–40 per cent since the industrial era, threatening coral reefs, shell-forming marine organisms, and the ocean's carbon absorption capacity. If emissions continue on their present trajectory, surface ocean potential of Hydrogen (pH) could drop from 8.1 to 7.7 within the next 100 years.

2

Boundaries Within Safe Limits

- **Atmospheric Aerosol Loading:** Airborne particulate matter affects climate patterns and monsoon systems; while currently within overall safe limits, aerosol loading is regionally disruptive and poses localised risks.
- **Stratospheric Ozone Depletion:** Global collective action under the Montreal Protocol has facilitated ozone layer recovery, making stratospheric ozone depletion a documented success in international environmental governance and keeping this boundary within safe limits.

Recommendations in SOE 2026

- The report calls for strengthening institutional mechanisms, specifically the National Green Tribunal and environmental clearing houses, to ensure that decisions prioritise ecological substance rather than procedural paperwork.
- The report recommends integrating planetary boundaries into national accounting frameworks and shifting toward a technology-led, full-stack decarbonisation strategy as part of sovereign climate action.
- On human–tiger conflict, the report endorses local community-based conservation strategies and the discouragement of human interventions in tiger-dominated areas as measures to mitigate actual and potential conflict scenarios.

- A landscape-scale governance approach is recommended, treating local communities as primary stakeholders in conservation rather than as obstacles, moving toward coexistence models that reflect the shared nature of tiger-human territories.

Role of *Lantana camara* in Habitat Transformation

Ecological Profile of the Invasive Plant

- *Lantana camara* is an ornamental hedge plant that was introduced into India in the 19th century and has since become one of India's most **invasive species**, occupying approximately 50 per cent of areas classified as forests, scrublands, and village commons.
- Wherever *Lantana camara* grows, it suppresses native grasses and plants that form the primary food source of wild herbivores such as cheetal and sambhar, effectively eliminating natural prey from these areas.
- Since *Lantana*-dominated areas are frequently part of pastoral-agricultural landscapes, they serve as preferred grazing grounds for domestic cattle rather than wildlife.

Predator-Prey Dynamics in *Lantana* Zones

- Ninad Mungi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biology, Aarhus University, Denmark, stated at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2026 that *Lantana*-rich areas offer near-perfect cover for tigers due to low visibility and limited escape routes for prey, alongside an abundance of cattle.
- *Lantana* has effectively created **predator-friendly habitat** structures in prey-poor landscapes, redirecting tiger predation from wild herbivores to domestic livestock.
- Tigers in locations such as Bandhavgarh and Tadoba are increasingly using *Lantana*-dominated patches outside the reserves as daytime refuges and hunting grounds.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Which of the following organisations jointly publishes the annual environmental assessment analysing ecological trends in India?
 - Centre for Science and Environment Down To Earth magazine
 - Ministry Environment Forest Climate Change research unit
 - Indian Council Forestry Research and Educational institute
 - National Biodiversity Authority wildlife conservation board
- Which of the following locations hosted the public release of the environmental assessment report for 2026?
 - Timri Jaipur Rajasthan
 - Nimli Alwar Rajasthan
 - Bhuj Jodhpur Rajasthan
 - Churu Bikaner Rajasthan
- Which of the following represents the number of planetary safety limits identified as already exceeded globally?

(a) Five	(b) Six
(c) Seven	(d) Eight
- Who led the group of scientists that originally proposed the planetary boundaries framework in 2009?
 - Johan Rockstrom international earth system science researchers
 - James Hansen international climate science research group
 - Rachel Carson environmental ecological research initiative
 - Elinor Ostrom ecological governance institutional research
- Which of the following environmental processes describes the gradual increase in acidity of ocean water?
 - Marine thermal process
 - Ocean acidification process
 - Coastal enrichment process
 - Ocean salinity redistribution
- Which of the following chemical reactions in seawater contributes to increased ocean acidity?
 - Oxygen biochemical reaction
 - Carbonic acid formation
 - Nitrogen fixation reaction
 - Methane oxidation reaction
- Which of the following planetary environmental processes currently remains within the safe operating limits?
 - Global climate regulation system
 - Planetary biodiversity resilience
 - Freshwater system stability
 - Stratospheric ozone layer
- What was the approximate number of human fatalities reported near tiger reserves during January–June 2025?

(a) 42	(b) 43
(c) 41	(d) 45
- Which of the following invasive plant species has significantly altered forest ecosystems across India?
 - Parthenium herbaceous weed
 - Lantana camara species
 - Prosopis juliflora species
 - Eichhornia crassipes species
- Which of the following institutions functions as India's specialised environmental judicial body?
 - Central Pollution Board
 - Wildlife Crime Control
 - National Green Tribunal
 - Biodiversity Authority
- Which of the following countries established environmental tribunals before India created its own tribunal?
 - United States and Canada
 - Australia and New Zealand
 - Germany and Netherlands
 - Japan and South Korea
- Which of the following cities serves as the principal place of sitting of the environmental tribunal?

(a) Mumbai	(b) Hyderabad
(c) New Delhi	(d) Bengaluru
- Who among the following linked the behavioural shift in tigers partly to their declining natural fear of humans?

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

(a) K. Ullas Karanth
(c) M. Ninad Mungi

(b) Himanshu Nitna
(d) H. Anil Agarwal

14. Which of the following ecological processes describes disruption of nutrient cycles due to fertiliser overuse?

- (a) Atmospheric nitrogen process
- (b) Marine nutrient distribution
- (c) Biogeochemical nutrient cycle
- (d) Geological mineral weathering

15. Which of the following conservation strategies emphasises involving local communities as key partners in wildlife protection?

- (a) Community centred conservation governance framework
- (b) Centralised wildlife enforcement protection framework
- (c) Exclusive protected area management governance
- (d) Tourism oriented wildlife monitoring framework

SOLUTIONS

1. (a), 2. (b), 3. (c), 4. (a), 5. (b), 6. (b), 7. (d), 8. (b),
9. (b), 10. (c), 11. (b), 12. (c), 13. (a), 14. (c), 15. (a)

NPLC's —————>
LNAT Achievers

University
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LNAT (2021 - 2022)



Surbhi Sachdeva

LNAT (2022 - 2023)



Kartikay Kataria

LNAT (2023 - 2024)



Adi Singh

LNAT (2024 - 2025)



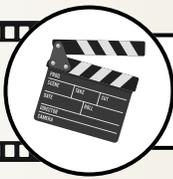
Samyuktha Kovilakath

LNAT (2025 - 2026)



Karthik Ranganadhan

The only Indian Institute to place **five students** in a row in the undergrad law programme at Oxford University!



MEDIA COVERAGE

India's Top Revolutionary Educationist: Talks About His Journey From Working In Premier Law Firm To Become The Most Sought After Educationist In Country Imparting Legal Education



Renowned Educationist Nishant Prakash in Committee for Implementation of New Education Policy in Assam

Indian sprinter Himra Das, General Secretary of Assam Cricket Association Devajit Lon Saikia, and scientist Uttihub Bharali are also in the committee.



Super 30 of law entrance bags 5 out of top 10 in AILET and CLAT

When most students bag 50 marks in the entrance exam... (Text continues with details about the Super 30 coaching institute's success in AILET and CLAT exams.)

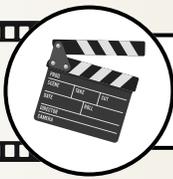


An Interview With India's leading Educationist; How Important Is To Join Coaching Institute To Crack An Aptitude Based Exam Like CLAT



THE HINDU CLAT candidates aggrieved over 'errors'; consortium denies laxity

A petition challenging the process of the group... (Text discusses the controversy surrounding CLAT exam results and the consortium's response.)



MEDIA COVERAGE

BUREAUCRATS INDIA
Date: December 18, 2025

With a 90% strike rate, Delhi-based Nishant Prakash's students secure top ranks in CLAT and AILET



SIDDHANT (AILET AIR 4)
ARSHNOOR SINGH (CLAT AIR 4)

Hindustan Times 100
Date: December 31, 2025

CLAT and AILET 2026: How two AIR 4 rankers prepared, handled pressure and adapted when the paper changed



SIDDHANT (AILET AIR 4)
ARSHNOOR SINGH (CLAT AIR 4)

India's Top Revolutionary Educationist: Talks About His Journey From Working In Premier Law Firm To Become The Most Sought After Educationist In Country Imparting Legal Education




Arshnoor Singh, who secured All India Rank 4 in CLAT 2026 and AIR 202 in AILET, and Siddhant Rohit, who secured ...

Arshnoor Singh and Siddhant Rohit successfully navigated CLAT and AILET by prioritising adaptability and mock testing in preparation.

For law aspirants, entrance exams such as CLAT and AILET are as much a test of temperament as of preparation. That lesson comes through clearly in the journey of Arshnoor Singh, who secured All India Rank 4 in CLAT 2026 and Siddhant Rohit, who secured All India Rank 4 in AILET.

Nishant Prakash Law Classes



CLAT Consortium has recently changed the pattern for CLAT. How do you see this?

Nishant Prakash students secure top ranks in CLAT, AILET

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi



With both CLAT and AILET Rank 4 going to his students, corporate-professional-turned-mentor Nishant Prakash on Thursday announced that 70 of his 78 students had qualified in India's two toughest law entrance examinations, with nine securing positions in the top 100.

The declaration of CLAT 2026 and AILET 2026 results has set off the next phase of admissions to India's premier law universities, once again underscoring the intense national competition among aspirants.

Against this backdrop, students trained at Nishant Prakash Law Classes (NPLC) posted a strong, widely dis-

Siddhant Rohit AILET (AIR 4)

1 SC Confirms Zero Death Penalties in 3 Years

IN FOCUS

The Annual Statistics Report 2025 on the death penalty, published by the Square Circle Clinic at NALSAR University of Law, reveals that the Supreme Court of India has not confirmed a single death sentence for the third consecutive year. In 2025 alone, the Court acquitted ten death row prisoners, the highest number in a decade, with acquittals exceeding confirmations at both High Court and Supreme Court levels. Despite this appellate scepticism, Sessions Courts continued to impose capital punishment at significant rates, awarding 128 death sentences in 2025 and 1,310 between 2016 and 2025. The report highlights serious procedural violations, non-compliance with mandatory sentencing safeguards, prolonged incarceration of wrongfully convicted individuals, and a rising death row population of 574 prisoners as of December 31, 2025. It also flags concerns over the increasing use of life imprisonment without remission (LWOR) as an alternative punishment and questions regarding proportionality, rehabilitation, and constitutional accountability.

Supreme Court Trends and Acquittals

- The Supreme Court has not confirmed any death sentence in the last three years, reflecting increasing judicial scrutiny at the appellate level.
- In 2025, the Court acquitted 10 death row prisoners out of 19 decided cases, marking the highest annual acquittal figure in a decade.
- Of 37 death sentences confirmed by High Courts and later decided by the Supreme Court, 15 resulted in acquittals and 14 were commuted.
- Over the past decade, the Supreme Court confirmed only 19 death sentences out of 153 cases, while commuting 71 cases.
- The average time spent on death row before acquittal exceeded five years, with some individuals spending nearly a decade before exoneration.

Sessions Courts and High Court Patterns

- Between 2016 and 2025, Sessions Courts imposed 1,310 death sentences across India, including 128 in 2025 alone.
- High Courts confirmed only 70 out of 842 cases reviewed over the decade, amounting to a confirmation rate of 8.31 percent.
- High Courts acquitted 285 persons and commuted 411 death sentences during this period, indicating substantial appellate intervention.
- In 2025, acquittals and commutations significantly outpaced confirmations, demonstrating a disconnect between trial courts and higher judiciary standards.
- Death sentences have remained relatively steady annually, ranging between 76 and 166 per year over the decade.

Procedural Violations and Sentencing Lapses

- The Supreme Court in *Manoj v. State of Madhya Pradesh* (2022) mandated psychological evaluations, mitigation reports, and prison conduct assessments before awarding the death penalty.
- In *Vasanta Sampat Dupare v. Union of India* (2025), the Court elevated compliance with these safeguards to a constitutional requirement under Article 32.
- Despite these mandates, nearly 95 percent of death sentences imposed in 2025 did not comply with these procedural safeguards.

- Sentencing hearings were frequently conducted within days of conviction, limiting the opportunity for meaningful defence preparation.
- Of 265 death sentences imposed after the Manoj guidelines became mandatory, at least 208 cases violated the prescribed requirements.

Death Row Population and Geographic Patterns

- As of December 31, 2025, India had 574 prisoners on death row, including 550 men and 24 women, marking the highest figure since 2016.
- During 2025, 138 individuals were removed from death row through acquittals, commutations, or remand orders.
- Uttar Pradesh accounts for the largest death row population, followed by Gujarat and Haryana.
- Murder simpliciter constitutes a significant share of death sentences, followed by murder with sexual offences and kidnapping.
- The rising death row population reflects that new death sentences continue to outpace appellate case disposals.

Life Imprisonment Without Remission (LWOR)

- Courts increasingly impose life imprisonment without remission or fixed-term sentences excluding remission as an alternative to capital punishment.
- Of 515 High Court commutations, 303 cases (58.83 percent) resulted in LWOR sentences.
- At the Supreme Court level, 44 out of 71 commutations (61.97 percent) led to LWOR.
- Some fixed-term exclusion sentences extend up to 60 years, raising questions regarding proportionality and rehabilitation.
- The report identifies LWOR sentencing as an unregulated area lacking clear statutory guidance on exclusion periods.

Legal Framework and Appellate Safeguards

- The death penalty in India is retained under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and applies to approximately 14 categories of offences including murder and terrorism.
- A death sentence awarded by a Sessions Court must be confirmed by the High Court before execution.
- The Supreme Court's jurisprudence in *Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab* (1980) limits capital punishment to the "rarest of rare" cases.
- *Manoj* (2022) and *Dupare* (2025) strengthened sentencing safeguards by mandating mitigation hearings and procedural compliance.
- Convicts may file mercy petitions under Articles 72 and 161, and seek curative review as evolved in *Rupa Ashok Hurra v. Ashok Hurra* (2002).

Mercy Petitions and Executive Clemency

- Over the past decade, the President accepted five mercy petitions, each involving convicts who had spent more than 15 years on death row.
- Nineteen mercy petitions were rejected during the same period, of which four convicts were executed.
- The remaining 15 convicts secured relief at the post-mercy judicial review stage.
- The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that prolonged delays in mercy decisions amount to mental torture.
- The report notes persistent delays between final judicial rejection and executive consideration of mercy petitions.

2 80 Years of the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Revolt of 1946

IN FOCUS

February 18, 2026 marks the 80th anniversary of the **Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Revolt of 1946**, a short-lived yet momentous armed uprising against British colonial rule. What began as a hunger strike by naval ratings at HMIS Talwar in Bombay over poor food, low wages, and racial discrimination rapidly escalated into a large-scale insurrection involving nearly 20,000 ratings, 78 ships, and 20 shore establishments across India. The revolt coincided with the heightened political climate following the **Indian National Army (INA) trials**, which had generated widespread nationalist mobilisation. During the uprising, ratings hoisted the flags of the Congress, Muslim League, and Communist Party together, symbolising rare Hindu-Muslim unity amid rising communal tensions. Although the revolt was suppressed by British military force and ended on February 23, 1946, it remains a significant episode in India's decolonisation process, reflecting militant anti-colonial resistance, popular solidarity, and the accelerating crisis of British authority in the final phase of colonial rule.

Background and Immediate Causes

- The revolt began on February 18, 1946, when hundreds of naval ratings at HMIS Talwar in Bombay launched a hunger strike.
- The immediate grievances included poor food quality, low wages, racial discrimination, abuse by British officers, and the arrest of a rating for writing "Quit India" on the ship.
- The uprising soon expanded to shore establishments in the Castle and Fort barracks and to 22 ships anchored in Bombay harbour.
- A Naval Central Strike Committee was formed to coordinate actions and articulate broader political demands.
- The ratings linked their protest to national issues, including opposition to the trials of INA soldiers and the deployment of Indian troops to restore European colonial rule in Southeast Asia.

Scale and Geographic Spread

- At its peak, the revolt involved nearly 20,000 naval ratings, 78 ships, and 20 shore establishments across India.
- The uprising spread beyond Bombay to Karachi, Madras, Cochin, Vishakhapatnam, Calcutta, the Andaman Islands, and even a shore establishment in Delhi.
- Sympathetic strikes were reported in the Royal Indian Air Force units located in Bombay, Poona, Calcutta, Jessore, and Ambala.
- The rapid spread of the revolt demonstrated its national character rather than a localised breakdown of discipline.
- The scale of participation challenged colonial characterisations of the event as a mere "mutiny."

Escalation to Armed Conflict

- On February 21, 1946, the initially peaceful hunger strike escalated into an armed confrontation after British forces opened fire on the ratings.
- Naval ratings inside the barracks engaged in pitched battles with firearms against British troops.
- Rebel ships in Bombay harbour manned their guns, creating the threat of a full-scale military confrontation.
- The British government deployed army battalions and armoured vehicles to regain control of the city.
- The revolt formally ended on February 23, 1946, after Sardar Patel and Muhammad Ali Jinnah persuaded the ratings to surrender with assurances against victimisation.

3 International Conference on Dam Safety 2026

IN FOCUS

The International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) 2026 concluded successfully in Bengaluru on February 16, 2026, marking a significant step in strengthening India's dam safety ecosystem. Organised under DRIP Phase II & III, the two-day conference brought together policymakers, regulators, engineers, international experts, academia, and industry representatives to deliberate on technology adoption, accountability, climate resilience, and risk-informed decision-making in dam governance. The deliberations highlighted the implementation of the Dam Safety Act, 2021 and the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) as key pillars of India's dam safety architecture. With India ranking third globally in the number of large dams and managing 6,628 dams as per the National Register of Specified Dams, 2025, ensuring structural integrity and operational efficiency remains critical for water and energy security. The conference emphasised preventive sediment management, emergency preparedness, advanced monitoring systems, and coordinated reservoir operations to address climate variability and ageing infrastructure challenges.

Conference Overview and Institutional Participation

- ICDS 2026 was the second conference in the series under DRIP Phase II & III, with the first held in Jaipur in 2023.
- It was jointly organised by the Government of Karnataka, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Water Commission (CWC), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, and the World Bank.
- The conference featured high-level inaugural and plenary sessions followed by technical and industrial deliberations.
- The valedictory session was attended by Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State for Jal Shakti, along with senior officials from the Ministry, World Bank, Dam Safety NSW (Australia), and IISc.
- Discussions reaffirmed that dam safety governance must integrate engineering, regulatory oversight, technology, and community preparedness.

Emergency Preparedness and Non-Structural Measures

- The conference stressed the strengthening of enforceable Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and coordination with disaster management authorities.
- Non-structural measures such as updated operation and maintenance manuals, floodplain zoning, and inflow forecasting systems were highlighted as essential safeguards.
- Early warning systems and real-time decision-support systems were recommended to enhance flood and drought management under climate variability.
- Simplified dam-break analysis and hazard assessment tools were emphasised for rapid first-level planning.
- Public awareness and institutional accountability were recognised as integral to effective dam safety governance.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)

- DRIP is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti aimed at improving structural safety and operational efficiency of dams.
- Each phase receives USD 500 million in external assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- Phase I (2012–2021) rehabilitated 223 dams across 7 states and established foundational safety protocols.
- Phase II & III (2021–2031) target 736 dams across 19 states, focusing on climate resilience, advanced monitoring,

- and sustainable revenue generation.
- The funding pattern is 80:20 for Special Category States, 70:30 for General Category States, and 50:50 for Central Agencies, with a 90 percent Central grant on loan amounts for select special category states.

Dam Safety Act, 2021 Framework

- The Dam Safety Act, 2021 establishes a comprehensive framework for surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of large dams.
- It provides for a four-tier institutional mechanism including the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) at the central level.
- At the state level, it mandates the establishment of State Committees on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organisations.
- The Act assigns dam owners responsibility for safe construction, operation, and maintenance of dams. Mandatory provisions include regular inspections, risk assessments, expert safety evaluations, and preparation of Emergency Action Plans.

4 Seva Teerth: New PMO Building

IN FOCUS

On February 13, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Seva Teerth** and **Kartavya Bhavan-1 & 2**, marking a significant milestone in India's administrative governance architecture under the Central Vista redevelopment project. The shift ended nearly eight decades of the Prime Minister's Office functioning from the colonial-era South Block, coinciding with the 95th anniversary of New Delhi's formal inauguration as India's modern capital in 1931. Seva Teerth now integrates the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), and Cabinet Secretariat into a single state-of-the-art complex near Raisina Hill. Kartavya Bhavan-1 & 2 consolidate several key ministries that previously operated from fragmented infrastructure across the Central Vista. Designed with 4-Star GRIHA green building standards, advanced security systems, and digitally integrated offices, the complexes reflect a governance philosophy centred on service, efficiency, accountability, and citizen engagement. The first official decision taken at Seva Teerth was the launch of the PM RAHAT Scheme for road accident victims.

Meaning and Philosophical Significance

The name "Seva Teerth" is derived from Sanskrit, where "Seva" means service and "Teerth (Tirtha)" signifies a sacred place or crossing point that helps individuals overcome obstacles. The nomenclature symbolises a shift in governance philosophy from "satta" (power) to "seva" (service) and from authority to responsibility. The complex bears the inscription "Nagrik Devo Bhava," emphasising that citizens are to be regarded as central to governance. The Prime Minister described the complex as a symbol of duty, compassion, and commitment to the principle of "India First." The inauguration coincided with the 95th anniversary of New Delhi's formal inauguration in 1931, underscoring its historical context.

Architectural Features and Cultural Influences

The complex is designed by Dr. Bimal Patel and forms a key component of the Central Vista redevelopment project. Architectural influences are drawn from Chalukyan temples of Karnataka (11th–13th centuries) and Buddhist stupas. The entrance portal incorporates stone screen-work inspired by temple architecture, while floral motifs are derived from traditional geometric temple patterns. Metal-clad domes inspired by Buddhist stupas serve as contemporary accent elements. The buildings are clad in white and red sandstone, reflecting continuity with historic Indian civic architecture.

Environmental Sustainability and Green Standards

Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan-1 & 2 are designed in accordance with 4-Star GRIHA green building standards. The complexes incorporate renewable energy systems, water conservation measures, and efficient waste management solutions. High-performance building envelopes contribute to energy efficiency and reduced environmental impact. Sustainable construction practices aim to enhance long-term operational efficiency. The integration of green technologies reflects the government's commitment to environmentally responsible infrastructure development.

First Official Decision and Governance Vision

The Prime Minister launched the PM RAHAT Scheme from Seva Teerth as the first official decision taken at the new complex. The scheme provides assured hospitalisation and treatment for road accident victims to prevent loss of life due to delayed medical care. The inauguration was described as a transformative milestone in India's governance ecosystem. The shift symbolises the evolution of administrative spaces to meet contemporary governance demands.

5 Elections in Rajya Sabha - Maneka Guruswamy's Nomination

IN FOCUS

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) announced four candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections from West Bengal, namely Minister Babul Supriyo, former Bengal DGP Rajeev Kumar, Supreme Court Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy, and actress Koel Mallick. Polling for 37 Rajya Sabha seats across 10 states is scheduled for March 16, with five seats from West Bengal at stake, of which TMC is expected to win four and the BJP one. Menaka Guruswamy's candidature is the most historically significant, as her election would make her India's first openly queer Member of Parliament.

Menaka Guruswamy: A Historic Candidature

- Guruswamy is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India, best known for her instrumental role in the 2018 Supreme Court verdict that struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which had criminalised consensual homosexual relations since the colonial era.
- She was featured on TIME magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2019 and was honoured by Harvard Law School on International Women's Day the same year for inspiring change.
- She is the first Indian and the second woman to have her portrait displayed at Milner Hall, Rhodes House, University of Oxford, and has argued several other landmark cases including the AgustaWestland bribery case, the Salwa Judum case, and the Right to Education case.

Other TMC Nominees

- Babul Supriyo, a former Union Minister of State in the Narendra Modi government who later defected to TMC in September 2021 and won the Ballygunge Assembly seat in April 2022, will return to Delhi politics as a Rajya Sabha member.
- Rajeev Kumar, who retired as Bengal DGP on January 31, 2026, is a controversial figure for whom Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had once staged a dharna in February 2019 when the CBI attempted to question him in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam probe.
- Actress Koel Mallick, daughter of noted actor Ranjit Mallick and recipient of several awards including Filmfare Awards Bangla and the state government's Mahanayak Samman in 2023, continues TMC's tradition of fielding film industry personalities in Parliament.

How Rajya Sabha Elections Are Held

- Under Article 80 of the Constitution, Rajya Sabha members are elected indirectly by the elected members of state Legislative Assemblies through proportional representation using the Single Transferable Vote system, with seats distributed among states based on population.
- The Rajya Sabha has a total strength of 250 members, of which 12 are directly nominated by the President from the fields of art, literature, science, and social service, while a candidate must secure a minimum quota of votes calculated by dividing total valid votes by the number of available seats plus one.
- Following a 2003 amendment to Section 59 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, Rajya Sabha elections are conducted through an open ballot, requiring MLAs to show their ballot paper to their party's authorised agent, failing which the vote stands disqualified.

6 India Slams Pakistan At UNHRC On J&K

IN FOCUS

India delivered a sharp rebuttal to Pakistan at the 61st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), being held in Geneva from February 23 to March 31, 2026, accusing Pakistan of spreading propaganda regarding Jammu and Kashmir. The response was delivered by Indian diplomat Anupama Singh, who asserted that the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India was completely legal, irrevocable, and in accordance with the Indian Independence Act of 1947 and international law. India further stated that the only outstanding dispute regarding the region is Pakistan's illegal occupation of Indian territories, calling upon Pakistan to vacate those areas.

India's Development Case for J&K

- Indian diplomat Anupama Singh highlighted that the development budget of Jammu and Kashmir is more than double the recent bailout package that Pakistan sought from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), underscoring the region's economic progress.
- When Pakistan called the Chenab rail bridge – the world's highest rail bridge, inaugurated in J&K last year – fake, Singh retorted that Pakistan must be "hallucinating or living in La La Land" to deny such a visible infrastructural achievement.
- Singh also pointed to the record voter turnout in both general elections and Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as evidence that the people of the region have rejected Pakistan's ideology of terrorism and violence.

India's Charge on Pakistan's Internal Crisis

- India accused Pakistan of sponsoring cross-border terrorism to destabilise the region, while asserting that Jammu and Kashmir continues to progress politically, economically, and socially despite such efforts.
- Singh stated that Pakistan would be better served by addressing its deepening internal crisis rather than resorting to grandstanding at international forums, adding that the world can see through its charade.
- India also rejected Pakistan's use of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as an "echo chamber" for its propaganda, stating that Pakistan's incessant campaign now reflects nothing more than envy.

India on Pakistan's Democratic Record

- India dismissed Pakistan's attempts to lecture on democracy, noting that civilian governments in Pakistan rarely complete their full terms, making such rhetoric ring hollow on the international stage.
- Singh categorically rejected all allegations raised by Pakistan at the UNHRC session, reaffirming that no amount of wishful rhetoric or propaganda can alter the legal and historical facts surrounding Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India.
- India's statement underscored that Pakistan's continued attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue stand contradicted by ground realities, including democratic participation and developmental progress within the Union Territory.

7 Tribunal Reforms: Supreme Court's view

IN FOCUS

The Supreme Court of India has expressed grave concern over the functioning of tribunals across the country, describing them as a "liability" and a "mess" due to deep-rooted systemic flaws in appointments, accountability, and operations. Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established under the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, which inserted Articles 323A and 323B into the Constitution, empowering Parliament and State Legislatures to create tribunals for specific subject matters. The Supreme Court has called for the establishment of an independent National Tribunals Commission (NTC) to ensure centralised supervision, accountability, and insulation of tribunals from executive interference.

Systemic Issues Plaguing Tribunals

- The Supreme Court has noted that tribunals function as a "no-man's land" with no accountability to any authority, while technical members frequently lack adequate expertise in specialised areas such as environmental law, company law, and insolvency laws, defeating the very purpose of specialised adjudication.
- Judicial malpractice has been flagged, with technical members outsourcing the writing of judgments to judicial members, and instances of blackmail to get judgments written in another member's name – a practice described by the Court as completely unheard of in the judicial system.
- India's commercial tribunals are burdened with a backlog of 3,56,000 cases worth ₹24.7 lakh crore, equivalent to 7.5% of GDP as of 2024–25, while nearly 38,000 cases remain pending across 11 benches of the Armed Forces Tribunals alone.
- The executive branch exercises excessive control over appointments, tenure, salaries, and removal of tribunal members, compromising the separation of powers and raising serious concerns about impartiality, given that the government is itself a major litigant in numerous tribunals.

Key Supreme Court Judgments on Tribunals

- In the *L. Chandra Kumar* case (1997), the Supreme Court declared that clauses excluding the jurisdiction of High Courts under Articles 226/227 and the Supreme Court under Article 32 are unconstitutional as they violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- In the *Rojer Mathew* case (2019), the Court struck down executive-led removal provisions as unconstitutional and called for a uniform retirement age for all tribunal members, observing that short tenures inherently increase executive control.
- In the *Madras Bar Association* case (2025), the Supreme Court struck down several provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, including the fixed four-year tenure and the minimum age criterion of 50 years, the latter being held discriminatory under Article 14, and directed that the Search-cum-Selection Committee recommend only one name per post to curtail executive discretion.

8 IEA Full Membership for India

IN FOCUS

At its recent annual ministerial meeting in Paris, the International Energy Agency (IEA) welcomed progress on India's formal request for full membership, which was submitted in October 2023, marking a significant step in integrating one of the world's largest energy consumers into global energy governance. India has been an associate member of the IEA since 2017, which allows participation in policy discussions but confers no decision-making rights, and the country now seeks full membership to gain a role in the IEA's decision-making processes. India's path to full membership is legally complex, as IEA's founding charter restricts membership exclusively to OECD member countries, and since India has no inclination to seek OECD membership, the IEA would need to amend its eligibility criteria or make a special exception.

About the IEA

- The IEA was established in 1974 by 17 OECD countries in response to the global oil crisis triggered by the Arab oil embargo during the Yom Kippur War of 1973, with its original mandate focused on ensuring stable oil supplies and managing energy emergencies through a mechanism requiring member countries to maintain strategic oil reserves equivalent to at least 90 days of net imports.
- Over the decades, the IEA's role has expanded significantly beyond oil to encompass renewables, climate change, decarbonisation, energy transitions, and critical minerals, and it now hosts one of the most reliable and comprehensive global energy databases.
- The IEA currently has 32 full members, with Colombia set to become the 33rd after joining the OECD in 2020, and 13 associate members including India, China, and Brazil, with the full IEA family now accounting for approximately 80 percent of global energy demand.

India's Case for Full Membership

- India's desire for full membership is driven primarily by its intent to participate in IEA decision-making, as the agency has grown into an influential platform guiding global energy policy, clean energy transitions, and climate change strategies beyond its traditional emergency-response role.
- The IEA has publicly backed India's bid, noting that India is poised to record the largest energy demand growth of any country in the world over the next three decades, driven by rapid industrialisation, urbanisation, and rising per capita income.
- Brazil, also a non-OECD country, has similarly sought full IEA membership, and current deliberations suggest that an amendment to the IEA's legal framework may be under consideration to accommodate such requests.

9 Renaming Kerala to "Keralam"

IN FOCUS

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a proposal on February 24, 2026 to rename the state of Kerala to "Keralam," following a unanimous resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2024. The renaming will be carried out through the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, under Article 3 of the Constitution, which grants Parliament the exclusive power to alter the name of any existing state by law, requiring only a simple majority and not a constitutional amendment under Article 368. The change seeks to bring the official English name in line with its native Malayalam form, and the Kerala Assembly has requested the name be updated not only in the First Schedule but across all languages recognised in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Constitutional Procedure for Renaming a State

- Following Cabinet approval, the President of India will refer the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to the Kerala State Legislature for expressing its views, after which the President's recommendation will be obtained for introducing the Bill in Parliament.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs examines such requests and seeks No Objection Certificates from stakeholders including the Ministry of Railways, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Survey of India, and the Registrar General of India to ensure no conflict with existing administrative or security records.
- Upon passage in Parliament and Presidential assent, the name change becomes law and the First Schedule of the Constitution, which lists the names and territorial boundaries of all states and Union Territories, is accordingly amended.

Etymology and Historical Background

- The earliest epigraphic reference to the region appears in the Rock Edict II of Emperor Ashoka dated 257 BCE, which refers to the region as "Keralaputra," believed to be a reference to the Chera dynasty, while German scholar Herman Gundert traced the word "Keralam" to "Cheralam," derived from "cher" meaning "to join" and "alam" meaning land or region.
- The Aikya Kerala Movement, which gained momentum in the 1920s alongside the national freedom struggle, demanded a unified state for Malayalam-speaking regions of Malabar, Kochi, and Travancore, which was realised on November 1, 1956, now celebrated as Kerala Piravi Day, following the recommendations of the State Reorganisation Commission headed by Syed Fazl Ali.
- When the modern state was formed in 1956 by integrating the Malabar district and Kasargod taluk, the anglicised version "Kerala" was recorded in the Constitution instead of the native Malayalam "Keralam," a discrepancy the current renaming effort seeks to correct.

Broader Context of Renaming in India

- The renaming of Kerala to Keralam follows a broader pattern in India of reclaiming indigenous spellings and shedding colonial-era names, with notable precedents including Uttaranchal being renamed Uttarakhand in 2007 and Orissa being renamed Odisha in 2011.
- Other prominent renamings include Bombay to Mumbai, Madras to Chennai, Calcutta to Kolkata, Bangalore to Bengaluru, and Trivandrum to Thiruvananthapuram, all reflecting the shift towards linguistically authentic regional identities.
- Kerala, home to an estimated population of 35 million people, produces nearly 45 percent of India's coconuts, with the name "Keralam" itself etymologically meaning the "land of coconut trees," with "kera" referring to coconut tree and "alam" to land.

10 National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0

IN FOCUS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0) on February 23, 2026, developed by NITI Aayog in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, to operationalise the Asset Monetisation Plan 2025–30 as announced in the Union Budget 2025–26. NMP 2.0 estimates an aggregate monetisation potential of ₹16.72 lakh crore, including private sector investment of ₹5.8 lakh crore, over the five-year period from FY 2026 to FY 2030, which is 2.6 times higher than the target set under NMP 1.0. The initiative is aligned with the Viksit Bharat mission and focuses on recycling productive public assets to unlock capital for reinvestment in new infrastructure without increasing the government's budgetary outgo.

NMP 1.0 and the Case for NMP 2.0

- NMP 1.0 successfully achieved nearly 90 percent of its ₹6 lakh crore four-year target, with the best practices and learnings from its implementation serving as the foundation for designing the second phase.
- NMP 2.0 provides a medium-term roadmap for public asset owners while offering visibility on potential assets to private investors, and is structured as a guidance document detailing methodology and implementation frameworks.
- Asset monetisation under NMP 2.0 will involve instruments such as Public-Private Partnership concessions, Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), securitisation of cash flows, and strategic commercial auctions, with the choice of instrument determined by sector, asset nature, and market conditions.

Sectoral Targets and Revenue Allocation

- The largest share of the monetisation target is allocated to highways, including Multi-Modal Logistics Parks and ropeways, at ₹4,42,000 crore (26 percent), followed by power at ₹2,76,500 crore (17 percent), ports at ₹2,63,700 crore (16 percent), and railways at ₹2,62,300 crore (16 percent), with coal, mines, civil aviation, telecom, and tourism accounting for the remaining portions.
- Proceeds from Ministry-led projects will flow into the Consolidated Fund of India, while PSU and Port Authority-led proceeds will accrue to the respective entities, mining royalties will go to the State Consolidated Fund, and direct private investment in construction or maintenance components will be recorded separately.

Governance Framework

- Progress under NMP 2.0 will be monitored by the Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation (CGAM), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, ensuring a whole-of-government approach to implementation.
- The pipeline covers twelve key sectors including roads, railways, power, petroleum and natural gas, civil aviation, ports, warehousing, urban infrastructure, coal, mines, telecom, and tourism, with all sectoral secretaries involved in the launch.
- The monetisation potential values under NMP 2.0 are indicative and subject to variation at the time of actual transactions, with the government committed to making the programme value-accretive for both the public sector and private investors through improved infrastructure quality and operations.

11 Deepening India-Brazil Cooperation

IN FOCUS

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva paid a State Visit to India in February 2026, resulting in significant agreements across digital partnership, defence, energy transition, critical minerals, and global governance reform. Both nations reaffirmed the India–Brazil Strategic Partnership established in 2006 and reiterated commitment to five priority pillars from the Brasilia Joint Statement 2025, covering defence and security, food and nutritional security, energy transition, digital transformation, and industrial partnerships. India's Prime Minister invited the Brazilian President to the 18th BRICS Summit to be held in India in 2026, under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

Key Outcomes of the State Visit

- Bilateral trade surged by 25.5 percent in 2025, reaching USD 15.21 billion, with a new target set at USD 30 billion by 2030, while both sides agreed to expand the India–MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement and signed an MoU on Mutual Recognition of Electronic Certificates of Origin.
- Both nations signed MoUs on cooperation in rare earth elements and critical minerals as well as in the field of mining for the steel supply chain, while also welcoming the launch of the Open Planetary Intelligence Network (OPIN) under the India–Brazil Digital Partnership for the Future.
- A trilateral MoU was signed involving Mazagon Dock Ltd and the navies of India and Brazil for the maintenance of Scorpene-class submarines, while the Ministry of MSME signed an MoU with Brazil's Ministry of Entrepreneurship to advance MSME cooperation and facilitate access to green finance for sustainable development.
- Both leaders reiterated commitment to the "Belém 4x Pledge on Sustainable Fuels" to expand sustainable fuels use fourfold by 2035, with India commending Brazil for hosting COP30 in Belem and launching the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF).

Pillars of India–Brazil Relations

- Diplomatic relations between India and Brazil were established in 1948, with Brazil being India's largest trading partner in the Latin America and Caribbean region, and total Indian investment in Brazil estimated at over USD 15 billion.
- Both nations are cooperating through the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) to harmonise biofuel standards and create a Sustainable Aviation Fuel corridor, with India's National Biofuel Policy and Brazil's Renova Bio Program sharing common objectives on biofuel blending.
- Through the G4 group, India and Brazil are coordinating a text-based negotiation strategy to secure permanent seats on an expanded UN Security Council, reflecting their shared belief that the current global governance architecture does not adequately represent 21st-century realities.

VOICES VICTORIES



SIDDHANT ROHIT

“I joined Nishant Prakash Law Classes in Class 11, and from that day, every stage of my preparation was guided by Nishant sir. I didn’t just learn how to study—I learned how to stay disciplined, how to believe, and how to keep pushing even when it got overwhelming. I followed exactly what sir told us, gave 150+ mocks, trusted the process, and that belief took me to AIR 4 in AILET. I genuinely don’t think I could have reached here without Nishant sir and NPLC.”

AIR 4, AILET 2026



ARSHNOOR SINGH

I started my CLAT journey without any law background in my family, and everything I know about this exam, I learned under the guidance of Nishant Sir at NPLC. What made the biggest difference for me was the personal attention—Sir knew every student, our strengths, our weaknesses, and our exact mistakes after each mock.

After every test, he would look at my OMR and guide me on how to change my strategy instead of following a one-size-fits-all approach. When the CLAT paper surprised everyone, Sir’s constant advice of staying calm and confident helped me push through without panicking. That mindset, combined with consistent practice and guidance, is what helped me secure AIR 4 in CLAT 2026.

(AIR 4, CLAT 2026



DAIWIK AGARWALA

I don’t think I’ve ever given so many tests in my life as I did at NPLC in just one year. They made me take so many mocks that I became almost mechanical before the actual exam. The course structure here is such that hard work is non-negotiable. And last, but not least, Nishant Sir would connect with your parents and keep them informed about your every day scores, which added a bit of pressure and made all of us work harder. There were times when my scores didn’t meet my expectations, and I felt low, but Sir was always there to motivate me.

AIR 2, CLAT 2025

“NPLC doesn’t shout excellence; it proves it every result season.”

VOICES VICTORIES



AIR 2, AILET 2025

CHAITANYA GHOSH

This place is not your regular coaching institute that you see around. They don't just make you work hard—they make you smart. NPLC has been my best choice for both CLAT and AILET preparation. These exams cover general topics that seemed easy to me initially, but it wasn't until I started attending classes at NPLC that I realized the major challenges I would have faced if I solely depended on self-study. The competitive environment and Sir's dedicated guidance have been key in helping me clear every law entrance exam I took. I cleared every law entrance exam I wrote.



AIR 4, CLAT 2025

ADITYA GAUTAM ANKHAD

It's all about AILET and CLAT here. Students eat, drink, and sleep law entrance preparation! I used to go to another institute in XIth, but somehow, I was just an enrollment number there. Initially, when I joined, the competition and pressure from Sir felt overwhelming, but thanks to him, everything became much easier. Here, no one calls you by batch number or enrollment ID. All of us studying together were very good friends, but we competed intensely. Since they have a limited intake, we received a lot of personalized attention. I recall most of my batchmates at NPLC making it to the top NLUs. This place is even better than you can imagine!



AIR 6, AILET 2025

DHRUV KAMATH

I had never experienced such intense competition in any classroom before I did my first class at NPLC. It was a bit horrifying initially however it got better with time. If you can't work hard, I do not feel this is the place for you. Nishant sir is simply amazing. I never liked him till I was at the center as there was too much pressure from his side unlike my school, However, I can tell you, that I could make it to NLU Delhi, and only because of him. I recall almost everyone with me in the class who got through either of the top 5 NLUs.

"At NPLC, branding isn't on T-shirts — it's in the AIRs."

VOICES VICTORIES



AIR 10, AILET 2025

VIDISHA SINGH

Nishant Sir's classes are the complete package. While there's a great deal of hard work expected, he creates an environment where you can ease your way into cracking the exam. Unlike the rigid and monotonous teaching methods of many other coaching institutions, his classes are a perfect blend of learning and fun. His approach is practical, reliable, and tailored to real exam scenarios, which is reflected in his incredible track record of sending most of his students to the top 5 NLUs. Even after completing his classes, you'll find yourself wanting to go back for more (I still do).



**AIR 24 AILET 2025
& OXFORD**

SAMYUKTHA KOVILAKATH

People often ask me how I managed to prepare for Indian law entrances and the Oxford Law entrance at the same time. My answer is simple: NPLC gave me the discipline, perspective, and clarity to handle both. Nishant Sir's classroom isn't just a place where laws are taught - it's where ambition is refined and sharpened. What stood out to me most was how the training here doesn't chase trends - it builds fundamentals. I never felt like I was preparing for just one exam - I was preparing to think like a lawyer.

This journey hasn't just taken me to AILET AIR 24—it's also taken me across continents. And for that, I credit the environment, the mentorship, and the unwavering standards at NPLC.

"Mentorship isn't a model here — it's a method."

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

- The Indian Navy assumed command of Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154) under Combined Maritime Forces, with Commodore Milind M Mokashi formally taking charge from the Italian Navy at a ceremony held at CMF Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain.
- Parliament passed the Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026, clarifying that the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 stand repealed from November 21, 2025, while ensuring legal continuity under India's consolidated labour code framework.
- India celebrated National Women's Day on February 13, 2026, marking the 147th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, poet, freedom fighter, and the first Indian woman President of the Indian National Congress, known as the "Nightingale of India."
- India's first Cow Culture Museum is set to be established on the campus of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University in Mathura, featuring around 100 digital and physical cattle models and a dairy parlour to promote cow conservation through an amalgamation of tradition and science.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu, a ₹3,030 crore, 2.86 km six-lane extradosed bridge over the Brahmaputra, and the Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility in Dibrugarh as part of infrastructure projects worth over ₹5,450 crore in Assam.
- Indian Railways announced a 35.76 km underground railway line in the strategically sensitive Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck) to strengthen defence logistics, disaster resilience, and secure connectivity to the Northeast by providing a tunnel-based, non-visible, flood and landslide-resistant route.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki Script at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, marking 100 years of the scientifically designed 30-letter script invented in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath
- Murmu for the Santhali language, which was added to the Eighth Schedule through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- The Supreme Court admitted three PIL petitions challenging the constitutionality of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, issuing notice to the Centre and listing the matter before a five-judge Constitution Bench in March, with petitioners arguing the Act undermines RTI, hampers investigative journalism, and expands state surveillance powers.
- The Gujarat Assembly unanimously passed the Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2026, permitting women to work night shifts between 9 pm and 6 am with their consent and mandatory safeguards, while also increasing daily working hours from 9 to 10 and raising the quarterly overtime limit from 125 to 144 hours.
- Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti 2026 was celebrated across India on February 19 to mark the 396th birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, founder of the Maratha Empire, who was born on February 19, 1630 at Shivneri Fort and crowned Chhatrapati in 1674 at Raigad Fort.
- The Square Circle Clinic at NALSAR University of Law published its Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report 2025, revealing that the Supreme Court confirmed zero death sentences for the third consecutive year in 2025 while acquitting 10 death row prisoners, the highest in a decade, even as the death row population reached 574, the highest since 2016.
- The Election Commission of India announced biennial elections to fill 37 Rajya Sabha seats across 10 states, with notifications on February 26, nominations open till March 5, and polling scheduled for March 16, 2026.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs celebrated the 23rd Foundation Day of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), a constitutional body established under Article 338-A through the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, at the Civil Services Officers Institute in New Delhi, where Union Minister Jai Prakash Jaiswal released an NCST Handbook on the Commission's functioning and responsibilities.
- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the bust of C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) at the Grand Open Staircase

- of Rashtrapati Bhavan, replacing the existing bust of British architect Edwin Lutyens as part of India's decolonisation effort during Rajaji Utsav on February 23, 2026.
- India unveiled its National Counter-Terrorism Policy & Strategy titled PRAHAAR, establishing a zero-tolerance, multi-agency, whole-of-government framework built on seven pillars, including prevention, response, capacity aggregation, and international alignment, to address threats ranging from cross-border terrorism and sleeper cells to drone infiltration and CBRNED threats.
- India's anti-Left-Wing Extremism campaign under Operation Demolishment has demolished 203 Naxal-linked memorials and monuments across Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, with 2026 recording the sharpest surge in such action, aimed at weakening the ideological and psychological influence of Naxal groups.
- C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji), born in 1878 in Tamil Nadu, was a lawyer, freedom fighter, close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, the only Indian Governor-General of independent India, founder of the Swatantra Party in 1959, and a Bharat Ratna (1954) awardee who also received the Sahitya Akademi Award for Chakravarthi Thirumagan.
- The 16th edition of the India-US Joint Special Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar commenced on February 24, 2026 at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, bringing together 45 Indian Special Forces personnel and 12 US Green Berets to enhance interoperability and combined special operations capabilities in mountainous terrain.
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Kerala as "Keralam", its Malayalam name, following a unanimous resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2024, with the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 now set to be referred by the President to the State Legislature before introduction in Parliament.
- The 7th edition of the India-Japan Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian commenced on February 24, 2026 at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand, with 120 personnel each from the Indian Army's Ladakh Scouts and Japan's 32nd Infantry Regiment focusing on joint operations in semi-urban environments.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court discharged former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Associated Journals Ltd in the Panchkula land allotment case, holding that the prosecution failed to establish actual financial loss and terming continuation of the proceedings an abuse of the process of court.
- Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang announced that Pakyong Airport, the only airport in Sikkim, inaugurated in 2018, will be renamed Trilochan Pokhrel Airport in honour of Sikkim's first freedom activist, who participated in the Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India Movements.
- A Delhi Special Court discharged Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, and 21 others in the CBI case linked to the Delhi Liquor Policy matter, criticising the investigation for procedural lapses and lack of adequate material evidence, a development that may also significantly affect the linked ED money laundering proceedings.

ECONOMY AND GOVERNANCE

- V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority became India's first Major Port to receive the IGBC Platinum Rating for its Administration Building, which operates on 100% renewable energy and reported a 37% reduction in potable water use, alongside Shunya and Shunya Plus certifications from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency for multiple campus buildings.
- The United States issued a general licence to Reliance Industries Limited authorising it to purchase, export, sell, and refine Venezuelan-origin oil without violating U.S. sanctions, potentially reducing feedstock costs for Reliance's two refineries with a combined capacity of about 1.4 million barrels per day.
- NITI Aayog released the sixth edition of Trade Watch Quarterly (Q2 FY 2025-26) on February 13, 2026, reporting that India's services and merchandise exports grew by around 8.5% and highlighting electronics as India's second-largest export item, having risen nearly fivefold between 2016 and 2024 to USD 42.1 billion.
- After the US Supreme Court struck down Trump's IEEPA-based tariffs in a 6-3 ruling, Trump signed an executive order imposing a 10% (later raised to 15%) global tariff on imports from all countries under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, effective February 24, 2026, capped at 150 days

- unless extended by Congress.
- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry announced that the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics has revised the base year of India's Merchandise Trade Indices from FY 2012-13 to FY 2022-23, to better reflect the current structure of India's external trade basket following significant shifts in commodities, technology, and global supply chains.
- The US Supreme Court struck down Trump's sweeping IEEPA tariffs in a 6-3 ruling, after which Trump invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 - a Nixon-era, never-before-used provision - to impose a 15% tariff surcharge capped at 150 days, with exemptions covering critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, energy, automobiles, and USMCA-covered goods.
- India-US trade negotiations gained strategic complexity after the US Supreme Court ruling on IEEPA tariffs activated the "modify commitments" clause in the India-US Framework for an Interim Trade Agreement, reducing India's weighted average effective tariff burden to around 9% and strengthening India's bargaining position to reconsider earlier concession expectations.
- India removed the Most Favoured Nation clause from its revised Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with France, introducing a tiered dividend tax of 5% for French entities holding at least 10% stake in Indian companies and 15% for those holding less, while also incorporating BEPS-related anti-avoidance provisions on profit shifting, technical services, and information exchange.
- Rahman won a sweeping victory in Bangladesh's 13th Parliamentary Elections on February 12, 2026, securing more than two-thirds majority with at least 212 of the 299 contested seats, paving the way for Rahman to become Prime Minister for the first time.
- U.S. authorities announced that Nikhil Gupta pleaded guilty in New York to murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, and conspiracy to commit money laundering in an alleged plot targeting Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, with prosecutors also asserting connections to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, while India dissociated itself from any such plot.
- The 62nd Munich Security Conference was held from February 13-15, 2026 in Munich, Germany, bringing together over 1,000 participants including 50+ heads of state and 100+ ministers to discuss European security, the transatlantic relationship, major regional conflicts, and the security implications of AI, drones, and space, against a backdrop described as a "fundamental inflection point" for the international order.
- India hosted the first-ever Global South AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, drawing participants from over 100 countries under the theme "Welfare for All, Happiness for All," with discussions organised around seven "Chakras" covering human capital, inclusive AI, sustainability, and economic growth.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron launched the India-France Year of Innovation 2026 themed "Igniting the Future" in Mumbai during Macron's three-day official visit, reviewing the Horizon 2047 Roadmap and advancing defence cooperation including approval for procurement of 114 Rafale fighter aircraft.
- Tarique Rahman was sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh by President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka, tasked with implementing the July National Charter containing 80-plus proposed reforms including term limits, a two-chamber parliament, and restrictions on unilateral constitutional amendments.
- The Indian Navy inaugurated the MILAN Village at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam on February 15, 2026, launching Exercise MILAN 2026 - one of the largest multilateral naval exercises in the Indo-Pacific - involving over 70 countries and

INTERNATIONAL

- India hosted the first BRICS Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas meeting under its 2026 Chairship in New Delhi on February 9-10, 2026, chaired by Secretary Sudhakar Dalela under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," with discussions covering health, agriculture, security, climate change, and economic domains alongside a sideline India-China Strategic Dialogue between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and China's Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu.
- The Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Tarique

- featuring harbour and sea phases covering anti-submarine warfare, air defence, and cooperative security missions.
- Iran's Revolutionary Guard temporarily restricted parts of the Strait of Hormuz - the world's most critical maritime chokepoint handling about 13 million barrels of oil per day - during live-fire missile drills, renewing concerns about chokepoint vulnerability amid escalating Iran-US tensions and ongoing indirect nuclear negotiations in Geneva.
- An MoU signed between Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) and the Port of Marseille Fos on February 18, 2026, was described as operationalising a key link in the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), creating a coordinated multimodal trade spine from India's west coast ports to Europe as an alternative to Red Sea-Suez disruptions.
- Prime Minister Modi and French President Macron virtually inaugurated India's first private-sector helicopter manufacturing facility - the Airbus H125 Final Assembly Line at Vemagal, Karnataka, a joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus Helicopters - expected to produce its first domestically assembled helicopter by early 2027 under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- India joined over 100 nations in a UN joint statement condemning Israeli measures aimed at expanding its presence in the West Bank and altering the status of occupied Palestinian territories, reaffirming support for relevant UN resolutions and the two-state solution.
- India participated as an observer - rather than a formal board member - in President Donald Trump's inaugural Board of Peace meeting on Gaza reconstruction and stabilisation, alongside 40+ countries and the European Union, represented by Deputy Chief of Mission Namgya C Khampa.
- India formally joined the US-led Pax Silica coalition at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, aimed at securing the semiconductor and AI supply chain from critical minerals to deployment infrastructure, with India highlighting its rising semiconductor capabilities and plans for ten new semiconductor plants.
- The conservation project of Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Vasai - a 475-year-old Portuguese-era structure built without cement - received an Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, recognised for its traditional craftsmanship and community-funded restoration.
- Poland officially withdrew from the 1997 Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines after a six-month process, reversing commitments made after ratification in 2012, with Prime Minister Donald Tusk stating that mines could be deployed along its eastern border within 48 hours if a threat emerges, as part of the country's "Eastern Shield" security strategy.
- India and the United States commenced the 16th edition of Exercise Vajra Prahar from February 23 to March 15, 2026 at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, focusing on close-quarter battle, counter-terrorism, urban warfare, and advanced special operations tactics in high-altitude and semi-desert environments.
- Paul Thomas Anderson's film One Battle After Another emerged as the biggest winner at the 79th BAFTA Awards 2026, securing six awards including Best Film and Best Director, while the Manipuri-language film Boong made history as the first Indian film to win the Best Children's and Family Film award.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address Israel's Knesset plenum during a two-day visit to Israel on February 25, 2026, holding high-level talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog and marking a significant milestone in India-Israel relations.
- The Manipuri-language film Boong, directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi and produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani, won the Best Children's and Family Film award at the 79th BAFTA Awards 2026, becoming the first Indian film to win in this category.
- India-US trade negotiations entered a more complex phase after a US Supreme Court ruling struck down President Trump's sweeping IEEPA tariffs, activating the "modify commitments" clause in the India-US Framework for an Interim Trade Agreement and reducing India's weighted average effective tariff to around 9%, thereby strengthening India's bargaining position.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the Speaker of the Knesset Medal - the highest honour of the Israeli Parliament - becoming the first Indian

- leader to receive the award, presented by Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana in recognition of his role in strengthening India-Israel strategic ties.
- During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Israel in February 2026, India and Israel elevated bilateral ties to a Special Strategic Partnership, signing agreements across defence, fintech, AI, and green energy, including a pact between NPCI International and MASAV to enable UPI payments in Israel, and advancing discussions on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement.
- Pakistan announced a state of "open war" with Afghanistan on February 27, 2026 and launched Operation Ghazab Lil Haq following an escalation of cross-border violence, with Pakistani air and ground strikes reported on Afghan targets while the Afghan Taliban rejected Pakistan's justification, reflecting deepening tensions over cross-border militancy and the Durand Line dispute.
- 27, with nearly 60% designated as bee-friendly native species such as Neem, Mahua, and Palash, planted in clusters every 500 metres to 1 km to align with honeybee foraging distance.
- Kerala became the first Indian state to declare tidal flooding a state-specific disaster under Section 2(d) of the Disaster Management Act, enabling SDRF-based financial assistance for victims in nine vulnerable coastal districts, with at least 10% of the state's population affected year-round by recurrent sea incursions.
- A South African cheetah named Gamini gave birth to three cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh - her second successful litter - taking India's total cheetah population to 38 and raising the number of Indian-born surviving cubs to 27 since the launch of Project Cheetah in September 2022.
- India launched the Zero Prize - its first national-level results-based environmental award with a total corpus of ₹5 crore - offering ₹1 crore each for independently verified reductions in air, water, and land pollution over a 12-month challenge period, open to start-ups, NGOs, corporates, municipal bodies, and individual innovators.

APPOINTMENT

- Senior IAS officer Nidhi Chhibber, a 1994-batch officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre and currently Director General of DMEO, took additional charge as CEO of NITI Aayog on an interim basis following the completion of BVR Subrahmanyam's extended tenure on February 24, 2026.
- Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was designated a Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations, urging responsible road practices as part of the UN's Decade of Action for Road Safety, which also supports state-level road safety programmes in Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam.

ENVIRONMENT

- A study published in Earth's Future by IIT Gandhinagar researchers reported a 17% decline in annual streamflow in the Ganga Basin since 1980, attributed primarily to intensive groundwater pumping for irrigation compounded by a 10% drop in rainfall and rising temperatures, while the Indus Basin saw an 8% rise driven mainly by increased precipitation from western disturbances.
- The National Highways Authority of India announced the BeeCorridors initiative - India's first pollinator-friendly plantation plan along National Highways - targeting around 40 lakh trees in 2026-

SPORTS

- India defeated Pakistan by 61 runs - their largest-ever victory margin against Pakistan in T20 Internationals - in Match 27 of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, with Ishan Kishan scoring 77 off 40 balls and Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah dismantling Pakistan's top order to bowl them out for 114.
- Magnus Carlsen of Norway won the inaugural FIDE-recognised Freestyle Chess World Championship by defeating Fabiano Caruana 2.5-1.5 in the final at Weissenhaus, Germany, claiming his 21st world title across formats including 5 Classical, 6 Rapid, and 9 Blitz World Championships.
- Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 for scoring 434 runs in India's ICC Women's World Cup 2025 triumph, while Divya Deshmukh won Emerging Player of the Year after becoming FIDE Women's World Cup champion and India's fourth female chess grandmaster.
- Harmanpreet Kaur became the most-capped player in women's international cricket with her 356th

- international appearance during the second T20I against Australia in Canberra on February 20, 2026, surpassing New Zealand's Suzie Bates, having debuted in 2009 and led India to its maiden ICC Women's ODI World Cup title in 2025.
- Norway set a new Winter Olympics record by winning its 17th gold medal at the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Games, with Johannes Dale-Skjevdal claiming the record-breaking gold in the men's 15 km biathlon mass start at Anterselva with a perfect score of 20/20 targets hit.

SCIENCE AND TECH

- Dr Haripriya Aravind and Dr R Venkatesh of the Aravind Eye Care System in Puducherry were selected for the Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026 - carrying a \$100,000 grant - for their contributions to combating cataract blindness, and both awardees decided to donate the entire grant back to the Aravind Eye Care System.
- NASA signed an order with Vast Space for the sixth Private Astronaut Mission to the International Space Station, targeting launch no earlier than summer 2027 aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, with the crew expected to spend up to 14 days aboard conducting research in biology, physical sciences, and technology demonstrations.
- The World Health Organization granted prequalification to Biological E Limited's novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), making it the second full manufacturer of the vaccine alongside PT Bio Farma and expanding the global supply base for outbreak response against type 2 variant poliovirus, with the company expected to produce about 600 million doses per year.
- International Childhood Cancer Day was observed on February 15, 2026 under the theme "Demonstrating Impact: From Challenge to Change," highlighting that over 400,000 children are diagnosed with cancer annually and a child dies of cancer every three minutes, with the WHO targeting at least 60% survival for all children diagnosed with cancer worldwide by 2030.
- David J. Farber, widely known as the "Grandfather of the Internet," died on February 7, 2026 in Tokyo at the age of 91, having played a foundational role in internet development through mentoring pioneers like Jonathan Postel and Paul Mockapetris and contributing to the evolution of ARPANET and NSFNet.
- Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched two national AI health initiatives - SAHI, a guidance framework for safe and ethical AI adoption in healthcare, and BODH, a privacy-preserving benchmarking platform for Health AI developed by IIT Kanpur in collaboration with the National Health Authority - at the India AI Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam.
- GalaxEye announced that its upcoming satellite Mission Drishti will feature the world's first SyncFused OptoSAR architecture combining electro-optical and SAR sensors on a single platform, powered by the NVIDIA Jetson Orin module for in-space AI processing to deliver faster intelligence outputs for agriculture, disaster response, and infrastructure monitoring.
- Google launched Nano Banana 2, an AI-powered image generation and editing tool built on the Gemini 3.1 Flash Image model, offering faster generation, improved text rendering, and stronger visual consistency, with rollout extended across the Gemini app, Google AI Studio, Gemini API, and Vertex AI.

RANKINGS

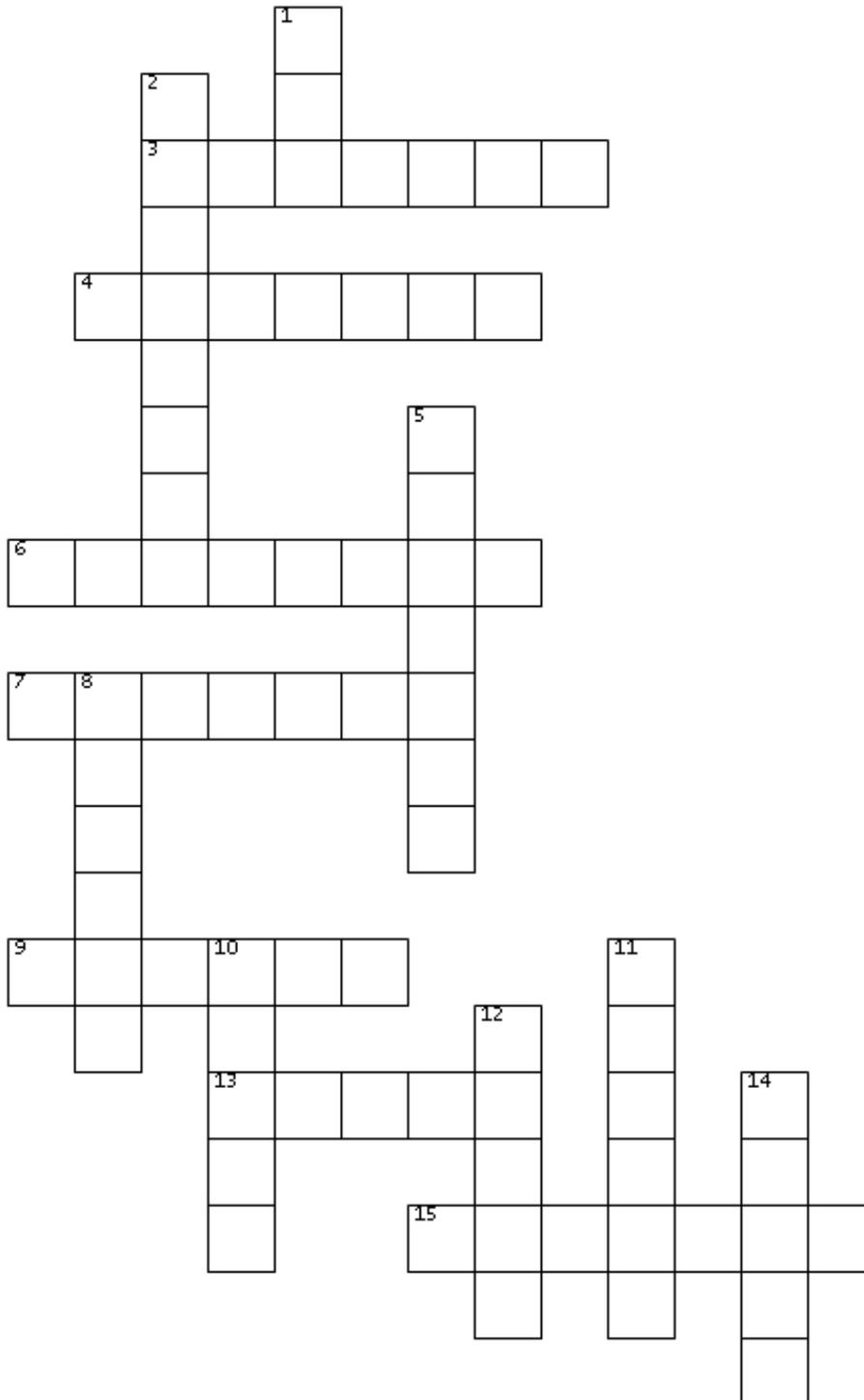
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport rose from 9th to 5th position in the Asia-Pacific region in OAG's 2025 ranking with 46.18 million one-way departing seats, overtaking major hubs including Seoul Incheon, Singapore Changi, and Bangkok Suvarnabhumi, driven by India's expanding aviation market and capacity expansion by airlines such as IndiGo.
- Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport won the Asia-Pacific Best Airport for Departures award in the over 40-million passengers category at the 2025 ACI ASQ Customer Experience Awards, based entirely on passenger feedback covering the full outbound experience from check-in and security to retail and staff responsiveness.
- The Global Mind Health 2025 report by Sapien Labs ranked Indian young adults aged 18-34 at 60th out of 84 countries in mental well-being with an average MHQ score of 33, revealing a sharp generational divide against Indians aged 55 and above who scored 96, with weaker family closeness, higher ultra-processed food consumption, and

- earlier smartphone exposure identified as key contributing factors.

SUMMITS AND MOUS

- India and the United Kingdom launched the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce on February 18, 2026 during the Fourth India-UK Energy Dialogue under Vision 2035, combining UK expertise in offshore wind with India's market scale across three priority pillars - ecosystem planning, infrastructure and supply chains, and financing - with offshore wind zones identified off Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and a ₹7,453 crore VGF scheme approved for early-stage projects.
- The Union Budget 2026-27 earmarked ₹20,000 crore for a new Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) scheme across five hard-to-abate sectors - Power, Steel, Cement, Refineries, and Chemicals - signalling a shift from research to commercial deployment as India, the world's second-largest crude steel producer, targets 300 million tonnes of crude steel capacity by FY 2030-31.
- The IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden signed a Statement of Intent at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to establish the Sweden-India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC) as a flagship platform for bilateral collaboration in AI development, deployment, and risk management, combining India's AI ecosystem strengths with Sweden's industrial innovation and responsible AI expertise.
- India and Nepal signed an MoU between their respective environment and forest ministries to strengthen bilateral cooperation in forests, wildlife, biodiversity, and climate change, with a focus on landscape-level conservation of key species including tigers, elephants, snow leopards, and rhinoceroses, and restoration of transboundary wildlife corridors and Himalayan ecosystems.

Fill the crossword grid using the ACROSS and DOWN clues given below. Each clue provides a hint to a word or term. Write the correct answer in CAPITAL letters in the grid. Do not use spaces, hyphens, or punctuation while filling the answers. Each entry should fit exactly into the boxes provided. Some Answers can be in abbreviations.



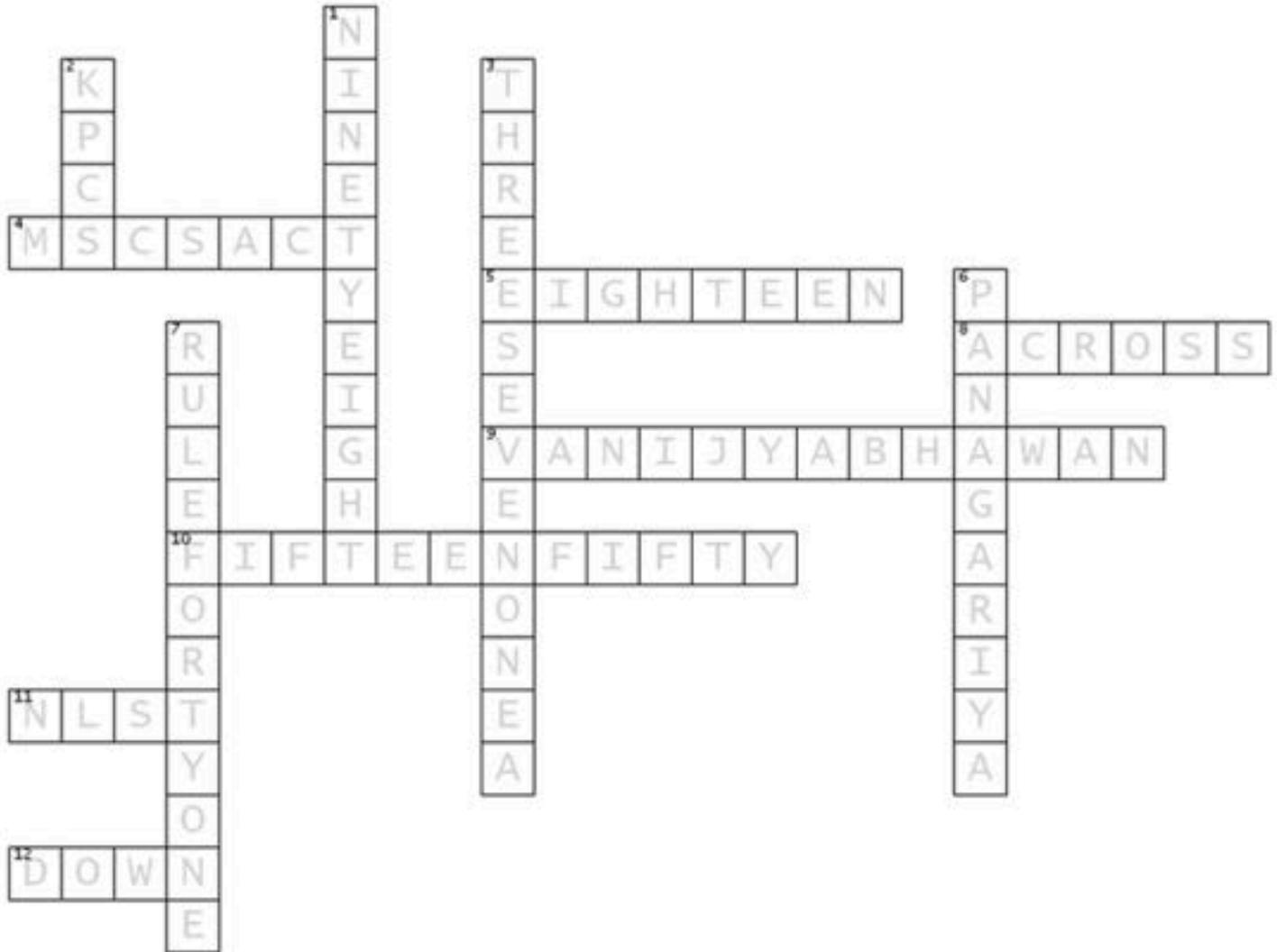
ACROSS

- 3. Project proponent of the Great Nicobar project
- 4. Strategic sea route near Great Nicobar Island
- 6. Digital India division linked with implementation of AI for AL
- 7. Lok Sabha Speaker against whom removal notice was reportedly submitted
- 9. Strait temporarily restricted by Iran during IRGC drills
- 13. U.S. law held not to authorize tariff imposition by the President
- 15. Invasive plant linked to changing tiger behaviour in SOE 2026

DOWN

- 1. Annual corruption index published by Transparency International
- 2. Bay where the Great Nicobar transshipment terminal is planned
- 5. Country ranked first in Corruption Perceptions Index 2025
- 8. French President who visited India in February 2026
- 10. Ministry that anchored the India-AI Impact Summit 2026
- 11. Most politically salient unresolved river issue between India and Bangladesh
- 12. Israel's national clearing system linked with NPCI International
- 14. PM's human-centric AI framework unveiled at the Summit

The completed crossword for the **CLAT TATHYA MARCH 2026 PART I** is provided below. All answers are written in CAPITAL letters exactly as they should appear in the grid. No spaces, hyphens, or punctuation have been used. The answers are listed separately for ACROSS and DOWN according to their clue numbers.



The Completed Crossword the CLAT Tathya March Part II will provided in the next Edition that is **APRIL 2026 Part I**.



Faces That Inspire

Our Torchbearers: ALUMNIS IN NLS BANGALORE & NLU DELHI



Ananya Prakash



Masirah Ahmad



Arush Sarma



Nikhil Dabbas



Samporno Mukherjee



Vaishnavi K. Prasad



Ananya Kapani



Ananya Tripathi



Tejaswini Singh



Nandil B. Sarma



Anushree Prasad



Eshan Nakra



Varun Pathak



Romit Kohli



Hardik Choubey



Karina Chawla

...a few among the many achievers.



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