

Banking Wallah



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Lecture No.- 00

By- Sushmita Ma'am



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CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SUSHMITA MA'AM

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LIVE



Don't let
yesterday
take up
too much
of today.
Will Rogers



TODAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

TODAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

1. India's first bullet train to be launched on August 15, 2027 between Mumbai and Ahmedabad
2. Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja announces retirement
3. India-UAE Desert Cyclone II exercise concludes in Abu Dhabi
4. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches financial assistance scheme for Udasin Bhakats
5. DST sets up 15 inclusive technology business incubators to expand innovation beyond metros
6. Bombay HC judge MS Sonak appointed Chief Justice of Jharkhand HC
7. Government launches interventions to boost MSME exports under Export Promotion Mission
8. Indian-American investor among top MAGA Inc donors
9. NTPC sanctions Rs 23.16 crore to upgrade radiotherapy services at GCRI centre
10. Static Booster







IRAQ

KUWAIT

PERSIAN GULF

BAHRAIN

QATAR

SAUDI ARABIA

UAE

OMAN

OMAN

IRAN

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

Strait of Hormuz

GULF OF OMAN

ARABIAN SEA



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Revision



→ New Delhi

Q. Under the updated PFRDA guidelines, which of the following entities is now authorized to independently sponsor and manage Pension Funds?

- A. NBFCs
- B. Scheduled Commercial Banks ✓
- C. Insurance Companies
- D. Mutual Fund Distributors



Q. Who was designated as the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran in 2026?

- A. Mohammad Reza Farzin
- B. Abdolnasser Hemmati ✓
- C. Ali Shamkhani
- D. Hassan Rouhani

Bank Markazi



Q. In 2026, which Indian state gave the green light to both the AI-ML Policy and the Green Credit Voucher Initiative-2025?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Karnataka
- C. Rajasthan ✓
- D. Maharashtra



Q. Which indigenously built missile was recently tested via a successful salvo launch by the DRDO off the coast of Odisha?

A. Agni-V

B. Prithvi-II

C. Pralay ✓

D. Akash



Q. Name the hospital that successfully carried out India's inaugural combined 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography and iStent surgery.

A. AIIMS New Delhi

B. Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt ✓

C. Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai

D. LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad



Q. To facilitate the verification of informal micro-enterprises on the Udyam Assist Platform, the Department of Posts entered into an MoU with which institution?

A. NABARD

B. RBI

C. SIDBI ✓

D. NITI Aayog

Lucknow
1990
Manoj Mittal



Q. Which organization has commenced its lending activities by sanctioning approximately ₹4,300 crore toward maritime infrastructure development?

A. EXIM Bank

B. Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited ✓

C. NABARD

D. Ship India Finance Corporation



Q. Which individual or entity acquired the full 25.52% stake held by IHCL in Taj GVK Hotels & Resorts Ltd?

- A. GVK Group
- B. Shalini Bhupal
- C. Blue Moon Trust
- D. Tata Sons



Q. On what date are the newly introduced cess and additional excise duties on tobacco products and pan masala scheduled to be implemented?

- A. January 1
- B. February 1 ✓
- C. April 1
- D. March 31



Q. What is the primary objective of the Delhi Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026?

- A. Increase criminal penalties for minor violations
- B. Decriminalise minor offences and introduce civil penalties ✓
- C. Create new courts for compliance cases
- D. Privatise regulatory functions



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National News



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PM MODI

inaugurates

Grand International Exposition
of Piprahwa Relics related to
Bhagwan Buddha



Prime Minister Modi inaugurates
Grand International Exposition of
Sacred Piprahwa Relics

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने पवित्र पिपरहवा
अवशेषों की भव्य अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रदर्शनी का
उद्घाटन किया।



1. PM inaugurates Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the exposition "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One."

Venue: Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi.

PM also visited different exhibition sections on Lord Buddha.

2. Significance of Piprahwa Relics

Relics discovered in 1898.

Among the earliest, historically significant relic deposits linked directly to Bhagwan Buddha.

Crucial for archaeological study of early Buddhism.

3. Association with Kapilavastu

Piprahwa site linked with ancient Kapilavastu.

Kapilavastu is believed to be where Buddha spent his early life before renunciation.

4. First-Time Collective Display

Relics brought together from:

National Museum, New Delhi

Indian Museum, Kolkata



Repatriated after over a century and showcased together for the first time.

5. Cultural & Civilizational Importance

Reinforces India's civilizational connection with Buddha's teachings.

Reflects PM's emphasis on preserving spiritual and cultural heritage.

Achieved through government effort, institutional cooperation, and public-private partnership.

Bodhi Day ⇒ 8 Dec.



Q. Where was the exposition "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" inaugurated?

- A. Sarnath
- B. Bodh Gaya
- C. Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi ✓
- D. Nalanda



Q. Kapilavastu is traditionally associated with which phase of Bhagwan Buddha's life?

- A. Enlightenment
- B. First sermon
- C. Early life before renunciation ✓
- D. Mahaparinirvana



India's first bullet train to be launched on August 15, 2027 between Mumbai and Ahmedabad

भारत की पहली बुलेट ट्रेन 15 अगस्त 2027 को मुंबई और अहमदाबाद के बीच शुरू की जाएगी



1. Start Date & Route

Operations to begin on 15 August 2027 ✓

Corridor: Mumbai ↔ Ahmedabad

Project executed by NHSRCL (National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd.)

2. Phased Opening Plan

→ Surat → Bilimora

→ Vapi → Surat

→ Vapi → Ahmedabad

→ Thane → Ahmedabad

→ Mumbai → Ahmedabad (full stretch)

Inaugural run revised to Surat–Vapi (100 km) instead of Surat–Bilimora (50 km).

3. Corridor Details

Total length: 508 km

Total stations: 12

Stations include:

Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Billimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand,



Ahmedabad, Sabarmati

4. Speed & Travel Time

Mumbai → Ahmedabad in 1 hour 58 minutes

Bullet train will halt at four stations on express services.

5. Cost & Funding

Estimated project cost: over ₹1 lakh crore

81% funded by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

6. Broader Context

Vande Bharat success boosted confidence in high-speed rail

States requesting expansion of modern train services

Bullet train expected to:

reduce travel time

improve connectivity

spur regional economic development



E10 Shinkansen Bullet Train
East Japan Railway Company



Q. India's first bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad is expected to start operations on which date?

- A. 2 October 2026
- B. 15 August 2027 ✓
- C. 26 January 2028
- D. 1 April 2027



Q. Which agency is providing the majority of funding for India's Mumbai–Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project?

- A. World Bank
- B. Asian Development Bank
- C. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- D. IMF

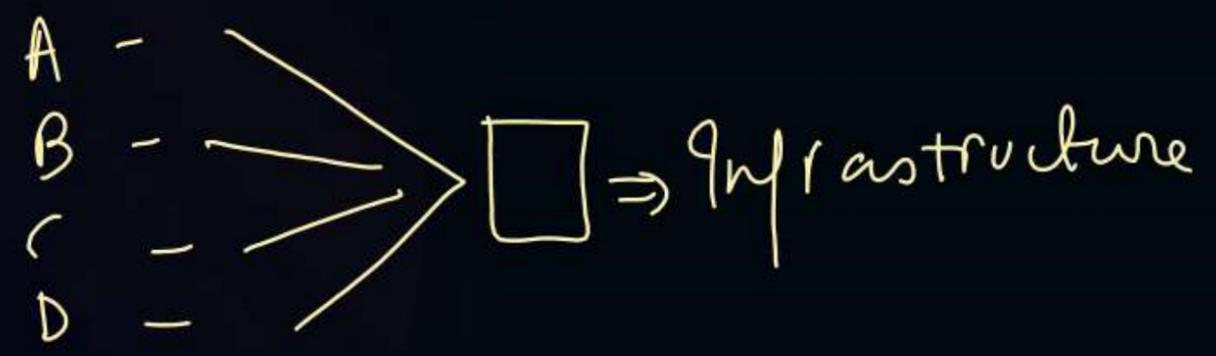


NHAI's Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust Receives AAA Rating

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण के राजमार्ग
इंफ्रा इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट को एएए रेटिंग
मिली



INVIT:



NHAI



1. AAA (Stable) Rating for RIIT

Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT) — sponsored by NHAI — received AAA (Stable) rating.

Rating awarded by CARE Ratings Limited.

Indicates highest safety and very low default risk.

2. Significance of the Rating

Shows strong financial health of RIIT.

Makes RIIT one of the most secure investment options.

“Stable” outlook → rating likely to remain unchanged in near/medium term.

3. Role of NHAI as Sponsor

Rating strength driven by NHAI's:

experience

credibility

proven track record in highways

Highlights importance of asset monetization programme.



4. Asset Monetization Progress

NHAI has monetized road assets worth around ₹1.43 lakh crore so far.

5. SEBI Approval & InvIT Structure

RIIT approved by SEBI as an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT).

Supports sustainable capital formation for highways.

6. Objective of Public InvIT

Unlock monetization potential of National Highway assets.

Create long-term investment instrument.

Target: mainly retail and domestic investors.

Encourages wider public participation in infrastructure growth.



Q. Which organization has assigned the AAA (Stable) rating to Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)?

A. CRISIL

B. ICRA

C. SEBI

D. CARE Ratings ✓



Q. NHAI operates under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Heavy Industries

✓
N H A I :
1995 (Act 1988)
New Delhi
S K Y adav



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Sports News



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**Australian cricketer Usman
Khawaja announces retirement**

**ऑस्ट्रेलियाई क्रिकेटर उस्मान ख्वाजा ने
संन्यास की घोषणा की**



1. Final Match

Retiring after the 5th Ashes Test vs England

Venue: Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)

2. Why Now?

Ongoing debate about:

His age (39)

Fitness concerns

Whether SCG should be his farewell match

Back spasms during series increased scrutiny on his preparation

3. Race & Representation

Born in Pakistan

First Muslim cricketer to play for Australia

Spoke openly about racial bias he felt during his career

Hopes future players don't face the same barriers

4. Career Journey

Career marked by:



Setbacks

Comebacks

Reinvention as opener

Key role in Australia's WTC-winning team (2023)

5. Recent Form & Performances

Returned mid-Ashes after Steve Smith's absence

Scored 82 in Melbourne

Last two years: averages ~26 and ~36

In 2025: 614 runs (18 innings) including a double century (232 vs Sri Lanka)

6. Career Record (Across Formats)

Tests: 87

ODIs: 40

T20Is: 9

International Runs: 8,001+

Retiring still part of Australia's Test XI



Q. Usman Khawaja announced that his final international match will be played at which venue?

- A. Melbourne Cricket Ground
- B. Adelaide Oval
- C. Sydney Cricket Ground
- D. Lord's



Q. The Ashes series is traditionally contested between which two countries?

- A. India and England
- B. Australia and England
- C. Australia and South Africa
- D. England and New Zealand



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Defence News



**India-UAE Desert Cyclone II
exercise concludes in Abu Dhabi**

**भारत-यूएई डेजर्ट साइक्लोन II अभ्यास
अबू धाबी में संपन्न हुआ**



1. What it is

Second edition of the India-UAE joint military exercise "Desert Cyclone"

Held at Al-Hamra Training City, Abu Dhabi

2. Duration

Conducted from 18-30 December 2025

Nearly two weeks of bilateral training

3. Participants

Indian Army: 45 personnel (Mechanised Infantry Regiment)

UAE Land Forces: 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion

4. Main Objectives

Strengthen defence partnership

Improve interoperability and joint operational capability

Focus on urban warfare and UN peacekeeping-style operations

Support regional peace, security, and stability

5. Training Activities

Classroom + field drills



Urban combat, building clearance, room intervention

IED awareness, casualty evacuation, first aid

Mission planning and standardizing TTPs (tactics, techniques, procedures)

6. Advanced Drills

Heliborne and air-assault operations

Integrated offensive and defensive urban operations

Demonstrated combined readiness and mutual trust

7. Outcome

Enhanced coordination and confidence between forces

Strengthened professional bonds

Improved capability for future multinational operations



Q. Desert Cyclone II, the joint military exercise held in December 2025, was conducted between India and which country?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. United Arab Emirates
- C. Oman
- D. Qatar



Q. Which branch of the Indian Army primarily operates Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) and Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs)?

- A. Infantry
- B. Artillery
- C. Mechanised Infantry
- D. Engineers



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States News



**Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma
launches financial assistance
scheme for Udasin Bhakats**

असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने
उदासीन भक्तों के लिए वित्तीय सहायता
योजना शुरू की

8th pay com.



1. Scheme Launched

Financial Assistance Scheme for Udasin Bhakats

Launched by: Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Objective: Provide financial support to celibate Vaishnavite monks (Bhakats).

Announced earlier in: State Budget (previous year)

Now: Implemented

2. Monthly Assistance

Beneficiaries: Udasin Bhakats

Amount: ₹1,500 per month

Mode of payment: Directly credited to bank accounts

Inclusion: Those left out will be added later.

3. About Udasin Bhakats & Satras

Satras: Monastic, religious & cultural centres in Assamese Vaishnavism.

Bhakats: Devotees/monks associated with Satras.

Udasin Satras: Satras where monks live celibate lives.



4. Beneficiaries — District-wise (Total: 620)

Barpeta – 10

Dhubri – 8

Goalpara – 8

Golaghat – 6

Jorhat – 54

Kamrup – 14

Lakhimpur – 22

Majuli – 474 (highest)

Nagaon – 7

Nalbari – 6

Sivasagar – 5

Sonitpur – 3

Udalguri – 3



Q. Assam government launched the Financial Assistance Scheme for Udasin Bhakats. How much monthly support will be given under the scheme?

- A. ₹1,000
- B. ₹1,200
- C. ₹1,500
- D. ₹2,000



Q. Satras, associated with the Vaishnavite tradition, were originally established by which saint?

- A. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- B. Sankardeva
- C. Ramanujacharya
- D. Madhavacharya



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Science / Tech News



DST sets up 15 inclusive technology business incubators to expand innovation beyond metros

डीएसटी ने नवाचार को महानगरों से परे विस्तार देने के लिए 15 समावेशी प्रौद्योगिकी व्यवसाय इनक्यूबेटर स्थापित किए



1. Establishment of Inclusive Technology Business Incubators (i-TBIs)

DST has set up ~~15 Inclusive Technology Business Incubators across the country.~~

Aim: democratise innovation beyond metros.

2. Visit to Delhi Technological University (DTU)

MoS (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh visited DTU.

Reviewed the i-TBI supported under NIDHI programme.

3. Role of DTU i-TBI *Inclusive Technology Business Incubator*

Focus: inclusive, women-led and knowledge-based startups.

Converts research → market-ready solutions.

4. Progress at DTU Incubator

15 startups incubated so far.

Three startups received Startup Ignition Grants

— ₹5 lakh each for early-stage development & commercialization.

5. Importance of Grants

Grants are catalytic.

Encourage innovation, experimentation and risk-taking.



6. Broader Government Vision

Science & technology prioritised heavily in the last decade.
India moving from technology consumer → technology creator.

7. Role of Universities

Should become innovation hubs.
Strengthen industry collaboration and diversify funding.

8. Supporting Government Schemes

Key schemes mentioned:

FIST

PURSE

NIDHI

9. Inclusive Innovation Outreach

Focus on smaller towns & aspirational districts.
Emphasis on transparency and merit-based selection.

10. Support Structure at DTU i-TBI

Provides: mentoring, infrastructure, prototyping, funding access.
Operates under DTU Innovation & Incubation Foundation.

11. Government Commitment

Continued support for institutions delivering tangible research, startup growth, and societal impact.



Q. Which institution houses one of the DST-supported Inclusive Technology Business Incubators mentioned in the article?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. Delhi Technological University ✓
- C. IISc Bengaluru
- D. IIT Madras



Q. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) functions under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology ✓
- D. Ministry of Electronics & IT



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Business / Economy News



INTEREST SUBVENTION FOR EXPORT CREDIT

(Export Promotion Mission – NIRYAT PROTSAHAN)

Operational rollout

- Implemented through the existing banking system
- Digital intent filing on DGFT portal
- Monitoring through UDN-linked reporting

COLLATERAL SUPPORT FOR EXPORT CREDIT

(Export Promotion Mission – NIRYAT PROTSAHAN)

- The Government has launched Collateral Support for Export Credits under Export Promotion Mission – NIRYAT PROTSAHAN, enabling MSME exporters to access bank credit even with limited collateral or third party guarantees.
- This intervention reduces lender risk, unlocks export credit, and supports first time and smaller exporters – key to expanding India's export base.

Government launches interventions to boost MSME exports under Export Promotion Mission

सरकार ने निर्यात प्रोत्साहन मिशन के तहत MSME निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हस्तक्षेप शुरू किए

25,060 U

2025-26-2030-31

DGFT



1. Launch of Export Promotion Mission — Pilot Interventions

Government rolled out two key interventions under the Export Promotion Mission.

Focus: strengthen MSME exports + improve access to trade finance.

2. Intervention 1 — Interest Subvention ✓

Interest subvention on pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit.

Aim: lower borrowing cost for MSME exporters.

Helps ease working capital constraints.

3. Intervention 2 — Collateral Support ✓

Provides collateral support for export credit.

Addresses lack of collateral faced by MSMEs.

Improves bank finance accessibility.

4. Implementation Approach

Both interventions launched on a pilot basis.

Will have continuous monitoring and data-driven refinements.



5. About Export Promotion Mission

Flagship programme approved by Union Cabinet (Nov 2025).

Outlay: over ₹25,000 crore (2025–26 to 2030–31).

6. Core Objectives

Boost export competitiveness.

Special focus on:

MSMEs

First-time exporters

Labour-intensive sectors



Q. Under the Export Promotion Mission, which of the following is NOT one of the two initial pilot interventions?

- A. Interest subvention on export credit
- B. Collateral support for export credit
- C. Export insurance subsidy ✓
- D. Easier access to trade finance through pilots



Q. MSME stands for:

- A. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises ✓
- B. Medium Scale Manufacturing Enterprises
- C. Micro & State Manufacturing Establishments
- D. Multi Sector Manufacturing Enterprises



Trust is Everlasting

LIC of India launches
Special Revival Campaign
with Late Fee concession
Period: 1st January, 2026
to 2nd March, 2026



Don't Let It Lapse

Hurry!
Don't miss this opportunity.

Revive Insurance Protection under your lapsed policy and continue availing its benefits.*

Total Receivable Premium	% Late Fee Concession	Maximum Concession allowed**
Up to ₹ 1,00,000	30%	₹ 3,000
From ₹ 1,00,001 to ₹ 3,00,000	30%	₹ 4,000
From ₹ 3,00,001 and above	30%	₹ 5,000

** Terms and conditions apply



Policies can be revived within 10 years from the date of the lapse/termination on the following conditions:
1. No-claim period: 5 years from the date of the lapse/termination of the policy.
2. No-claim period: 5 years from the date of the lapse/termination of the policy.
3. No-claim period: 5 years from the date of the lapse/termination of the policy.

Plan: **Just Simple Smart**

9976862890

Download LIC Mobile App (APK) | Visit Website | Call Centre Services 1800-1021-1021 | Follow us on Social Media: Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.

LIC launches Spl revival campaign for lapsed policies

एलआईसी ने समाप्त हो चुकी पॉलिसियों के लिए विशेष पुनर्जीवन अभियान शुरू किया



1. LIC Launches Special Revival Campaign

LIC announced a Special Revival Campaign to revive lapsed life insurance policies.

Objective: help policyholders restore coverage and financial protection.

2. Campaign Duration

Campaign period: January 1 – March 2, 2026.

Applies to individual non-linked plans.

3. Concession on Late Fees

30% concession on late fees (with caps based on premium value):

Up to ₹1,00,000 → max ₹3,000

₹1,00,001–₹3,00,000 → max ₹4,000

Above ₹3,00,001 → max ₹5,000

Micro Insurance Plans → 100% late-fee concession.

4. Eligibility Conditions

Policy must be lapsed during premium-paying term.

Policy term should not be completed.

Revival allowed within 5 years from first unpaid premium.



All policy terms must be satisfied.

5. Medical Requirements

Medical / health requirements are NOT waived — still applicable.

6. Intent Behind the Campaign

Supports policyholders affected by unforeseen financial difficulties.

Ensures continuity of insurance cover and family protection.



Q. What is the duration of LIC's Special Revival Campaign for lapsed policies?

- A. Dec 1, 2025 – Feb 1, 2026
- B. Jan 1, 2026 – Mar 2, 2026
- C. Feb 15, 2026 – Apr 15, 2026
- D. Jan 10, 2026 – Mar 30, 2026



Q. LIC stands for:

- A. Life Investment Corporation
- B. Life Insurance Corporation of India
- C. Long-term Insurance Council
- D. Legal Insurance Commission



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International News



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✓
Indian-American investor among
top MAGA Inc donors

भारतीय-अमेरिकी निवेशक शीर्ष
MAGA Inc दाताओं में शामिल



1. Major Political Donation by Asha Jadeja Motwani

Indian-American investor Asha Jadeja Motwani donated over \$5 million.

Contribution made to pro-Trump super PAC — MAGA Inc.

Among the largest diaspora contributors in the current US election cycle.

2. Campaign Finance Filings

Based on federal campaign finance disclosures.

Lists donors contributing \$100,000 or more.

Jadeja reported \$5 million in November 2025; total ~\$5.1 million to date.

3. High-Profile Donor Group

Donor list includes major tech and finance figures.

Examples:

Foris DAX Inc. (Crypto.com) — \$30 million election-to-date

Greg Brockman (OpenAI) — \$25 million

Konstantin Sokolov — \$11 million

4. Other Large Donors at \$5 Million Level

Stephen A. Schwarzman (Blackstone)



Benjamin Landa (Investor)

Jadeja now in the same donor bracket.

5. Technology & Crypto Presence

Strong contributions from:

Gemini Trust Company — ~\$4.4 million election-to-date

Banks and investment firms like JPMorgan Chase also feature.

6. Significance of Jadeja's Contribution

Among the largest political donations by an Indian-origin individual.

Reflects growing financial and political engagement of Indian Americans.

7. Super PAC Rules

Super PACs can raise unlimited funds from individuals & corporations.

But cannot coordinate directly with a candidate's campaign.

8. Broader Context

Indian Americans increasingly active in US politics — donors & candidates.

Donations now spread across political spectrum.

Engagement closely watched due to US–India ties in tech, trade, security.



9. About Asha Jadeja Motwani

Based in Silicon Valley.

Long career in technology investing and advisory roles.

Known for involvement in early-stage tech ventures.



Q. How much did Asha Jadeja Motwani donate to the pro-Trump super PAC MAGA Inc. in the current election cycle?

- A. \$1 million
- B. \$3 million
- C. Over \$5 million
- D. \$10 million



Q. In the United States, super PACs are allowed to:

- A. Receive only small donations from individuals
- B. Raise unlimited funds but not coordinate with campaigns
- C. Fund candidates directly
- D. Operate only during presidential elections



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Appointments / Resignations News



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**Bombay HC judge MS Sonak
appointed Chief Justice of
Jharkhand HC**

**बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट के जज एमएस सोनाक
को झारखंड हाई कोर्ट का चीफ
जस्टिस नियुक्त किया गया**



1. Appointment of New Chief Justice — Jharkhand High Court

Justice M. S. Sonak (Bombay High Court) appointed Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court. Appointment notified by the Central Government.

2. Reason for Appointment

Follows impending retirement of Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan.

CJ Chauhan retires on 8 January 2026.

Justice Sonak will take charge after retirement.

3. Recommendation & Process

Appointment based on Supreme Court Collegium recommendation.

Recommendation made on 18 December 2025.

4. Early Life & Education

Born: 28 November 1964.

Schooling: Don Bosco High School, Panaji (Goa).

B.Sc.: Dhempe College of Arts & Science.

LL.B.: M.S. College of Law, Panaji (Bombay University) — First Class.



5. Legal Career

Enrolled as advocate (Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa): October 1988.

Practised at Panaji Bench of Bombay High Court.

6. Areas of Practice

Civil & Constitutional law

Labour & Service law

Environmental law

Commercial & Tax laws

Company law, PILs

7. Government Roles

Additional Standing Counsel — Central Government

Special Counsel — State Government

Represented multiple statutory bodies.

8. Elevation to High Court

Elevated as Additional Judge, Bombay High Court on 21 June 2013.



9. Broader Reshuffle

Part of wider reshuffle of High Court Chief Justices.

Collegium headed by CJI Surya Kant.

Appointments/Transfers notified for Kerala, Patna, Meghalaya High Courts.

Proposal to appoint Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta (Allahabad HC) as CJ of Uttarakhand HC still pending.



Q. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court?

- A. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta
- B. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan
- C. Justice M. S. Sonak
- D. Justice Surya Kant



Q. Recommendations for appointment of High Court Chief Justices are made by which body?

- A. Election Commission of India
- B. Supreme Court Collegium
- C. Law Commission of India
- D. Union Public Service Commission



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LIVE



MoUs / Agreements



NTPC sanctions Rs 23.16 crore to upgrade radiotherapy services at GCRI centre

एनटीपीसी ने जीसीआरआई केंद्र में रेडियोथेरेपी सेवाओं को उन्नत करने के लिए 23.16 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किए



1. NTPC–GCRI MoA for Radiotherapy Upgradation

NTPC Limited signed an MoA with Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute (GCRI).
Aim: Upgrade radiotherapy services at Siddhpur Satellite Centre, Ahmedabad.

2. CSR Funding Support

NTPC (Western Region–I HQ, Mumbai) sanctioned ₹23.16 crore.
Part of NTPC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

3. Key Medical Upgrade

Funds to procure & install High-Energy Linear Accelerator (LINAC).
Will enhance advanced cancer treatment and improve patient access.

4. Commitment to Inclusive Development

Strengthens critical healthcare infrastructure.
Reinforces NTPC's focus on community-oriented CSR projects.

5. Exchange of MoA

Signed between:



Dr. Shashank Pandya — Director, GCRI

E. Satya Phani Kumar — Regional Executive Director (West-I), NTPC

6. NTPC–IIT Bombay: Carbon Storage Research

IIT Bombay & NTPC drilled India's first CO₂ storage test well.

Depth: ~1200 m, site — Pakri Barwadih, Hazaribagh (Jharkhand).

Under NITI Aayog (2022) collaborative project.

7. Geological Storage Atlas

Developed for coalfields rich in coalbed methane.

Provided simulations to estimate CO₂ storage potential in coal & sandstone.



Q. NTPC's CSR support of ₹23.16 crore to GCRI will primarily be used for which upgrade?

- A. New oncology research building
- B. Procurement of a Linear Accelerator (LINAC)
- C. Setting up a telemedicine centre
- D. Purchase of mobile screening vans



Q. CSR (as per Companies Act) broadly refers to:

- A. Compulsory tax on company profits
- B. Corporate donations to political parties
- C. Company initiatives for social and environmental development
- D. Government subsidy to private companies



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Static Booster



What is the India-New Zealand
Free Trade Agreement? |
Explained

भारत-न्यूजीलैंड मुक्त व्यापार समझौता
क्या है? | व्याख्या

India \Rightarrow New Zealand
tax \downarrow



1. What is the Agreement?

Concluded in December



New Zealand will impose zero duty on 100% of India's exports

New Zealand commits \$20 billion FDI in India by 2030 (over 15 years)

Focus on investment, services, mobility, and long-term cooperation

2. Key Bargains

✓ What India Gets

Zero-duty access for all exports

Easier mobility for:

Students

Professionals

Skilled workers

Market opportunities in:

IT, engineering

Healthcare & education

Yoga, Ayurveda, wellness



Hospitality & culinary services

✓ What India Gives ✓

Tariff relaxation on 95% of imports from New Zealand

57% duty-free from Day 1 ✓

Cooperation mechanisms and safeguards with clawback provisions on FDI

3. FDI Commitment

\$20 billion investment ✓

Linked to timelines + clawback mechanisms

Aimed at:

Skill mobility

Services growth

Job creation

Supporting 118 sectors ✓

4. Skilled Workforce Opportunities

Easier visas and work pathways

Student work rights (up to 20 hrs/week)



Extended post-study stays

Demand for:

IT professionals

Engineers

Yoga instructors

Indian chefs

Music teachers

Healthcare & construction workers

5. Boost for Labour-Intensive Sectors

Textiles & apparel

Leather & footwear

Gems & jewellery

Engineering goods

Processed food / agro-products

6. Sectors Kept OUT of the FTA (Indian Safeguards)

To protect farmers and small industries, India did NOT open:



Dairy: milk, butter, cheese, yogurt

Farm & food items: onions, sugar, edible oils, spices

Rubber & agricultural staples

7. Agriculture Cooperation (Non-Trade)

New Zealand to support Indian growers in:

Kiwifruit, apples, honey

Productivity, quality, and technology

Centres of excellence

Post-harvest + supply chain upgrades

8. Why is this FTA Important?

Gateway to Oceania & Pacific markets

Concluded in record 9 months

Trade diversification + global value chains

Strengthens diaspora links (Indian diaspora \approx 5%, \sim 3 lakh)

Target: double \$1.3B bilateral trade in 5 years

Strong safeguards for dairy and agriculture



Notable: women-led negotiation team

9. Why India is Accelerating FTAs

Expand footprint beyond traditional partners

Engage Pacific, West Asia & Africa

Reduce dependency on limited markets

Attract investments + boost exports

Strategic & geopolitical leverage

Wellington

NZ \$

Christopher Luxon



Q. Under the India–New Zealand FTA, New Zealand will provide:

- A. Zero duty on 50% of India's exports
- B. Zero duty on 100% of India's exports and \$20B FDI ✓
- C. Subsidies for Indian dairy imports
- D. Duty-free access only for agriculture products



Q. A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) primarily aims to:

- A. Fix exchange rates between two countries
- B. Remove or reduce tariffs and trade barriers ✓
- C. Control domestic food prices
- D. Regulate stock market investments



2 mins Summary



Topic

One

Topic

Two

Topic

Three

Topic

Four

Topic

Five



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