

Current Affairs

09 March 2025

‘Say No To Proxy Sarpanch’ Campaign

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched the ‘Say No To Proxy Sarpanch’ campaign. This campaign will to address the issue of the ‘Sarpanch Pati’ practice in village governance.
- The ‘Sarpanch Pati’ practice refers to that a situation where male relatives of elected women sarpanches take over decision making authority in local governance.
- In the many villages women are elected as sarpanches due to reservation policies. But in practice their husbands or other male family members control official decisions. These men are commonly referred to as “Sarpanch Pati” “Pradhan Pati” or “Mukhiya Pati”
- The Panchayati Raj system is a decentralized governance structure in India that enables local self government in rural areas. It operates through three tiers and which are the Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level and Zila Parishad at the district level.
- The system was strengthened through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. The Act which also introduced reservations for women in local bodies.



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India

Mojtaba Khamenei Becomes Iran's New Supreme Leader

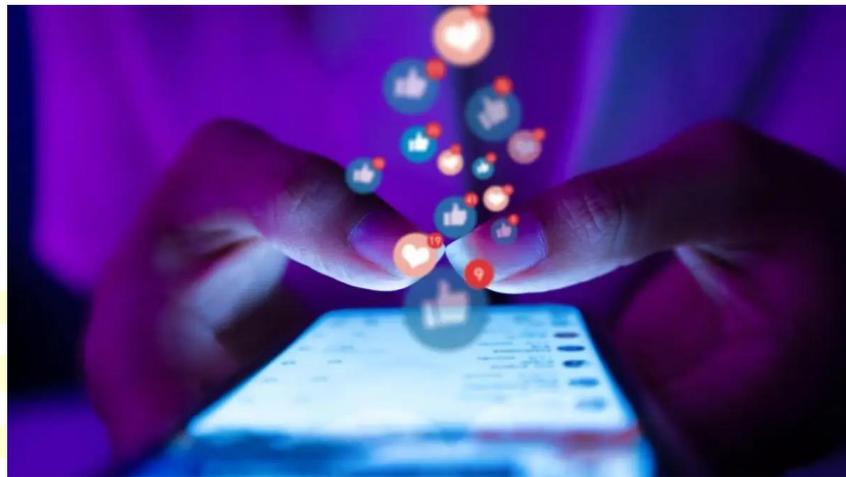
- Mojtaba Khamenei has been chosen as the new Supreme Leader of Iran After the death of his father. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was dead in US-Israel strikes in 2026.
- Mojtaba Khamenei his aged 56and he is the second son of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Despite he coming from the background he has largely remained a low profile figure in Countrys politics.
- Mojtaba Khamenei – A new Supreme Leader of Iran (2026)
- Son of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
- Selected by the Assembly of Experts
- Previously a low-profile cleric with alleged political influence
- Leadership transition occurs amid major West Asia conflict



Indonesia Social Media Ban for Children Under 16 Announced

- The Indonesia social media will be ban for children under 16 will begin its implementation from March 28, 2026. Authorities stated that the enforcement will happen gradually as social media companies adjust their systems to comply with the new regulations.

- Under the new rule platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, Roblox and Bigo Live will not allow accounts created by users younger than sixteen years.
- This Technology companies will be required to introduce stricter verification measures to ensure minors cannot access these platforms.
- Australia introduced restrictions on social media access for minors in December 2025. And also leading to millions of accounts being removed. Countries such as France, Spain and the United Kingdom are also exploring similar regulations aimed at protecting young users online.



Balen Shah Set to Become Nepal's Prime Minister

- Nepal has to see a dramatic political shift after the 2026 parliamentary elections. After the elections results coming with the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) emerging as the dominant political force.
- The party which was founded only three years ago. They secured early victories and leads across many constituencies. As vote counting progressed across 150 constituencies the RSP won two seats. And they was leading in over 100 constituencies far ahead of established parties.
- Nepal's federal parliament has the House of Representatives. And it consists of 275 members elected through a mixed electoral system. Out of the total seats, 165 members are elected through the first past the post system. In which where candidates with the highest votes in each constituency win.
- The remaining 110 seats are filled through proportional representation, where parties receive seats based on their share of votes.



Indian Government Suspends TRP Ratings for TV News Channels

- The Government of India has ordered a temporary suspension of TRP ratings for TV news channels. The decision comes following concerns about sensational coverage of the ongoing West Asia conflict involving Israel and Iran.
- This directive was issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) on March 7 2026. Which is also asking the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to withhold the reporting of Television Rating Points (TRPs) for four weeks or until further instructions.
- The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is India's official body responsible for measuring television audience viewership data including Television Rating Points (TRPs). This body was Established in 2010. And BARC collects and analyzes data on television viewership across the country.
- The ratings help broadcasters and advertisers understand the Popularity of TV programmes and channels. The Audience reach and engagement and also Advertising revenue allocation based on viewership trends
- The government invoked Clause 24.2 of the policy guidelines governing BARC operations while issuing the directive. This clause requires the organization to comply with any orders, regulations or directions issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



Operation Sankalp Back in Focus

- Operation Sankalp is the Indian Navy's major maritime security mission that has once again come into focus amid rising tensions in West Asia. The Indian Navy warships deployed under Operation Sankalp have been placed on standby to conduct HADR operations if required.
- The mission was originally launched to protect Indian merchant ships and ensure safe maritime trade routes in sensitive regions such as the Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz.
- Operation Sankalp is a maritime security initiative launched by the Indian Navy to protect Indian commercial vessels and ensure stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The operation was officially launched on June 19 2019 after several attacks on commercial oil tankers and cargo ships in the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz raised serious security concerns.
- Operation Sankalp plays a crucial role in protecting India's economic and energy interests. Nearly 62 percent of India's oil imports come from the Persian Gulf region making maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters extremely important.



Hurun Rich List 2026

- Recently released The Hurun Rich List 2026 has revealed that India now has 308 billionaires. And by that placing the country third globally after the United States and China in terms of population of billionaire.
- The list highlights the rapid growth of wealth creation and entrepreneurship in India. According to the report India has been added 57 new billionaires in the past year. Although 27 individuals dropped out of the list which resulting in a net increase of 24 billionaires compared to last year.
- The Hurun Rich List 2026 shows a good rise in the wealth of India's billionaire class. The total wealth hold by Indian billionaires increased by 10 percent year on year and to reaching ₹112.6 trillion.
- In the Hurun Rich List 2026 Reliance Chairman Mr. Mukesh Ambani has retained the his position as both India's richest person and Asia's richest individual.
- Net worth: ₹9.8 trillion
- Growth: 9 percent increase compared to last year
- Globally, the cities with the highest number of billionaires include,
- New York – 146 billionaires
- Shanghai – 120 billionaires
- Beijing – 107 billionaires
- London – 102 billionaires
- The Hurun Rich List 2026 also highlighted the demographic profile of India's wealthiest individuals.
- Average age of Indian billionaires: 67 years
- Global average age: 65 years
- The youngest billionaire in India is Ritesh Agarwal founder of Oyo aged 32, with a net worth of ₹14,440 crore.



George Russell Wins Australian Grand Prix 2026

- Mercedes driver George Russell won the Formula 1 2026 Australian Grand Prix. As they securing the first victory of the new F1 season at the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit. This race featured an intense early fight between Russell and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.
- And with multiple lead changes in the opening laps. Mercedes eventually dominated the race strategy and finished with a one two result And as a Kimi Antonelli finished second.
- Several dramatic moments shaped the Formula 1 2026 season opener in Melbourne. Oscar Piastri's home race ended before it began as the McLaren driver crashed on the way to the starting grid.
- Max Verstappen recovered from 20th position after a crash in qualifying to finish sixth.



Lakshya Sen Falls Short in All England Open 2026 Final

- India's badminton star Lakshya Sen finished runner up in the All England Open Badminton Championship 2026. After losing the men's singles final to Taiwan's Lin Chun-Yi in Birmingham.
- The tight title clash ended with scores of 15-21, 20-22 and Lakshya Sen narrowly missed out on the prestigious title. The Lakshya Sen All England Open 2026 campaign showcased strong performances throughout the tournament.
- The All England Championship final 2026 witnessed a highly competitive battle between Lakshya Sen and Lin Chun-Yi. The Taiwanese player gained an early advantage in the first game. And also maintained control with consistent attacking play.
- The All England Championship final 2026 defeat marked Lakshya Sen's 5th consecutive loss to Lin Chun-Yi in international badminton competitions. The Taiwanese player's left handed attacking style has consistently posed hard challenges for the Indian star.



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EXAMS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The "Say No To Proxy Sarpanch" campaign launched by the Government of India aims to address which issue?

- A. Corruption in rural development funds
- B. Dominance of male relatives in the functioning of elected women sarpanches
- C. Lack of financial resources for Panchayats
- D. Low voter turnout in Panchayat elections

Answer: B

Explanation:

The campaign was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to tackle the practice where husbands or male relatives of elected women sarpanches exercise power on their behalf. This practice is popularly known as “Sarpanch Pati.”

2. The Panchayati Raj system in India was given constitutional status through which amendment?

- A. 42nd Constitutional Amendment
- B. 44th Constitutional Amendment
- C. 73rd Constitutional Amendment
- D. 86th Constitutional Amendment

Answer: C

Explanation:

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) established the Panchayati Raj system as a constitutional body and introduced reservations for women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes in local governance.

3. In Iran’s political system, the Supreme Leader is selected by which body?

- A. Guardian Council
- B. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
- C. Assembly of Experts
- D. Parliament (Majlis)

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Assembly of Experts, an elected clerical body, is responsible for selecting and supervising the Supreme Leader of Iran.

4. Indonesia’s new regulation banning social media access for children under 16 will affect which of the following platforms?

- 1. YouTube
- 2. TikTok

3. Instagram
4. Roblox

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation:

The regulation will apply to several major platforms including YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Threads, X, Roblox, and Bigo Live.

5. Consider the following statements about Nepal's House of Representatives:

1. It has 275 members.
2. All members are elected through proportional representation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

Nepal's House of Representatives has 275 members, but elections are conducted through a mixed electoral system:

- 165 through First-Past-the-Post
 - 110 through Proportional Representation
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6. The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is responsible for measuring which of the following in India?

- A. Radio popularity ratings
- B. Television viewership ratings

- C. Newspaper circulation data
- D. Digital news subscriptions

Answer: B

Explanation:

BARC measures Television Rating Points (TRPs) which indicate viewership levels and help advertisers and broadcasters evaluate program popularity.

7. Operation Sankalp is related to:

- A. Border security along the India-China border
- B. Maritime security for Indian merchant vessels
- C. Counter-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir
- D. Cyber security operations

Answer: B

Explanation:

Operation Sankalp, launched in 2019, is an Indian Navy mission aimed at protecting Indian merchant ships and ensuring safe maritime trade routes, particularly near the Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz.

8. According to the Hurun Rich List 2026, India ranks which position globally in terms of number of billionaires?

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

Answer: C

Explanation:

India ranks third globally, after the United States and China, with 308 billionaires.

9. Who won the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix 2026?

- A. Max Verstappen
- B. Charles Leclerc

- C. George Russell
- D. Lewis Hamilton

Answer: C

Explanation:

George Russell of Mercedes won the 2026 Australian Grand Prix at the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, marking the first victory of the season.

10. Lakshya Sen finished runner-up in the All England Open Badminton Championship 2026 after losing to:

- A. Viktor Axelsen
- B. Lin Chun-Yi
- C. Kento Momota
- D. Anthony Sinisuka Ginting

Answer: B

Explanation:

India's Lakshya Sen lost the men's singles final to Taiwan's Lin Chun-Yi at the All England Open 2026 in Birmingham.