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PM Museum to get replicas of Morarji's Nishan-e-Pakistan, Bharat Ratna from Gujarat Vidyapith  
The Indian Express 12/02/2026 - Page 8



NATO launches Arctic Sentry military umbrella as Trump continues to eye Greenland  
The Indian Express 12/02/2026 - Page 14

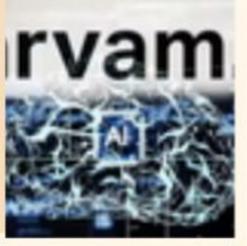
Minister introduces Bodhan AI at conclave

THE HINDU 13/02/2026 - Page 16



India's first LLM takes shape as Sarvam expands AI stack

THE HINDU BL : 12/02/2026 - Page 1



## Govt. unveils new CPI series; retail inflation in Jan. at 2.75%

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released a new series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with 2024 as the base year, placing retail inflation for January 2026 at 2.75%.

The updated CPI basket expands coverage from 299 to 358 items, including 308 goods and 50 services. Data collection has widened to 1,465 rural and 1,395 urban markets, along with 12 online marketplaces. The revised weights are based on consumption patterns from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24, reflecting structural changes in the economy. Notably, the weight of food and beverages has declined to 36.75% from 45.86%, potentially reducing headline inflation volatility. Housing has been expanded to include utilities, raising its weight to 17.67%.

The new structure now classifies items into 12 broad groups instead of six, providing more granular inflation signals. The revised CPI aims to align inflation measurement more closely with current consumption patterns, thereby improving its relevance for monetary and fiscal policy calibration.

### Revised Weights under the New CPI (Base Year 2024):

- Food & Beverages: Reduced to 36.75% (from 45.86%); lower weight may reduce overall inflation volatility.
- Housing (expanded category): Increased to 17.67% (from 10.07%); now includes water, electricity, gas and other fuels.
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine maintenance: 4.47%
- Health: 6.1%
- Transport: 8.8%
- Information & Communication: 3.61%
- Recreation, sports & culture: 1.52%
- Education services: 3.33%
- Restaurants & accommodation services: 3.35%
- Personal care, social protection & miscellaneous goods/services: 5.04%
- Paan, tobacco & intoxicants: Increased to 2.99% (from 2.38%)
- Clothing & footwear: Reduced to 2.38% (from 6.53%)



## India likely to pursue a U.S. tariff waiver for garments made with American cotton

India is likely to seek a waiver of the 18% reciprocal tariff on garments exported to the United States, particularly those manufactured using U.S. cotton or man-made fibre (MMF), drawing parallels with a similar concession extended to Bangladesh.

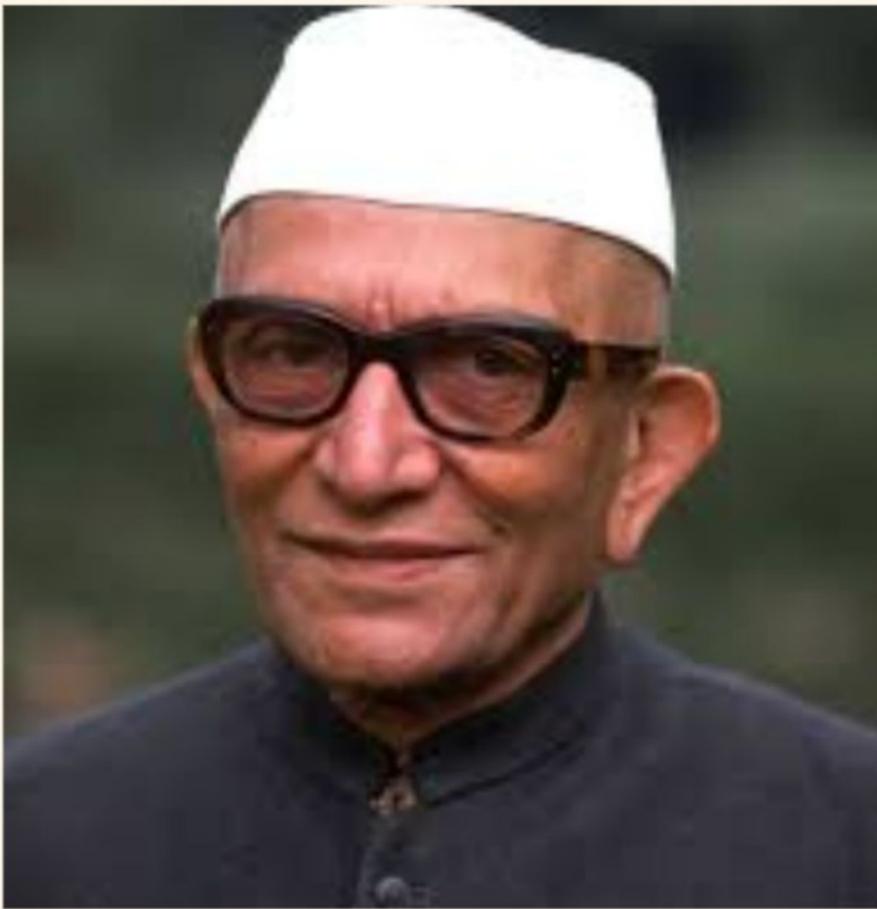
The United States–Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade, signed on February 9, provides for a mechanism under which specified volumes of Bangladeshi textile and apparel exports made with U.S. cotton and MMF inputs may receive a zero reciprocal tariff rate.

Representatives of textile export promotion councils in India have indicated that the government is likely to pursue a comparable arrangement with the United States. According to A. Sakthivel, Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, the government has reassured the industry that the U.S.–Bangladesh agreement does not pose a threat to Indian exporters and that similar negotiations may be undertaken.

India annually imports approximately five lakh bales of American cotton, including 2.5 lakh bales of non-Extra Long Staple varieties. The issue highlights evolving trade negotiations in the textile sector and reflects the strategic linkage between raw material sourcing and export market access.



## PM Museum to get replicas of Morarji's Nishan-e-Pakistan, Bharat Ratna from Gujarat Vidyapith



Gujarat Vidyapith, founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920, will share replicas of Morarji Desai's Bharat Ratna and Nishan-e-Pakistan with the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML), New Delhi, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on July 15, 2024. The MoU, valid for five years, enables institutional collaboration and access to research facilities, subject to regulations.

The original awards are displayed at a dedicated Morarji Desai gallery at Gujarat Vidyapith, where Desai served as Chancellor from 1963 until 1995. Gandhi was its first Chancellor, followed by Sardar Patel and then Desai. As per Desai's will (May 4, 1991), all his personal belongings, awards, letters, books, and state gifts were bequeathed to the Vidyapith, making it their sole custodian. Hence, only replicas will be shared.

Desai is the only Indian Prime Minister to have received Pakistan's highest civilian award, the Nishan-e-Pakistan (May 18, 1991), shortly after being conferred the Bharat Ratna in March 1991. He served as Prime Minister from 1977 to 1979 after the post-Emergency elections, leading the Janata Party government. During his tenure, India consolidated its position following the 1971 Bangladesh war.

The PMML sought replicas of the medals, citations, and select papers of national importance. The process is expected to take 2–3 months.

## Minister introduces Bodhan AI at conclave

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan emphasised that artificial intelligence (AI) must be integrated into the education system to both empower students and assist teachers. Speaking at the inaugural session of the Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave, he highlighted the importance of embedding AI across all levels of learning to strengthen India's educational framework.

At the event, he launched Bodhan AI, a non-profit organisation established under the Ministry of Education. The organisation aims to develop an open-source digital platform known as the "Bharat EduAI Stack." This initiative seeks to create a comprehensive AI-based ecosystem for education, functioning as digital public infrastructure to support teaching, learning, and academic administration nationwide.

Mitesh Khapra of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras presented the roadmap for Bodhan AI and elaborated on plans to operationalise the Bharat EduAI Stack. According to IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, the initiative is expected to make education more equitable, affordable, and accessible, while also enhancing its quality. Overall, the initiative reflects a policy direction aimed at leveraging emerging technologies to modernise India's education system and ensure inclusive academic development.

### Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026

The Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 is envisioned as a **national platform for landscape discovery, strategic alignment, and partnership building** in AI-enabled education.

Its primary purpose is to:

- Enable landscape discovery and ecosystem mapping to identify gaps and opportunities
- Support strategic partnerships across government, academia, startups, and industry
- Mark the beginning of the development of the **Bharat EduAI Stack**, an open and interoperable architecture to build, integrate, and scale AI-powered learning solutions across India

## Rafale, Su-30, Tejas to be part of 'Vayu Shakti' at Pokhran

### EXERCISE VAYUSHAKTI 2026

- The Indian Air Force will conduct Exercise Vayushakti-26 on 27 February 2026 at Pokhran Air to Ground Range.
- Reflects core values: "Achook, Abhedya aur Sateek"
- Aims to demonstrate rapid response capability, airspace dominance, precision strike, and conversion of tactical actions into strategic outcomes.
- Showcases full-spectrum operations by fighter, transport, helicopter, and RPA platforms, alongside advanced systems like Akash and counter-UAS.
- Highlights role in Human Assistance, Disaster Response and evacuation missions.
- Reinforces success of Operation Sindoor and commitment to indigenous defence under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is preparing to induct more newer-generation aircraft into its inventory, according to the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor. He made the remarks ahead of Exercise Vayu Shakti, scheduled to be held at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan on February 27. The biennial exercise assumes added significance as it follows last year's Operation Sindoor. While long-distance targeting will not be demonstrated, the exercise will showcase the impact of strikes on ground targets.

The Defence Ministry stated that the exercise will highlight the IAF's capacity to dominate the operational environment, deliver rapid punitive response, and convert tactical actions into strategic outcomes. It will also demonstrate the Air Force's role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

More than 120 air assets, including 77 fighter aircraft such as Rafale, Su-30MKI, MiG-29, LCA Tejas, Jaguar and Mirage-2000, along with transport aircraft and helicopters, will participate. The C-295 aircraft will make its debut. Advanced systems including Akash, SpyDer, Short Range Loitering Munitions and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems will be featured. Approximately 12,000 kg of explosives are expected to be used during the exercise.

*GS III 2023 PYQ The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat.*

## India's first 'ricin bioterrorism' case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is probing what is believed to be India's first suspected ricin-based bio-terror plot, after taking over the case from the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). The investigation spans Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana. The main accused, Dr. Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed, along with Azad Suleman Sheikh and Mohammad Suhail Mohammad Saleem Khan, allegedly procured three pistols and 30 live cartridges through a cross-border arms network. Authorities claim Saiyed attempted to isolate ricin from castor oil at a home-based setup in Hyderabad, where chemicals, acetone bottles, castor bean waste and related equipment were seized. Investigators have cited alleged links with an Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) operative, indicating an emerging pattern of hybrid terror methods involving small arms, online radicalisation and improvised bio-toxins.

*GS III PYQ 2022 - Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels.*

*GS III PYQ 2021 - Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats.*

**Ricin** is a highly toxic protein extracted from castor beans, widely grown for castor oil in countries such as India, Brazil, and China. Even small doses can be fatal, and it is classified as a Schedule 1 toxin under the Chemical Weapons Convention, indicating the highest risk of weaponisation. There is no antidote. Though never used in mass-casualty attacks, it has featured in targeted assassination attempts and "ricin letter" incidents. Large-scale use is constrained by production challenges, delivery limitations, and aerosolisation difficulties, though isolated cases (e.g., Cologne, 2018) highlight ongoing security concerns.

## Kerala farm varsity launches rejuvenated varieties of Cochin ginger, Alleppey finger turmeric



The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has launched selected traditional varieties of Cochin ginger and Alleppey finger turmeric, two historically significant spices that have been traded from Kerala for centuries.

These trade names were formally documented as early as the 19th century, with distinct quality parameters that ensured their recognition in global markets. However, the availability of these traditional varieties has declined sharply in recent years, adversely affecting their niche export segments.

The decline has been attributed to a shift towards high-yielding varieties preferred in the domestic market for their size and productivity. Indiscriminate cultivation practices and varietal mixing have further diluted the unique quality traits of the traditional strains. To address this, a seminar was organised under the MIDH project titled “Rejuvenation of Cochin Ginger and Alleppey Finger Turmeric for export promotion,” implemented during 2022–26 by the College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara.

The initiative aims to revive these varieties to enhance exports to markets in the Middle East, Europe and the United States by identifying farmer producer organisations and exporters for large-scale cultivation and distributing seed kits. Industry estimates indicate strong demand, particularly from nutraceutical and pharmaceutical sectors, though quality-compliant supply remains limited. The project seeks to ensure better price realisation and adherence to international quality standards.

## Decline in number of Indians going abroad for studies, says Govt

The number of Indians going abroad for study has declined sharply, according to data shared in the Rajya Sabha. In response to CPI(M) MP A.A. Rahim, Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said 9,08,364 students went abroad in 2023. The figure fell to 7,70,127 in 2024 and further to 6,26,606 in 2025 — a 31% drop compared to 2023. The data, from the Bureau of Immigration, counts Indians who declared “study/education” as their travel purpose between 2023 and 2025. No destination-wise details were provided. The government stated that studying abroad depends on individual choice and factors like affordability and access to loans.

Since the 21st century, international student mobility is no longer seen purely as “brain drain.” It is increasingly viewed as a strategic form of brain circulation. Studying abroad is often an individual choice shaped by academic interests, affordability, and global exposure. When students return—or remain connected—they contribute through knowledge transfer, global networking, research collaboration, entrepreneurship, and remittances. This reciprocal movement strengthens bilateral relations and enhances India’s soft power. Thus, overseas education can function as a national asset rather than a permanent loss of talent.



# INTERNATIONAL

## Poland and Italy say they will not join Trump's Board of Peace

Poland and Italy have declined to join US President Donald Trump's proposed "Board of Peace," adding to the number of Washington's allies choosing to remain outside the initiative. Initially conceived to consolidate Gaza's ceasefire, the Board is envisaged to assume a broader role in resolving global conflicts. However, concerns have been expressed in some quarters that it could emerge as a parallel mechanism to the United Nations. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk stated that, given national reservations regarding its structure, Poland would not participate at present but would continue to assess developments related to the proposal.

### Board of Peace

- The Board of Peace (BoP) is a US-led, executive-driven conflict governance initiative proposed by Donald Trump, presented as addressing perceived limitations of United Nations peace efforts.
- Endorsed under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025) for Gaza stabilisation till 2027; however, its Charter leaves mandate and scope undefined.
- Launched at the World Economic Forum (2026).
- Signatories include Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Morocco, Kosovo, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Israel.
- Concerns: legitimacy, mandate ambiguity, sovereignty, executive centralisation, uncertain long-term viability.



## NATO launches Arctic Sentry military umbrella as Trump continues to eye Greenland



Arctic Sentry – a new multi-domain activity by NATO members to bolster security in the Arctic and High North.

NATO has launched a new military coordination initiative titled "Arctic Sentry" to strengthen security in the High North. The announcement comes amid heightened tensions within the alliance following remarks by US President Donald Trump regarding Greenland. Initially, Arctic Sentry will function as a NATO label for existing national military exercises in the region, such as Denmark's Arctic Endurance and Norway's Cold Response drills. It does not constitute a standalone military operation and does not involve permanent or long-term troop deployment under NATO command.

According to NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, the primary innovation lies in integrating various Arctic-related military activities under a unified command structure. These activities will be coordinated through NATO's US headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia. The move is viewed as a response to increased Russian military activity and China's expanding strategic interest in the Arctic region. Arctic security has remained on NATO's agenda in recent years, given that seven member states, along with Russia, have territorial presence in the region. Arctic Sentry thus represents an effort to streamline coordination and reinforce collective security objectives in the High North.

## ECONOMICS

### India's first LLM takes shape as Sarvam expands AI stack

India's effort to build a sovereign Large Language Model (LLM) has advanced with Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI expanding its indigenous AI stack ahead of the India AI Impact Summit 2026. Founded in August 2023, the company introduced a 2-billion-parameter language model in 2024 optimised for Indian languages. In April 2025, it was selected under the IndiaAI Mission to develop India's first sovereign LLM with dedicated compute support for population-scale deployment.

Sarvam's stack spans translation, speech and vision capabilities. Sarvam-Translate supports 22 Indian languages and offers paragraph-level and structured-content translation, reportedly performing strongly in expert evaluations. In speech technologies, Bulbul v3 provides multilingual text-to-speech across 11 Indian languages, while Saaras v3 delivers speech-to-text transcription across 22 languages with code-mixed support. The company has also launched Sarvam Vision, a 3B-parameter vision-language model for image captioning, text recognition and table parsing.

Under its sovereign LLM initiative, Sarvam is developing three variants—Sarvam-Large for advanced reasoning, Sarvam-Small for interactive applications and Sarvam-Edge for on-device tasks—positioning itself within India's broader strategy to build an AI ecosystem focused on multilingual and localised applications.

#### Large language models

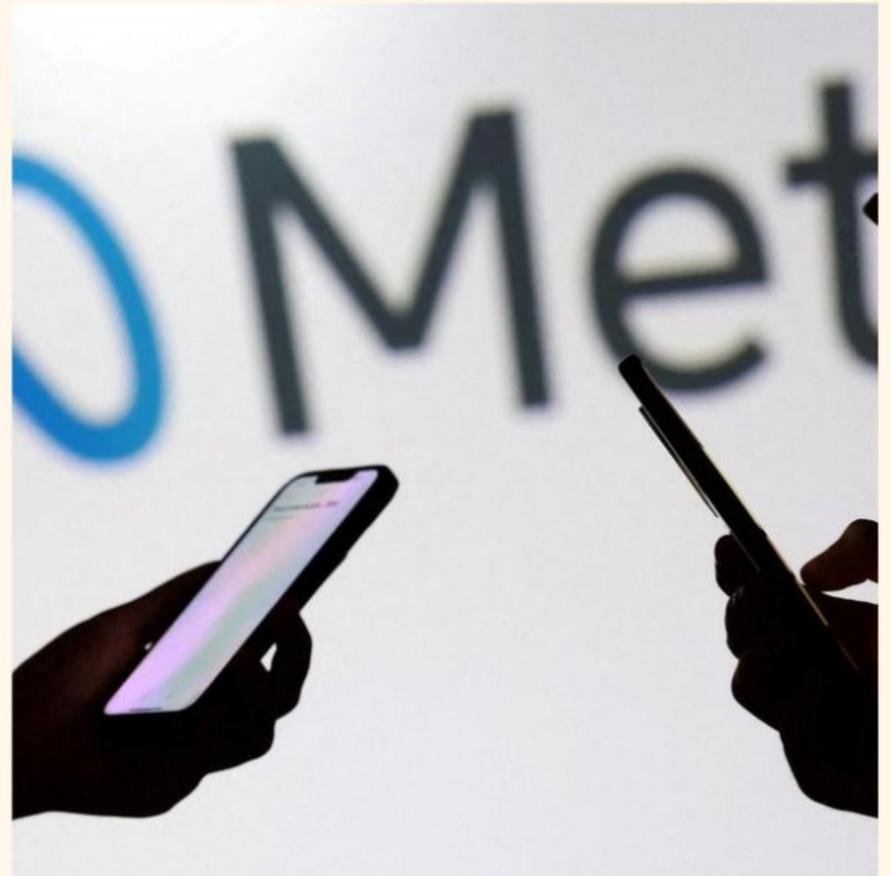
Large language models (LLMs) are a category of deep learning models trained on immense amounts of data, making them capable of understanding and generating natural language and other types of content to perform a wide range of tasks. LLMs are built on a type of neural network architecture called a transformer which excels at handling sequences of words and capturing patterns in text.

LLMs work as giant statistical prediction machines that repeatedly predict the next word in a sequence. They learn patterns in their text and generate language that follows those patterns.

LLMs represent a major leap in how humans interact with technology because they are the first AI system that can handle unstructured human language at scale, allowing for natural communication with machines

source : IBM

### Vedanta moves HC as TN rejects 'green copper' unit proposal at Thoothukudi



The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has refused to grant Consent to Operate (CTO) to Vedanta Ltd for establishing a proposed “green copper” facility at the premises of the non-functional Sterlite plant in Thoothukudi. Vedanta challenged the rejection before the Madras High Court, contending that the application, submitted on January 9 and rejected on January 27, was denied arbitrarily without prior notice or an opportunity for hearing.

The High Court directed the State to provide instructions regarding the possible constitution of an expert committee to examine the feasibility of permitting the project. Vedanta sought the formation of a court-monitored multidisciplinary committee comprising representatives of the State, the Centre and independent experts to ensure scientific and impartial assessment. It also requested limited access to the facility for preparatory activities pending adjudication.

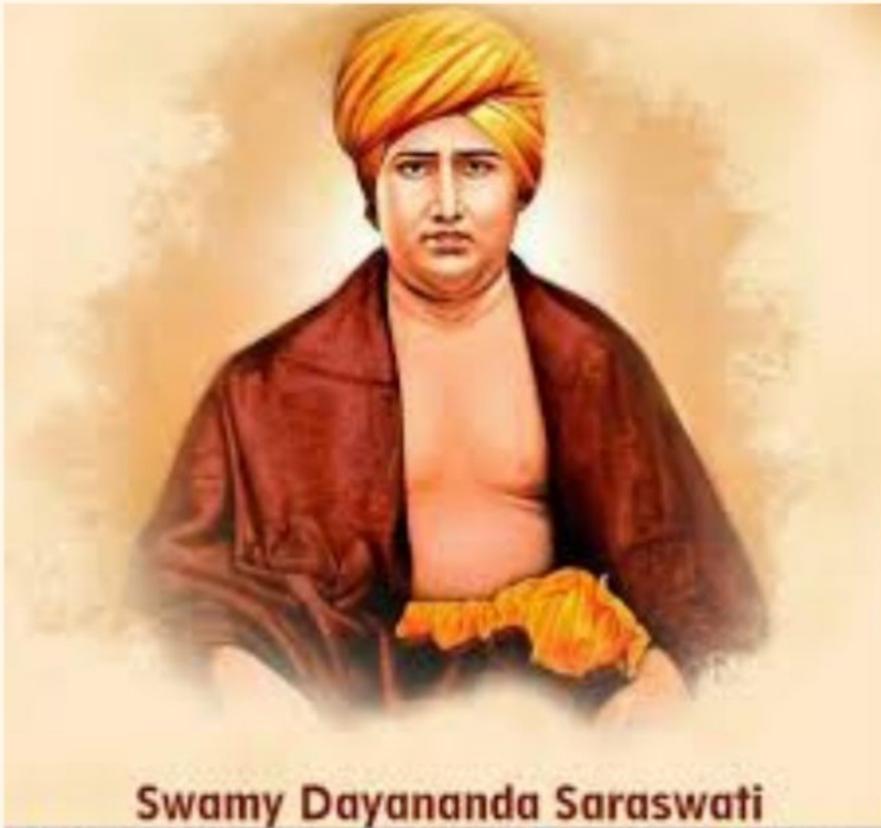
Opposing the petition, the State argued that Vedanta should have pursued a statutory appeal instead of filing a writ petition and emphasised that environmental protection outweighs economic considerations.

Vedanta described “green copper” as copper produced with a reduced carbon footprint, primarily through increased use of recycled copper to minimise concentrate processing and slag generation.

# HERITAGE

## Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati (1824–1883)

Swami Dayanand Saraswati was a prominent 19th-century religious and social reformer who sought to regenerate Hindu society in north India through a return to Vedic foundations. Deeply critical of what he regarded as distortions introduced by selfish and ignorant priests, he argued that the Puranas contained false teachings that had corrupted the original purity of Hindu religion. For spiritual authority and guidance, he turned exclusively to the Vedas, which he considered infallible and the ultimate source of all knowledge. Although this reliance imparted an orthodox tone to his thought, he maintained that the Vedas must be interpreted rationally, thereby giving an important role to individual reason.



Swamy Dayananda Saraswati



### Arya Samaj

In 1875, he founded the Arya Samaj to reform Hindu religion and society. Rejecting idolatry, ritualism, priestly dominance, and rigid caste practices, he led a revolt against prevalent Hindu orthodoxy. He upheld the right of every individual to direct access to God and redirected attention from excessive other-worldliness to problems of life in the present world. His teachings, though grounded in his interpretation of the Vedas, paralleled the reformist ideas of contemporary leaders such as Keshub Chandra Sen, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahadev Govind Ranade, and Gopal Hari Deshmukh. The Arya Samaj's practices, including Sunday meetings, resembled those of the Brahmo Samaj and the Prarthana Samaj.

The Arya Samaj emerged as a vigorous force for social reform. It worked to improve the condition of women, promote female education, combat untouchability, and challenge the rigid hereditary caste system. By fostering social equality, solidarity, self-respect, and self-reliance, it contributed to the growth of nationalism and India's cultural revival. However, its efforts to prevent religious conversions led to a crusade against other faiths, which unintentionally contributed to communal tensions in the 20th century. Thus, while its social reforms promoted unity, its religious activism sometimes complicated the broader project of secular national integration.

*The Arya Samaj emerged as a vigorous force for social reform under Swami Dayanand Saraswati's inspiration. It worked actively to improve the condition of women and expand their education, opposed untouchability, and challenged the rigid hereditary caste system. By advocating social equality, solidarity, self-respect and self-reliance, it helped nurture a growing spirit of nationalism and contributed to India's cultural revival. At the same time, its objective of preventing conversions led to a crusade against other religions, which unintentionally fostered communal tensions. Thus, while Dayanand's reforms strengthened Hindu society internally, they also revealed the complexities of building secular national unity in a religiously diverse country.*

## SCIENCE

### India's new telescopes are set to be a game-changer for astronomy

The Union Budget has approved the establishment of two new telescopes in Ladakh — the National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) and the National Large Optical–Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT) — along with the upgradation of the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT). This strengthens India's position as a major astronomy hub in the Global South.

The NLST, a 2-metre aperture solar telescope to be set up at Merak near Pangong Tso, will operate in visible and near-infrared wavelengths. It will study solar dynamics, magnetism, energetic solar events and space weather, which directly affect satellites and communication systems. It will become India's third ground-based solar observatory after the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory and the Udaipur Solar Observatory, complementing the space-based Aditya-L1 mission.

The NLOT, a 13.7-metre segmented-mirror telescope to be built at Hanle, will be among the world's largest optical-infrared telescopes. Ladakh's high altitude, cold and dry climate, and clear skies reduce atmospheric distortion, enabling advanced research on exoplanets, stellar and galactic evolution, supernovae, and the origins of the universe. India's experience in the Thirty Meter Telescope project will aid its development.

The upgraded HCT will support transient astronomy and complement global facilities such as LIGO-India and the Square Kilometre Array.

Together, these telescopes will enhance India's observational capabilities, scientific leadership, and access to high-priority global research opportunities.



### As the Arctic warms, threat of invasive plants looms

#### Climate change and Arctic Ecosystem

- A study in NeoBiota warns that climate warming may enable thousands of alien plant species to invade Arctic ecosystems, fundamentally transforming fragile polar ecologies.
- Researchers at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology identified 2,554 vascular plants capable of surviving in a warming Arctic; non-native species are already recorded in Svalbard.
- Earlier protection due to harsh climate and limited human activity is weakening because of rising temperatures and increased movement.
- Introduction pathways include escape from confinement and transport vectors.
- Findings imply accelerating biodiversity threats; notably, Antarctica remains the last mosquito-free continent.

The Arctic, long regarded as a symbol of climate change, is increasingly drawing attention not only for melting ice and “last-chance tourism” but also for emerging ecological threats. Traditionally characterised by tundra ecosystems comprising mosses, lichens and limited shrub vegetation, the region supports species such as snowy owls, Arctic foxes, grizzly bears, seals, walruses and belugas. However, a recent study published in NeoBiota indicates that climate warming may enable thousands of alien vascular plant species to establish themselves in the Arctic. Researchers identified 2,554 species capable of finding suitable climatic niches, with early evidence of non-native species already recorded in Svalbard.

Using data from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, scientists highlighted six potential hotspots for species introduction, including parts of Alaska, Greenland, Iceland and Fennoscandia. Historically, harsh climatic conditions and limited human activity acted as natural barriers. However, rising temperatures and increasing human presence are weakening these safeguards. The most common introduction pathways include escape from confinement (48%), transport-stowaway (37%), seed contaminants and vehicle transport, while 43% remain of unknown origin. The findings underscore growing biodiversity risks in polar ecosystems under changing climatic conditions.

**PRELIMS CORNER :**

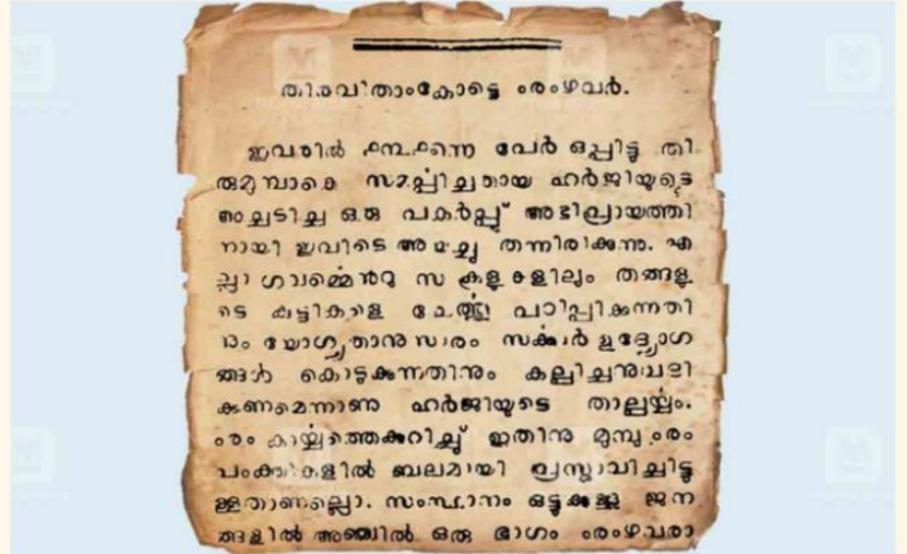
Q) Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley? (2018)

- (a) To maintain a large standing army at others expense
- (b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger
- (c) To secure a fixed income for the Company
- (d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States

2) The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were: (2018)

- (a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium
- (b) Sugar, salt, zinc and lead
- (c) Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea
- (d) Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

**Turning Point  
Ezhava Memorial**



The Ezhavas formed the largest community in the princely state of Travancore, yet they were subjected to severe caste discrimination and social ostracism. Classified by the Travancore Government as "Confirmed Social Inferiors," they were denied basic civic rights, access to education, and opportunities in public employment. Practices of untouchability and unapproachability were rigidly enforced, with extreme punishments imposed in the name of ritual defilement. A gradual shift began in the nineteenth century with the arrival of Christian missionaries, whose educational initiatives enabled sections of the oppressed communities to become literate and question entrenched hierarchies.

Inspired by the earlier Malayali Memorial, the Ezhavas of Malabar organised their own petition, known as the Ezhava Memorial. Under the leadership of Dr. Palpu, a prominent community reformer, a memorandum was submitted in 1896 to the Maharaja of Travancore. Addressed initially to the Dewan, S. Shankarasubba Iyer, the petition demanded equitable access to education and government employment. Although verbal assurances were given, implementation did not follow. In response, Dr. Palpu founded the Ezhava Mahajana Sabha, which mobilised community support; approximately 13,000 signatures were collected before the Memorial was formally presented.

The submission of the Ezhava Memorial marked a decisive moment in the community's assertion of rights and social dignity. Though the Maharaja Sree Mulam Thirunal did not act upon it, the agitation intensified political awareness in Travancore. Subsequent protests, including student movements against fee hikes in 1922, reflected the growing spirit of resistance among marginalised sections. The Ezhava Memorial thus heralded the dawn of organised socio-political awakening among the Ezhavas.

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# Prelims Corner: Explanations

## 1) Answer is option c

The Subsidiary Alliance, introduced by Lord Wellesley during his tenure as Governor-General of India (1798–1805), was a diplomatic and military strategy to establish British dominance over Indian princely states.:

1. (a) To maintain a large standing army at others' expense: This statement applies to the system of Subsidiary Alliance. Under the Subsidiary Alliance, Indian states had to maintain British troops at their expense. This reduced the financial burden on the British while ensuring the states became dependent on them for defense.

2. (b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger: This statement also applies to the system of Subsidiary Alliance. One of the stated justifications for the Subsidiary Alliance was to counter the potential threat of Napoleon Bonaparte, who was seen as a danger to British interests in India.

3. (c) To secure a fixed income for the Company: This statement does not apply to the system. The Subsidiary Alliance was not designed to directly generate a fixed income for the British East India Company. Instead, it aimed to establish control over Indian states and reduce their sovereignty. Revenue generation was not its primary objective.

4. (d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States: Applies to the system. • The primary aim of the Subsidiary Alliance was to make the princely states dependent on the British for their defense and administration, thereby ensuring British paramountcy and reducing the autonomy of Indian rulers.

## 2) Answer is option d

During the middle of the 18th century, Bengal was a major center of trade under the English East India Company. The staple commodities exported from Bengal were:

1. Cotton: Bengal produced fine cotton textiles, including muslin, which were highly sought after in European markets. The English East India Company exported these textiles in large quantities.

2. Silk: Bengal was also renowned for its silk production, which was exported to Europe. The high-quality raw silk from Bengal became an essential export item.

3. Saltpetre (potassium nitrate): Bengal's saltpetre was widely used in the production of gunpowder, which had great demand in Europe and other parts of the world.

4. Opium: The English East India Company encouraged the cultivation of opium in Bengal and Bihar for export, particularly to China, where it played a critical role in trade during the Opium Wars.

Spices were mainly exported from southern India, and tea became a significant export later in the 19th century. Bengal was not a major producer of copper, silver, or gold.



*Lord Wellesley concluded Subsidiary Treaties with the Nizam of Hyderabad (1798, 1800), who ceded territory in lieu of paying for subsidiary forces. In 1801, the Nawab of Awadh was compelled to sign a similar treaty, surrendering nearly half his kingdom, including Rohilkhand and the Doab region; his army was disbanded and British troops gained unrestricted stationing rights. Wellesley acted more sternly in Mysore, Carnatic, Tanjore and Surat*

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