



CURRENT AFFAIRS THIS WEEK

BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY

PM Modi Launches 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Bima Sakhi Yojana in **Panipat** on **December 09, 2024**, which aims to enhance education and empower women in the region.

Bima Sakhi Yojana Overview

The Bima Sakhi Yojana is a **new program by LIC, that targets women aged 18 to 70**. Eligible women must have completed Class X.

The scheme focuses on financial literacy and insurance awareness.

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University

In addition to the Bima Sakhi Yojana, Modi will lay the foundation stone for a new university—**The Maharana Pratap Horticultural University will be established in Panipat.**



JOIN NOW

Prime Minister's Beema Sakhi Scheme

It is being launched by the Honorable Prime Minister on 09.12.2024

LIC

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

GRAND OPENING

9 2024

The women are getting 7,000/- Every Month

(Commission + Pension + Gratuity + Rewards)

Government Job Opportunities in Future

Beema Sakhi Benefits

- Guaranteed income by a government agency
- National and International Recognition
- Full time, part time, other time
- Special training and awards

Uttar Pradesh Becomes First State to Fully Implement GEM

- ❑ **Uttar Pradesh became the first in India** to fully implement the central government's e-marketplace (GeM) system, which aims to eliminate **corruption and ensure fair competition among suppliers.**

GeM

- ❑ The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an **online platform for public procurement.**
- ❑ It aims to enhance transparency and efficiency in government purchasing processes across India.

ADVANTAGES OF GEM:

For Buyers	For Sellers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buying Goods and Services• online, as and when required.• Transparent and ease of buying• Continuous vendor rating system• Easy Return policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct access to all Government departments• One stop shop for marketing with minimal efforts• Dynamic pricing• Consistent and uniform purchase procedures

Michelle Bachelet Wins 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development

- ❖ **Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile,** has been awarded the **2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development,** by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- ❖ The jury, led by **Shivshankar Menon,** selected Bachelet for her outstanding contributions to human rights and equality.

Background of the Award

- ❖ The **Indira Gandhi Prize** was established in 1986 and is awarded annually to individuals or organizations that promote international peace and development.
- ❖ The prize includes a cash award of Rs 25 lakh and a citation.



India's First Sign Language TV Channel Launched

- ❖ India has recently launched its **first 24/7 television channel in sign language**, part of the **PM e-VIDYA program, named Channel 31**, which aims to support hearing-impaired students and educators.
- ❖ It is managed by the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**. The goal is to make education more inclusive.

Purpose of Channel 31

- ❖ Channel 31 provides educational resources in **Indian Sign Language (ISL)**, designed for school children, teachers, and other stakeholders.
- ❖ The channel covers various topics, including career guidance, skill training, and mental health, which promotes ISL as a language subject alongside Hindi and English.
- ❖ Content aligns with both **central and state school curricula**.

International Anti-Corruption Day Observed on December 09

- ❖ **International Anti-Corruption Day** is observed on **December 9th** and aims to raise awareness about corruption globally.
- ❖ In India, corruption remains an issue, which affects both the public and private sectors.

Legal Frameworks

- ❖ **The Right to Information Act (RTI)** was enacted in 2005, which empowers citizens to request information from government entities. This law enhances transparency and helps expose corruption.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2023

Top rankers			India and its neighbouring countries		
Country	Rank 2023 (Score)	Rank 2022 (Score)	Country	Rank 2023 (Score)	Rank 2022 (Score)
Denmark	1 (90)	1 (90)	India	93 (39)	85 (40)
Finland	2 (87)	2 (87)	China	76 (42)	65 (45)
New Zealand	3 (85)	2 (87)	Pakistan	133 (29)	140 (27)

India Surpasses \$1 Trillion in FDI

- ❑ India has achieved the milestone in **foreign direct investment (FDI)**, with inflows **surpassing \$1 trillion between April 2000 and September 2024**.

Major FDI Contributors

- ❖ **Mauritius leads with 25%** of total FDI. Singapore follows closely with 24%.
- ❖ Other contributors include the U.S. (10%), the Netherlands (7%), Japan (6%), and the U.K. (5%). The UAE, Germany, Cyprus, and the Cayman Islands each account for 2%.

What is FDI

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is when foreign entities invest in the assets, businesses, or **industries of another country**.

Components of FDI

- **Equity investment:** Ownership stakes in companies.
- **Reinvested earnings:** Profits reinvested back into the business.
- **Other capital:** Loans and financial support to subsidiaries.

Why FDI is Important for India

- **Economic Growth:** Provides capital for infrastructure and industrial development.
- **Employment Generation:** Expands job opportunities across sectors.
- **Technology Transfer:** Brings innovation and expertise.
- **Foreign Reserves:** Strengthens economic stability.

Human Rights Day 2024 Observed on December 10

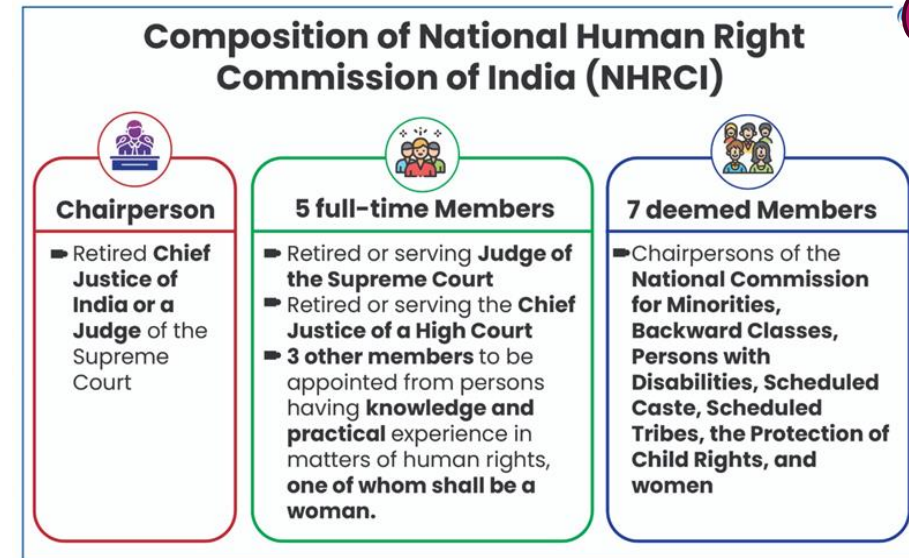
Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10, which commemorates the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**, adopted in 1948.

This year's theme is **Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now**, which emphasizes the practical importance of human rights.

Significance of the UDHR

The UDHR asserts that **all individuals are born free and equal, which guarantees rights to life, freedom, security, and equality before the law.**

It also upholds freedom of thought, conscience, religion, opinion, and expression. These principles are enshrined in **India's Constitution and the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.**



India's First Hyperloop Test Track Completed at IIT Madras

IIT Madras has completed a 410-meter Hyperloop test track, which was announced by **Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**.

The project involves collaboration between **the Railways, IIT Madras' Avishkar Hyperloop team, and TuTr, a startup from IIT Madras.**

Hyperloop Technology Overview

Hyperloop is a **proposed transportation system, that was first suggested by Elon Musk in 2012.**

The technology aims to provide high-speed travel in a vacuum-sealed environment. This design enhances speed and energy efficiency.

Travelling in a Tube

THE TECHNOLOGY

A capsule, with passengers, travels at speeds of more than **1200 KM/H** inside a vacuum tube

Vacuum tube has an area of **LOW PRESSURE INSIDE IT**

INDIA PLANS

Hyperloop can be built in India in **38 MONTHS**

Globally, **800 ENGINEERS** working on the Hyperloop, of which **25 ARE FROM INDIA**

It uses power from **RENEWABLE ENERGY** sources like solar energy, regenerative braking & wind power

These tubes stand on pylons that can **WITHSTAND** quakes & crashes



Who is Sanjay Malhotra, the next RBI Governor?

- ❖ **Sanjay Malhotra has been appointed as the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a three-year term, **succeeding Shaktikanta Das.**
- ❖ Malhotra has extensive experience in various sectors, including finance and taxation.
- ❖ Malhotra is an **Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1990 batch.**
- ❖ He graduated with a degree in **Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** and also holds a master's degree in Public Policy from Princeton University.



UN Champions of the Earth 2024 Announced

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently honoured six individuals and initiatives as **Champions of the Earth for 2024**, marking their contributions to environmental protection and sustainability.

Madhav Gadgil's Recognition

Madhav Gadgil, an esteemed ecologist from India, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

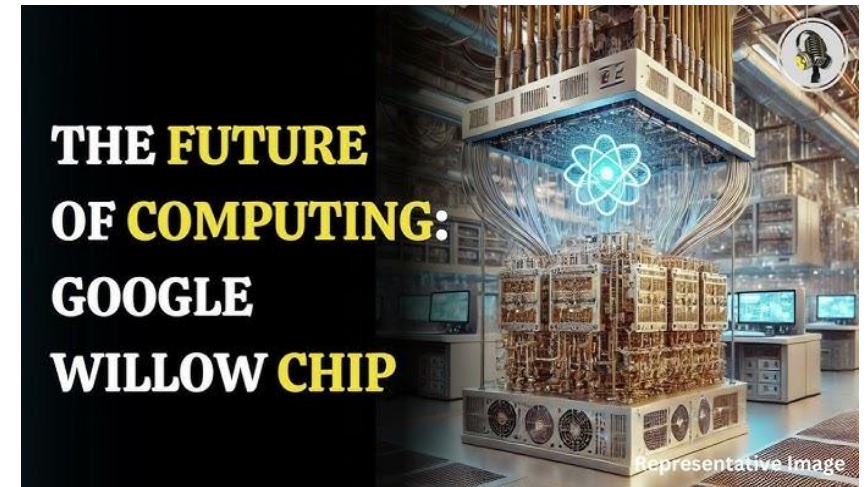
His work focuses on protecting biodiversity, particularly in the **Western Ghats**.

Gadgil has influenced public opinion and government policies through extensive research and community engagement.



Google Unveils Revolutionary Quantum Chip 'Willow'

- ❑ **Google** has launched its latest **quantum chip, Willow**, an advancement in **quantum computing technology**.
- ❑ Willow can solve complex problems in mere minutes and in contrast, the fastest supercomputer would take an unfathomable **10 septillion years for the same task, showcasing the transformative potential of quantum computing**.
- ❑ Quantum computing differs fundamentally from traditional computing. Regular computers use bits, **which represent either 0 or 1**.
- ❑ **Quantum computers utilize qubits**, which can represent both states simultaneously. This characteristic known as **superposition**, allows quantum computers to perform complex calculations at unprecedented speeds.



India Achieves Total Fertility Rate of 2.0

❖ India has reached a **Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.0**, which aligns with the goals of the **National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2017** and the **TFR target was set at 2.1**.

❖ The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Anupriya Patel**, announced this in the Rajya Sabha.

Mission Parivar Vikas

❖ **Mission Parivar Vikas is a key programme** focusing on family planning and aims to improve access to services in seven priority states and six Northeastern states.

❖ The initiative targets areas with high fertility rates.

51. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as :

- (a) the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.
- (b) the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.
- (c) the birth rate minus death rate.
- (d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

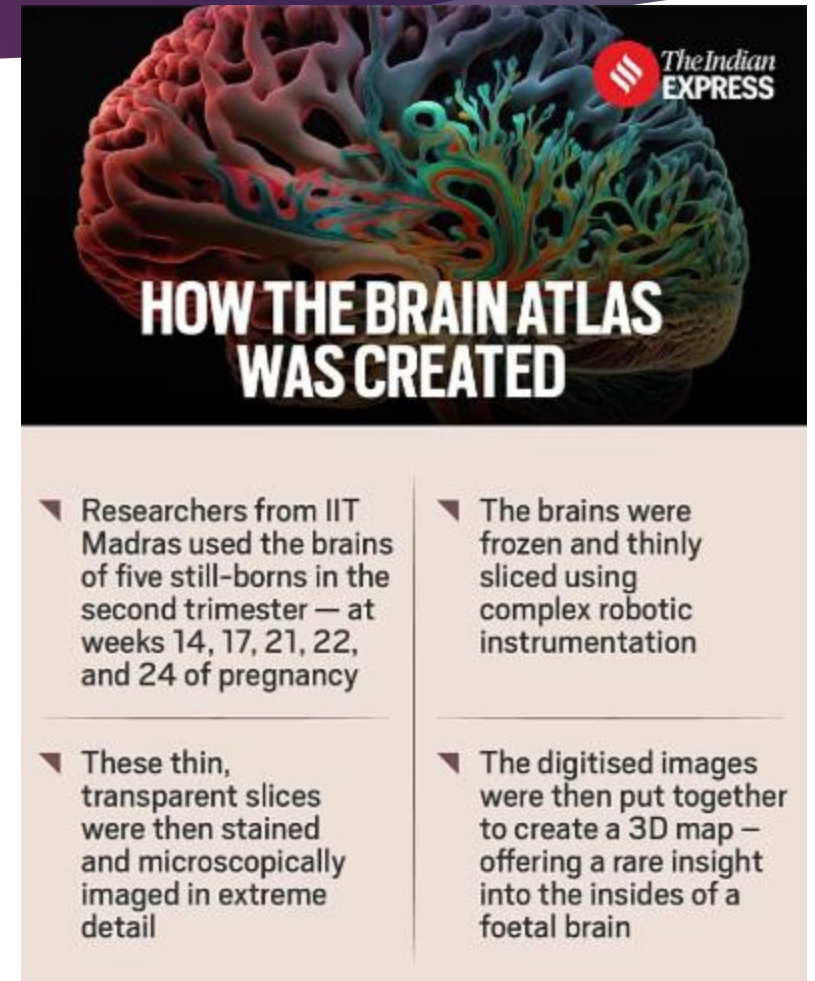
IIT Madras Unveils Detailed 3D Images of Human Foetal Brain

IIT Madras revealed advanced 3D images of the fetal brain from the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre, which marks a milestone in brain mapping technology.

India is now a global leader in neuroscience research and the project promises potential treatments for various brain-related health issues.

Importance of the Research

- ❖ **India sees around 25 million births** each year and fetal brain development is vital, which addresses developmental disorders like autism and learning disabilities.
- ❖ These insights are crucial for improving healthcare in India.



Voronezh Radar: India-Russia Radar Deal

- ❖ **India and Russia are finalising a defence agreement**, that involves installing **a Voronezh ballistic missile warning radar in Chitradurga**, Karnataka.
- ❖ The radar is valued at **approximately US\$4 billion, developed by Almaz-Antey**, this system enhances missile detection capabilities.

Voronezh Radar Overview

- ❖ The Voronezh radar system **detects ballistic missile launches, stealth aircraft, and space objects**, and employs phased array technology for rapid beam steering. It is compact, energy-efficient, and quicker to build.

India's Local Manufacturing Plans

India plans to manufacture at least 60 percent of the radar system locally. The project will be managed by the **Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) under DRDO**.

Elon Musk Reaches Historic \$400 Billion Net Worth

- ❖ **Elon Musk is the first person to achieve a net worth of \$400 billion**, a milestone driven by financial moves and political developments.
- ❖ **Musk sold shares of SpaceX**, which greatly increased his wealth, and the recent U.S. election results also played an important role in this financial surge.
- ❖ As a key supporter of Trump, Musk anticipated favorable policies for his companies. **Tesla's stock rose by 65% after the election.**



India to Launch 'Bharat Antariksha Station' by 2035

- ❖ The announcement of the '**Bharat Antariksha Station**' marks a milestone, and is expected to be operational by 2035.
- ❖ **An Indian astronaut is also anticipated to land on the moon by 2040**, which reflects India's growing capabilities in space technology.



Bharat Antariksha Station

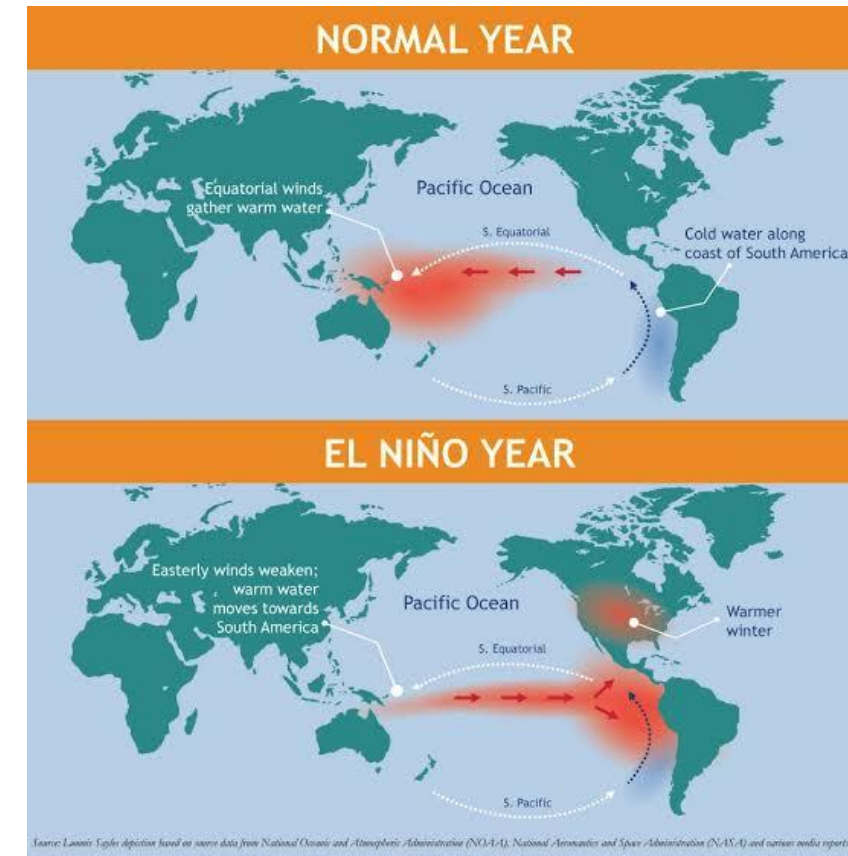
- ❖ The proposed space station aims to enhance India's presence in **low Earth orbit** and will support scientific research and international collaboration.
- ❖ The station's development will involve advanced technology and engineering. India seeks to establish itself as a major player in global space exploration.

WHO Predicts 55% Chance of La Niña Formation

- ❖ The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has reported the probability of La Niña developing soon, which leads to cooler ocean surface temperatures.
- ❖ However, current forecasts suggest that any cooling effects will be minimal.

What is La Niña?

- ❖ **La Niña is a climate pattern** characterized by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures in the **central and eastern Pacific Oceans**.
- ❖ It often influences global weather patterns. **La Niña can lead to increased rainfall in some regions and drought in others.**



Source: La Niña 1998 depiction based on source data from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and various media reports.

PAATHAI Initiative

- ❖ **The PAATHAI initiative was recently launched in Chennai** by Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Minister **Geeta Jeevan** and **aims to support first-time child offenders**, addressing their unique needs through a comprehensive approach.
- ❖ It is a collaborative effort between the Children Welfare and Special Services Department and PRISM, with a **budget of ₹40 lakh for a one-year pilot project** at the Government Observation Home in Chennai.
- ❖ **The primary objective of PAATHAI** is to provide mental health counselling and behavioural therapy to children. It focuses on rehabilitation and offers treatment for alcohol and drug addiction.



Sora: OpenAI Launches AI Video Generation Tool

- ❑ **OpenAI has introduced Sora**, a cutting-edge AI tool that transforms written commands into videos, marking advancement in text-to-video technology, allowing users to create imaginative content effortlessly.
- ❑ However, **OpenAI is prioritizing safety and ethical considerations** in its deployment.

Features of Sora

- ❑ Sora enables users to **generate videos based on textual descriptions**. Users can create various scenarios, from whimsical animations to more complex narratives.



First Mako Shark Tagged in Mediterranean Sea

- ❖ In a groundbreaking development, researchers from **Virginia Tech** tagged a young shortfin mako shark in the **Mediterranean Sea**, marking the first time this endangered species has been tagged in the region, which occurred during a **summer 2023 research trip focused on white sharks.**

Tagging Process

- ❖ The tagging team, led by PhD student Brendan Shea, encountered the young mako unexpectedly. They attached a pop-off archival tag to the shark.
- ❖ **This device records data on water temperature, depth, and light levels.** It detaches after a predetermined time or if the shark dives below 1,800 meters, sending data back to a satellite.



Mohammad al-Bashir, Syria's New Prime Minister?

- ❖ The Islamist group **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)** led the **offensive that forced Bashar al-Assad to flee**, resulting in the appointment of **Mohammad al-Bashir as the new head of a transitional government.**

Appointment of Mohammad al-Bashir

- ❖ **Mohammad al-Bashir** has been appointed as the prime minister of the transitional government and will maintain authority **until March 1, 2025.**
- ❖ Bashir previously led the rebel-controlled Salvation Government, which provided essential services in areas cut off from the Assad regime.



Gukesh Becomes Youngest Chess Champion Ever

- ❖ India's **D. Gukesh** achieved a historic milestone by winning the **2024 World Chess Championship** by defeating **China's Ding Liren**.
- ❖ **Gukesh** becoming the **youngest World Chess Champion at just 18 years old**. The final match was intense, showcasing both players' strategic prowess.
- ❖ The championship **match featured a total of 14 rounds**. Gukesh lost the initial game, which put him at a disadvantage. However, he showcased resilience and skill by drawing the series in the third round.



ESA's EnVision Mission to Study Venus

- ❖ The **European Space Agency (ESA)** has officially confirmed the **EnVision mission to explore Venus**, which aims to deepen our understanding of Earth's closest planetary neighbor.
- ❖ **Scheduled to launch in 2031**, EnVision will utilize advanced radar technology to penetrate Venus's harsh surface conditions.

Mission Overview

- ❖ EnVision is designed to be the **first mission that employs radar to investigate the subsurface of Venus**.
- ❖ The planning phase has concluded, and the spacecraft will be launched aboard an **Ariane 6 rocket**.
- ❖ This mission follows ESA's earlier **Venus Express mission, which operated from 2005 to 2014**.

U.S. Unveils Advanced Dark Eagle Missile System

The United States has developed an advanced anti-missile system named **Dark Eagle**, which is designed to intercept enemy missiles **mid-air**, showcasing **technological advancements in missile defence**.

Dark Eagle Features

Dark Eagle employs **medium-range missiles capable of launching at speeds reaching 20,826 km/h**, and incorporates a two-stage missile design, with one stage housing a hypersonic glide warhead.

The U.S. claims that Dark Eagle outperforms **Russia's S-300V4, S-400, and S-500** systems.

While these Russian systems can intercept certain missiles, they struggle against manoeuvrable hypersonic warheads.



One Nation, One Election Bill Approved

The Union Cabinet, under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has recently approved the **“One Nation, One Election” Bill**, which aims to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and local bodies in a single year.

The proposal has been objective for the ruling BJP, featured in their 2014 and 2019 manifestos. The bill will be introduced during the **ongoing Winter Session of Parliament**.

A panel led by former President **Ram Nath Kovind** has proposed a phased approach.

Reviving an old debate

Centre has said a committee has been formed to explore the possibility of simultaneous polls for LS and state assemblies

PANEL FORMED While the panel is likely going to be headed by former President **RAM NATH KOVIND**, its composition and the terms of its functioning will be announced soon

WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE IDEA

NITI AAYOG	STANDING COMMITTEE	LAW COMMISSION
<p>A 2016 paper, co-authored by Bibek Debroy and Kishore Desai, noted....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separate elections lead to massive recurring expenditures as well as prolonged deployment of forces• It suggested holding elections in two cycles with an interregnum of 30 months• It pegged cost of simultaneous polls at ₹4,500 crore, while the cost of 2014 Lok Sabha polls alone was ₹3,870 crore	<p>In 2015, the House panel on personnel, public grievances, law and justice said....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elections could be held in two phases• Polls to some assemblies can be held in Lok Sabha midterm and remaining assemblies could be held at the end of Lok Sabha term	<p>In 1999, the Law Commission in its 170th report on Reform of Electoral Laws said....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holding simultaneous polls would be ideal, but a workable formula is required to be in the Constitution• The holding of a separate election to assemblies should be an exception and not the rule• Another law panel report, in 2018, said simultaneous polls don't alter balance of power between Union and the states



Election for



Lok Sabha + All State Assemblies

together

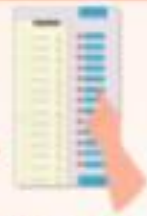


Voters will vote for LS and the state assemblies' elections on a single day, simultaneously (or in a phased manner, as the case may be).

Present Status of Elections in India



5 Years



Election Year 1

Election Year 2

Elections to the **State Assemblies** and the **Lok Sabha** are held separately, i.e., after the incumbent government's five-year term ends or when it is dissolved for various reasons.

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History of Simultaneous Elections in India

Lok Sabha + All State Assemblies

Together Elections

1952

The synchronized election cycle was first disrupted in **Kerala in July 1959** due to President's Rule.



1957

1968-1969

The premature dissolution of some LAs in 1968 and 1969 again disrupted the cycle of simultaneous election cycle.



1962

1967



Thank you

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