

**CURRENTLY - FROM NEWS TO NOTES**

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

## **The Hindu & The Indian express**

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| <b>Headline</b>                       | <b>Source</b>                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SIR 2.0 in 12 States                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Hindu, Pg 1</li><li>• GS2 – Polity   Electoral Reforms   Election Commission</li></ul>       |
| SC nod for MGNREGS resumption in W.B. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Hindu, Pg 3</li><li>• GS2 – Governance   Welfare Schemes   Right to Work</li></ul>           |
| Global race for science leadership    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Hindu, Pg 7 (Opinion)</li><li>• GS2/GS3 – IR   Science &amp; Tech   Global R&amp;D</li></ul> |



| Headline                        | Source                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Decline of Dogri language       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hindu, Pg 8</li> <li>• GS1 – Society   Culture   Language Diversity</li> </ul>                  |
| CIC vacancies to be filled soon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hindu, Pg 12</li> <li>• GS2 – Governance   Transparency   Statutory Bodies (RTI Act)</li> </ul> |
| RSF captures Sudan's El-Fasher  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hindu, Pg 14</li> <li>• GS2 – IR   Global Conflict   Africa (Sudan Crisis)</li> </ul>           |





# SIR 2.0 to begin in 12 States, U.T.s, cover 51 crore voters

EC says exercise will be held in poll-bound Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry; Assam, which votes next year, is not on list; Trinamool Congress and DMK have raised concerns

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Election Commission on Monday kicked off the second phase of the special intensive revision of voter lists in 12 States and Union Territories, including poll-bound Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry. The revision will cover 51 crore voters.

With the announcement of the second round, the voter lists of the States and Union Territories were set to be frozen from Monday midnight. For now, there will be no SIR in Assam, scheduled to go to the polls next year, and a separate order will be issued later.

“Under the Citizenship Act, there are separate provisions for citizenship in Assam. Under the supervision of the Supreme Court,

## Rolls revision

Phase 2 of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls will be held between November 2025 and February 2026 across 12 States and Union Territories, covering 51 crore voters

the exercise of checking citizenship is about to be completed. The June 24 SIR order was for the entire country. Under such circumstances, this would not have applied to Assam,” Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

The first phase of SIR was held in Bihar.  
FILE PHOTO



### TIMELINE

- Enumeration start: November 4, 2025
- Enumeration end: December 4, 2025

- Draft electoral rolls release: December 9, 2025
- Final electoral rolls publication: February 7, 2026

**UNION TERRITORIES:**  
Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry

**STATES:**  
Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, T.N., U.P., Bengal

### DOCUMENT PROCESS

- No documents are to be collected from electors during the enumeration phase
- For electors who have not returned enumeration forms, the booth-level officer may identify a probable cause, such as death or duplication based on an enquiry from nearby electors and note the same
- These names will be displayed on boards of all panchayat and urban local body offices

said at press conference.

The exercise will be in focus in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where the ruling parties – the Trinamool Congress and DMK – have raised concerns. The SIR will be conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10  
**EDITORIAL**  
» PAGE 6

**SIR 2.0 to begin in 12 States, UTs, cover 51 crore voters**

Source: The Hindu; Page No.: 1

GS Paper: GS Paper 2 – Polity (Election Commission, Electoral Reforms, Governance)

## Why in News

The Election Commission (EC) has launched the second phase of Special Intensive Revision (SIR 2.0) of voter lists across 12 States and Union Territories, including poll-bound Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry, covering 51 crore voters. However, Assam is excluded from this round due to its upcoming Assembly elections and ongoing citizenship verification processes.

## Special Intensive Revision (SIR):

Special Intensive Revision is a large-scale, detailed process undertaken by the Election Commission of India to update and verify electoral rolls beyond the usual annual summary revision

It ensures that:

- All eligible citizens are enrolled.
- Duplicate or ineligible entries (death, migration, etc.) are removed.
- Electoral rolls remain accurate and up to date



# W.B. workers' unions, parties welcome apex court order on resumption of MGNREGS

Union of agricultural workers says Supreme Court order marks a decisive victory for the State's rural workers and a resounding affirmation that the Right to Work cannot be denied or delayed

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
KOLKATA

**A**gricultural workers' unions and political parties in West Bengal on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court order dismissing a petition filed by the Central government, challenging an order of the Calcutta High Court directing the prospective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the State from August 1 this year.

The 100-day scheme was put on hold in the



**In distress:** There were about 70 lakh MGNREGS job card holders in West Bengal when the scheme was stopped in 2022. FILE PHOTO

State from 2022 over allegations of financial irregularities in implementation.

"Although the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court had directed that the 100 days' work must resume from August 1, neither the Cen-

tral nor the State government took any steps to comply [with it]. Today's dismissal by the Supreme Court marks a decisive victory for Bengal's rural workers and a resounding affirmation that the Right

to Work cannot be denied or delayed," a statement by Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS) said.

The ruling Trinamool Congress also welcomed the apex court order and said it is a "historic victory" for the people of Bengal who refused to "bow down before Delhi's arrogance and injustice".

CPI(M) State secretary Md. Salim, while welcoming the order, alleged that the delay in resumption of the work under MGNREGS is an example of "setting (tacit understanding)" between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress.

W.B. workers' unions, parties welcome apex court order on resumption of MGNREGS

Source: The Hindu; Page No : 3

Scheme Focus: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

## Why in News

- The Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed by the Central Government challenging a Calcutta High Court order that directed the implementation of MGNREGS in West Bengal from August 1, 2025.
- The Central Government had halted the scheme in West Bengal since 2022, citing financial irregularities.
- The Supreme Court's order is seen as a victory for rural workers and a strong reaffirmation that the Right to Work cannot be denied or delayed.
- The Supreme Court dismissal now makes implementation mandatory, reinforcing the constitutional and legal guarantee of work under MGNREGS





### The race for global leadership in science

**T**he Trump administration is recurrently cutting basic research funding and disrupting the U.S. science and technology (S&T) system as never before. More than 1,000 grants were terminated between January 20 and March 2025 at three government agencies. The National Cancer Institute funding is down by 31%; the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by 21%; the National Science Foundation by 9%; and even NASA was not spared. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law on July 4, calls for a 56% cut to the current \$9 billion NSF budget and a 73% reduction in staff and fellowships. The Environmental Protection Agency is being pruned drastically. Across the S&T system, about 4,000 research grants have been cancelled, according to *Nature* (June 25, 2025).

The mRNA vaccine programme, which won a Nobel Prize in 2023, faces a \$500 million cut along with 22 more vaccine projects. USAID faces shutdown, eliminating programmes for HIV, TB, and malaria in Africa, while funding for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization has been withdrawn. These actions threaten fundamental research and weaken the pipeline of cutting-edge innovation. The U.S., once the leading magnet for global talent, is experiencing brain drain.

#### Brain drain

An anthropologist studying the impact of floods and cyclones on public health in Madagascar is leaving Johns Hopkins for Oxford after her fellowship was withdrawn. Another senior researcher at Ohio State University abandoned a clinical trial after NIH terminated funding (*The Guardian*, July 20, 2025). The National Association of Foreign Student Advisors reported in August a massive decline in international students – 1,50,000 fewer this fall. This represents a \$7 billion revenue loss and 60,000 jobs (*Forbes*, August 3, 2025). Since 2018, the 'China Initiative'



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has pushed thousands of Chinese scientists to return home to leading universities and institutes. European scientists are also leaving Ivy League universities (*Nature*, May 13, 2025).

In contrast, China has steadily increased science, technology, and innovation (STI) investments over the past two decades, making strategic, long-term commitments to frontier research. China's research output – both in quantity and quality – has surged across biosciences, chemistry, physical sciences, earth and environmental sciences, and health sciences, while Western institutions slid down in the *Nature Index Research Leaders Rankings* ending December 31, 2024. Of the top 10 universities globally, eight are Chinese. The highest ranking was led by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, ranked above Harvard University. The only European institution is the Max Planck Society in Germany (*Nature*, July 24, 2025).

Since the mid-1990s, higher education policies such as Project 211, Project 985, and the C9 League have enhanced research intensity and teaching quality. By 2015, China had about a dozen world-class universities, many of which now compete with top Western institutions. "China's contribution to world-class science is advancing so quickly that its lead over the U.S. in the *Nature Index* database has multiplied more than fourfold in just one year, based on 2024 data," said an article in *Nature*. Data from Clarivate Analytics also show that between 2018 and 2020, China produced 27.2% of the world's top 1% most-cited papers, compared to the U.S.'s 24.9% (*The Guardian*, August 11, 2022).

#### China's further rise

Most scientometric analyses predict China will surge further ahead in the coming years. One area of clear leadership is AI. Stanford University's *AI Index Report 2023* found that China accounted for nearly 40% of all AI publications in 2021, far exceeding

Europe and the U.K. (15%) and the U.S. (10%). Chinese papers also represented 29% of global AI citations in 2021, ahead of Europe and the U.K. (21.5%) and the U.S. (15%) (*Nature*, August 10, 2023).

In terms of gross domestic expenditure on R&D, in 2023, the U.S. spent \$823.4 billion, compared to China's \$780.7 billion. However, China's R&D spending is growing at 8.7% annually – far faster than the U.S. (1.7%), the EU (1.6%), Germany (0.8%), and France (-0.5%), according to OECD data. While the administration systematically cuts budgets across U.S. universities, research institutions, and the NSF, Chinese leadership has launched sweeping STI programmes to reinforce its R&D base in frontier sciences. As the Made in China 2025 programme concludes, the Medium- and Long-Term Plan for the Development of Science and Technology (2021-2035) and the Science and Technology Innovation Mega Program (2030) target strategic fields such as quantum research, AI, and semiconductors, aiming to secure China's position as a global science and technology powerhouse.

China is also poised to expand the share of basic research within its GERD. Current levels of about 7% are expected to rise towards the U.S. benchmark of 20% in the next few years. If present trends continue, China is likely within 2-3 years to surpass the U.S. not only as the world's largest R&D spender but also as its leading science and technology nation.

For decades after World War II, the U.S. was the global leader in science and innovation, home to world-class universities and pioneering breakthroughs. Today, however, the rapid erosion of public investment in R&D and higher education threatens that position. If the current trajectory holds, China's rise – driven by consistent, large-scale funding and coordinated policy – may outpace the U.S., reshaping the global innovation landscape and the geopolitical balance of the 21st century.

### The Race for Global Leadership in Science

source: The Hindu | Page No : 7

GS Paper: GS2 / GS3 – Governance | Science & Tech | IR

### Why in News :

- The article compares U.S. decline and China's rise in global scientific leadership due to contrasting approaches in funding, policy, and R&D investment.

### Summary

#### 1. U.S. Setback in S&T:

- Over 1,000 research grants terminated (Jan 2020-Mar 2025).
- Cuts: NIH -21%, NSF -65%, NCI -31%.
- 4,000 projects cancelled, EPA budget reduced.
- Brain drain rising; 1.5 lakh fewer foreign students, \$7 bn loss.

#### 2. China's Steady Rise:

- Continuous STI push via Project 211, 985 & C9 League.
- China's scientific output quadrupled since 2004.
- 8 of world's top 10 universities (Nature Index, 2024) are Chinese.
- 27.2% of world's top-cited papers vs U.S. 24.9% (2020-23).





### 3. R&D Expenditure (2023):

- U.S.: \$823.4 billion
- China: \$780.7 billion
- Growth rate: China 8.7%, U.S. 1.7%.
- China's basic research share  $\rightarrow$  7%, projected to reach 20% (U.S. level) soon.



# Is the Dogri language losing resonance in India?

Is the Dogri language declining at the same rate across rural and urban landscapes in the Jammu region?

**Rohan Qurashi**  
**Heena Chaudhary**

## The story so far:

**H**uman society is rapidly moving towards the extinction of its linguistic heritage. According to one report by UNESCO, India has topped the list of countries with the maximum number of dialects on the verge of extinction. According to D.G Rao, former Director of the Central Institute of Languages, India has lost over 220 languages in the last 50 years.

## Is Dogri in decline?

In recent years, growing concern has emerged over the gradual decline of the Dogri language in the Jammu region. <sup>①</sup>Globalisation, <sup>②</sup>migration, and the <sup>③</sup>pursuit of economic opportunity often encourage speakers to prioritise widely used languages, while regional ones fade into

<sup>④</sup>disuse. <sup>⑤</sup>Political choices and a lack of active interest among native speakers further deepen this crisis. Against this backdrop, Dogri finds itself at a crossroads. Although the J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020 gave it the long-overdue recognition as one of the Union Territory's five official languages, its status on paper has not translated into meaningful presence on the ground. Unlike other regional languages that have secured space in school curricula or administrative use, Dogri remains largely absent from formal education.

## Why is Dogri not being spoken?

The decline of Dogri in the Jammu region can be looked at through three critical lenses – government policy, generational perspectives, and the rural-urban divide.

One of the central reasons for the decline of Dogri lies in the absence of sustained government support. Unlike Urdu, Kashmiri, and Hindi, Dogri had to

wait until 2003 for constitutional recognition. This long delay meant that by the time Dogri gained official status, it had already fallen behind in terms of institutional backing and visibility. A survey conducted by the authors further underscores this policy gap. The research employed a random sampling method, selecting households at intervals of three to four units to ensure representativeness. The sample was distributed across 20 different locations in the Jammu region; 130 people filled the survey form completely.

Nearly half of the respondents (48%) from the Jammu region believe that the government has failed to provide adequate policy support for Dogri. Another 43.2% felt that the language offers little relevance for employment prospects or career advancement. Additionally, the survey revealed a stark generational divide in Dogri proficiency. The oldest respondents, those aged 60

and above, displayed the strongest connection to the language, with full proficiency in speaking and an intermediate score in reading and writing. However, among respondents aged 41-60, writing proficiency dropped sharply to just 0.25%, reflecting the gradual erosion of literacy in the language. Respondents under 20 years of age show 0% proficiency in reading and writing Dogri.

The survey also revealed a striking contrast between rural and urban populations in terms of Dogri language usage. Approximately 56% of respondents from rural areas actively speak Dogri, with around 15% demonstrating the ability to write it. In contrast, among urban respondents, only 45% reported speaking Dogri, and only 4% had any proficiency in writing it.

## What is the way ahead?

To address India's linguistic crisis, two challenges must be addressed. First is technical – with the 2021 Census on hold, one lacks updated data on how many languages are endangered, and where urgent intervention is needed. Without this knowledge, both awareness and policy remain adrift. Secondly, one must shed the mindset that equates English alone with progress. The decolonisation of linguistics is the larger task at hand.

*Rohan Qurashi is a research student at St. Stephen's College, Delhi. Heena Chaudhary is a Phd scholar.*



## **Is the Dogri Language Losing Resonance in India?**

**The Hindu | Page No : 8**

**GS Paper: GS1 – Indian Society | Art & Culture**

### **Why in News:**

- **Concern over the decline of Dogri language in the Jammu region, despite its official recognition under J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020.**
- **Surveys show sharp fall in usage and literacy, especially among youth and urban populations.**

### **Reasons for Decline**

1. **Globalisation & Migration – Shift to Hindi and English for jobs and mobility.**
2. **Policy Neglect – Late recognition (2003), weak institutional and educational support.**
3. **Generational Gap – Young speakers show zero proficiency in reading/writing Dogri.**
4. **Urban-Rural Divide – Rural: 56% speak; Urban: only 45%, 4% can write.**
5. **Lack of Active Promotion – Minimal government and community efforts for revival.**





## CIC appointments in 'two or three' weeks, Centre tells top court

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Monday that vacancies in the Central Information Commission (CIC), which has no Chief Information Commissioner and is down to just two Information Commissioners out of a total sanctioned strength of 10, will be filled in "two or three" weeks.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj said the shortlisted names of candidates had been forwarded to the high-profile selection committee of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and a nominee of the government. However, petitioners, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, countered that there was a complete information blackout on the appointment process to the Central Information Commission, and "names are air-dropped without any transparency".

Mr. Bhushan, appearing for Anjali Bhardwaj, Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd.) and Amrita Johri, said it was an irony that the appointments to the very apex body under the Right

**Petitioners said there was a complete information blackout on the appointment process**

to Information (RTI) Act were shrouded in opacity while pendency was touching 30,000.

He said even the Chief Information Commissioner had retired. Nothing had been done since the last order of the Supreme Court 10 months ago, directing the government to fill the vacancies. He said the government was applying the slow-choke to RTI.

"The best way to kill the RTI is to not make any appointments... If they do make appointments, they select persons out of the blue. Names are just air-dropped. There is no information on who is being appointed," Mr. Bhushan, along with advocates Rahul Gupta and Cheryl D'souza, submitted.

Mr. Nataraj said the petitioners could not decide the suitability of the candidates, and their eligibility was decided by the RTI Act.

He said the petitioners ought to wait till the appointments were actually made before complaining.

## CIC Appointments in 'Two or Three Weeks,' Centre Tells Top Court

Source: The Hindu | Page No : 12

Topic: Central Information Commission (CIC) GS2 – Governance | Transparency & Accountability

### Why in News:

- Centre informed Supreme Court that vacancies in the Central Information Commission, including the Chief Information Commissioner, will be filled in 2-3 weeks.
- CIC currently has only 2 members out of 10 sanctioned posts.
- Petitioners alleged opacity in appointments and 30,000 pending RTI cases due to delays.

**CIC & ICs- Basics Established under: Right to Information Act, 2005 (Statutory Body).**

**Composition: 1 Chief + up to 10 Information Commissioners. Appointing Authority: President of India. Selection Committee:**

- Prime Minister (Chair)
- Leader of Opposition (Lok Sabha)
- Union Cabinet Minister (nominated by PM).

**Tenure: 3 years or up to 65 years (whichever earlier). Reappointment: Not allowed. Salary: Same as Election Commissioners. Function: Hears RTI appeals, ensures transparency, imposes penalties on defaulting officials.**





## Civilians trapped in Sudan's El-Fasher as RSF 'takes' city

Agence France-Presse  
PORT SUDAN

Thousands of civilians remained trapped in Sudan's stricken city of El-Fasher, with fears growing for their safety, the United Nations and local groups said on Monday, after paramilitary forces claimed control of the Army's last stronghold in the western Darfur region.

Since May 2024, El-Fasher has been besieged by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who have been fighting a brutal war with Sudan's Army for over two years.

Footage shared by pro-democracy activists on Monday purportedly showed dozens of people lying dead on the ground alongside burned-out vehicles.

The Sudanese Journal-



**Territorial gains:** RSF fighters holding weapons celebrate on the streets of El-Fasher in Sudan's Darfur, AFP

ists' Syndicate says communications, including satellite networks, have been cut off by a media blackout in the city. The syndicate expressed "deep concern for the safety of journalists" in El-Fasher.

The RSF said on Sunday they had seized control of the city. If confirmed, the city's capture would mark a significant turning point

in Sudan's war.

It would give the RSF control over all five state capitals in Darfur, consolidating its parallel administration in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur.

Such a shift could potentially partition Sudan, with the Army holding the north, east and centre, and the RSF dominating Darfur and parts of the south.

### Civilians Trapped in Sudan's El-Fasher as RSF 'Takes' City

Source: The Hindu; Page No : 12 Places in News

#### Why in News:

- Paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) claimed control of El-Fasher, the Sudanese Army's last stronghold in western Darfur, trapping thousands of civilians.
- The UN and local groups warned of a humanitarian crisis and media blackout as the RSF consolidates power.

#### Key Points

- **Conflict:** RSF vs Sudanese Army – ongoing civil war for over two years (since April 2023).
- **Strategic importance:** El-Fasher is the last Army-held city in Darfur; its fall marks a turning point in the war.





