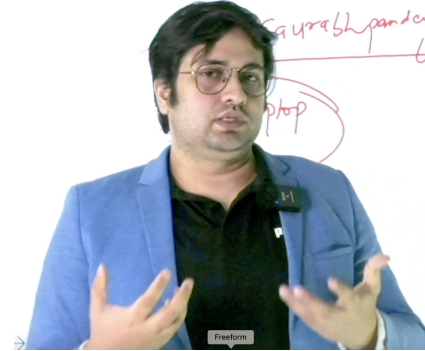


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- **Supreme Court Ruling on POCSO Act**
- **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)**
- **Robotic Mules and High-Altitude Technologies in the Army**
- **Mysterious Seismic Event and Its Origins**
- **Rhinoceros Population and Conservation Challenges**
- **India-China Relations and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**
- **Mains**



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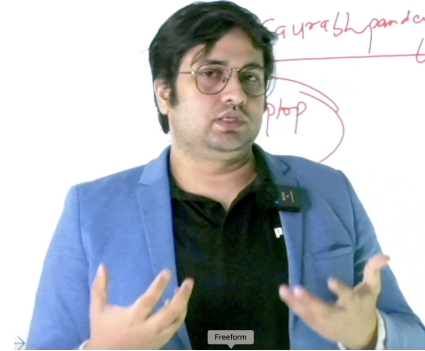
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- **Export of Defence Equipment to Israel and International Law**
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**
- **Indian Transportation Revolution**
- **California Deepfake Bill**
- **Ocean Acidification and Its Impact on Marine Life**
- **Mains**



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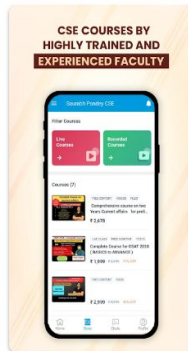
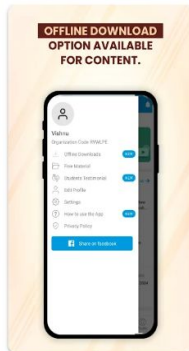
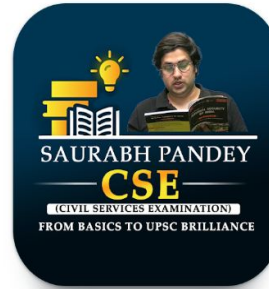
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## Topic → Supreme Court Ruling on POCSO Act

### Overview of the Ruling

The Supreme Court's decision on child exploitation materials. Criminal liability for viewing, downloading, storing, and distributing material under POCSO Act and IT Act.

The ruling emphasizes that any interaction with child sexual exploitative material is a crime.

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## **Key Points of the Verdict**

Judges Involved: Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice J.B. Pardiwala.

Background: Appeal by Just Right for Children Alliance against Madras High Court's ruling.

High Court's Mistake: Concluded that private viewing/downloading was not a crime.

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# Groundbreaking judgment

The verdict was based on an appeal filed by Just Right for Children Alliance against a Madras High Court ruling that said mere possession of pornographic material was not an offence under POCSO Act


## What the SC said:

- Sexual act is only the beginning of a child's victimisation

- CSEAM and actual act of abuse share a common, malevolent intent: the exploitation and degradation of a child

- Keeping such material without deleting them amounted to 'possession' or even intent to transmit them to others

- A person is accountable if at any point of time he/she had an invariable degree of power and knowledge to control, modify, or destroy the material

 Any visual depiction of a sexually explicit act which any ordinary person of a prudent mind would reasonably believe to *prima facie* depict a child or appear to involve a child, would be deemed as 'child pornography' for the purposes of the POCSO

**SUPREME COURT**



# Topic → Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)

## Overview

Definition: A law granting special powers to the armed forces in areas designated as "disturbed."

Purpose: To maintain public order in regions affected by insurgency or terrorism.

## Key Features

Special Powers:

- Arrest without warrant

- Search without warrant

- Use of force, including lethal force, under certain conditions

Duration: Initially enforced for six months, subject to renewal.\_\_\_\_\_

## **Current Status**

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Recent Extensions:

Extended in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Ongoing presence in Jammu & Kashmir.

Revocation Discussions:

Government considering withdrawal in certain regions, especially Jammu & Kashmir.

## **Controversies**

Human Rights Concerns:

Allegations of abuses by armed forces.

Ongoing public protests and campaigns for repeal.

Notable Movements:

From Sharmila's hunger strike against AFSPA.

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## Regional Impact

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Northeast India:

Strong opposition from local communities.

Ongoing debates about the law's relevance and necessity.

Comparative Analysis:

Similar laws in other countries and their implications.

## Future Prospects

Possible Reforms:

Amendments to the act for better oversight.

Enhanced accountability for armed forces.

Public Sentiment:

Growing calls for transparency and accountability.

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## Overview of Innovations

### Robotic Mules

Inducted: 100 units

Capabilities:

All-weather operation

Payload: 15 kg

Terrain adaptability: Steep hills, water crossings

Durability: Operates in extreme temperatures (-40°C to 55°C)

### Logistics Drones

Undergoing trials for support and movement

Aim: Streamline logistics in high-altitude areas

### High-Altitude Tents

New design for temperatures up to -40°C

Evaluation in extreme environments

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## Context and Background

### Emergency Procurements (EP)

Fourth tranche completed by September 2023

Contract value: Up to ₹300 crore

Delivery timeline: Within one year

### Need for Technological Innovations

Driven by the 2020 standoff with China

Focus on functions for high altitude

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## Military Operations

Adaptation to unstructured environments

Enhanced last-mile connectivity for troops

## Field Trials

Products evaluated at:

Leh (11,500 feet)

Daulat Beg Oldie (16,700 feet)

Durbuk (12,500 feet)

## Future Developments

Continuous evaluation and adaptation of technologies

Emphasis on extreme weather capabilities

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# Topic → **Mysterious Seismic Event and Its Origins**



## Overview of the Event

Date Detected: September 16, 2023

Duration: Lasted for 9 days 

Magnitude: Not caused by typical earthquakes

Detection: Noted by seismic stations globally 

The bizarre signal was identified by seismologists as having a single frequency, unlike typical earthquake tremors which have multiple frequencies.



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## Causes of the Signal

Initial Classification:

Identified as an unclassified seismic object (USO)



Potential Triggers:


Massive landslide in Dickson Fjord, Greenland  
Possible causes included volcano eruptions or  
nuclear tests

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# Research Collaboration

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Team Composition: 68 researchers from 40 universities across 15 countries 

Data Used:

Seismic data

Satellite imagery

In-fjord water level monitors 

Bathymetric maps

**Key Findings**

Nature of Waves:

Seismic waves had only one frequency

Reverberations faded slower than expected from earthquake vibrations

Research Process: \_\_\_\_\_

Required extensive collaboration and data gathering over a year

# Fjords and Mega-Tsunamis

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**Fjord Definition:** Geological structure formed by glaciers eroding a valley below sea level.

**Formation Process:** U-shaped channels surrounded by high cliffs or hills.

**Event Trigger:** Collapse of Hvide Støvhorn peak leading to rock-ice avalanche and mega-tsunami. A mega-tsunami generated by a rockslide displaced enough water to create waves reaching heights of 200 meters, impacting the fjord and surrounding areas.

## Key Concepts

**Mega-Tsunami:** Massive wave caused by displacement of a large volume of water.

**Seiche:** Oscillation of water in a confined space (like a fjord), leading to wave patterns.

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## **Impact of the Mega-Tsunami**

Damage: Affected the research facility on Ella Island and local archaeological sites.

Wave Dynamics: In a confined fjord, waves reflect and amplify, reaching almost 110 meters.

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## Research and Findings

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**Seismic Activity:** The tsunami caused earth vibrations detectable globally for nine days.

**Satellite Data:** Indicated rapid glacial melting leading to increased landslide risks.

## Future Implications

**Climate Change:** Warns of increasing frequency and scale of such events due to global warming.




**Environmental Impact:** Exposed rock surfaces absorb more heat, accelerating ice melting.

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# Topic → Rhinoceros Population and Conservation Challenges



## Overview of Rhinoceros Population

-  Population Increase: White rhinos rose from 15,942 in 2022 to 17,464 in 2023.
-  Subspecies Status: Black and greater one-horned rhinos remain unchanged.
-  Northern White Rhino: Technically extinct; only 2 females in conservancy.

### Report Highlights:

Total of 28,000 rhinos left globally, down from 500,000 in the 20th century.


586 rhinos killed in 2023, primarily in South Africa.


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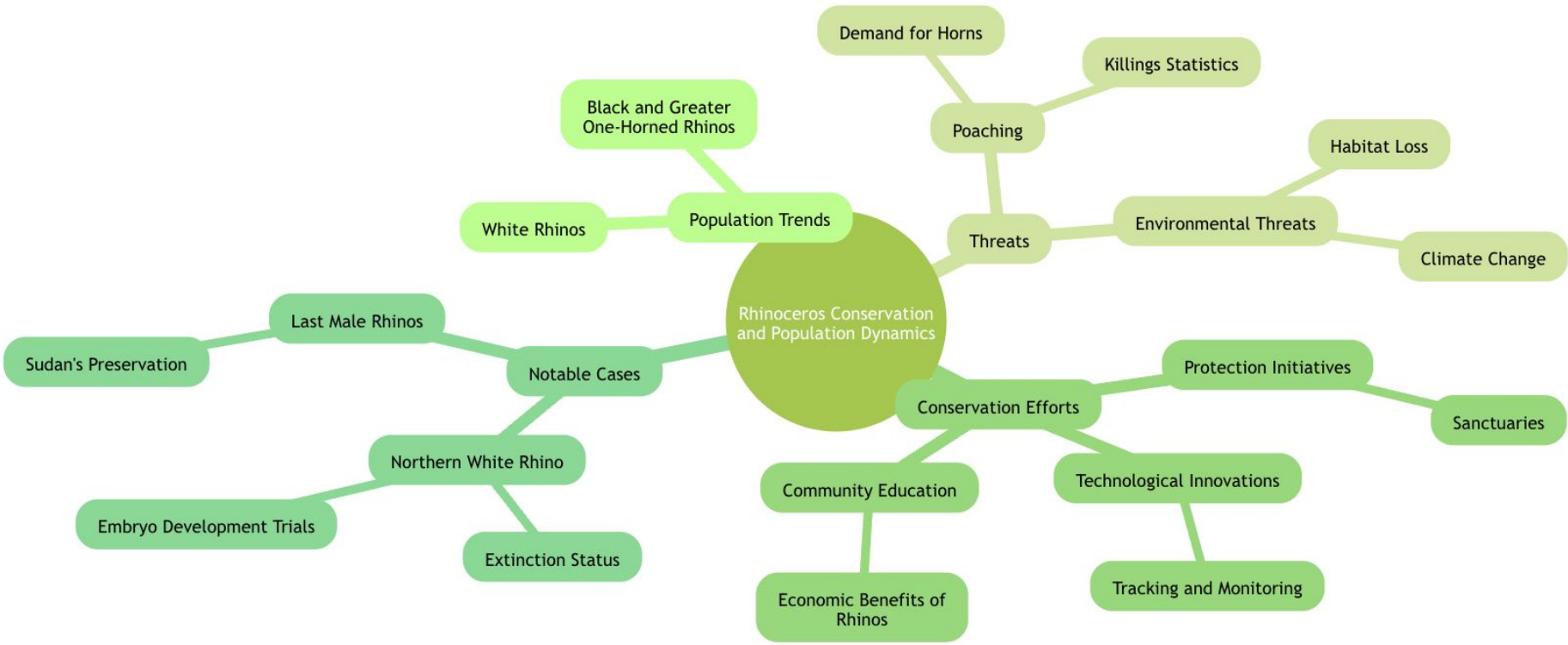
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## Poaching and Threats

 Poaching: Major threat fueled by demand for rhino horns.

 Environmental Threats: Habitat loss & climate change impacting populations.

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# Topic → India-China Relations and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

## Overview

Current Situation: Speculation on thawing relations between India and China.

Key Developments: Discussions on liberalizing FDI from China.

Policy Shift: Departure from linking border issues with FDI policies.

Key Figures: Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval.

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## Key Issues

Disengagement Problems: 75% resolved, but militarization remains a concern.

Border Negotiations: No breakthroughs in Depsang Plains and Demchok.

Restoration of Peace: Unclear parameters for normalizing relations.

Access Issues: Indian forces unable to patrol 15 traditional points in Ladakh.

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## Overview

**National Security:** The Economic Survey 2024 suggests India integrate into China's supply chains through investments.

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Viewed as a solution for India's investment gaps.

**Complex Dynamics:** Ignoring the intricate relationship between India and China and the need for economic de-risking.

Economic integration with China poses significant risks and questionable benefits.

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## China's Demands

Dialogue Dynamics: Chinese officials expect India to adapt to altered realities.

Key Demands:

- Level playing field for Chinese firms.

- Visa facilitation.

- Resumption of direct flights.

- Allowing Chinese journalists in India.

India's Position: These demands are symptoms of deeper issues that require resolution.

China's demands reflect an unwillingness to address fundamental relationship challenges.

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# Trade Imbalance

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Bilateral Trade Deficit: Exceeded \$105 billion in 2023.

Export Decline: Indian exports to China dropped from \$23 billion in 2021 to \$16 billion in 2023.

Dependency Concerns: Lack of improvement in critical sectors leads to vulnerabilities.

India's trade deficit highlights the risks of over-dependence on China.

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## **Global Context**

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Securitization: Both the West and China are diversifying their economies.

Investment Alternatives: India is perceived as a potential alternative investment destination.

Market Economy Status: China is not classified as a market economy, complicating relations.

China's non-market economy status raises concerns for foreign investors.

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## China's Strategic Objectives

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**Domestic Value Chains:** China aims to maximize local production and minimize foreign reliance.

**Investment Scrutiny:** Enhanced scrutiny on outward flows of investment and technology.

**Manufacturing Capacity:** China's investments in India may not contribute to local manufacturing growth.

Expecting China to aid India's manufacturing capacities is misguided.

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## Conclusion

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Integration Risks: Closer ties with China could deter global companies from investing in India.

Historical Context: Past experiences indicate that reliance on Chinese investments does not reduce imports from China.

Strategic, security, and economic considerations must guide India's approach towards China.

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## Topic → Export of Defence Equipment to Israel and International Law

### Context & Background

Supreme Court of India dismissed a PIL to stop arms exports to Israel.

The court cited foreign policy is not within its jurisdiction.

The issue is broader, impacting India's defence export aspirations.

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# Key Points

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## Global Context

Other nations (e.g., Netherlands, UK) have halted arms exports to Israel.

Actions taken based on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) risks.

## Legal Framework in India

No equivalent of UK's Export Control Act.

Indian laws (FTA, WMDA) empower government to regulate defence exports.

Central government can prohibit exports based on international obligations.

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## Legal Gap

India's laws lack mandatory compliance assessment for IHL before arms export.

Current legal framework does not require reviewing recipient country's IHL adherence.

## Judicial Precedents

Supreme Court has previously utilized international law to shape domestic law.

Need to address the issue legally rather than framing it solely as foreign policy.

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## International Law on Arms Trade

Importance of understanding how international law binds India.  
International treaties and conventions related to arms trade.  
Potential implications for India's defence export policies.

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# International Law and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

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## Overview

### Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

Regulates international trade in conventional arms 


Article 6(3): Bars countries from supplying arms if known to be used for war crimes

Article 7: Obligation to assess potential violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) 

### India's Status

Not a signatory to the ATT 

Treaty not binding on India

Some ATT provisions reflect customary international law 

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# Obligations Under International Humanitarian Law (IHL)




Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions

Binding on India

Obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL

International Court of Justice ruling

States not to supply weapons if there's knowledge they will violate conventions 

Scholar Opinions

High certainty required for weapon use in violations of Geneva Conventions

Domestic Laws

WMDA (Weapons of Mass Destruction Act) and FTA (Foreign Trade Act)

Duty not to supply weapons if they could breach IHL obligations



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## Recommendations for India

Amend WMDA and FTA

Explicitly assess IHL compliance of importing countries

Enhance Credibility

Position as a responsible defense-exporting nation 🌟

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# Topic → Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023

## Overview of BNSS Section 107

### Introduction

Defines *proceeds of crime*

Replaces terms from PMLA, 2002 & CrPC

### Court Powers

Attachment of property during investigation

Forfeiture of proceeds to government

### Police Authority

Application for attachment with

Superintendent/Commissioner approval

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## Key Provisions of Section 107



### No Preconditions

Unlike PMLA, no written reason required for attachment



### Immediate Attachment

Can attach property during investigation (unlike CrPC)



### Disposal of Property

Court orders distribution to affected parties  
Forfeiture if no claimants or surplus

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# Comparison with PMLA & CrPC

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## PMLA Conditions

Written reasons for belief

Temporary attachment (max 90 days)



## CrPC Provisions

Report to magistrate required

Property disposal post-trial

## Evidence Handling



### Documentation

Section 497 mandates photographic evidence of property



### Legal Precedents

Reference to *Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai v. State of Gujarat* for evidence handling

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## Implications



### Legal Impact

Expanded powers may affect civil liberties



### Judicial Oversight

Importance of judicial checks on police powers

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# Legal Framework for Custody and Disposal of Property Pending



## Trial

### Key Points:

#### Custody of Property

- Pending trial procedures

- Perishable property handling

#### Disposal of Property

- Conclusion of trial

- Restoration of possession

#### Legal Safeguards

- Section 107 of BNSS

- Show-cause notice

- Ex parte orders

- Distribution by District Magistrate



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## Constitutional Provisions

Article 300A

Property rights

Authority of law

## Challenges

Identification of claimants

Legal and practical issues

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# Topic → Indian Transportation Revolution



Transportation Revolution 

Investment 

₹3 Trillion (2022–2027)

Economic potential

Job creation 

Government Policies 

National Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy

Metro Rail Policy (2017)

Encouragement of TOD as urban planning strategy

Urban Mobility 

Enhancements in transit systems

27 cities developing metro systems

Other rail and bus rapid transit developments\_\_\_\_\_

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## Challenges

Public policies and land market conditions

Congestion and pollution issues

Long work–home commutes

Bengaluru's traffic congestion example

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## Benefits of TOD

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Land-use and transport integration

Compact, mixed-use developments

Sustainable transport modes

Economic growth without resource depletion

## Accessibility to Jobs

Improved workforce productivity

Workplace proximity vs. residential density

Clustering job growth near transit

Local economic and real estate development

Increased revenues for public agencies

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# Topic → California Deepfake Bill

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## Overview

Deepfake Technology: Synthetic media where a person in an existing image or video is replaced with someone else's likeness.

Legislation Purpose: To regulate the use of deepfake technology, particularly in elections and media to protect individuals' rights.

## Key Points

Governor: Gavin Newsom

Key Features:

- Ban on election-related deepfakes.

- Protection for performers against unauthorized digital replicas.

- Regulations for social media companies regarding deepfake content.

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## Overview

Oceans are nearing critical acidity levels 

Ability to sustain marine life is threatened

Report by Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)  
details crucial factors

## Key Points

Nine factors regulating Earth's ability to sustain life

Six factors have exceeded safe limits due to human activity

Ocean acidification could breach the seventh threshold soon

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## Crucial Factors

Climate Change 🌡️

Loss of Natural Species 🐟

Loss of Natural Habitat 🌿

Freshwater Depletion 💧

Rise in Pollutants:

Plastics ♻️

Chemical Fertilizers 🌾

## Contributing Factors

Increasing CO2 emissions from fossil fuel burning 🔥

This report highlights the urgent need for action to mitigate climate change and its effects on ocean health.

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Topic→A ***mikoshi*** is a sacred religious palanquin (also translated as portable Shinto shrine).

Shinto followers believe that it serves as the vehicle to transport a deity in Japan while moving between main shrine and temporary shrine during a festival or when moving to a new shrine.

Often, the *mikoshi* resembles a miniature building, with pillars, walls, a roof, a veranda and a railing.

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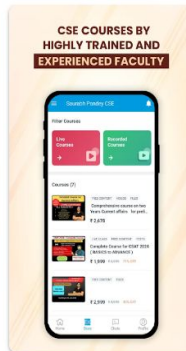
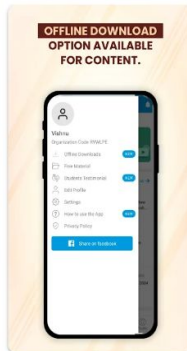
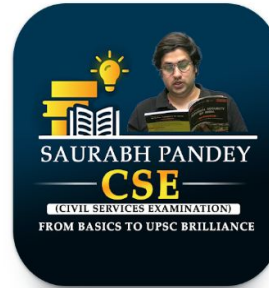
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