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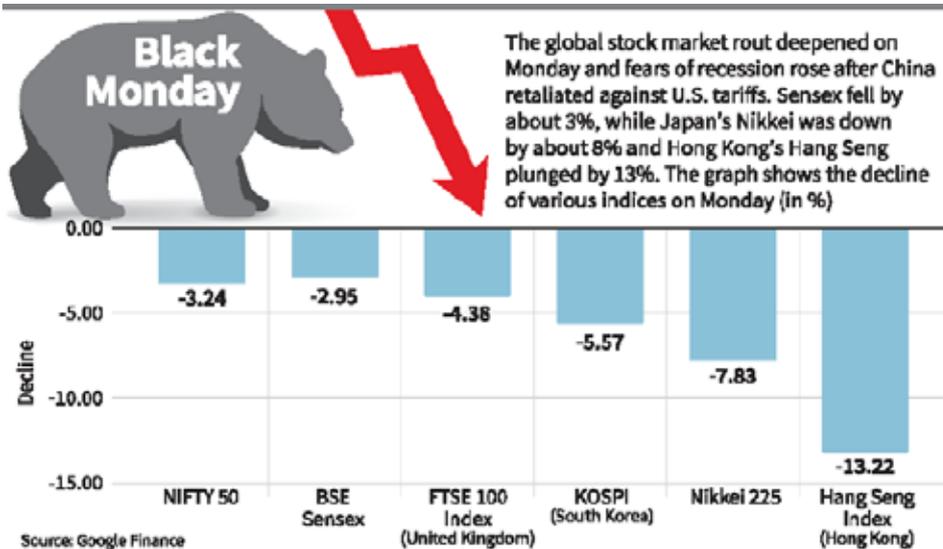
● ECONOMICS

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## Indian indices plunge as trade war fears grip global markets

**Economics & Development**



The global stock market rout deepened on Monday and fears of recession rose after China retaliated against U.S. tariffs. Sensex fell by about 3%, while Japan's Nikkei was down by about 8% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng plunged by 13%. The graph shows the decline of various indices on Monday (in %)

Global stock markets experienced sharp declines, reminiscent of the COVID-19 crash, triggered by fears of a U.S.–China trade war and a potential global recession. On Monday, Indian markets opened over 5% lower but recovered slightly, with the Sensex ending down 2,227 points (2.95%) at 73,138, and the Nifty-50 falling 743 points (3.24%) to 22,162. Losses were led by Tata Steel (-7.73%), L&T (-5.78%), and Tata Motors (-5.54%), following news that its subsidiary JLR halted U.S. exports. Mid and small-cap stocks underperformed bluechips.

The slump followed U.S. President Trump's threat to impose 50% tariffs on Chinese imports if Beijing did not reverse its retaliatory measures, escalating tensions. Asian markets also mirrored the decline, with Japan's Nikkei 225 falling nearly 8.8% intraday before closing 7.8% lower.

Monday's stock market fall in India, though sharp, does not rank among the top five historical declines. The biggest was a 13.2% crash in March 2020 due to COVID-19, followed by major crashes in 1992 (Harshad Mehta scam), 2004 (post-election results), 2008 (Global Financial Crisis), and 2002 (Ketan Parekh scam). Despite opening with a 5% gap down—its steepest since March 2020—the Nifty's drop was less severe in comparison.

Globally, markets also faced heavy losses. South Korea's KOSPI closed 5.57% lower, triggering circuit breakers. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index plunged 13.22%, its worst fall since the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. China's Shanghai Composite dropped 7.34%, its worst day in five years, amid uncertainty from retaliatory sanctions.

### Early hours in the U.S.

In early U.S. trading hours, markets briefly showed signs of recovery following media reports that the Trump administration might implement a 90-day pause on tariffs. However, the rebound faded after the White House denied the reports. By 11:20 a.m. ET, the NASDAQ had dropped 1.99% (310.03 points) to 15,277.76, the Dow Jones fell 2.7% to 37,279.25, and the S&P 500 was down 0.31% at 5,058.37.

## Waqf Act petitions will be listed for hearing in due course: CJI

**Polity & Governance**

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna stated that petitions challenging the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, would be scheduled for hearing in due course. He emphasized that there is an established system for reviewing urgent listing requests, and decisions would be made accordingly. The remarks came in response to senior advocate Kapil Sibal's request for an early hearing. Other lawyers, including A.M. Singhvi, Zulfiker Ali, and Nizam Pasha (representing Asaduddin Owaisi), also urged prompt listing. The Supreme Court continues to receive fresh petitions following the Act's Presidential assent.

## DMK's contention

The DMK, through MP A. Raja, has challenged the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, arguing it infringes on the rights of 50 lakh Muslims in Tamil Nadu and 20 crore across India. The DMK also passed a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on March 27, urging the Union government to withdraw the Act. Separately, the Indian Union Muslim League filed a petition stating that the amendments drastically change the governance of Waqf properties, imposing arbitrary restrictions and increasing state control. The petition claims these changes violate constitutional rights under Articles 14, 15, 25, and 26.

Petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 argue that the law violates property rights under Article 300A and religious freedoms by increasing state control over Waqf assets and restricting individuals from dedicating property for religious purposes. Petitioners claim the Act discriminates against Muslims, imposing regulations not applied to other religious communities, thus violating Article 14 (equality) and Article 25 (freedom of religion). MP Mohammed Jawed's petition also criticizes a new restriction based on the duration of religious practice, which lacks basis in Islamic law. The omission of "Waqf by User," a concept upheld by the Supreme Court, is also challenged. Additionally, the inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf Boards is seen as unjustified interference in religious administration.

## Kamra's protection extended; Bombay HC to hear plea today

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The Madras High Court on Monday extended stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra's interim protection from arrest until April 17 in a case related to alleged defamatory remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Meanwhile, the Bombay High Court agreed to hear Kamra's plea on April 9 to urgently quash the FIR filed against him. His lawyer, Navroz Seervai, cited urgent concerns, including multiple death threats, in requesting an earlier hearing than the originally scheduled April 21 date.

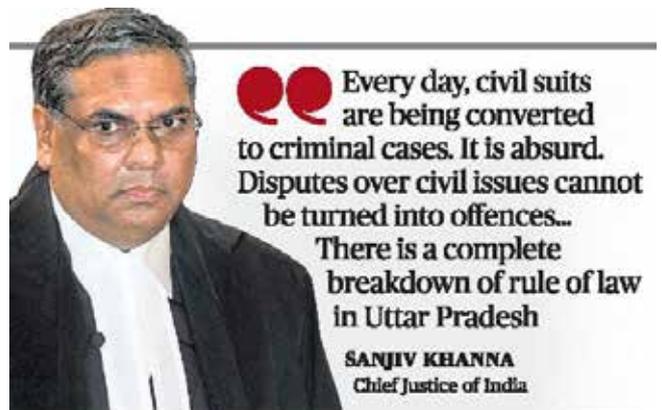
Justice Sunder Mohan of the Madras High Court on Monday extended interim protection from arrest for comedian Kunal Kamra until April 17. The extension followed a report from Kamra's lawyer, V. Suresh, confirming that a private notice had been served to Mumbai's Khar police, as required by the court's March 28 order granting inter-State anticipatory bail. Suresh also informed the court that after this initial relief, Khar police registered three more cases against Kamra, disturbed his elderly parents, and summoned show attendees for inquiry, despite Kamra residing in Tamil Nadu since 2021.

The judge clarified that the interim relief was meant to allow Kamra time to seek regular anticipatory bail from the Bombay High Court. Upon confirmation that such a petition had been filed, the judge instructed the Registry to verify whether court notices had been served and to list the matter on April 17, ensuring interim protection continues until then.

## Civil disputes turn criminal cases: CJI says breakdown of rule of law in U.P.

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Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Monday criticized the trend in Uttar Pradesh of converting civil disputes into criminal cases, calling it "absurd" and indicative of a breakdown in the rule of law. The remarks came during a hearing on an appeal by Debu Singh and Deepak Singh, who were facing criminal charges—including breach of trust and conspiracy—stemming from a cheque bounce case. The Supreme Court stayed the criminal proceedings but allowed the cheque case to continue. The Chief Justice rebuked the investigating officer for misusing legal procedures and directed both the officer



and the state's Director-General of Police to submit affidavits within two weeks explaining their actions. The case is scheduled for a hearing on May 5.

## Clean voter lists or the choice of Aadhaar linkage

### Polity & Governance

The Economist criticized India's obsession with issuing numerous unique IDs, but the critique missed a key distinction. While India heavily issues various IDs, they are not necessarily unique IDs. Functional IDs (like voter or driver IDs) serve specific purposes, whereas unique IDs (like Aadhaar) identify an individual across all contexts. The Indian government often confuses the two, leading to problematic outcomes. A recent example is the Election Commission's decision to link Voter ID (a functional ID for voting) with Aadhaar (a unique ID), effectively attempting to convert a functional ID into a unique one.

#### The Maharashtra election as turning point

In 2008, the Election Commission of India (ECI) claimed that the Voter ID (EPIC) was a unique identifier for voters. However, its 2025 initiative to link EPIC with Aadhaar implies a contradiction, acknowledging that EPIC is merely a functional ID, not a unique one. This reveals the ECI's longstanding confusion—or possible misrepresentation—between IDs and unique IDs. The issue was highlighted during the 2024 Maharashtra elections, where 40 lakh new voters were added in just five months, surpassing the 32 lakh added over the previous five years, raising concerns about the credibility of the voter registration process.

The suspiciously high number of 40 lakh new voters added in Maharashtra within five months—exceeding the total added over the prior five years—raises serious concerns about voter duplication and fraud. Historically, such short-term spikes have never occurred in India's electoral history. Evidence from Maharashtra and Bengal shows instances of duplicate or fake voter registrations, with individuals possessing multiple Voter IDs or a single Voter ID number being assigned to multiple people across constituencies and states. This undermines the Election Commission of India's 2008 claim that each Voter ID is unique, revealing it to be inaccurate or misleading.

#### There is a catch

The Election Commission of India (ECI), alarmed by widespread voter ID duplication, now seeks to link Voter IDs with Aadhaar to prevent multiple registrations per individual. While Aadhaar's biometric system could ensure uniqueness, the process requires 100% linkage across all voters to be effective. Partial linkage would fail to eliminate duplicates. However, Aadhaar is legally optional and cannot be made mandatory, creating a legal and practical dilemma. The author suggests that B.R. Ambedkar, prioritizing democratic integrity, might have supported Aadhaar linkage to uphold clean, de-duplicated voter lists as essential to preserving India's democracy.

#### Ensure a guarantee under oath

Linking Aadhaar to Voter IDs can address not only voter duplication but also prevent multiple voting by the same individual, surpassing outdated methods like indelible ink, which can be removed. While the benefits are clear, any such system must ensure that no eligible Indian citizen is denied their right to vote. The author emphasizes that the Election Commission of India (ECI) must provide an unequivocal, sworn guarantee that voter rights will not be compromised—unlike its unreliable 2008 claim about Voter ID uniqueness.

## India's aviation arbitration cases will still fly off overseas

### Polity & Governance

The Aircraft Act of 1934, created under British colonial rule to control Indian airspace, became outdated as India's aviation sector rapidly evolved. It hindered private and public airline growth, imposed bureaucratic hurdles, and failed to address modern issues like passenger rights and air traffic management. In 2024, India replaced this colonial-era law with the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, ushering in a modern legal framework aimed at supporting the country's dynamic aviation industry.

#### A forward step but still incomplete

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 brings major improvements to India's aviation sector by simplifying licensing, improving air traffic management, and strengthening passenger rights. However, it overlooks a crucial issue: aviation-specific arbitration. India lacks a specialised framework to handle complex international aviation disputes, which are often governed by technical and treaty-related concerns. As a result, aviation companies still prefer global arbitration hubs over India, due to the limited expertise and suitability of its current dispute resolution system under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996.

### India versus overseas centres

India's arbitration sector remains underdeveloped despite institutions like the Delhi International Arbitration Centre and the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration. The Singapore International Arbitration Centre handles 90% of Indian corporate arbitration cases, reflecting India's lack of specialised infrastructure. The absence of a dedicated aviation arbitration framework is a key reason aviation disputes continue to go abroad. To position itself as a global aviation leader, India must create sector-specific arbitration bodies with experts in aviation law, technology, and international treaties. A generic arbitration system is inadequate for the complexities of aviation-related disputes.

India should model its aviation arbitration system on global leaders like Singapore and the UK by creating specialised arbitration panels, encouraging private sector participation, and developing expertise through law schools. The current "arbitration exodus" reflects a procedural and policy failure, resulting in lost revenue and damaging India's credibility with foreign investors. To reverse this, India must ensure neutral arbitrator appointments through independent bodies, reduce government interference, and create a stable, predictable legal environment. A robust aviation arbitration framework would help attract global aviation businesses, boost investment, and strengthen India's position in the global aviation industry.

### Key areas to focus on

India must focus on neutrality, transparency, and institutional strength to align with global best practices in aviation arbitration. While the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 is a significant reform, it is incomplete without addressing arbitration. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 offers only a general framework, which is insufficient for the complexities of aviation disputes. To prevent the continued flight of disputes and potential investments abroad, India needs a specialised aviation arbitration ecosystem with expert arbitrators, dedicated institutions, and global credibility. Reform is urgent and essential for India's aviation ambitions.

## Dispelling concerns

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi's April 2025 visit to Sri Lanka highlighted strengthening ties between the two nations, especially under the new JVP-led NPP government. Despite the JVP's historical anti-India stance, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has affirmed commitment to not allow Sri Lankan territory to be used against India's security. A landmark MoU on defence cooperation—the first of its kind—was signed, reflecting mutual recognition of shared security interests. However, while the agreement formalises defence ties, Sri Lanka must now prove its seriousness in implementing it, especially given past concerns over third-country military use of Sri Lankan ports like Trincomalee.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sri Lanka also addressed the long-standing fishermen's issue, important to Tamil Nadu. While discussions took place, the need for structured dialogue between fishing communities, overseen by officials, was emphasized. A recent meeting between Indian and Sri Lankan fishers should be followed up for lasting solutions. Another key outcome was Tamil parties acknowledging the importance of the 1987 Indo-Lanka Accord for a political settlement for Tamils and supporting India's legitimate role. Though the Accord faced past criticism, it laid the foundation for devolution through provincial councils. India is encouraged to act as a neutral facilitator, promoting democratic consensus and offering economic aid to Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces.



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## Inconclusive chapter

### Polity & Governance

President Droupadi Murmu's decision to withhold assent for the Tamil Nadu Admission to UG Medical Courses Bill, 2021 has reignited the State's battle against NEET-based admissions. With the admission season near, the move creates uncertainty for medical aspirants. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has called a meeting of legislature party leaders on April 9 to plan the next steps. Tamil Nadu's fight for NEET exemption has been long and complex, with previous anti-NEET bills in 2017 also rejected. In 2021, the DMK government passed the current Bill based on the Justice A.K. Rajan Committee's recommendations. Governor R.N. Ravi initially returned it, but the Assembly re-adopted and resent it, leading to the recent presidential denial. Stalin revealed the decision to the Assembly last week, without clarifying when it was received.

The prolonged delay in deciding the fate of Tamil Nadu's anti-NEET Bill has created ongoing uncertainty for students. The State continues to support medical admissions based on Class 12 Board exam scores for government quota seats. Early concerns from the AYUSH Ministry suggested the Bill might threaten national unity, prompting scrutiny. Although Article 254(2) of the Constitution allows the President to assent to State laws conflicting with central laws on Concurrent List matters, the President is not bound to approve them. Despite the Bill's unanimous passage in the Assembly, NEET has been consistently upheld by the Supreme Court. While NEET is imperfect, Tamil Nadu has limited legal avenues, and courts may not resolve the issue quickly. Meanwhile, the State must prepare for a legal battle and focus on helping students get ready for NEET.

## Shaping a future-ready workforce

### Polity & Governance

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 and QS's World Future Skills Index contain critical insights into the state of India's workforce and its preparedness for the future. They offer a roadmap for the government and universities to address the pressing challenges and opportunities in shaping a future-ready workforce. Their findings accentuate the urgency of aligning educational strategies with the rapidly evolving demands of the global economy.

### The findings

The Future of Jobs Report outlines major global labour market shifts by 2030, driven by technology, demographic changes, economic uncertainty, geopolitical fragmentation, and the green transition. While 170 million new jobs may be created, 92 million roles could be displaced. Key areas of growth include AI and Big Data, while climate change presents both opportunities and challenges for employment. Employers are responding by focusing on training, wage growth, and employee well-being. Around 59% of workers will need reskilling in areas like analytical thinking, tech literacy, and resilience. Educational institutions must align curricula with both technical and soft skills—like emotional intelligence and leadership—to meet evolving workplace demands.

The QS World Future Skills Index shows that while India ranks 2nd globally in preparedness for AI and green skills, significant skill gaps remain, especially on the supply side. India scores high (99.1) in identifying and recruiting future-focused talent but lags in workforce readiness, scoring only 59.1 in 'Skills Fit'. It also performs poorly in fostering entrepreneurial and innovative mindsets, ranking just 26th in 'Academic Readiness'. Alarmingly, its score in innovation and sustainability is only 15.6 out of 100, further hindered by low R&D investment, limiting India's global competitiveness in emerging fields like renewable energy and climate technologies.

### An opportunity

The passage highlights a major opportunity for India to reform its education system to meet global workforce demands. To address skill gaps, a multi-pronged strategy involving curriculum innovation, faculty development, infrastructure improvement, and equitable access is essential. Collaboration between academia, industry, and policymakers is key. Higher education must prioritize creativity, critical thinking, resilience, and entrepreneurship through interdisciplinary learning, experiential modules, and problem-based approaches. Activities like hackathons, incubators, and design-thinking workshops should be embedded to foster innovation and adaptability among students.

A green, future-focused curriculum in India's higher education system is needed. Institutions should promote sustainability education, create research centres, and support student-led environmental initiatives. Strong industry-academia partnerships are essential to align education with job market needs through co-created curricula, internships, and mentorships. Faculty development must include training, certifications, and global exchanges. The government must lead systemic reforms by increasing investment in skills, research, and innovation, especially in building digital infrastructure in rural areas. A paradigm shift is needed to make higher education agile, inclusive, and future-ready.

## How the police view custodial torture in India

### Polity & Governance

# Brutality behind bars

Data for the tables were sourced from Lokniti-CSDS. Vibha Attri & Jyoti Mishra are Research Associates at Lokniti-CSDS



**Table 1:** Police violence: A justified tool for the greater good

For the greater good of the society, it is alright for the police to be violent towards suspects of serious offences	%
Fully agree	22
Somewhat agree	41
Somewhat disagree	13
Fully disagree	22

**Table 2:** Justifying violence: The alarming police support for torture

Crime categories	Is torture necessary and acceptable to gain information in the following kinds of cases?			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Crimes against national security-such as terrorism	42	26	12	17
Rape or sexual assault cases	34	30	15	20
Serious violent crimes like murder	34	30	13	21
Cases against history-sheeters	28	29	16	22
Major theft cases	20	35	15	27

**Table 3:** The case for third-degree methods

Nature of offence	Are the following methods justified? (*Yes' responses only)		
	Verbal abuse or threats	Actions like slapping, etc.	Third-degree methods
Towards the accused while investigating petty offences like theft	49	32	9
Towards the accused while investigating serious criminal cases like rape and murder	55	50	30

**Table 4:** How often do investigating officers use forceful tactics?

	Many times	Sometimes	Once or twice	Never
Threats	26	34	14	25
Slapping/using light force (pushing, etc.)	18	28	19	33
Using third-degree (beating on soles, applying red chilli powder to body parts, suspending the body)	11	16	14	52
Making the person sit in 'murga' position	9	24	18	46
Keeping a person hungry and thirsty for some time	7	16	14	59

**Table 5:** Police views on mandatory reporting of torture

	Should it be mandatory for police personnel witnessing torture by other police personnel to report it?		
	Yes, always	Yes, sometimes	Never
Overall	39	41	9
Constabulary ranks	36	42	9
Upper subordinate ranks	42	40	10
IPS level ranks	23	58	14

**Table 6:** Would legal protection encourage police to report violence?

	If junior police personnel have legal protection when they complain against seniors, would you feel comfortable filing a complaint against seniors for use of violence?		
	Yes, always	Yes, sometimes	Never
Overall	44	36	8
Constabulary ranks	41	36	9
Upper subordinate ranks	50	36	7
IPS level ranks	35	54	5

In recent years, concerns over police brutality and custodial torture have intensified, fuelling debates about justice, accountability, and human rights. The findings from a recent study on the 'Status of Policing in India Report' conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in collaboration with Common Cause shed light on this grim reality. The study, which analysed responses from 8,276 police personnel across 82 locations in 17 States including Delhi, provides troubling insights into the culture of abuse behind closed doors.

When asked if it is acceptable for the police to use violence against suspects of serious offences for the greater good of society, nearly two out of three police personnel (63%) agreed. Of them, 22% strongly agreed and 41% moderately agreed. Just 35% of the officers opposed the idea (Table 1). Support for violence against suspected serious offenders remained consistent across ranks.

When asked about torture, a significant number of police personnel expressed strong support for its use in interrogations across various crime categories. The highest support was for cases related to national security, such as terrorism, with 42% strongly backing torture. Over a third (34%) also strongly supported its use in cases of rape, sexual assault, and serious violent crimes such as murder (**Table 2**). Additionally, 28% strongly agreed that torture must be used against history sheeters.

Police personnel were also asked how justified is the use of certain coercive and violent acts towards the accused so that criminal cases can be solved. The data reveals a troubling acceptance of coercive tactics, ranging from verbal abuse and threats to slapping and third-degree methods. Nearly half (49%) said that verbally abusing or threatening suspects in cases of minor offences such as theft is justified, with 32% endorsing slapping and 9% even supporting the use of third-degree methods (**Table 3**). Support for such violent methods increased dramatically in cases of serious crimes. Three in ten (30%) police personnel justified third-degree methods in cases such as rape and murder, while half (50%) approved of slapping suspects and more than half (55%) endorsed verbal abuse or threats.

Threats and slapping or using light force are common. About a quarter (26%) of police personnel said that suspects are threatened often, while 34% said that this happens sometimes. Similarly, nearly two in 10 (18%) said that slapping or using light force is common, with 28% saying it happens occasionally (**Table 4**).

Regarding third-degree methods, one in 10 police personnel admitted that such extreme violence occurs often, and 16% said it happens sometimes. Additionally, one in three respondents reported that investigating officers frequently use coercive tactics. The findings reveal that nearly four in 10 police personnel believe that reporting of custodial torture should be mandatory, while a similar proportion supported it being mandatory in some cases. Around one in 10 felt it should never be mandatory (**Table 5**). While a majority supported mandatory reporting, the fact that the largest group favoured it only 'sometimes' suggests a level of hesitation or conditional acceptance. The data also shows that officers at the police station level favour mandatory reporting more than their senior counterparts.

## A case for a fair seat allocation

### Polity & Governance

The debate on Lok Sabha seat readjustment is often mistakenly called delimitation. While delimitation involves redrawing constituency boundaries, readjustment refers to changing the number of seats based on the Census, as per Article 82 of the Constitution. The current Lok Sabha strength is based on the 1971 Census, when India's population was about 54.79 crore. Despite the population rising to an estimated 141 crore by 2025, seat numbers remain unchanged due to a constitutional freeze on readjustment until 2026.

#### Various formulae

The population surge in India has been largely driven by northern states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which struggled to implement population control policies. Uttar Pradesh's population rose from 8.38 crore in 1971 to an estimated 24.1 crore in 2025, and Bihar's from 4.21 crore to 13.1 crore. To prevent an imbalance in Lok Sabha seat distribution between northern and southern states, the seat count was frozen until 2026, allowing time for population stabilization in high-growth states.

Southern states like Kerala successfully controlled population growth, unlike northern states such as Uttar Pradesh. In 1971, Lok Sabha seat allocation was proportional, with about 10 lakh people per constituency across all states. However, due to uneven population growth, applying the original formula now would create large disparities. Uttar Pradesh, with a current population of 24 crore, could get 240 seats (up from 80), while Kerala, with only a 68% population increase, would get 36 (up from 20). Even with a revised ratio of 15 lakh people per seat, Uttar Pradesh would still see a large increase to 160 seats, while Kerala's rise would be minimal.

Historical data shows that in 1952, each Lok Sabha constituency represented about 7.6 lakh people, which rose to 10 lakh by 1971 when the number of seats increased to 543. Following the next readjustment after 2026, if the Lok Sabha expands to 800 seats (matching the capacity of the new Parliament), the average population per constituency will rise to 18 lakh. Based on this, Kerala would retain its current seats, Tamil Nadu would gain only four, while Uttar Pradesh would gain 54 seats, highlighting the significant imbalance due to varying population growth across states.

## Rewarding incompetence

Southern states, particularly Tamil Nadu, have expressed strong concerns about losing political influence if Lok Sabha seats are readjusted based solely on population growth. At a recent southern leaders' conclave in Chennai, these apprehensions were emphasized, with calls for a fair formula for seat redistribution. The issue stems from large population increases in northern states that did not effectively implement family planning, while southern states successfully controlled population growth. Since Articles 81 and 82 mandate seat readjustment based on population, there is a need to redefine the population base used, to ensure fairness and avoid rewarding states that failed in population control.

### Ideal solution

A fair approach to readjusting Lok Sabha seats could be to use Kerala — the state with the lowest population growth since 1971 (68%) — as a benchmark. Applying a uniform 68% increase in seats across all states would preserve the current balance of representation, avoiding disproportionate gains for states with high population growth due to poor family planning. Under this formula, Uttar Pradesh would get 134 seats, Kerala 34, and Tamil Nadu around 66, raising the total Lok Sabha seats to 912 while maintaining equity among states.

The current population-based formula in Article 81(2)(a) for Lok Sabha seat allocation has become outdated and could lead to serious inequities if applied in 2026. Seat distribution should not be treated as a political issue but as a matter of constitutional equity, reflecting the fair representation of all states. As India is a Union of States, a sensitive and equitable approach is essential to ensure balanced bargaining power among regions and uphold the spirit of the Constitution.

## Electronic surveillance system will cover entire Pak. border, says Shah

### Internal Security



Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that two electronic surveillance systems, capable of detecting infiltrators and tunnels, are being tested along the Jammu border and are expected to be deployed across the Pakistan border within four years. During a visit to the BSF outpost in Kathua, Shah acknowledged that while terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has been curbed, it is not fully eliminated.

He highlighted recent terror incidents and emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing border security through technology, with over 26 tech initiatives in progress, including anti-drone systems. Shah assured full budgetary support for improving vigilance, reducing casualties, and easing soldiers' conditions.

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