



22 June, 2024

Verification of burnt memory of EVM

Context: Eleven candidates have applied to verify EVM burnt memory after the recently held Lok Sabha Polls.

- **Case:** Association for Democratic Reforms vs Election Commission of India

➤ What has the Court said?

- **EVM-VVPAT System:** Upheld; plea for returning to ballot papers and 100% counting of VVPAT slips rejected.
- **Verification Rights:** Second- and third-placed candidates can seek verification of burnt memories in up to 5% of EVMs per Assembly constituency or Assembly segment of a Lok Sabha constituency.
- **Identification:** Candidates or representatives can identify the EVMs by polling station or serial number.
- **Presence:** Candidates can be present during verification.
- **Request Deadline:** Requests must be made within seven days of result declaration.
- **Expenses:** Candidates must bear verification costs, refundable if tampering is found.

➤ Administrative SOP for EVM Verification

- **DEO's Role:** The District Election Officer (DEO) oversees the process.
- **Requesting Verification:** Second and third candidates can request verification for up to 5% of EVMs. If both request, each gets 2.5% verified.
- **Selection of Units:** Candidates can specify polling stations or unique serial numbers of Ballot Unit, Control Unit, and VVPAT.
- **Deposit:** Candidates must deposit Rs 40,000 plus 18% GST per set of EVM (BU, CU, and VVPAT).
- **Notification:** DEOs send applications to the state Chief Electoral Officer, who notifies EVM manufacturers within 30 days post-results.
- **Commencement:** Verification starts after a 45-day period post-results, allowing for Election Petitions. If petitions are filed, verification starts after a court order.
- **Location:** Designated halls within manufacturers' facilities.
- **Security:** Strong rooms, CCTV cameras, single entry/exit, and armed police presence.
- **Restrictions:** No electronic devices inside the halls.

➤ Features of EVM:

- **Maximum Votes:** EVMs can record up to 2,000 votes, ensuring efficiency and reliability.
- **Security:** Equipped with tamper-evident features such as seals and security codes to detect manipulation attempts.
- **Encryption:** Votes are stored in an encrypted format, maintaining confidentiality and integrity.

- **Batteries:** Powered by alkaline batteries, making them suitable for locations with limited electricity access.
- **Quick Tallying:** Votes can be quickly tallied, providing instant and accurate results.
- **Lightweight:** EVMs are lightweight and portable, facilitating transport to remote polling stations.
- **Language Options:** Can display ballot options in multiple languages to cater to diverse regions.
- **VVPAT:** Generates a Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail for voter verification and post-election audits.

Poverty line in India

Context: Bibek Debroy, the chief of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, advocates for a reassessment of India's official poverty line.

United Nations (UN) Definition of Poverty

The UN defines poverty as a denial of choices and opportunities and a violation of human dignity. Key aspects include:

- Lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society.
- Insufficient resources to feed and clothe a family, access to education and healthcare, land for food production, employment, and credit.
- Insecurity, powerlessness, exclusion, and susceptibility to violence.
- Living in marginal environments without access to clean water or sanitation.
- Poverty is more than the lack of income; it includes hunger, malnutrition, limited education, social discrimination, and exclusion, and lack of decision-making participation.

World Bank Definition of Poverty

- **Absolute Poverty:** Originally defined in 1990 as living on less than \$1 per day, revised in 2017 to \$1.90 per day (International Poverty Line).
- **Revised Measures (2017):**
 - **Extreme Poverty:** Living on less than \$1.90 per day (International Poverty Line)
 - **Lower-Middle-Income Countries:** Poverty line set at \$3.20 per day (e.g., Egypt, India)
 - **Upper-Middle-Income Countries:** Poverty line set at \$5.50 per day (e.g., Jamaica, South Africa)
 - **High-Income Countries:** Poverty line set at \$21.70 per day (e.g., USA)
- **Societal Poverty Line (SPL) - 2018:** Combines \$1.90-a-day absolute poverty line with a relative component that increases with median consumption or income

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Poverty Measurement Concepts

- **Poverty Line:** Minimum expenditure (or income) required to purchase a basket of goods and services necessary for basic human needs.
- **Poverty Line Basket (PLB):** The basket of goods and services that satisfies basic human needs.
- **Poverty Ratio or Headcount Ratio (HCR):** The proportion of the population below the poverty line.
- Most countries and institutions like the World Bank and the UN follow this approach.

Poverty Estimation in India

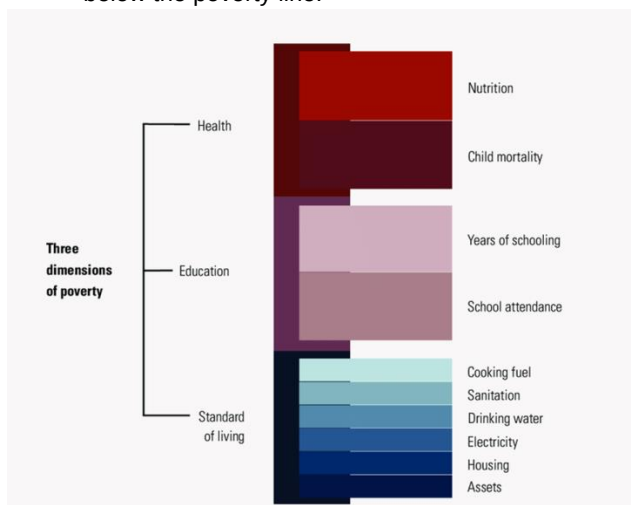
- **1979:** Y. K. Alagh Committee introduced the first official rural and urban poverty lines.
- **1993:** D. T. Lakdawala Committee extended these lines to states, allowing for state-level poverty counts.
- **2005:** Tendulkar Committee revised the rural poverty line upward, addressing critiques of being too low.
- **2012:** Rangarajan Committee recommended further increases in both rural and urban poverty lines. Recommendations are yet to be adopted.

Poverty Estimates by Different Committees

Year	Lakdawala Committee Estimates			Tendulkar Committee Estimates			Rangarajan Committee Estimates		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	37.3	32.4	36.0	50.1	31.8	45.3	-	-	-
2004-05	28.3	25.7	27.5	41.8	25.7	37.2	-	-	-
2009-10	-	-	-	33.8	20.9	29.8	39.6	35.1	38.2
2011-12	-	-	-	25.7	13.7	21.9	30.9	26.4	29.5

Current official poverty estimates in India are based on the Tendulkar Committee's line:

- **Tendulkar Estimation:** 21.9% of the population below the poverty line.
- **Rangarajan Estimation:** 29.5% of the population below the poverty line.



Twin Test under PMLA

Context: The Delhi High Court stayed the bail granted to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in a PMLA case, following an urgent plea by the Enforcement Directorate challenging the trial court's decision.

Section 45 and the Twin Test

- **Provision Details:** Section 45 of the PMLA states that no court can grant bail for offenses under this law except under certain conditions, emphasizing that bail is the exception, not the rule.
- **Public Prosecutor's Role:** The provision mandates hearing from the public prosecutor in all bail applications. If the prosecutor opposes bail, the court must apply the twin test.
- **Twin Test Conditions:**
 1. There are reasonable grounds for believing the accused is not guilty.
 2. The accused is not likely to commit any offense while on bail.

Similar Provisions in Other Laws

- **Comparable Provisions:** Similar stringent bail provisions exist in laws like:
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (Section 36AC)
- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (Section 37)
- The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 (Section 43D(5))

Legal Challenges to the Twin Test

- **2017 Ruling:** In *Nikesh Tarachand Shah v Union of India*, the Supreme Court struck down the twin test for being unconstitutional due to unreasonable classification, violating the right to equality.
- **2018 Amendment:** Parliament reinserted the provisions via the Finance Act, 2018, which were challenged and led to the 2022 ruling in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v Union of India*.
- **2022 Ruling:** The Supreme Court upheld the twin test, emphasizing the seriousness of money laundering and its threat to national integrity.

Current Position in Law

- **Pending Challenges:** A larger Bench challenge regarding the passing of amendments via the Money Bill route is still pending before the Supreme Court.
- **Review of 2022 Ruling:** Although under review, the *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary* ruling remains valid, requiring rigorous application of the twin test for both regular and anticipatory bail.
- **Section 436A of CrPC:** Accused individuals are entitled to bail after serving half the maximum sentence as undertrials if the trial isn't completed within that time frame, regardless of the twin test.

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

GST Council



Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will chair the 53rd GST Council meeting in New Delhi today (June 22, 2024).

About GST Council:

- The GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council is a constitutional body established under **Article 279A (1) of the Indian Constitution** by the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.
- As per **Article 279A (1)** of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A.
- This Council is a **joint forum of the Centre and the states**.
- It is responsible for making recommendations to the **Union and State governments** on important issues related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), including **tax rates, exemptions, threshold limits and model GST laws**.
- The Council is **chaired by the Union Finance Minister** and includes the Union Minister of **State for Finance and the Finance Ministers** of all the states.
- Article **279A(5)** mandates that the Council recommends the date for levying GST on petroleum products and aviation turbine fuel.
- Article **279A(8)** determines procedures for the Council's functions.
- Article **279A(11)** establishes mechanisms to adjudicate disputes arising from the Council's recommendations.

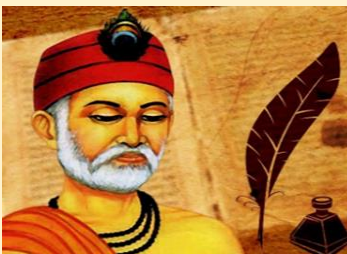
Mata ni Pachedi Paintings



About Mata ni Pachedi Paintings:

- Mata ni Pachedi is a **traditional cloth painting art form** from western India that depicts goddesses on cloth.
- The paintings are associated with the Vaghri community of Gujarat, who traditionally lived along the **Sabarmati river**.
- The name comes from the Gujarati words Mata meaning "**mother goddess**", Ni meaning "**belonging to**", and Pachedi meaning "**back**".
- The paintings are **created using a bamboo pen (kalam)** and **natural dyes**, and often adhere to a strict color **palette of black and deep red**.
- The black color is derived from iron through a process that can take up to 15 days. Mata ni Pachedi is sometimes called the **Kalamkari** of Gujarat because it resembles the art of Kalamkari from South India and uses the same painting method.

Personality in News Sant Kabir Das



According to Drik Panchang, Sant Kabir Das Jayanti is being observed today.

Sant Kabir Das:

Sant Kabir Das, a well-known Indian mystic poet and sant was born in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh during the 15th century.

Contributions:

- Kabir emphasized the **unity of God** and the underlying **spiritual unity** of all humanity.
- His poetry and teachings promote **love, compassion**, and tolerance across religious boundaries.
- Kabir composed his poems in the vernacular **Hindi language**, known for their simplicity and depth of spiritual insight.
- His verses are collected in the **Guru Granth Sahib**, the holy scripture of **Sikhism**, indicating his universal appeal and influence.
- His compositions include **Bijak, Kabir Granthawali, Sakhi Granth** and numerous **dohas** (couplets) that encapsulate his spiritual wisdom.

Bhakti Movement:

- The Bhakti Movement originated around the **6th and 7th centuries AD** in the Tamil region, gaining popularity through hymns sung by devotees such as the **Alvars** (Vishnu devotees) and **Nayanars** (Shiva devotees).
- Bhakti traditions are often classified into **saguna** (with attributes) and **nirguna** (without attributes), focusing on worship of deities in anthropomorphic or abstract forms of God.
- Bhakti poets like Kabir challenged **caste discrimination** and **authoritarianism**, advocating surrender to God and spiritual equality.

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Place in News

Namibia

Recently, a Namibian court ruled that colonial-era laws criminalizing same-sex relationships are unconstitutional and invalid.

Namibia (Capital: Windhoek)

Location: Namibia, officially the Republic of Namibia, is a country in **Southern Africa**.

Boundaries: Namibia shares its borders with **Botswana** (East), the **Atlantic Ocean** (West), **Angola** and **Zambia** (North) and **South Africa** (South & Southeast).

Physical Features:

- The highest point in Namibia is the **Brandberg Mountain**.
- Namibia's major rivers include the **Orange River** along its southern border with South Africa, the **Kunene River** on its northern border with Angola and the **Okavango River** in the Caprivi Strip.
- Namibia is rich in minerals, including **diamonds, uranium, gold, copper, lead, zinc** and semi-precious stones like tourmaline and aquamarine.
- Namibia has a predominantly **arid to semi-arid climate**, characterized by hot days and cool nights.



POINTS TO PONDER

- Which Indian documentary won the Best Documentary in the international category with the Golden Conch Award at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival? – **The Golden Thread**
- Who released the World Investment Report 2024? – **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**
- Six Asiatic lions recently migrated from which wildlife sanctuary to the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary? – **Gir National Park**
- In 2024, which country became the first in that year and the 51st globally to eliminate the gambiense form of Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)? – **Chad**
- A new freshwater diatom genus named Indiconema was discovered from which regions in India? – **Eastern and Western Ghats**

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