ECHOES OF SPECTRUM

A FORUM OF POLITICS, GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BREAKING NEWS!!!



We are all set to host an inter-collegiate fest- YUVANEETI'25, in the theme 'Uniting Regions Through Inclusive Growth and Equality in India'. From debates to culturals- we have it all ready for you!

Get ready to bring in the perfect blend of brains, creativity and campus energy because we are all ready to see you for 8 diverse competitions and of course the long await for the overall champions.

So, Mark your calendar- a promised rush of fun on 18 December, 2025. Bring your friends, bring your ideas, and bring your energy — Yuvaneeti is ready for you.

NEXT UP!

In collaboration with Indian Social Institute, SPECTRUM brings you Human Right celebration, featuring a Film screening and discussion of the movie 'Unheard Voices' on 2 December, 2025. The celebration continues on 5 December 2025, with 'Voices from the Soil' – a panel discussion on the dignity and well-being of farmers. join us for two meaningful days of conversation and awarness.



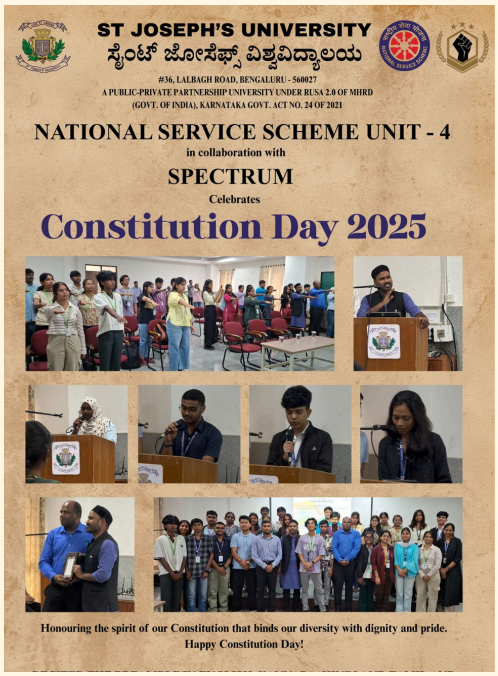
Winner Spotted!

We are delighted to recognise CHRISTOPHER DARLONG of first year HPS as the winner of last newsletter's activity corner.

Thank you for your creative and meaningful contribution. Stay tuned for more tasks and chances to be featured.

CONSTITUTION DAY 2025

NSS IN COLLABORATION WITH SPECTRUM



NSS Unit 4, in collaboration with Spectrum, jointly hosted the Constitution Day Celebration on the 26th of November 2025, in the Aloysius Hall, Auditorium Block, St Joseph's University to honour the adoption of the Indian Constitution and to reaffirm our commitment to democratic values, justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

It began at 8:20 AM with a small introduction welcoming the gathering from Nalima representing NSS Unit 4. This successful start was led by a reading of the Preamble led by Ganapathy, the President of Spectrum, in English and Hindi. Shravan, Joint-Secretary of Spectrum then read the Preamble in Kannada, with Sahaana, General-Secretary of Spectrum following in Tamil. This celebration was overseen by Mr. Bhanuprakash R., teacher in charge of Spectrum and NSS.

Guest speaker Dr. Praveen Thallapelli was then invited to provide a few words pertaining to the Constitution and the Preamble. He delivered an insightful session on the Preamble, explaining each component in detail and highlighting the significance of the phrases within. The discussion also covered various interpretations of the Preamble, providing a comprehensive understanding. Through this, Dr. Praveen Thallapelli effectively deciphered the meaning and essence of the Preamble for the audience.







A Q&A session was also held for the audience, seeing a diverse range of questions answered by Dr. Praveen Thallapelli, following his session. These questions touched on topics of the dignity of people in today's context, manual scavenging, social and political justice and upholding Constitutional values, asked by both students and professors alike.







The event concluded with a group picture and a vote of thanks by Nalima from NSS Unit 4 at 9:30AM, celebrating Hamara Samvidhan - Hamara Swabhiman and strengthening our responsibilities as informed and active citizens.



Photo source: State of Green

COP30 and India's Climate Moment of Truth

-Shravan Kumar, Joint Secretary

As the world moves towards COP30 in Belém, Brazil, India enters the summit with a sharper climate mandate than ever before. What makes COP30 uniquely important is that it comes at a moment when climate change has shifted from being an environmental concern to an economic, social, and political crisis directly shaping the everyday lives of Indians. In 2024, the Indian Meteorological Department documented record breaking heatwaves across North India, unprecedented monsoon variability, and rapidly escalating flood events. These are no longer predictions; they are realities that force India to rethink the scale, ambition, and urgency of its climate diplomacy.



Photo source: Khan global studies


Photo source: cop30

India's approach to COP30 is defined by three intertwined pressures: domestic vulnerability, developmental necessity, and geopolitical responsibility. Domestically, India faces the uncomfortable truth that climate shocks are hitting the poor the hardest. A 2024 analysis by Hindustan Times estimated annual economic losses of over eighty billion dollars from climate- related disasters. Rural livelihoods suffer when monsoons fail, urban working-class communities face heat stress without access to cooling, and coastal populations confront rising sea levels and cyclones. This creates a paradox: India must demand ambitious climate action globally while negotiating enough space to grow economically and provide energy access to millions.

Internationally, India has positioned itself as a strong voice for climate justice. At COP28 and in subsequent UNFCCC dialogues, India argued that global mitigation cannot at the cost of development for the Global South. India's strategy for COP30 continues this line, insisting that historical emitters must deliver more ambitious finance commitments. The Loss and Damage Fund, operationalised in 2023, remains insufficiently financed, and India is expected to push for measurable, predictable financing. At the same time, India wants to showcase its progress. The country has crossed one hundred and eighty gigawatts of renewable energy capacity and aims for five hundred gigawatts by 2030. The 2024 update to the National Green Hydrogen Mission signals India's intention to become a global hub for green industrial transition.



Photo source: Bloomberg

COP30 is ultimately a moment where India's climate identity becomes clearer. Is India a vulnerable nation demanding justice, a developing economy seeking flexibility, or a rising leader advocating an equitable transition? In practice, it is all three. India's strength lies in balancing these roles and shaping a climate future grounded in ambition, fairness, and the lived realities of millions of climate exposed citizens.

The Constitution Vs the Algorithm: India's New Free Speech Battle

-Shravan Kumar, Joint Secretary

Seventy-five years after the Constitution came into force, India is confronting a challenge that the framers never anticipated: the transformation of free speech, public opinion, and democratic discourse by digital platforms. The explosion of social media and short-form political content has fundamentally altered how citizens interpret Articles 19 and 21. What used to be a debate on offline speech has now become a complex struggle involving algorithmic amplification, hate-driven virality, targeted disinformation, and micro-segmented propaganda. According to reports, India has one of the world's highest exposures to "high velocity political misinformation", driven primarily by WhatsApp forwards, short video platforms, and influencer ecosystems.



Photo source: Human Rights Watch



Photo source: Jagranjosh

This has created a situation where constitutional rights are not only exercised but manipulated, distorted, and weaponised in real time.

The Supreme Court's early jurisprudence on hate speech, rooted in cases like Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India, was built for a world where speech was human, traceable, and slow. In contrast, a 2023 Internet Freedom Foundation report shows that a significant portion of online hate today is algorithmically incentivised rather than explicitly authored. Platforms reward outrage because it keeps users engaged, and the result is an information ecosystem where divisive, dehumanising speech spreads faster than corrective facts. This directly affects constitutional equality: hate speech is not merely offensive; it creates real-world vulnerability for minorities, women, Dalits, Adivasis, and LGBTQ people.



Photo source: Myadvo

Moreover, political targeting has reshaped electoral competition. Investigations by agencies show how political advertisements are discreetly targeted to different groups with customised fear-based messaging, bypassing public scrutiny. This raises a serious constitutional question: how meaningful is Article 19(1)(a) if citizens do not receive the same public information?

The Supreme Court's 2024 observations during hearings on deepfake regulations acknowledged that manipulated videos and synthetic audio have the potential to "collapse the evidentiary foundation of democratic dialogue." When truth itself becomes unstable, constitutional freedoms become harder to exercise meaningfully.

The challenge now is not censorship versus free speech; it is how to build constitutional safeguards against technologically amplified harm while preserving the democratic spirit of Article 19. The Constitution at seventy-five faces a new test: protecting citizens not from the speech of individuals but from the behaviour of machines, platforms, and digital architectures designed to prioritise virality over constitutional values.

When Justice Turns Political

-Krish Marwein, Joint Secretary

A tribunal created to deliver justice can swiftly become a stage for political reckoning, a truth Bangladesh now faces as the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) sentences former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death. Once the architect of the very law designed to punish 1971 war criminals, Hasina now finds herself condemned by the institution she founded, a stunning reversal for a leader who dominated the country's politics for decades.

Her unravelling began with the 2024 student protests against the reinstated quota system, which escalated into an open revolt against her administration's grip on power. Security forces launched violent crackdowns, and allegations of extrajudicial killings multiplied. On August 5, as her authority collapsed, Hasina crossed into India, seeking exile. The subsequent interim government under Muhammad Yunus refocused the ICT to prosecute Hasina and her inner circle. The tribunal's 453-page indictment alleges she ordered helicopter and drone strikes, personally incited killing, and failed to prevent further atrocities, a portrait she vigorously dismisses as political vengeance.



Photo source: ICTD.gov

India's response has been measured. Acknowledging the verdict, New Delhi expressed a desire for constructive engagement and peace, while invoking its bilateral extradition treaty's political exemption, a shield that may protect Hasina from return for now. The process ahead is murky: Hasina can technically appeal, but her absence complicates proceedings. Supporters celebrate overdue justice, but critics warn of another chapter of vendetta masking as law. Approaching the 2026 elections, Bangladesh faces a pivotal question: is this genuine justice or history repeating itself this time under a new flag?

A Fight to Be Seen as Human

-Grace, 242EJPB42

Do not deem us goddesses,
Just let us live in peace.
Do not tie us to honour,
To chores or endless duties.

We are not goddesses
Who can endure endlessly.
We are humans — just like you;
We feel pain and despair too.

We feel the pain of being harassed,
We feel the weight of judgement —
"What was she wearing?
Why was she out so late?"
We are so sick of hearing!

Are we not supposed to exist?
Is going on a late-night stroll
Really such a crime
That we have to pay with our lives?

"She is someone's mother,
Someone's sister,
Someone's daughter,"
Is another response we hear.
But why do we have to be
Something to someone before
We can receive basic empathy?

No, we are not just mothers,
Not just sisters, not just daughters.
We are humans with identities,
With rights, freedom, and equality.

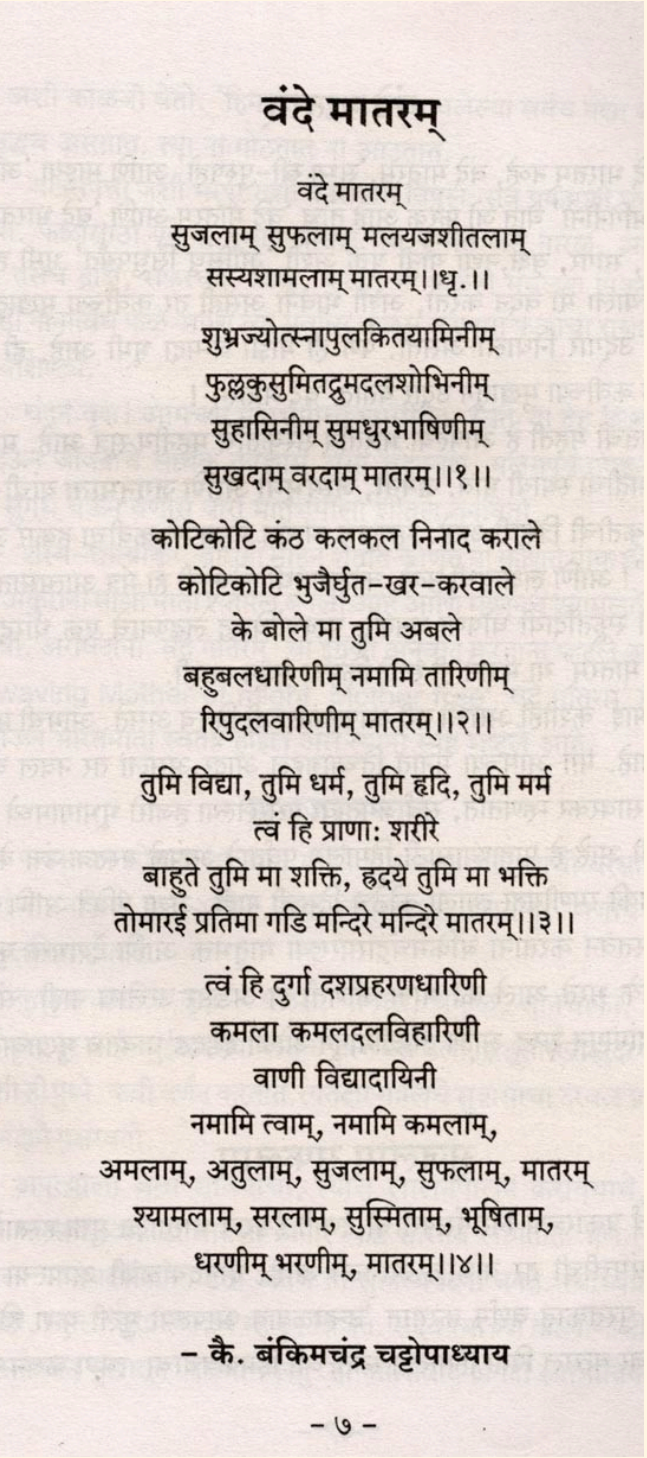
So, stop worshipping us;
Instead, give us equality.
Do not deem us goddesses,
Just grant us human dignity.



Photo source: The Hans india

150 Years of Years of Vande Mataram: The Song that India keeps Rewriting

-Shravan Kumar, Joint Secretary



वंदे मातरम्

वंदे मातरम्
सुजलाम् सुफलाम् मलयजशीतलाम्
सस्यशामलाम् मातरम्।।धृ.।।

शुभ्रज्योत्स्नापुलकितयामिनीम्
फुल्लकुसुमितद्रुमदलशोभिनीम्
सुहासिनीम् सुमधुरभाषिणीम्
सुखदाम् वरदाम् मातरम्।।१।।

कोटिकोटि कंठ कलकल निनाद कराले
कोटिकोटि भुजैर्धुत-खर-करवाले
के बोले मा तुमि अबले
बहुबलधारिणीम् नमामि तारिणीम्
रिपुदलवारिणीम् मातरम्।।२।।

तुमि विद्या, तुमि धर्म, तुमि ह्रदि, तुमि मर्म
त्वं हि प्राणा: शरीरे
बाहुते तुमि मा शक्ति, ह्रदये तुमि मा भक्ति
तोमारई प्रतिमा गडि मन्दिरे मन्दिरे मातरम्।।३।।

त्वं हि दुर्गा दशप्रहरणधारिणी
कमला कमलदलविहारिणी
वाणी विद्यादायिनी
नमामि त्वाम्, नमामि कमलाम्,
अमलाम्, अतुलाम्, सुजलाम्, सुफलाम्, मातरम्
श्यामलाम्, सरलाम्, सुस्मिताम्, भूषिताम्,
धरणीम् भरणीम्, मातरम्।।४।।

– कै. बंकिमचंद्र चट्टोपाध्याय

– ७ –

Photo source: Exotic India Art

One hundred and fifty years after its creation, Vande Mataram remains one of the most powerful and emotionally charged cultural symbols in India, not because of nostalgia but because of how it continues to evolve with the nation. First published in Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Anandamath in 1882, the song has travelled across colonial rebellion, constitutional debate, post-independence politics, and now, a deeply polarised digital age. It's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary matters not as a commemoration but because Vande Mataram is still a living text, invoked, questioned, reclaimed, and reinterpreted in ways that reflect India's changing political and cultural self-understanding.

During the Swadeshi Movement, the song became a moral force of resistance. It unified crowds, energised protests, and expressed a collective hunger for freedom. Over time, however, its meaning has shifted from anti-colonial nationalism to a more complicated space shaped by contemporary anxieties about identity, secularism, and representation. The debates that surround Vande Mataram today are not about its literary beauty or historical role; they are about what kind of nationalism modern India wants to build. Some view it as the purest expression of patriotic sentiment, while others feel alienated by aspects of its imagery. This tension is not a weakness; it reflects the layered reality of Indian pluralism.

Literary scholars and cultural commentators argue that the anniversary is a chance to return to Bankim Chandra's historical context, a time marked by famine, colonial authoritarianism, and an emerging cultural self-confidence. Reading Vande Mataram with this context in mind allows for a deeper understanding that moves beyond the simplified binaries that dominate contemporary debate.

At its core, Vande Mataram at one hundred and fifty is not about settling arguments; it is about acknowledging the song's ability to hold multiple meanings across generations. It reminds India that love for the nation can be expressed in different ways and that cultural symbols become richer when society engages with them critically, emotionally, and honestly. The endurance of Vande Mataram lies in its elasticity, its ability to inspire devotion, provoke reflection, and spark conversation. That is why it continues to matter, because it is not finished, it is still alive.

Red Fort Blast: A Terror Attack or A Test of India's Resolve?

-Krish Marwein, Joint Secretary

What should a nation do when violence is not just random, but part of a careful, calculated plan, possibly stretching far beyond its own borders?

When tragedy struck Delhi's historic Red Fort, it was not just the shock of the bombing itself that rattled India. It was a sombre signal that terrorism is evolving, going digital, recruiting from new corners of society, and leaving authorities scrambling to keep up. The suicide blast that took several lives near one of India's most symbolic sites is now being traced to a network with roots reaching all the way from Afghanistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, to quiet medical colleges, and hidden Telegram chats right here at home.

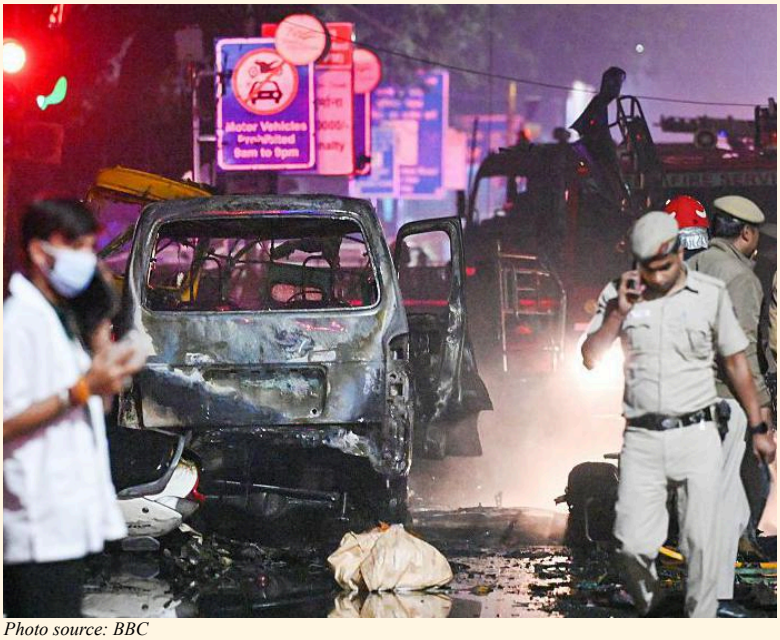


Photo source: BBC

Investigators have found frozen bank accounts, encrypted bomb-making guides, hawala transfers, and new forms of local recruitment. It is a shift experts are now calling "white-collar terrorism", where the masterminds are not battle-toughened militants, but educated professionals.

The main suspect, Umar Nabi, was not known as a militant; he was a doctor allegedly radicalised by foreign handlers. He was not alone; other medical professionals are under suspicion raising uneasy questions: just how deeply has radicalisation seeped into respected institutions? How many more ordinary professionals are silently drawn into these dark webs?

The government responded, calling the attack a clear act of terror. However, its tone was measured, less angry than many might expect, especially remembering the 2019 promise that any future attacks would be met as "acts of war".



Photo source: The hindu

Curiously, India has held back from immediately blaming Pakistan this time, despite signs pointing to Jaish-e-Mohammed networks and activity in PoK. Some observers see this restraint as strategic, acknowledging that escalation could upset South Asia's already delicate peace. Others wonder if the hard stance against terror is more talk than action.

At home, local police have launched new verification drives, especially focusing on tenants and Kashmiri students. Investigators are piecing together digital clues and tracing purchases of chemicals like TATP, the explosive chillingly nicknamed "The Mother of Satan."

But behind the scenes, tougher questions remain unanswered: how did a suicide bomber with medical training get past intelligence networks? Was the radicalisation done in online forums, or inside trusted institutions? And perhaps most important, has terrorism in India changed from ragtag insurgent groups to educated, isolated, tech-savvy ideologues?

As the investigation continues, one thing is clear: protecting the nation is not just about securing borders anymore, it is about confronting beliefs, understanding technology, and breaking the silence that lets extremism spread. So maybe the real question is not just "Who did this?" but:
Are we truly ready for this new wave of terrorism, one fuelled by ordinary people who are educated, local, and nearly invisible?

NDA's Victory and its National Ripple Effects

Pradyun, R&D deputy incharge

The recent Bihar assembly election results have delivered a historic mandate, with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) securing a staggering 202 out of 243 seats, decimating the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) which managed only 35. This landslide victory not only cements Nitish Kumar's position for another term but also reinvigorates the BJP's dominance on the national stage.

Decoding the Victory

The NDA's success was driven by a potent combination of "Brand Modi" and Nitish Kumar's enduring appeal among women and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs). Women voters, turning out in record numbers, acted as a silent powerhouse, endorsing the alliance's welfare schemes and improved law and order. The BJP's strategic seat-sharing and the consolidation of non-Yadav OBCs and Dalits and also creating a new voter base of their own Mahilla - Youth (M-Y) effectively countered the RJD's traditional Muslim-Yadav (M-Y) base. The results highlight that caste arithmetic, while crucial, is insufficient without the layer of "labharthi" (beneficiary) politics and governance credibility.



Photo source: Newsonair

The Opposition's Collapse

For the Mahagathbandhan, the verdict is a rude awakening. Despite drawing massive crowds, Tejashwi Yadav failed to convert popularity into votes. A significant factor in the alliance's sinking was the abysmal performance of the Congress, which won just 6 seats, proving to be a liability rather than a force multiplier. The opposition's narrative of "vote theft" and EVM tampering found no traction with the electorate, who decisively chose stability over experimentation.



Photo source: Jagran

National Implications

Beyond state borders, the verdict serves as a potent morale booster for the BJP, validating its dual strategy of development politics and social engineering. For the INDIA bloc, however, the results expose deep structural fault lines; the Congress's underperformance is likely to strain its bargaining power with regional partners. The election establishes a clear template for the NDA—prioritizing cohesive alliances and 'labharthi' outreach as the keys to electoral supremacy. In essence, Bihar 2025 signals a decisive shift in the national mood, challenging the opposition to overhaul its playbook or face stagnation.

SOURCES- TOI -5 reasons behind NDA's historic win
-India Today-Bihar Election Result 2025 Highlights: Ganga flows from Bihar to Bengal and has paved BJP's victory path, says PM
-News 18 India-Good Governance Has Won': PM Modi Thanks Bihar Voters For Giving Thumping Majority To NDA
-Seat data from ECI website.



Photo source: Cook with manali

My Favourite Dish Cooked at Home and Memories With It

-Jheel Chandarana, 253HEP14

My favourite dish has to be dal rice. Honestly, I didn't like it much when I was younger. Back then, it felt too simple compared to all the other exciting foods out there. But now, whenever I'm at the hostel, it's the one thing I crave the most and miss terribly. There's just something so comforting about a warm plate of dal and rice, especially when it's cooked by my mummy.

The way she makes it is truly special. The rice is always perfectly soft and fluffy, while the yellow dal is smooth and creamy. She gives it a tadka with red chilli, hing, and a good amount of ghee. The ghee adds this rich, buttery flavour that makes the whole dish taste heavenly. I can literally taste the love she puts into it with every bite.



Photo source: Indiaphile

And then there's her spicy tomato chutney — oh, I can never forget that! It's so fiery that you can actually feel the spice on your tongue. It might make your eyes water, but you just can't stop eating it. It adds the perfect punch to the simple dal rice.

When mummy serves it, she first piles a mound of rice on the plate, then pours so much dal over it that you can barely see the rice anymore. She places a little chutney on the side and drizzles about half a spoon of ghee on top. The aroma that fills the room at that moment is mouthwatering.

Mummy always says dal is full of protein and super healthy, so she encourages me to eat it regularly. This time, when I finally had it with my family, they were all laughing at me because I couldn't stop cribbing about hostel food while happily finishing every last bite of my favourite dal rice.

Spotlight

1) International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that India's economy will grow at 6.6% in 2025–26, reflecting resilience despite global economic headwinds.



Photo source: India Today

2) Exercise Trishul — a massive tri-service exercise involving the Army, Navy and Air Force — was conducted across Western India (Rajasthan, Gujarat and Arabian Sea) in November 2025.The drill aimed to strengthen joint-operation capabilities, especially in amphibious, electronic-warfare, and maritime scenarios.



Photo source: India Today

3) Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-I, India's first privately developed commercial orbital-rocket, was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi marking a milestone in India's private-space sector and satellite-launch ambitions.

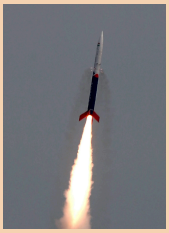


Photo source: India Today

4) The country observed Constitution Day on 26 November 2025, commemorating the adoption of its constitution an important moment reflecting on constitutional values and the legacy of B. R. Ambedkar (whose 125th birth anniversary also fell this year).



Photo source: Freepic

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia makes voting compulsory.If citizens don't vote without a valid reason, they can be fined. As a result, turnout is usually above 90%.

The oldest known parliament is over 1,000 years old. Iceland's parliament, the Althing, was founded in 930 AD – and still exists today.

The shortest constitution in the world belongs to Monaco. It's only 3,814 words long, compared to countries like India whose constitution is the longest written one in the world.



THE WORD DUNGEON

P	R	E	A	M	B	L	E	O	L
A	A	L	L	I	A	N	C	E	D
C	A	R	E	W	O	P	S	L	I
T	D	I	L	P	M	S	C	P	P
R	U	S	S	I	A	A	I	R	L
N	G	B	P	B	A	U	H	M	O
H	O	H	H	A	H	M	T	O	M
A	C	A	K	M	T	Y	E	W	A
U	L	T	Y	N	M	T	E	N	T
U	N	I	T	Y	T	A	E	R	T

Treaty, Parliament, Unity, Power, Russia, Alliance, Diplomat, Pact, Preamble, Ethics

RIDDLE: REPUBLIC

1) I'm made of many people,
But together I act as one.
I choose who leads the country,
And decide when their time is done.

2) I grant power without touching it,
Those who write me shape the future with ink.
Erase me, and chaos begins

Think you've got what it takes? Mail your Word Hunt, and Riddle, to spectrumsju.in@gmail.com. Winners will be featured in our next edition!

THE TEAM

Dr Roshni Sharma Mr Bhanu Prakash R	Faculty Coordinators
M Kavipriya	Editor -in- Chief
Shravan Kumar Tannay V Reddy Adiya George Elijah R Biji	Assistant Editors
Krish Marwein Shravan Kumar Grace, 242EJPB42 Jheel Chandarana, 253HEP14	Writers
Sahaana Ilayaperumal Ganesh Raj V	Creative and Art team
Sergai Muthiah Thanagabalagan	Layout and design

CREDITS

All sources and images have been credited to their rightful owners. No copyright infringement is intended. This publication is intended solely for internal and informational use. Credits for images, references, and external materials remain with their original creators.

For any queries or contributions, please contact us at
Mail - spectrumsju.in@gmail.com
Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/spectrum.sju/
WhatsApp - https://chat.whatsapp.com/D8mhwUA9dWI6mlg1PSgasS?mode=ems_wa_t
we'd love to hear from you!