

MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLES

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CLAT 2025 BLOCKBUSTER RESULTS

SIRF ALL INDIA RANKS

SIRF CLASSROOM SELECTIONS

SIRF AUTHENTIC RANKS

SAKSHAM GAUTAM
ALL INDIA TOPPER

ANANYA TAMASKAR
CHHATTISGARH TOPPER

AIR
NIKHILESH MUKHERJEE
WEST BENGAL TOPPER

VARDaan CHAWLA
PUNJAB TOPPER

AIR

AIR

AIR

AIR

1

3

AIR
6

AIR
7

AIR
8

AIR
9

ANIRUDDH PATHAK
MADHYA PRADESH TOPPER

AKSHAT SHRAFF
WEST BENGAL RANK 2

AIR
11

AIR
15

AIR
17

AIR
23

AIR
24

AIR
28

AIR
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69

AIR
81

AIR
86

AIR
88

AIR
89

AIR
92

AIR
97

AIR
116

AIR
119

& many more...

6 RANKS
UNDER AIR 10

6 STATE
TOPPERS

30 RANKS
UNDER AIR 100

47+ NLSIU
SELECTIONS

94 CLASSROOM
SELECTIONS
UNDER AIR 500

108 RANKS
UNDER AIR 500

MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLES OF THE DAY –01/02/2026

SUNETRA SWORN IN AS DEPUTY CM OF MAHARASHTRA

Wife of late NCP leader Ajit Pawar becomes the first woman to occupy the position in the State

She will be overseeing three portfolios – Excise, Minority Affairs, and Sports and Youth Welfare

Family was not consulted, merger talks of NCP factions were in final stage, says Sharad Pawar

A day after the conclusion of the three-day State mourning for late Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, who died in an air crash in Baramati on January 28, his wife Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra at a brief ceremony in Mumbai on Saturday evening. She is the first woman to occupy the post in the State. The swearing-in, which lasted barely a few minutes, took place amid intense political activity in Baramati and Mumbai, with several leaders questioning the need for the hurried decision. Ms. Pawar will oversee three portfolios — Excise, Minority Affairs, and Sports and Youth Welfare. Earlier in the day, NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar held a press conference in Baramati, saying that the Pawar family had neither been consulted nor informed about the swearing-in. He clarified that there was no proposal from the NCP for a merger at this stage. Naming senior leaders Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare, he suggested that the decision about Ms. Pawar appeared to have been taken independently by them.



Sunetra Pawar greets Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM from Shiv Sena, during the swearing-in ceremony on Saturday. EMMANUEL YOGINI

Party's choice

Mr. Pawar added that talks with Ajit Pawar about reunification were in the final stage before his death, and that the announcement was to be made soon. "It was Dada's wish [that the two parties should reunite]. It should be fulfilled; it is our wish," Mr. Pawar said, describing the death of Ajit Pawar as a tremendous loss. NCP (SP) sources said that Jayant Patil and Rohit Pawar were expected to be given ministerial berths in the government. In Mumbai, the NCP called a meeting of all legislators at Vidhan Bhavan on Saturday all, 45 of the 48 legislature party members

afternoon. In attended the meeting and chose Ms. Pawar as the group leader. The decision was made after the proposal by Cabinet Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, supported by five Cabinet colleagues, including Dilip Walse-Patil, Hasan Mushrif, and Narhari Zhirwal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Ms. Pawar following the swearing-in. "I am confident she will work tirelessly for the welfare of the people of the State and fulfil the vision of the late Ajitdada Pawar," Mr. Modi posted on social media. Earlier in the day, Mr. Patel and Mr. Tatkare met Ms. Pawar at Devgiri, joined by a few other NCP leaders. None responded to queries about the proposed reunification of NCP and NCP (SP), the appointment of the national president of the NCP or Mr. Pawar's statements in Baramati. Mr. Pawar said earlier in Baramati that reunification talks between Ajit Pawar and NCP (SP) leaders had been going on for the last six months but were halted due to Ajit Pawar's accident. When asked if he was open to joining hands with the BJP he said, "What is the relation of the BJP? In the talks we had [between Ajit Pawar and NCP (SP) leaders], there was no discussion about it." The statements are significant against the backdrop of the differences within the NCP and between the NCP and the NCP (SP), over the issue. After Ajit Pawar's sudden demise, several leaders from the NCP factions demanded reunification. The sentiment echoed in Baramati as well. "Both Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare want to change things here and decide everything hurriedly to keep Pawar saaheb out of it," a senior NCP leader told The Hindu, requesting anonymity. An NCP (SP) leader asked why the oath-taking ceremony was held when the entire State was still in shock and mourning over Ajit Pawar's death. Sources close to the Pawar family said they were glad that they were neither a part of the process nor were they invited to the event. In Islampur, NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil claimed his party leaders had met Ajit Pawar several times, and planned to announce the merger on February 12, with all senior NCP leaders fully informed.

'EL NINO MAY OCCUR AFTER JULY; CLEAR PICTURE TO EMERGE AFTER APRIL'

There is a chance that the El Nino phenomenon — a warming of the central Pacific Ocean frequently linked to weak monsoon rainfall in India — may occur after July, but clarity will only emerge in April, says M. Mohapatra, Director-General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"ENSO-neutral conditions are likely to persist until July and there's a probability it might move towards El Nino conditions," he said on Saturday in his monthly briefing on expected weather conditions in India in February. An El Nino is defined as the central equatorial Pacific heating, on average, at least half a degree warmer than the average for five consecutive overlapping three-month periods. Historically, six out of 10 El Nino

years have been linked to depressed rainfall over India. The El Nino is the converse of the La Nina — a half-degree cooling — and the two are cyclical phenomena. The last global El Nino was during 2023-24, a year that saw rainfall below normal levels in India. The latest climate models show a greater than 50% chance of an El Nino appearing over India after June and increasing to nearly 70% during July, August, and September. July and August are the most important months of the summer monsoon. Jatin Singh, chairman of the private weather forecasting company Skymet, said that "early" climate models signalled a likely El Nino in 2026, raising the risk of a "sub-par monsoon and drought conditions over India."

Hotter February days

El Nino forecasts made in February and March are generally prone to error, Mr. Mohapatra said, adding that those made in April are generally more accurate. The IMD forecast said that below-normal rainfall was likely over most parts of the country in February, except in some areas of northwest and east-central India. Temperatures over most of India were likely to be on the higher side, except in parts of southern India, the IMD added. Rainfall in January was 31% lower than normal for the month. "It's been observed that snowfall during the winter months has been reducing... probably due to the impact of climate change," Mr. Mohapatra added



El Nino phenomenon is defined as a climate pattern characterised by warmer ocean surface temperature. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

PROFESSORS, STUDENTS PROTEST AGAINST STAY ON UGC EQUITY RULES

A section of professors and students questioned the Supreme Court's recent decision to stay the University Grants Commission's (UGC) Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions rules at a protest organised by the Leftbacked All India Students' Association at Jantar Mantar on Saturday. Notified in January, the rules sought to address all forms of discrimination, in particular caste-based, on campuses after years of activism, litigation, and death by suicide of students like Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi. The court had mandated the UGC to draw up these rules. The protesting professors and students backed the rules, citing instances of caste discrimination on college campuses. They also questioned protests by general category students against the rules for "leaving them out of the ambit of caste discrimination" and the demand to hold a Bharat Bandh on Sunday. Posters circulated online, not called by any specific organisation, stated that the rules "discriminate against the general category". Social media users said that they are demanding for a "complete rollback" because a stay is not enough. "Has an upper caste person ever been attacked for drinking water and touching someone?" Dalit activist and lawyer Rajendra Pal Gautam said. Several students have taken their own lives due to caste discrimination, he said. 'Took years for change' It took years for Delhi University to start appointing teachers from the reserved categories, pointed out former Delhi University Teachers' Association president Nandita Narain. "Discouragement and the lack of representation are what led many [students] like Rohith [Vemula] to leave campuses or take their own lives," she said. Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union president Aditi said "this gathering is the beginning of a movement for social justice". JNU students said they will be conducting similar protests on the campus in the coming days. CPI(ML) lawmaker Sudama Prasad expressed solidarity with the protesters. (Those in distress can contact Tele MANAS at 14416 to seek help.)



Professors and students held a protest at Jantar Mantar on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

RYBAKINA EDGES OUT SABALENKA, BECOMES QUEEN OF MELBOURNE

Day 14 in numbers

1 Rybakina becomes the first Kazakh to win the Australian Open

1 She is the first woman to triumph at Melbourne Park by beating top-6 players in the quarterfinals (Swiatek), semifinal (Pegula) and final (Sabalenka) since Sharapova in 2008

1 Rybakina is the first woman to win the WTA Finals and the Australian Open in the subsequent year since Wozniacki (2017-18)

3 The Kazakh will rise to a career-high No. 3 in the rankings

3 Rybakina has defeated both the World No. 1 and 2 at a single event thrice so far. Since the WTA rankings were established (1975), only Serena (8) and Venus (4) have achieved it more times

6 She is the sixth woman to win her first two Majors on grass and hard courts (after Mauresmo, Davenport, Sharapova, Hingis and Venus)

60 Rybakina has the highest win-percentage (9-6) against World No. 1s since the WTA rankings were established (minimum 10 meetings)

92 Rybakina and Sabalenka won the same number of points (92) in the final

113 Sabalenka extends her streak of winning at least one set in Grand Slam matches to 113. Only Navratilova (143) has a longer streak

AO australian open

Sunday's Pick
MEN'S SINGLES FINAL
1-Alcaraz vs 4-Djokovic

Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Elena Rybakina took revenge over World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka to win a nail-biting Australian Open final on Saturday and clinch her second Grand Slam title. The big-serving Kazakh fifth seed held her nerve to pull through 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne in 2hrs 18mins. It was payback after the Belarusian Sabalenka won the 2023 final between two of the hardest hitters in women's tennis. The ice-cool Rybakina, 26, who was born in Moscow, adds her Melbourne triumph to her Wimbledon win in 2022. It was more disappointment in a Major final for Sabalenka, who won the US Open last year for the second time but lost the French Open and Melbourne title deciders. She was into her fourth straight Australian Open final and had been imperious until now, with tears in her eyes at the end. The results (finals): Women: 5-Rybalkina (Kaz) bt 1-Sabalenka (Blr) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. Doubles: 4-Mertens (Bel) & Shuai (Chn) bt 7-Danilina (Kaz) & Krunic (Srb) 7-6(4), 6-4. Men's doubles: 6-Harrison (USA) & Skupski (GBr) bt Kubler & Polmans (Aus) 7-6(4), 6-4.

TAKING FORWARD THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO END GAZA CONFLICT A SHARED PRIORITY: JAISHANKAR



Narendra Modi, centre, with the Foreign Ministers and delegations of the Arab League, in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, left, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval are seen. PTI

Ending the violence in the Gaza Strip is a “shared priority” for the world, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday, welcoming representatives and Ministers at the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers’ meeting. Delivering the inaugural address at the meeting, which came ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s expected visit to Israel later this month, Mr. Jaishankar expressed India’s support for ending the violence in Gaza as well as in other regions such as Sudan, Libya and Lebanon. “Taking forward the comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict is today a widely shared priority. Various countries have made policy declarations on peace plan, individually or collectively. This is the larger context in which we deliberate on the region’s challenges and prospects,” said Mr. Jaishankar. He also mentioned the attempts at peace building in Gaza during the October 2025 Sharm-el-Sheikh Peace Summit, which was followed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2803 that supported the idea of a ‘transitional administration’ and authorised the setting up of an International Stabilisation Force (ISF) for ending the conflict that has killed at least 72,000 Palestinians. India started 2026 by engaging major powers in the Arab world in security and foreign policy dialogue. On January 19, New Delhi hosted UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. It was followed by a meeting in Riyadh between Indian and Saudi Arabian officials on security matters. India’s presence in conflict-hit Yemen has also witnessed some improvement as India opened a facility in Yemen’s Aden last October. The conflict in Yemen also found mention in Mr. Jaishankar’s speech, where the threat posed by the Houthis to international shipping was indirectly mentioned as an “additional implication” of the conflict in Yemen. Mr. Jaishankar said multiple conflicts in the Arab world stretching from Libya to Sudan to Gaza “impacts us all, and India as a proximate region”. The second India-Arab Foreign Ministers meeting was attended by a number of foreign ministers and representatives from the Arab world.

UAE HAILS INDIA-EU TRADE PACT; CALLS IT ‘MODEL OF PARTNERSHIPS’

The United Arab Emirates has applauded the free trade agreement reached between India and the European Union. In a recent statement by the UAE’s Foreign Ministry, Minister of State Saeed Al Hajeri said the pact “reflects the commitment of both sides to promoting free trade and economic openness and embodies as a model of economic partnerships that support sustainable growth and shared prosperity”. The UAE noted its own Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with India as an example of an advanced model of strategic trade partnership. The statement hoped UAE-EU talks would also conclude positively, leading to a similar pact.

WHY IS INDIA-EU TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNIFICANT?

How much of the trade value of what India exports to the European Union region will the EU's tariff concessions cover? Which are the sectors besides textiles, apparel, manufactured goods and Indian traditional medicine services that the free trade agreement will help?

Negotiations on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) — dubbed the ‘mother of all deals’ by leaders on both sides — officially concluded on January 27, closing about two decades worth of intermittent talks. The deal, which has benefits for both, simultaneously avoids intractable sensitive issues while securing advantageous concessions on most others.

Why is it the ‘mother of all deals’?

The FTA has been called thus because of the size of the economies, markets, and bilateral trade involved. The deal brings together the second and fourth-largest single customs blocs, with the Indian government estimating the combined market size to be ₹2,091.6 lakh crore or about \$24 trillion. India has signed about eight FTAs in the last four years. While the other eight FTAs together accounted for about 16% of India’s total trade in 2024-25, in the latest full year of data available, the EU itself accounted for nearly 12%. Bilateral merchandise trade between India and the EU stood at ₹11.5 lakh crore (\$136.54 billion) in 2024-25, with Indian exports accounting for about ₹6.4 lakh crore (\$75.85 billion) of this. The India-EU trade in services touched ₹7.2 lakh crore (\$83.10 billion) in 2024.

What is India gaining?

The detailed FTA document has not been made public yet, with information only available through government releases from both sides. Under the deal, the EU will eliminate duties on about 70.4% of tariff lines immediately once the deal comes into effect, covering nearly 90.7% of India’s export value. Another 20.3% of products covering 2.9% of India’s exports will see tariffs eliminated over 3-5 years from implementation for certain marine products, processed food items, arms and ammunition, among others. In addition, 6.1% tariff lines covering 6% of India’s exports will see tariffs reduced, but not eliminated, for certain poultry products, preserved vegetables, bakery products among others or be reduced through quota-based tariffs for cars, steel, certain shrimp and prawns products, among others. So,

taken together, the EU’s tariff concessions cover more than

99% of the trade value of what India exports to the region. The concessions offered are not limited to merchandise either. While the services sector has not seen as wide an opening up as merchandise, the EU has offered “broader and deeper commitments” across 144 service sub-sectors, including IT/ITeS, professional services, education, and other business services, the government has said.

Which sectors stand to benefit?

“The potential [of the EU FTA] on labour intensive sectors, where we’ve got huge wins, is about \$35 billion. Out of the \$35 billion, \$33.5 billion will become 0% duty on day 1,” Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal explained to *The Hindu* in an interview following the closure of negotiations. These sectors, which include textiles, apparel, marine, leather, footwear, chemicals, plastics/rubber, sports goods, toys, and gems and jewellery, currently attract tariffs ranging from 4-26%. This is particularly noteworthy because these are primarily the sectors that have been hit by the 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India. “Preferential market access for agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, grapes, gherkins and cucumbers, dried onion, fresh vegetables and fruits as well as for processed food products will make them more competitive in the EU,” the government said in a release. The FTA is expected to benefit Indian traditional medicine services and practitioners as well, it added. As per the deal, in EU countries where regulations do not exist, AYUSH practitioners will be able to provide their services using the qualifications they have obtained in India.



New horizon: The signing of the India-EU FTA in New Delhi on January 27.

What has India offered to the EU?

Under the deal, about 49.6% of tariff lines covering 30.6% of trade value will see their duties immediately eliminated once the deal comes into effect. Another 39.5% of tariff lines with a trade value of 63.1% will see their tariffs eliminated over five, seven, or 10 years from when the deal is implemented. Taken together, India's total offer covers about 92.1% of tariff lines and 97.5% of trade value. While a lot of European items are set to get cheaper for Indians, the main consumer-facing items of interest are wine and automobiles. European wine will see current duties of about 150% falling in a phased manner over seven years to 30% for wine priced between 2.5 to 10 euros and to 20% for wine over 10 euros. No concessions have been offered on cheap wine to protect domestic producers. These tariffs all apply under a quota, however, with amounts exceeding the quota limit attracting non-FTA tariffs. On motor vehicles, the tariffs will be gradually reduced to 10% from the current 110%, but also under a quota system. Cars below ₹25 lakh, which account for majority of the Indian market, are not part of the deal. Cars above that limit are divided into three quota brackets. The lowest of these brackets has the smallest quota for European cars, since Indian manufacturers do have a presence there. The highest segment has the biggest quota for European cars since the ultra-luxury segment is where European carmakers don't have Indian competition.

Which sectors are kept out of the deal?

In his interview, Mr. Goyal explained that in all his FTA negotiations the two countries begin by laying out their 'red lines' or sectors that they will not offer any concessions on. So, in the EU deal, India managed to keep out sensitive agricultural sectors such as beef, poultry, dairy products, fish and seafood, cereals, especially rice and wheat, fruits and vegetables, nuts, edible oils, tea, coffee, spices, and tobacco. The EU has kept beef, sugar, rice, chicken meat, milk powder, honey, bananas, soft wheat, garlic, and ethanol out of the deal, and has offered quotas on sheep and goat meat, sweetcorn, grapes, cucumbers, dried onions, and rum made of molasses and starches. Mr. Goyal has expressed his confidence that the deal will be implemented in calendar year 2026, despite the fact that the text still needs to go through legal vetting, translation into 24 European languages, approval in 27 European countries, and finally passage in the European Parliament.

What are some concerns?

The FTA could not make much headway in addressing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a tariff structure the EU devised to address the carbon footprint of countries and companies. The EU side argued that CBAM tariffs apply to all countries equally and so it cannot give any concessions to specific countries. However, India has secured a commitment that, if the EU gives CBAM concessions to any other country, those would automatically apply to India as well. Another concern is that, if India is to attract investments from countries looking to take advantage of the new tariff-free route to Europe, it will have to quickly implement more reforms to make India investment-friendly

PLAN TO END GAZA CONFLICT A SHARED PRIORITY, SAYS JAISHANKAR

Ending the violence in the Gaza Strip is a "shared priority" for the world, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday, welcoming representatives and Ministers at the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting. Delivering the inaugural address at the meeting, Mr. Jaishankar expressed India's support for ending the violence in Gaza as well as in other regions such as Sudan, Libya and Lebanon. He said that multiple conflicts in the Arab world stretching from Libya to Sudan to Gaza "impacts us all, and India as a proximate region"

WHY HAVE THE NEW UGC REGULATIONS BEEN STAYED?

Why Have There Been Protests? How Have The Regulations Defined Caste-Based Discrimination? Why Were New Regulations Introduced? What Was The Main Thrust Of The 2026 Regulations On Grievance Redressal Mechanisms As Opposed To The 2012 Ones?

On January 29, the Supreme Court stayed a new set of regulations notified by the University Grants Commission (UGC) earlier this month on the promotion of equity within higher educational institutes, saying they were “vague and could be misused”. These regulations were brought to replace a previous version in effect since 2012, to specifically address issues of caste discrimination in campuses.



What are the 2026 UGC equity regulations?

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations Bill, 2026, were notified by the higher education regulator on January 13, 2026. In these regulations, the UGC defined “caste-based discrimination” as “discrimination only on the basis of caste or tribe against the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other backward classes”. It also defined “discrimination” as “any unfair, differential, or biased treatment or any such act against any stakeholder, whether explicit or implicit, on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, disability, or any of them...”

The regulations provided for establishing a layered grievance redressal system for addressing discrimination. This included provisions to set up Equal Opportunity

Centres, Equity Committees, and Equity Squads in each institute, and Equity Ambassadors in each unit (departments, schools) of the institutes. It also provided for an institutional accountability mechanism, where institutes found violating the regulations could be penalised.

Why were the regulations said to be biased?

Protesters argued that the regulations discriminated against “general or upper castes”, hinging on the (lack of) definition of “caste-based discrimination”, the dropping of the provision on “false complaints”, and the ambiguity in the functioning of bodies like the ‘Equity Squads’. By leaving them out of this definition, the upper caste section argued that the regulations had “presupposed” that general or upper caste students would be the perpetrators of caste discrimination at all times. Further, the protesters argued that the provision of punishment for “false complaints” had also been absent, which they said could have been useful to counter false complaints.

How did these regulations come about?

These regulations were devised under the supervision of a Supreme Court Bench that was hearing a batch of petitions filed in 2019 by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, both of whom had died by suicide, alleging caste-discrimination in 2016 and 2019, respectively. Their petition had argued that the 2012 UGC regulations were not being implemented to address “rampant caste-discrimination” in higher education institutes. During the hearings, the UGC had told the Supreme Court that it had formed a Expert Committee to revisit the 2012 regulations under the Chairmanship of Professor Shailesh N. Zala. The committee drafted a revised version of the equity regulations, and the final regulations were notified in 2026.

What were the 2012 regulations?

In the 2012 regulations, the regulatory authority had not defined “caste-based discrimination” separately. It had defined “discrimination” with sub-sections on depriving access to education, imposing undignified conditions, and maintaining separate educational and social spaces within the campuses on the basis of caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender, and disability. The 2012 regulations had provided for the setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms, which included the establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells, SC/ST Cells, and the appointment of an anti-discrimination officer. Further, in prohibiting discrimination against SC and ST students in higher educational institutes, the 2012 regulations had identified a total of 25 specific instances and types of discrimination in various aspects of campus life. None of these specific acts has been included in the 2026 regulations. However, the 2012 regulations did not provide the language to protect “Other Backward Classes” and did not have institutional consequences for not following through on the implementation of the regulations.

Were only upper castes upset?

No. A significant section argued that the new regulations were not strengthening the 2012 rules on anti-discrimination, principally because of the lack of specificity on what counted as discrimination. Professor Sukhadeo Thorat, former Chairperson of the UGC argued that the new regulations do not clarify if they will be applicable to institutes like IITs, IIMs, polytechnics, nursing institutions, etc., further noting that the composition of Equity Committees should mention the quantum of representation for SC, ST, and OBC members. Jadavpur University Assistant Professor Subhajit Naskar said in dropping the specific acts of discrimination, the new regulations had, in fact, diluted the 2012 regulations.

Now what?

The SC has said that the batch of petitions challenging the 2026 regulations will be heard with the petitions filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, also calling for the UGC to go back to its 2012 regulations while it hears the challenges to the new version. In doing so, the SC has also framed certain legal questions that are to be addressed in the course of the hearings in these matters from now onwards. These petitions are to come up for the next hearing in March.

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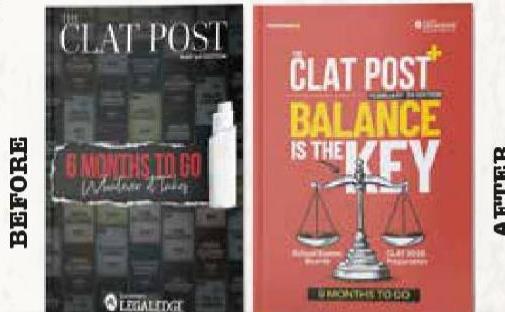
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