

WHAT IS THE TELEVISION RATING POINT (TRP)?



- It is a metric used to **measure the popularity and viewership of television programs.**
- The **more viewers** a program has, the **higher** its TRP rating.
- It is **calculated by measuring the viewership** of a particular program **over a period of time**, usually a week.
- TRP ratings are used by broadcasters and advertisers to determine the popularity of different TV programs.
- **According to the TRP** of a TV channel or programme, **advertisers decide where to display their advertisements**, and **investors will decide about the investment** of the money.

How is TRP Calculated in India?

- TRP is **calculated** by the Indian agency the **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)** using **“BAR-O-meters”**, that are **installed in televisions in selected households.**
 - BARC India is a **joint industry company** founded by stakeholder bodies that **represent broadcasters, advertisers, and advertising, and Media Agencies.**
- BARC has installed **“BAR-O-meters”** in over **58,000 impanelled households.**
- These gadgets **record data about the channel or programme** watched by the family members or selected people. This **method is called the People meters.**
- In this way, **some thousand viewers are surveyed** in the form of **justice and sampling.**
- The **data is then extrapolated to estimate the viewership of the entire population.**
- Another method is known as **picture matching**, where the **people meter records a small portion of the picture that is being watched on the TV.**

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- This **data is collected** from a set of homes in the form of pictures and later on is analysed to calculate the TRPs.
- The BARC releases weekly TRP results every Thursday ranking all TV channels and TV programmes.

PARAKH RASHTRIYA SARVEKSHAN DISSEMINATION PORTAL



- It provides open access to **National and State-level** data on student performance.
- This tool is expected to serve as a **key resource for States/UTs to design** targeted improvement plans to enhance **learning outcomes and bridge skill gaps**.

What is PARAKH?

- PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is a unit established within **NCERT in 2023** to standardise school board assessments nationwide.
- PARAKH team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally.
- **Objective:** To fulfil the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment along with other tasks as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The mandate of PARAKH is to work on **bringing the school boards** across the States and the Union Territories to a common platform.
 - Major areas of focus
 - Capacity Development in Competency Based Assessment
 - Large-Scale Achievement Survey
 - Equivalence of School Boards
 - Holistic Progress Cards for the Foundational, Preparational, Middle and Secondary Stages.

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QUAD UNITES TO SECURE CRITICAL MINERALS: A CHALLENGE TO CHINA'S DOMINANCE

- The second Quad foreign ministers' meeting took place in Washington, DC.
- During the meeting, members reaffirmed its commitment to four key areas: **maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance.**
- The ministers strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, urging that the perpetrators, organisers, and financiers be brought to justice promptly.
- **Launch of Quad Critical Minerals Initiative**
 - The ministers launched the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative to secure supply chains and reduce dependency on China for essential resources.
- **Focus on Maritime and Logistics Cooperation**
 - The participating ministers also announced:
 - The first Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network field training exercise to be held this year.
 - The launch of the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership in Mumbai later this year.

Quad Critical Minerals Initiative

- India, Australia, Japan, and the United States have jointly launched the **Quad Critical Minerals Initiative** to build resilient and diversified supply chains for critical minerals vital to modern technologies.
- The initiative will enhance cooperation on securing and diversifying supply chains, recovering critical minerals from e-waste, and boosting private sector investment to strengthen supply chain resilience.
- Quad members expressed serious concerns about the growing dependency on China for processing and refining critical minerals, warning of risks like economic coercion, price manipulation, and supply disruptions.

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China's Dominance in Critical Minerals

- Critical minerals, including rare earth elements (REEs), are essential for advanced technologies like semiconductors, EVs, and jet fighters.
- China dominates the production of neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets, which are vital for EV motors, power steering, braking, and more.
- Though rare earth metals are globally available, China leads in efficient processing—a position once held by the US and Japan.
- Japan has revived part of its mineral processing industry through policy measures, while the US and India remain largely dependent on Chinese exports.
- **Supply Chain Barriers Amid Geopolitical Tensions**
 - In response to US tariffs under President Trump, China imposed bureaucratic barriers and later restricted exports of key critical minerals.
 - China has also restricted the export of several heavy rare earth elements and high-tech materials with potential military uses, intensifying supply chain concerns globally.
- **India's National Critical Mineral Mission**
 - India's Mines Ministry proposed external funding via RISE for its ₹16,300 crore National Critical Mineral Mission, which aims to strengthen exploration, overseas acquisition, R&D, and recycling.
 - India joined the US-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) in June 2023.
 - The MSP was formed in June 2022 with all G7 countries and a few others like Australia, South Korea, Finland, and Sweden.
 - During PM Modi's visit to Washington in February 2025, India and the U.S. signed the Transforming Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST) initiative to collaborate on mineral extraction and processing technologies.
 - The TRUST agreement targets key minerals like lithium and rare earth elements, aiming to co-develop extraction and processing capabilities.

GADEN PHODRANG TRUST



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Gaden Phodrang Foundation
of the Dalai Lama

- The Gaden Phodrang Trust of the Dalai Lama is a **non-profit charitable organisation** established by the 14th Dalai Lama to support his various religious, cultural and humanitarian initiatives.
- It was named after the historical Gaden Phodrang, the **traditional government of Tibet** led by the Dalai Lamas until 1959,
- The Trust continues the legacy of promoting Tibetan Buddhism, preserving Tibetan culture, and supporting education and healthcare for Tibetan communities in exile.
- It refers to the residential quarters of the Dalai Lama lineage from the second Dalai Lama onward at **Drepung Monastery in Lhasa**.
- **Purpose:** It was **registered in 2011** in Dharamshala with the aim of recognising the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.
- It is based in the office of the Dalai Lama, and is managed by the former **Kalon Tripa** (head of the CTA) Prof Samdhong Rinpoche, a senior monk and a close confidant of the Dalai Lama.

SOCIALISM, SECULARISM ARE THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- The **Constitution of India** is a living testament to the ideals, struggles, and **aspirations of a nation** born out of an anti-colonial movement rooted in justice, equality, and dignity.

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- Among its **most enduring and fundamental values** are **socialism** and **secularism**, not incidental additions to the Preamble, but principles deeply woven into the Constitution's very fabric.
- The **recent demand to remove these terms from the Preamble** is not simply a semantic or symbolic gesture.
- It is, in essence, a **direct attack on the moral and ideological foundations** of the Indian Republic.

The Significance of the Words 'Socialist' and 'Secular'

- **Socialism in the Constitution: More Than a Word**
 - Socialism in the Indian context is **not a rigid ideological commitment to state ownership**, but a moral and constitutional promise of **social and economic justice**.
 - The Constitution **aims to eradicate inequality** and establish a welfare-oriented state.
 - The **Preamble** itself speaks of Justice, social, economic, and political” and pledges **Equality of status and of opportunity**, thereby reaffirming a socialist orientation.
 - This commitment is echoed throughout the **Fundamental Rights** and **Directive Principles of State Policy**. Articles 14, 15, and 16 ensure equality before the law, prohibit discrimination, and guarantee equal opportunities in employment.
- **Secularism: The Bedrock of Unity in Diversity**
 - **India's secularism is unique**, it does not mandate a wall of separation between religion and state as in the West, but affirms **equal respect for all religions** and the right of every citizen to freely profess and practice their faith.
 - Far from being a post-1976 innovation, **this spirit is evident in the original Constitution**.

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- The **Preamble**, even before the 42nd Amendment, guaranteed **Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and Fraternity** assuring the **dignity of the individual**.
- Significantly, the **Supreme Court**, in multiple landmark rulings, has upheld secularism as part of the **basic structure** of the Constitution, a concept first articulated in the historic **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**.

Conclusion

- The **Constitution of India is not just a legal instrument**; it is a moral compass that guides the Republic toward justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- **Socialism and secularism** are not ornamental additions; they are **foundational pillars that uphold the spirit of India's democracy**.
- Any attempt to undermine them must be seen as **an attack on the soul of the nation itself**.

GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC PUSH FOR ARHAR AND URAD CULTIVATION

In response to surging pulse imports and rising domestic demand, the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has initiated a **targeted programme**.

This programme **aims to promote arhar (tur) and urad cultivation** across several Indian states during the Kharif season 2025. This is part of a **broader food security and import reduction strategy**.

Key Highlights and Government Initiatives:

- **Launch of pulse cultivation campaign:**
 - **Aim:** The Department of Consumer Affairs will promote arhar and urad cultivation through **seed distribution campaigns**.
 - **Implementation:** By the National Cooperative Consumer's Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF).

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- **Extent:** The campaign is extended from a successful pilot in two Jharkhand districts to 12 districts across seven states -
 - **Jharkhand:** Palamu, Latehar, Garhwa
 - **Uttar Pradesh:** Mirzapur, Lalitpur
 - **Bihar:** Gaya, Jehanabad
 - **Karnataka:** Vijayapura
 - **Others:** Manipur and Tripura (districts not specified)
- **Criteria for district selection:** Rainfed areas, presence of Aspirational Blocks as identified by NITI Aayog.
- **Financial and procurement support:**
 - ₹1 crore allocated for seed distribution.
 - 100% procurement guarantee at Minimum Support Price (MSP) if market price falls.
 - MSP for Kharif Marketing Season 2025-26 -
 - **Arhar:** ₹8,000/quintal
 - **Urad:** ₹7,800/quintal

Policy Support for Pulse Cultivation:

- **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA):** Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), the government procures pulses at MSP. Procurement limit of 25% lifted for Tur, Masoor, and Urad during 2023–24 and 2024–25.
- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM):** Implemented in 28 States and 2 UTs (J&K and Ladakh), it aims to enhance foodgrain production including pulses.
- **Crop Diversification Programme (CDP):** Implemented in Green Revolution States - Haryana, Punjab, Western UP, it encourages shift from water-intensive paddy to pulses and oilseeds.
- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):** It offers states flexibility to address regional agricultural needs, including pulse promotion.

APACHE AH-64E ATTACK HELICOPTER



- It is the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter.

- It is widely used for advanced reconnaissance, precision strikes, and close air support missions globally.
- **Country of Origin: United States**
- **Manufacturer: Boeing**
- It is also known as the Apache Guardian.
- The AH-64E attack helicopter is the latest version of the Apache used by the US Army.
- **Features:**
 - Length: 17.8 m (58.7 feet)
 - Maximum Take-Off Weight: 10,433 kg (23,000 pounds)
 - **Max Speed: 300 kph** (186 mph)
 - **Range: 500 km** (310 miles)
 - It is designed and equipped with **open systems architecture** to incorporate the latest communications, navigation, sensor, and weapon systems.
 - It has **greater thrust and lift, joint digital operability, improved survivability, and cognitive decision aiding.**
 - The AH-64E includes a **new integrated infrared laser** that allows for **easier target designation** and **enhanced infrared imagery** that blends infrared and night vision capabilities.
- **Apache for Indian defence forces:** The Indian Air Force has a fleet of 22 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, and in 2020, Boeing signed an agreement with the Government of India for the acquisition of six more Apache helicopters for the Indian Army.