CURRENT AFFAIRS — 5 November 2026

Thursday, 5 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

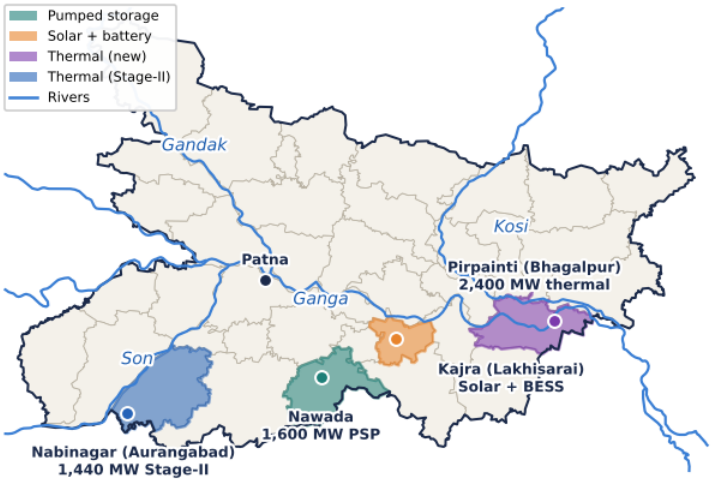
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR BPSC CCE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Bihar power roadmap: **₹2.57 lakh crore** planned investment; **24 GW** RE + **6 GWh** storage by **FY 2030**.
- **1,600 MW** pumped storage project coming up in **Nawada**; **2,900 MW** sanctioned under **PM-KUSUM**.
- CM launched **Bihar Business Connect 2027** portal; investor meet in **February 2027**.
- **Bihar Foundation** has **55 chapters** (**31** international, **24** national).
- Bihar seeks CCEA nod for **4** highway projects worth **₹49,751 crore**.
- Bihar Health Dept to recruit **11,000+** staff; notification by **end-November**.
- Cabinet: **₹14,500 crore** VGF for **92 GWh** grid-scale energy storage (FY27-31).
- **VISTAR** (MoSPI): **₹4,371.10 crore**; **59 surveys**; **8th Economic Census**.
- **850** fast-track special courts for rape/POCSO cases extended till **2031**.
- SC refers **Javed v. State of Haryana (2003)** to larger bench; India's TFR now **1.9**.

BIHAR'S ENERGY PUSH — KEY PROJECT SITES



₹2.57 lakh cr
planned power investment

24 GW + 6 GWh
RE + storage by FY 2030

2,900 MW
PM-KUSUM sanctioned

~2,500
feeders to be solarised

~9,400 MW
current peak demand

Map: Bihar's energy push — see item A1 below. Highlighted districts host key storage and thermal projects.

SECTION A | BIHAR SPECIAL

Bihar unveils ₹2.57 lakh crore power roadmap; 24 GW green target by 2030

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy)

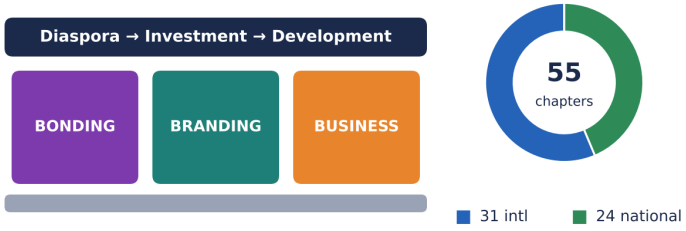
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy – energy & infrastructure; role of S&T. **Prelims**: state policies, project locations (Nawada, Kajra, Pirpainti).
Context	At the **Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026** (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, **4 Nov**), Bihar held a State Plenary Session where Energy Minister **Shailesh Kumar** invited investors, promising land and policy support.
Key Facts	■ Planned investment in generation, transmission, distribution & upkeep: **~₹2,57,316 crore**; ongoing pipeline **~₹78,400 crore**. ■ **Renewable Energy Policy 2025** target: **24 GW** RE capacity + **6 GWh** storage by **FY 2030**. ■ **1,600 MW pumped storage** project in **Nawada**; **500 MW** battery storage planned; solar-plus-battery at **Kajra (Lakhisarai)**. ■ **PM-KUSUM**: **2,900 MW** sanctioned; **~2,500 feeders** to be solarised; **~5,000 MW** distributed RE in 2-3 years. ■ Three MoUs signed, incl. **BSPGCL-TERI** (research) and **CMET, MANIT Bhopal** (power-system planning).
Way Fwd	Fast-track land allotment, the intra-state **Green Energy Corridor** and storage approvals; rooftop and feeder solar can cut costly peak-hour power purchase.
Concept	**Pumped Storage Project (PSP)**: pumps water to an upper reservoir when power is cheap and generates hydro power at peak – a **'water battery'**. Bihar also has a **Pumped Storage Policy 2025** and **Green Hydrogen Policy 2026**.

Bihar Foundation portal & 'Bihar Hai Taiyaar' launched; Business Connect in Feb 2027

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Investment)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy – industrial policy, investment climate. **Prelims**: state initiatives, diaspora outreach.
Context	On **4 Nov** CM **Samrat Choudhary** launched the new **Bihar Foundation** website, the **Bihar Business Connect 2027** portal and the **'Bihar Hai Taiyaar'** initiative at the Samvad auditorium, CM Secretariat, Patna, urging the diaspora to act as **brand ambassadors**.
Key Facts	■ Bihar Foundation: **55 chapters** – **31 international** and **24 national**. ■ Works on three pillars: **Bonding, Branding, Business**. ■ **Bihar Business Connect** investor meet scheduled for **February 2027**. ■ Investment proposals of **~₹2 lakh crore** received; **20,000 acres** to be made available for industry. ■ **Dry port at Bihta** operational; new **Industrial Policy** and a **Silt Policy** (river-silt management) introduced.
Way Fwd	Convert MoUs into grounded projects through single-window clearance, a ready land bank and logistics links to **NW-1**.
Concept	**Dry port / Inland Container Depot (ICD)**: customs-cleared inland terminal that links hinterland industry to sea ports. **Diaspora diplomacy**: using emigrant networks for investment and branding.

BIHAR FOUNDATION — 3 PILLARS



₹49,751 crore highway push; four-line rail bridge over Sone at Koilwar

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Infrastructure)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy – transport infrastructure; Bihar geography (Sone, Ganga). **Prelims**: bridges, CCEA/PPPAC.
Context	CM **Samrat Choudhary** met Union Road Transport Minister **Nitin Gadkari** in New Delhi (**2 Nov**) seeking early clearance of **four highway/expressway projects worth ₹49,751 crore**; a second **four-line rail bridge over the Sone at Koilwar** (~**₹3,500 crore**) is also on the rail agenda.
Key Facts	■ The four projects have cleared the **PPPAC**; final approval rests with the **CCEA**. ■ Koilwar rail bridge proposed by **East Central Railway**, parallel to the existing bridge; allows **3 trains to cross at once**. ■ Eases congestion on the **Howrah–Patna–DDU** trunk corridor. ■ **~₹17,000 crore** planned for 3rd & 4th lines between **DDU and Jhajha**. ■ The historic **Koilwar (Abdul Bari) Bridge** links **Patna** and **Bhojpur** districts.
Way Fwd	Time-bound CCEA approval and land acquisition; integrate new corridors with ring roads, dry ports and **NW-1** freight terminals.
Concept	**CCEA** – Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the **PM**. **PPPAC** appraises central PPP projects (chaired by Secretary, **DEA**). **Sone** – right-bank tributary of the Ganga, rises at **Amarkantak**.

Bihar Health Department to recruit 11,000+ staff; AI call centre & online OPD booking

[HEALTH] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Governance & Health)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar administration, social sector; role of S&T (digital health). **Prelims**: health schemes, ABDM.
Context	Bihar's **Health Department** announced (**4 Nov**) a drive to fill **over 11,000 posts**, with the notification due by **end-November**, alongside new digital patient services in government hospitals.
Key Facts	■ **11,000+** vacancies; notification expected by **end of November 2026**. ■ Plans for an **AI-enabled call centre** and **online OPD registration/booking**. ■ State NEET-UG counselling: **138 MBBS seats** vacant; **stray round** opened on **4 Nov**. ■ Health is a **State List** subject (**Entry 6, List II** – public health, hospitals).
Way Fwd	Fix an annual recruitment calendar; link e-OPD with **ABHA** IDs to build longitudinal patient records.
Concept	**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**, launched **27 Sept 2021** – digital health ecosystem; **ABHA** = **14-digit** health account number. **WHO** doctor-population norm: **1:1,000**.

Chhath Mahaparva edges closer to UNESCO tag as Patna readies 231 ghats

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Indian Culture – Bihar)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-I**: Indian culture with Bihar's contribution – festivals, folk traditions. **Prelims**: UNESCO ICH list, 2003 Convention.
Context	With **Chhath** approaching, India's **multinational nomination** of **Chhath Mahaparva** for UNESCO's **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** is moving ahead; a decision is expected in **December 2027**. **Patna Municipal Corporation** has a **₹19.34 crore** plan for **231 ghats**.
Key Facts	■ Nomination under UNESCO's **2003 Convention**, for the **2026-27 cycle**. ■ Partner countries consulted: **UAE, Suriname, Netherlands**; missions in **Mauritius** and **Fiji** also engaged. ■ Nodal: **Ministry of Culture** with **Sangeet Natak Akademi** and **IGNCA**. ■ Four-day rite – **Nahay-Khay, Kharna, Sandhya Arghya, Usha Arghya** – worship of **Surya** and **Chhathi Maiya**; observed twice a year (**Chaiti** & **Kartik**). ■ **Deepavali** was inscribed in **December 2025** – India's most recent ICH entry.
Way Fwd	Build the dossier on community consent and a **safeguarding plan** – clean ghats, river health and documentation of Chhath folk songs.
Concept	**ICH domains (5)**: oral traditions, performing arts, **social practices/rituals/festive events**, knowledge about nature, traditional craftsmanship. India ratified the 2003 Convention in **2005**.

Bihar tightens policing: 500 AI traffic cameras, 1,100 e-bikes, anti-drug drive reviewed

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Administration)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar administration, law & order; role of S&T in governance. **Prelims**: NDPS Act, ITMS.
Context	The **Chief Secretary** reviewed the state's anti-narcotics drive on **4 Nov**, while the Transport Department readies AI cameras under **ITMS** and Bihar Police gets electric patrol bikes.
Key Facts	■ **4,232 NDPS cases** and **6,104 arrests** up to October 2026; **25,247 kg** narcotics destroyed in 2026. ■ **500 AI-enabled (ANPR) cameras** under the **Intelligent Traffic Management System**, with a **10-year** maintenance contract proposed. ■ **1,100 electric bikes** for police patrolling. ■ Accountability: **8 Patna police personnel** suspended in a bribery case; vigilance raids on a road-works engineer.
Way Fwd	Integrate ITMS with **e-challan** and **Dial-112**; pair enforcement with de-addiction and rehabilitation centres.
Concept	**NDPS Act, 1985**; **ANPR** = Automatic Number Plate Recognition. **Police** and **public order** are **State List** subjects (**Entries 1 & 2, List II**). Bihar's liquor ban: **Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016**.

BIHAR ENFORCEMENT DASHBOARD 2026



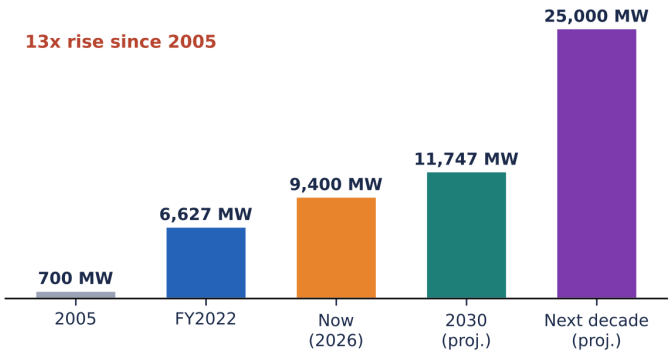
SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

BIHAR'S PEAK POWER DEMAND

~9,400 MW

Up from **~700 MW in 2005** (over **13x**); projected **~11,747 MW by 2030** and **~25,000 MW** within a decade. Discom AT&C losses fell from **29.27% (FY22)** to **11.54%**.

BIHAR PEAK POWER DEMAND (MW)



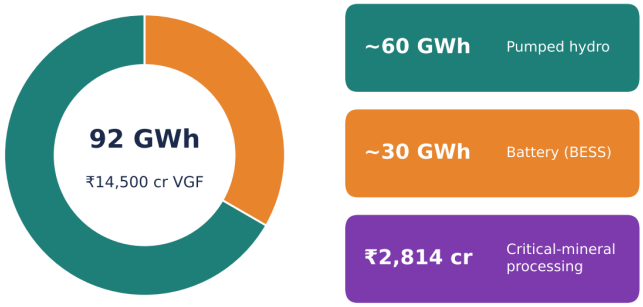
SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD

Cabinet clears ₹14,500 crore VGF for 92 GWh storage & ₹2,814 crore critical-mineral processing

[ECONOMY] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Economy, S&T)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian economy – energy security, industrial policy; role of S&T. **Prelims**: VGF, BESS, critical minerals.
Context	The **Union Cabinet** (**4 Nov**; briefing by **Ashwini Vaishnaw**) approved viability gap funding for grid-scale storage and a capex-support scheme for critical-mineral processing, both for **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**.
Key Facts	■ **₹14,500 crore** VGF to support **92 GWh** of new grid-scale energy storage. ■ Mix: about **30 GWh battery (BESS)** and **60 GWh pumped hydro**, implemented with states. ■ **₹2,814 crore** capex support to process all **24 identified critical minerals** (incl. **lithium, nickel**) – mined or recycled. ■ India secured **~$400 billion** RE investment commitments at the Bharat RE Summit.
Way Fwd	Dovetail with the **National Critical Mineral Mission** and **PLI-ACC** battery scheme to cut import dependence; states like Bihar can tap VGF for PSP/BESS.
Concept	**Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**: one-time capital grant that makes socially desirable but commercially unviable projects bankable. The **MMDR Amendment Act, 2023** notified **24 critical & strategic minerals** (Part D, First Schedule).

NEW GRID-SCALE STORAGE (FY27–FY31)



VISTAR: ₹4,371 crore to modernise India's statistical system

[ECONOMY] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I & GS-II (Statistics, Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-I**: statistical analysis & data interpretation; **GS-II**: Indian economy – data for planning. **Prelims**: MoSPI, Economic Census.
Context	Cabinet approved **VISTAR** – **Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research** – of **MoSPI** for **FY 2026-27 to 2030-31**.
Key Facts	■ Outlay: **₹4,371.10 crore**. ■ **59 surveys** planned in the **16th Finance Commission** cycle vs **43** earlier. ■ New indicators: **Headline Index of Services Production** and **Index of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises**. ■ Funds the **8th Economic Census** down to **Gram Panchayat/ward** level and a **National Statistical Business Register**.
Way Fwd	Granular GP-level data can sharpen Bihar's district plans; timely, transparent releases raise policy credibility.
Concept	**MoSPI** formed in **1999** by merging the Dept of Statistics and Dept of Programme Implementation; **NSO** is its statistical wing. **Economic Census** counts all non-farm establishments; the **7th** was held in **2019**.

850 fast-track special courts for rape & POCSO cases extended till 2031

[POLITY] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity & Governance)

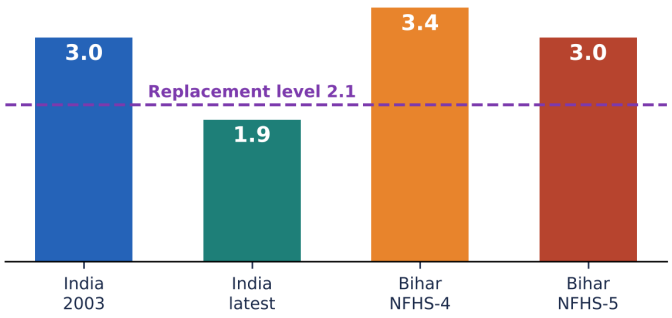
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian polity – judiciary, women & child protection. **Prelims**: Nirbhaya Fund, POCSO Act.
Context	The Cabinet approved continuation of the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for **850 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)**, including exclusive **POCSO** courts, till **2031**.
Key Facts	■ **850** FTSCs covered, incl. exclusive POCSO courts. ■ Scheme launched in **October 2019** after the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018**. ■ Central share comes from the **Nirbhaya Fund**. ■ New criminal laws (**BNS, BNSS, BSA**) in force since **1 July 2024**.
Way Fwd	Fill judge and staff posts, strengthen forensic labs and child-friendly courtrooms; Bihar must ensure its sanctioned FTSCs are fully functional.
Concept	**POCSO Act, 2012**; **Article 39A** – equal justice & free legal aid; **speedy trial** is part of **Article 21** (**Hussainara Khatoon, 1979**).

SC: two-child poll bar 'outdated'; Javed (2003) ruling sent to larger bench

[POLITY] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity – Local Government)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian polity – fundamental rights, Panchayati Raj; **GS-I**: population statistics. **Prelims**: landmark cases, TFR.
Context	A bench of Justices **P.S. Narasimha** and **Alok Aradhe** (**4 Nov**) stayed disqualification of a former Maharashtra sarpanch over a third child, called such laws outdated amid falling fertility, and referred their validity to a **larger bench**.
Key Facts	■ Provision: **Sec 14(1)(j-1), Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act, 1959**. ■ **Javed v. State of Haryana (2003)** had upheld the two-child norm for panchayat polls. ■ India's **TFR** fell from **3.0 (2003)** to **1.9**, below replacement **2.1**. ■ Bench linked penalising family size to **reproductive autonomy under Article 21**. ■ Bihar still has India's highest TFR – **3.0** (**NFHS-5**, 2019-21).
Way Fwd	Shift from coercive to incentive-based population policy; invest in **girls' education** – the strongest driver of Bihar's falling TFR.
Concept	**Replacement-level fertility = 2.1**. Under **Article 243F** (**73rd Amendment**), state legislatures prescribe disqualifications for panchayat membership.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (TFR)



Agniveers get two-year extension, opening a route to regular service

[DEFENCE] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance & Security)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: governance – defence recruitment reforms; youth employment (relevant to Bihar's large applicant base). **Prelims**: Agnipath features.
Context	The Union Cabinet approved a **two-year service extension** for the **75%** of Agniveers not retained after their 4-year tenure, creating a pathway to regular service as the first batch nears completion.
Key Facts	■ **Agnipath** launched in **June 2022**: **4-year** tenure incl. training; entry age **17.5–21** years. ■ Originally up to **25%** absorbed as regulars after 4 years. ■ Extension covers the remaining **75%**. ■ Ex-Agniveers already get **10% reservation** in **CAPF** recruitment.
Way Fwd	Notify clear selection criteria for regularisation; recognise service skills through academic credits and state police quotas.
Concept	**Defence of India** is **Entry 1, Union List**. **Seva Nidhi** – exit corpus built from Agniveer and matching government contributions.

Nepal PM Balen Shah's first India visit: rail, hydropower and floods on agenda

[IR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (IR & Bihar Geography)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: India's foreign policy – neighbourhood; Bihar geography – Nepal border, Kosi & Gandak. **Prelims**: treaties, border districts.
Context	India and Nepal stepped up preparations for PM **Balendra (Balen) Shah**'s first bilateral visit to India (proposed for **late November**); much of the agenda runs through **Bihar's border**.
Key Facts	■ **Raxaul–Kathmandu** broad-gauge rail link and a **Janakpur–Ayodhya** passenger train. ■ Hydropower: **West Seti (750 MW)** + **Seti River-6 (450 MW)** = **1,200 MW**, with **NHPC**. ■ More **Kathmandu–Patna** flights; ICPs at **Bhairahawa** and **Dhodhara-Chandani**. ■ Bihar shares **~729 km** of border with Nepal across **7 districts**.
Way Fwd	Joint flood forecasting on the **Kosi** and **Gandak**; revive the **Sapta Kosi high dam** DPR – the long-term fix for north Bihar floods.
Concept	**Kosi Agreement (1954)**, **Gandak Agreement (1959)**, **Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1950)**; India's **Neighbourhood First** policy.

INDIA–NEPAL: THE BIHAR CONNECT



SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
Bihar Business Connect investor meet	**February 2027**.
Nawada	site of Bihar's **1,600 MW** pumped storage project.
VISTAR outlay	**₹4,371.10 crore** (**MoSPI**).
India's TFR	**1.9**; replacement level **2.1**.
Energy-storage VGF	**₹14,500 crore** for **92 GWh**.
Bihar Foundation	**55 chapters** (**31** intl + **24** national).

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Bihar's energy sector, consider the following statements: 1. Bihar's Renewable Energy Policy 2025 targets 24 GW of renewable capacity by FY 2030. 2. A 1,600 MW pumped storage project is being developed in Nawada district. 3. The Kajra solar-plus-battery project is located in Gaya district. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only **(b)** 1 and 2 only **(c)** 2 and 3 only **(d)** 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) — Statements **1** and **2** are correct. **Kajra** is in **Lakhisarai** district, not Gaya.

Q2. The case 'Javed v. State of Haryana (2003)', recently referred to a larger bench of the Supreme Court, is related to:

(a) Reservation in promotions **(b)** Two-child norm for contesting panchayat elections **(c)** Anti-defection law **(d)** Right to privacy

Answer: (b) — **Javed (2003)** upheld disqualifying persons with **more than two children** from panchayat polls; on **4 Nov 2026** the SC referred the issue to a **larger bench**.

MAINS PRACTICE

Bihar's ambition to become a renewable-energy hub depends as much on storage as on generation. Examine this in the light of the state's Renewable Energy Policy 2025 and the Centre's new VGF scheme for energy storage. (BPSC Mains GS-II, 38 marks)

Hint: Intro: demand **~700 MW (2005) → ~9,400 MW**; **24 GW + 6 GWh** target. Body: solar intermittency & evening peak; **Nawada 1,600 MW PSP**, **Kajra BESS**, **PM-KUSUM 2,900 MW**; central **₹14,500 crore VGF / 92 GWh**; land, finance and grid challenges. Conclude: storage + green corridor + discom reform.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Bihar: **₹2.57 lakh cr** power roadmap, **24 GW** by 2030, **Nawada 1,600 MW PSP** | Centre: **92 GWh** storage VGF, **VISTAR ₹4,371 cr**, **850 FTSCs** to 2031 | SC: **Javed (2003)** to larger bench.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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