



Discovery of Prehistoric Ostrich Nest

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, archaeologists have discovered a **41,000-year-old ostrich nest** in Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh.

- This provides crucial insights into the **extinction of megafauna** (animals weighing **more than 50 kg**) in India.
- **Earlier Evidences of Ostriches in India:**
 - Ostrich fossils were first reported in **1884** from the **Dhok Pathan deposits** in the **Upper Siwalik Hills, Pakistan**.
 - The discovery of ostrich fossils in the Himalayas indicates the region had **drier, cooler periods in the past** due to **weaker Indian monsoons**, unlike peninsular India during the Pleistocene.
 - Later, **ostrich eggshell beads and engravings** dating back to **50,000-40,000 years ago** were found at an **Upper Palaeolithic site in Patne, Maharashtra** in 1989.
 - In 2017, evidence showed that **ostriches existed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat 25,000 years ago**.
- **Ostriches (*Struthio camelus*):**
 - [IUCN Status](#): Least Concern
 - **Largest Living Birds: 2-2.8 metres** tall, weight **90-160 kg**
 - **Flightless** birds, exceptional runners with speeds up to 43 mph.
 - Native to **African savannas and deserts** (Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa)
 - Live in **small herds** (fewer than a dozen), **led by males** who primarily mate with the leading female.

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SEHER Program

[Source: PIB](#)

Recently, the [Women Entrepreneurship Platform \(WEP\)](#) and **TransUnion CIBIL** launched the **SEHER program** to empower women entrepreneurs in India.

- It aims to **increase awareness among women entrepreneurs** about **finances, accessing and managing credit** by providing personalised resources and tools.
- India has the potential to create **more than 30 million** new women-owned enterprises and **150-170 million more jobs** by accelerating women's entrepreneurship.
- **Women in Business in India:**
 - India has **63 million [Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises \(MSMEs\)](#)**, with around **20%** owned by women, **employing 27 million** people.
 - The **demand for business loans by women** has **grown 3.9 times** in the last 5 years (FY 2019 - FY 2024).

- The **share of women borrowers** holding a business loan increased by **10%** between FY 2019 and FY 2024.
- **Rural areas** have a slightly **higher share of women-owned** enterprises (**22.24%**) compared to urban areas (18.42%).
- WEP was launched in **2018** by [NITI Aayog](#) and transitioned into a [Public-Private Partnership \(PPP\)](#) in 2022 with the goal of **supporting women entrepreneurs** in India.
- TransUnion CIBIL is India's leading **credit information company** with one of the largest collections of consumer information.

Read More: [India's MSME Sector](#), [UNDP and DAY-NULM for Women Entrepreneurs](#)

India and Pakistan Exchange List of Prisoners

[Source: TH](#)

Recently, [India and Pakistan](#) exchanged lists of **civilian prisoners and fishermen** held in each other's custody through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.

- Under the provisions of the [bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008](#), such lists are exchanged **every year on 1st January and on 1st July**.
 - **Section 4** of the agreement states that **both nations' governments must offer consular access to citizens** of the other nation within three months of their arrest, detention, or imprisonment.
 - **Section 5** of the agreement stipulates that **both governments must release and repatriate individuals** within one month of confirming their national status and completing their sentences.
- The Government of India has called for **early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, fishermen along with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel** from Pakistan's custody.

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Cognitive Test

[Source: IE](#)

- Recently, the US President is facing calls to take a **cognitive test** amid concerns over his fitness for the presidency.
- The **cognitive test** evaluates **mental function** and **how the brain processes thoughts** by **asking basic questions** and having **individuals perform simple tasks**.
 - **Cognition** is the brain's ability to process all the information it takes in from your senses.
- It identifies **cognitive deficits, their causes, and the affected brain regions**.
 - Based on the test results, a **diagnosis is made of cognitive impairment, dementia, or pseudo-dementia**, leading to interventions such as **behaviour and cognitive therapies**.
- It is recommended for people experiencing **memory deficits, perceived memory loss or forgetfulness, difficulty focusing or making judgments**.

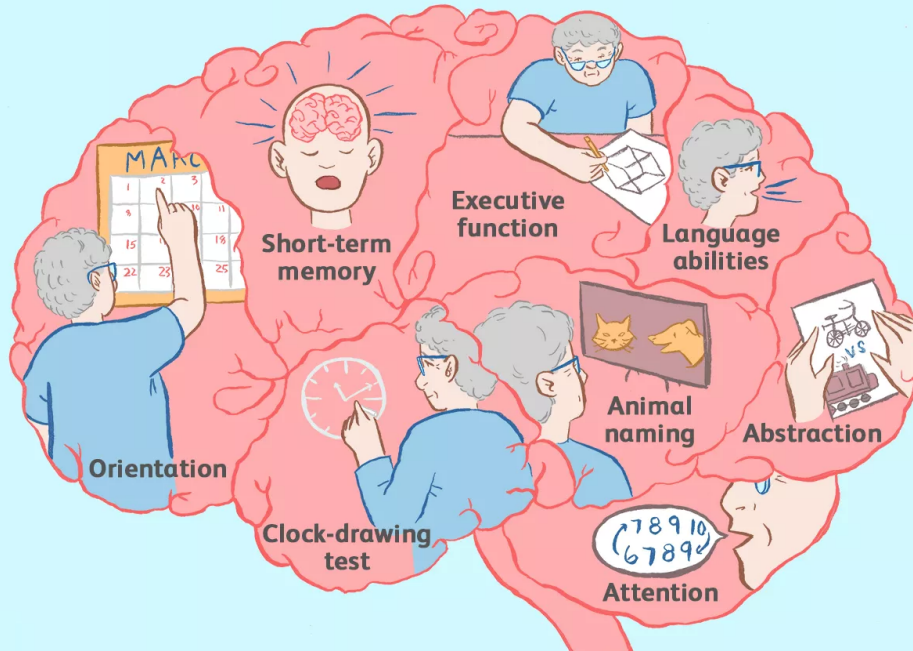
Common Cognitive Screening Tests:

- **Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)** involves tasks like memorising words, naming objects, and copying shapes.
- **Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE)** includes counting backwards, identifying objects, and stating the date.
- **Mini-Cog** requires memorising words, drawing a clock, and adding time points.

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What Does the Montreal Cognitive Assessment Evaluate?

The MoCA assesses cognitive abilities, including:



[Read more...](#)

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