

**1. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman Launches New Startup 'World' in the US****Why now?**

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, has launched a new startup called World in the United States. Its first store opened in San Francisco this week. The startup offers a device called the Orb, which scans your eye to check if you're human.

**What is 'World'?**

Previously known as WorldCoin, the startup was created to deal with the rising difficulty of telling humans apart from AI online.

To solve this, World created something called World ID — a digital proof that confirms you're a real person without revealing your identity.

Interestingly, World is addressing problems caused by AI — the same technology developed by Altman's other company, OpenAI.

**What Do You Get in Return?**

In exchange for signing up and verifying your identity, users get a cryptocurrency called WorldCoin.

You can manage this crypto using the World App, which lets you save, send, and withdraw your coins.

**Where Has World Been Active?**

World was launched globally in 2023 and quickly became popular in countries like Kenya and Indonesia. It also tested its technology in India by setting up Orbs in 17 locations.

The company avoided launching in the US at first due to strict rules around cryptocurrency under President Biden. That changed when Donald Trump returned to office in January, opening the door for World's US launch.

**How Do You Get a World ID?**

To get a World ID, you need to have your eyes scanned by the Orb — a white, glowing sphere. World also launched a smaller version called the Orb Mini, which is more portable and shaped like a smartphone. It does the same job as the larger Orb.

**Why Is It Controversial?**

Even though World claims it doesn't store eye images, its use of biometric data has raised privacy concerns. Several countries have banned or suspended its operations, including Kenya, Portugal, Spain, Hong Kong, and Brazil.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Science & Technology  
Source: Indian Express

## 2. Pakistani National Claims to Have Voted in India: What Are the Rules?

### Why Now?

**PAK NATIONAL FORCED TO LEAVE CLAIMS TO HAVE VOTED IN INDIAN ELECTIONS**



After the recent Pahalgam terror attack, hundreds of Pakistani nationals living in India have been asked to leave. Some of them, however, claimed they had valid Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and even voter IDs.

One such individual, Osama, said in a video that he moved from Rawalpindi to Uri in Jammu & Kashmir in 2008, and had voted in India despite being a Pakistani citizen. An FIR was filed on April

30 after Baramulla's District Election Officer took note of the case.

### Who Can Vote in India?

According to Article 326 of the Constitution, only Indian citizens aged 18 or above can vote in Lok Sabha and state/UT elections.

The Representation of the People Act, 1950 also states that a person is disqualified from registering as a voter if they:

- Are not an Indian citizen
- Are of unsound mind, as declared by a court
- Are disqualified due to election-related offenses

### How Does One Apply for a Voter ID?

To register as a voter, applicants fill out Form 6 of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and provide:

- Self-attested age proof
- Address proof
- A signed declaration that they are an Indian citizen

Note: No official citizenship document is required, but false declaration is punishable by up to 1 year in jail, a fine, or both, under Section 31 of the RP Act.

Once submitted, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) checks the application. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) help by collecting claims and objections.

### How Is Citizenship Verified?

According to the ECI manual:

- The ERO must ensure the applicant is a citizen of India.
- If no objections are raised, this check often doesn't happen.
- If objections are made, the applicant must prove their citizenship.

- The ERO must conduct an independent inquiry and examine all evidence.
- In migration cases, the ERO checks with the district the applicant moved from.
- For married women lacking documents, marriage certificates or community verification can be used.

### **Have Such Cases Happened Before?**

Yes, the ECI has found cases of non-citizens being issued voter IDs in the past. When proven, such names are removed from the rolls, and action is taken.

### **What Is Being Done to Prevent This?**

The ECI is working to link Aadhaar with Voter IDs to prevent non-citizens from voting. However, since non-citizens can sometimes obtain Aadhaar, this measure alone may not be enough.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

## **3. India Cuts Trade, Postal, and Port Ties with Pakistan**

### **Why in News?**

India has taken strong action against Pakistan by cutting off several key links, including trade, postal services, and port access, following the Pahalgam terror attack and Pakistan's missile test.

### **All Imports from Pakistan Banned**

The Indian government announced a complete ban on all goods coming from Pakistan — whether directly or indirectly.

- This includes all items, even if they are normally allowed under import rules.
- The decision was taken in the interest of national security, said the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

### **No Ships from Pakistan Allowed at Indian Ports**

The Ministry of Ports announced:

- No Pakistani-flagged ship can enter Indian ports.
- Indian ships are also banned from visiting Pakistani ports.
- Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

### **Postal Services Suspended**

India also suspended all postal services with Pakistan.

- This includes all categories of mail and parcels, whether sent by air or surface routes.

### **Missile Test Called a 'Provocation'**

These steps came on the same day Pakistan test-fired a nuclear-capable missile named Abdali, with a range of 450 km.

- Indian sources called the test a "grave provocation".
- Military tensions have been rising along the Line of Control in Kashmir.

### **India's Visa Curbs on Pakistan Continue**

India had already taken action earlier by tightening visa rules:

- 14 categories of visas for Pakistani nationals have been cancelled.
- Only Long Term Visas, and diplomatic or official visas, remain valid.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Bilateral Relations

Source: The Hindu

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