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# **PATRIOTIC IAS**

## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **THE HINDU NEWSPAPER**

#### **11 NOVEMBER 2025**

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PCS Special:		13 November 2025
UPPCS		
1.	<b>The Hindu wins at Global AMR Media Awards 2025</b> द हिंदू को ग्लोबल एएमआर मीडिया अवॉर्ड्स 2025 में सम्मान मिला	
2.	<b>India, Botswana announce cheetah translocation pact</b> भारत, बोत्सवाना ने चीता स्थानांतरण समझौते की घोषणा की	
3.	<b>Iraq's Sudani secures a 'major victory' in election, say sources</b> इराक के सुदानी ने चुनाव में 'बड़ी जीत' हासिल की, सूत्रों का कहना है	

UPPCS

13/11/2025

## The Hindu wins at Global AMR Media Awards 2025

PCS

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

At the 5th Annual Global Media Forum held ahead of the World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week 2025, Athira Elssa Johnson of *The Hindu* won the first prize in the India category for her report headlined "Rising antimicrobial resistance in STIs being seen in India: experts" published on September 5.

Soujanya Padikal, a freelancer for *The Hindu*, received a special mention in the Asia-Pacific region category for her article headlined "As we continue to tackle the challenges of antimicrobial resistance, time to factor in newer, emergent issues" published on May 23.

## The Hindu wins at Global AMR Media Awards 2025

द हिंदू को ग्लोबल एएमआर मीडिया अवॉर्ड्स 2025 में सम्मान मिला

- At the **5th Annual Global Media Forum** held ahead of the **World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week 2025**, **Athira Elssa Johnson** of *The Hindu* won the **first prize in the India category** for her report headlined "Rising antimicrobial resistance in STIs being seen in India: experts" published on September 5.

विश्व एंटीमाइक्रोबियल रेसिस्टेंस (AMR) जागरूकता सप्ताह 2025 से पहले आयोजित 5वें वार्षिक ग्लोबल मीडिया फोरम में, द हिंदू की अथिरा एल्सा जॉनसन ने "Rising antimicrobial resistance in STIs being seen in India: experts" शीर्षक वाली अपनी रिपोर्ट के लिए **भारत श्रेणी में प्रथम पुरस्कार** जीता, जो 5 सितंबर को प्रकाशित हुई थी।

**Soujanya Padikal**, a freelancer for *The Hindu*, received a **special mention in the Asia-Pacific region category** for her article headlined "As we continue to tackle the challenges of antimicrobial resistance, time to factor in newer, emergent issues" published on May 23.

द हिंदू की फ्रीलांसर **सौजन्या पडिकाल** को "As we continue to tackle the challenges of antimicrobial resistance, time to factor in newer, emergent issues" शीर्षक वाले अपने लेख के लिए **एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र श्रेणी में विशेष उल्लेख** प्राप्त हुआ, जो 23 मई को प्रकाशित हुआ था।



## India, Botswana announce cheetah translocation pact

### भारत, बोत्सवाना ने चीता स्थानांतरण समझौते की घोषणा की

## India, Botswana announce cheetah translocation pact

PCS

India and Botswana on Wednesday formally announced the translocation of eight cheetahs from the African nation during the state visit of President Droupadi Murmu. Thanking her counterpart, President Duma Gideon Boko, and the people of Botswana, President Murmu assured Mr. Boko that India would take good care of the animals. Botswana will symbolically hand over the big cats to Ms. Murmu on Thursday. The two heads of state will preside over an event where five of the eight captured cheetahs will be released into a quarantine facility at the Mokolodi nature reserve, marking the symbolic handing over of the hunting cats to India by Botswana as part of Project Cheetah. PTI

marking the symbolic handing over of the hunting cats to India by Botswana as part of Project Cheetah.

दोनों राष्ट्राध्यक्ष एक कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता करेंगे, जहाँ पकड़े गए आठ चीतों में से पाँच को मोकोलोडी नेचर रिज़र्व में एक क्वारंटीन सुविधा में छोड़ा जाएगा, जो प्रोजेक्ट चीता के तहत भारत को इन शिकारी बिल्लियों के प्रतीकात्मक हस्तांतरण को दर्शाता है।

• India and Botswana on Wednesday formally announced the translocation of **eight cheetahs** from the African nation during the state visit of President **Droupadi Murmu**.

बुधवार को भारत और बोत्सवाना ने राष्ट्रपति **द्रौपदी मुर्मू** की राज्य यात्रा के दौरान अफ्रीकी देश से **आठ चीतों** के स्थानांतरण की औपचारिक घोषणा की।

• Thanking her counterpart, President **Duma Gideon Boko**, and the people of Botswana, President Murmu assured Mr. Boko that India would take **good care of the animals**.

अपने समकक्ष राष्ट्रपति **डूमा गिडियन बोको** और बोत्सवाना के लोगों को धन्यवाद देते हुए, राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने श्री बोको को आश्वस्त किया कि भारत इन **जानवरों का अच्छे से ख्याल** रखेगा।

• Botswana will **symbolically hand over** the big cats to Ms. Murmu on Thursday.

बोत्सवाना गुरुवार को बड़े बिल्लियों को **प्रतीकात्मक रूप से सौपेगा**।

• The two heads of state will preside over an event where **five of the eight captured cheetahs** will be released into a **quarantine facility** at the **Mokolodi nature reserve**,

## 1. Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh)

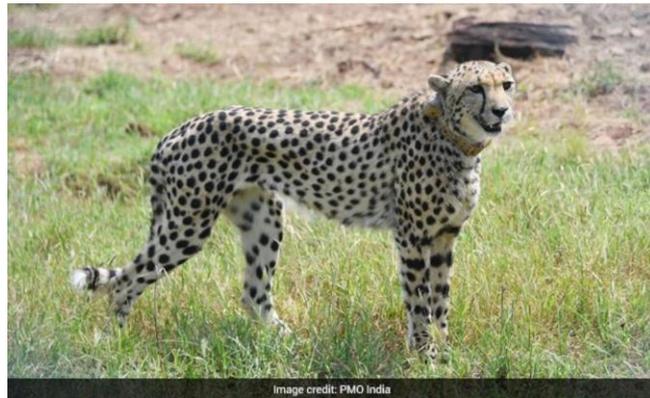


Image credit: PMO India



# THE HOMES FOR CHEETAH IN INDIA

Three potential wildlife sanctuaries that would support cheetah population

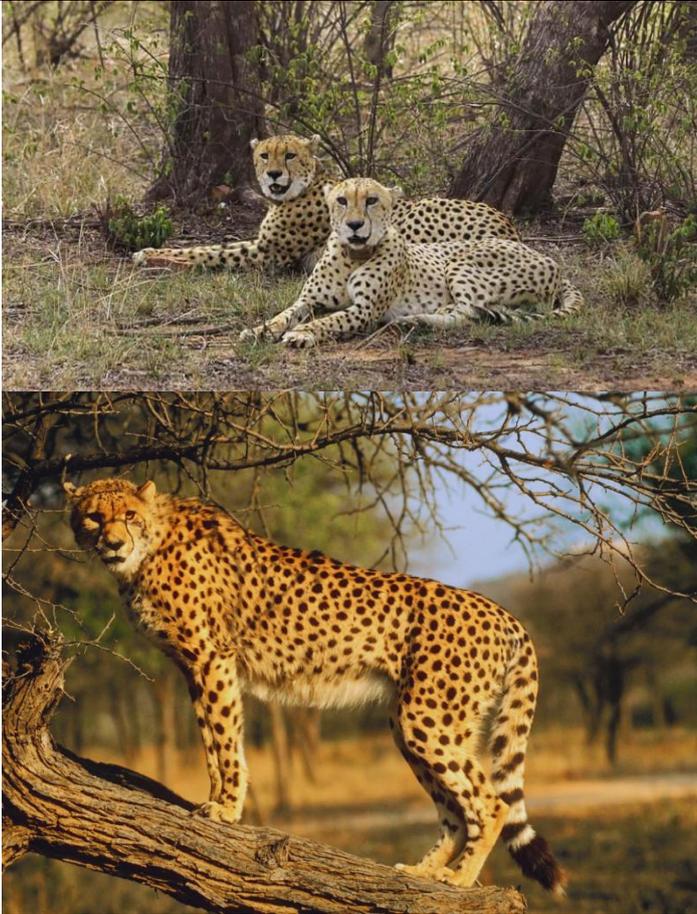


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- 6
- Located in the Sheopur–Morena region of Madhya Pradesh.
  - Initially a wildlife sanctuary; declared a National Park in 2018.
  - Became the first site in India to receive African cheetahs (from Namibia and South Africa) for free-ranging reintroduction.
  - Core to the cheetah restoration mission in India.

## 2. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)



6

- Situated in western Madhya Pradesh (Mandsaur and Neemuch districts).
- Identified as a **second potential home** for cheetahs and a part of a larger meta-population landscape together with Kuno.
- Efforts underway to develop corridor and habitat structures for cheetahs.

### 3. Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)



6

- Located across Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Raisen districts of MP. [Wikipedia](#)



- Large area (~1,197 km<sup>2</sup>) with habitat features considered suitable for cheetah re-introduction.

#### 4. Banni Grasslands Reserve (Gujarat)

- Arid grassland ecosystem in Kutch, Gujarat.
- Recognised by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) as one of the possible remaining habitats for cheetah re-introduction in India.

#### 5. Shahgarh Landscape (Rajasthan)



6

- Located in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan.
- Considered as one of the larger landscapes suitable for cheetah re-introduction due to open terrain and prey availability.

## Iraq's Sudani secures a 'major victory' in election, say sources

PCS

Agence France-Presse  
BAGHDAD

Incumbent Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, who is vying for a second term, has scored a big win in general elections, sources close to the premier said on Wednesday. Iraqis on Tuesday headed to the polls for a general election that came as the country experiences a rare moment of calm in a region roiled by recent conflicts.

The next premier must answer to Iraqis seeking jobs, better infrastructure, and improved education and health systems in a country plagued by corruption.

But he also faces the exacting task of maintaining



Mohammed Shia al-Sudani

the delicate balance between Iraq's allies, Iran and the U.S., even more so now that the West Asia is undergoing seismic changes, with new alliances forming and old powers weakening.

Once final results are confirmed, lawmakers are set to begin negotiations to nominate the Prime Minister.

## Iraq's Sudani secures a 'major victory' in election, say sources

इराक के सुदानी ने चुनाव में 'बड़ी जीत' हासिल की, सूत्रों का कहना है

• Incumbent Iraqi Prime Minister **Mohammed Shia al-Sudani**, who is vying for a second term, has scored a big win in general elections, sources close to the premier said on Wednesday.

वर्तमान इराकी प्रधानमंत्री **मोहम्मद शिया अल-सुदानी**, जो दूसरे कार्यकाल के लिए प्रयासरत हैं, ने आम चुनावों में बड़ी जीत हासिल की है, यह बात प्रधानमंत्री के करीबी सूत्रों ने बुधवार को कही।

• Iraqis on Tuesday headed to the polls for a general election that came as the country experiences a **rare moment of calm** in a region roiled by recent conflicts.

इराकियों ने मंगलवार को आम चुनाव के लिए मतदान किया, जो ऐसे समय आया है जब देश हालिया संघर्षों से प्रभावित क्षेत्र में **दुर्लभ शांति के क्षण** का अनुभव कर रहा है।

• The next premier must answer to Iraqis seeking **jobs, better infrastructure, and improved education and health systems** in a country plagued by corruption.

अगले प्रधानमंत्री को ऐसे इराकियों को जवाब देना होगा जो **नौकरियां, बेहतर**



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बुनियादी ढांचा, और उन्नत शिक्षा एवं स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों की मांग कर रहे हैं, एक ऐसे देश में जो भ्रष्टाचार से पीड़ित है।

- But he also faces the exacting task of maintaining the **delicate balance** between Iraq's allies, **Iran and the U.S.**, even more so now that **West Asia is undergoing seismic changes**, with new alliances forming and old powers weakening.

लेकिन उन्हें इराक के सहयोगियों **ईरान और अमेरिका** के बीच **सूक्ष्म संतुलन** बनाए रखने का कठिन कार्य भी करना होगा, विशेषकर अब जब **पश्चिम एशिया बड़े परिवर्तन** से गुजर रहा है, नए गठबंधन बन रहे हैं और पुरानी शक्तियाँ कमजोर हो रही हैं।

- Once final results are confirmed, lawmakers are set to begin negotiations to nominate the **Prime Minister**.

एक बार अंतिम परिणामों की पुष्टि होने के बाद, सांसद **प्रधानमंत्री** को नामित करने के लिए बातचीत शुरू करेंगे।

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<b>GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>13 November 2025</b>
1.	<b>Tagore, Bankim, and an Exercise in Futility</b> टैगोर, बंकिम, और व्यर्थ प्रयास

<b>History</b>	<b>13/11/2025</b>
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PATRIOTIC IAS



## Tagore, Bankim, and an exercise in futility

Pitting cultural icons against one another only deepens political fault lines

GS I: History

### STATE OF PLAY

**Shiv Sahay Singh**

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**P**olitics in West Bengal often revolves around the State's cultural icons. Over the past few days, the two tallest names in the Bengal literary world – Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay – have become subjects of an intense political debate, with political parties appearing to be in a hurry to appropriate them.

In the first week of November, the West Bengal government issued a notification mandating that Tagore's *Banglar Maati Bangla Jol* (Bengal's land and Bengal's water) be sung during morning assembly in all State-run schools. In December 2023, the government had declared the song as the State anthem and directed that it be played at all State government events along with the national anthem.

Around the same time that this notification was issued, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre organised an event to observe 150 years of Chattopadhyay's *Vande Mataram*. The BJP leadership in West Bengal immediately sensed an opportunity. It went to various locations associated with Chattopadhyay and highlighted neglect at a few of them. Its leaders accused the government of not paying enough respect to *Vande Mataram* and questioned the timing of making mandatory Tagore's song at all State-run schools.

The Trinamool responded by accusing the BJP of disrespecting Tagore. The party said that BJP MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri had made derogatory remarks against Ta-



gore. It held protests at Jorasanko Thakurbari, the ancestral home of the Nobel Laureate, in Kolkata. The BJP MP had said that the national anthem, penned by Tagore, was written "to welcome British officials" and opined that *Vande Mataram* should have instead been made the national anthem.

The debate appears to have reduced Tagore to being an icon of the Trinamool and Chattopadhyay as being a role model for the BJP. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee admitted that there was an attempt to create a divide between the two poets. She also claimed that since scholars are divided on the time of composition of *Vande Mataram*, her government had set up a committee to observe the sesqui-centenary celebrations of the song.

Developments in neighbouring Assam added fuel to the debate. A local Congress leader was booked, at the instruction of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, for singing Tagore's song, *Amar Sonar Bangla* (O my Golden Bengal). Members of civil society, including academicians, descended on the streets of Kolkata singing *Amar Sonar Bangla*, which is also the national anthem of Bangladesh, in protest of the police action in Assam.

The *Jana Gana Mana* versus *Vande Mataram* debate was earlier raised by fringe elements. However, ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls, it has

been mainstreamed in West Bengal politics. While it goes without saying that Tagore towers over other literary figures in West Bengal and that his ideals continue to form the essence of Bengali identity and culture, there is also ample space for other writers and poets in Bengal's literary and cultural milieu.

The BJP has successfully fuelled the debate over the two poets. However, the Trinamool should not fall into this trap, particularly when the West Bengal government honours all the prominent icons from the State, including Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jana Sangha. It is unfortunate that the works of cultural icons are being pitted against one another, especially when their writings are rooted in patriotism and nationalism. Some scholars point out that when Chattopadhyay met a young Tagore in 1882, he put a garland around him calling him an "elegant poet of the new age". In 1896, Tagore sang *Vande Mataram* at the Kolkata session of the Indian National Congress. Comparing the national anthem – *Jana Gana Mana* – with the country's national song – *Vande Mataram* – is not only an exercise in futility, but also reflects a narrow understanding of India's history and politics.

In an ideal world, poets and writers whose works form the basis of the freedom movement would remain above the fray of politics. Granted, we don't live in such a world. But even if politicians cannot do so, they can be more prudent by honouring the contributions of all Indians and not pitting icons against one another. In an already polarised environment, such attempts of appropriation only deepen our political fault lines.

**Tagore, Bankim, and an Exercise in Futility**  
टैगोर, बंकिम, और व्यर्थ प्रयास



## Politics in West Bengal

### पश्चिम बंगाल में राजनीति

- Politics in **West Bengal** often revolves around the **State's cultural icons**.  
पश्चिम बंगाल की राजनीति अक्सर राज्य के सांस्कृतिक प्रतीकों के इर्द-गिर्द घूमती है।
- Over the past few days, the two tallest names in the Bengal literary world — **Rabindranath Tagore** and **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** — have become subjects of an intense political debate, with political parties appearing to be in a hurry to appropriate them.  
पिछले कुछ दिनों में, बंगाल के साहित्यिक जगत के दो महान नाम — **रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर** और **बंकिम चंद्र चट्टोपाध्याय** — एक तीव्र राजनीतिक बहस के विषय बन गए हैं, जहां राजनीतिक दल उन्हें अपने पक्ष में करने की जल्दी में दिख रहे हैं।
- In the **first week of November**, the **West Bengal government** issued a **notification** mandating that Tagore's *Banglar Maati Bangla Jol* (Bengal's land and Bengal's water) be sung during **morning assembly** in all **State-run schools**.  
नवंबर के पहले सप्ताह में, पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने एक अधिसूचना जारी की जिसमें आदेश दिया गया कि टैगोर का गीत "बांग्ला माति बांग्ला जल" (*Banglar Maati Bangla Jol*) सभी राज्य-चालित स्कूलों में प्रातःकालीन सभा के दौरान गाया जाए।
- In **December 2023**, the government had **declared the song as the State anthem** and directed that it be **played at all State government events** along with the **national anthem**.  
दिसंबर 2023 में सरकार ने इस गीत को राज्य गीत घोषित किया था और निर्देश दिया था कि इसे राष्ट्रीय गान के साथ सभी सरकारी कार्यक्रमों में बजाया जाए।
- Around the same time that this notification was issued, the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre** organised an event to observe **150 years of Chattopadhyay's Vande Mataram**.  
उसी समय, केंद्र की भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) सरकार ने बंकिम चंद्र चट्टोपाध्याय के वंदे मातरम के **150 वर्ष** मनाने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया।
- The **BJP leadership in West Bengal** immediately sensed an opportunity.  
पश्चिम बंगाल में भाजपा नेतृत्व ने तुरंत एक अवसर देखा।
- It went to various locations associated with **Chattopadhyay** and highlighted **neglect** at a few of them.  
वे चट्टोपाध्याय से जुड़ी विभिन्न जगहों पर गए और कुछ स्थानों पर उपेक्षा को उजागर किया।
- BJP leaders accused the government of **not paying enough respect to Vande Mataram** and questioned the **timing** of making mandatory Tagore's song at all State-run schools.  
भाजपा नेताओं ने सरकार पर वंदे मातरम को पर्याप्त सम्मान न देने का आरोप लगाया और राज्य स्कूलों में टैगोर के गीत को अनिवार्य बनाने के समय पर सवाल उठाया।
- The **Trinamool Congress (TMC)** responded by accusing the **BJP of disrespecting Tagore**.  
तृणमूल कांग्रेस (टीएमसी) ने जवाब में भाजपा पर टैगोर का अपमान करने का आरोप लगाया।
- The party said that **BJP MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri** had made **derogatory remarks** against Tagore.  
पार्टी ने कहा कि भाजपा सांसद विश्वेश्वर हेगड़े कागेरी ने टैगोर के खिलाफ अपमानजनक टिप्पणी की थी।
- TMC held **protests at Jorasanko Thakurbari**, the **ancestral home** of the **Nobel Laureate**, in **Kolkata**.  
टीएमसी ने कोलकाता में नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता टैगोर के पैतृक घर जोरासांको ठाकुरबाड़ी में विरोध प्रदर्शन किया।
- The **BJP MP** had said that the **national anthem**, penned by **Tagore**, was written "to **welcome British officials**".  
भाजपा सांसद ने कहा था कि टैगोर द्वारा लिखित राष्ट्रीय गान "ब्रिटिश अधिकारियों का स्वागत करने के लिए लिखा गया था।"
- He opined that **Vande Mataram** should have instead been made the **national anthem**.  
उनका मत था कि वंदे मातरम को राष्ट्रीय गान बनाया जाना चाहिए था।
- The debate appears to have reduced **Tagore** to being an **icon of the Trinamool and Chattopadhyay** as being a **role model for the BJP**.  
यह बहस ऐसा प्रतीत होती है कि उसने टैगोर को तृणमूल का प्रतीक और चट्टोपाध्याय को भाजपा का आदर्श बना दिया है।



- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee admitted that there was an attempt to create a divide between the two poets.  
मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने स्वीकार किया कि दोनों कवियों के बीच विभाजन पैदा करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है।
- She also claimed that since scholars are divided on the time of composition of Vande Mataram, her government had set up a committee to observe the sesquicentennial celebrations of the song.  
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि चूंकि विद्वान वंदे मातरम की रचना के समय को लेकर विभाजित हैं, इसलिए उनकी सरकार ने इस गीत के 150वीं वर्षगांठ (sesqui-centenary) समारोहों को आयोजित करने के लिए एक समिति गठित की है।

### Developments in Neighbouring Assam and Political Debate in West Bengal पड़ोसी असम में घटनाक्रम और पश्चिम बंगाल में राजनीतिक बहस

- Developments in neighbouring Assam added fuel to the debate.  
पड़ोसी असम में हुए घटनाक्रम ने बहस को और बढ़ावा दिया।
- A local Congress leader was booked, at the instruction of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, for singing Tagore's song, **Amar Sonar Bangla (O my Golden Bengal)**.  
मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा के निर्देश पर एक स्थानीय कांग्रेस नेता पर टैगोर के गीत "अमर सोनार बांग्ला (ओ माय गोल्डन बंगाल)" गाने के लिए मामला दर्ज किया गया।
- Members of civil society, including academicians, descended on the streets of Kolkata singing **Amar Sonar Bangla**, which is also the national anthem of Bangladesh, in protest of the police action in Assam.  
अकादमिकों सहित नागरिक समाज के सदस्य कोलकाता की सड़कों पर उतरे और अमर सोनार बांग्ला गाकर असम में पुलिस कार्रवाई के विरोध में प्रदर्शन किया। यह गीत बांग्लादेश का राष्ट्रीय गान भी है।
- The **Jana Gana Mana versus Vande Mataram** debate was earlier raised by fringe elements. However, ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls, it has been mainstreamed in West Bengal politics.  
"जन गण मन बनाम वंदे मातरम" की बहस पहले कट्टरपंथी समूहों द्वारा उठाई गई थी, लेकिन 2026 विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले यह अब मुख्यधारा की राजनीति का हिस्सा बन गई है।
- It goes without saying that Tagore towers over other literary figures in West Bengal and that his ideals continue to form the essence of Bengali identity and culture.  
यह कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं कि टैगोर पश्चिम बंगाल के अन्य साहित्यिक व्यक्तित्वों से ऊपर हैं और उनके विचार आज भी बंगाली पहचान और संस्कृति का सार बने हुए हैं।
- However, there is also ample space for other writers and poets in Bengal's literary and cultural milieu.  
हालांकि, बंगाल के साहित्यिक और सांस्कृतिक वातावरण में अन्य लेखकों और कवियों के लिए भी पर्याप्त स्थान है।
- The BJP has successfully fuelled the debate over the two poets.  
भाजपा ने दोनों कवियों के बीच की बहस को सफलतापूर्वक भड़काया है।
- However, the Trinamool should not fall into this trap, particularly when the West Bengal government honours all prominent icons from the State, including Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jana Sangh.  
हालांकि, तृणमूल कांग्रेस को इस जाल में नहीं फँसना चाहिए, खासकर जब पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार राज्य के सभी प्रमुख प्रतीकों जैसे जन संघ के संस्थापक श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी को सम्मान देती है।
- It is unfortunate that the works of cultural icons are being pitted against one another, especially when their writings are rooted in patriotism and nationalism.  
यह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि सांस्कृतिक प्रतीकों के कार्यों को एक-दूसरे के विरुद्ध खड़ा किया जा रहा है, जबकि उनकी रचनाएँ देशभक्ति और राष्ट्रवाद की भावना से प्रेरित हैं।
- Some scholars point out that when Chattopadhyay met a young Tagore in 1882, he put a garland around him calling him an "elegant poet of the new age."  
कुछ विद्वानों का कहना है कि जब चटोपाध्याय ने 1882 में युवा टैगोर से मुलाकात की, तो उन्होंने उन्हें "नए युग के सुंदर कवि" कहते हुए माला पहनाई थी।



- In 1896, Tagore sang Vande Mataram at the Kolkata session of the Indian National Congress.  
1896 में टैगोर ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के कोलकाता अधिवेशन में वंदे मातरम गाया था।
- Comparing the national anthem — JanaGana Mana — with the national song — Vande Mataram — is an exercise in futility, and reflects a narrow understanding of India's history and politics.  
राष्ट्रीय गान — जन गण मन — की तुलना राष्ट्रीय गीत — वंदे मातरम — से करना व्यर्थ प्रयास है और यह भारत के इतिहास और राजनीति की संकीर्ण समझ को दर्शाता है।
- In an ideal world, poets and writers whose works formed the basis of the freedom movement would remain above politics.  
एक आदर्श दुनिया में, वे कवि और लेखक, जिनके कार्यों ने स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन की नींव रखी, वे राजनीति से ऊपर रहते।
- Granted, we don't live in such a world. But even if politicians cannot do so, they should be prudent by honouring all contributors and not pitting icons against one another.  
मान लिया कि हम ऐसी दुनिया में नहीं रहते, लेकिन राजनीतिज्ञों को चाहिए कि वे सभी योगदानकर्ताओं का सम्मान करें और महान व्यक्तित्वों को एक-दूसरे के खिलाफ खड़ा न करें।
- In an already polarised environment, such attempts of appropriation only deepen political fault lines.  
पहले से ही ध्रुवीकृत वातावरण में इस तरह के राजनीतिक स्वामित्व के प्रयास केवल राजनीतिक विभाजन को और गहरा करते हैं।

<b>GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>13 November 2025</b>
	<b>Polity</b>
1.	<b>Enumeration forms distributed to 73% voters in Phase 2 of SIR, says EC</b> ईसी का कहना है कि एसआईआर के चरण 2 में 73% मतदाताओं को गणना प्रपत्र वितरित किए गए
2.	<b>Panel formed to review Bills seeking removal of Ministers facing serious criminal charges</b> मंत्रियों को गंभीर आपराधिक आरोपों का सामना करने पर हटाने से संबंधित विधेयकों की समीक्षा हेतु पैनल गठित
	<b>International Relations</b>
3.	<b>The limits of international branch campuses</b> अंतरराष्ट्रीय ब्रांच कैंपसों की सीमाएँ
4.	<b>Qualified success</b> <b>Male out-migration and cash transfers make women's turnout higher in Bihar</b> आंशिक सफलता: पुरुष प्रवासन और नकद अंतरण से बिहार में महिलाओं की मतदान भागीदारी बढ़ी
5.	<b>Can lawyers break client confidentiality?</b> क्या वकील ग्राहक की गोपनीयता को तोड़ सकते हैं?



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कैसे जमीनी आंदोलनों और अभियानों ने भारत को आकार दिया है**

**Polity**

13/11/2025

# Enumeration forms distributed to 73% voters in Phase 2 of SIR, says EC

Lakshadweep has topped the list, covering all but one voter – 57,812 of 57,813 voters; Goa is a close second, while Kerala trails due to upcoming local body polls; Bengal and T.N. covered 88.8% and 78.09% voters, respectively, according to EC

**GS II: Polity: Election**

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

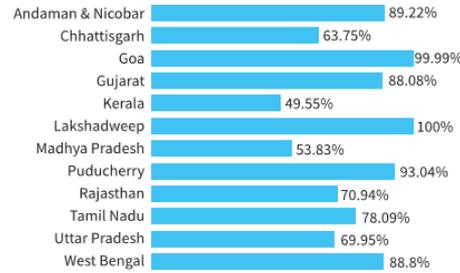
**A** week since the distribution of enumeration forms for the second phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 States began, the forms have been distributed to around 73% voters whose names are present in the current voter lists, the Election Commission (EC) said on Wednesday.

**Final rolls by February**  
A total of 37,05,68,109 enumeration forms have been distributed in the 12 States and Union Territories – Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry. The number of electors as on October 27, 2025, in

## Voter update

The house-to-house enumeration runs from November 4 to December 4, with draft rolls to be published on December 9 and final rolls on February 7, 2026

% of enumeration forms distributed by State



Source: Election Commission

these States stands at 50,99,72,687.

The house-to-house enumeration process will take place for a month, from November 4 to December 4, and the draft rolls will be published on

December 9.

Between December 9 and January 8, the voters can file claims and objections, while notices will be issued and hearings and verifications will take place from December 9 to Janu-

ary 31. The final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

Lakshadweep has topped the list covering all but one voter – 57,812 of 57,813 voters or nearly 100% till 3 p.m. on Wednesday, while Goa is a close second, having covered 99.99% or just 119 of 11.85 lakh voters left to be given enumeration forms.

Kerala is lagging behind other States with only 49.55% having been covered. The State had notably sought that the SIR process be postponed due to the upcoming local body polls.

West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, which witnessed large-scale demonstrations against the SIR, have covered 88.8% and 78.09% voters, respectively, who appear in the rolls as on October 27.

In West Bengal, forms of 6.80 crore of 7.66 crore vo-

ters have been distributed, while in Tamil Nadu, it was five crore out of a total of 6.41 crore.

In Madhya Pradesh, 53.83% of forms have been distributed, while Chhattisgarh recorded 63.75% coverage, along with Uttar Pradesh at 69.95%.

In Gujarat, 88.08% forms have been distributed, the corresponding figures in Rajasthan were 70.94%, Puducherry 93.04% and Andaman and Nicobar 89.22%.

The EC said in a statement that printing of enumeration forms has been completed in all States except Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

In Madhya Pradesh, 95.54% of enumeration forms have been printed, while in Rajasthan it was 99.58%, West Bengal 99.75% and Uttar Pradesh 99.99%.

## Enumeration forms distributed to 73% voters in Phase 2 of SIR, says EC ईसी का कहना है कि एसआईआर के चरण 2 में 73% मतदाताओं को गणना प्रपत्र वितरित किए गए

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- Lakshadweep has topped the list, covering all but one voter — 57,812 of 57,813 voters; Goa is a close second, while Kerala trails due to upcoming local body polls; Bengal and T.N. covered 88.8% and 78.09% voters, respectively, according to EC  
लक्षद्वीप ने सूची में शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त किया है, 57,813 में से 57,812 मतदाताओं को कवर करते हुए; गोवा दूसरे स्थान पर है, जबकि केरल स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों के कारण पीछे है; बंगाल और तमिलनाडु ने क्रमशः 88.8% और 78.09% मतदाताओं को कवर किया है, ईसी के अनुसार
- A week since the distribution of enumeration forms for the second phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 States began, the forms have



been distributed to around 73% voters whose names are present in the current voter lists, the Election Commission (EC) said on Wednesday.

12 राज्यों में मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) के दूसरे चरण के लिए गणना प्रपत्रों के वितरण की शुरुआत के एक सप्ताह बाद, वर्तमान मतदाता सूची में नाम वाले लगभग 73% मतदाताओं को प्रपत्र वितरित कर दिए गए हैं, इसी ने बुधवार को कहा।

## Final rolls by February फ़रवरी तक अंतिम मतदाता सूची

- A total of 37,05,68,109 enumeration forms have been distributed in the 12 States and Union Territories — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.  
कुल 37,05,68,109 गणना प्रपत्र 12 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों — उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल, केरल, तमिलनाडु, छत्तीसगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, गुजरात, गोवा, अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह, लक्षद्वीप और पुदुच्चेरी — में वितरित किए गए हैं।
- The number of electors as on October 27, 2025, in these States stands at 50,99,72,687.  
27 अक्टूबर 2025 तक इन राज्यों में कुल मतदाताओं की संख्या 50,99,72,687 है।
- The house-to-house enumeration process will take place for a month, from November 4 to December 4, and the draft rolls will be published on December 9.  
घर-घर गणना प्रक्रिया एक महीने तक चलेगी, 4 नवंबर से 4 दिसंबर तक, और 9 दिसंबर को प्रारूप मतदाता सूची प्रकाशित की जाएगी।
- Between December 9 and January 8, the voters can file claims and objections, while notices will be issued and hearings and verdicts will take place from December 9 to January 31. The • nal electoral rolls will be published on February 7.  
9 दिसंबर से 8 जनवरी तक मतदाता दावा और आपत्ति दाखिल कर सकेंगे, जबकि 9 दिसंबर से 31 जनवरी तक नोटिस जारी होंगे और सुनवाई व सत्यापन प्रक्रिया चलेगी। अंतिम मतदाता सूची 7 फरवरी को प्रकाशित की जाएगी।

## State-wise coverage राज्य-वार कवरेज

- Lakshadweep has topped the list covering all but one voter — 57,812 of 57,813 voters or nearly 100% till 3 p.m. on Wednesday, while Goa is a close second, having covered 99.99% or just 119 of 11.85 lakh voters left to be given enumeration forms.  
लक्षद्वीप ने सूची में शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त किया है, 57,813 में से 57,812 यानी लगभग 100% मतदाताओं को बुधवार दोपहर 3 बजे तक कवर करते हुए; जबकि गोवा दूसरे स्थान पर है, जिसने 99.99% यानी 11.85 लाख मतदाताओं में से केवल 119 को छोड़कर सभी को गणना प्रपत्र वितरित कर दिए हैं।
- Kerala is lagging behind other States with only 49.55% having been covered. The State had notably sought that the SIR process be postponed due to the upcoming local body polls.  
केरल अन्य राज्यों से पीछे है, जहां केवल 49.55% कवरेज हुआ है। आगामी स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों के कारण राज्य ने SIR प्रक्रिया को स्थगित करने का अनुरोध भी किया था।
- West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, which witnessed large-scale demonstrations against the SIR, have covered 88.8% and 78.09% voters, respectively, who appear in the rolls as on October 27.  
पश्चिम बंगाल और तमिलनाडु, जहां SIR के खिलाफ बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए, ने क्रमशः 88.8% और 78.09% मतदाताओं को कवर किया है जो 27 अक्टूबर तक की मतदाता सूची में शामिल हैं।
- In West Bengal, forms of 6.80 crore of 7.66 crore voters have been distributed, while in Tamil Nadu, it was • ve crore out of a total of 6.41 crore.  
पश्चिम बंगाल में 7.66 करोड़ मतदाताओं में से 6.80 करोड़ को प्रपत्र वितरित किए गए हैं, जबकि तमिलनाडु में 6.41 करोड़ में से 5 करोड़ को।



- In Madhya Pradesh, 53.83% of forms have been distributed, while Chhattisgarh recorded 63.75% coverage, along with Uttar Pradesh at 69.95%.  
मध्य प्रदेश में 53.83% प्रपत्र वितरित किए गए हैं, जबकि छत्तीसगढ़ में कवरेज 63.75% और उत्तर प्रदेश में 69.95% रहा।
- In Gujarat, 88.08% forms have been distributed, the corresponding figures in Rajasthan were 70.94%, Puducherry 93.04% and Andaman and Nicobar 89.22%.  
गुजरात में 88.08% प्रपत्र वितरित किए गए हैं, जबकि राजस्थान में यह 70.94%, पुदुच्चेरी में 93.04% और अंडमान-निकोबार में 89.22% रहा।

## Printing status मुद्रण की स्थिति

- The EC said in a statement that printing of enumeration forms has been completed in all States except Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.  
ईसी ने एक बयान में कहा कि मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश और पश्चिम बंगाल को छोड़कर सभी राज्यों में गणना प्रपत्रों का मुद्रण पूरा हो चुका है।  
In Madhya Pradesh, 95.54% of enumeration forms have been printed, while in Rajasthan it was 99.58%, West Bengal 99.75% and Uttar Pradesh 99.99%.  
मध्य प्रदेश में 95.54% प्रपत्रों का मुद्रण हो चुका है, जबकि राजस्थान में यह 99.58%, पश्चिम बंगाल में 99.75%, और उत्तर प्रदेश में 99.99% है।

# Panel formed to review Bills seeking removal of Ministers facing serious criminal charges

**GS II: Polity: Executive**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A 31-member Parliamentary Joint Committee headed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Aparajita Sarangi was constituted on Wednesday to review the three Bills that seek to remove Ministers – of Union and State governments, including Prime Minister and Chief Ministers – facing serious criminal charges.

The INDIA bloc decided to boycott the committee. The Opposition has argued that the intent of the proposed legislation is *mala-fide* and that it is futile to participate in a panel where the BJP will be in a majority. The Opposition has also cited the example of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Bofors case in 1987, which



Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule has joined the committee.

was boycotted by six major Opposition parties.

**Members on the panel**  
Breaking ranks with the INDIA bloc, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule has joined the parliamentary committee. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen's Asaduddin Owaisi, YSRCP's S. Niranjan Reddy,

and Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaul Badal are other Opposition members.

Nominated Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty is part of the panel. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) was invited to join the panel, but did not respond.

The Lok Sabha had passed a resolution to refer the Bills to the joint committee soon after Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced the Bill in the Lower House during the Monsoon Session on August 20.

The three Bills, introduced by the Home Minister, are the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill.

**Panel formed to review Bills seeking removal of Ministers facing serious criminal charges**



## मंत्रियों को गंभीर आपराधिक आरोपों का सामना करने पर हटाने से संबंधित विधेयकों की समीक्षा हेतु पैनल गठित

- A 31-member Parliamentary Joint Committee headed by **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Aparajita Sarangi** was constituted on Wednesday to review the three Bills that seek to **remove Ministers — of Union and State governments, including Prime Minister and Chief Ministers — facing serious criminal charges.**  
बुधवार को 31-सदस्यीय संसदीय संयुक्त समिति, जिसकी अध्यक्षता भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP) की सांसद अपराजिता सारंगी कर रही हैं, का गठन उन तीन विधेयकों की समीक्षा हेतु किया गया जो केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों के मंत्रियों, जिसमें प्रधानमंत्री और मुख्यमंत्री शामिल हैं, को गंभीर आपराधिक आरोपों का सामना करने पर हटाने से संबंधित हैं।
- The **INDIA bloc** decided to **boycott** the committee.  
**INDIA गठबंधन** ने समिति का **बहिष्कार** करने का निर्णय लिया।
- The **Opposition** has argued that the intent of the proposed legislation is **mala-fide** and that it is futile to participate in a panel where the **BJP will be in a majority.**  
**विपक्ष** का तर्क है कि प्रस्तावित कानून का उद्देश्य **दुर्भावनापूर्ण (mala-fide)** है और ऐसी समिति में शामिल होना निरर्थक है जहाँ **BJP बहुमत** में होगी।  
The Opposition has also cited the example of the **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Bofors case in 1987**, which was boycotted by six major Opposition parties.  
**विपक्ष** ने **1987 के बोफोर्स मामले पर बनी संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (JPC)** का उदाहरण भी दिया, जिसका छह प्रमुख विपक्षी दलों ने बहिष्कार किया था।

### Members on the panel समिति के सदस्य

- **Breaking ranks** with the INDIA bloc, **Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule** has joined the parliamentary committee.  
INDIA गठबंधन से **अलग होते हुए, राष्ट्रीयवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (शरद पवार) की नेता सुप्रिया सुले** ने संसदीय समिति में शामिल हो गई हैं।
- **All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen's Asaduddin Owaisi, YSRCP's S. Niranjan Reddy, and Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaul Badal** are other Opposition members.  
**एआईएमआईएम के असदुद्दीन ओवैसी, वाईएसआरसीपी के एस. निरंजन रेड्डी, और अकाली दल की हरसिमरत कौर बादल** अन्य विपक्षी सदस्य हैं।
- **Nominated Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty** is part of the panel.  
**नामित राज्यसभा सदस्य सुधा मूर्ति** भी इस समिति का हिस्सा हैं।
- The **Biju Janata Dal (BJD)** was invited to join the panel, but did not respond.  
**बीजू जनता दल (BJD)** को समिति में शामिल होने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया था, लेकिन उसने कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।
- The **Lok Sabha** had passed a resolution to refer the Bills to the joint committee soon after **Home Minister Amit Shah** had introduced the Bill in the Lower House during the **Monsoon Session on August 20.**  
**लोकसभा** ने **20 अगस्त के मानसून सत्र** में **गृहमंत्री अमित शाह** द्वारा विधेयक प्रस्तुत किए जाने के तुरंत बाद उन्हें संयुक्त समिति को भेजने का प्रस्ताव पारित किया था।
- The three Bills, introduced by the Home Minister, are the **Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025**; the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025**; and the **Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill.**  
**गृहमंत्री द्वारा प्रस्तुत तीन विधेयक हैं — संविधान (एक सौ त्रिसवाँ संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025; जम्मू और कश्मीर पुनर्गठन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025; और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश सरकार (संशोधन) विधेयक।**



# Can lawyers break client confidentiality

Is the counsel between a lawyer and client a privileged communication? Which are the three circumstances in which a lawyer can communicate what his client has said? Why is safeguarding this evidentiary privilege important? Is a lawyer a constitutional actor?

GS II: Polity: Justice System  
EXPLAINER

**Kartikey Singh**  
**Mukula Sharma**

**The story so far:**

On October 31, the Supreme Court affirmed the indispensable role of advocates in a constitutional democracy. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) B. R. Gavai, and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N. V. Anjaria ruled that a lawyer cannot be summoned merely to disclose what a client has communicated, except where legal advice is used to commit or conceal a crime. The *suo motu* proceedings arose from a notice issued to an advocate by the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, under Section 179 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), demanding his appearance "to know true details of the facts and circumstances" in a criminal case in which he was a defence counsel.

**What are privileged communications?**

Privileged communications refer to confidential exchanges between certain protected relationships, such as attorney-client and spousal, that the law shields from being disclosed or compelled as evidence in court. The underlying principle is to promote honesty and trust, thereby reinforcing justice and ethical responsibility. The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), 2023, outlines these protections in Sections 128 to 134.

Notably, Section 128 protects 'marital communications', preventing either spouse from being compelled, or even permitted, to disclose any communication made 'during' marriage, even after its dissolution, without the consent of the person who made it, except in cases where one is prosecuted for a crime against the other or in suits between them. Likewise, Section 129 bars the release of unpublished official records relating to affairs of State without



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departmental approval in order to safeguard national interest. Further, the advocate-client privilege under Section 132 prohibits advocates from revealing professional communications.

**What did the SC state?**

The top court's judgment is a concrete assertion that when the State intrudes into the lawyer-client relationship, it endangers the citizen's right to equitable representation and the justice system's structural integrity of a fair trial and rule of law. Section 132 of the BSA prohibits an advocate from disclosing any communication made to him in the course of professional engagement, even after employment has ceased, except in three circumstances: (1) if the client consents to it; (2) the communication pertains to illegal purposes; (3) the advocate observes criminal activity being carried out during the employment.

Although, the privilege belongs to the client, an accused or litigant, its enforcement depends on the lawyer's silence. This silence has long shielded not just the powerful but also those with no power such as women reporting sexual violence, accident victims negotiating hostile insurers, and the families of those lost to custodial excesses. In a justice system where about 3.9 lakh citizens are undertrials, this privilege is what keeps the promise of a fair defence alive.

It's to safeguard this evidentiary privilege that the top court decided that an investigating/prosecuting agency or the police cannot directly summon a lawyer merely for appearing or advising in a case, unless there exists material showing that the summons falls within the exceptions of Section 132.

Moreover, by linking Section 132's protection to Article 20(3)'s guarantee against self-incrimination, the judgment

constitutionalises the privilege, which is a key element of a lawyer's function. If a citizen cannot be compelled to confess, the State cannot achieve the same end indirectly by coercing the citizen's lawyer to disclose confidential communication.

**What about a lawyer's role?**

Through the verdict, the SC positions the advocate not as a private agent but as a 'constitutional actor', essential to the survival of the constitutional architecture of legal representation. This distinction matters because professional privilege is neither a perk for lawyers nor a shield that places them above the law. It is a safeguard for citizens. The SC makes that explicit: the privilege "ensures that no prejudice is caused to the accused whom the lawyer represents." When the State summons a lawyer to divulge information about his client, it converts the advocate into an involuntary witness – collapsing the distance between defence and prosecution. The verdict rightly calls such acts a "blatant breach of the rule against non-disclosure," one that undermines both Article 21's guarantee of a fair defence and the constitutional promise of equality before law under Article 14.

**Why is the verdict important?**

This ruling indirectly strengthens the right to effective legal representation, a right the SC has long read into Article 21 and Article 22(1). The SC cited *M.H. Hoskot versus State of Maharashtra* (1978) and *Hussainara Khatun versus State of Bihar* (1980), reminding that liberty without counsel is liberty in theory. At a time when investigating agencies routinely summon journalists, tax consultants, and even lawyers to "assist" investigations, the judgment restores institutional sobriety. It reminds the executive that investigative power is not unbounded. Section 179 of the BNS empowers the police to summon witnesses, but that power stops at the lawyer's door when 'professional confidence' is at stake.

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**THE GIST**

Privileged communications refer to confidential exchanges between certain protected relationships, such as attorney-client and spousal, that the law shields from being disclosed or compelled as evidence in court.

When the State intrudes into the lawyer-client relationship, it endangers the citizen's right to equitable representation and the justice system's structural integrity of a fair trial and rule of law.

Through the verdict the SC positions the advocate not as a private agent but as a 'constitutional actor', essential to the survival of the constitutional architecture of legal representation.

## Can lawyers break client confidentiality? क्या वकील ग्राहक की गोपनीयता को तोड़ सकते हैं?

**Supreme Court on Advocate-Client Privilege  
(October 31, 2025)**

**वकील-ग्राहक विशेषाधिकार पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय (31 अक्टूबर 2025)**

- On **October 31**, the **Supreme Court** affirmed the **indispensable role of advocates in a constitutional democracy**.  
31 अक्टूबर को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने संवैधानिक लोकतंत्र में वकीलों की अनिवार्य भूमिका को स्वीकार किया।
- A **Bench comprising CJI B. R. Gavai, and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N. V. Anjaria** ruled that a **lawyer cannot be summoned merely to disclose what a client has communicated, except where legal advice is used to commit or conceal a crime**.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी. आर. गवई, न्यायमूर्ति के. विनोद चंद्रन और एन. वी. अंजरिया की पीठ ने यह फैसला दिया कि वकील को केवल ग्राहक द्वारा कही गई बात बताने के लिए नहीं बुलाया जा सकता, सिवाय इसके कि कानूनी सलाह का उपयोग अपराध करने या छिपाने के लिए किया गया हो।

- The **suo motu proceedings** arose from a **notice issued to an advocate by the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, under Section 179 of the Bharatiya Nagarik**





**Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**, demanding his appearance to “know true details” of a case in which he was a defence counsel.

स्वतः संज्ञान (suo motu) कार्यवाही उस नोटिस से शुरू हुई, जिसे अहमदाबाद के पुलिस सहायक आयुक्त ने भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS), 2023 की धारा 179 के तहत एक वकील को भेजा था, जिसमें उनसे उस मामले की “वास्तविक जानकारी” देने को कहा गया था जिसमें वे रक्षा वकील थे।

### What are Privileged Communications?

#### विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त संचार क्या है?

- **Privileged communications** refer to **confidential exchanges** between **protected relationships** like **attorney-client** or **spousal**, which the law protects from disclosure.  
विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त संचार का अर्थ वकील-ग्राहक या पति-पत्नी जैसे संरक्षित संबंधों के बीच हुए गोपनीय संवादों से है, जिन्हें कानून खुलासा करने से बचाता है।
- The **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), 2023**, outlines these protections in **Sections 128 to 134**.  
भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम (BSA), 2023 में इन सुरक्षा प्रावधानों को धारा 128 से 134 में निर्धारित किया गया है।
- **Section 128** protects **marital communications**, prohibiting disclosure of any communication made **during marriage**, even after divorce, without consent — except in cases of **crimes or suits between spouses**.  
धारा 128 वैवाहिक संचार की रक्षा करती है और विवाह के दौरान हुई बातचीत के खुलासे पर रोक लगाती है, भले ही तलाक हो चुका हो, सिवाय अपराध या पति-पत्नी के बीच मुकदमे के मामलों में।
- **Section 129** bars the release of **unpublished official records** related to **affairs of the State** without departmental approval, ensuring **national interest**.  
धारा 129 बिना विभागीय अनुमति के राज्य के मामलों से संबंधित अप्रकाशित आधिकारिक अभिलेखों के प्रकटीकरण पर रोक लगाती है, ताकि राष्ट्रीय हित सुरक्षित रह सके।
- **Section 132** establishes the **advocate-client privilege**, prohibiting advocates from revealing **professional communications**.  
धारा 132 वकील-ग्राहक विशेषाधिकार को स्थापित करती है और वकीलों को व्यावसायिक संचार के खुलासे से रोकती है।

### What did the Supreme Court State?

#### सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने क्या कहा?

- The judgment asserted that **State intrusion** into the **lawyer-client relationship** endangers **citizens' right to fair representation** and the **justice system's integrity**.  
फैसले में कहा गया कि राज्य का वकील-ग्राहक संबंध में हस्तक्षेप नागरिकों के निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व के अधिकार और न्याय प्रणाली की अखंडता को खतरे में डालता है।
- Under **Section 132 of the BSA**, an **advocate cannot disclose communications even after employment ends**, except in three cases —  
BSA की धारा 132 के तहत, वकील नौकरी समाप्त होने के बाद भी संचार का खुलासा नहीं कर सकता, सिवाय तीन परिस्थितियों में —
  1. If the **client consents**.  
यदि ग्राहक सहमति देता है।
  2. If the communication is for an **illegal purpose**.  
यदि संचार का उद्देश्य अवैध है।
  3. If the lawyer **observes criminal activity** during employment.  
यदि वकील रोजगार के दौरान अपराधिक गतिविधि देखता है।
- Though the **privilege belongs to the client**, its **enforcement depends on the lawyer's silence**, which protects both the **powerful and the powerless**.  
यह विशेषाधिकार भले ही ग्राहक का हो, लेकिन इसका प्रवर्तन वकील की चुप्पी पर निर्भर करता है, जो शक्तिशाली और निर्बल दोनों की रक्षा करता है।
- This privilege is crucial in a justice system where **about 3.9 lakh citizens are undertrials**, keeping the **promise of fair defence** alive.



यह विशेषाधिकार उस न्याय प्रणाली में महत्वपूर्ण है जहाँ लगभग 3.9 लाख नागरिक विचाराधीन कैदी हैं, और यह निष्पक्ष बचाव के वादे को जीवित रखता है।

- Hence, the **SC ruled** that the **police or investigating agencies** cannot summon a lawyer merely for appearing or advising in a case, **unless it falls within Section 132's exceptions**. इसलिए, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने निर्णय दिया कि पुलिस या जांच एजेंसियां केवल इसलिए वकील को नहीं बुला सकतीं क्योंकि वह किसी मामले में उपस्थित हुआ या सलाह दी, जब तक कि मामला धारा 132 की अपवाद श्रेणियों में न आता हो।
- The Court linked **Section 132 to Article 20(3)** (protection against self-incrimination), thereby **constitutionalising the privilege**. न्यायालय ने धारा 132 को अनुच्छेद 20(3) (आत्म-अभियोग से संरक्षण) से जोड़कर इस विशेषाधिकार को संवैधानिक दर्जा दिया।

## A Lawyer's Role and Constitutional Importance

### वकील की भूमिका और संवैधानिक महत्व

- The verdict views the **advocate as a constitutional actor**, not a private agent, **essential for the survival of constitutional justice**. निर्णय में वकील को एक संवैधानिक पात्र माना गया है, न कि निजी एजेंट, और उन्हें संवैधानिक न्याय के अस्तित्व के लिए आवश्यक बताया गया है।
- **Professional privilege is not a lawyer's perk but a safeguard for citizens, ensuring no prejudice to the accused**. व्यावसायिक विशेषाधिकार वकीलों के लिए विशेषाधिकार नहीं, बल्कि नागरिकों की सुरक्षा है, जो सुनिश्चित करता है कि आरोपी को कोई हानि न पहुँचे।
- **Summoning lawyers to disclose client information converts them into involuntary witnesses, collapsing the distance between defence and prosecution**. वकीलों को ग्राहक की जानकारी उजागर करने के लिए बुलाना उन्हें अनैच्छिक गवाहों में बदल देता है और रक्षा और अभियोजन के बीच की दूरी समाप्त कर देता है।
- **Such acts violate Article 21 (fair trial) and Article 14 (equality before law) — described by the Court as a "blatant breach of non-disclosure rule."** ऐसे कार्य अनुच्छेद 21 (निष्पक्ष मुकदमा) और अनुच्छेद 14 (कानून के समक्ष समानता) का उल्लंघन करते हैं — जिसे न्यायालय ने "गैर-प्रकटीकरण नियम का स्पष्ट उल्लंघन" कहा।

## Significance of the Verdict

### निर्णय का महत्व

- The ruling strengthens the **right to effective legal representation**, a right derived from **Article 21 and Article 22(1)**. यह फैसला प्रभावी कानूनी प्रतिनिधित्व के अधिकार को मजबूत करता है, जो अनुच्छेद 21 और अनुच्छेद 22(1) से उत्पन्न होता है।
- The SC cited **M.H. Hoskot (1978)** and **Hussainara Khatoon (1980)** to remind that **liberty without counsel is liberty in theory**. सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने एम. एच. हॉस्कोट (1978) और हुसैनआरा खातून (1980) मामलों का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि वकील के बिना स्वतंत्रता केवल सैद्धांतिक स्वतंत्रता है।
- In an era when **agencies frequently summon journalists, tax consultants, and lawyers**, this judgment restores **institutional restraint** and reminds that **investigative power is not unbounded**. ऐसे समय में जब एजेंसियां अक्सर पत्रकारों, कर सलाहकारों और वकीलों को बुलाती हैं, यह निर्णय संस्थागत संयम बहाल करता है और याद दिलाता है कि जांच शक्तियाँ असीमित नहीं हैं।
- **Section 179 of the BNSS empowers police to summon witnesses, but that power stops at the lawyer's door when professional confidence is at stake**. **BNSS की धारा 179** पुलिस को गवाह बुलाने का अधिकार देती है, लेकिन जब व्यावसायिक गोपनीयता दांव पर होती है, तो यह शक्ति वकील के दरवाजे पर रुक जाती है।



# How grassroots movements and campaigns are shaping India

In a democracy, peoples' aspirations should drive systemic change that boosts equality, education, careers, and economic development. Writers who have worked among the people, from Bela Bhatia to Subroto Bagchi, report on what is happening on the ground and the lessons to be learnt

## CS II: Polity: Grassroots Democracy

Soma Basu

**T**here is a heart-warming story about Nunaram Hansda in Subroto Bagchi's book *The Day the Chariot Moved: How India Grows at the Grassroots* (Penguin Business). Born to tribal parents in the interior forests of Simlipal, one of India's largest biospheres in Odisha, his parents sent him to Ashram School (run by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs) as they could not afford to raise him.

Later, Nunaram joined the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Rourkela. He had no money to pay the fees and his teachers had to pool the required amount from their paltry salaries. Today, Nunaram heads the insulin manufacturing line at Biocin. In Bagchi's book, we meet many people like Nunaram, who have achieved success despite the huge economic crisis and odds they face.

### Odisha's journey

When Bagchi was called by then Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2016 to helm the Skill Development Authority to transform the State, he encountered the ground reality – how governments function and its schemes are implemented and why the leaders among ordinary people keep the world moving but do not write or speak about who they are and what they do. The book, Bagchi says, is a tribute to this grassroots India. With his crossover experience from corporate life in IT to a Cabinet-rank government position, he builds his book on individual stories that highlight the many facets of development, and also what ails and fails the system.

He layers the saga of human development in narratives of achievements, frustrations, yearnings and hope because governments, he says, are characterised by stereotypes of unreasonableness, sloth and arrogance wrapped in corruption and personified by

crafty politicians. But lives function because some government servants and people at the grassroots are different and willing to take on the challenges of poverty, unemployment, health, education and infrastructure.

Divided into seven sections, the book details Bagchi's life, his return to his home State after four decades, the stories of the poor and marginalised and how government initiatives are foiled due to inaccessibility, inertia and incompetence. Strategic perspectives that empower the people can change the scenario as Bagchi tries to demonstrate. He travelled 3,000 kms across 30 districts in 30 days to understand the requirements of people who either languished or made it out. His objective: to humanise the development agenda for policy makers and corporate leaders.

Bagchi writes about the projections that blew his mind; a staggering 96% of the entire workforce in India is in the unorganised sector. Even as India is set to become one of the top economies of the world, there is an increasing wage disparity, forced migration, digital divide and receding women participation. Only 2% of the youth population under-30 had received formal skill training while 8% had received informal training though the country is in need of many more skilled workers.

But even amidst widespread disdain, Bagchi came across people like Muni Tigga, born in a tribal village in Nuagan Tehsil, where girls were not sent to school. Despite taunts from the villagers, with her mother's support, Muni worked as a daily wage at a plant 37 km from her home. Later, she enrolled at ITI Barghar and landed a job as a loco pilot in the Indian Railways. The skilled training she received empowered her enough to earn a respectable identity.

But there are many more families that manage life one day at a time. The need for skill development across the State was seen as a means to human development.

It was kept above politics to make Odisha a sandbox of innovation, writes Bagchi. Every new idea such as the Fix (problems), Scale (skill development programmes), Accelerate (establishment of new institutes) strategy caught the imagination of many and produced what Bagchi calls "nano unicorns" – people who had the ability to learn new skills and seize the opportunity.

### Conversations on change

Opening conversations on change with the future in mind is also discussed by Bela Bhatia in her book, *India's Forgotten Country: A View From the Margins* (Penguin Viking), shortlisted for the NIF Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Book Prize 2025. When she worked with Dalits, Adivasis, women, bonded labourers, ethnic and religious minorities and other downtrodden groups living in hamlets, villages and slums, the oppressive forces that ruled and ruined them with brutality revealed itself assertively.

Bhatia's work encapsulates her research on the Naxalite movement, the conflict between the state and Maoists in Bastar, alongside her experiences as a rural activist in Gujarat. The book is a powerful critique of oppressive actions, and Bhatia offers empathetic narratives of life, death, and sufferings covering States such as Bihar, Telangana, Rajasthan, Kashmir and Nagaland. Standing by the marginalised to whom the governments and elites turn a blind eye, Bhatia gives several accounts of caste discrimination, communal massacres, untouchability, bonded labour, hunger, widowhood, armed uprisings and forced displacement. These sensitively expose the predicament of real India.

While the searing book stirs the public conscience, it also serves as an inspiring account of resilience, courage and hope at the grassroots level.

### Diverse examples

*Anchoring Change: Seventy-Five Years of*

*Grassroots Intervention That Made a Difference* by Jayapadma R.V., Neelima Khetan, Vikram Singh Mehta, (Harper Collins India) looks at why we despair more about our inability to realise our full potential as a country and find fault with the leadership, state of our institutions and the economic model. The book tries to answer questions through examples of organisations working with the grassroots since Independence and underlines the need to reflect on the micro successes and the several cases of hugely impactful grassroots interventions that helped steer society in a positive direction.

The authors' idea is to revisit examples of civic action and explore their relevance for the future. It serves two purposes, they say: to shift the conversation from failure to success; and to distil from these successes relevant design principles that might have wide relevance to create an alternative, grassroots-based, sustainable development model.

Sampat Kale's book *Grassroots Development Initiatives in India: Rights Based Approach to Development and Advocacy* (Routledge and Aakar Books) examines the way voluntary organisations engage with development programmes for marginalised sections to empower them and make them independent and self-sufficient.

Another interesting book, *Grassroots Innovation Movements* (Routledge), by Adrian Smith, Mariano Fressoli, Dinesh Abrol, Elisa Arond and Adriaan Ely, examines six diverse grassroots innovation movements in India, South America and Europe in dynamic historical contexts and explains why each movement frames innovation and development differently, resulting in a variety of strategies.

These books remind us of the contributions and the neglected questions which grassroots innovation movements identify. They reflect on both progress and the need for further improvement and empowerment.

## How grassroots movements and campaigns are shaping India कैसे जमीनी आंदोलनों और अभियानों ने भारत को आकार दिया है

### The Day the Chariot Moved: How India Grows at the Grassroots द डे दैट चैरियट मूव्ड: हाउ इंडिया ग्रोज़ एट द ग्रासरूट्स

- There is a heart-warming story about Nunaram Hansda in **Subroto Bagchi's book *The Day the Chariot Moved: How India Grows at the Grassroots* (Penguin Business).**

सुब्रतो बागची की किताब *द डे दैट चैरियट मूव्ड: हाउ इंडिया ग्रोज़ एट द ग्रासरूट्स* (पेंगुइन बिजनेस) में नुनाराम हांसदा की एक प्रेरणादायक कहानी है।

- Nunaram, born to tribal parents in the interior forests of Simlipal (Odisha), was sent to an **Ashram School (Ministry of Tribal Affairs)** as his parents could not afford to raise him. नुनाराम, जो ओडिशा के सिमलीपाल के आंतरिक जंगलों में आदिवासी माता-पिता से पैदा हुए, उन्हें उनके माता-पिता ने जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय के आश्रम विद्यालय में भेजा क्योंकि वे उन्हें पालने में सक्षम नहीं थे।





- Later, he joined **Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Rourkela**, but had **no money to pay fees**. His teachers pooled money from their small salaries to help him.  
बाद में उन्होंने इंडस्ट्रियल ट्रेनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट (आईटीआई), राउरकेला में दाखिला लिया, लेकिन शुल्क देने के लिए पैसे नहीं थे। उनके शिक्षकों ने अपनी छोटी तनखाहों से पैसा इकट्ठा करके उनकी मदद की।
- Today, **Nunaram heads the insulin manufacturing line at Biocon**.  
आज नुनाराम बायोकॉन में इंसुलिन मैन्युफैक्चरिंग लाइन के प्रमुख हैं
- **Bagchi's book tells stories of many such people who achieved success despite poverty and odds**.  
बागची की किताब में ऐसे कई लोगों की कहानियाँ हैं जिन्होंने गरीबी और कठिनाइयों के बावजूद सफलता हासिल की।

## Odisha's Journey ओडिशा की यात्रा

- In 2016, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik invited **Subroto Bagchi** to head the **Skill Development Authority** to transform the State.  
2016 में ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक ने **सुब्रतो बागची** को राज्य को बदलने के लिए **स्किल डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी का प्रमुख** बनने के लिए आमंत्रित किया।
- Bagchi realised the **ground realities** of how **governments function, schemes are implemented**, and how **grassroots leaders** keep the country moving **without recognition**.  
बागची ने यह महसूस किया कि **सरकारें कैसे काम करती हैं, योजनाएँ कैसे लागू होती हैं, और कैसे जमीनी नेता बिना पहचान के देश को आगे बढ़ाते हैं।**
- The book is a **tribute to grassroots India**, based on **individual stories** that show both **development achievements** and **systemic failures**.  
यह किताब **ग्रासरूट्स भारत को श्रद्धांजलि** है, जिसमें **व्यक्तिगत कहानियों** के माध्यम से **विकास की उपलब्धियाँ** और **प्रणालीगत विफलताएँ** दोनों दिखाई गई हैं।
- **Bagchi, with his experience from corporate IT to a Cabinet-rank position, builds narratives of achievements, frustrations, and hope**.  
बागची ने **कॉर्पोरेट आईटी से लेकर कैबिनेट रैंक के सरकारी पद तक के अनुभव से उपलब्धियों, निराशाओं और आशाओं की कहानियाँ** बुनी हैं।
- He says **that governments are stereotyped as corrupt, lazy, and arrogant, but some officials and grassroots people truly make change happen**.  
वे कहते हैं कि **सरकारों को अक्सर भ्रष्ट, आलसी और घमंडी माना जाता है, लेकिन कुछ सरकारी कर्मचारी और जमीनी लोग वास्तव में बदलाव लाते हैं।**

## The Book's Structure and Insights किताब की संरचना और अंतर्दृष्टियाँ

- The book has **seven sections** detailing **Bagchi's life, his return to Odisha after four decades**, and the **stories of the poor and marginalised**.  
यह किताब **सात भागों में विभाजित है जिसमें बागची का जीवन, चार दशकों बाद ओडिशा में वापसी, और गरीब व हाशिए पर रहने वालों की कहानियाँ शामिल हैं।**
- **It shows how government initiatives often fail due to inaccessibility, inertia, and incompetence**.  
यह दर्शाती है कि **सरकारी योजनाएँ अक्सर पहुंच की कमी, जड़ता और अक्षमता के कारण असफल होती हैं।**
- Bagchi offers **strategic perspectives** to **empower people** and change the system.  
बागची **लोगों को सशक्त बनाने और प्रणाली में परिवर्तन लाने के लिए रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण** प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- He **travelled 3,000 km across 30 districts in 30 days** to understand people's needs.  
उन्होंने **30 दिनों में 30 जिलों की 3,000 किमी यात्रा** की ताकि लोगों की ज़रूरतों को समझ सकें।
- His objective was to **humanise the development agenda for policy makers and corporate leaders**.  
उनका उद्देश्य था **नीति निर्माताओं और कॉर्पोरेट नेताओं के लिए विकास एजेंडा को मानवीय बनाना।**



## Workforce and Skill Development Issues

### कार्यबल और कौशल विकास से जुड़ी चुनौतियाँ

- **Bagchi found that 96% of India's workforce is in the unorganised sector.**  
बागची ने पाया कि भारत के कुल कार्यबल का 96% हिस्सा असंगठित क्षेत्र में है।
- **Despite being a growing economy, India faces wage disparity, forced migration, digital divide, and declining female participation.**  
तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के बावजूद, भारत में वेतन असमानता, मजबूरन पलायन, डिजिटल विभाजन, और महिलाओं की घटती भागीदारी की समस्या है।
- **Only 2% of youth under 30 have received formal skill training, while 8% have informal training, even though the country needs many more skilled workers.**  
30 वर्ष से कम उम्र के केवल 2% युवाओं ने औपचारिक प्रशिक्षण लिया है, जबकि 8% ने अनौपचारिक प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया है, जबकि देश को कई और कुशल श्रमिकों की आवश्यकता है।

## Stories of Change and Hope

### परिवर्तन और आशा की कहानियाँ

- **Muni Tigga, born in a tribal village in Nuagan Tehsil, overcame social taunts to become a loco pilot in Indian Railways after training at ITI Bargarh.**  
मुनी टिग्गा, जो नुआगन तहसील के एक आदिवासी गाँव में पैदा हुई, उन्होंने सामाजिक उपहास को पार करके आईटीआई बरगढ़ में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया और बाद में भारतीय रेल में लोको पायलट बनीं।
- **Her skill training empowered her to earn a respectable identity and financial stability.**  
उनके कौशल प्रशिक्षण ने उन्हें सशक्त बनाया, जिससे उन्होंने सम्मानजनक पहचान और आर्थिक स्थिरता प्राप्त की।
- **However, many families in Odisha still live day-to-day, struggling for basic livelihood.**  
फिर भी, ओडिशा में कई परिवार अभी भी रोज़मर्रा के संघर्षों में जी रहे हैं, जो बुनियादी जीवनयापन के लिए संघर्षरत हैं।

## Skill Development as Human Development

### कौशल विकास को मानव विकास के रूप में

- **Skill development was viewed as a path to human development and kept above politics to make Odisha a sandbox of innovation.**  
कौशल विकास को मानव विकास का मार्ग माना गया और राजनीति से ऊपर रखते हुए ओडिशा को नवाचार का केंद्र (sandbox) बनाने की दिशा में प्रयास किया गया।
- Bagchi introduced the **Fix, Scale, Accelerate** strategy —  
बागची ने फिक्स, स्केल, एक्सेलरेट रणनीति प्रस्तुत की —
  - **Fix** (problems)  
फिक्स (समस्याओं का समाधान)
  - **Scale** (skill development programmes)  
स्केल (कौशल विकास कार्यक्रमों का विस्तार)
  - **Accelerate** (establishment of new institutes)  
एक्सेलरेट (नए संस्थानों की स्थापना)
- This approach produced what Bagchi calls **“nano unicorns” — individuals who learned new skills and seized opportunities.**  
इस दृष्टिकोण ने बागची के अनुसार “नेनो यूनिकॉर्न्स” तैयार किए — ऐसे व्यक्ति जिन्होंने नए कौशल सीखे और अवसरों को भुनाया।

## Conversations on Change

### परिवर्तन पर वार्तालाप

- Opening conversations on change with **the future in mind** is also discussed by **Bela Bhatia in her book, India's Forgotten Country: A View From the Margins (Penguin Viking),** shortlisted for the **NIF Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Book Prize 2025.**  
भविष्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए परिवर्तन पर वार्तालाप की शुरुआत पर चर्चा बेला भाटिया ने अपनी पुस्तक



इंडियाज़ फॉरगॉटन कंट्री: ए व्यू फ्रॉम द मार्जिन्स (पेंगुइन वाइकिंग) में की है, जिसे एनआईएफ कमलादेवी चट्टोपाध्याय बुक प्राइज 2025 के लिए शॉर्टलिस्ट किया गया है।

- When she worked with **Dalits, Adivasis, women, bonded labourers, ethnic and religious minorities** and other downtrodden groups living in hamlets, villages and slums, the **oppressive forces** that ruled and ruined them with brutality revealed itself assertively. जब उन्होंने दलितों, आदिवासियों, महिलाओं, बंधुआ मज़दूरों, जातीय और धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों तथा अन्य शोषित समूहों के साथ काम किया, जो बस्तियों, गांवों और झुग्गियों में रहते थे, तो उनके ऊपर शासन करने वाली और उन्हें कूरता से नष्ट करने वाली **दमनकारी शक्तियाँ** स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आईं।
- Bhatia's work encapsulates her **research on the Naxalite movement, the conflict between the state and Maoists in Bastar, alongside her experiences as a rural activist in Gujarat.** भाटिया का कार्य उनके **नक्सलवादी आंदोलन पर शोध, बस्तर में राज्य और माओवादी संघर्ष, तथा गुजरात में ग्रामीण कार्यकर्ता** के रूप में उनके अनुभवों को समेटता है।
- The book is a powerful critique of **oppressive actions**, and Bhatia offers **empathetic narratives** of life, death, and sufferings covering **States such as Bihar, Telangana, Rajasthan, Kashmir and Nagaland.** यह पुस्तक **दमनकारी कार्यों की तीखी आलोचना** है और भाटिया ने **जीवन, मृत्यु और पीड़ा के सहानुभूतिपूर्ण वर्णन** प्रस्तुत किए हैं जो बिहार, तेलंगाना, राजस्थान, कश्मीर और नागालैंड जैसे राज्यों को कवर करते हैं।
- Standing by the **marginalised** to whom the governments and elites turn a blind eye, Bhatia gives several accounts of **caste discrimination, communal massacres, untouchability, bonded labour, hunger, widowhood, armed uprisings and forced displacement.** **हाशिए पर पड़े लोगों** के साथ खड़ी होकर, जिनकी ओर सरकारें और अभिजात वर्ग आंखें मूंद लेते हैं, भाटिया ने **जातीय भेदभाव, सांप्रदायिक हत्याकांड, अस्पृश्यता, बंधुआ मज़दूरी, भूख, विधवापन, सशस्त्र विद्रोह और बलपूर्वक विस्थापन** के कई उदाहरण दिए हैं।
- These sensitively expose the **predicament of real India.** ये संवेदनशील रूप से **वास्तविक भारत की दुर्दशा** को उजागर करते हैं।
- While the searing book stirs the **public conscience**, it also serves as an **inspiring account of resilience, courage and hope** at the grassroots level. यह तीव्र पुस्तक जहां **जन-चेतना** को झकझोरती है, वहीं यह **लचीलापन, साहस और आशा के जमीनी स्तर के प्रेरक उदाहरण** के रूप में भी कार्य करती है।

## Diverse Examples

### विविध उदाहरण

- **Anchoring Change: Seventy-Five Years of Grassroots Intervention That Made a Difference** by Jayapadma R.V., Neelima Khetan, Vikram Singh Mehta (Harper Collins India) looks at why we **despair** more about our inability to realise our full potential as a country and find fault with **leadership, institutions and economic model.** जयपद्मा आर.वी., नीलिमा खेतान, विक्रम सिंह मेहता (हार्पर कॉलिन्स इंडिया) की पुस्तक **एंकरिंग चेंज: सेवेंटी-फाइव ईयर्स ऑफ ग्रासरूट्स इंटरवेंशन दैट मेड ए डिफरेंस** इस बात पर नज़र डालती है कि हम एक देश के रूप में अपनी **पूर्ण क्षमता को प्राप्त न कर पाने पर अधिक निराश** क्यों होते हैं और **नेतृत्व, संस्थानों और आर्थिक मॉडल** में खामियां क्यों खोजते हैं।
- The book tries to answer questions through **examples of organisations working with the grassroots** since Independence and underlines the need to reflect on the **micro successes** and impactful interventions that **steered society positively.** यह पुस्तक स्वतंत्रता के बाद से **जमीनी स्तर पर काम कर रहे संगठनों के उदाहरणों** के माध्यम से इन प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने की कोशिश करती है और **सूक्ष्म सफलताओं** तथा समाज को **सकारात्मक दिशा में ले जाने वाले प्रभावशाली हस्तक्षेपों** पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करती है।
- The authors' idea is to **revisit examples of civic action** and explore their **relevance for the future.** लेखकों का उद्देश्य **नागरिक कार्रवाई के उदाहरणों की पुनः समीक्षा** करना और उनकी **भविष्य के लिए प्रासंगिकता** की खोज करना है।
- It serves two purposes: to **shift the conversation from failure to success**, and to **distil design principles** that might have **wide relevance** to create a **grassroots-based sustainable development model.**



यह दो उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति करता है: वार्तालाप को असफलता से सफलता की ओर मोड़ना, और ऐसे डिज़ाइन सिद्धांत निकालना जो व्यापक रूप से प्रासंगिक हों ताकि जमीनी स्तर पर आधारित सतत विकास मॉडल तैयार किया जा सके।

- **Sampat Kale's book *Grassroots Development Initiatives in India: Rights Based Approach to Development and Advocacy* (Routledge and Aakar Books) examines how **voluntary organisations** engage with **development programmes for marginalised sections** to empower them and make them **independent and self-sufficient**.**

सम्पत काले की पुस्तक *ग्रासरूट्स डेवलपमेंट इनिशिएटिव्स इन इंडिया: राइट्स बेस्ड अप्रोच टू डेवलपमेंट एंड एडवोकेसी* (रूटलेज और आकार बुक्स) यह जांचती है कि **स्वैच्छिक संगठन** कैसे **हाशिए पर पड़े वर्गों के विकास कार्यक्रमों** में भाग लेकर उन्हें सशक्त, **स्वतंत्र और आत्मनिर्भर** बनाते हैं।

- Another interesting book, *Grassroots Innovation Movements* (Routledge), by **Adrian Smith, Mariano Fressoli, Dinesh Abrol, Elisa Arond and Adrian Ely**, examines **six diverse grassroots innovation movements** in **India, South America and Europe**, and explains why each movement frames **innovation and development differently**, resulting in a **variety of strategies**.

एक और रोचक पुस्तक *ग्रासरूट्स इनोवेशन मूवमेंट्स* (रूटलेज), जिसे **एड्रियन स्मिथ, मारियानो फ्रेसोली, दिनेश अबरोल, एलिसा एरॉन्ड और एड्रियन एली** ने लिखा है, **भारत, दक्षिण अमेरिका और यूरोप** में **छह विविध जमीनी नवाचार आंदोलनों** का अध्ययन करती है और बताती है कि प्रत्येक आंदोलन ने **नवाचार और विकास को अलग-अलग ढंग से परिभाषित किया**, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **विभिन्न रणनीतियाँ** विकसित हुईं।

- These books remind us of the **contributions and neglected questions** which grassroots innovation movements identify.  
ये पुस्तकें हमें उन **योगदानों और उपेक्षित प्रश्नों** की याद दिलाती हैं जिन्हें जमीनी नवाचार आंदोलनों ने पहचाना है।
- They reflect on both **progress** and the need for **further improvement and empowerment**.  
ये **प्रगति** के साथ-साथ **अधिक सुधार और सशक्तिकरण की आवश्यकता** पर भी विचार करती हैं।

**International Relations**

**13/11/2025**



# The limits of international branch campuses

GS II: IR: India-UK

Last month, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in India with a planeload of vice chancellors. The Indian and U.K. governments announced that several U.K. universities plan to open branch campuses in India. Some of them have already received University Grants Commission (UGC) approval, while others are in the early stages of the application process. The fact that Mr. Starmer led this delegation can certainly speed up the regulatory approvals and establish these new campuses as legitimate ventures. However, it is worth analysing this initiative.

## The need for branch campuses

The recent changes in the India-U.K. educational partnership are tied to the broader India-U.K. Vision 2035 and the recently signed India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Also, British higher education is undergoing an unprecedented financial crisis, created both by inadequate support from the Starmer government and by a decline in the number of international students going to the U.K. and paying high fees. It is likely that some British universities are looking to a move to India as a way of earning income from Indians without importing students. But will Indians want to study at a branch campus as a substitute for the “real thing”? Will the branches apply the same standards both for student performance and faculty quality in India as they do on their home campuses?

Branch campuses do not always succeed. And when they fail, students are often left without alternatives. In recent years, several international branch campuses faced significant setbacks. Texas A&M University closed its Qatar campus after two decades of operation. In Europe, the University of Kent’s Brussels campus was shut down due to financial pressures. These developments reveal a growing



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The ultimate value of foreign branch campuses will depend less on their brand and more on their ability to offer something not readily available in India

fragility in the operation of international branch campuses where global uncertainties and local market realities challenge the sustainability of such ventures. This risk should be an eye-opener for India, where clear contingency frameworks are yet to be outlined. One of the major gaps in current UGC regulations is the lack of a clear safety net for students, especially if a branch campus were to suddenly shut down.

Just what is a branch campus? Is it a full academic institution transplanted from one country to another, with a campus, a variety of offerings, perhaps some focus on research, facilities for student services, and the like? Or is it a floor of an office complex offering a few specialised degree programmes deemed to be attractive to target audiences and taught by local faculty or professors from the home university who fly in for a few weeks or perhaps teach only on Zoom? Globally, there seem to be many more of the latter.

Experts point out that building a “real” branch is expensive and time consuming. Most “real” branch campuses around the world have been financed by governments or in some cases by property developers. For example, the campus of New York University in Abu Dhabi was built using funds from the UAE. Foreign universities are seldom willing to invest in actually building overseas campuses. So, it is worth asking whether the British universities will be making significant investments to build their branches in India or whether they simply intend to leverage local partnerships and facilities.

There is also the question of teaching. Will these branches provide full-time faculty from their home campuses? Experience shows that this is seldom the case. As a result, these campuses have to rely primarily on local faculty. If that is the case, what then will distinguish these branch campuses from India’s emerging elite and semi-elite universities?

Also, will the branches have a research mission? The vast majority of branch campuses worldwide are only teaching outposts, as building research capacity is expensive. Indeed, research has been a point of contention between the Chinese government and a number of the branch campuses in China – including British branches of Nottingham in Ningbo and Liverpool in Suzhou.

In India, the question is whether the branch campuses will be allowed to engage with the national research ecosystem by participating in the schemes of the Indian Council of Social Science Research or Department of Science and Technology or remain isolated teaching units. Their contribution to India’s research output and innovation metrics would be meaningful only if they are incentivised to undertake research collaborations and capacity-building.

## Balancing ambition and reality

The ultimate value of foreign branch campuses will depend less on their brand and more on their ability to offer something not readily available in India. If handled well, branch campuses can provide access for students as India expands higher education enrolments. They can provide useful examples of innovative government and management practices that may be relevant for India’s often sclerotic higher education system. However, the absence of clear frameworks on accreditation and quality assurance leaves uncertainty about how such collaborations will align with national standards and protect student interests. The question of fee structures adds another layer of complexity because India’s many semi-elite and elite private universities already offer globally benchmarked programmes with international partnerships. As India approaches an era of branch campuses, there are significant possibilities, but *caveat emptor*.

## The limits of international branch campuses

### अंतरराष्ट्रीय ब्रांच कैम्पसों की सीमाएँ

- Last month, **British Prime Minister Keir Starmer** arrived in India with a planeload of **vice chancellors**.  
पिछले महीने ब्रिटिश प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टारमर एक विमान भरकर कुलपतियों के साथ भारत पहुंचे।
- The Indian and U.K. governments announced that several **U.K. universities plan to open branch campuses in India**.



भारत और ब्रिटेन की सरकारों ने घोषणा की कि कई ब्रिटिश विश्वविद्यालय भारत में शाखा परिसर खोलने की योजना बना रहे हैं।

- Some of them have already received **University Grants Commission (UGC) approval**, while others are in the early stages of the application process.  
इनमें से कुछ को पहले ही विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) से स्वीकृति मिल चुकी है, जबकि अन्य अभी आवेदन प्रक्रिया के प्रारंभिक चरण में हैं।
- The fact that **Mr. Starmer led this delegation** can certainly speed up the **regulatory approvals** and establish these new campuses as **legitimate ventures**.  
यह तथ्य कि श्री स्टारमर ने इस प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व किया, निश्चित रूप से नियामक अनुमोदनों को तेज कर सकता है और इन नए परिसरों को वैध उपक्रमों के रूप में स्थापित कर सकता है।
- However, it is worth analysing this initiative.  
हालांकि, इस पहल का विश्लेषण करना आवश्यक है।

## The Need for Branch Campuses

### शाखा परिसरों की आवश्यकता

- The **recent changes in the India-U.K. educational partnership** are tied to the broader **India-U.K. Vision 2035** and the recently signed **India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement**.  
भारत-यू.के. शैक्षणिक साझेदारी में हाल के बदलाव व्यापक भारत-यू.के. विज़न 2035 और हाल ही में हस्ताक्षरित भारत-यू.के. व्यापक आर्थिक और व्यापार समझौते से जुड़े हुए हैं।
- **British higher education** is undergoing an **unprecedented financial crisis**, caused both by **inadequate government support** and a **decline in international students** going to the U.K. and paying high fees.  
ब्रिटिश उच्च शिक्षा एक अभूतपूर्व वित्तीय संकट से गुजर रही है, जो सरकारी समर्थन की कमी और यू.के. जाने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों में कमी के कारण उत्पन्न हुआ है।
- It is likely that some **British universities** see a move to India as a way to **earn income from Indians without importing students**.  
संभव है कि कुछ ब्रिटिश विश्वविद्यालय भारत में विस्तार को भारतीय छात्रों से आय अर्जित करने का तरीका मानते हों, बिना उन्हें यू.के. भेजे।
- But questions remain — will **Indians want to study** at a **branch campus** as a substitute for the “**real thing**”?  
लेकिन प्रश्न यह है — क्या भारतीय छात्र शाखा परिसर में पढ़ना चाहेंगे जो “वास्तविक” विश्वविद्यालय अनुभव का विकल्प हो?
- Will these branches apply the **same standards of student performance and faculty quality in India as on their home campuses**?  
क्या ये शाखाएँ भारत में छात्र प्रदर्शन और शिक्षक गुणवत्ता के वही मानक लागू करेंगी जो उनके मूल परिसरों में हैं?

## Risks and Failures of Branch Campuses

### शाखा परिसरों के जोखिम और असफलताएँ

- **Branch campuses do not always succeed**. When they fail, **students are often left without alternatives**.  
शाखा परिसर हमेशा सफल नहीं होते। असफल होने पर छात्रों के पास अक्सर कोई विकल्प नहीं बचता।
- In recent years, several **international branch campuses** faced significant setbacks.  
हाल के वर्षों में कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय शाखा परिसरों को गंभीर झटके लगे हैं।
- **Texas A&M University** closed its **Qatar campus** after **two decades** of operation.  
टेक्सास ए एंड एम विश्वविद्यालय ने दो दशकों तक संचालन के बाद अपना कतर परिसर बंद कर दिया।
- In Europe, the **University of Kent's Brussels campus** was shut down due to **financial pressures**.  
यूरोप में, केंट विश्वविद्यालय का ब्रुसेल्स परिसर वित्तीय दबावों के कारण बंद कर दिया गया।
- These developments reveal a growing **fragility** in the operation of **international branch campuses**, where **global uncertainties** and **local market realities** challenge their sustainability.



ये घटनाएँ अंतरराष्ट्रीय शाखा परिसरों के संचालन में बढ़ती नाजुकता को दर्शाती हैं, जहाँ वैश्विक अनिश्चितताएँ और स्थानीय बाजार की वास्तविकताएँ उनकी सततता को चुनौती देती हैं।

- This risk should be an **eye-opener for India**, where **clear contingency frameworks** are yet to be outlined.  
यह जोखिम **भारत के लिए चेतावनी** होनी चाहिए, जहाँ अभी तक **स्पष्ट आकस्मिक ढाँचा (contingency framework)** तैयार नहीं किया गया है।
- **One of the major gaps in current UGC regulations is the lack of a safety net for students, especially if a branch campus were to suddenly shut down.**  
वर्तमान **UGC विनियमों** में एक बड़ी कमी यह है कि **छात्रों के लिए कोई सुरक्षा तंत्र नहीं है**, खासकर यदि कोई शाखा परिसर अचानक बंद हो जाए।

## Defining a Branch Campus शाखा परिसर की परिभाषा

- What exactly is a **branch campus**?  
वास्तव में **शाखा परिसर** क्या है?
- Is it a **full academic institution** transplanted from one country to another, with a **campus, research, and student services**?  
क्या यह एक **पूर्ण शैक्षणिक संस्था** है जो एक देश से दूसरे देश में स्थानांतरित की गई है, जिसमें **परिसर, अनुसंधान और छात्र सेवाएँ** होती हैं?
- Or is it merely a **floor of an office complex**, offering a few **specialised degree programmes**, taught by **local faculty** or visiting professors who **fly in for a few weeks** or teach **only on Zoom**?  
या फिर यह केवल **किसी कार्यालय भवन का एक तल** है जहाँ कुछ **विशेषीकृत डिग्री कार्यक्रम** चलाए जाते हैं, जिन्हें **स्थानीय शिक्षक** या कुछ हफ्तों के लिए **विदेशी प्रोफेसर** सिखाते हैं, या केवल **ज़ूम पर पढ़ाया जाता है**?
- **Globally**, there seem to be **many more of the latter**, i.e., limited-scale operations instead of full-fledged universities.  
**वैश्विक स्तर पर**, ऐसे **सीमित पैमाने के परिसरों** की संख्या अधिक प्रतीत होती है, जो पूर्ण विकसित विश्वविद्यालयों के बजाय **छोटे शिक्षण केंद्रों** के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

## Cost and Feasibility of Building “Real” Branch Campuses “वास्तविक” शाखा परिसरों के निर्माण की लागत और व्यवहार्यता

- **Experts point out that building a “real” branch campus is expensive and time consuming.**  
विशेषज्ञ बताते हैं कि एक **“वास्तविक” शाखा परिसर** का निर्माण **महंगा और समय लेने वाला** होता है।
- Most **“real” branch campuses** around the world have been **financed by governments** or sometimes by **property developers**.  
दुनिया भर में अधिकांश **“वास्तविक” शाखा परिसर** या तो **सरकारों द्वारा वित्तपोषित** होते हैं या कभी-कभी **संपत्ति डेवलपर्स** द्वारा।
- For example, the **campus of New York University in Abu Dhabi** was built using **funds from the UAE**.  
उदाहरण के लिए, **अबू धाबी में न्यूयॉर्क विश्वविद्यालय का परिसर** संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE) के फंड से बनाया गया था।
- **Foreign universities** are seldom willing to **invest in actually building overseas campuses**.  
**विदेशी विश्वविद्यालय** शायद ही कभी **विदेशों में वास्तविक रूप से परिसर बनाने में निवेश** करने के इच्छुक होते हैं।
- It is worth asking whether **British universities** will make **significant investments** to build their branches in **India**, or whether they intend to **leverage local partnerships and facilities** instead.  
यह पूछना आवश्यक है कि क्या **ब्रिटिश विश्वविद्यालय** भारत में अपने शाखा परिसरों के निर्माण में पर्याप्त **निवेश** करेंगे या फिर केवल **स्थानीय साझेदारियों और सुविधाओं** का उपयोग करेंगे।

## The Question of Teaching and Faculty शिक्षण और फैकल्टी से जुड़ा प्रश्न



- There is also the question of **teaching** — will these branches provide **full-time faculty** from their **home campuses**?  
यहाँ शिक्षण का प्रश्न भी उठता है — क्या ये शाखाएँ अपने **मुख्य परिसरों से पूर्णकालिक शिक्षकों** को नियुक्त करेंगी?
- Experience shows that this is **seldom the case**; these campuses usually rely on **local faculty**.  
अनुभव दर्शाता है कि ऐसा **बहुत कम ही होता है**; ये परिसर आमतौर पर **स्थानीय शिक्षकों** पर निर्भर रहते हैं।
- If that is the case, then what will **distinguish** these branch campuses from **India's emerging elite and semi-elite universities**?  
यदि ऐसा है, तो इन शाखा परिसरों को **भारत के उभरते हुए प्रतिष्ठित और अर्ध-प्रतिष्ठित विश्वविद्यालयों** से क्या अलग बनाएगा?

## The Question of Research

### अनुसंधान से जुड़ा प्रश्न

- Will these branches have a **research mission**?  
क्या इन शाखाओं का कोई **अनुसंधान मिशन** होगा?
- **The vast majority of branch campuses worldwide are only teaching outposts, as building research capacity is expensive.**  
विश्वभर में अधिकांश शाखा परिसर केवल शिक्षण केंद्र होते हैं क्योंकि **अनुसंधान क्षमता का निर्माण महंगा होता है।**
- **Research has been a point of contention between the Chinese government and several branch campuses in China, including British branches of Nottingham (Ningbo) and Liverpool (Suzhou).**  
अनुसंधान चीनी सरकार और चीन में कई शाखा परिसरों — जैसे नॉटिंगहम (निंगबो) और लिवरपूल (सुझोउ) के ब्रिटिश परिसरों — के बीच विवाद का विषय रहा है।
- In India, the question is whether the **branch campuses** will be allowed to **engage with the national research ecosystem**, such as schemes of **ICSSR** (Indian Council of Social Science Research) or **DST** (Department of Science and Technology).  
भारत में प्रश्न यह है कि क्या शाखा परिसरों को **राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान तंत्र** — जैसे **भारतीय सामाजिक विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICSSR)** या **विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (DST)** — की योजनाओं में भाग लेने की अनुमति दी जाएगी।
- Or will they remain **isolated teaching units**? Their contribution to **India's research output and innovation metrics** would be meaningful only if they are **incentivised for collaboration and capacity-building**.  
या वे **अलग-थलग शिक्षण इकाइयों** के रूप में रहेंगे? उनका **भारत के अनुसंधान उत्पादन और नवाचार संकेतकों** में योगदान तभी सार्थक होगा जब उन्हें **सहयोग और क्षमता निर्माण के लिए प्रोत्साहित** किया जाएगा।

## Balancing Ambition and Reality

### महत्वाकांक्षा और वास्तविकता के बीच संतुलन

- The ultimate **value of foreign branch campuses** will depend less on their **brand** and more on their **ability to offer something not readily available in India**.  
**विदेशी शाखा परिसरों का वास्तविक मूल्य** उनके **ब्रांड** पर नहीं बल्कि इस पर निर्भर करेगा कि वे **भारत में उपलब्ध न होने वाले अवसर** कितनी प्रभावी रूप से प्रदान करते हैं।
- If handled well, **branch campuses** can provide **access to students** as India expands **higher education enrolments**.  
यदि सही तरीके से प्रबंधित किया जाए, तो **शाखा परिसर उच्च शिक्षा नामांकन** के विस्तार के दौरान छात्रों को **नई पहुँच** प्रदान कर सकते हैं।
- They can serve as **examples of innovative governance and management practices** relevant to India's **rigid higher education system**.  
वे भारत की **कठोर उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली** के लिए **नवोन्मेषी शासन और प्रबंधन प्रथाओं** के उदाहरण बन सकते हैं।



- However, the **absence of clear frameworks on accreditation and quality assurance** creates **uncertainty** about how these collaborations will align with **national standards** and **protect student interests**.  
हालांकि, मान्यता और गुणवत्ता आश्वासन पर स्पष्ट ढांचे की अनुपस्थिति से यह अनिश्चितता पैदा होती है कि ये सहयोग राष्ट्रीय मानकों के साथ कैसे मेल खाएँगे और छात्रों के हितों की रक्षा कैसे करेंगे।
- The **question of fee structures** adds another layer of complexity, since **India's semi-elite and elite private universities** already offer **globally benchmarked programmes** with **international partnerships**.  
शुल्क संरचना का प्रश्न इस जटिलता को और बढ़ाता है, क्योंकि भारत के अर्ध-प्रतिष्ठित और प्रतिष्ठित निजी विश्वविद्यालय पहले से ही अंतरराष्ट्रीय साझेदारियों के साथ वैश्विक स्तर के कार्यक्रम प्रदान कर रहे हैं।
- As India approaches an era of **branch campuses**, there are **significant possibilities**, but also a need for **caution (caveat emptor)**.  
जैसे-जैसे भारत शाखा परिसरों के युग की ओर बढ़ रहा है, वहाँ महत्वपूर्ण संभावनाएँ हैं, लेकिन साथ ही सावधानी बरतने की आवश्यकता भी है।

<b>GS Paper III: Economy, S&amp;T, Environment, DM, &amp;IS</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>13_11_2025</b>
	<b>Economy</b>
1.	<b>Retail inflation hits a historic low of 0.25% in October</b> खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति अक्टूबर में 0.25% के ऐतिहासिक निचले स्तर पर पहुँची
2.	<b>Union Cabinet clears new royalty rates of critical minerals</b> केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की नई रॉयल्टी दरों को मंजूरी दी
3.	<b>Inter-State rivalry that is fuelling India's growth</b> भारत की वृद्धि को गति देने वाली अंतर-राज्यीय प्रतिद्वंद्विता
	<b>S&amp;T</b>
4.	<b>Immune cells primed for rheumatoid arthritis years before symptoms appear</b> लक्षण दिखाई देने से कई वर्ष पहले ही रूमेटॉइड आर्थराइटिस के लिए प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाएँ तैयार हो जाती हैं
5.	<b>QUIZ</b>
6.	<b>'India's design market seeing a huge growth'</b> 'भारत का डिज़ाइन बाज़ार तेज़ी से बढ़ रहा है'
	<b>Environment</b>
7.	<b>High levels of chromium, mercury in residents;</b> निवासियों में क्रोमियम, पारे का उच्च स्तर;
8.	<b>At 72.16%, Kerala stands fourth in employability rate</b> 72.16% पर, रोजगारयोग्यता दर में केरल चौथे स्थान पर



9.	<b>Tuberculosis incidence falling in India by 21% a year: WHO report</b> भारत में क्षय रोग (टीबी) की वार्षिक घटनाओं में 21% की गिरावट: डब्ल्यूएचओ रिपोर्ट
10.	<b>GI tag fee cut to ₹1,000; Minister promises backing for tribal goods</b> जीआई टैग शुल्क घटाकर ₹1,000 किया गया; मंत्री ने जनजातीय उत्पादों को समर्थन देने का वादा किया
11.	<b>Fine-tune the AI labelling regulations framework</b> एआई लेबलिंग नियमन ढांचे को परिष्कृत करना
	<b>DM</b>
12.	<b>Why does India's road safety system keep failing?</b> भारत की सड़क सुरक्षा प्रणाली बार-बार क्यों विफल होती है?

**Economy**

13/11/2025

PATRIOTICIAS



# Retail inflation hits a historic low of 0.25% in October

**GS III: Economy: Inflation**

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation fell to a historic low of 0.25% in October, with the government attributing this fall to the first full month's impact of GST rate cuts, a favourable base effect, and drop in inflation of several food items such as vegetables and fruits.

According to the government, this is the lowest rate of inflation measured in the current series of the Consumer Price Index.

That is, it is the lowest rate of inflation since January 2012. The data reveal that the fall in overall inflation is largely due to the statistical impact of the base effect on food inflation.

The data show that the food and beverages category saw prices contract 3.7% in October 2025, following up on a contraction of 1.4% in September.

"The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of October 2025 is mainly attributed to the full month's impact of decline in Goods and Service Tax [rates], favourable base effect and to drop in inflation of oils and fats, vegetables, fruits, egg,

footwear, cereals and products, transport and communication, etc.," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.

## Statistical base effect

According to economists, this decline is however due to a statistical base effect rather than an actual fall in prices. That is, because food inflation in the same month of last year was 9.7%, the change in prices this October looks relatively better.

Inflation in the housing category, too, accelerated to 3% in October 2025 from 2.8% in October 2024.

The clothing and footwear category was one of the few other than food that saw inflation easing in October, to 1.7% from 2.7% in October last year, likely on account of the GST rate cuts. The pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants category saw inflation quicken to 2.9% in October 2025 from 2.5% in the same month last year.

The miscellaneous category, which captures all other items not included in the major sub-groups, saw inflation accelerate to 5.7% in October 2025 versus 4.3% in October last year.

2025 is mainly attributed to the full month's impact of decline in **Goods and Service Tax [rates]**, favourable base effect and to drop in infiltration of **oils and fats, vegetables, fruits, egg, footwear, cereals and products, transport and communication, etc.**," the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** said.

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के अनुसार, अक्टूबर 2025 में हेडलाइन और खाद्य

## Retail inflation hits a historic low of 0.25% in October

खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति अक्टूबर में 0.25% के ऐतिहासिक निचले स्तर पर पहुँची

- Retail inflation hits a historic low of 0.25% in October

खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति अक्टूबर में 0.25% के ऐतिहासिक निचले स्तर पर पहुँची।

- Retail inflation fell to a historic low of 0.25% in October, with the government attributing this fall to the first full month's impact of **GST rate cuts**, a favourable **base effect**, and drop in action of several food items such as vegetables and fruits.

अक्टूबर में खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति 0.25% के ऐतिहासिक स्तर तक गिर गई, जिसे सरकार ने **GST दर कटौती**, अनुकूल बेस इफेक्ट, और सब्जियों व फलों जैसे कई खाद्य पदार्थों में गिरावट से जोड़ा है।

- According to the government, this is the lowest rate of in ratio measured in the current series of the **Consumer Price Index**.

सरकार के अनुसार, यह उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) की वर्तमान श्रृंखला में मापा गया सबसे कम मुद्रास्फीति दर है।

- That is, it is the lowest rate of inaction since January 2012.

यानी यह **जनवरी 2012 के बाद** की सबसे कम मुद्रास्फीति दर है।

- The data reveal that the fall in overall inflation is largely due to the statistical impact of the **base effect** on food infiltration.

डेटा दर्शाता है कि कुल मुद्रास्फीति में गिरावट मुख्य रूप से खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति पर **बेस इफेक्ट** के सांख्यिकीय प्रभाव के कारण है।

- The data show that the food and beverages category saw prices contract 3.7% in October 2025, following up on a contraction of 1.4% in September.

डेटा दिखाता है कि **खाद्य और पेय पदार्थ** श्रेणी में कीमतें **अक्टूबर 2025 में 3.7%** और सितंबर में **1.4%** घटीं।

- "The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of October



मुद्रास्फीति में गिरावट GST दरों में कमी, अनुकूल बेस इफेक्ट, और तेल व वसा, सब्जियाँ, फल, अंडा, फुटवियर, अनाज और उत्पाद, परिवहन और संचार में मुद्रास्फीति की कमी के कारण हुई।

### Statistical base effect सांख्यिकीय बेस इफेक्ट

- According to economists, this decline is however due to a statistical base effect rather than an actual fall in prices.  
अर्थशास्त्रियों के अनुसार, यह गिरावट वास्तविक कीमतों में कमी के बजाय सांख्यिकीय बेस इफेक्ट के कारण है।
- That is, because food inflation in the same month of last year was 9.7%, the change in prices this October looks relatively better.  
यानी पिछले वर्ष इसी महीने में खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति 9.7% थी, इसलिए इस अक्टूबर का मूल्य परिवर्तन अपेक्षाकृत बेहतर दिखता है।
- Inflation in the housing category, too, accelerated to 3% in October 2025 from 2.8% in October 2024.  
आवास श्रेणी में मुद्रास्फीति भी अक्टूबर 2024 के 2.8% से बढ़कर अक्टूबर 2025 में 3% हो गई।
- The clothing and footwear category was one of the few other than food that saw inflation easing in October, to 1.7% from 2.7% in October last year, likely on account of the GST rate cuts.  
कपड़ा और फुटवियर श्रेणी उन कुछ श्रेणियों में से थी जहाँ मुद्रास्फीति घटी—पिछले वर्ष के 2.7% से घटकर 1.7%, संभवतः GST दर कटौती के कारण।
- The pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants category saw inflation quicken to 2.9% in October 2025 from 2.5% in the same month last year.  
पान, तंबाकू और अन्य नशीले पदार्थों की श्रेणी में मुद्रास्फीति पिछले वर्ष के 2.5% से बढ़कर 2.9% हो गई।
- The miscellaneous category, which captures all other items not included in the major sub-groups, saw inflation accelerate to 5.7% in October 2025 versus 4.3% in October last year.  
विविध श्रेणी, जिसमें प्रमुख उप-समूहों में शामिल न होने वाली सभी वस्तुएँ आती हैं, में मुद्रास्फीति पिछले वर्ष के 4.3% से बढ़कर 5.7% हो गई।

PATRIOTIC



# Union Cabinet clears new royalty rates of critical minerals

**GS III: Economy: Resources**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Seeking to reduce import dependence and vulnerabilities in the supply chain of critical minerals, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the rationalisation of royalty rates of graphite, caesium, rubidium, and zirconium.

With the rationalisation structure, graphite, wherein royalty was previously sought on per tonne-basis (that is, a fixed amount for a specific weight of ore), will now be charged on an ad valorem basis.

Graphite with less than 80% fixed carbon content will be subject to 4% royalty of the average sale price, whilst that with 80% or more carbon content would attract 2%.

Caesium and rubidium would be subject to a royal-

**Caesium and rubidium will be subject to a royalty rate of 2% on the average sale price**

ty rate of 2% on the average sale price based on the specific metal contained in the ore produced. A royalty rate of 1% would apply to zirconium.

**Promoting auction**

In a statement, the Cabinet said that the decision to rationalise would promote the auction of mineral blocks of caesium, rubidium, and zirconium.

“Today’s approval of the Union Cabinet on the rate of royalty will help the bidders to rationally submit their financial bids in the auction,” the Cabinet statement emphasised.

produced.

सीज़ियम और रुबीडियम पर उत्पादित अयस्क में मौजूद विशिष्ट धातु के आधार पर औसत बिक्री मूल्य का 2% रॉयल्टी लागेगी।

- A royalty rate of 1% would apply to zirconium. ज़िरकोनियम पर 1% रॉयल्टी लागू होगी।

**Promoting auction**  
**नीलामी को बढ़ावा देना**

- In a statement, the Cabinet said that the decision to rationalise would promote the auction of mineral blocks of **caesium, rubidium, and zirconium**. एक बयान में, मंत्रिमंडल ने कहा कि तर्कसंगतीकरण का निर्णय सीज़ियम, रुबीडियम और ज़िरकोनियम के खनिज ब्लॉकों की नीलामी को बढ़ावा देगा।

“Today’s approval of the Union Cabinet on the rate of royalty will help the bidders to rationally submit their financial bids in the auction,” the Cabinet statement emphasised.

“रॉयल्टी दर पर आज मंत्रिमंडल की मंजूरी से बोलीदाताओं को नीलामी में अपनी वित्तीय बोलियां तर्कसंगत रूप से प्रस्तुत करने में मदद मिलेगी,” मंत्रिमंडल के बयान में जोर दिया गया।

**Union Cabinet clears new royalty rates of critical minerals**

**केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की नई रॉयल्टी दरों को मंजूरी दी**

- Seeking to reduce import dependence and vulnerabilities in the supply chain of critical minerals, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the rationalisation of royalty rates of **graphite, caesium, rubidium, and zirconium**.

महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में कमजोरियों और आयात निर्भरता कम करने के लिए, केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने बुधवार को ग्रेफाइट, सीज़ियम, रुबीडियम और ज़िरकोनियम की रॉयल्टी दरों के तर्कसंगतीकरण को मंजूरी दी।

- With the rationalisation structure, **graphite**, wherein royalty was previously sought on **per tonne-basis** (that is, a fixed amount for a specific weight of ore), will now be charged on an **ad valorem basis**.

तर्कसंगतीकरण संरचना के साथ, ग्रेफाइट, जिस पर पहले प्रति टन आधार पर रॉयल्टी ली जाती थी, (अर्थात् अयस्क के विशेष भार के लिए एक निश्चित राशि), अब एड वेलोरम आधार पर लागू होगी।

- **Graphite with less than 80% fixed carbon content** will be subject to **4% royalty** of the average sale price, whilst that with **80% or more carbon content** would attract **2%**.

80% से कम स्थिर कार्बन सामग्री वाले ग्रेफाइट पर औसत बिक्री मूल्य का 4% रॉयल्टी लागेगी, जबकि 80% या अधिक कार्बन सामग्री वाले ग्रेफाइट पर 2% रॉयल्टी लागेगी।

- **Caesium and rubidium would be subject to a royalty rate of 2%** on the average sale price based on the specific metal contained in the ore



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

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Government has released a list of 30 critical minerals for India. These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

Ministry of Mines has increased focus on exploration of these minerals in the country through Geological Survey of India (GSI) and other agencies. The details of exploration projects taken up by GSI in last 3 years on critical minerals in India are as under:

Field Season	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total projects on critical mineral	59	118	123	122

A joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) has been incorporated with the equity contribution from three Central Public Sector Enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd with the objective to identify and acquire overseas mineral assets of critical & strategic nature such as Lithium, Cobalt & others so as to ensure supply side assurance. KABIL has engagements with countries like Argentina, Australia etc. to acquire critical & strategic minerals assets.

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## Inter-State rivalry that is fuelling India's growth

**GS III: Economy**

Last month, when Google unveiled its plans for its largest Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre outside of California, U.S., in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu gleefully claimed bragging rights – a global tech titan choosing his State for a marquee investment over regional rivals such as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The jubilation in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, could be heard across State borders. In Tamil Nadu, a former All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Minister chided the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-led Stalin government for failing to woo Google, although it is headed by a true-blue Tamil. Across another border, a Karnataka Minister suggested, with barely concealed envy, that Andhra Pradesh had lured Google with “extravagant subsidies”.

Strip away the politics, though, and what you see is something profoundly healthy – competition among States for investment – a potentially powerful engine for growth. For the first time in decades, Chief Ministers are not queuing in Delhi's corridors of power, but are in boardrooms of multinationals and corporate conclaves, persuading investors that India's best destination is their State.

### Central patronage to competitive federalism

To appreciate this shift, cast your mind back to pre-1991 India. For four decades after Independence, capital investment was largely a political decision made in New Delhi. The “commanding heights” of the economy were occupied by bureaucrats who dispensed patronage through licences, permits and quotas. The country's industrial geography was determined by political calculation rather than market forces. The Centre decided what should be produced, how much should be produced, and, crucially, where it should be produced.

States, on their part, vied for investment not by wooing potential investors but by wooing politicians in Delhi.

The reforms in 1991 changed that. By dismantling industrial licensing and opening India to trade and investment, liberalisation shifted power – at least partly – from the Centre to the States. One of the unstated hopes then was that economic freedom would unleash competition among States to attract investors through better infrastructure, governance and policy stability.

That transformation took time. For much of the next two decades, investment decisions remained Delhi-centric. Public enterprises continued to dominate and State bureaucracies were slow to adapt to a more entrepreneurial era. The promise of reforms is now being realised.



**Duvvuri Subbarao**

is a former Governor, Reserve Bank of India (2008-2013)

States are no longer queuing for Delhi's patronage but are campaigning with investors and pitching their case with confidence and data

The rise of competitive federalism has been one of the quiet revolutions of the past decade. States today compete not just with land, concessional utilities and tax breaks, but with reliability – predictable policy, faster clearances, skilled labour and good governance.

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka vying for global tech mandates – from Google to Micron – is evidence of a maturing federal economy. When Foxconn debated where to locate its electronics facilities, States from Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu made pitches at the highest level. When Vedanta and Foxconn announced their semiconductor joint venture, both Maharashtra and Gujarat lobbied intensely, with Gujarat eventually breasting the tape. The tussle between Tamil Nadu and Telangana over electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing hubs underscored how investment courting has become a professional, high-stakes exercise.

### Experience in other federations

India is not unique in this. Healthy subnational competition is a defining feature of all successful federations.

In the United States, when Amazon announced plans for a second headquarters, over 200 cities submitted proposals offering tax breaks, infrastructure support and workforce commitments. Although critics called it a subsidy race, it forced cities to improve governance and transparency. Many of the proposals later formed blueprints for urban renewal projects even where Amazon did not invest.

In Germany, the federal Länder (States) compete to attract high-tech industries. Bavaria's transformation into an innovation hub – home to BMW, Siemens and a cluster of “Mittelstand” firms – owes much to policy agility that other German States have since emulated.

Australia and Canada show similar patterns. Australian States compete to attract mining, clean energy and education investments, while Canadian provinces such as Ontario and British Columbia vie for technology and film production hubs. The result in all these cases is a virtuous cycle: competition that spurs innovation, efficiency and reform.

India's own States are now entering that league. The best-performing ones are magnets for both capital and ideas, setting governance benchmarks that others must meet or exceed.

The Centre, to its credit, has encouraged this shift. Rankings on ease of doing business, startup promotion and export readiness have intensified competition in constructive ways. Investors, once daunted by India's bureaucracy, now see its regional diversity as a positive – multiple entry

points, each with distinct strengths. Andhra Pradesh's ease of doing business, Punjab's entrepreneurial verve, Tamil Nadu's skilled workforce, Gujarat's infrastructure, Jharkhand's mineral base and Uttar Pradesh's vast untapped potential – each is part of a mosaic that together makes India a federation of opportunity.

Competition, of course, carries risks. It should not degenerate into a race to the bottom. States must guard against reckless subsidies or indiscriminate land giveaways that undermine fiscal stability. The smarter path lies in competing through competence and credibility, not concessions.

Healthy rivalry also fosters imitation of best practices. When one State reforms single-window clearances, others follow. When one launches an EV policy, others sharpen theirs. A Haryana success provokes a Himachal response; a Madhya Pradesh reform triggers a Chhattisgarh recalibration; an Odisha initiative spurs West Bengal to better it. This dynamic, cross-State learning is driving policy diffusion across India – a hallmark of vibrant federalism. The global manufacturing and services landscape is now in churn. As multinationals diversify away from China, they seek scale, predictability and credible governance. The “+1” in the China+1 formula must be earned – State by State. No investor lands in “India” in the abstract; they land in Bengaluru, Bhopal or Bhubaneswar. In that sense, India competes globally through its States.

### The new federal compact

In just three decades, India has moved from a permission-based economy to a persuasion-based one. States no longer queue for Delhi's patronage; they campaign with CEOs and investors, pitching their case with confidence and data.

This is a transformation of mindset as much as of policy. The Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu-Karnataka exchanges over Google's data centre may sound like parochial bickering, but they actually signify a maturing federal compact. States now view every investment not as central patronage but as a conquest earned through effort.

Every time Andhra Pradesh secures a tech data centre, or Gujarat wins a semiconductor plant, or Uttar Pradesh's electronics parks around Noida light up with new investment, or West Bengal breathes life into its ports and power grids to attract industry, the benefits ripple far beyond State borders. Each success strengthens supply chains, builds skills, and deepens India's industrial fabric. The bottom line: In the race for investment, every State that wins for itself, also wins for India.

## Inter-State rivalry that is fuelling India's growth

### भारत की वृद्धि को गति देने वाली अंतर-राज्यीय प्रतिद्वंद्विता

### Rise of Competitive Federalism in India

#### भारत में प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद का उदय

- Last month, when Google unveiled its plans for its largest Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre outside of California, U.S., in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu gleefully claimed bragging rights — a global tech titan choosing his State for a marquee investment over regional rivals such as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. पिछले महीने जब गूगल ने अपने सबसे बड़े आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) डेटा सेंटर की घोषणा कैलिफ़ोर्निया (अमेरिका) के बाहर आंध्र प्रदेश में की, तब मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने गर्व से दावा किया कि एक वैश्विक टेक दिग्गज ने उनके राज्य को तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक जैसे क्षेत्रीय प्रतिद्वंद्वियों पर तरजीह दी।
- The jubilation in Visakhapatnam could be heard across State borders. विशाखापत्तनम में खुशी की लहर राज्य सीमाओं के पार तक सुनाई दी।



- In **Tamil Nadu**, a former **AIADMK Minister** chided the **DMK-led Stalin government** for failing to woo Google, although it is headed by a **true-blue Tamil**.  
तमिलनाडु में, एक एआईएडीएमके मंत्री ने डीएमके के नेतृत्व वाली स्टालिन सरकार को गूगल को आकर्षित करने में विफल रहने के लिए फटकार लगाई, जबकि गूगल का नेतृत्व एक मूल तमिल व्यक्ति कर रहा है।
- Across another border, a **Karnataka Minister** suggested, with barely concealed envy, that **Andhra Pradesh** had lured Google with **extravagant subsidies**.  
एक अन्य सीमा पर, कर्नाटक के एक मंत्री ने ईर्ष्या छिपाए बिना कहा कि आंध्र प्रदेश ने गूगल को “अत्यधिक सब्सिडी” देकर आकर्षित किया है।
- Strip away the politics, though, and what you see is something profoundly healthy — **competition among States for investment — a potentially powerful engine for growth**.  
यदि राजनीति को अलग रखें, तो जो दिखाई देता है वह अत्यंत सकारात्मक है — निवेश के लिए राज्यों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा, जो एक शक्तिशाली विकास इंजन बन सकता है।
- For the first time in decades, **Chief Ministers** are not queuing in **Delhi's corridors of power**, but are in **boardrooms of multinationals and corporate conclaves**, **persuading investors that India's best destination is their State**.  
दशकों में पहली बार, मुख्यमंत्री दिल्ली के सत्ता गलियारों में नहीं, बल्कि बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के बोर्डरूम में हैं, निवेशकों को यह समझाते हुए कि भारत में निवेश का सबसे अच्छा स्थान उनका राज्य है।

### Central Patronage to Competitive Federalism केंद्रीय संरक्षण से प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद तक का सफर

- To appreciate this shift, cast your mind back to **pre-1991 India**. For four decades after Independence, **capital investment** was largely a **political decision** made in **New Delhi**.  
इस परिवर्तन को समझने के लिए 1991 से पहले के भारत को याद करें। स्वतंत्रता के चार दशकों तक, पूंजी निवेश मुख्यतः नई दिल्ली में राजनीतिक निर्णयों से तय होता था।
- The **“commanding heights”** of the economy were occupied by **bureaucrats** who dispensed patronage through **licences, permits and quotas**.  
अर्थव्यवस्था के “कमांडिंग हाइट्स” पर अधिकारी वर्ग का नियंत्रण था, जो लाइसेंस, परमिट और कोटा के माध्यम से संरक्षण प्रदान करते थे।
- The country's **industrial geography** was determined by **political calculation** rather than **market forces**.  
देश की औद्योगिक भौगोलिक संरचना बाजार बलों की बजाय राजनीतिक गणनाओं से तय होती थी।
- The **Centre** decided what should be produced, how much should be produced, and, crucially, **where** it should be produced.  
केंद्र सरकार यह तय करती थी कि क्या उत्पादन होना चाहिए, कितना उत्पादन होना चाहिए और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण — कहाँ उत्पादन होना चाहिए।
- **States**, on their part, vied for investment not by wooing potential investors but by **wooing politicians in Delhi**.  
राज्य निवेशकों को आकर्षित करने के बजाय दिल्ली के राजनेताओं को खुश करने की होड़ में लगे रहते थे।

### Impact of 1991 Reforms 1991 के सुधारों का प्रभाव

- The reforms in 1991 changed that. By **dismantling industrial licensing** and **opening India to trade and investment**, **liberalisation shifted power** — at least partly — from the **Centre** to the **States**.  
1991 के आर्थिक सुधारों ने इस व्यवस्था को बदला। औद्योगिक लाइसेंसिंग खत्म करने और व्यापार व निवेश के लिए भारत को खोलने से उदारकरण ने शक्ति का केंद्र आंशिक रूप से केंद्र से राज्यों की ओर स्थानांतरित कर दिया।
- One of the unstated hopes then was that **economic freedom** would unleash **competition among States** to attract investors through **better infrastructure, governance, and policy stability**.  
उस समय एक अप्रकट आशा यह थी कि आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता राज्यों के बीच बेहतर बुनियादी ढांचे, सुशासन और नीतिगत स्थिरता के माध्यम से निवेश आकर्षित करने की प्रतिस्पर्धा को जन्म देगी।



## Gradual Transformation and Realisation

### क्रमिक परिवर्तन और उसकी प्राप्ति

- That transformation took time. For much of the next **two decades**, investment decisions remained **Delhi-centric**.  
यह परिवर्तन धीरे-धीरे हुआ। अगले दो दशकों तक निवेश संबंधी निर्णय दिल्ली-केंद्रित ही रहे।
- **Public enterprises** continued to dominate and **State bureaucracies** were slow to adapt to a **more entrepreneurial era**.  
सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों का दबदबा जारी रहा और राज्य की नौकरशाही को उद्यमशील युग में ढलने में समय लगा।
- The promise of reforms is **now being realised**.  
सुधारों का वादा अब साकार हो रहा है।
- The rise of **competitive federalism** has been one of the **quiet revolutions** of the past decade.  
प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद का उदय पिछले दशक की शांत क्रांतियों में से एक रहा है।
- States today compete not just with **land, concessional utilities and tax breaks**, but with **reliability — predictable policy, faster clearances, skilled labour and good governance**.  
आज राज्य केवल भूमि, रियायती सुविधाओं और कर छूटों के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि विश्वसनीयता — स्थिर नीति, तेज़ मंजूरी, कुशल श्रम और सुशासन के लिए भी प्रतिस्पर्धा करते हैं।

## Examples of Emerging State Competition

### राज्यों के बीच उभरती प्रतिस्पर्धा के उदाहरण

- **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka** vying for **global tech mandates** — from **Google to Micron** — is evidence of a **maturing federal economy**.  
आंध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक द्वारा गूगल से लेकर माइक्रॉन तक के वैश्विक तकनीकी निवेश के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करना एक परिपक्व संघीय अर्थव्यवस्था का प्रमाण है।
- When **Foxconn** debated where to locate its **electronics facilities**, **States from Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu** made pitches at the highest level.  
जब फॉक्सकॉन ने अपनी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक इकाइयाँ कहाँ स्थापित की जाएँ, इस पर विचार किया, तो महाराष्ट्र से लेकर तमिलनाडु तक के राज्यों ने उच्च स्तर पर प्रस्तुति दी।
- When **Vedanta and Foxconn** announced their **semiconductor joint venture**, both **Maharashtra and Gujarat** lobbied intensely, with **Gujarat eventually breasting the tape**.  
जब वेदांता और फॉक्सकॉन ने अपनी सेमीकंडक्टर संयुक्त परियोजना की घोषणा की, तो महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात ने कड़ी प्रतिस्पर्धा की, जिसमें अंततः गुजरात विजेता बना।
- The tussle between **Tamil Nadu and Telangana** over **electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing hubs** underscored how **investment courting has become a professional, high-stakes exercise**.  
तमिलनाडु और तेलंगाना के बीच इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) विनिर्माण हब्स को लेकर हुई प्रतिस्पर्धा ने दिखाया कि निवेश आकर्षण अब एक पेशेवर और उच्च-जोखिम वाला कार्य बन गया है।

## Experience in other federations

### अन्य संघीय व्यवस्थाओं में अनुभव

- India is not unique in this. **Healthy subnational competition** is a defining feature of all successful federations.  
भारत इस मामले में अद्वितीय नहीं है। स्वस्थ उप-राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धा सभी सफल संघीय व्यवस्थाओं की एक प्रमुख विशेषता है।
- In the **United States**, when **Amazon** announced plans for a second headquarters, over **200 cities** submitted proposals offering **tax breaks, infrastructure support and workforce commitments**.  
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में, जब अमेज़न ने अपने दूसरे मुख्यालय की योजना की घोषणा की, तो 200 से अधिक शहरों ने कर छूट, बुनियादी ढांचा समर्थन और कार्यबल प्रतिबद्धताओं की पेशकश करने वाले प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किए।



- Although critics called it a **subsidy race**, it forced cities to improve **governance and transparency**. Many of the proposals later formed blueprints for **urban renewal projects** even where Amazon did not invest.  
यद्यपि आलोचकों ने इसे **सब्सिडी की दौड़** कहा, लेकिन इसने शहरों को **शासन और पारदर्शिता** में सुधार करने के लिए मजबूर किया। कई प्रस्ताव बाद में **शहरी नवीनीकरण परियोजनाओं** के लिए ब्लूप्रिंट बने, भले ही अमेज़न ने वहाँ निवेश नहीं किया।
- In **Germany**, the federal **Länder (States)** compete to attract **high-tech industries**.  
**जर्मनी** में, संघीय **लैंडर (राज्य)** उच्च तकनीकी उद्योगों को आकर्षित करने के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करते हैं।
- **Bavaria's transformation** into an **innovation hub** — home to **BMW, Siemens** and a cluster of "Mittelstand" firms — owes much to policy agility that other German States have since emulated.  
**बवेरिया का रूपांतरण** एक **नवाचार केंद्र** में — जहाँ **BMW, Siemens** और "Mittelstand" कंपनियों का समूह है — नीति की **लचीलापन** के कारण हुआ, जिसे बाद में अन्य जर्मन राज्यों ने भी अपनाया।
- **Australia and Canada** show similar patterns.  
**ऑस्ट्रेलिया और कनाडा** समान पैटर्न दिखाते हैं।
- **Australian States** compete to attract **mining, clean energy and education** investments, while **Canadian provinces** such as **Ontario and British Columbia** vie for **technology and film production hubs**.  
**ऑस्ट्रेलियाई राज्य खनन, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और शिक्षा** में निवेश आकर्षित करने के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करते हैं, जबकि **कनाडाई प्रांत** जैसे **ऑंटारियो और ब्रिटिश कोलंबिया प्रौद्योगिकी और फिल्म उत्पादन केंद्रों** के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करते हैं।
- The result in all these cases is a **virtuous cycle**: competition that spurs **innovation, efficiency and reform**.  
इन सभी मामलों में परिणाम एक **सदाचारी चक्र** है: ऐसी प्रतिस्पर्धा जो **नवाचार, दक्षता और सुधार** को प्रेरित करती है।
- **India's own States** are now entering that league.  
अब **भारत के अपने राज्य** भी उसी श्रेणी में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं।
- The **best-performing ones** are magnets for both **capital and ideas**, setting **governance benchmarks** that others must meet or exceed.  
**सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्य** अब **पूंजी और विचारों** दोनों के आकर्षण का केंद्र बन रहे हैं, और ऐसे **शासन मानक** स्थापित कर रहे हैं जिन्हें अन्य राज्यों को पूरा या पार करना होगा।
- The **Centre**, to its credit, has encouraged this shift. Rankings on **ease of doing business, startup promotion and export readiness** have intensified competition in **constructive ways**.  
**केंद्र सरकार** ने इस परिवर्तन को प्रोत्साहित किया है। **व्यवसाय सुगमता, स्टार्टअप प्रोत्साहन और निर्यात तत्परता** पर रैंकिंग ने **रचनात्मक तरीकों** से प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ाया है।
- Investors, once daunted by India's bureaucracy, now see its **regional diversity as a positive** — multiple entry points, each with distinct strengths.  
निवेशक, जो पहले भारत की **नौकरशाही** से भयभीत थे, अब उसकी **क्षेत्रीय विविधता को सकारात्मक दृष्टि** से देखते हैं — कई प्रवेश द्वार, प्रत्येक की अपनी विशिष्ट ताकतों के साथ।
- **Andhra Pradesh's ease of doing business, Punjab's entrepreneurial verve, Tamil Nadu's skilled workforce, Gujarat's infrastructure, Jharkhand's mineral base and Uttar Pradesh's vast untapped potential** — each is part of a mosaic that together makes India a **federation of opportunity**.  
**आंध्र प्रदेश की व्यापार सुगमता, पंजाब की उद्यमशीलता, तमिलनाडु का कुशल कार्यबल, गुजरात का बुनियादी ढांचा, झारखंड का खनिज आधार और उत्तर प्रदेश की विशाल अप्रयुक्त क्षमता** — ये सभी मिलकर भारत को **अवसरों का संघ** बनाते हैं।
- Competition, of course, carries risks. It should not degenerate into a **race to the bottom**. प्रतिस्पर्धा, स्वाभाविक रूप से, जोखिम भी लाती है। इसे **नीचे गिरने की दौड़** में नहीं बदलना चाहिए।
- States must guard against **reckless subsidies or indiscriminate land giveaways** that undermine **fiscal stability**.  
राज्यों को **लापरवाह सब्सिडी या अंधाधुंध भूमि वितरण** से बचना चाहिए जो **राजकोषीय स्थिरता** को कमजोर करते हैं।
- The smarter path lies in competing through **competence and credibility**, not concessions. समझदार रास्ता **छूटों** से नहीं बल्कि **क्षमता और विश्वसनीयता** के माध्यम से प्रतिस्पर्धा करने में है।



- Healthy rivalry also fosters **imitation of best practices**.  
स्वस्थ प्रतिद्वंद्विता **श्रेष्ठ प्रथाओं की नकल** को भी प्रोत्साहित करती है।
- When one State reforms **single-window clearances**, others follow. When one launches an **EV policy**, others sharpen theirs.  
जब एक राज्य **सिंगल-विंडो क्लियरेंस** में सुधार करता है, तो अन्य उसका अनुसरण करते हैं। जब एक राज्य **ईवी नीति** लाता है, तो अन्य अपनी नीतियों को मजबूत करते हैं।
- A **Haryana success** provokes a **Himachal response**; a **Madhya Pradesh reform** triggers a **Chhattisgarh recalibration**; an **Odisha initiative** spurs **West Bengal** to better it.  
**हरियाणा की सफलता हिमाचल की प्रतिक्रिया** उत्पन्न करती है; **मध्य प्रदेश का सुधार छत्तीसगढ़ के पुनर्संतुलन** को प्रेरित करता है; **ओडिशा की पहल पश्चिम बंगाल** को बेहतर प्रदर्शन के लिए प्रेरित करती है।
- This dynamic, cross-State learning is driving **policy diffusion across India** — a hallmark of **vibrant federalism**.  
यह गतिशील, अंतर-राज्यीय सीख भारत में **नीतिगत प्रसार** को आगे बढ़ा रही है — जो **सक्रिय संघवाद** की पहचान है।
- The global **manufacturing and services landscape** is now in churn. As **multinationals diversify away from China**, they seek **scale, predictability and credible governance**.  
वैश्विक **उत्पादन और सेवा परिदृश्य** अब परिवर्तन के दौर में है। जब **बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियाँ चीन से विविधीकरण** कर रही हैं, तो वे **पैमाना, स्थिरता और विश्वसनीय शासन** की तलाश में हैं।
- The “+1” in the **China+1 formula** must be earned — **State by State**.  
**चाइना+1 फॉर्मूला** में “+1” की भूमिका अर्जित करनी होगी — **राज्य दर राज्य**।
- No investor lands in “India” in the abstract; they land in **Bengaluru, Bhopal or Bhubaneswar**.  
कोई निवेशक “भारत” में नहीं उतरता; वे **बेंगलुरु, भोपाल या भुवनेश्वर** में उतरते हैं।
- In that sense, **India competes globally through its States**.  
इस अर्थ में, **भारत अपने राज्यों के माध्यम से वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धा** करता है।

### The new federal compact नया संघीय समझौता

- In just **three decades**, India has moved from a **permission-based economy** to a **persuasion-based one**.  
केवल **तीन दशकों** में, भारत एक **अनुमति-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था** से **प्रेरणा-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था** में परिवर्तित हो गया है।
- States no longer queue for **Delhi's patronage**; they campaign with **CEOs and investors**, pitching their case with **confidence and data**.  
राज्य अब **दिल्ली के संरक्षण** के लिए कतार में नहीं लगते; वे **सीईओ और निवेशकों** के साथ **आत्मविश्वास और डेटा** के आधार पर अपनी प्रस्तुति देते हैं।
- This is a **transformation of mindset** as much as of policy.  
यह केवल नीति का नहीं बल्कि **मानसिकता का परिवर्तन** भी है।
- The **Andhra Pradesh–Tamil Nadu–Karnataka exchanges** over **Google's data centre** may sound like parochial bickering, but they actually signify a **maturing federal compact**.  
**गूगल के डेटा सेंटर** को लेकर **आंध्र प्रदेश–तमिलनाडु–कर्नाटक** के बीच की प्रतिस्पर्धा संकीर्ण लग सकती है, लेकिन वास्तव में यह एक **परिपक्व संघीय समझौते** का संकेत है।
- States now view every investment not as **central patronage** but as a **conquest earned through effort**.  
अब राज्य प्रत्येक निवेश को **केंद्रीय कृपा** नहीं बल्कि **प्रयास से अर्जित उपलब्धि** के रूप में देखते हैं।
- Every time **Andhra Pradesh** secures a **tech data centre**, or **Gujarat** wins a **semiconductor plant**, or **Uttar Pradesh's electronics parks** around **Noida** light up with new investment, or **West Bengal** breathes life into its **ports and power grids**, the benefits ripple far beyond State borders.  
हर बार जब **आंध्र प्रदेश** एक **टेक डेटा सेंटर** हासिल करता है, या **गुजरात** एक **सेमीकंडक्टर प्लांट** जीतता है, या **उत्तर प्रदेश के नोएडा के आसपास इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स पार्कों** में नया निवेश आता है, या **पश्चिम बंगाल** अपने **बंदरगाहों और पावर ग्रिडों** को पुनर्जीवित करता है — तो इसके लाभ राज्य की सीमाओं से कहीं आगे तक फैलते हैं।



- Each success strengthens **supply chains**, builds **skills**, and deepens India's **industrial fabric**.  
प्रत्येक सफलता **आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** को मजबूत करती है, **कौशल** विकसित करती है और भारत की **औद्योगिक संरचना** को गहराई प्रदान करती है।
- The bottom line: In the race for investment, every State that wins for itself, also **wins for India**.  
निष्कर्ष: निवेश की दौड़ में, हर राज्य जो अपने लिए जीतता है, वह **भारत के लिए भी जीतता है**।

**S&T**

**13/11/2025**

# Tuberculosis incidence falling in India by 21% a year: WHO report

**GS III: S&T**

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

India's tuberculosis (TB) incidence, with new cases emerging every year, fell by 21% – from 237 TB cases per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh population in 2024 – almost double the pace of decline observed globally, at 12%, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global TB Report, 2025, the Union Health Ministry said in a release issued on Wednesday. This was one of the highest declines in TB incidence globally, outpacing reductions noted among other high-burden countries.

"India's innovative case finding approach, driven by the swift uptake of newer technologies, decentralisation of services, and large-scale community mobilisation, has led to the

## India leads global TB fight

India records one of the world's steepest tuberculosis declines, doubling global progress through innovation and outreach

- TB incidence fell 21% (2015–2024), from 237 to 187 cases per lakh.

- Treatment coverage rose from 53% (2015) to 92% (2024)

- 26.18 lakh diagnosed out of 27 lakh estimated cases



- The number of missing cases reduced from 15 lakh (2015) to <1 lakh (2024)

- The treatment success rate in India was about 90%, against the global average of 88%

- TB mortality declined from 28 deaths per lakh to 21 deaths per lakh (2015–2024)

country's treatment coverage to surge to over 92% in 2024, from 53% in 2015 – with 26.18 lakh TB patients being diagnosed in 2024, out of an estimated incidence of 27 lakh cases," the release said.

The Ministry said this had helped reduce the number of "missing cases" – those who had TB but were not reported to the programme – from an estimated 15 lakh in 2015 to less than one lakh in 2024.

Also, there is no significant increase in the number of multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB patients in the country, adding that treatment success rate under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan increases to 90%, ahead of the global treatment success rate of 88%.

India's TB mortality rate has also decreased from 28 per lakh population in 2015 to 21 per lakh population in 2024, reflecting significant progress in reducing deaths due to TB.

Since its launch in December 2024, India's flagship TB elimination mission, the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, has achieved extensive reach, screening over 19 crore vulnerable individuals for TB across the country, leading to the detection of over 24.5 lakh TB patients, including 8.61 lakh asymptomatic TB cases, the report said.

## Tuberculosis incidence falling in India by 21% a year: WHO report भारत में क्षय रोग (टीबी) की वार्षिक घटनाओं में 21% की गिरावट: डब्ल्यूएचओ रिपोर्ट

- India's tuberculosis (TB) incidence, with new cases emerging every year, fell by **21%** — from **237 TB cases per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh population in 2024** — almost double the pace of decline observed globally, at **12%**, according to the **World Health Organization (WHO) Global TB Report, 2025**, the Union Health



Ministry said in a release issued on Wednesday.

भारत में प्रतिवर्ष सामने आने वाले नए क्षय रोग (टीबी) मामलों में 21% की गिरावट आई — 2015 में प्रति लाख जनसंख्या पर 237 टीबी मामले से घटकर 2024 में प्रति लाख पर 187 — यह वैश्विक स्तर पर देखी गई 12% की गिरावट की गति से लगभग दोगुनी है, जैसा कि विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ग्लोबल टीबी रिपोर्ट, 2025 में बताया गया, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को जारी विज्ञप्ति में कहा।

- This was one of the **highest declines in TB incidence globally**, outpacing reductions noted among other high-burden countries.  
यह वैश्विक स्तर पर टीबी मामलों में सबसे अधिक गिरावटों में से एक थी, जो अन्य उच्च-भार वाले देशों में देखी गई कमी से अधिक है।
- “India’s **innovative case finding approach**, driven by the swift uptake of **newer technologies**, decentralisation of services, and large-scale **community mobilisation**, has led to the country’s **treatment coverage** to surge to over **92% in 2024**, from **53% in 2015** — with **26.18 lakh TB patients** being diagnosed in 2024, out of an estimated incidence of **27 lakh cases**,” the release said.  
“भारत की नवोन्मेषी केस खोज पद्धति, जो नई तकनीकों के त्वरित अपनाने, सेवाओं के विकेंद्रीकरण और बड़े पैमाने पर सामुदायिक लामबंदी से प्रेरित है, ने देश की उपचार कवरेज को 2015 के 53% से बढ़ाकर 2024 में 92% से अधिक कर दिया — 27 लाख अनुमानित मामलों में से 26.18 लाख टीबी मरीजों का 2024 में निदान हुआ,” विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया।
- The Ministry said this had helped reduce the number of “**missing cases**” — those who had TB but were not reported to the programme — from an estimated **15 lakh in 2015** to **less than one lakh in 2024**.  
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इससे “मिसिंग केस” — यानी वे मरीज जिन्हें टीबी थी लेकिन कार्यक्रम में रिपोर्ट नहीं हुए — की संख्या 2015 के अनुमानित 15 लाख से घटकर 2024 में एक लाख से कम हो गई।
- Also, there is **no significant increase** in the number of **multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB patients** in the country, adding that the treatment success rate under the **TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan** increases to **90%**, ahead of the global treatment success rate of **88%**.  
साथ ही, देश में मल्टीड्रग-रेसिस्टेंट (MDR) टीबी मरीजों की संख्या में कोई महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि नहीं हुई है, और टीबी मुक्त भारत अभियान के तहत उपचार सफलता दर 90% तक बढ़ गई है, जो वैश्विक सफलता दर 88% से अधिक है।
- India’s **TB mortality rate** has also decreased from **28 per lakh population in 2015** to **21 per lakh population in 2024**, reflecting significant progress in reducing deaths due to TB.  
भारत की टीबी मृत्यु दर भी 2015 में प्रति लाख पर 28 से घटकर 2024 में प्रति लाख पर 21 हो गई है, जो टीबी से होने वाली मौतों में कमी को दर्शाती है।

- Since its launch in **December 2024**, India’s flagship **TB elimination mission**, the **TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan**, has achieved extensive reach, screening over **19 crore vulnerable individuals** for TB across the country, leading to the detection of over **24.5 lakh TB patients**, including **8.61 lakh asymptomatic TB cases**, the report said.  
दिसंबर 2024 में शुरुआत के बाद से, भारत के प्रमुख टीबी उन्मूलन मिशन, टीबी मुक्त भारत अभियान, ने देशभर में 19 करोड़ संवेदनशील व्यक्तियों की टीबी जांच की, जिससे 24.5 लाख से अधिक टीबी मरीजों का पता चला, जिनमें 8.61 लाख बिना लक्षण वाले टीबी मामले भी शामिल हैं, रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।



# GI tag fee cut to ₹1,000; Minister promises backing for tribal goods

GS III: S&T

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced here on Wednesday that the application fee for the Geographical Indications (GI) tag had been reduced to ₹1,000 from ₹5,000.

At the inaugural Tribal Business Conclave, he urged tribal artisans to register and protect traditional products and crafts. He further promised the support of his Ministry in creating export and e-commerce linkages for tribal enterprises and international warehouses for their products.

The conclave, held by the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Culture and the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at the Yashobhoomi Convention



Ministers Jual Oram and Piyush Goyal with a tribal entrepreneur at the business conclave on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Centre, featured panel discussions and masterclasses on topics such as financing innovations for, and investments in, tribal enterprises, partnerships, industry linkages, and skilling.

Mr. Goyal said schools, universities, industries, and the government must work together to ensure that products made by tribal artisans reach the larg-

er domestic and global markets. The Minister promised the full support of his Ministry and the DPIIT in this mission, by creating export and e-commerce linkages and facilitating international warehouses for tribal goods.

The conclave was part of the Government of India's Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh celebrations, to

mark the 150th birth anniversary year of tribal icon Birsa Munda.

Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for coming up with the initiative.

**GI tags distributed**

The event also saw GI tag certificates being distributed for crafts and products such as *Kannadippaya* (bamboo mat) of Kerala, *Apatani* textile of Arunachal Pradesh, *Marthandam* honey of Tamil Nadu, *Lepcha Tungbuk* of Sikkim, *Bodo Aronai* of Assam, *Ambaji white marble* of Gujarat, and *Bedu and Badri cow ghee* of Uttarakhand.

The Tribal Affairs Ministry announced a Tribal Affairs Grand Challenge, inviting enterprises to design solutions for tribal communities.

## GI tag fee cut to ₹1,000; Minister promises backing for tribal goods

जीआई टैग शुल्क घटाकर ₹1,000 किया गया; मंत्री ने जनजातीय उत्पादों को समर्थन देने का वादा किया

- Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced here on Wednesday that the application fee for the **Geographical Indications (GI) tag** had been reduced to **₹1,000 from ₹5,000**.

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री **पीयूष गोयल** ने बुधवार को यहां घोषणा की कि **भौगोलिक संकेतक (GI) टैग** के लिए आवेदन शुल्क **₹5,000 से घटाकर ₹1,000** कर दिया गया है।

At the inaugural **Tribal Business Conclave**, he urged **tribal artisans** to register and protect traditional products and crafts.

उद्घाटन **जनजातीय व्यवसाय सम्मेलन** में, उन्होंने **जनजातीय कारीगरों** से पारंपरिक उत्पादों और शिल्पों को पंजीकृत करने और संरक्षित करने का आग्रह किया।

- He further promised the support of his Ministry in creating **export and e-commerce linkages for tribal enterprises and international warehouses for their products**.

उन्होंने जनजातीय उद्यमों के लिए **निर्यात और ई-कॉमर्स संबंध** तथा उनके उत्पादों के लिए **अंतरराष्ट्रीय गोदामों** के निर्माण में अपने मंत्रालय के समर्थन का भी वादा किया।

- The conclave, held by the Ministries of **Tribal Affairs and Culture** and the **Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, featured panel discussions and masterclasses on topics such as **financing innovations**, investments in tribal enterprises, partnerships, industry linkages, and skilling.



यह सम्मेलन जनजातीय कार्य और संस्कृति मंत्रालयों तथा उद्योग एवं आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (DPIIT) द्वारा यशोभूमि सम्मेलन केंद्र में आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें वित्तीय नवाचार, जनजातीय उद्यमों में निवेश, साझेदारी, उद्योग संबंध और कौशल विकास जैसे विषयों पर पैनल चर्चाएँ और मास्टरक्लास शामिल थे।

- Mr. Goyal said schools, universities, industries, and the government must work together to ensure that products made by **tribal artisans** reach larger domestic and global markets.  
श्री गोयल ने कहा कि स्कूलों, विश्वविद्यालयों, उद्योगों और सरकार को मिलकर काम करना चाहिए ताकि **जनजातीय कारीगरों** द्वारा बनाए गए उत्पाद बड़े घरेलू और वैश्विक बाजारों तक पहुँच सकें।
- The Minister promised the full support of his Ministry and the **DPIIT** in this mission, by creating export and e-commerce linkages and facilitating **international warehouses** for tribal goods.  
मंत्री ने इस मिशन में अपने मंत्रालय और **DPIIT** के पूर्ण समर्थन का वादा किया, जिसमें निर्यात और ई-कॉमर्स संबंधों का निर्माण तथा जनजातीय उत्पादों के लिए **अंतरराष्ट्रीय वेयरहाउस** की सुविधा शामिल है।
- The conclave was part of the Government of India's **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh** celebrations, to mark the **150th birth anniversary year of tribal icon Birsa Munda**.  
यह सम्मेलन भारत सरकार के **जनजातीय गौरव वर्ष** समारोहों का हिस्सा था, जो जनजातीय प्रतीक **बिरसा मुंडा** की **150वीं जयंती** वर्ष को चिह्नित करता है।
- **Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram** thanked **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** for coming up with the initiative.  
**जनजातीय कार्य मंत्री जुएल ओराम** ने इस पहल के लिए **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** को धन्यवाद दिया।

#### GI tags distributed

#### जीआई टैग वितरित किए गए

- The event also saw GI tag certificates being distributed for crafts and products such as **Kannadippaya (bamboo mat) of Kerala, Apatani textile of Arunachal Pradesh, Marthandam honey of Tamil Nadu, Lepcha Tungbuk of Sikkim, Bodo Aronai of Assam, Ambaji white marble of Gujarat, and Bedu and Badri cow ghee of Uttarakhand**.  
कार्यक्रम में **केरल का कन्नडिप्पाया (बांस की चटाई), अरुणाचल प्रदेश का अपातानी वस्त्र, तमिलनाडु का मार्थांडम शहद, सिक्किम का लेपचा तुंगबुक, असम का बोडो अरोनाई, गुजरात का अंबाजी सफेद संगमरमर, तथा उत्तराखंड का बेदू और बद्री गाय का घी** जैसे उत्पादों और शिल्पों के लिए जीआई टैग प्रमाणपत्र वितरित किए गए।
- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry** announced a **Tribal Affairs Grand Challenge**, inviting enterprises to design solutions for tribal communities.  
**जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय** ने **ट्राइबल अफेयर्स ग्रैंड चैलेंज** की घोषणा की, जिसमें उद्यमों को जनजातीय समुदायों के लिए समाधान डिजाइन करने का निमंत्रण दिया गया।



# Immune cells primed for rheumatoid arthritis years before symptoms appear

A study in which researchers mapped the hidden preclinical evolution of rheumatoid arthritis at the molecular level could lead to the next leap in patient outcomes; in the future, clinicians could potentially intervene early before joints sustain painful, and often crippling, irreversible damage

**GS 11/2021**

**Manjeera Gowravaram**

**F**or millions worldwide, waking up with stiff, aching fingers that take hours to loosen is a daily battle – one waged by their own immune system. This is rheumatoid arthritis, a condition where the body's defences mistakenly attack the joints they're meant to protect.

Currently affecting about 18 million people worldwide, the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study projected an alarming 80% rise in rheumatoid arthritis cases over the next 30 years.

Rheumatoid arthritis often strikes between the ages 30 and 60, and women are three times more likely to develop it than men. Scientists still don't know exactly why, but genetics, hormones, and environmental triggers like smoking or certain infections all appear to play a role.

While modern therapies have considerably improved patients' quality of life, most patients are diagnosed only after the immune disruption has reached an advanced stage. The condition can affect the joints as well as the lungs, the heart, eyes, skin, and many other organs. Chronic inflammation increases the risk of heart disease and causes fatigue, fever, and depression.

A new study in *Science Translational Medicine*, in which researchers mapped the hidden preclinical evolution of rheumatoid arthritis at the molecular level, could lead to the next leap in patient outcomes. The study has revealed that the immune cells are primed to become troublesome years before the first symptoms appear. In future, therefore, clinicians could potentially intervene early before joints are damaged.

## Silent stage

One of the earliest warning signs of RA is the presence of anticitrullinated protein antibodies (ACPAs). These antibodies can appear in blood tests three to five years before the first clinical signs of arthritis. People who test positive for these antibodies but have no symptoms are labelled "at-risk individuals," a definition adopted by clinical trials such as ADIPRA.

Not everyone in this group will develop RA. Roughly a third progress to the disease, while the rest remain symptom-free.

"Because they don't have symptoms, it's difficult to identify them early on," Neha Singh, a rheumatologist at the University of California, Los Angeles, said. "You don't want to treat everyone unnecessarily and risk side effects, but you also don't want to miss early intervention opportunities."

That uncertainty, who will progress and who won't, remains a challenge. The new study set out to understand what tips the balance.

Researchers recruited 45 ACPA-positive at-risk individuals without symptoms, 11 patients with early-stage disease, and 38 healthy individuals. Over 18 months, 16 participants developed clinical rheumatoid arthritis, which the researchers named "converters". The team then compared immune profiles across all groups.

Using multi-omic approaches to examine plasma proteins, single-cell RNA



Rheumatoid arthritis usually occurs between the ages of 30 and 60, and women are three times more likely to develop it than men. Representative image. GETTY/ISTOCK PHOTO

sequencing, and chromatin accessibility, the study created a detailed map of how the immune system shifts from healthy to autoimmune.

One of the evident findings was that systemic inflammation is already present in the at-risk stage, even in people who feel healthy. Compared with controls, these individuals had higher levels of several inflammatory proteins such as CXCL3, CXCL5, and CXCL13, all chemokines that guide immune cells to inflamed tissue.

Importantly, these signals appeared in both those who later developed RA and those who didn't, showing that "silent" immune activation preceded arthritis.

## Primed state

The study paid particular attention to T cells and B cells, two major players in adaptive immunity. Naïve T cells, which are usually inactive until they encounter a new antigen, showed gene signatures indicating that they were already predisposed to activation. Epigenetic analysis revealed that DNA regions linked to the NFAT-calcium signalling pathway, a key driver of T cell activity, were more accessible in these individuals.

Naïve B cells expressed early signs of switching towards antibody types associated with inflammatory responses, particularly IgG3. In functional tests, B cells from at-risk individuals secreted higher levels of molecules such as interleukin-6 and RANKL after stimulation, pointing to a readiness to drive inflammation.

According to Dr. Singh, this finding confirms what researchers have suspected for some time.

"They showed that inflammation and immune changes are already happening before the final stage of joint pain. Once pain begins, we know clinical rheumatoid arthritis has set in. But this study shows changes even earlier—in that subclinical phase."

**One of the earliest warning signs is the presence of ACPAs. These antibodies can appear in blood tests three to five years before the first clinical signs of arthritis. People who test positive for these antibodies but have no symptoms are labelled at-risk individuals**

Mohini Gray, a rheumatologist at the University of Edinburgh, said, "The data support the idea that immune cells are primed during the pre-arthritis period. RA often begins years before symptoms, so the findings aren't surprising."

However, Dr. Singh cautioned, "It's hard to say if this priming is causal or just correlational. In genetically susceptible individuals, a citrullinated protein may be presented as foreign, triggering T and B cells. The study shows this: a rise in certain T and B cell populations."

For the individuals who did go on to develop RA during the study, the immune system showed clear warning signs. A group of T cells that normally help coordinate immune responses began to grow in number. Instead of protecting the body, they seemed to encourage B cells to make harmful antibodies. The B cells themselves also changed, taking on unusual forms linked to long-term autoimmune activity. When arthritis symptoms finally appeared, another shift occurred: inflammatory cells called monocytes became very active, releasing powerful molecules like TNF and IL-1B. These changes spilled into the joints, driving the painful swelling and damage seen in RA.

The researchers also searched for genetic activity patterns to separate "converters" from "non-converters." Only minor differences appeared, likely due to patient variability and the study's limited size.

One of the most clinically relevant findings was that the gene signatures observed in "converters" resembled the immune changes reversed by abatacept, a drug that blocks T cell co-stimulation. By contrast, they did not overlap with the effects of TNF inhibitors, which are standard treatments once RA is established.

The researchers suggest that early intervention targeting T cell activation, rather than late-stage inflammation, could delay or prevent disease onset.

## New avenues for intervention

"Abatacept, a CTLA4-Ig fusion protein, has already been tested in at-risk individuals," said Dr. Singh. "These findings fit with that, adding to what we know, but don't change clinical management yet."

As multi-omic technologies continue to drop in cost, their use in early disease detection and prevention is becoming increasingly feasible. A similar strategy is already being applied in type 1 diabetes. In 2022, the FDA approved teplizumab, an anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody, as the treatment shown to delay the onset of type 1 diabetes in high-risk individuals. "This success points to the possibility of applying comparable approaches in rheumatoid arthritis."

Beyond the specific findings, the researchers have made their dataset publicly available through an interactive online portal. This will allow other scientists to explore the detailed profiles of immune cells and plasma proteins at various stages of RA progression. The hope is that such resources can accelerate discovery not just for RA, but for other autoimmune conditions such as lupus, type 1 diabetes, and multiple sclerosis, where preclinical changes precede symptoms.

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**Immune cells primed for rheumatoid arthritis years before symptoms appear**  
**लक्षण दिखाई देने से कई वर्ष पहले ही रूमेटॉइड आर्थराइटिस के लिए प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाएँ तैयार हो जाती हैं**

- For millions worldwide, **waking up with stiff, aching fingers that take hours to loosen is a daily battle** — one waged by their own immune system. This is **rheumatoid arthritis**, a



condition where the body's defences mistakenly attack the joints they're meant to protect.

दुनिया भर में लाखों लोगों के लिए, **कठोर और दर्द भरी उंगलियों** के साथ जागना जो ढीली होने में घंटे लगाती है, एक दैनिक संघर्ष है — जो उनके **स्वयं की प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली** द्वारा लड़ा जाता है। यह **रूमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस** है, एक ऐसी स्थिति जिसमें शरीर की रक्षा प्रणाली गलती से उन्हीं **जोड़ों पर हमला करती है** जिनकी वह रक्षा करती है।

- Currently affecting about **18 million people worldwide**, the **Global Burden of Diseases Study** projected an **80% rise** in rheumatoid arthritis cases over the next 30 years. वर्तमान में यह **18 मिलियन लोगों** को प्रभावित कर रहा है, और **ग्लोबल बर्डन ऑफ डिजीज स्टडी** ने अगले **30 वर्षों में 80% वृद्धि** का अनुमान लगाया है।
- **Rheumatoid arthritis often strikes between the ages 30 and 60, and women are three times more likely to develop it than men.**  
रूमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस आमतौर पर **30 से 60 वर्ष** की उम्र के बीच होता है, और **महिलाओं में इसकी संभावना पुरुषों की तुलना में तीन गुना अधिक** होती है।
- **Scientists still don't know exactly why, but genetics, hormones, and environmental triggers like smoking or certain infections appear to play a role.**  
वैज्ञानिक अभी तक सटीक कारण नहीं जानते, लेकिन **आनुवंशिकी, हार्मोन और पर्यावरणीय कारक** जैसे **धूम्रपान या संक्रमण** इसमें भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- While modern therapies have improved patients' quality of life, **most patients are diagnosed late**, after immune disruption has advanced.  
आधुनिक उपचारों ने रोगियों के जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार किया है, लेकिन **अधिकांश रोगियों का निदान देर से होता है**, जब **प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली का विकार बढ़ चुका होता है**।
- The condition can affect the **joints, lungs, heart, eyes, skin**, and other organs, with **chronic inflammation** increasing the **risk of heart disease, fatigue, and depression.**  
यह स्थिति **जोड़ों, फेफड़ों, हृदय, आंखों, त्वचा** और अन्य अंगों को प्रभावित कर सकती है, और **पुरानी सूजन से हृदय रोग, थकान और अवसाद** का खतरा बढ़ जाता है।

#### New Scientific Study and Early Detection

##### नया वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन और प्रारंभिक पहचान

- A new study in **Science Translational Medicine** mapped the **preclinical evolution** of rheumatoid arthritis at the molecular level.  
**साइंस ट्रांसलेशनल मेडिसिन** में एक **नए अध्ययन** ने **आणविक स्तर पर रूमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस के प्रारंभिक विकास** का नक्शा तैयार किया।
- The study revealed that **immune cells are primed years before symptoms appear** — allowing possible **early intervention** before joint damage.  
अध्ययन से पता चला कि **प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाएं लक्षणों के प्रकट होने से वर्षों पहले ही सक्रिय हो जाती हैं**, जिससे **जोड़ों की क्षति से पहले हस्तक्षेप की संभावना** बनती है।

#### Silent Stage of Rheumatoid Arthritis

##### रूमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस का मौन चरण

- One of the earliest warning signs is the **presence of anticitrullinated protein antibodies (ACPAs) in the blood.**  
सबसे शुरुआती चेतावनी संकेतों में से एक है रक्त में **एंटी-सिट्रुलिनोटेड प्रोटीन एंटीबॉडी (ACPAs)** की उपस्थिति।
- **These antibodies can appear 3–5 years before the first clinical signs of arthritis.**  
ये एंटीबॉडी **3–5 साल पहले** तक प्रकट हो सकती हैं, जब तक कि गठिया के पहले लक्षण नहीं दिखते।
- People who test positive but show no symptoms are called **“at-risk individuals”**, as defined by trials such as **APIPPRA.**  
जिन लोगों का परीक्षण सकारात्मक आता है लेकिन लक्षण नहीं होते, उन्हें **“जोखिमग्रस्त व्यक्ति”** कहा जाता है, जैसा कि **APIPPRA** जैसी क्लिनिकल ट्रायल्स में परिभाषित किया गया है।
- Roughly **one-third** of such individuals develop the disease, while the rest remain **symptom-free.**  
लगभग **एक-तिहाई** ऐसे व्यक्ति बीमारी विकसित करते हैं, जबकि बाकी **लक्षण-मुक्त** रहते हैं।



- Dr. **Neha Singh** (UCLA) noted the challenge of identifying and treating such cases without unnecessary risk of side effects.  
**डॉ. नेहा सिंह (UCLA)** ने ऐसे मामलों की पहचान और उपचार में अनावश्यक दुष्प्रभावों से बचते हुए संतुलन बनाए रखने की कठिनाई पर प्रकाश डाला।

### Research Findings and Immune Mapping अनुसंधान निष्कर्ष और प्रतिरक्षा मानचित्रण

- The study included **45 ACPA-positive at-risk individuals**, **11 early-stage patients**, and **38 healthy individuals**.  
अध्ययन में **45 एसीपीए-पॉजिटिव जोखिमग्रस्त व्यक्ति**, **11 प्रारंभिक चरण के रोगी** और **38 स्वस्थ व्यक्ति** शामिल थे।
- Over **18 months**, **16 participants developed clinical rheumatoid arthritis**, termed as “**converters**”.  
**18 महीनों में**, **16 प्रतिभागियों में रूमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस विकसित हुआ**, जिन्हें “**कन्वर्टर्स**” कहा गया।
- Researchers used **multi-omic approaches** including **plasma protein analysis**, **single-cell RNA sequencing**, and **chromatin accessibility** to map immune shifts.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने **मल्टी-ओमिक दृष्टिकोण** अपनाया जिसमें **प्लाज्मा प्रोटीन विश्लेषण**, **सिंगल-सेल RNA सीक्वेंसिंग** और **क्रोमेटिन एक्सेसिबिलिटी** शामिल थे।
- They found that **systemic inflammation** exists even in the **at-risk stage**, among people who appear healthy.  
उन्होंने पाया कि **सिस्टमेटिक इन्फ्लेमेशन** (व्यापक सूजन) **जोखिमग्रस्त चरण में भी मौजूद** होती है, भले ही व्यक्ति स्वस्थ दिखे।
- Individuals had higher levels of **inflammatory proteins** like **CXCL3**, **CXCL5**, and **CXCL13**, which guide immune cells to inflamed tissue.  
इन व्यक्तियों में **CXCL3**, **CXCL5**, और **CXCL13** जैसे **सूजनकारी प्रोटीन** का स्तर अधिक पाया गया, जो **प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाओं को सूजनग्रस्त ऊतकों की ओर निर्देशित करते हैं**।
- These signals were seen in both groups — those who later developed arthritis and those who didn't — indicating “**silent immune activation**” before symptom onset.  
ये संकेत उन दोनों समूहों में पाए गए — जिनमें बाद में गठिया हुआ और जिनमें नहीं — जो दर्शाता है कि “**मौन प्रतिरक्षा सक्रियण**” लक्षणों के प्रकट होने से पहले ही शुरू हो जाता है।

### Primed State प्राइमड अवस्था

- The study paid particular attention to **T cells** and **B cells**, two major players in **adaptive immunity**.  
अध्ययन ने **टी कोशिकाओं** और **बी कोशिकाओं** पर विशेष ध्यान दिया, जो **अनुकूली प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली** के दो प्रमुख घटक हैं।
- **Naïve T cells**, which are usually inactive until they encounter a new **antigen**, showed gene signatures indicating they were already predisposed to activation.  
**नई टी कोशिकाएं**, जो सामान्यतः किसी नए **एंटीजन** से मिलने तक निष्क्रिय रहती हैं, ने ऐसे जीन संकेत दिखाए जो उनके पहले से सक्रिय होने की प्रवृत्ति दर्शाते हैं।
- **Epigenetic analysis** revealed that **DNA regions** linked to the **NFAT-calcium signalling pathway** were more accessible in these individuals.  
**एपिजेनेटिक विश्लेषण** से पता चला कि **NFAT-कैल्शियम सिग्नलिंग मार्ग** से संबंधित **डीएनए क्षेत्र** इन व्यक्तियों में अधिक सुलभ थे।
- **Naïve B cells** showed early signs of switching towards **antibody types** associated with **inflammatory responses**, particularly **IgG3**.  
**नई बी कोशिकाओं** ने **सूजन प्रतिक्रियाओं** से संबंधित **एंटीबॉडी प्रकारों**, विशेष रूप से **IgG3**, की ओर स्विचिंग के प्रारंभिक संकेत दिखाए।
- In functional tests, **B cells** from at-risk individuals secreted higher levels of **interleukin-6 (IL-6)** and **RANKL**, indicating readiness to drive inflammation.  
कार्यात्मक परीक्षणों में, जोखिमग्रस्त व्यक्तियों की **बी कोशिकाओं** ने **इंटरल्यूकिन-6 (IL-6)** और **RANKL** के उच्च स्तर स्रावित किए, जो सूजन को बढ़ाने की तत्परता दर्शाते हैं।



- **Dr. Singh** said this confirms what researchers suspected — inflammation and immune changes start **before joint pain** begins.  
डॉ. सिंह के अनुसार, यह उस बात की पुष्टि करता है जिसका वैज्ञानिक संदेह कर रहे थे — जोड़ों के दर्द से पहले ही सूजन और प्रतिरक्षा परिवर्तन शुरू हो जाते हैं।
- Once pain begins, **clinical rheumatoid arthritis (RA)** sets in, but this study shows changes even earlier, in the **subclinical phase**.  
जब दर्द शुरू होता है, तब **क्लिनिकल रुमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस (RA)** शुरू हो जाता है, लेकिन यह अध्ययन इससे भी पहले के **उप-नैदानिक चरण** में परिवर्तन दिखाता है।
- **Mohini Gray** of **University of Edinburgh** said immune cells are **primed** during the **pre-arthritis period**, often years before symptoms.  
**यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ एडिनबर्ग** की **मोहीनी ग्रे** ने कहा कि प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाएं **आर्थराइटिस से पहले** के चरण में ही सक्रिय हो जाती हैं, जो लक्षणों से वर्षों पहले होता है।
- **Dr. Singh** cautioned it's unclear whether this priming is **causal** or **correlational**; **citrullinated proteins** might trigger immune activity in genetically susceptible individuals.  
डॉ. सिंह ने चेताया कि यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि यह सक्रियता **कारणात्मक** है या **सहसंबंधी**; **सिट्रुलिनेटेड प्रोटीन** आनुवंशिक रूप से संवेदनशील व्यक्तियों में प्रतिरक्षा सक्रियता को ट्रिगर कर सकते हैं।
- Individuals who later developed **RA** showed clear immune warning signs.  
जिन व्यक्तियों में बाद में **RA** विकसित हुआ, उनमें प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली के स्पष्ट चेतावनी संकेत दिखाई दिए।
- A group of **T cells** that coordinate immune responses grew in number and started encouraging **B cells** to make harmful antibodies.  
**टी कोशिकाओं** का एक समूह, जो प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रियाओं का समन्वय करता है, संख्या में बढ़ा और **बी कोशिकाओं** को हानिकारक एंटीबॉडी बनाने के लिए प्रेरित करने लगा।
- **B cells** themselves also changed, adopting abnormal forms linked to long-term **autoimmune activity**.  
**बी कोशिकाएं** स्वयं भी बदल गईं और दीर्घकालिक **स्व-प्रतिरक्षित गतिविधि** से जुड़े असामान्य रूप ग्रहण कर लिए।
- When arthritis symptoms appeared, **inflammatory monocytes** became highly active, releasing **TNF** and **IL-1B**.  
जब आर्थराइटिस के लक्षण प्रकट हुए, तो **सूजन कोशिकाएं (मोनोसाइट्स)** अत्यधिक सक्रिय हो गईं और **TNF** तथा **IL-1B** का उत्सर्जन किया।
- These changes spread to the joints, causing **painful swelling and damage** typical of **RA**.  
ये परिवर्तन जोड़ों में फैल गए, जिससे **दर्दनाक सूजन और क्षति** हुई, जो **RA** की विशिष्ट पहचान है।
- Researchers searched for **genetic patterns** distinguishing “converters” from “non-converters”, finding only minor differences due to small **sample size**.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने “**कन्वर्टर्स**” और “**नॉन-कन्वर्टर्स**” को अलग करने के लिए **आनुवंशिक पैटर्न** खोजे, लेकिन छोटे **नमूने के आकार** के कारण केवल मामूली अंतर मिले।
- Gene signatures in “converters” resembled immune changes reversed by **abatacept**, a drug that blocks **T cell co-stimulation**.  
“**कन्वर्टर्स**” में **जीन संकेत अबाटासेप्ट** दवा द्वारा उलटे गए प्रतिरक्षा परिवर्तनों से मेल खाते थे, जो **टी कोशिकाओं की सह-उत्तेजना** को रोकती है।
- These did not overlap with **TNF inhibitors**, which treat RA at later stages.  
ये **TNF अवरोधकों** से मेल नहीं खाते थे, जो **RA** के बाद के चरणों में उपचार के लिए उपयोग किए जाते हैं।
- Researchers suggest **early intervention** targeting **T cell activation** may prevent or delay disease onset.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने सुझाव दिया कि **टी कोशिका सक्रियण** को लक्ष्य बनाकर **प्रारंभिक हस्तक्षेप** रोग की शुरुआत को रोक या विलंबित कर सकता है।

### New Avenues for Intervention हस्तक्षेप के नए मार्ग

- **Dr. Singh** said **Abatacept (CTLA4-Ig fusion protein)** has been tested in at-risk individuals; findings support this but don't yet change **clinical management**.  
डॉ. सिंह ने कहा कि **अबाटासेप्ट (CTLA4-Ig फ्यूजन प्रोटीन)** का परीक्षण जोखिमग्रस्त व्यक्तियों में किया गया है; निष्कर्ष इसका समर्थन करते हैं, लेकिन अभी **क्लिनिकल प्रबंधन** में बदलाव नहीं लाते।



- As **multi-omic technologies** become cheaper, their role in **early disease detection and prevention** is expanding.  
जैसे-जैसे **मल्टी-ओमिक तकनीकें** सस्ती हो रही हैं, उनका उपयोग **रोगों के प्रारंभिक निदान और रोकथाम** में बढ़ रहा है।
- Similar strategies are being used in **type 1 diabetes**.  
इसी तरह की रणनीतियाँ **टाइप 1 डायबिटीज** में भी अपनाई जा रही हैं।
- In **2022**, the **FDA** approved **teplizumab (anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody)** for delaying **type 1 diabetes** in high-risk individuals.  
**2022** में, **एफडीए** ने **टेप्लिजुमैब (एंटी-CD3 मोनोक्लोनल एंटीबॉडी)** को उच्च जोखिम वाले व्यक्तियों में **टाइप 1 डायबिटीज** की शुरुआत में देरी करने के लिए मंजूरी दी।
- This success indicates potential for similar approaches in **rheumatoid arthritis**.  
यह सफलता **रुमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस** में समान दृष्टिकोण की संभावना दर्शाती है।
- Researchers made their **dataset publicly available** through an **interactive online portal**.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने अपने **डेटासेट को सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध** कराया है, जो **इंटरएक्टिव ऑनलाइन पोर्टल** के माध्यम से सुलभ है।
- This will allow other scientists to explore **immune cells** and **plasma protein profiles** at different stages of **RA progression**.  
इससे अन्य वैज्ञानिक **RA की प्रगति** के विभिन्न चरणों में **प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाओं** और **प्लाज्मा प्रोटीन प्रोफाइल** का अध्ययन कर सकेंगे।
- The goal is to accelerate discoveries not just for **RA**, but for other **autoimmune diseases** like **lupus, type 1 diabetes, and multiple sclerosis**, where **preclinical changes** precede symptoms.  
उद्देश्य केवल **RA** ही नहीं, बल्कि **लूपस, टाइप 1 डायबिटीज, और मल्टिपल स्क्लेरोसिस** जैसी अन्य स्व-प्रतिरक्षित बीमारियों में भी खोज को तेज करना है, जहाँ **लक्षणों से पहले उप-नैदानिक परिवर्तन** होते हैं।

charging toward hunting orcas and breaking up attacks on seal or gray whale calves. Which particular singing species intervenes the most often in this way, even when the threatened baby isn't its own?

#### Answers to November 6 quiz:

- Rotating stellar remnant that experiences starquakes - **Ans: Magnetar**
  - Small, rocky objects free of any star, spotted with microlensing - **Ans: Rogue planets**
  - Stars flung from galactic centres at extreme speeds - **Ans: Hypervelocity stars**
  - Faint, circular structures around distant galaxies - **Ans: Odd radio circles**
  - Hypothetical star made of protons' constituent particles - **Ans: Quark star**
- Visual: **Hoag's object**

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magnetic field in the newborn neutron star to magnetar levels.

- The **magnetic field decays** over time, and the magnetar's active lifespan is typically around **10,000 years**, after which it becomes relatively quiet.

#### Structure and Key Properties

## QUIZ

### Magnetar

- A **magnetar** is a type of **neutron star** — the dense stellar remnant left behind after a **massive star explodes in a supernova**.
- What distinguishes a magnetar is its **extremely strong magnetic field**, roughly on the order of  **$10^{13}$  to  $10^{15}$  Gauss** (or  $\sim 10^9$  to  $10^{11}$  Tesla) — far stronger than that of typical neutron stars.
- Magnetars tend to rotate more slowly than many neutron stars; their **spin periods** are typically between **2 to 10 seconds**.
- Their intense magnetic energy powers **high-energy emissions** (X-rays, gamma rays) rather than just rotational energy as in ordinary pulsars.

### How They Form

- A **massive star (about 10 to 25 times the mass of the Sun)** exhausts its nuclear fuel and undergoes **core collapse**, leaving behind a **neutron star**.
- Under specific conditions — such as **rapid rotation and high internal convection** — a **dynamo mechanism** may amplify the



- **Diameter:** approximately **20 km**, roughly the size of a small city.
- **Mass:** about **1.4 times that of the Sun**, packed into a very dense object.
- The **crust** of a magnetar is incredibly rigid and experiences immense stress due to the internal magnetic field.
- The **magnetic field lines** extend far beyond the surface and influence the star's crust, magnetosphere, and radiation emissions.
- Because of the tremendous magnetic energy, magnetars can produce **rare but extremely powerful bursts** of radiation.

### What are Starquakes?

- A **starquake** is analogous to an **earthquake**, but occurs on a **neutron star or magnetar**. The crust of the star fractures or adjusts suddenly due to enormous stress.
- In magnetars, the **intense magnetic field** exerts massive stress on the crust, twisting or distorting it until it cracks.
- When the crust breaks, the magnetic field can **suddenly rearrange**, releasing vast amounts of energy that trigger bursts of **X-rays or gamma rays**.
- These quakes can also make the neutron star **vibrate**, producing detectable **oscillations** (known as quasi-periodic oscillations or QPOs) in its radiation.

### Why Are Starquakes Important?

- Starquakes are one of the key mechanisms by which magnetars **release magnetic energy** — fractures in the crust allow the twisted magnetic field to relax, producing high-energy flares.
- The **bursts caused by starquakes** may explain certain astronomical phenomena such as **soft gamma repeater (SGR) flares** and **anomalous X-ray pulsar (AXP) outbursts**.
- These events allow astrophysicists to **study the behavior of ultra-dense matter**, magnetic field dynamics, and energy release mechanisms in extreme conditions that cannot be replicated on Earth.

### Recent Discoveries and Research Highlights

- **2020:** Astronomers observed the magnetar **SGR 1935+2154** emit a radio burst resembling a **Fast Radio Burst (FRB)** — linking magnetars to the mysterious FRB phenomena for the first time.
- **2022–2024:** Space observatories like **NASA's NICER**, **ESA's INTEGRAL**, and **ISRO's Astrosat** continue to monitor magnetar activity, improving understanding of their **starquake behavior and emission spectra**.
- Scientists use **multi-wavelength observations** (radio, X-ray, gamma-ray) to track these bursts and understand how **magnetic energy converts into radiation**

### Rogue Planets (Free-Floating Planets)

- A **rogue planet** (also called a **free-floating planet** or **starless planet**) is a **planet-mass object** that is **not bound in orbit around any star** — it drifts freely through space.
- These planets do not receive light or heat from a star, making them extremely **cold and dark**, and therefore **difficult to detect**.
- Rogue planets can either be **ejected** from their parent planetary systems or **form independently** without ever orbiting a star.

### Ejection from Planetary Systems

- Many rogue planets are thought to have formed around a star like normal planets but were later **ejected** from their systems due to **gravitational disturbances**, such as interactions with other massive planets or nearby stars.

### Formation in Isolation

- Some may form **directly from collapsing gas clouds**, similar to the process that forms stars, but with too little mass to ignite hydrogen fusion.
- These objects are sometimes called **sub-brown dwarfs** because they form like stars but have planetary masses.



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## Detection Methods — Gravitational Microlensing

- Rogue planets are not visible by ordinary telescopes because they emit little or no light.
- The main method for detecting them is **gravitational microlensing**:
  - When a rogue planet passes in front of a distant star, its **gravity bends and magnifies** the star's light for a brief moment.
  - This temporary brightening indicates the presence of a massive object, allowing astronomers to infer the planet's mass and distance.
  - Such microlensing events last **a few hours to a few days**, depending on the planet's mass and velocity.

## Recent Discoveries and Research

- The upcoming **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope** (NASA) is expected to detect rogue planets as small as **Mars** using advanced microlensing techniques.
- Recent microlensing surveys have already identified **multiple Earth-mass free-floating planets**, improving estimates of how many such planets exist.
- Some newly detected rogue planets are **young and warm**, still radiating residual heat from their formation, allowing them to be observed in **infrared wavelengths**.

## Hypervelocity Stars (HVS): Stars Flung from Galactic Centres at Extreme Speed

- **Hypervelocity stars (HVS)** are rare types of stars that move at extremely high speeds — fast enough to **escape the gravitational pull of their home galaxy**.
- These stars were first predicted by **Jack G. Hills** in **1988** (Los Alamos National Laboratory), and the first observational discovery came in **2005** using data from the **Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS)**.
- They are among the **fastest-moving objects** in the Milky Way galaxy.
- A typical star in the Milky Way orbits the galactic centre at around **200–250 km/s**, but a **hypervelocity star** can move at **500 to 4000 km/s**.
- This immense velocity allows it to **escape the Milky Way's gravitational field** entirely.

### 1. Gravitational Interaction with Supermassive Black Hole (SMBH)

- The most widely accepted theory suggests that hypervelocity stars are formed when a **binary star system** gets too close to a **supermassive black hole (SMBH)** — such as **Sagittarius A\*** at the centre of the Milky Way.
- The black hole's intense gravitational force can:
  - **Capture** one star into orbit.
  - **Eject** the other at extremely high speeds — turning it into a **hypervelocity star**.
    - This process is called the **Hills Mechanism** (after physicist Jack Hills).

### 2. Supernova Ejection

- If one star in a binary system **explodes as a supernova**, the **companion star** can be flung away at very high speed due to the **asymmetric explosion**.

### 3. Galactic Collisions



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- In rare cases, **galactic mergers or tidal interactions** can also accelerate stars to hypervelocity speeds.

### Odd Radio Circles (ORCs)

- **Odd Radio Circles (ORCs)** are faint, circular, ring-like radio structures discovered around distant galaxies, detectable only through **radio telescopes**.
- These circles do not have visible counterparts in optical, infrared, or X-ray wavelengths, making them **unique and mysterious cosmic phenomena**.
- They are typically **immense in size**, extending up to hundreds of kiloparsecs across (1 kiloparsec  $\approx$  3,262 light-years).
- ORCs were first detected in **2019** by astronomers using the **Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP)** radio telescope.

### Why They Are Called “Odd”

- They do not match any known type of astronomical object such as supernova remnants, planetary nebulae, or regular radio galaxies.
- They are visible **only in radio wavelengths** and have **no bright central source** like most other radio-emitting galaxies.
- Their **perfectly circular or ring-like symmetry** and faint edges make them stand out as a new class of objects.

PATRIOTIC IAS



## Fine-tune the AI labelling regulations framework

ISS III: S&T

Two months ago, millions of Indians watched the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speak about indirect tax reforms. At the same time, a video travelled across instant messaging platforms in which the Minister appeared to endorse an investment scheme promising “30x returns in seven days”. A Roorkee resident (Uttarakhand) lost ₹66 lakh after viewing this viral video, later found to have been created using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

The rapid rise of near-indistinguishable digital alterations demands urgent, multi-stakeholder action.

Although the government initially recognised the existing framework as sufficient to tackle synthetic media, it has now introduced draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The amendments mandate that large social media platforms/Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs) clearly label synthetic or AI-generated media.

While the proposed rules mark a meaningful step forward, their real-world implementation will be complex and require engagement across multiple stakeholders.

### Noble intent, ambiguous grouping

Synthetic media is defined as content that is artificially or algorithmically created, modified, or generated to appear authentic. However, labelling a broad range of content created with computer-generated imagery or altered with editing software can be complicated, since these are not technically made by generative AI. Given the volume of synthetic media and the fact that not all of it is problematic, the focus should be on harmful and/or misleading synthetic media. To put things in perspective, over 50% of all content on the Internet is now considered AI-generated, as per a recent report.

To fix accountability, the draft rules mandate that platforms introduce labels covering at least 10% of visual area of synthetic videos, or 10% of initial duration of synthetic audio; but its application to mixed media – say, real visuals



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Precision is the key for a balance between control and creativity

with cloned audio – remains unclear.

Additionally, will a three-second disclaimer in a 30-second audio clip be effective? Or will it be ignored like the fine print in advertisements? Similarly, will a three-minute disclaimer in a 30-minute video inform viewers or overwhelm them?

We are still in the development phase of AI, and any prescriptive mandate on labels would not be principle-based, future-proof and technology-neutral. In some cases, it may not meet the reasonable person test like the 10% rule.

But it is not the question of labels alone. Watermarks promised by AI companies lack reliability. Within days of a large company releasing a text-to-video social media platform, with assurances that these videos would bear watermarks declaring them synthetic, tools emerged that could scrub these markings entirely.

Consequently, the framework needs fine-tuning and precise standards for each category. A tiered-labelling system that distinguishes between ‘fully AI-generated’, ‘AI-assisted’, and ‘AI-altered’ content may be more effective.

### Graded compliance, targeted intervention

The proposed rules mandate intermediaries such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and X to analyse and label synthetic media, and they must broaden the scope to include creators directly. Creators frequently employ AI for visual storytelling tasks and also generate avatars and digital twins. But few inform the audience about their use. Although certain videos exhibit clear indicators of manipulation, other synthetic media have now achieved such realism that viewers struggle to distinguish between human- and AI-created content.

Also, creators above a follower threshold should disclose AI use similar to SSMIs; voluntary self-labelling can be promoted among smaller ones.

Graded compliance will acknowledge that professional creators hold significant influence and, therefore, owe transparency to their

audiences. It can help creators not just gain and retain public trust but also keep up with evolving regulations.

### Verification needs more hands on deck

Currently, the rules require SSMIs to ask users to label their content as synthetic. Platforms also have to deploy tools to verify the accuracy of such declarations. But synthetic media is multiplying faster than verification technology, and platforms have, so far, had limited success with labelling.

Most social media platforms adhere to Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA) standards to identify and establish the origins of digital content. However, as C2PA evolves, content is not strictly labelled as a norm. Besides, it is challenging for social media platforms to detect AI-generated or algorithmically-created content. Ultimately, the platforms would require the assistance of third-party detection tools, which are only as reliable as their training and accuracy.

So far, platforms have not refined their tools. An audit by Indicator, a publication that monitors digital deception, found that most failed to label AI content: Only 30% of its 516 AI-generated test posts across Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, TikTok and YouTube were correctly flagged. Google and Meta did not label content from their own AI tools, TikTok only flagged its in-app creations, and Pinterest, the top performer, effectively labelled just 55%.

As the focus shifts to providing credible information, the social media ecosystem should also rely on the discernment of independent information verifiers and auditors. This is especially critical for harmful, fraudulent and misleading content where the stakes are high. Such auditors can be trusted to close gaps in automated detection systems through human judgment, helping platforms become more resilient to deepfakes and protecting users.

The adage, “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is”, will soon be codified into India’s IT laws. With nuance, users will no longer need to second-guess authenticity. The label will provide clarity.

## Fine-tune the AI labelling regulations framework एआई लेबलिंग नियमन ढांचे को परिष्कृत करना

### Fine-tune the AI labelling regulations framework एआई लेबलिंग विनियमन ढांचे को परिष्कृत करना

- Two months ago, millions of Indians watched the **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** speak about **indirect tax reforms**.  
दो महीने पहले, लाखों भारतीयों ने **वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण** को **अप्रत्यक्ष कर सुधारों** के बारे में बोलते हुए देखा।
- At the same time, a video travelled across instant messaging platforms in which the Minister appeared to endorse an **investment scheme promising “30x returns in seven days”**.  
उसी समय, एक वीडियो **इंस्टेंट मैसेजिंग प्लेटफॉर्म** पर प्रसारित हुआ जिसमें मंत्री **“सात दिनों में 30 गुना रिटर्न”** देने वाली **निवेश योजना** का समर्थन करती हुई दिखी।
- A **Roorkee resident (Uttarakhand)** lost **₹66 lakh** after viewing this viral video, later found to have been created using **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools**.  
**रूड़की (उत्तराखंड)** के एक निवासी ने इस वायरल वीडियो को देखने के बाद **₹66 लाख** गंवा दिए, जो बाद में **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) उपकरणों** का उपयोग कर बनाया गया पाया गया।
- The rapid rise of **near-indistinguishable digital alterations** demands **urgent, multi-stakeholder action**.  
**लगभग अप्रभेद्य डिजिटल परिवर्तन** की तेज़ी से बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति **तत्काल और बहु-हितधारक कार्रवाई** की मांग करती है।
- Although the government initially recognised the existing framework as sufficient to tackle **synthetic media**, it has now introduced **draft amendments** to the **Information Technology**



### (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 .

यद्यपि सरकार ने प्रारंभ में मौजूदा ढांचे को सिंथेटिक मीडिया से निपटने के लिए पर्याप्त माना था, लेकिन अब उसने सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (मध्यस्थ दिशानिर्देश और डिजिटल मीडिया आचार संहिता) नियम, 2021 में मसौदा संशोधन पेश किए हैं।

- The amendments mandate that large social media platforms/**Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)** clearly label **synthetic or AI-generated media**.  
इन संशोधनों में यह अनिवार्य किया गया है कि बड़े सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म/महत्वपूर्ण सोशल मीडिया मध्यस्थ (SSMIs) सिंथेटिक या एआई-जनित मीडिया को स्पष्ट रूप से लेबल करें।
- While the proposed rules mark a **meaningful step forward**, their **real-world implementation** will be complex and require engagement across **multiple stakeholders**.  
जबकि प्रस्तावित नियम एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम हैं, उनका वास्तविक कार्यान्वयन जटिल होगा और इसमें कई हितधारकों की भागीदारी आवश्यक होगी।

### Noble intent, ambiguous grouping

#### उद्देश्य नेक, पर वर्गीकरण अस्पष्ट

- **Synthetic media** is defined as content that is **artificially or algorithmically created, modified, or generated** to appear authentic.  
सिंथेटिक मीडिया को ऐसे कंटेंट के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है जो कृत्रिम या एल्गोरिथमिक रूप से बनाया, संशोधित या उत्पन्न किया गया हो ताकि वह वास्तविक लगे।
- However, labelling a broad range of content created with **computer-generated imagery or editing software** can be complicated, since these are not technically made by **generative AI**.  
हालांकि, कंप्यूटर जनित छवियों या संपादन सॉफ्टवेयर से बनाए गए विस्तृत कंटेंट को लेबल करना जटिल हो सकता है, क्योंकि तकनीकी रूप से ये जनरेटिव एआई द्वारा नहीं बनाए जाते।
- Given the **volume of synthetic media** and the fact that not all of it is problematic, the focus should be on **harmful and/or misleading synthetic media**.  
चूंकि सिंथेटिक मीडिया की मात्रा बहुत अधिक है और इसका सारा हिस्सा हानिकारक नहीं है, इसलिए ध्यान हानिकारक और भ्रामक सिंथेटिक मीडिया पर होना चाहिए।
- To put things in perspective, **over 50% of all content on the Internet is now considered AI-generated, as per a recent report**.  
संदर्भ के लिए, एक हालिया रिपोर्ट के अनुसार अब इंटरनेट पर 50% से अधिक कंटेंट को एआई-जनित माना जाता है।
- To fix accountability, the draft rules mandate that platforms introduce **labels covering at least 10% of visual area of synthetic videos, or 10% of initial duration of synthetic audio**; but its application to **mixed media** — say, real visuals with cloned audio — remains unclear.  
जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, मसौदा नियम यह अनिवार्य करते हैं कि प्लेटफॉर्म सिंथेटिक वीडियो के दृश्य क्षेत्र का कम से कम 10% या सिंथेटिक ऑडियो की प्रारंभिक अवधि का 10% भाग लेबल से ढकें; लेकिन इसका मिश्रित मीडिया (जैसे वास्तविक दृश्य के साथ क्लोन ऑडियो) पर प्रयोग स्पष्ट नहीं है।
- Additionally, will a **three-second disclaimer in a 30-second audio clip** be effective? Or will it be ignored like the **fine print in advertisements**?  
इसके अतिरिक्त, क्या 30 सेकंड की ऑडियो क्लिप में तीन सेकंड का अस्वीकरण प्रभावी होगा? या इसे विज्ञापनों की सूक्ष्म लिखावट की तरह नज़रअंदाज़ किया जाएगा?
- Similarly, will a **three-minute disclaimer in a 30-minute video** inform viewers or overwhelm them?  
इसी तरह, क्या 30 मिनट के वीडियो में तीन मिनट का अस्वीकरण दर्शकों को जानकारी देगा या उन्हें भ्रमित करेगा?
- We are still in the **development phase of AI**, and any **prescriptive mandate on labels** would not be **principle-based, future-proof and technology-neutral**.  
हम अभी भी एआई के विकास चरण में हैं, और लेबलिंग पर कोई भी अनिवार्य निर्देश सिद्धांत-आधारित, भविष्य-सुरक्षित या प्रौद्योगिकी-तटस्थ नहीं होगा।
- In some cases, it may not meet the **reasonable person test** like the **10% rule**.  
कुछ मामलों में, यह 10% नियम की तरह युक्तिसंगत व्यक्ति परीक्षण को पूरा नहीं कर पाएगा।



- But it is not the question of labels alone. **Watermarks promised by AI companies** lack reliability.  
लेकिन यह केवल लेबल का प्रश्न नहीं है। **एआई कंपनियों द्वारा वादा किए गए वॉटरमार्क** विश्वसनीय नहीं हैं।
- Within days of a large company releasing a **text-to-video social media platform**, with assurances that these videos would bear **watermarks declaring them synthetic**, tools emerged that could **scrub these markings entirely**.  
एक बड़ी कंपनी द्वारा **टेक्स्ट-टू-वीडियो सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म** जारी करने के कुछ ही दिनों के भीतर, ऐसे उपकरण सामने आ गए जो **“सिंथेटिक” घोषित करने वाले वॉटरमार्क्स को पूरी तरह मिटा** सकते थे।
- Consequently, the framework needs **fine-tuning and precise standards** for each category.  
परिणामस्वरूप, ढांचे को प्रत्येक श्रेणी के लिए **सूक्ष्म समायोजन और सटीक मानकों** की आवश्यकता है।
- A **tiered-labelling system** that distinguishes between **‘fully AI-generated’, ‘AI-assisted’, and ‘AI-altered’** content may be more effective.  
एक **स्तरीय लेबलिंग प्रणाली**, जो **‘पूर्णतः एआई-जनित’, ‘एआई-सहायता प्राप्त’ और ‘एआई-संशोधित’** सामग्री के बीच अंतर करती है, अधिक प्रभावी हो सकती है।

### Graded compliance, targeted intervention

#### क्रमबद्ध अनुपालन, लक्षित हस्तक्षेप

- The proposed rules mandate intermediaries such as **Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and X** to analyse and label **synthetic media**, and they must broaden the scope to include creators directly.  
प्रस्तावित नियमों में **Facebook, Instagram, YouTube और X** जैसे मध्यस्थों को **सिंथेटिक मीडिया** का विश्लेषण और लेबल लगाने का निर्देश दिया गया है, और उन्हें इस दायरे को सीधे **क्रिएटर्स (निर्माताओं)** तक बढ़ाना होगा।
- **Creators** frequently employ **AI for visual storytelling tasks** and also generate **avatars and digital twins**. But few inform the audience about their use.  
**क्रिएटर्स** अक्सर **दृश्य कहानी कहने (visual storytelling)** के कार्यों के लिए **AI** का उपयोग करते हैं और **अवतार और डिजिटल ट्विन्स** भी बनाते हैं, लेकिन बहुत कम लोग इसके उपयोग के बारे में दर्शकों को बताते हैं।
- Although certain videos exhibit clear indicators of manipulation, other **synthetic media** have now achieved such **realism** that viewers struggle to distinguish between **human- and AI-created content**.  
हालांकि कुछ वीडियो में **छेड़छाड़ (manipulation)** के स्पष्ट संकेत दिखाई देते हैं, लेकिन अन्य **सिंथेटिक मीडिया** अब इतने **यथार्थवादी (realistic)** हो गए हैं कि दर्शकों को **मानव निर्मित और AI निर्मित सामग्री** के बीच अंतर करना कठिन हो जाता है।
- Also, creators above a **follower threshold** should disclose **AI use** similar to **SSMIs**; **voluntary self-labelling** can be promoted among smaller ones.  
साथ ही, एक निश्चित **अनुयायी सीमा (follower threshold)** से ऊपर के **क्रिएटर्स** को **SSMI** की तरह **AI उपयोग** का खुलासा करना चाहिए; छोटे निर्माताओं के बीच **स्वैच्छिक आत्म-लेबलिंग (voluntary self-labelling)** को बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है।
- **Graded compliance** will acknowledge that professional creators hold **significant influence** and, therefore, owe **transparency** to their audiences.  
**क्रमबद्ध अनुपालन (Graded compliance)** यह मान्यता देगा कि पेशेवर निर्माता **महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव (significant influence)** रखते हैं और इसलिए अपने दर्शकों के प्रति **पारदर्शिता (transparency)** के ऋणी हैं।
- It can help creators not just gain and retain **public trust** but also keep up with **evolving regulations**.  
यह क्रिएटर्स को केवल **जन विश्वास (public trust)** प्राप्त करने और बनाए रखने में ही नहीं, बल्कि **बदलते नियमों (evolving regulations)** के साथ तालमेल बनाए रखने में भी मदद कर सकता है।

### Verification needs more hands on deck

#### सत्यापन के लिए और अधिक प्रयासों की आवश्यकता



- Currently, the rules require **SSMIs** to ask users to label their content as **synthetic**.  
वर्तमान में, नियमों के अनुसार **SSMIs** को उपयोगकर्ताओं से अपनी सामग्री को **सिंथेटिक** के रूप में लेबल करने के लिए कहना आवश्यक है।
- Platforms also have to deploy tools to verify the **accuracy** of such declarations.  
प्लेटफार्मों को ऐसे **घोषणाओं की सटीकता (accuracy)** की जांच करने के लिए उपकरणों को तैनात करना भी आवश्यक है।
- But **synthetic media** is multiplying faster than **verification technology**, and platforms have so far had limited success with labelling.  
लेकिन **सिंथेटिक मीडिया** की वृद्धि **सत्यापन प्रौद्योगिकी (verification technology)** की तुलना में कहीं तेज़ है, और अब तक प्लेटफार्मों को **लेबलिंग** में सीमित सफलता मिली है।
- Most social media platforms adhere to **Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA)** standards to identify and establish the **origins of digital content**.  
अधिकांश सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफार्म **Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA)** मानकों का पालन करते हैं ताकि **डिजिटल सामग्री की उत्पत्ति (origins)** की पहचान और स्थापना की जा सके।
- However, as **C2PA evolves**, content is not strictly labelled as a norm.  
हालांकि, जैसे-जैसे **C2PA विकसित** होता है, सामग्री को सामान्य नियम के रूप में **सख्ती से लेबल** नहीं किया जाता है।
- Besides, it is challenging for social media platforms to detect **AI-generated or algorithmically-created content**.  
इसके अलावा, सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफार्मों के लिए **AI द्वारा उत्पन्न या एल्गोरिदम-आधारित सामग्री** का पता लगाना एक चुनौतीपूर्ण कार्य है।
- Ultimately, the platforms would require the assistance of **third-party detection tools**, which are only as reliable as their **training and accuracy**.  
अंततः, प्लेटफार्मों को **तृतीय-पक्ष पहचान उपकरणों (third-party detection tools)** की सहायता की आवश्यकता होगी, जो केवल उनकी **प्रशिक्षण गुणवत्ता और सटीकता (training and accuracy)** पर निर्भर होंगे।
- So far, platforms have not refined their tools.  
अब तक प्लेटफार्मों ने अपने उपकरणों को परिष्कृत नहीं किया है।
- An **audit by Indicator**, a publication that monitors **digital deception**, found that most failed to label AI content.  
**Indicator**, जो **डिजिटल धोखाधड़ी (digital deception)** की निगरानी करता है, द्वारा किए गए एक **ऑडिट** में पाया गया कि अधिकांश प्लेटफार्म **AI सामग्री को लेबल करने** में विफल रहे।
- Only **30%** of its **516 AI-generated test posts** across **Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, TikTok and YouTube** were correctly flagged.  
**Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, TikTok और YouTube** पर किए गए **516 AI-निर्मित परीक्षण पोस्टों** में से केवल **30%** को सही ढंग से **चिह्नित (flagged)** किया गया।
- **Google and Meta** did not label content from their own **AI tools**, **TikTok** only flagged its **in-app creations**, and **Pinterest**, the top performer, effectively labelled just **55%**.  
**Google और Meta** ने अपनी स्वयं की **AI टूल्स** से उत्पन्न सामग्री को लेबल नहीं किया, **TikTok** ने केवल अपनी **ऐप के भीतर की रचनाओं** को चिह्नित किया, और शीर्ष प्रदर्शनकर्ता **Pinterest** ने केवल **55%** सामग्री को प्रभावी ढंग से लेबल किया।
- As the focus shifts to providing **credible information**, the social media ecosystem should also rely on **independent information verifiers and auditors**.  
जैसे ही ध्यान **विश्वसनीय जानकारी (credible information)** प्रदान करने पर केंद्रित होता है, सोशल मीडिया पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को **स्वतंत्र सूचना सत्यापकों और लेखा परीक्षकों (independent information verifiers and auditors)** पर भी भरोसा करना चाहिए।
- This is especially critical for **harmful, fraudulent and misleading content** where the stakes are high.  
यह विशेष रूप से **हानिकारक, धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण और भ्रामक सामग्री** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, जहां दांव अधिक होते हैं।
- Such auditors can be trusted to close gaps in **automated detection systems** through **human judgment**, helping platforms become more **resilient to deepfakes** and **protecting users**.  
ऐसे लेखा परीक्षकों पर भरोसा किया जा सकता है कि वे **मानव निर्णय (human judgment)** के माध्यम से **स्वचालित पहचान प्रणालियों (automated detection systems)** में मौजूद अंतराल को भरेंगे, जिससे प्लेटफार्म **डीपफेक (deep fakes)** के प्रति अधिक **लचीले** बनेंगे और **उपयोगकर्ताओं की सुरक्षा** करेंगे।



- The adage, “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is”, will soon be **codified into India’s IT laws.**  
कहावत “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is” जल्द ही भारत के आईटी कानूनों (IT laws) में संहिताबद्ध की जाएगी।
- With nuance, users will no longer need to **second-guess authenticity.** The **label** will provide **clarity.**  
सूक्ष्मता के साथ, उपयोगकर्ताओं को अब **प्रामाणिकता (authenticity)** पर संदेह करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। **लेबल स्पष्टता (clarity)** प्रदान करेगा।

## ‘India’s design market seeing a huge growth’

ES III: S&T

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

India’s design market has been growing at a rapid pace as the country evolved into a global software and manufacturing hub, said Scott Pugh, Vice President of Sales, Asia Pacific at Figma, a San Francisco-based collaborative design and product firm here on Wednesday.

Terming India Figma’s second largest active user market globally, he said some 93% of companies in India used AI in design, indicating the scope of the market.

“We’ve seen increasing demand from Indian com-



**Tech drive:** About 93% of companies in India used AI in design, indicating the scope of the market. REUTERS

panies, and with the office opening, we want to get closer to our users and the community here.” he said while addressing the media at the opening of Figma’s office in the city.

The opening would bring in new job opportu-

nities in India as Figma is growing its footprint in the country by deepening relationships with the local design and developer community, the firm said. It also claimed that it has established a strong presence in the country, serv-

ing users in across 28 States and also enterprises including Airtel, CARs24, Groww, Juspay, Myntra, Swiggy, TCS and Zomato.

According to Figma, over 40% of the top BSE100 companies are its customers. “From Ahmedabad to Vadodara, there are close to 25,000 active members in the Friends of Figma community, an inclusive global community initiative built around user-led programming,” it claimed.

Lakshminarayan Swaminathan, V-P, Product Management and Design, Myntra said, “At Myntra, design is at the heart of everything we do – and Figma has become an integral part of

how we bring that vision to life. It unites our teams around a shared creative vision, accelerates idea-to-product, and keeps us at the forefront of evolving digital experiences, especially with AI.”

Some 7,000 developers registered for Figma India’s launch event in Bengaluru, indicating strong appetite for cloud-based, AI-driven tools and technology or design.

As per a recent study by Figma, 85% of designers agree that AI simplifies writing code and some 81% of developers say design has become more important to the success of AI-powered products.

### ‘India’s design market seeing a huge growth’

#### ‘भारत का डिज़ाइन बाज़ार तेज़ी से बढ़ रहा है’

- India’s design market has been growing at a rapid pace as the country evolved into a **global software and manufacturing hub**, said **Scott Pugh**, Vice President of Sales, Asia Pacific at **Figma**, a San Francisco-based collaborative design and product firm here on Wednesday.

भारत का डिज़ाइन बाज़ार तेज़ी से बढ़ रहा है क्योंकि देश एक **वैश्विक सॉफ्टवेयर और विनिर्माण केंद्र** के रूप में विकसित हुआ है, ऐसा **फिग्मा** (सैन फ्रांसिस्को स्थित सहयोगात्मक डिज़ाइन और उत्पाद कंपनी) के एशिया प्रशांत के सेल्स उपाध्यक्ष **स्कॉट पग** ने बुधवार को कहा।

- Terming India Figma’s **second largest active user market globally**, he said some **93% of companies in India used AI in design**, indicating the scope of the market.

भारत को फिग्मा का **वैश्विक स्तर पर दूसरा सबसे बड़ा सक्रिय उपयोगकर्ता बाज़ार** बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में लगभग **93% कंपनियां डिज़ाइन में AI का उपयोग** करती हैं, जो बाज़ार की व्यापक संभावनाओं को दर्शाता है।

- “We’ve seen increasing demand from Indian companies, and with the office opening, we want to get closer to our users and the community here.” he said while addressing the media at the opening of Figma’s office in the city.

“हमने भारतीय कंपनियों से बढ़ती मांग देखी है, और कार्यालय खोलने के साथ, हम यहां अपने उपयोगकर्ताओं और समुदाय के और करीब आना चाहते हैं।” उन्होंने शहर में फिग्मा के कार्यालय के उद्घाटन पर मीडिया से कहा।



- The opening would bring in **new job opportunities** in India as Figma is growing its footprint in the country by deepening relationships with the **local design and developer community**, the firm said.  
कंपनी ने कहा कि इस उद्घाटन से भारत में **नई रोजगार अवसर** पैदा होंगे क्योंकि फिग्मा देश में अपनी उपस्थिति बढ़ा रहा है और **स्थानीय डिज़ाइन और डेवलपर समुदाय** के साथ संबंध मजबूत कर रहा है।
- It also claimed that it has established a **strong presence** in the country, serving users across **28 States** and also enterprises including **Airtel, CARS24, Groww, Juspay, Myntra, Swiggy, TCS and Zomato**.  
कंपनी ने दावा किया कि उसने भारत में **मजबूत उपस्थिति** स्थापित की है, और **28 राज्यों** के उपयोगकर्ताओं के साथ-साथ **एयरटेल, CARS24, ग्रो, जस्पे, मिंत्रा, स्विगी, टीसीएस और जोमैटो** जैसी कंपनियों को सेवाएँ प्रदान कर रही है।
- According to Figma, over **40% of the top BSE100 companies** are its customers. “From Ahmedabad to Vadodara, there are close to **25,000 active members** in the **Friends of Figma community**, an inclusive global community initiative built around user-led programming,” it claimed.  
फिग्मा के अनुसार, **BSE100 की 40% से अधिक शीर्ष कंपनियाँ** उसके ग्राहक हैं। “अहमदाबाद से वडोदरा तक, **फ्रेंड्स ऑफ फिग्मा कम्युनिटी** में लगभग **25,000 सक्रिय सदस्य** हैं, जो उपयोगकर्ता-नेतृत्व कार्यक्रमों के इर्द-गिर्द बनाई गई एक समावेशी वैश्विक समुदाय पहल है,” कंपनी ने कहा।
- **Lakshminarayan Swaminathan, V-P, Product Management and Design, Myntra** said, “At Myntra, **design is at the heart** of everything we do — and **Figma has become an integral part** of how we bring that vision to life. It unites our teams around a shared creative vision, **accelerates idea-to-product**, and keeps us at the forefront of evolving digital experiences, especially with AI.”  
**लक्ष्मीनारायण स्वामीनाथन, उपाध्यक्ष, उत्पाद प्रबंधन और डिज़ाइन, मिंत्रा** ने कहा, “मिंत्रा में, **डिज़ाइन हमारे हर काम का केंद्र** है — और **फिग्मा उस दृष्टि को साकार करने का अभिन्न हिस्सा** बन गया है। यह हमारी टीमों को एक साझा रचनात्मक दृष्टिकोण के इर्द-गिर्द एकजुट करता है, **आइडिया से प्रोडक्ट तक की प्रक्रिया** को तेज़ करता है और हमें विकसित होती डिजिटल अनुभवों की अग्रिम पंक्ति में रखता है, विशेष रूप से AI के साथ।”
- Some **7,000 developers** registered for Figma India’s launch event in Bengaluru, indicating strong appetite for **cloud-based, AI-driven tools and technology** for design.  
बेंगलुरु में फिग्मा इंडिया के लॉन्च इवेंट के लिए लगभग **7,000 डेवलपर्स** ने पंजीकरण कराया, जो डिज़ाइन के लिए **क्लाउड-आधारित, AI-संचालित टूल्स और तकनीक** की मजबूत मांग को दर्शाता है।
- As per a recent study by Figma, **85% of designers** agree that **AI simplifies writing code** and some **81% of developers** say design has become **more important** to the success of **AI-powered products**.  
फिग्मा के एक हालिया अध्ययन के अनुसार, **85% डिज़ाइनर्स** सहमत हैं कि **AI कोड लिखना आसान बनाता है**, और लगभग **81% डेवलपर्स** कहते हैं कि **AI-संचालित उत्पादों** की सफलता के लिए **डिज़ाइन और अधिक महत्वपूर्ण** हो गया है।



**Environment**

13/11/2025

## *Out of the woods*



GS III: Environment

**Royal walk:** A one-horned rhino outside the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary on the outskirts of Guwahati on Wednesday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Royal walk: A one-horned rhino outside the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary on the outskirts of Guwahati on Wednesday.

PATRIOTIC



## High levels of chromium, mercury in residents; NGT directs U.P. govt. to map affected people

**GS III: Environment**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to map the total number of people affected by heavy metal contamination, particularly chromium and mercury, in Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur, Fatehpur, and nearby areas of the State.

The Principal Bench of the NGT, comprising chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad, gave the order in a matter related to factories dumping chromium in Rania, Kanpur Dehat, Rakhi Mandi, Kanpur Nagar, and nearby areas which has resulted in contamination of groundwater, depriving local people access to drinking water.

“The above chart re-



The NGT gave the order in a matter related to factories dumping chromium in some areas, resulting in contamination of groundwater. FILE PHOTO

flects that in high percentage of persons presence of Chromium above standard level has been detected and even persons with Mercury above standard level have been found

(sic),” stated the order dated November 7.

As per the chart mentioned in the order, 95.7% of the 514 people tested in Kanpur Nagar had chromium above the standard level in their blood samples, and the figure stood at 71.9% for Kanpur Dehat (214 people tested) and 85.96% for Fatehpur (171 people tested).

“The State authorities, especially the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, and Secretary, Health, Govt. of U.P. are directed to provide a timeline within two weeks in respect of the steps that will be taken by the State authorities to complete the process of mapping the entire area and find out the affected villages/ULBs [urban local bodies]/districts,” the order said.

“They will also disclose the approximate number of the affected persons, the medical facilities available at the District/ULB/Village level including the health centers, doctors, paramedical staff available in those health centres, the facilities available in those health centres and the nearby labs and distance from that lab for carrying out the blood and other sample analysis,” the order stated.

“The mapping will include food chain contamination, surface water and groundwater contamination, and air contamination analysis. The timeline will also be given for fully implementing the 22 recommendations which have been noted in the order dated 01.07.2025,” the order said.

### High levels of chromium, mercury in residents; निवासियों में क्रोमियम, पारे का उच्च स्तर;

- High levels of **chromium, mercury** in residents; निवासियों में क्रोमियम, पारे का उच्च स्तर;
- NGT directs U.P. govt. to map affected people  
**एनजीटी ने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को प्रभावित लोगों का मानचित्रण करने का निर्देश दिया**
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to map the total number of people affected by heavy metal contamination, particularly chromium and mercury, in **Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur, Fatehpur**, and nearby areas of the State.  
**राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को कानपुर नगर, कानपुर, फतेहपुर और राज्य के आसपास के क्षेत्रों में भारी धातु प्रदूषण, विशेष रूप से क्रोमियम और पारा से प्रभावित कुल लोगों की संख्या का मानचित्रण करने का निर्देश दिया।**
- The Principal Bench of the NGT, comprising chairperson **Prakash Shrivastava** and expert member **Afroz Ahmad**, gave the order in a matter related to factories dumping chromium in **Rania, Kanpur Dehat, Rakhi Mandi, Kanpur Nagar**, and nearby areas which has resulted in contamination of groundwater, depriving local people access to drinking water.  
एनजीटी की प्रधान पीठ, जिसमें अध्यक्ष **प्रकाश श्रीवास्तव** और विशेषज्ञ सदस्य **अफरोज़ अहमद** शामिल हैं, ने यह आदेश **रनिया, कानपुर देहात, राखी मंडी, कानपुर नगर** और आसपास के क्षेत्रों में कारखानों द्वारा क्रोमियम फेंकने से संबंधित मामले में दिया, जिसके कारण **भूजल प्रदूषित** हो गया है और स्थानीय लोगों का **पीने के पानी** तक पहुंचना कठिन हो गया है।  
“The above chart reflects that a high percentage of persons with **Chromium above standard level** has been detected and even persons with **Mercury above standard level** have been found (sic),” stated the order dated November 7.  
“उपरोक्त चार्ट दर्शाता है कि उच्च प्रतिशत में लोगों के शरीर में **मानक स्तर से अधिक क्रोमियम**



पाया गया है और यहां तक कि **मानक स्तर से अधिक पारा** वाले व्यक्ति भी पाए गए हैं,” 7 नवंबर दिनांकित आदेश में कहा गया।

- As per the chart mentioned in the order, **95.7%** of the **514 people** tested in **Kanpur Nagar** had chromium above the standard level in their blood samples, and the figure stood at **71.9%** for **Kanpur Dehat (214 people tested)** and **85.96%** for **Fatehpur (171 people tested)**.

आदेश में उल्लेखित चार्ट के अनुसार, **कानपुर नगर** में परीक्षण किए गए **514 लोगों** में से **95.7%** के रक्त नमूनों में मानक स्तर से अधिक क्रोमियम पाया गया, और यह आंकड़ा **कानपुर देहात (214 लोगों का परीक्षण)** में **71.9%** तथा **फतेहपुर (171 लोगों का परीक्षण)** में **85.96%** था।

- “The State authorities, especially the **Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh**, and **Secretary, Health, Govt. of U.P.** are directed to provide a **timeline within two weeks** in respect of the steps that will be taken by the State authorities to complete the process of mapping the entire area and out the affected villages/ULBs [urban local bodies]/districts,” the order said.

“राज्य प्राधिकरणों, विशेष रूप से **मुख्य सचिव, उत्तर प्रदेश और सचिव, स्वास्थ्य, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार**, को निर्देश दिया जाता है कि वे **दो सप्ताह के भीतर टाइमलाइन** प्रदान करें कि राज्य प्राधिकरण पूरे क्षेत्र का मानचित्रण पूरा करने और प्रभावित **गांवों/यूएलबी/जिलों** की पहचान करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाएंगे,” आदेश में कहा गया।

- “They will also disclose the **approximate number of the affected persons**, the **medical facilities** available at the District/ULB/Village level including the **health centers, doctors, paramedical staff** available in those health centres, the facilities available in those health centres and the **nearby labs** and distance from that lab for carrying out the blood and other sample analysis,” the order stated.

“वे **प्रभावित व्यक्तियों की अनुमानित संख्या**, जिला/यूएलबी/ग्राम स्तर पर उपलब्ध **चिकित्सा सुविधाओं** सहित **स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों, डॉक्टरों, पैरामेडिकल स्टाफ**, उन स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों में उपलब्ध सुविधाओं, तथा **निकटतम प्रयोगशालाओं** और वहां से रक्त तथा अन्य नमूनों के परीक्षण के लिए दूरी का भी खुलासा करेंगे,” आदेश में कहा गया।

- “The mapping will include **food chain contamination, surface water and groundwater contamination**, and **air contamination** analysis. The timeline will also be given for fully implementing the **22 recommendations** which have been noted in the order dated 01.07.2025,” the order said.

“मानचित्रण में **खाद्य श्रृंखला प्रदूषण, सतही एवं भूजल प्रदूषण**, और **वायु प्रदूषण** का विश्लेषण शामिल होगा। 01.07.2025 के आदेश में दर्ज **22 सिफारिशों** को पूरी तरह लागू करने के लिए भी टाइमलाइन दी जाएगी,” आदेश में कहा गया।



# At 72.16%, Kerala stands fourth in employability rate

## GS III: Employability

**Sarath Babu George**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has reaffirmed its strong position in the country's employability landscape by emerging fourth among the top-performing States in the India Skills Report 2026. The State recorded an employability rate of 72.16% – only Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka have better rates.

The State also figures among the top-10 preferred States for women professionals, with the report underlining Kerala's gender-inclusive labour ecosystem.

The report has been published by global education and talent solutions

organisation ETS in association with various agencies, including the All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry, and the Association of Indian Universities.

### Job readiness

Nationally, overall employability has risen to 56.35%, up from 54.81% last year, with more than half of India's graduates scoring above 60% in the Global Employability Test (GET) conducted to compile the report. Kerala figures prominently in both State and city-level rankings, reflecting a consistent rise in job readiness and sector-specific skill alignment.

Among the top performing cities, Kochi ranks fourth, ahead of major metros such as Delhi and Hyderabad, with an average employability score of 76.56%. The report identifies Tier-2 cities such as Kochi and Lucknow to be emerging as strong talent hubs, narrowing the urban-rural skill gap.

Women's employability in the country has seen a remarkable rise to 54%, surpassing men (51.5%) for the first time. Kerala, along with Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, leads this shift by reporting strong female participation in banking, financial services and insurance sector (BFSI), health care and education sectors.

## At 72.16%, Kerala stands fourth in employability rate

### 72.16% पर, रोजगारयोग्यता दर में केरल चौथे स्थान पर

- At 72.16%, Kerala stands fourth in employability rate  
72.16% पर, रोजगारयोग्यता दर में केरल चौथे स्थान पर
- Kerala has re-armed its strong position in the country's employability landscape by emerging fourth among the top-performing States in the India Skills Report 2026.  
केरल ने इंडिया स्किल्स रिपोर्ट 2026 में शीर्ष प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्यों में चौथे स्थान पर उभरकर देश के रोजगारयोग्यता परिदृश्य में अपनी मजबूत स्थिति को फिर से स्थापित किया है।
- The State recorded an employability rate of 72.16% — only **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka** have better rates.  
राज्य ने 72.16% की रोजगारयोग्यता दर दर्ज की — केवल उत्तर प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र और कर्नाटक की दरें इससे बेहतर हैं।
- The State also figures among the top-10 preferred States for **women professionals**, with the report underlining Kerala's **gender-inclusive labour ecosystem**.  
राज्य महिला पेशेवरों के लिए शीर्ष-10 पसंदीदा राज्यों में भी शामिल है, और रिपोर्ट केरल के लिंग-समावेशी श्रम पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को रेखांकित करती है।
- The report has been published by **global education and talent solutions organisation ETS** in association with various agencies, including the **All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry, and the Association of Indian Universities**.  
रिपोर्ट ग्लोबल एजुकेशन एंड टैलेंट सॉल्यूशंस संगठन ETS द्वारा प्रकाशित की गई है, विभिन्न



एजेंसियों जैसे अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद, भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ, और एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडियन यूनिवर्सिटीज के सहयोग से।

## Job readiness नौकरी की तैयारी

- Nationally, overall employability has risen to 56.35%, up from 54.81% last year, with more than half of India's graduates scoring above 60% in the **Global Employability Test (GET)** conducted to compile the report.  
राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर, कुल रोजगारयोग्यता 54.81% से बढ़कर 56.35% हो गई है, और रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के लिए आयोजित ग्लोबल एम्प्लॉयबिलिटी टेस्ट (GET) में भारत के आधे से अधिक स्नातकों ने 60% से अधिक अंक प्राप्त किए हैं।
- Kerala figures prominently in both State and city-level rankings, reflecting a consistent rise in **job readiness** and **sector-specific skill alignment**.  
केरल राज्य और शहर स्तर की रैंकिंग में प्रमुख रूप से दिखाई देता है, जो नौकरी की तैयारी और क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट कौशल संरेखण में निरंतर वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।
- Among the top performing cities, **Kochi** ranks fourth, ahead of major metros such as **Delhi and Hyderabad**, with an average employability score of 76.56%.  
शीर्ष प्रदर्शन करने वाले शहरों में, कोच्चि चौथे स्थान पर है, दिल्ली और हैदराबाद जैसे प्रमुख महानगरों से आगे, 76.56% के औसत रोजगारयोग्यता स्कोर के साथ।  
The report identifies Tier-2 cities such as **Kochi and Lucknow** to be emerging as strong **talent hubs**, narrowing the **urban-rural skill gap**.  
रिपोर्ट कोच्चि और लखनऊ जैसे टियर-2 शहरों को मजबूत टैलेंट हब के रूप में उभरते हुए पहचानती है, जो शहरी-ग्रामीण कौशल अंतर को कम कर रहे हैं।

## Women's employability महिलाओं की रोजगारयोग्यता

- Women's employability in the country has seen a remarkable rise to **54%**, surpassing **men (51.5%)** for the first time.  
देश में महिलाओं की रोजगारयोग्यता उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़कर **54%** हो गई है, जो पहली बार पुरुषों (51.5%) से आगे निकल गई है।
- Kerala, along with **Uttar Pradesh and Telangana**, leads this shift by reporting strong female participation in **banking, financial services and insurance sector (BFSI), health care, and education sectors**.  
केरल, उत्तर प्रदेश और तेलंगाना के साथ, बैंकिंग, वित्तीय सेवाएं और बीमा (BFSI), स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, और शिक्षा क्षेत्रों में मजबूत महिला भागीदारी की रिपोर्ट कर इस बदलाव का नेतृत्व करता है।



DM

13/11/2025

# Why does India's road safety system keep failing?

How do poorly constructed roads and infrastructure lead to road crashes?

SS III: Disaster Management: Road Safety  
Piyush Tewari

The story so far:

In November 10, the Supreme Court took cognisance of two mass-casualty road crashes in Phalodi, Rajasthan (14 killed) and NH 163, Telangana (19 killed). More than 1.7 lakh lives were lost in 2023 alone due to road crashes.

**What are the problems in licensing?**  
Licensing and training need to be the first line of defence against crashes, not just an administrative formality. The driver licensing system is meant to be a filtration process, determining who is fit to operate a vehicle and who is not. But, across much of India, driving licences can be obtained without formal training. Driving tests are often reduced to perfunctory turns on small test tracks. For commercial drivers, whose vehicles can weigh more than 15 tonnes and carry dozens of

passengers, there is no structured, standardised safety training. And once a licence is issued, few checks are carried out to assess a driver's continuing skill, physical fitness, or mental alertness. Heavily fatigued drivers – some with compromised vision or chronic illness – routinely operate heavy vehicles carrying unsuspecting passengers, with no mechanism to detect or restrict them.

**What is the role of enforcement?**  
Speeding, overloading, lane violations, and driving under the influence remain among the top causes of fatal crashes. Enforcement against these, however, continue to rely heavily on resource-constrained and unskilled manual policing, making it inconsistent and susceptible to both human error and discretion. Even where technology exists – such as automated cameras and digital challan systems – coverage is limited, data integration is weak, and penalties are

often not recovered. The Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasised the need for electronic enforcement standards and technology-based deterrence. But adoption remains patchy across States.

**What about weak infrastructure?**

From poorly banked curves and no crash barriers to inadequate illumination and missing rest areas that force heavy vehicles to park on the highways, the physical environment of India's highways and urban roads often turns minor mistakes into fatal outcomes. Many State and national highways were designed decades ago for speed and throughput, not safety. The result has given way to 'unforgiving roads' – corridors where a moment's lapse can mean disaster. Maintenance gaps such as broken dividers, exposed concrete structures, unmarked construction zones, and encroachments are common. In urban areas, pedestrian infrastructure remains

minimal or absent, leaving those on foot to compete with heavy vehicles for space.

Evidence from pilot projects show that design-led interventions can reverse this trend. On the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, for instance, evidence-based engineering and enforcement changes under the Zero Fatality Corridor programme have cut crash deaths by more than half.

**How can trauma care be improved?**

For many victims of road crashes in India, survival depends not on the impact itself, but on what happens in the critical hour that follows. Ambulance networks vary widely in availability and efficiency across the country. In rural areas, delays in decisive care can stretch beyond an hour; even in cities, victims are often extracted by bystanders or the police without proper equipment and little to no medical support. Facilities closest to crash sites often lack trauma specialists, blood banks, or basic resuscitation facilities. A proposed Right to Trauma Care law could mandate time-bound emergency response standards and a coordinated trauma network.

Moreover, licensing, infrastructure, and trauma care are treated as separate silos managed by different departments. Safety can only be achieved when they function as one, reinforced by accountability and coordination.

*Piyush Tewari is the Founder and CEO of SaveLIFE Foundation.*

THE GIST

▼ Licensing and training need to be the first line of defence against accidents, not just an administrative formality.

▼ Speeding, overloading, lane violations, and driving under the influence remain among the top causes of fatal crashes.

▼ For many victims of road crashes in India, survival depends not on the impact itself, but on what happens in the critical hour that follows.

## Why does India's road safety system keep failing? भारत की सड़क सुरक्षा प्रणाली बार-बार क्यों विफल होती है?

### Road Safety and Supreme Court Intervention (November 10) सड़क सुरक्षा और सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का हस्तक्षेप (10 नवंबर)

- On November 10, the Supreme Court took cognisance of two mass-casualty road crashes in Phalodi, Rajasthan (14 killed) and NH 163, Telangana (19 killed). More than 1.7 lakh lives were lost in 2023 alone due to road crashes.  
10 नवंबर को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फालोदी, राजस्थान (14 मौतें) और NH 163, तेलंगाना (19 मौतें) में हुई दो बड़ी सड़क दुर्घटनाओं का स्वतः संज्ञान लिया। केवल 2023 में ही 1.7 लाख से अधिक लोगों की जान सड़क हादसों में गई।

### What are the problems in licensing? लाइसेंसिंग में क्या समस्याएँ हैं?

- Licensing and training should be the first line of defence** against crashes, not just an administrative formality.  
लाइसेंसिंग और प्रशिक्षण को केवल एक प्रशासनिक औपचारिकता नहीं बल्कि दुर्घटनाओं के खिलाफ पहली सुरक्षा पंक्ति होना चाहिए।
- The **driver licensing system** is supposed to filter who is **fit to operate a vehicle**, but in much of India, **licences can be obtained without formal training**.  
डाइविंग लाइसेंस प्रणाली का उद्देश्य यह तय करना है कि कौन वाहन चलाने के योग्य है, लेकिन भारत के अधिकांश हिस्सों में औपचारिक प्रशिक्षण के बिना ही लाइसेंस प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
- Driving tests** are often reduced to simple turns on small tracks.  
डाइविंग टेस्ट अक्सर छोटे ट्रैकों पर औपचारिक मोड़ों तक सीमित रह जाते हैं।
- For **commercial drivers** (operating vehicles over 15 tonnes or carrying dozens of passengers), there is **no structured or standardised safety training**.



व्यावसायिक चालकों (जो 15 टन से अधिक वजन वाले वाहन या दर्जनों यात्रियों को ले जाते हैं) के लिए कोई संरचित या मानकीकृत सुरक्षा प्रशिक्षण नहीं है।

- Once a licence is issued, **no checks** are done to assess **continuing skill, fitness, or alertness**.  
एक बार लाइसेंस जारी होने के बाद कौशल, फिटनेस या सतर्कता की दोबारा जांच नहीं की जाती।
- Fatigued drivers, with poor vision or illness**, continue to drive heavy vehicles **without detection or restriction**.  
थके हुए चालक, जिनकी दृष्टि कमजोर होती है या वे बीमार होते हैं, बिना किसी जांच या प्रतिबंध के भारी वाहन चलाते रहते हैं।

What is the role of enforcement?

प्रवर्तन की क्या भूमिका है?

- Speeding, overloading, lane violations, and drunk driving** remain among the top causes of **fatal crashes**.  
तेज गति, ओवरलोडिंग, लेन उल्लंघन और नशे में वाहन चलाना घातक दुर्घटनाओं के प्रमुख कारणों में शामिल हैं।
- Enforcement depends on **manual policing**, which is **inconsistent** and prone to **human error and corruption**.  
प्रवर्तन अभी भी मैनुअल पुलिसिंग पर निर्भर है, जो असंगत है और मानवीय त्रुटियों व भ्रष्टाचार की संभावना रखता है।
- Even where **automated systems** like **digital challans and cameras** exist, **coverage is limited**, and **penalties often remain unrecovered**.  
जहाँ डिजिटल चालान और कैमरों जैसी स्वचालित प्रणालियाँ हैं, वहाँ भी कवरेज सीमित है और जुर्माने अक्सर वसूल नहीं होते।
- The **Supreme Court** has emphasized **electronic enforcement standards** and **technology-based deterrence**, but adoption remains **uneven across States**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्रवर्तन मानकों और प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित निवारक उपायों की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया है, लेकिन राज्यों में इसका असमान कार्यान्वयन है।

What about weak infrastructure?

कमज़ोर अवसंरचना की क्या स्थिति है?

- Poor road design** (like **no crash barriers, poor curves, and weak lighting**) converts minor mistakes into **fatal outcomes**.  
खराब सड़क डिज़ाइन (जैसे क्रैश बैरियर की कमी, खराब मोड़, और अपर्याप्त रोशनी) छोटे हादसों को घातक परिणामों में बदल देते हैं।
- Many **highways** were designed decades ago for **speed and throughput**, not **safety**.  
कई राजमार्ग दशकों पहले गति और ट्रैफिक प्रवाह के लिए बनाए गए थे, सुरक्षा के लिए नहीं।
- Common issues include **broken dividers, unmarked construction zones, and encroachments**.  
आम समस्याओं में टूटे हुए डिवाइडर, बिना निशान वाले निर्माण क्षेत्र, और अवैध कब्जे शामिल हैं।
- In **urban areas**, **pedestrian infrastructure** is minimal, forcing people on foot to **share roads with heavy vehicles**.  
शहरी क्षेत्रों में पैदल चलने वालों के लिए अवसंरचना बहुत कम है, जिससे उन्हें भारी वाहनों के साथ सड़क साझा करनी पड़ती है।
- Design-led interventions** can reduce accidents — e.g., on the **Mumbai-Pune Expressway, the Zero Fatality Corridor program halved crash deaths**.  
डिज़ाइन-आधारित सुधारों से दुर्घटनाएँ घटाई जा सकती हैं — जैसे मुंबई-पुणे एक्सप्रेसवे पर ज़ीरो फेटैलिटी कॉरिडोर कार्यक्रम ने दुर्घटना से मौतों को आधा कर दिया।

How can trauma care be improved?

ट्रॉमा केयर में सुधार कैसे किया जा सकता है?



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

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- Victims' survival often depends on the **critical first hour** after a crash.  
पीड़ितों की जान अक्सर दुर्घटना के बाद के **पहले एक घंटे** पर निर्भर करती है।
- **Ambulance services are uneven** across India, with **rural delays** sometimes exceeding **one hour**.  
भारत में **एम्बुलेंस सेवाएँ असमान** हैं, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में **एक घंटे से अधिक की देरी** आम है।
- Even in **cities**, victims are often **rescued without medical support** or proper **equipment**.  
यहाँ तक कि **शहरों** में भी, पीड़ितों को अक्सर **चिकित्सकीय सहायता या उपकरणों के बिना** ही निकाला जाता है।
- **Nearby hospitals** often lack **trauma specialists, blood banks, or resuscitation facilities**.  
**निकटवर्ती अस्पतालों** में अक्सर **ट्रॉमा विशेषज्ञ, ब्लड बैंक या पुनर्जीवन सुविधाएँ** नहीं होतीं।
- A proposed **Right to Trauma Care law** could ensure **time-bound emergency response** and a **coordinated trauma network**.  
प्रस्तावित **राइट टू ट्रॉमा केयर कानून** समयबद्ध आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया और समन्वित **ट्रॉमा नेटवर्क** सुनिश्चित कर सकता है।
- Currently, **licensing, infrastructure, and trauma care are handled separately by different departments**. True **safety needs coordination and accountability** among all.  
वर्तमान में, **लाइसेंसिंग, अवसंरचना और ट्रॉमा केयर अलग-अलग विभागों** द्वारा संभाले जाते हैं। वास्तविक **सुरक्षा** तभी संभव है जब **सभी में समन्वय और जवाबदेही** हो।

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