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# PATRIOTIC IAS

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### 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

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PCS Special: 19 September 2025

1. Kerala HC seeks Centre's response to plea for stay on Arundhati Roy's book

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केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने अरुंधति राँय की किताब पर रोक की याचिका पर केंद्र से जवाब मांगा

## 2. Trump says designating Antifa 'a major terrorist organisation'

ट्रम्प ने कहा कि Antifa को 'एक प्रमुख आतंकवादी संगठन' के रूप में नामित किया जाएगा

## 3. Ukraine hits Russian oil refinery deep behind front

यूक्रेन ने मोर्चे के पीछे रूसी तेल रिफाइनरी पर हमला किया

# Kerala HC seeks Centre's response to plea for stay on Arundhati Roy's book

PCS

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has sought the Centre's response to a plea that sought a stay on the sale of Booker prize winner Arundhati Roy's recently released book *Mother Mary Comes To Me*, whose cover photo shows her smoking a bidi, without any statutory health-hazard warning label.

Referring to the cover photo as an act of 'intellectual arrogance,' the petitioner, advocate Rajasimhan, submitted that the book violated Section 5 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and



Arundhati Roy during the launch of her book *Mother Mary Comes To Me* in Kochi. THULASI KAKKAT

Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2013.

The Section 5 (1) of the Act says that no person engaged in, or purported to be engaged in the production, supply or distribution of cigarettes or any other

tobacco products, shall advertise, and no person having control over a medium shall cause to be advertised, cigarettes or any other tobacco products through that medium. No person shall take part in any advertisement which

directly or indirectly suggests or promotes the use or consumption of cigarettes or any other tobacco product. The petitioner said the photo was a form of glorification of smoking and sent a misleading message to impressionable youth, especially teenaged girls and women.

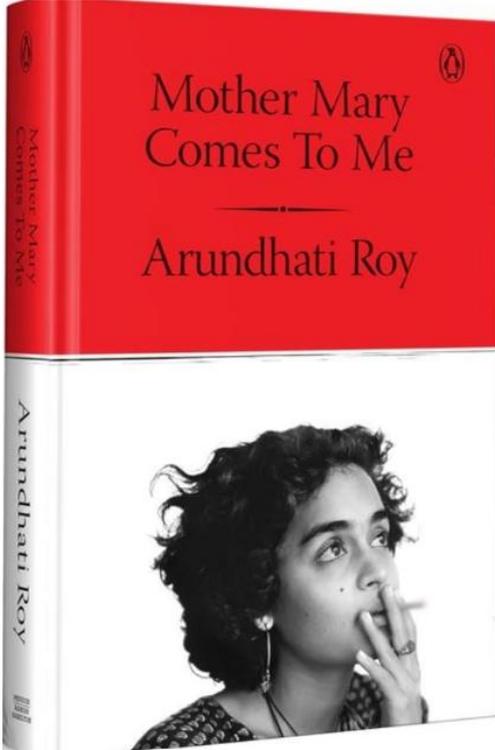
A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Basant Balaji asked whether the petitioner had approached the authority concerned, as specified in the Act, to ascertain whether this amounted to an infringement of the legislation, and to get instructions in this regard. The matter has been posted for hearing on September 25.

## Kerala HC seeks Centre's response to plea for stay on Arundhati Roy's book

केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने अरुंधति राँय की किताब पर रोक की याचिका पर केंद्र से जवाब मांगा



The Kerala High Court has sought the Centre's response to a plea that sought a stay on the sale of Booker prize winner Arundhati Roy's recently released book ***Mother Mary Comes To Me***, whose cover photo shows her smoking a bidi, without any statutory health-hazard warning label.



केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने बुकर्स पुरस्कार विजेता अरुंधति रॉय की हाल ही में प्रकाशित पुस्तक *मदर मैरी कम्स टू मी* की बिक्री पर रोक लगाने की याचिका पर केंद्र से जवाब मांगा है, जिसकी कवर फोटो में उन्हें बीड़ी पीते हुए दिखाया गया है और उस पर कोई वैधानिक स्वास्थ्य-हानि चेतावनी लेबल नहीं है।

- Referring to the cover photo as an act of 'intellectual arrogance,' the petitioner, advocate **Rajasimhan**, submitted that the book violated **Section 5 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2013**.

कवर फोटो को 'बौद्धिक अहंकार' का कार्य बताते हुए याचिकाकर्ता अधिवक्ता राजसिंहन ने कहा कि इस पुस्तक ने सिगरेट और अन्य तंबाकू उत्पाद (विज्ञापन का प्रतिषेध और व्यापार और वाणिज्य, उत्पादन, आपूर्ति और वितरण का विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 5 का उल्लंघन किया है।

- The **Section 5 (1)** of the Act says that no person engaged in, or purported to be engaged in the production, supply or distribution of cigarettes or any other tobacco products, shall advertise, and no person having control over a medium shall cause to be advertised, cigarettes or any other tobacco products through that medium. No person shall take part in any advertisement which directly or indirectly suggests or promotes the use or consumption of cigarettes or any other tobacco product.

अधिनियम की धारा 5 (1) कहती है कि कोई भी व्यक्ति, जो सिगरेट या अन्य तंबाकू उत्पादों के उत्पादन, आपूर्ति या वितरण में संलग्न है या संलग्न होने का दावा करता है, वह उनका विज्ञापन नहीं करेगा, और कोई भी व्यक्ति, जिसके पास किसी माध्यम का नियंत्रण है, उस माध्यम के जरिए सिगरेट या अन्य तंबाकू उत्पादों का विज्ञापन नहीं करेगा। कोई भी व्यक्ति ऐसे किसी विज्ञापन में भाग नहीं लेगा जो सीधे या परोक्ष रूप से सिगरेट या अन्य तंबाकू उत्पादों के उपयोग या उपभोग का सुझाव या प्रचार करता हो।

- The petitioner said the photo was a form of **glorification of smoking** and sent a misleading message to impressionable youth, especially **teenaged girls and women**.

याचिकाकर्ता ने कहा कि यह फोटो धूम्रपान के महिमामंडन का एक रूप था और इसने प्रभावशाली युवाओं, खासकर **किशोरियों और महिलाओं** को एक भ्रामक संदेश भेजा।

- A Division Bench comprising **Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar** and **Justice Basant Balaji** asked whether the petitioner had approached the authority concerned, as specified in the Act, to ascertain whether this amounted to an infringement of the legislation, and to get instructions in this regard.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश नितिन जमदार और न्यायमूर्ति बसंत बालाजी की खंडपीठ ने पूछा कि क्या



याचिकाकर्ता ने अधिनियम में निर्दिष्ट संबंधित प्राधिकरण से संपर्क किया है ताकि यह निर्धारित किया जा सके कि क्या यह कानून का उल्लंघन है, और इस संबंध में निर्देश प्राप्त किए जा सकें।

- The matter has been posted for hearing on **September 25**.  
मामले को सुनवाई के लिए **25 सितंबर** को सूचीबद्ध किया गया है।

#### Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily

**quiz:** 1. This person was the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Nepal. **Ans: Bisweshwar Prasad Koirala**

2. Considered the key founder of the communist movement in Nepal, this person played a major role in the struggles against the autocratic Ranacra in Nepal, which ended in 1951. **Ans: Pushpa Lal Shrestha**

3. The younger brother of the person mentioned in Question 1, this leader played a prominent role in the 1990 Jan Andolan. **Ans: Girija Prasad Koirala**

4. A prominent Communist leader, this person was also actively involved in Jan-Andolan I. **Ans: Madan Bhandari**

5. This former Prime Minister of Nepal is considered one of the key architects of the process of electing a popular Constituent Assembly to rewrite its Constitution and in the transformation of Nepal from a constitutional monarchy into a republic. What is his connection to Jawaharlal Nehru University? **Ans: Baburam Bhattarai.**

**He completed his PhD at JNU**

first democratically elected Prime Minister in 1959.

- **Formation of Government:** On 27 May 1959, he formed the first elected government of Nepal after his party, the Nepali Congress, secured a majority in the general elections.
- **Duration in Office:** He served as Prime Minister from 1959 to 1960.
- **Overthrown:** In December 1960, King Mahendra dismissed the elected government, dissolved the parliament, and imposed the Panchayat system, leading to B.P. Koirala's imprisonment.

## QUIZ

**Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala: Nepal's First Democratically Elected Prime Minister**

### Basic Information

- **Full Name:** Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala
- **Popularly Known As:** B.P. Koirala
- **Date of Birth:** 8 September 1914
- **Date of Death:** 21 July 1982
- **Place of Birth:** Varanasi, India
- **Political Affiliation:** Nepali Congress Party

- **First Democratically Elected Prime Minister:** B.P. Koirala became Nepal's

**Pushpa Lal Shrestha: Founder of the Communist Movement in Nepal**

### Basic Information

- **Full Name:** Pushpa Lal Shrestha
- **Date of Birth:** 12 June 1924
- **Date of Death:** 22 July 1978
- **Place of Birth:** Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Political Affiliation:** Communist Party of Nepal
- **Profession:** Politician, Revolutionary Leader



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- **Founder of Communist Movement in Nepal:** Pushpa Lal Shrestha is widely recognized as the **key founder of the communist movement in Nepal**.
- **Struggle Against Autocracy:** He played a **major role in the struggle against the autocratic Rana regime**, which ended in **1951**, bringing a formal end to the hereditary oligarchic rule in Nepal.

## **Girija Prasad Koirala: Leader of Nepal's Democratic Movement**

### **Basic Information**

- **Full Name:** Girija Prasad Koirala
- **Date of Birth:** 4 July 1925
- **Date of Death:** 20 March 2010
- **Place of Birth:** Saharsa, Bihar (then part of India), family roots in Nepal
- **Political Affiliation:** Nepali Congress Party
- **Relation:** Younger brother of **Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala (BP Koirala)**, the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Nepal
- **Key Figure in 1990 Jana Andolan:** Played a **prominent role in the 1990 People's Movement (Jana Andolan)** that restored multiparty democracy in Nepal.
- **Democratic Advocacy:** Worked to end the **absolute monarchy** and establish constitutional democracy.
- **Prime Minister of Nepal:** Served **four terms as Prime Minister** between 1991 and 2008.

## **Madan Bhandari: Communist Leader and Key Figure in Nepal's Democratic Movement**

### **Basic Information**

- **Full Name:** Madan Kumar Bhandari
- **Date of Birth:** 27 June 1952
- **Date of Death:** 17 May 1993
- **Place of Birth:** Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Political Affiliation:** Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) [CPN-UML]
- **Key Figure in Jan-Andolan I (1990):** Played an **active role in the 1990 People's Movement**, which ended absolute monarchy and restored multiparty democracy in Nepal.

## **Baburam Bhattarai: Former Prime Minister of Nepal and Key Architect of Republican Transition**

### **Basic Information**

- **Full Name:** Baburam Bhattarai
- **Date of Birth:** 18 June 1954
- **Place of Birth:** Gorkha, Nepal
- **Political Affiliation:** Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [UCPN (M)]
- **Education:** Completed **PhD at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi**, specializing in regional development and political economy.
- **Prime Minister of Nepal:** Served as **Prime Minister from August 2011 to March 2013**.

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- **Key Architect of Constituent Assembly:** Played a central role in drafting and organizing the election of Nepal's Constituent Assembly, which was responsible for rewriting the Constitution.

## Connection to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)

- **Academic Background:** Completed PhD at JNU, Delhi, with research focused on development planning and regional inequality.
- **Influence of JNU Education:** Exposure to leftist and socialist ideas at JNU shaped his political ideology, which influenced Nepal's communist movement and democratic reforms.
- **International Recognition:** His JNU background made him well-versed in global political theory, aiding in negotiation and diplomatic engagement during Nepal's transition.

## WASHINGTON

### Trump says designating Antifa 'a major terrorist organisation'



AFP

**PCS**  
U.S. President Donald Trump said he would designate "Antifa" as "a major terrorist organisation," a move he threatened in his first term. The White House did not immediately offer details on how the label could be applied. Critics of the Republican President warn such a move could be used as a pretext to quash dissent. AFP

यह लेबल कैसे लागू किया जा सकता है।

- Critics of the Republican President warn such a move could be used as a pretext to quash dissent.  
गणराज्यवादी राष्ट्रपति के आलोचक चेतावनी देते हैं कि इस कदम का इस्तेमाल असहमति को दबाने के बहाने के रूप में किया जा सकता है।

### Trump says designating Antifa 'a major terrorist organisation'

ट्रम्प ने कहा कि Antifa को 'एक प्रमुख आतंकवादी संगठन' के रूप में नामित किया जाएगा

U.S. President Donald Trump said he would designate "Antifa" as "a major terrorist organisation", a move he threatened in his first term.

अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति Donald Trump ने कहा कि वह "Antifa" को "एक प्रमुख आतंकवादी संगठन" के रूप में नामित करेंगे, यह कदम उन्होंने अपने पहले कार्यकाल में भी धमकी के तौर पर दिया था।

- The White House did not immediately offer details on how the label could be applied.

व्हाइट हाउस ने तुरंत यह विवरण नहीं दिया कि



## Ukraine hits Russian oil refinery deep behind front

### यूक्रेन ने मोर्चे के पीछे रूसी तेल रिफाइनरी पर हमला किया

Ukrainian drones on Thursday hit a major Russian oil refinery some 1,400 km from the front line, triggering a fire, officials from both countries said.

गुरुवार को यूक्रेनी ड्रोन ने मोर्चे की 1,400 किमी दूर एक बड़ी रूसी तेल रिफाइनरी पर हमला किया, जिससे आग लगी, दोनों देशों के अधिकारियों ने कहा।

- The strike is the latest in a wave of drone attacks on Russia's energy infrastructure as Kyiv seeks to knock out Russia's vital energy revenues that fund its army.  
यह हमला रूस के ऊर्जा बुनियादी ढांचे पर ड्रोन हमलों की लहर में नवीनतम है, क्योंकि कीव रूस की महत्वपूर्ण ऊर्जा आय को बाधित करने का प्रयास कर रहा है जो उसकी सेना को वित्त पोषित करती है।
- A source in Ukraine's SBU security agency said its drones had hit "the heart" of a refinery in the central **Bashkortostan region run by state-controlled energy giant Gazprom.**  
यूक्रेन की **SBU सुरक्षा एजेंसी** के एक स्रोत ने कहा कि उसके ड्रोन ने केंद्रीय **Bashkortostan** क्षेत्र में एक रिफाइनरी के "हृदय" को निशाना बनाया, जिसे राज्य-नियंत्रित ऊर्जा दिग्गज **Gazprom** द्वारा चलाया जाता है।
- Unverified images on Russian social media showed a fire at the facility and a plume of dark smoke rising above it.  
रूसी सोशल मीडिया पर अप्रमाणित छवियों ने सुविधा में आग और उसके ऊपर उठते हुए गहरे धुएं का स्तंभ दिखाया।
- Russia typically does not confirm Ukrainian strikes, but **Radyi Khabirov**, the Russian head of the region, said on Thursday the refinery had been hit.  
रूस आमतौर पर यूक्रेनी हमलों की पुष्टि नहीं करता, लेकिन क्षेत्र के रूसी प्रमुख **Radyi Khabirov** ने गुरुवार को कहा कि रिफाइनरी पर हमला हुआ था।
- Strikes over the summer months have knocked out a notable portion of Russia's refining capacity.  
गर्मियों के महीनों में हुए हमलों ने रूस की रिफाइनिंग क्षमता का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा नष्ट कर दिया है।



## GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography

TOPICS COVERED 19 September 2025

1. Congress files complaint on 'communal' BJP video; says bid to breach peace, BTC poll code violation  
कांग्रेस ने 'सांप्रदायिक' बीजेपी वीडियो पर शिकायत दर्ज की; कहा शांति भंग करने और बीटीसी आचार संहिता उल्लंघन का प्रयास
2. Anglo-Teck merger may unlock Chile mine synergy  
एंग्लो-टेक विलय से चिली खान में सहकारी लाभ संभव

# Congress files complaint on 'communal' BJP video; says bid to breach peace, BTC poll code violation

GS I: Regionalism

Rahul Karmakar  
GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of the Congress on Thursday filed a first information report (FIR) with the Dispur police station in Guwahati against the State Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) IT Cell for "criminal conspiracy, abetment, promoting enmity between religious groups, and violation of model code of conduct for the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) election".

The complaint, signed by Congress spokesperson Bedabrata Bora, said the State BJP had posted the communally sensitive video on its handle on social media platform X on September 15 to depict a hypothetical scenario of Assam under non-BJP rule.

"The video titled 'Assam without BJP' portrays an overwhelmingly Muslim-dominated Assam, with visuals of legalised beef sales in public spaces,



People with links to smuggling of cattle, coal, drugs will not dictate to the Assamese mind: State Cong. chief Gaurav Gogoi. FILE PHOTO

renamed landmarks adorned with Islamic motifs, exaggerated statistics claiming a 90% Muslim population, and Muslim common intention to polarise communities for electoral advantage," the FIR read.

### 'Book State BJP chief'

Pointing out that the video violated six sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Congress party underlined the "urgent need" to

register an FIR against BJP State president Dilip Saikia and others.

"This is not an isolated incident but follows a similar video posted by the same social media handle on September 12.... and the dissemination of such content is particularly dangerous in the current context of Assam's fragile communal fabric", the complainant alleged.

The party sought urgent measures to prevent

communal violence in the Bodoland Territorial Region, where elections to the BTC will be held on September 22.

Earlier, State Congress president Gaurav Gogoi said the words, actions, and images produced by the BJP's IT Cell through a malicious video did not have the strength to scratch the surface of Assamese society.

"Assam has been nurtured by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva, Azan Pir, Swargadeo Siukapha, Lachit Borphukan, and Bhupen Hazarika. People with links to smuggling of cattle, coal, betel leaves, drugs will not dictate to the Assamese mind," Mr. Gogoi posted on X.

"The proud and great State of Assam deserves politicians who help the people of Assam reach new heights. We want to build a society of pilots, engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, bankers, and

business owners," he said.

"We want to see a *bor* (greater) Assam, where hard work trumps hate, decency matters over hubris, democracy crushes autocracy, and everyone is treated with respect," Mr. Gogoi wrote.

### BJP defends video

State Information Minister Pijush Hazarika said the video clearly spoke about the threat of illegal immigrants who were changing Assam's demography, "but instantly these 'champions of secularism' screamed Islamophobia", Mr. Hazarika said.

"Now tell me – why the *mirchi* if the issue is about illegals? And here's the real kicker – if, in their logic, talking about illegal immigrants = Islamophobia, then aren't they themselves suggesting that all Muslims are illegal immigrants? Who's the real Islamophobe here? Them or us?" he added.

**Congress files complaint on 'communal' BJP video; says bid to breach peace, BTC poll code violation**

कांग्रेस ने 'सांप्रदायिक' बीजेपी वीडियो पर शिकायत दर्ज की; कहा शांति भंग करने और बीटीसी आचार संहिता उल्लंघन का प्रयास



The Assam unit of the Congress on Thursday filed a first information report (FIR) with the Dispur police station in Guwahati against the State Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) IT Cell for "criminal conspiracy, abetment, promoting enmity between religious groups, and violation of model code of conduct for the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) election".

असम कांग्रेस इकाई ने गुरुवार को गुवाहाटी के दिसपुर थाने में राज्य भारतीय जनता पार्टी (बीजेपी) की आईटी सेल के खिलाफ "आपराधिक साजिश, उकसावे, धार्मिक समूहों के बीच वैमनस्य बढ़ाने और बोडोलैंड टेरिटोरियल काउंसिल (बीटीसी) चुनाव की आदर्श आचार संहिता के उल्लंघन" का आरोप लगाते हुए पहली सूचना रिपोर्ट (एफआईआर) दर्ज कराई।

- The complaint, signed by Congress spokesperson **Bedabrata Bora**, said the State BJP had posted the communally sensitive video on its handle on social media platform **X** on **September 15** to depict a hypothetical scenario of Assam under non-BJP rule.

कांग्रेस प्रवक्ता **बेदब्रत बोरा** द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित शिकायत में कहा गया कि राज्य बीजेपी ने **15 सितंबर** को सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म **X** पर अपने हैंडल पर सांप्रदायिक रूप से संवेदनशील वीडियो पोस्ट किया था ताकि असम को गैर-बीजेपी शासन के तहत एक काल्पनिक परिदृश्य के रूप में दिखाया जा सके।

- "The video titled '**Assam without BJP**' portrays an overwhelmingly Muslim-dominated Assam, with visuals of legalised beef sales in public spaces, renamed landmarks adorned with Islamic motifs, exaggerated statistics claiming a **90% Muslim population**, and Muslim common intention to polarise communities for electoral advantage," the FIR read.

एफआईआर में कहा गया, "बीजेपी रहित असम" शीर्षक वाला वीडियो एक भारी मुस्लिम-बहुल असम को दर्शाता है, जिसमें सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर वैध मांस (बीफ) की बिक्री, इस्लामी प्रतीकों से सजाए गए बदले हुए स्थलों, **90% मुस्लिम जनसंख्या** का दावा करने वाले बढ़ा-चढ़ा आंकड़े, और चुनावी लाभ के लिए समुदायों को धुवीकृत करने का मुस्लिम सामान्य इरादा दिखाया गया है।"

### 'Book State BJP chief'

'राज्य बीजेपी प्रमुख पर मामला दर्ज करो'

- Pointing out that the video violated **six sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**, the Congress party underlined the "urgent need" to register an FIR against BJP State president **Dilip Saikia** and others.

कांग्रेस पार्टी ने यह इंगित करते हुए कि वीडियो ने **भारतीय न्याय संहिता की छह धाराओं** का उल्लंघन किया है, बीजेपी राज्य अध्यक्ष **दिलिप सैकिया** और अन्य के खिलाफ तत्काल एफआईआर दर्ज करने की "जरूरत" पर जोर दिया।

- "This is not an isolated incident but follows a similar video posted by the same social media handle on **September 12**.... and the dissemination of such content is particularly dangerous in the current context of Assam's fragile communal fabric", the complainant alleged.

शिकायतकर्ता ने आरोप लगाया, "यह कोई अलग-थलग घटना नहीं है बल्कि उसी सोशल मीडिया हैंडल द्वारा **12 सितंबर** को पोस्ट किए गए एक समान वीडियो का अनुसरण करती है.... और ऐसी सामग्री का प्रसार असम की नाजुक सांप्रदायिक संरचना की वर्तमान स्थिति में विशेष रूप से खतरनाक है।"



- The party sought urgent measures to prevent communal violence in the Bodoland Territorial Region, where elections to the **BTC will be held on September 22**.  
पार्टी ने बोडोलैंड टेरिटोरियल रीजन में सांप्रदायिक हिंसा को रोकने के लिए तत्काल उपायों की मांग की, जहां **22 सितंबर** को बीटीसी के चुनाव होंगे।
- Earlier, State Congress president **Gaurav Gogoi** said the words, actions, and images produced by the BJP's IT Cell through a malicious video did not have the strength to scratch the surface of Assamese society.  
इससे पहले, राज्य कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष **गौरव गोगोई** ने कहा कि बीजेपी की आईटी सेल द्वारा एक दुर्भावनापूर्ण वीडियो के माध्यम से तैयार किए गए शब्द, कार्य और चित्र असमिया समाज की सतह को भी खरोंचने की ताकत नहीं रखते।
- "Assam has been nurtured by **Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva, Azan Pir, Swargadeo Siukapha, Lachit Borphukan, and Bhupen Hazarika**. People with links to smuggling of cattle, coal, betel leaves, drugs will not dictate to the Assamese mind," Mr. Gogoi posted on X.  
गोगोई ने X पर पोस्ट किया, "असम का पोषण **महापुरुष श्रीमंत शंकरदेव, आजन पीर, स्वर्गदेव सियुकाफा, लचित बोर्फुकन और भूपेन हजारिका** ने किया है। मवेशियों, कोयले, पान के पत्तों, नशीले पदार्थों की तस्करी से जुड़े लोग असमिया मन पर हुकूमत नहीं करेंगे।"
- "The proud and great State of Assam deserves politicians who help the people of Assam reach new heights. We want to build a society of pilots, engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, bankers, and business owners," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, "असम का गौरवशाली और महान राज्य ऐसे राजनेताओं का हकदार है जो असम के लोगों को नई ऊँचाइयों तक पहुँचने में मदद करें। हम पायलटों, इंजीनियरों, डॉक्टरों, उद्यमियों, बैंकरों और व्यवसाय मालिकों का समाज बनाना चाहते हैं।"
- "We want to see a **bor (greater) Assam**, where hard work trumps hate, decency matters over hubris, democracy crushes autocracy, and everyone is treated with respect," Mr. Gogoi wrote.  
गोगोई ने लिखा, "हम एक '**बोर (महान) असम**' देखना चाहते हैं, जहाँ मेहनत नफरत को मात दे, शिष्टाचार अहंकार से ऊपर हो, लोकतंत्र अधिनायकवाद को कुचल दे, और हर किसी के साथ सम्मान से व्यवहार हो।"

### BJP defends video

#### बीजेपी ने वीडियो का बचाव किया

- State Information Minister **Pijush Hazarika** said the video clearly spoke about the threat of **illegal immigrants** who were changing Assam's demography, "but instantly these 'champions of secularism' screamed Islamophobia", Mr. Hazarika said.  
राज्य सूचना मंत्री **पियूष हजारिका** ने कहा कि वीडियो ने स्पष्ट रूप से **अवैध प्रवासियों** के खतरे के बारे में बात की थी जो असम की जनसांख्यिकी बदल रहे थे, "लेकिन तुरंत ही इन 'धर्मनिरपेक्षता के चैंपियनों' ने इस्लामोफोबिया चिल्लाया।"
- "Now tell me — why the mirchi if the issue is about illegals? And here's the real kicker — if, in their logic, talking about illegal immigrants = Islamophobia, then aren't they themselves suggesting that all Muslims are illegal immigrants? Who's the real Islamophobe here? Them or us?" he added.  
उन्होंने आगे कहा, "अब बताइए — अगर मुद्दा अवैध प्रवासियों का है तो मिर्ची क्यों? और यहाँ असली बात यह है — अगर उनकी तर्कशक्ति के अनुसार अवैध प्रवासियों के बारे में बात करना =



इस्लामोफोबिया है, तो क्या वे खुद यह सुझाव नहीं दे रहे कि सभी मुसलमान अवैध प्रवासी हैं? यहाँ असली इस्लामोफोब कौन है? वे या हम?"

## Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)



- The **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** is the **autonomous governing body** of the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)** in Assam, established under the **Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**.
- It emerged through a peace process aimed at addressing Bodo aspirations for greater autonomy.
- The region spans approximately **8,970 km<sup>2</sup>**, encompassing four districts.
- **Official languages** include **Bodo, Assamese, and English**.

## Historical Background

- The roots of autonomy trace back to **1993**, when the **first Bodo Accord** resulted in the formation of the **Bodoland Autonomous Council**.
- The **2003 Peace Accord** upgraded this to the **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)**, granting enhanced powers.
- The **2020 Bodo Peace Accord** further transformed the area into the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**, increasing BTC's legislative, executive, and administrative powers and setting the stage for territorial realignment to consolidate Bodo-majority areas.

## Geography & Demographics

### Region Profile

- BTR lies in northwest Assam. Its administrative headquarters is **Kokrajhar**.
- The BTC covers about **11% of Assam's land area** and houses nearly **10% of its population**.
- Based on 2025 data, the region has around **31.55 lakh residents**, with a literacy rate of **71.62%**.
- Total villages are approximately **3,079**, including **2,890 revenue villages**, **2,272 tribal belt & block villages**, **618 outside tribal blocks**, and **189 forest villages**.

## BTC Structure & Governance

### Composition

- The legislative body comprises **40 elected members** and **6 nominated members** appointed by the Assam Governor from unrepresented communities, totaling **46 seats**.
- **Leadership** includes:
  - **Chief Executive Member (CEM)** – currently **Pramod Boro**, heading the executive council.
  - **Speaker** – presides over legislative sessions.



- Terms last **five years**, with the **next election expected in 2025**.

## E

- From **2005 to 2020**, **Hagrama Mohilary**, former leader of the Bodo Liberation Tigers Force, served as the CEM, guiding the region through a significant phase of stability and development.

## Powers & Competencies

### Authority Powers

- Under the Sixth Schedule and the 2003 and 2020 accords, the BTC has comprehensive **legislative and executive powers** over a wide array of subjects such as:
  - **Forestry, agriculture, education, health, land revenue, public works, tourism, tribal welfare, urban planning**, and more.

### Financial Control

- The council can **levy taxes, fees, and tolls** on land, buildings, vehicles, goods transit, employment, sanitation, and more funding its infrastructure and developmental activities.

### Example of Influence

- The BTC administers local markets, handlooms, fisheries, renewable energy programs, AYUSH health services, cultural affairs, and disaster management—underscoring its broad autonomy.

## Recent Political & Administrative Developments

### Elections & Population

- **Draft electoral rolls** for the upcoming 2025 council elections were released in **July 2025**, showing **26.69 lakh voters**, up by 3 lakh due to natural growth and inclusion of **81 new villages**.



# Anglo-Teck merger may unlock Chile mine synergy

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**GS 1: Distribution of resources Across the world;**

Reuters

SANTIAGO

The proposed Anglo American-Teck merger has revived long-standing ambitions to share infrastructure at two major mines in northern Chile, but analysts say the plan could face hurdles to gain buy-in from Swiss miner and trader Glencore.

Glencore is an equal partner with London-listed Anglo at Collahuasi, one of the world's largest copper deposits that sits about 10 kilometre from Canadian miner Teck's flagship Quebrada Blanca mine.

Investors see combining operations at the two sites as a lynchpin to the Anglo-Teck merger, one of the



**Huge savings:** Anglo and Teck said "synergies" from Quebrada Blanca and Collahuasi would save \$800 million a year. REUTERS

biggest deals in mining history that would catapult two medium-sized mining firms into the top tier of global copper producers just ahead of an expected boom in demand.

Yet the companies will face questions about how such a fusion would work in practice, because of is-

suues critical to Glencore such as valuation, supply agreements, profit sharing and governance structure, as well as how to manage mining waste problems at Quebrada Blanca and find cost savings from two separate sets of infrastructure.

"The potential for synergies is tremendous, but

they're not easy at all. They're different operating styles, different management approaches – they're different beasts," said Jorge Cantalupo, head of Chile's Center for Copper and Mining Studies (CESCO).

**Hinges on valuations**  
Glencore's support for a tie-up between the two Chilean mines hinges on the valuation of Quebrada Blanca, a source familiar with the matter said. The Keevil family, which controls Teck's class A shares, backed the merger, believing Teck lacked the resources to invest further in the costlier-than-expected project, the source added.

The Keevil family did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Teck, when consulted by Reuters, said it is working

on operational issues at Quebrada Blanca.

Quebrada Blanca has had cost overruns and serious problems with mining waste at its expansion project launched in 2023 known as QB2, forcing it to lower production guidance and defer decisions on growth plans. Some analysts cautioned output could suffer into 2026.

Glencore declined to comment. Collahuasi, which operates as an independent unit, said it would not comment because the merger announcement came from one of its shareholders. Anglo and Teck plan to construct a conveyor belt between the two mines to feed Collahuasi's high-quality ore for processing at Quebrada Blanca, but have not detailed if they would merge the

mines into an independent business unit. Anglo CEO Duncan Wanblad pointed out Glencore has previously called for sharing operations between Quebrada Blanca and Collahuasi.

"Glencore has been for a long time very interested in getting the adjacency benefits out of Quebrada Blanca," he told journalists last week, adding that the company had not yet discussed the merger with Glencore but he expected the plan would appeal to all shareholders.

Anglo and Teck said "synergies" from Quebrada Blanca and Collahuasi would save \$800 million a year and boost annual output by 1,75,000 metric tonne. Glencore and Anglo each own 44% of Collahuasi, alongside a consortium led by Japan's Mitsui.

## Anglo-Teck merger may unlock Chile mine synergy

### एंग्लो-टेक विलय से चिली खान में सहकारी लाभ संभव

The proposed Anglo American-Teck merger has revived long-standing ambitions to share infrastructure at two major mines in northern Chile, but analysts say the plan could face hurdles to gain buy-in from Swiss miner and trader Glencore.

प्रस्तावित एंग्लो अमेरिकन-टेक विलय ने उत्तरी चिली में दो प्रमुख खानों में अवसंरचना साझा करने की पुरानी महत्वाकांक्षाओं को फिर से जीवित किया है, लेकिन विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि इस योजना को स्विस खनिक और व्यापारी Glencore से सहमति प्राप्त करने में बाधाएँ आ सकती हैं।

- Glencore is an equal partner with London-listed Anglo at Collahuasi, one of the world's largest copper deposits that sits about 10 kilometre from Canadian miner Teck's flagship Quebrada Blanca mine.

Glencore लंदन-सूचीबद्ध Anglo के साथ Collahuasi में समान साझेदार है, जो दुनिया के सबसे बड़े तांबे के भंडारों में से एक है और कनाडाई खनिक Teck के प्रमुख Quebrada Blanca mine से लगभग 10 किलोमीटर दूर स्थित है।

- Investors see combining operations at the two sites as a lynchpin to the Anglo-Teck merger, one of the biggest deals in mining history that would catapult two medium-sized mining firms into the top tier of global copper producers just ahead of an expected boom in demand.

निवेशक इन दोनों साइटों पर संचालन को मिलाना एंग्लो-टेक विलय का मुख्य आधार मानते हैं, जो खनन इतिहास के सबसे बड़े सौदों में से एक है और दो मध्यम आकार की खनन कंपनियों को मांग में संभावित उछाल से पहले वैश्विक तांबे के उत्पादकों के शीर्ष स्तर में पहुंचाएगा।

- Yet the companies will face questions about how such a fusion would work in practice, because of issues critical to Glencore such as valuation, supply agreements, profit sharing and governance structure, as well as how to manage mining waste problems at Quebrada Blanca and find cost savings from two separate sets of infrastructure.

फिर भी कंपनियों को यह प्रश्न सामना करना होगा कि ऐसा विलय व्यवहार में कैसे काम करेगा,



क्योंकि Glencore के लिए महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे जैसे मूल्यांकन, आपूर्ति समझौते, लाभ साझाकरण और शासन संरचना, और Quebrada Blanca में खनन अपशिष्ट समस्याओं का प्रबंधन और दो अलग-अलग अवसरचनाओं से लागत बचत कैसे की जाए।

- “The potential for synergies is tremendous, but they’re not easy at all. They’re different operating styles, different management approaches — they’re different beasts,” said Jorge Cantallopis, head of Chile’s Center for Copper and Mining Studies (CESCO).

“सहकारी लाभ की संभावना बहुत बड़ी है, लेकिन यह बिल्कुल आसान नहीं है। इनके संचालन शैली, प्रबंधन दृष्टिकोण अलग हैं — ये अलग-अलग चुनौतीपूर्ण हैं,” चिली के तांबा और खनन अध्ययन केंद्र (CESCO) के प्रमुख Jorge Cantallopis ने कहा।

## Hinges on valuations

मूल्यांकन पर निर्भर

- Glencore’s support for a tie-up between the two Chilean mines hinges on the **valuation of Quebrada Blanca**, a source familiar with the matter said.  
दो चिली खानों के बीच सहयोग के लिए Glencore का समर्थन **Quebrada Blanca के मूल्यांकन** पर निर्भर है, एक जानकार स्रोत ने कहा।
- The **Keevil family**, which controls **Teck’s class A shares**, backed the merger, believing Teck lacked the resources to invest further in the **costlier-than-expected project**, the source added.  
**Keevil परिवार**, जो **Teck के क्लास A शेयरों** को नियंत्रित करता है, ने विलय का समर्थन किया, यह मानते हुए कि Teck के पास **अपेक्षा से अधिक महंगे प्रोजेक्ट** में आगे निवेश करने के लिए संसाधन नहीं हैं, स्रोत ने जोड़ा।
- The Keevil family did not immediately respond to a request for comment.  
Keevil परिवार ने टिप्पणी के अनुरोध का तुरंत जवाब नहीं दिया।
- Teck, when consulted by Reuters, said it is working on **operational issues at Quebrada Blanca**.  
Teck ने Reuters से पूछे जाने पर कहा कि वह **Quebrada Blanca में परिचालन मुद्दों** पर काम कर रहा है।
- Quebrada Blanca has had **cost overruns** and serious problems with **mining waste** at its expansion project launched in **2023** known as **QB2**, forcing it to lower production guidance and defer decisions on growth plans.  
Quebrada Blanca में **लागत अधिभार** और **खनन अपशिष्ट** में गंभीर समस्याएँ रही हैं, इसके विस्तार प्रोजेक्ट **2023** में लॉन्च किए गए **QB2** के तहत, जिससे उत्पादन मार्गदर्शन कम करना और विकास योजनाओं पर निर्णय स्थगित करना पड़ा।
- Some analysts cautioned output could suffer into **2026**.  
कुछ विश्लेषकों ने चेतावनी दी कि उत्पादन **2026** तक प्रभावित हो सकता है।
- Glencore declined to comment. Collahuasi, which operates as an independent unit, said it would not comment because the **merger announcement** came from one of its shareholders.  
Glencore ने टिप्पणी करने से इनकार किया। Collahuasi, जो स्वतंत्र इकाई के रूप में संचालित होता है, ने कहा कि वह टिप्पणी नहीं करेगा क्योंकि **विलय घोषणा** इसके किसी शेयरधारक से आई थी।



- Anglo and Teck plan to construct a **conveyor belt** between the two mines to feed Collahuasi's **high-quality ore** for processing at Quebrada Blanca, but have not detailed if they would merge the mines into an independent business unit.  
Anglo और Teck दो खानों के बीच **कन्वेयर बेल्ट** बनाने की योजना बना रहे हैं ताकि Collahuasi का **उच्च गुणवत्ता वाला अयस्क** Quebrada Blanca में प्रसंस्करण के लिए भेजा जा सके, लेकिन उन्होंने यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया कि क्या वे खानों को एक स्वतंत्र व्यापार इकाई में विलय करेंगे।
- Anglo CEO Duncan Wanblad pointed out Glencore has previously called for sharing operations between **Quebrada Blanca and Collahuasi**.  
Anglo के CEO Duncan Wanblad ने कहा कि Glencore ने पहले **Quebrada Blanca और Collahuasi** के बीच संचालन साझा करने का अनुरोध किया था।
- "Glencore has been for a long time very interested in getting the adjacency benefits out of Quebrada Blanca," he told journalists last week, adding that the company had not yet discussed the merger with Glencore but he expected the plan would appeal to all shareholders.  
"Glencore लंबे समय से **Quebrada Blanca** से निकटता लाभ प्राप्त करने में बहुत रुचि रखता है," उन्होंने पिछले सप्ताह पत्रकारों से कहा, यह जोड़ते हुए कि कंपनी ने अभी तक Glencore के साथ विलय पर चर्चा नहीं की है, लेकिन उन्हें उम्मीद है कि योजना सभी शेयरधारकों को आकर्षित करेगी।
- Anglo and Teck said "**synergies**" from Quebrada Blanca and Collahuasi would save **\$800 million a year** and boost annual output by **1,75,000 metric tonne**.  
Anglo और Teck ने कहा कि Quebrada Blanca और Collahuasi से "**सहकारी लाभ**" हर साल **\$800 मिलियन की बचत** और **1,75,000 मीट्रिक टन** वार्षिक उत्पादन बढ़ाएगा।
- Glencore and Anglo each own **44% of Collahuasi**, alongside a consortium led by **Japan's Mitsui**.  
Glencore और Anglo प्रत्येक के पास Collahuasi का **44% हिस्सा** है, साथ ही **जापान की Mitsui** के नेतृत्व वाले एक कंसोर्टियम के साथ।

## Copper — Top 5 Producing Countries (2024)

Rank	Country	Output (≈ million tonnes)	Notes
1	Chile	~ 5.3 million tonnes	Remains the world's largest copper producer (~23% of global production).
2	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	~ 3.3 million tonnes	Rapid increase.
3	Peru	~ 2.6 million tonnes	Production has fluctuated but remains third.
4	China	~ 1.8 million tonnes	Also top in refined copper production.
5	United States	~ 1.1 million tonnes	Closely trailed by Indonesia for some ranks.



## Cobalt — Top Producers (2023–2024)

Rank	Country	Output / Share	Notes
1	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Over 70% of global cobalt production	Dominant supplier; cobalt often produced as byproduct of copper/nickel mining.
2	Australia	Significant second place output	Strong cobalt mining projects.
3	Indonesia	Third largest producer	Rapid growth in recent years.
4	Philippines	Smaller, variable output	Not always consistent in rank.
5	Cuba or Russia	Among the next largest producers	Output varies yearly with investment and geopolitical constraints.

## GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations

### TOPICS COVERED

19 September 2025

#### 1. CEC shielding democracy wreckers: Rahul

CEC लोकतंत्र को बर्बाद करने वालों को बचा रहे हैं: राहुल

#### 2. Saudi-Pak Defence Pact

सऊदी-पाक रक्षा समझौता

#### 3. India studying defence pact between Saudi, Pak.; vows to guard its interests

भारत सऊदी और पाकिस्तान के बीच रक्षा समझौते का अध्ययन कर रहा है; अपने हितों की रक्षा करने की प्रतिज्ञा की

#### 4. Modi-Xi meet repaired India-China relations, but its importance should not be overstated: experts

मोदी-शी मुलाकात ने भारत-चीन संबंधों को सुधारा, लेकिन इसके महत्व को अधिक नहीं आंकना चाहिए: विशेषज्ञ

#### 5. NCST forms panel to look into duties given in 2005

एनसीएसटी ने 2005 में दी गई जिम्मेदारियों की जांच के लिए पैनल बनाया

#### 6. U.S. to revoke waiver on Chabahar port sanctions

अमेरिका चाबहार बंदरगाह पर प्रतिबंध की छूट वापस लेगा



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



## 7. Equalising primary food consumption in India

भारत में प्राथमिक खाद्य उपभोग को समान करना

## 8. Should India overlook boundary issues while normalising ties with China?

क्या भारत को चीन के साथ संबंध सामान्य करते समय सीमा संबंधी मुद्दों (boundary issues) को नजरअंदाज करना चाहिए?

## 9. Why did India condemn Doha strike?

भारत ने दोहा हमले (Doha strike) की निंदा क्यों की?

## 10. Qatar meets ICC head as it mulls action against Israel

कतर ने ICC प्रमुख से मुलाकात की क्योंकि वह इज़राइल के खिलाफ कार्रवाई पर विचार कर रहा है

PATRIOTICIAS



# CEC shielding democracy wreckers: Rahul

Congress leader cites bid to delete voters in Karnataka; seeks IPs of online applications

He says that had the alleged 'vote theft' not been detected, the Congress would have lost the seat

He clarifies that this was not the 'hydrogen bomb' he had spoken of, promises to release it soon

**GS II: Elections**

**Sandeep Phukan**  
NEW DELHI

Mounting a scathing attack on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday accused him of "protecting" those "destroying" Indian democracy by refusing to share technical details of persons behind an attempt to delete names of voters from the electoral rolls of an Assembly seat in Karnataka.

The Election Commission of India (EC) rejected his allegations as "incorrect and baseless".

Mr. Gandhi said that 6,018 names were sought to be deleted in the Aland constituency using centralised software and mobile phones registered outside Karnataka. In the past 18 months, the State's Criminal Investigation Department has written 18 letters



**Serious charges:** Rahul Gandhi addressing the media at Indira Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday. R.V. MOORTHY

to the EC for details of the IP addresses used to fill online applications for the deletions, but the EC has not responded, he said.

The EC must stop protecting "vote chors (thieves)" and provide information sought by the Karnataka CID within a week, he said, adding that if the EC does not oblige, it will be known for being "complicit in the murder of the Constitution".

"I am going to make a serious claim about Gyanesh Kumar. I am not saying this lightly, I am the Leader of Opposition. The CEC is protecting vote chors and the people who have destroyed Indian democracy," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Our demand is, Gyanesh Kumar, do your job, you have taken an oath, you are India's Chief Election Commissioner, you must give evidence to the

## All data handed over to police: Karnataka CEO

**NEW DELHI**  
Responding to Rahul Gandhi's allegation that the EC was not sharing key data for probe into the alleged vote fraud in Aland constituency, Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer has claimed that his office handed over all available data to the police on September 6, 2023. » PAGE 5

Karnataka CID."

In a subsequent post on X, he said the CEC should stop giving "excuses" and added had the alleged "vote theft" not been caught, the Congress candidate would have lost the Assembly seat.

Recently, *The Hindu* had reported on the Karnataka CID's probe into a systematic attempt to remove names of 5,994 voters from electoral rolls by forging

## Cong. leader lacks faith in Indian democracy: BJP

**NEW DELHI**  
The BJP too has termed Rahul Gandhi's charges as baseless. BJP leader Anurag Thakur on Thursday said the repeated accusations of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha against the EC showed his lack of faith in Indian democracy. » PAGE 5

Form 7 in the Aland constituency of Kalaburagi district ahead of the 2023 Assembly election.

Before making a detailed presentation on the Aland seat, Mr. Gandhi clarified that these revelations were not the "hydrogen bomb" that he had talked about earlier and promised that too will come soon. "I am just creating the foundation. This is going on for 10-15

years. India's democracy has been hijacked. Democracy can only be saved by the people of India. Rahul Gandhi can show the truth. The day the people realise that their democracy and Constitution have been stolen, the job will be done," he said.

Elaborating on the attempted voter deletions in Aland, the Congress leader alleged that the top 10 booths with maximum deletion applications were Congress strongholds.

Citing examples, he said, in one case, someone had used the name of a 63-year-old woman Godabai to apply for 12 deletions and then played out a video in which she denied having anything to do with such an application.

Mr. Gandhi called on stage a voter, Suryakant, whose identity was used to apply for 12 deletions in 14 minutes, but the Karnataka resident said he had no knowledge of it.

The Congress leader gave the example of Maharashtra's Rajura constituency where he claimed 6,850 voters were added in a fraudulent manner using automated software.

"We are pretty sure that this is being done using a software at a call centre," he said, adding, "Same system is doing this. It is doing it in Karnataka, Maharashtra, it has done it Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and we have proof of it".

The poll panel is not giving the details because it will lead to where this operation is being conducted, Mr. Gandhi said. "EC knows who is doing this. I want every youngster in India to know this. They are doing this to your future. When they are not giving this information, they are defending the murderers of democracy," he said.

He said it will take two-three months for the research and presentations on alleged "vote chori".

## CEC shielding democracy wreckers: Rahul

## CEC लोकतंत्र को बर्बाद करने वालों को बचा रहे हैं: राहुल

Congress leader cites bid to delete voters in Karnataka; seeks IPs of online applications

कांग्रेस नेता ने कर्नाटक में मतदाताओं को हटाने की कोशिश का हवाला दिया; ऑनलाइन आवेदनों के IP मांगे

- He says that had the alleged 'vote theft' not been detected, the Congress would have lost the seat

उन्होंने कहा कि अगर कथित 'वोट चोरी' पकड़ी नहीं जाती, तो कांग्रेस वह सीट हार जाती

- He clarifies that this was not the 'hydrogen bomb' he had spoken of, promises to release it soon

उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि यह वह 'हाइड्रोजन बम' नहीं है जिसका उन्होंने जिक्र किया था, और इसे जल्द जारी करने का वादा किया

- Mounting a scathing attack on **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, Leader of Opposition **Rahul Gandhi** accused him of "protecting" those "destroying" Indian democracy by refusing to share technical details of persons behind an attempt to delete names of voters from the electoral rolls of an Assembly seat in Karnataka

विपक्ष के नेता **राहुल गांधी** ने **CEC जनेश कुमार** पर तीखा हमला करते हुए आरोप लगाया कि वे कर्नाटक की विधानसभा सीट की मतदाता सूची से नाम हटाने की कोशिश के पीछे लोगों के तकनीकी विवरण साझा न करके भारतीय लोकतंत्र को "बर्बाद" करने वालों को "बचा" रहे हैं

- **Election Commission (EC)** rejected his allegations as "incorrect and baseless"

**निर्वाचन आयोग (EC)** ने उनके आरोपों को "गलत और आधारहीन" बताया

- **6,018 names** were sought to be deleted in **Aland constituency** using centralised software and mobile phones registered outside Karnataka



आलंद निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में 6,018 नाम हटाने की कोशिश की गई, जिसमें केंद्रीयकृत सॉफ्टवेयर और कर्नाटक से बाहर पंजीकृत मोबाइल फोन का उपयोग हुआ

- In the past **18 months**, CID has written **18 letters** to the EC for details of the **IP addresses**, but the EC has not responded  
पिछले **18 महीनों** में CID ने IP पत्तों की जानकारी हेतु EC को **18 पत्र** लिखे, लेकिन EC ने जवाब नहीं दिया
- EC must stop protecting “**vote chors (thieves)**” and provide info to Karnataka CID within **a week**, else it will be known for being “**complicit in the murder of the Constitution**”  
EC को “**वोट चोरों**” की रक्षा बंद करनी चाहिए और **एक हफ्ते** में कर्नाटक CID को जानकारी देनी चाहिए, अन्यथा यह “**संविधान की हत्या में सहभागी**” कहलाएगा
- Rahul Gandhi: “I am going to make a serious claim about **Gyanesh Kumar**. I am not saying this lightly, I am the Leader of Opposition. The CEC is protecting **vote chors** and those who have destroyed Indian democracy.”  
राहुल गांधी: “मैं **जनेश कुमार** के बारे में एक गंभीर दावा करने जा रहा हूँ। मैं यह हल्के में नहीं कह रहा हूँ, मैं विपक्ष का नेता हूँ। CEC **वोट चोरों** और भारतीय लोकतंत्र को नष्ट करने वालों की रक्षा कर रहे हैं।”
- “Our demand is, **Gyanesh Kumar**, do your job, you have taken an oath, you are India’s Chief Election Commissioner, you must give evidence to the Karnataka CID.”  
“हमारी मांग है कि **जनेश कुमार**, अपना काम कीजिए, आपने शपथ ली है, आप भारत के मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त हैं, आपको कर्नाटक CID को सबूत देना चाहिए।”

## Vote Theft Allegations

### वोट चोरी के आरोप

- In a subsequent post on X, he said the **CEC** should stop giving “excuses” and added had the alleged “**vote theft**” not been caught, the Congress candidate would have lost the Assembly seat.  
उन्होंने X पर एक अन्य पोस्ट में कहा कि **CEC** को “बहाने” देना बंद करना चाहिए और जोड़ा कि अगर कथित “**वोट चोरी**” पकड़ी नहीं जाती, तो कांग्रेस उम्मीदवार विधानसभा सीट हार जाता।
- Recently, **The Hindu** had reported on the Karnataka CID’s probe into a systematic attempt to remove names of **5,994 voters** from electoral rolls by forging Form 7 in the **Aland constituency of Kalaburagi district** ahead of the **2023 Assembly election**.  
हाल ही में **द हिंदू** ने रिपोर्ट किया था कि कर्नाटक CID ने **2023 विधानसभा चुनाव** से पहले **कलबुर्गी जिले की अलंद विधानसभा** में **फॉर्म 7** को फर्जी बनाकर **5,994 मतदाताओं** के नाम मतदाता सूची से हटाने की सुनियोजित कोशिश की जांच की थी।
- Before making a detailed presentation on the Aland seat, **Mr. Gandhi clarified** that these revelations were not the “**hydrogen bomb**” that he had talked about earlier and promised that too will come soon.  
अलंद सीट पर विस्तृत प्रस्तुति देने से पहले **श्री गांधी ने स्पष्ट किया** कि ये खुलासे वह “**हाइड्रोजन बम**” नहीं हैं, जिसका उन्होंने पहले जिक्र किया था और वादा किया कि वह भी जल्द आएगा।
- “I am just creating the foundation. This is going on for **10-15 years**. **India’s democracy** has been hijacked. Democracy can only be saved by the people of India. Rahul Gandhi can show the truth. The day the people realise that their democracy and Constitution have been stolen, the job will be done,” he said.



“मैं बस नींव रख रहा हूँ। यह 10-15 सालों से चल रहा है। भारत का लोकतंत्र हाइजैक हो चुका है। लोकतंत्र केवल भारत की जनता ही बचा सकती है। राहुल गांधी सच दिखा सकता है। जिस दिन लोगों को एहसास होगा कि उनका लोकतंत्र और संविधान चोरी हो गया है, काम पूरा हो जाएगा,” उन्होंने कहा।

- Elaborating on the attempted voter deletions in Aland, the Congress leader alleged that the **top 10 booths** with maximum deletion applications were **Congress strongholds**.  
अलंद में मतदाता नाम हटाने की कोशिश पर विस्तार से बताते हुए कांग्रेस नेता ने आरोप लगाया कि जिन **10 बूथों** से सबसे अधिक नाम हटाने के आवेदन आए, वे **कांग्रेस के गढ़** थे।
- Citing examples, he said, in one case, someone had used the name of a **63-year-old woman Godabai** to apply for **12 deletions** and then played out a video in which she denied having anything to do with such an application.  
उदाहरण देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि एक मामले में किसी ने **63 वर्षीय महिला गोडाबाई** के नाम का उपयोग करके **12 नाम हटाने** का आवेदन किया और फिर एक वीडियो चलाया जिसमें महिला ने कहा कि उसका ऐसे आवेदन से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।
- Mr. Gandhi called on stage a voter, **Suryakant**, whose identity was used to apply for **12 deletions in 14 minutes**, but the Karnataka resident said he had no knowledge of it.  
श्री गांधी ने मंच पर एक मतदाता **सूर्यकांत** को बुलाया, जिसकी पहचान का उपयोग करके **14 मिनट में 12 नाम हटाने** का आवेदन किया गया था, लेकिन उस कर्नाटक निवासी ने कहा कि उसे इसकी कोई जानकारी नहीं है।
- The Congress leader gave the example of **Maharashtra's Rajura constituency** where he claimed **6,850 voters** were added in a fraudulent manner using **automated software**.  
कांग्रेस नेता ने **महाराष्ट्र की राजुरा विधानसभा** का उदाहरण दिया, जहां उन्होंने दावा किया कि **6,850 मतदाताओं** को **स्वचालित सॉफ्टवेयर** का उपयोग करके धोखाधड़ी से जोड़ा गया।
- “We are pretty sure that this is being done using a **software at a call centre**,” he said, adding, “Same system is doing this. It is doing it in Karnataka, Maharashtra, it has done it Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and we have proof of it”.  
उन्होंने कहा, “हमें पूरा यकीन है कि यह एक **कॉल सेंटर में सॉफ्टवेयर** का उपयोग करके किया जा रहा है। यही सिस्टम इसे कर रहा है। यह कर्नाटक, महाराष्ट्र में हो रहा है, यह हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रदेश में हो चुका है, और हमारे पास इसका सबूत है।”
- The poll panel is not giving the details because it will lead to where this operation is being conducted, Mr. Gandhi said. “**EC knows** who is doing this. I want every youngster in India to know this. They are doing this to your **future**. When they are not giving this information, they are defending the **murderers of democracy**,” he said.  
श्री गांधी ने कहा कि चुनाव आयोग यह विवरण नहीं दे रहा क्योंकि इससे यह खुलासा हो जाएगा कि यह ऑपरेशन कहां चल रहा है। “**चुनाव आयोग जानता है** कि यह कौन कर रहा है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि भारत का हर युवा यह जाने। वे यह तुम्हारे **भविष्य** के साथ कर रहे हैं। जब वे यह जानकारी नहीं दे रहे, तो वे **लोकतंत्र के हत्यारों** का बचाव कर रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- He said it will take **two-three months** for the research and presentations on alleged “**vote chori**”.  
उन्होंने कहा कि कथित “**वोट चोरी**” पर शोध और प्रस्तुतियों में **दो-तीन महीने** लगेंगे।



# Saudi-Pak. sign a defence pact that defines 'attack on one as attack on both'

GS II: West Asia  
Associated Press  
ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia and nuclear-armed Pakistan have signed a mutual defence pact that defines any attack on either nation as an attack on both – a key accord in the wake of Israel's strike on Qatar last week.

The kingdom has long had close economic, religious and security ties to Pakistan, including reportedly providing funding for Islamabad's nuclear weapons programme as it developed.

Analysts – and Pakistani diplomats in at least one case – have suggested over the years that Saudi Arabia could be included under Islamabad's nuclear umbrella, particularly as tensions have risen over Iran's atomic programme.

## Signal to Israel

But the timing of the pact appeared to be a signal to Israel, West Asia's only nuclear-armed state, which has conducted a sprawling military offensive since Palestinian nationalist Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel stretching across Iran, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Qatar, Syria and Yemen.

The pact marks the first major defence decision by a Gulf Arab country since the Qatar attack.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed the pact on Wednesday with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. While not specifically discussing the bomb, the agreement states "any aggression against either country shall be consi-



Shehbaz Sharif, left, embraces Mohammed bin Salman after signing a joint defence pact in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. AP

## Will study pact to protect India's interests, says MEA

Hours after Pakistan signed a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, India said it was aware that the pact had been under consideration.

The External Affairs Ministry said India would study its implications for "our national security" and "regional stability".

» PAGE 4

dered an aggression against both," according to statements issued by both Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry and the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

"This agreement... aims to develop aspects of defence cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression," the statement said.

A senior Saudi official, speaking on condition of anonymity to *The Financial Times*, seemed to suggest that Pakistan's nuclear protection was a part of the deal, saying it "will utilise all defensive and military means deemed necessary depending on the specific threat".

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a defence relationship stretching back de-

cadecades, in part due to Islamabad's willingness to defend the Islamic holy sites of Mecca and Medina in the kingdom. Pakistani troops first travelled to Saudi Arabia in the late 1960s over concerns about Egypt's war in Yemen.

Retired Pakistani Brig. Gen. Feroz Hassan Khan, in his book on his country's nuclear weapons program called *Eating Grass: The Making of the Pakistani Bomb*, said Saudi Arabia provided "generous financial support to Pakistan that enabled the nuclear programme to continue, especially when the country was under sanctions."

Pakistan faced U.S. sanctions for years over its bomb – and saw new ones over its missile work at the end of the Biden regime.

## Saudi-Pak Defence Pact

### सऊदी-पाक रक्षा

### समझौता

Saudi Arabia and nuclear-armed Pakistan have signed a mutual defence pact that defines any attack on either nation as an attack on both — a key accord in the wake of Israel's strike on Qatar last week.

### सऊदी अरब और परमाणु

हथियार संपन्न पाकिस्तान ने

एक आपसी रक्षा समझौते पर

हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जो यह

परिभाषित करता है कि किसी भी

एक देश पर हमला दोनों पर

हमला माना जाएगा — यह

समझौता पिछले हफ्ते इजराइल

के क्रूर पर हमले के बाद एक

अहम कदम है।

• The kingdom has long had close **economic, religious and security ties** to Pakistan, including reportedly providing funding for Islamabad's **nuclear weapons programme** as it developed.

सऊदी अरब के पाकिस्तान के

साथ लंबे समय से आर्थिक,

धार्मिक और सुरक्षा संबंध रहे हैं,

जिसमें इस्लामाबाद के परमाणु

हथियार कार्यक्रम के लिए वित्तीय

सहायता प्रदान करना भी शामिल

बताया जाता है।

• Analysts — and Pakistani diplomats in at least one case — have suggested over the years



that Saudi Arabia could be included under Islamabad's **nuclear umbrella**, particularly as tensions have risen over **Iran's atomic programme**.

विश्लेषकों — और कम से कम एक मामले में पाकिस्तानी राजनयिकों — ने वर्षों से सुझाव दिया है कि सऊदी अरब इस्लामाबाद के **परमाणु छत्र** के तहत शामिल हो सकता है, खासकर जब से **ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम** को लेकर तनाव बढ़ा है।

## Signal to Israel

### इज़राइल को संदेश

- But the timing of the pact appeared to be a signal to **Israel, West Asia's only nuclear-armed state**, which has conducted a sprawling military offensive since **Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel** stretching across **Iran, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Qatar, Syria and Yemen**.  
लेकिन समझौते का समय **इज़राइल**, जो **पश्चिम एशिया का एकमात्र परमाणु हथियार संपन्न देश** है, को एक संदेश देता प्रतीत हुआ, जिसने **हमास के 7 अक्टूबर 2023 के इज़राइल पर हमले** के बाद से **ईरान, लेबनान, फ़िलिस्तीनी क्षेत्र, क़तर, सीरिया और यमन तक फैला एक बड़ा सैन्य अभियान** चलाया है।
- The pact marks the first major defence decision by a **Gulf Arab country** since the Qatar attack.  
यह समझौता क़तर हमले के बाद से किसी **खाड़ी अरब देश** द्वारा लिया गया पहला बड़ा रक्षा निर्णय है।
- **Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** signed the pact on Wednesday with **Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif**.  
**सऊदी अरब के क्राउन प्रिंस मोहम्मद बिन सलमान** ने बुधवार को **पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज़ शरीफ़** के साथ इस समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- While not specifically discussing the bomb, the agreement states "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both," according to statements issued by both **Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry** and the **Saudi Press Agency**.  
हालांकि परमाणु बम का विशेष रूप से उल्लेख नहीं किया गया, लेकिन समझौते में कहा गया है कि "किसी भी देश पर आक्रमण दोनों पर आक्रमण माना जाएगा," जैसा कि **पाकिस्तान के विदेश मंत्रालय** और **सऊदी प्रेस एजेंसी** द्वारा जारी बयानों में कहा गया।
- "This agreement... aims to develop aspects of **defence cooperation** between the two countries and strengthen **joint deterrence** against any aggression," the statement said.  
बयान में कहा गया, "यह समझौता... दोनों देशों के बीच **रक्षा सहयोग** के पहलुओं को विकसित करने और किसी भी आक्रमण के खिलाफ **संयुक्त प्रतिरोधक क्षमता** को मजबूत करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।"
- A senior Saudi official, speaking on condition of anonymity to **The Financial Times**, seemed to suggest that Pakistan's **nuclear protection** was a part of the deal, saying it "will utilise all defensive and military means deemed necessary depending on the specific threat".  
एक वरिष्ठ सऊदी अधिकारी ने **द फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स** से गुमनाम रूप से बात करते हुए संकेत दिया कि पाकिस्तान की **परमाणु सुरक्षा** इस सौदे का हिस्सा थी, और कहा कि यह "विशिष्ट खतरे के आधार पर आवश्यक समझे जाने वाले सभी रक्षा और सैन्य साधनों का उपयोग करेगा।"



- Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a **defence relationship** stretching back decades, in part due to Islamabad's willingness to defend the **Islamic holy sites of Mecca and Medina** in the kingdom.

पाकिस्तान और सऊदी अरब का रक्षा संबंध दशकों पुराना है, आंशिक रूप से इस कारण कि इस्लामाबाद ने सऊदी अरब में **इस्लामिक पवित्र स्थलों मक्का और मदीना** की रक्षा करने की इच्छा दिखाई थी।

- Pakistani troops first travelled to Saudi Arabia in the **late 1960s** over concerns about **Egypt's war in Yemen**.

पाकिस्तानी सैनिक पहली बार **1960 के दशक के अंत में मिस्र के यमन युद्ध** की चिंता को लेकर सऊदी अरब गए थे।

- Retired Pakistani Brig. Gen. **Feroz Hassan Khan**, in his book on his country's nuclear weapons program called *Eating Grass: The Making of the Pakistani Bomb*, said **Saudi Arabia** provided "generous financial support to Pakistan that enabled the nuclear programme to continue, especially when the country was under sanctions."

पाकिस्तानी सेवानिवृत्त ब्रिगेडियर जनरल **फेरोज़ हसन खान** ने अपनी किताब *Eating Grass: The Making of the Pakistani Bomb* में कहा कि **सऊदी अरब** ने "पाकिस्तान को उदार वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की, जिसने परमाणु कार्यक्रम को जारी रखने में मदद की, खासकर जब देश पर प्रतिबंध लगे थे।"

- Pakistan faced **U.S. sanctions** for years over its **bomb** — and saw new ones over its **missile work** at the end of the **Biden regime**.

पाकिस्तान ने अपने **परमाणु बम** के चलते वर्षों तक **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** का सामना किया — और **बाइडेन शासन** के अंत में अपने **मिसाइल कार्य** पर नए प्रतिबंध भी देखे।



# India studying defence pact between Saudi, Pak.; vows to guard its interests

Any aggression against either country will be seen as aggression against both, says pact signed by Saudi Arabia and Pakistan; MEA says India was aware that such a pact was under consideration

**GS II: India-West Asia**

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

**H**ours after Pakistan signed a mutual defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, India has said that it was aware of the development and reiterated its commitment to “comprehensive national security”.

The Indian response came after Saudi Arabia and Pakistan issued a joint statement during the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Riyadh that said, “Any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both.”

“The government was aware that this development, which formalizes a long-standing arrangement between the two countries, had been under consideration. We will study the implications of this development for our national security as well as for regional and global stability. The government remains committed to protecting India’s national interests and ensuring comprehensive national

 We will study the implications of this development for our national security as well as for regional and global stability. The government remains committed to protecting India’s national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



security in all domains,” said the Ministry of External Affairs in response to the Saudi-Pakistan mutual defence agreement.

Following talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the two sides issued a joint statement on September 17 in which they highlighted bilateral relations over the past nearly eight decades and said, “This agreement which reflects the shared commitment of both nations to enhance their security and to achieving security and peace in the region and the world, aims to develop aspects of defence cooperation between

the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression.” The agreement states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both.

On September 15, Mr. Sharif had participated in the extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit held by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Doha, where Israel’s September 9 bombing of Qatar was condemned.

Saudi Arabia has close ties with India and had sent Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubair to New Delhi, hours after India targeted locations inside Pakistan

under Operation Sindoor on May 7. He also visited Pakistan after his unannounced visit to Delhi.

Saudi Arabia, one of the top energy suppliers to India, is also a major employer of Indian blue and white collar expat workers in the Gulf and, in recent years, has gradually built military relations as well.

However, in comparison, the Saudi relations with Pakistan have been marked prominently by the generous support that Riyadh extended to Pakistan, especially after the humiliating defeat in the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Saudi Arabia first came to Pakistan’s rescue with a \$300 million assistance that King Faisal extended after meeting Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s Foreign Minister in Riyadh in 1974.

Over the years, Pakistan has intensified defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia and in recognition of that, Saudi Arabia conferred the prestigious King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellent Class on then Pakistani Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa in 2022.

**India studying defence pact between Saudi, Pak.; vows to guard its interests**



## भारत सऊदी और पाकिस्तान के बीच रक्षा समझौते का अध्ययन कर रहा है; अपने हितों की रक्षा करने की प्रतिज्ञा की

Any aggression against either country will be seen as aggression against both, says pact signed by Saudi Arabia and Pakistan; MEA says India was aware that such a pact was under consideration

किसी भी देश पर आक्रमण को दोनों पर आक्रमण माना जाएगा, यह बात सऊदी अरब और पाकिस्तान द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित समझौते में कही गई है; विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने कहा कि भारत इस तरह के समझौते पर विचार किए जाने से अवगत था

- Hours after **Pakistan** signed a mutual defence agreement with **Saudi Arabia**, India has said that it was aware of the development and reiterated its commitment to “comprehensive national security”  
पाकिस्तान द्वारा सऊदी अरब के साथ पारस्परिक रक्षा समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के कुछ घंटे बाद, भारत ने कहा कि वह इस विकास से अवगत था और उसने “समग्र राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा” के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई
- The Indian response came after **Saudi Arabia and Pakistan** issued a joint statement during the visit of Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** to **Riyadh** that said, “Any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both.”  
भारतीय प्रतिक्रिया तब आई जब सऊदी अरब और पाकिस्तान ने प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ की रियाद यात्रा के दौरान एक संयुक्त बयान जारी किया, जिसमें कहा गया, “किसी भी देश पर आक्रमण को दोनों पर आक्रमण माना जाएगा।”
- “The government was aware that this development, which formalizes a long-standing arrangement between the two countries, had been under consideration. We will study the implications of this development for our **national security** as well as for **regional and global stability**. The government remains committed to protecting India’s national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains,” said the **Ministry of External Affairs** in response to the **Saudi-Pakistan** mutual defence agreement.  
“सरकार इस विकास से अवगत थी, जो दोनों देशों के बीच लंबे समय से चली आ रही व्यवस्था को औपचारिक रूप देता है। हम इस विकास के हमारे राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के साथ-साथ क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक स्थिरता पर प्रभावों का अध्ययन करेंगे। सरकार भारत के राष्ट्रीय हितों की रक्षा करने और सभी क्षेत्रों में व्यापक राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है,” विदेश मंत्रालय ने सऊदी-पाकिस्तान पारस्परिक रक्षा समझौते के जवाब में कहा।
- Following talks between **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** and **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman**, the two sides issued a joint statement on **September 17** in which they highlighted bilateral relations over the past nearly **eight decades** and said, “This agreement which reflects the shared commitment of both nations to enhance their security and to achieving security and peace in the region and the world, aims to develop aspects of defense cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression.” The agreement states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both.

प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ और क्राउन प्रिंस मोहम्मद बिन सलमान के बीच वार्ता के बाद, दोनों पक्षों



ने 17 सितंबर को एक संयुक्त बयान जारी किया, जिसमें उन्होंने पिछले लगभग आठ दशकों में द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को रेखांकित किया और कहा, “यह समझौता दोनों देशों की अपनी सुरक्षा को बढ़ाने और क्षेत्र तथा विश्व में सुरक्षा और शांति प्राप्त करने की साझा प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है, जिसका उद्देश्य दोनों देशों के बीच रक्षा सहयोग के पहलुओं को विकसित करना और किसी भी आक्रमण के खिलाफ संयुक्त निवारक क्षमता को मजबूत करना है।” समझौते में कहा गया है कि किसी भी देश पर आक्रमण को दोनों पर आक्रमण माना जाएगा।

- On **September 15**, Mr. Sharif had participated in the extraordinary **Arab-Islamic summit held by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Doha**, where **Israel's September 9 bombing of Qatar** was condemned.

15 सितंबर को, श्री शरीफ ने इस्लामिक सहयोग संगठन (OIC) द्वारा दोहा में आयोजित असाधारण अरब-इस्लामी शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग लिया, जहां इज़राइल के 9 सितंबर के कतर पर बमबारी की निंदा की गई।

- **Saudi Arabia** has close ties with **India** and had sent Foreign Minister **Adel Al-Jubair** to **New Delhi**, hours after India targeted locations inside **Pakistan** under **Operation Sindoor** on **May 7**. He also visited Pakistan after his unannounced visit to Delhi.

सऊदी अरब के भारत से घनिष्ठ संबंध हैं और उसने विदेश मंत्री अदिल अल-जुबैर को 7 मई को ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के तहत भारत द्वारा पाकिस्तान के अंदर स्थानों को निशाना बनाने के कुछ घंटे बाद नई दिल्ली भेजा था। उन्होंने दिल्ली की अपनी अचानक यात्रा के बाद पाकिस्तान का भी दौरा किया।

- **Saudi Arabia**, one of the top energy suppliers to **India**, is also a major employer of Indian blue and white collar expat workers in the Gulf and, in recent years, has gradually built military relations as well.

सऊदी अरब, जो भारत के शीर्ष ऊर्जा आपूर्तिकर्ताओं में से एक है, खाड़ी में भारतीय ब्लू और व्हाइट कॉलर प्रवासी श्रमिकों का एक प्रमुख नियोक्ता भी है और हाल के वर्षों में धीरे-धीरे सैन्य संबंध भी बना चुका है।

- However, in comparison, the **Saudi relations with Pakistan** have been marked prominently by the generous support that Riyadh extended to Pakistan, especially after the humiliating defeat in the **1971 India-Pakistan war**. **Saudi Arabia** first came to Pakistan's rescue with a **\$300 million assistance** that **King Faisal** extended after meeting Prime Minister **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's** Foreign Minister in Riyadh in **1974**.

हालांकि, तुलना में, सऊदी अरब के पाकिस्तान के साथ संबंध विशेष रूप से 1971 भारत-पाकिस्तान युद्ध में अपमानजनक हार के बाद पाकिस्तान को रियाद द्वारा दी गई उदार सहायता से चिह्नित रहे हैं। सऊदी अरब ने पहली बार पाकिस्तान की मदद 1974 में रियाद में प्रधानमंत्री जुल्फिकार अली भुट्टो के विदेश मंत्री से मुलाकात के बाद किंग फैसल द्वारा दी गई 300 मिलियन डॉलर की सहायता से की।

- Over the years, **Pakistan** has intensified defence cooperation with **Saudi Arabia** and in recognition of that, **Saudi Arabia** conferred the prestigious **King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellent Class** on then Pakistani Army Chief **Qamar Javed Bajwa** in **2022**.

सालों से, पाकिस्तान ने सऊदी अरब के साथ रक्षा सहयोग को मजबूत किया है और इसकी मान्यता में, सऊदी अरब ने तत्कालीन पाकिस्तानी सेना प्रमुख क़मर जावेद बाजवा को 2022 में प्रतिष्ठित किंग अब्दुलअज़ीज़ मेडल ऑफ़ एक्सीलेंट क्लास से सम्मानित किया।



## Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

### इस्लामी सहयोग संगठन (OIC)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an **intergovernmental organization** established in **1969**, comprising **57 member states** across four continents.

इस्लामी सहयोग संगठन (OIC) एक अंतर-सरकारी संगठन है जिसकी स्थापना 1969 में हुई थी, और इसमें चार महाद्वीपों में फैले 57 सदस्य देश शामिल हैं।

It aims to be the **collective voice of the Muslim world**, working to **safeguard and protect the interests of Muslims** globally.

इसका उद्देश्य मुस्लिम दुनिया की सामूहिक आवाज बनना है, और वैश्विक स्तर पर मुसलमानों के हितों की रक्षा और संरक्षण के लिए कार्य करना है।

The OIC has **permanent delegations** to the **United Nations** and the **European Union**.

OIC के पास संयुक्त राष्ट्र और यूरोपीय संघ में स्थायी प्रतिनिधिमंडल हैं।

Its **official languages** are **Arabic, English, and French**.

इसकी आधिकारिक भाषाएँ अरबी, अंग्रेज़ी और फ्रेंच हैं।

The OIC was founded in response to the **arson attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on 21 August 1969**.

OIC की स्थापना 21 अगस्त 1969 को यरुशलम में अल-अक्सा मस्जिद पर आगजनी हमले के जवाब में की गई थी।

The incident led to the **First Islamic Summit Conference** held in **Rabat, Morocco**, from **22 to 25 September 1969**, where leaders from **24 Muslim-majority countries** convened to establish the organization.

इस घटना के परिणामस्वरूप 22 से 25 सितंबर 1969 के बीच राबत, मोरक्को में प्रथम इस्लामी शिखर सम्मेलन आयोजित हुआ, जिसमें 24 मुस्लिम बहुल देशों के नेताओं ने संगठन की स्थापना की।

## Membership

### सदस्यता

The OIC comprises **57 member states**, with a **collective population exceeding 2.04 billion** as of 2025, accounting for approximately **25% of the world's population**.

OIC में 57 सदस्य देश हैं, जिनकी कुल जनसंख्या 2025 तक 2.04 अरब से अधिक है, जो विश्व की जनसंख्या का लगभग 25% है।

While the majority are **Muslim-majority countries**, some members, such as **Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Guyana, Mozambique, Suriname, Togo, and Uganda**, have **significant Muslim populations** but are **not Muslim-majority**.

यद्यपि अधिकांश सदस्य देश मुस्लिम बहुल हैं, लेकिन बेनिन, कैमरून, गैबॉन, गुयाना, मोज़ाम्बिक, सुरिनाम, टोगो और युगांडा जैसे कुछ देशों में महत्वपूर्ण मुस्लिम जनसंख्या है, परंतु ये मुस्लिम बहुल नहीं हैं।

## Objectives and Principles

### उद्देश्य और सिद्धांत



The OIC aims to promote **Islamic solidarity** among member states.

OIC का उद्देश्य सदस्य देशों के बीच **इस्लामी एकता** को बढ़ावा देना है।

It seeks to **safeguard the interests** and ensure the **progress and well-being of Muslims** globally.

इसका उद्देश्य वैश्विक स्तर पर मुसलमानों के **हितों की रक्षा** करना और उनके **प्रगति और कल्याण** को सुनिश्चित करना है।

The OIC aims to enhance **cooperation in political, economic, social, cultural, and scientific fields**.

OIC का उद्देश्य राजनीतिक, आर्थिक, सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और वैज्ञानिक क्षेत्रों में **सहयोग** को बढ़ाना है।

It is committed to upholding **human rights** and **fundamental freedoms**.

यह **मानवाधिकारों** और **मौलिक स्वतंत्रताओं** को बनाए रखने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

One of its key goals is to **support the Palestinian cause** and protect **Islamic holy sites**.

इसके प्रमुख लक्ष्यों में से एक **फिलिस्तीनी मुद्दे का समर्थन** करना और **इस्लामी पवित्र स्थलों** की रक्षा करना है।

## Structure and Organs

### संरचना और निकाय

The OIC operates through various **organs and institutions**.

OIC विभिन्न **संस्थाओं और निकायों** के माध्यम से कार्य करता है।

The **Islamic Summit** is the **supreme authority**, comprising **kings and heads of state**.

**इस्लामी शिखर सम्मेलन** सर्वोच्च प्राधिकरण है, जिसमें **राजा और राष्ट्राध्यक्ष** शामिल होते हैं।

The **Council of Foreign Ministers** meets **annually** to review progress and set policies.

**विदेश मंत्रियों की परिषद** हर साल मिलती है ताकि प्रगति की समीक्षा की जा सके और **नीतियां निर्धारित** की जा सकें।

The **General Secretariat**, based in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**, executes decisions and coordinates activities.

**सामान्य सचिवालय**, जो **जेद्दाह, सऊदी अरब** में स्थित है, निर्णयों को **कार्यान्वित** करता है और **गतिविधियों का समन्वय** करता है।

**Standing Committees** focus on areas like **information, cultural affairs, economic cooperation, and scientific collaboration**.

**स्थायी समितियाँ** सूचना, सांस्कृतिक मामलों, आर्थिक सहयोग और वैज्ञानिक सहयोग जैसे क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती हैं।



# Modi-Xi meet repaired India-China relations, but its importance should not be overstated: experts

**GS II: Foreign Policy**

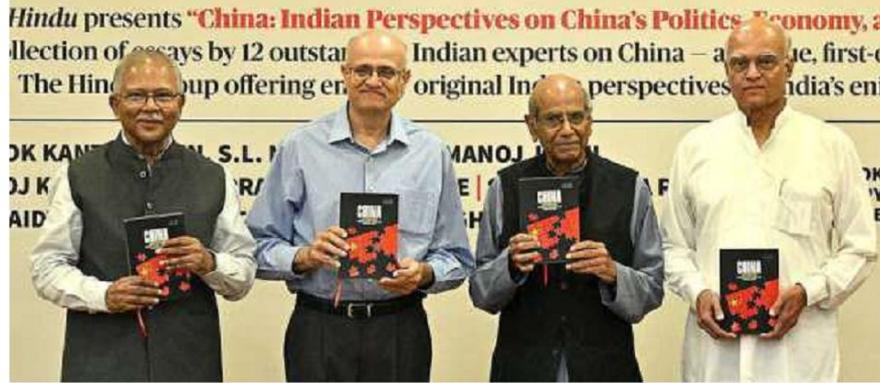
**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin has “repaired” India-China relations but its importance should not be “overstated”, veteran diplomats and commentators said at the launch of the book *China: Indian Perspectives on China's Politics, Economy, and Foreign Relations*, a special publication by The Hindu Group, here on Thursday.

Delivering the keynote address, former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon praised the initiative by The Hindu Group and said, “The book is an Indian view of China. It tells us how to look at China in the future. It tells you what you need to learn [about China].”

Speaking on the occasion, former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said, “This book begins the conversation we need to understand China. It really is a great start. It is the most



Ashok Kantha, Vijay Gokhale, K. Shyam Saran and Shivshankar Menon at the release of *China: Indian Perspectives on China's Politics, Economy and Foreign Relations* on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

comprehensive survey of contemporary China in all aspects.”

Participating in a panel discussion moderated by *The Hindu's* Diplomatic Affairs Editor Suhasini Haider, former Indian Ambassador to China Ashok Kantha said, “We start repairing our China ties in early 2024. It begins to gain pace with PM Modi and President Xi Jinping’s meeting in Kazan. The meeting in Tianjin stabilises our ties in the troubled world right now.”

“Even now we know so little of the engagement with China. Disengage-

ment with China at the border is one of the major issues that India is still facing today. Prime Minister Modi may have spoken about China a few times in the past, but we need to see what will happen,” he added.

In the same panel, Manoj Joshi, Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, cautioned about the pace of India-China relations and said, “The Tianjin summit was a process in repairing the relationship broken in 2020. No one knows why China did what it did in 2020, but this meeting cer-

tainly propels the relationship to where it stands today. But, let’s not overstate the value of the summit.”

Mr. Joshi also highlighted the importance of Tibet and said, “Tibet is extremely important from Indian perspective. Tibet is a point of conversation between India and China. It is important to India from geographical and religious perspectives. Tibet opens up many conversations as to where India stands with China.”

#### **Greater engagement**

Former Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale cautioned

about the internal developments in China. “Chinese President’s policies to control China and centralise power is strangling China’s economic growth,” he said.

He also called for greater engagement and said, “If we do not visit China, we have very unreal view of China. China has grown very fast and it’s because the country is under an autocratic regime. It makes a lot of difference because in that sense India is a democracy.”

Introducing the volume, Varghese K. George, Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, spoke about the ongoing e-book series by *The Hindu* that covers various segments such as politics, technology, and the Constitution. “The extraordinary group of contributors brought together by Ananth Krishnan compelled us to bring out this issue [the book on China] in print,” he said.

Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*, and Ananth Krishnan, Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., were present.

**Modi-Xi meet repaired India-China relations, but its importance should not be overstated: experts**

**मोदी-शी मुलाकात ने भारत-चीन संबंधों को सुधारा, लेकिन इसके महत्व को अधिक नहीं आंकना चाहिए: विशेषज्ञ**

The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin** has “repaired” India-China relations but its importance should not be “overstated”, veteran diplomats and commentators said at the launch of the book *China: Indian Perspectives on China's Politics, Economy, and Foreign Relations*, a special publication by **The Hindu Group**, here on Thursday.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग के बीच तियानजिन में शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) शिखर सम्मेलन के इतर हुई मुलाकात ने भारत-चीन संबंधों को “सुधार” दिया है, लेकिन इसके महत्व



को “अत्यधिक” नहीं आंकना चाहिए, यह बात वरिष्ठ राजनयिकों और टिप्पणीकारों ने गुरुवार को द हिंदू ग्रुप द्वारा प्रकाशित विशेष पुस्तक *चाइना: इंडियन पर्सपेक्टिव्स ऑन चाइना'स पॉलिटिक्स, इकोनॉमी, एंड फॉरेन रिलेशंस* के विमोचन पर कही।

- Delivering the keynote address, former **National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon** praised the initiative by **The Hindu Group** and said, “The book is an Indian view of China. It tells us how to look at China in the future. It tells you what you need to learn [about China].”

मुख्य भाषण देते हुए, पूर्व **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार शिवशंकर मेनन** ने **द हिंदू ग्रुप** की पहल की सराहना की और कहा, “यह पुस्तक चीन पर भारतीय दृष्टिकोण है। यह हमें बताती है कि भविष्य में चीन को कैसे देखना है। यह बताती है कि [चीन के बारे में] आपको क्या सीखना चाहिए।”

- Speaking on the occasion, former **Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran** said, “This book begins the conversation we need to understand China. It really is a great start. It is the most comprehensive survey of contemporary China in all aspects.”

इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए पूर्व **विदेश सचिव श्याम सरन** ने कहा, “यह पुस्तक चीन को समझने के लिए आवश्यक बातचीत की शुरुआत करती है। यह वास्तव में एक शानदार शुरुआत है। यह समकालीन चीन का सभी पहलुओं में सबसे व्यापक सर्वेक्षण है।”

- Participating in a panel discussion moderated by **The Hindu's Diplomatic Affairs Editor Suhasini Haidar**, former **Indian Ambassador to China Ashok Kantha** said, “We start repairing our China ties in early 2024. It begins to gain pace with **PM Modi** and **President Xi Jinping's** meeting in **Kazan**. The meeting in **Tianjin** stabilises our ties in the troubled world right now.”

**द हिंदू** की डिप्लोमैटिक अफेयर्स एडिटर **सुहासिनी हैदर** द्वारा संचालित एक पैनल चर्चा में भाग लेते हुए, पूर्व **भारतीय राजदूत अशोक कांथा** ने कहा, “हमने 2024 की शुरुआत में चीन के साथ अपने संबंधों को सुधारना शुरू किया। यह **कज़ान** में **प्रधानमंत्री मोदी** और **राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग** की मुलाकात से गति पकड़ता है। **तियानजिन** में हुई मुलाकात ने वर्तमान अशांत दुनिया में हमारे संबंधों को स्थिर किया।”

- “Even now we know so little of the engagement with China. Disengagement with China at the border is one of the major issues that India is still facing today. Prime Minister Modi may have spoken about China a few times in the past, but we need to see what will happen,” he added.

उन्होंने आगे कहा, “आज भी हमें चीन के साथ जुड़ाव के बारे में बहुत कम जानकारी है। चीन के साथ सीमा पर **डिसएंगेजमेंट** भारत के सामने आज भी एक बड़ा मुद्दा है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने अतीत में चीन के बारे में कुछ बार बात की हो सकती है, लेकिन हमें देखना होगा कि आगे क्या होता है।”

- In the same panel, **Manoj Joshi**, Distinguished Fellow at the **Observer Research Foundation**, cautioned about the pace of India-China relations and said, “The **Tianjin summit** was a process in repairing the relationship broken in 2020. No one knows why China did what it did in 2020, but this meeting certainly propels the relationship to where it stands today. But, let's not overstate the value of the summit.”

उसी पैनल में, **ऑब्जर्वर रिसर्च फाउंडेशन** के डिस्टिंग्विश्ड फेलो **मनोज जोशी** ने भारत-चीन संबंधों की गति को लेकर चेतावनी दी और कहा, “**तियानजिन शिखर सम्मेलन 2020** में टूटे संबंधों को सुधारने की प्रक्रिया थी। कोई नहीं जानता कि चीन ने 2020 में ऐसा क्यों किया, लेकिन यह बैठक निश्चित रूप से संबंधों को आज जिस स्तर पर हैं, वहां तक ले आई। लेकिन, हमें शिखर सम्मेलन के महत्व को अत्यधिक नहीं आंकना चाहिए।”



- Mr. Joshi also highlighted the importance of **Tibet** and said, “Tibet is extremely important from Indian perspective. Tibet is a point of conversation between India and China. It is important to India from geographical and religious perspectives. Tibet opens up many conversations as to where India stands with China.”

श्री जोशी ने तिब्बत के महत्व पर भी प्रकाश डाला और कहा, “भारतीय दृष्टिकोण से तिब्बत अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। तिब्बत भारत और चीन के बीच बातचीत का एक मुद्दा है। यह भारत के लिए भौगोलिक और धार्मिक दृष्टिकोण से महत्वपूर्ण है। तिब्बत इस बात पर कई चर्चाओं के द्वार खोलता है कि भारत चीन के साथ कहां खड़ा है।”

## Greater engagement

### अधिक जुड़ाव

- Former **Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale** cautioned about the internal developments in China. “Chinese President’s policies to control China and centralise power is strangling China’s economic growth,” he said.

पूर्व विदेश सचिव **विजय गोखले** ने चीन में आंतरिक विकास को लेकर चेतावनी दी। उन्होंने कहा, “चीनी राष्ट्रपति की चीन को नियंत्रित करने और सत्ता केंद्रीकृत करने की नीतियां चीन की आर्थिक वृद्धि को बाधित कर रही हैं।”

- He also called for greater engagement and said, “If we do not visit China, we have very unreal view of China. China has grown very fast and it’s because the country is under an autocratic regime. It makes a lot of difference because in that sense India is a democracy.”

उन्होंने अधिक जुड़ाव की भी बात कही और कहा, “यदि हम चीन की यात्रा नहीं करते हैं, तो हमारे पास चीन का बहुत अवास्तविक दृष्टिकोण होता है। चीन ने बहुत तेजी से विकास किया है और यह इसलिए है क्योंकि देश एक सत्तावादी शासन के अधीन है। यह बहुत फर्क पैदा करता है क्योंकि उस दृष्टि से भारत एक लोकतंत्र है।”

- Introducing the volume, **Varghese K. George**, Resident Editor, **The Hindu**, spoke about the ongoing ebook series by The Hindu that covers various segments such as politics, technology, and the Constitution. “The extraordinary group of contributors brought together by **Ananth Krishnan** compelled us to bring out this issue [the book on China] in print,” he said.

इस खंड का परिचय देते हुए, **द हिंदू** के रेज़िडेंट एडिटर **वर्गीज के. जॉर्ज** ने **द हिंदू** की चल रही ईबुक श्रृंखला के बारे में बात की, जो राजनीति, प्रौद्योगिकी और संविधान जैसे विभिन्न खंडों को कवर करती है। उन्होंने कहा, “**आनंद कृष्णन** द्वारा एकत्र किए गए असाधारण योगदानकर्ताओं के समूह ने हमें इस अंक [चीन पर पुस्तक] को मुद्रित रूप में लाने के लिए मजबूर किया।”

- Suresh Nambath**, Editor, **The Hindu**, and **Ananth Krishnan**, Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., were present.

**सुरेश नमबाथ**, संपादक, **द हिंदू** और **आनंद कृष्णन**, निदेशक, **द हिंदू ग्रुप पब्लिशिंग प्राइवेट लिमिटेड**, उपस्थित थे।

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# NCST forms panel to look into duties given in 2005

## GS II: Statutory Bodies

**Abhinay Lakshman**

NEW DELHI

More than 20 years after the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was assigned additional duties to protect specific rights of ST communities in the country, the commission has, for the first time, formed a special committee along with three sub-committees to look into how these functions can be performed, commission Member Nirupam Chakma told *The Hindu* on Thursday (September 18, 2025).

In August 2005, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs issued a notification assigning a list of eight additional duties to the mandate of the NCST. These included suggesting measures to protect ownership of minor forest produce, rights to water and mineral resources, protecting tribal communities from land alienation, and full implementation of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.

The NCST was also mandated to look at “viable li-

### **In 2005, the Centre issued a notification assigning a list of eight additional duties to the NCST**

velihood strategies”, “efficacy” of rehabilitation measures for tribals displaced by development projects, increasing the role of tribal communities in protecting and conserving forests, and finding ways to “reduce and ultimately eliminate” tribal communities’ practice of shifting cultivation.

### **‘To prepare a report’**

At the time, the NCST had said a lack of staff and funds made it feel “severely handicapped” to initiate studies to perform these duties. However, this week, the commission has said that it will prepare a report on how these additional functions can be discharged.

Officials said that the special internal committee consists of 11 members and that the eight additional functions had been divided

and assigned to three separate sub-committees. They said that the sub-committee headed by member Jatothu Hussain will look at issues of livelihood strategies, and ownership rights to minor forest produce, mineral, and water resources.

The sub-committee headed by member Asha Lakra will examine the issues of land alienation and efficacy of rehabilitation schemes for tribals displaced by development projects, and the sub-committee headed by member Nirupam Chakma will take up issues of full implementation of the PESA, increasing the role of tribal communities in forest conservation, and the elimination of shifting cultivation.

While the first annual report of the independent NCST in 2005 had noted its inability to address the additional functions, successive reports available in the public domain make no mention of these functions and steps taken to perform them, a review of the reports showed.

## **NCST forms panel to look into duties given in 2005**

**एनसीएसटी ने 2005 में दी गई जिम्मेदारियों की जांच के लिए पैनल**

**बनाया**



More than 20 years after the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was assigned additional duties to protect specific rights of ST communities in the country, the commission has, for the first time, formed a special committee along with three sub-committees to look into how these functions can be performed, commission Member Nirupam Chakma told The Hindu on September 18, 2025.

देश में एसटी समुदायों के विशिष्ट अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (एनसीएसटी) को अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारियां सौंपे जाने के 20 साल से अधिक समय बाद, आयोग ने पहली बार इन कार्यों को कैसे किया जा सकता है, इसकी जांच के लिए तीन उप-समितियों के साथ एक विशेष समिति का गठन किया है, आयोग के सदस्य निरुपम चकमा ने 18 सितंबर 2025 को द हिंदू को बताया।

- In August 2005, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs issued a notification assigning a list of eight additional duties to the mandate of the NCST. These included suggesting measures to protect ownership of minor forest produce, rights to water and mineral resources, protecting tribal communities from land alienation, and full implementation of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA).

अगस्त 2005 में, जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय ने एक अधिसूचना जारी कर एनसीएसटी को अपने अधिकार क्षेत्र में आठ अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारियां सौंपीं। इनमें लघु वनोपज के स्वामित्व की रक्षा के उपाय सुझाना, जल और खनिज संसाधनों पर अधिकार, जनजातीय समुदायों को भूमि हड़पने से बचाना, और पंचायत (अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों तक विस्तार) अधिनियम, 1996 (पीईएसए) का पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन शामिल था।

- The NCST was also mandated to look at “viable livelihood strategies”, “efficacy of rehabilitation measures for tribals displaced by development projects”, increasing the role of tribal communities in protecting and conserving forests, and finding ways to “reduce and ultimately eliminate” tribal communities’ practice of shifting cultivation.

एनसीएसटी को यह भी जिम्मेदारी दी गई थी कि वह “व्यवहार्य आजीविका रणनीतियों”, विकास परियोजनाओं से विस्थापित जनजातियों के पुनर्वास उपायों की “प्रभावशीलता”, जनजातीय समुदायों की वन संरक्षण और संवर्धन में भूमिका बढ़ाने, और झूम खेती की प्रथा को “कम करने और अंततः समाप्त करने” के तरीकों पर विचार करे।

- At the time, the NCST had said a lack of staff and funds made it feel “severely handicapped” to initiate studies to perform these duties. However, this week, the commission has said that it will prepare a report on how these additional functions can be discharged.

उस समय एनसीएसटी ने कहा था कि कर्मचारियों और धन की कमी के कारण उसे इन जिम्मेदारियों को पूरा करने के लिए अध्ययन शुरू करने में “गंभीर रूप से असहाय” महसूस हुआ। हालांकि, इस सप्ताह आयोग ने कहा है कि वह इन अतिरिक्त कार्यों को कैसे पूरा किया जा सकता है, इस पर एक रिपोर्ट तैयार करेगा।

- Officials said that the special internal committee consists of 11 members and that the eight additional functions had been divided and assigned to three separate sub-committees.

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि विशेष आंतरिक समिति में 11 सदस्य हैं और आठ अतिरिक्त कार्यों को विभाजित कर तीन अलग-अलग उप-समितियों को सौंपा गया है।

- They said that the sub-committee headed by member Jatothu Hussain will look at issues of livelihood strategies, and ownership rights to minor forest produce, mineral, and water resources.



उन्होंने कहा कि सदस्य जतोथु हुसैन की अध्यक्षता वाली उप-समिति आजीविका रणनीतियों और लघु वनोपज, खनिज और जल संसाधनों पर स्वामित्व अधिकारों के मुद्दों पर विचार करेगी।

- The sub-committee headed by member **Asha Lakra** will examine the **issues of land alienation and efficacy of rehabilitation schemes** for tribals displaced by development projects.

सदस्य आशा लकड़ा की अध्यक्षता वाली उप-समिति विकास परियोजनाओं से विस्थापित जनजातियों के लिए भूमि हड़पने और पुनर्वास योजनाओं की प्रभावशीलता के मुद्दों की जांच करेगी।

- The sub-committee headed by member **Nirupam Chakma** will take up **issues of full implementation of the PESA, increasing the role of tribal communities in forest conservation, and the elimination of shifting cultivation.**

सदस्य निरुपम चकमा की अध्यक्षता वाली उप-समिति पीईएसए के पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन, वन संरक्षण में जनजातीय समुदायों की भूमिका बढ़ाने, और झूम खेती के उन्मूलन के मुद्दों को उठाएगी।

While the **first annual report** of the independent NCST in **2005** had noted its inability to address the additional functions, successive reports available in the public domain make **no mention** of these functions and steps taken to perform them, a review of the reports showed.

**2005** में स्वतंत्र एनसीएसटी की **पहली वार्षिक रिपोर्ट** ने इन अतिरिक्त कार्यों को संबोधित करने में अपनी अक्षमता को नोट किया था, लेकिन बाद की रिपोर्टों की समीक्षा से पता चला कि सार्वजनिक डोमेन में उपलब्ध इन रिपोर्टों में इन कार्यों और उन्हें पूरा करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों का **कोई उल्लेख नहीं** है।

PATRIOTICIAS



# U.S. to revoke waiver on Chabahar port sanctions

Decision will hamper India's plans for regional connectivity, investment of over ₹200 crore in the project in Iran; move comes just days after U.S., India had signalled rapprochement on trade issues

**GS II: West Asia**

**Suhasini Haidar**  
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In yet another harsh measure by the Donald Trump administration, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on Thursday that the country was revoking its waiver of sanctions over the Iranian port of Chabahar within 10 days, ending a special waiver given to India in 2018.

The decision, among a number of other moves by the U.S. to impose "maximum pressure on Iran", including designating several entities involved in Iran's oil trade, will affect India's plans to develop the Shahid Beheshti terminal at the Chabahar port as an alternative trading route for India, circumventing Pakistan, to send cargo to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not respond to requests for a comment on the development, which could severely hamper India's plans for regional connectivity.

President Trump had first announced that he planned to end the waiver given to India in his pre-



**Key link:** The Chabahar port is being developed by India and Iran to boost connectivity and trade ties. GETTY IMAGES

vious term, on February 5 this year, as he signed an executive order mandating Mr. Rubio to "rescind or modify" all such orders that provided any relief to Iran.

"Consistent with President Trump's maximum pressure policy to isolate the Iranian regime, the Secretary of State has revoked the sanctions exception issued in 2018 under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA) for Afghanistan reconstruction assistance and economic development, effective September 29, 2025," the State department said in a statement.

"Once the revocation is effective, persons who op-

erate the Chabahar port or engage in other activities described in the IFCA may expose themselves to sanctions under the IFCA," it added.

Earlier this month, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had discussed intensifying India's engagement with Iran on Chabahar during a conversation with Iranian SNSC Secretary Ali Larijani over telephone. According to an Iranian official release issued in Tehran, Mr. Doval discussed "expanding cooperation in economic ties, security and defence relations, and advancing the Chabahar port project," adding that the two sides would meet in Delhi soon.

According to a note issued by the Shipping Ministry in 2024, India has spent about ₹200 crore of a total allocation of ₹400 crore on the Chabahar project since 2016.

"The port recorded a 43% rise in vessel traffic and a 34% increase in container traffic in 2023-24" the note said.

The imposition of sanctions on Chabahar is the fourth such round of sanctions the Trump administration has passed that directly affects India, and comes just days after the two sides had signalled a rapprochement on trade issues.

In 2017-18, India had conceded to the U.S.'s demand to end all oil imports from Iran and then from Venezuela. India has not so far agreed to cutting down its imports of oil from Russia this year, despite the U.S.'s demand and imposition of a penalty tariff of 25% on all Indian goods in addition to a 25% "reciprocal tariff" already in place.

The sanctions will cost India in terms of its investment in the Iranian port, for which the Modi government signed a 10-year lease agreement in May 2024.

## U.S. to revoke waiver on Chabahar port sanctions

### अमेरिका चाबहार बंदरगाह पर प्रतिबंध की छूट वापस लेगा

Decision will hamper India's plans for regional connectivity, investment of over ₹200 crore in the project in Iran; move comes just days after U.S., India had signalled rapprochement on trade issues

यह निर्णय भारत की क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजनाओं और ईरान में परियोजना में ₹200 करोड़ से अधिक के निवेश को



बाधित करेगा; यह कदम ऐसे समय पर आया है जब अमेरिका और भारत ने व्यापार मुद्दों पर मेल-मिलाप के संकेत दिए थे।

- In yet another harsh measure by the **Donald Trump administration**, U.S. Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** announced on Thursday that the **country was revoking its waiver of sanctions over the Iranian port of Chabahar within 10 days, ending a special waiver given to India in 2018.**

**डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प प्रशासन** के एक और कठोर कदम में, अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्री **मार्को रुबियो** ने गुरुवार को घोषणा की कि देश **10 दिनों** के भीतर ईरानी चाबहार बंदरगाह पर प्रतिबंध की छूट वापस ले रहा है, जिससे भारत को दी गई **2018** की विशेष छूट समाप्त हो जाएगी।

- The decision, among a number of other moves by the U.S. to impose “**maximum pressure on Iran**”, including designating several entities involved in Iran’s oil trade, will affect India’s plans to develop the **Shahid Beheshti terminal at the Chabahar port** as an alternative trading route for India, circumventing **Pakistan**, to send cargo to **Afghanistan and Central Asia.**

यह निर्णय, अमेरिका के “**ईरान पर अधिकतम दबाव**” डालने वाले अन्य कई कदमों के बीच है, जिसमें ईरान के तेल व्यापार से जुड़ी कई संस्थाओं को चिह्नित करना भी शामिल है। यह भारत की चाबहार बंदरगाह पर **शहीद बेहेशती टर्मिनल** विकसित करने की योजनाओं को प्रभावित करेगा, जो भारत के लिए **पाकिस्तान** को दरकिनार करते हुए **अफगानिस्तान और मध्य एशिया** में माल भेजने का एक वैकल्पिक व्यापार मार्ग है।

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** did not respond to requests for a comment on the development, which could severely hamper India’s plans for regional connectivity.

**विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA)** ने इस घटनाक्रम पर टिप्पणी के अनुरोध का जवाब नहीं दिया, जो भारत की क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजनाओं को गंभीर रूप से बाधित कर सकता है।

- President Trump had first announced that he planned to end the waiver given to India in his previous term, on **February 5 this year**, as he signed an executive order mandating Mr. Rubio to “rescind or modify” all such orders that provided any relief to Iran.

राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प ने पहली बार इस साल **5 फरवरी** को घोषणा की थी कि वह भारत को दी गई छूट समाप्त करने की योजना बना रहे हैं, जब उन्होंने एक कार्यकारी आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे जिसमें श्री रुबियो को ईरान को किसी भी तरह की राहत देने वाले सभी आदेशों को “रद्द या संशोधित” करने का निर्देश दिया गया था।

- “Consistent with President Trump’s **maximum pressure policy** to isolate the Iranian regime, the Secretary of State has revoked the sanctions exception issued in **2018** under the **Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA)** for Afghanistan reconstruction assistance and economic development, effective **September 29, 2025,**” the State department said in a statement.

विदेश मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा, “ईरानी शासन को अलग-थलग करने के लिए राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प की **अधिकतम दबाव नीति** के अनुरूप, विदेश मंत्री ने **2018** में जारी **ईरान स्वतंत्रता और प्रसार-रोधी अधिनियम (IFCA)** के तहत अफगानिस्तान पुनर्निर्माण सहायता और आर्थिक विकास के लिए दी गई प्रतिबंध छूट को रद्द कर दिया है, जो **29 सितंबर 2025** से प्रभावी होगी।”

- “Once the revocation is effective, persons who operate the Chabahar port or engage in other activities described in the IFCA may expose themselves to sanctions under the IFCA,” it added.



“एक बार जब यह रद्दीकरण प्रभावी हो जाता है, तो जो लोग चाबहार बंदरगाह का संचालन करते हैं या IFCA में वर्णित अन्य गतिविधियों में संलग्न होते हैं, वे खुद को IFCA के तहत प्रतिबंधों के संपर्क में ला सकते हैं,” इसमें जोड़ा गया।

- Earlier this month, **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval** had discussed intensifying India's engagement with Iran on Chabahar during a conversation with Iranian SNSC Secretary **Ali Larijani** over telephone.

इस महीने की शुरुआत में, **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल** ने ईरानी SNSC सचिव **अली लारीजानी** के साथ टेलीफोन पर बातचीत के दौरान चाबहार पर ईरान के साथ भारत की भागीदारी को बढ़ाने पर चर्चा की थी।

- According to an Iranian official release issued in Tehran, Mr. Doval discussed “expanding cooperation in economic ties, security and defence relations, and advancing the Chabahar port project,” adding that the two sides would meet in Delhi soon.

तेहरान में जारी एक ईरानी आधिकारिक विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, श्री डोभाल ने “आर्थिक संबंधों, सुरक्षा और रक्षा संबंधों में सहयोग का विस्तार, और चाबहार बंदरगाह परियोजना को आगे बढ़ाने” पर चर्चा की, और इसमें जोड़ा गया कि दोनों पक्ष जल्द ही दिल्ली में मिलेंगे।

- According to a note issued by the **Shipping Ministry in 2024**, India has spent about **₹200 crore** of a total allocation of **₹400 crore** on the Chabahar project since **2016**.

**2024 में शिपिंग मंत्रालय** द्वारा जारी एक नोट के अनुसार, भारत ने **2016** से चाबहार परियोजना पर कुल **₹400 करोड़** के आवंटन में से लगभग **₹200 करोड़** खर्च किए हैं।

- “The port recorded a **43% rise** in vessel traffic and a **34% increase** in container traffic in **2023-24**” the note said.

नोट में कहा गया कि “बंदरगाह ने **2023-24** में जहाज यातायात में **43% वृद्धि** और कंटेनर यातायात में **34% वृद्धि** दर्ज की।”

- The imposition of sanctions on Chabahar is the **fourth such round** of sanctions the Trump administration has passed that directly affects India, and comes just days after the two sides had signalled a rapprochement on trade issues.

चाबहार पर प्रतिबंध लगाना ट्रम्प प्रशासन द्वारा पारित **चौथा ऐसा दौर** है जो सीधे भारत को प्रभावित करता है, और यह ऐसे समय में आया है जब दोनों पक्षों ने व्यापार मुद्दों पर मेल-मिलाप के संकेत दिए थे।

- In **2017-18**, India had conceded to the U.S.'s demand to end all oil imports from **Iran** and then from **Venezuela**. India has not so far agreed to cutting down its imports of oil from **Russia** this year, despite the U.S.'s demand and imposition of a **25% penalty tariff** on all Indian goods in addition to a **25% “reciprocal tariff”** already in place.

**2017-18** में, भारत ने अमेरिका की मांग मानते हुए **ईरान** और फिर **वेनेजुएला** से सभी तेल आयात समाप्त कर दिए थे। इस साल भारत ने अभी तक **रूस** से तेल आयात कम करने पर सहमति नहीं दी है, जबकि अमेरिका ने सभी भारतीय वस्तुओं पर **25% दंडात्मक शुल्क** और पहले से लागू **25% “प्रतिशोधी शुल्क”** लगा दिया है।

- The sanctions will cost India in terms of its investment in the Iranian port, for which the Modi government signed a **10-year lease agreement in May 2024**.

ये प्रतिबंध भारत को ईरानी बंदरगाह में उसके निवेश के लिहाज से महंगे पड़ेंगे, जिसके लिए मोदी सरकार ने **मई 2024 में 10 वर्षीय लीज समझौते** पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे।



# Equalising primary food consumption in India

The publication, in February 2024, of a household consumption survey by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Office, after a gap of over a decade, has made it possible to estimate the poverty rate in India. One such estimate, released by the World Bank in April 2025, has received the most attention. It points to the poverty rate being very low by now. To quote the World Bank, "Over the past decade, India has significantly reduced poverty. Extreme poverty (living on less than \$2.15 per day) fell from 16.2 percent in 2011-12 to 2.3 percent in 2022-23..." ("Poverty and Equity Brief: INDIA", 2025). If this is indeed an accurate description, it would be a source of satisfaction, for it suggests that extreme poverty has virtually disappeared from the country.

## The 'thali meal' as a consumption metric

The conventional approach to poverty measurement, pioneered by the Government of India over half a century ago, entails first determining the income that would enable food intake of a specified calorific value, and then classifying those with less as poor. This is a physiological approach, and has some merit. But there could be other approaches, based on the consumption of goods, for instance. One such approach would recognise that humans are likely to approach food from an angle wider than just its calorie content, taking into account the energy it provides, which calories measure, nourishment, and the satisfaction it gives. We believe the *thali* meal reflects this thinking, making it a natural choice to measure food consumption in real terms.

As a combination of carbohydrates, protein and vitamins, the *thali* is a balanced and self-contained unit of food consumption in south Asia, even if the nomenclature may vary across it. With this in mind, we have estimated the number of *thalis* the monthly expenditure reported in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of 2024 would translate into. The rating agency, Crisil, has estimated the cost of a home-cooked *thali*, comprising rice, *dal*, vegetables, *roti*, curd and salad, as ₹30. Adopting this price, we found that in 2023-24, up to 50% of the rural population and up to 20% of the urban population could not have afforded two *thalis* per day at the food expenditure recorded. If two *thalis* a day is taken as the minimum acceptable standard of food consumption, our estimates point to much greater food deprivation in India than conveyed by the poverty figures from the World Bank.

A crucial reason why our findings differ is that



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Expanding the Public Distribution System to ensure desirable levels of consumption of pulses by eliminating subsidies for those whose food consumption exceeds a reasonable norm will be an ideal step

we do not assume that all of a household's income is available for spending on food. A household needs to spend on rent, transportation, telephony, health maintenance and education to just remain in the workforce. Now, expenditure on food ends up as the residual. Therefore, we have based our estimates on the actual expenditure on food.

It tends to be assumed that the Public Distribution System (PDS) deals effectively with food deprivation. To assess this, we have computed the value of food consumption including the imputed value of supplies received via the PDS – both purchased and free of cost. With the value of consumption thus adjusted, the proportion of the population that cannot afford two *thalis* declines to 40% in rural areas and 10% in urban areas. Notably, food deprivation remains very high in the former even with subsidised food.

## The role of PDS

To understand how the PDS can be leveraged to alleviate food deprivation, we estimated the subsidy per person across expenditure classes. What is interesting is that both PDS purchases and free food availed of by sections of the population that can afford more than two *thalis* a day are high. For instance, in rural India, the subsidy received by an individual in the 90%-95% fractile is 88% of the subsidy received by an individual in 0%-5% fractile, even as the first has a consumption expenditure more than three times greater, and going by our own *thali* index does not require further support. By contrast, in urban India, the subsidy regime is strongly progressive. But here too about 80% receive subsidised sales from the PDS and also free food, even when they too can afford more than two *thalis* per day.

Based on the data on food deprivation and the structuring of the food subsidy regime we make a proposal on how policy should evolve. This data point to what needs to be done and how it can be achieved. First, there is scope for restructuring the food subsidy, raising it at the lower end of the distribution and eliminating it altogether at the upper. However, we learn from the most recent consumption survey that there is a constraint to be faced: cereals consumption is almost identical for individuals in the 0%-5% fractile and the 95%-100% fractile.

This suggests that the desired level of consumption of cereals, both rice and wheat, has been reached, for the richest can afford to purchase all the cereals that they desire. While it points to the success of the PDS, in that it has

equalised the consumption of a staple food, at the same time, it points to the limits to using the PDS in its present form to end food deprivation. Not only has cereals consumption very likely reached its desired level across the population but also it constitutes only 10% of the average household's expenditure.

It is unreasonable, from considerations of both logistics and expense, to expect that a government can distribute the entire food basket to any section. There is a middle path though, and that is to expand the distribution of pulses through the PDS. In a further comparison of the consumption patterns at the two ends of the distribution, we find that unlike in the case of the cereals, the per capita consumption of pulses in the 0%-5% fractile is exactly half of that in the 95%-100% fractile.

## Pulses consumption

The PDS can be leveraged to equalise the primary food consumption across the population. The expansion of the PDS to ensure desirable levels of consumption of pulses – for many Indians, the only source of protein and a very costly food item – is both desirable and feasible. The financial aspect can be addressed by restructuring the PDS. The per capita consumption of rice and wheat in the 0%-5% fractile implies that the PDS entitlement of rice and wheat is well above what is necessary for a significant number.

Expanding the subsidy regime to supply cereal to 80 crore people, as done by the central government in January 2024 and the particularly large entitlement of rice given to those below the poverty line in some States, do not reflect need. Also, they come at a cost to the economy, given the alternative uses of public funds. Trimming the current entitlement of cereals to levels indicated as needed by the recent consumption survey at the lower end of the distribution and eliminating it altogether at the upper end would also require lower stocking requirements for the Food Corporation of India, with substantial gains.

We have proposed an expansion of the PDS in the direction of the food most needed by the least well-off, namely pulses, accompanied by the elimination of subsidies for those whose food consumption exceeds a reasonable norm, such as two *thalis* a day. Right now, the PDS is both unwieldy and ineffective, as it spreads resources thin. Our proposal will render it compact, enabling the equalisation of primary food consumption in India by raising that of the poorest household to the highest level observed in the economy, a globally significant outcome.

## Equalising primary food consumption in India

## भारत में प्राथमिक खाद्य उपभोग को समान करना

### Poverty Estimates and Household Consumption Survey

#### गरीबी का अनुमान और घरेलू उपभोग सर्वेक्षण

- The publication, in **February 2024**, of a household consumption survey by the **National Sample Survey (NSS) Office**, after a gap of over a decade, has made it possible to estimate the poverty rate in India.  
**फरवरी 2024 में राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण (NSS) कार्यालय द्वारा एक दशक से अधिक के अंतराल के बाद घरेलू उपभोग सर्वेक्षण का प्रकाशन भारत में गरीबी दर का अनुमान लगाना संभव बना दिया है।**



- One such estimate, released by the **World Bank** in **April 2025**, has received the most attention. It points to the poverty rate being very low by now.  
ऐसा ही एक अनुमान, जो **विश्व बैंक** ने **अप्रैल 2025** में जारी किया, ने सबसे अधिक ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। यह इंगित करता है कि अब तक गरीबी दर बहुत कम हो गई है।
- To quote the **World Bank**, “Over the past decade, India has significantly reduced poverty. **Extreme poverty** (living on less than **\$2.15 per day**) fell from **16.2 percent in 2011-12 to 2.3 percent in 2022-23**...” (‘Poverty and Equity Brief: INDIA’, 2025).  
**विश्व बैंक** के अनुसार, “पिछले दशक में भारत ने गरीबी को काफी हद तक कम किया है। **अत्यधिक गरीबी** (यानी **\$2.15 प्रतिदिन** से कम पर जीवनयापन) **2011-12 में 16.2 प्रतिशत** से घटकर **2022-23 में 2.3 प्रतिशत** हो गई है....” (‘गरीबी और समानता संक्षेप: भारत’, 2025)।
- If this is indeed an accurate description, it would be a source of satisfaction, for it suggests that extreme poverty has virtually disappeared from the country.  
यदि यह वास्तव में सटीक वर्णन है, तो यह संतोष का कारण होगा, क्योंकि यह दर्शाता है कि देश से अत्यधिक गरीबी लगभग समाप्त हो गई है।

### The ‘thali meal’ as a consumption metric

#### ‘थाली भोजन’ उपभोग मीट्रिक के रूप में

- The conventional approach to poverty measurement, pioneered by the **Government of India** over half a century ago, entails first determining the income that would enable food intake of a specified calorific value, and then classifying those with less as poor.  
गरीबी मापन के पारंपरिक दृष्टिकोण, जिसकी शुरुआत **भारत सरकार** ने आधी सदी से अधिक पहले की थी, में पहले उस आय का निर्धारण करना शामिल है जिससे निर्दिष्ट कैलोरी मान वाला भोजन प्राप्त हो सके, और फिर जिनके पास इससे कम हो उन्हें गरीब के रूप में वर्गीकृत करना।
- This is a physiological approach, and has some merit. But there could be other approaches, based on the consumption of goods, for instance.  
यह एक शारीरिक दृष्टिकोण है और इसमें कुछ महत्व है। लेकिन अन्य दृष्टिकोण भी हो सकते हैं, जैसे कि वस्तुओं के उपभोग पर आधारित।
- One such approach would recognise that humans are likely to approach food from an angle wider than just its **calorie content**, taking into account the energy it provides, nourishment, and the satisfaction it gives.  
ऐसा ही एक दृष्टिकोण यह मान्यता देगा कि मनुष्य भोजन को केवल उसकी कैलोरी सामग्री से अधिक व्यापक दृष्टिकोण से देखता है, जिसमें वह दी गई ऊर्जा, पोषण और संतुष्टि को ध्यान में रखता है।
- We believe the **thali meal reflects this thinking**, making it a natural choice to measure food consumption in real terms.  
हमारा मानना है कि **थाली भोजन** इस सोच को दर्शाता है, जिससे यह वास्तविक रूप में खाद्य उपभोग को मापने का एक स्वाभाविक विकल्प बन जाता है।
- As a combination of **carbohydrates, protein and vitamins**, the **thali** is a balanced and self-contained unit of food consumption in **South Asia**, even if the nomenclature may vary across it.  
कार्बोहाइड्रेट, प्रोटीन और विटामिन के संयोजन के रूप में, **थाली दक्षिण एशिया** में एक संतुलित और स्व-निहित खाद्य उपभोग इकाई है, भले ही इसका नाम अलग-अलग जगहों पर अलग हो सकता है।
- With this in mind, we have estimated the number of **thalis** the monthly expenditure reported in the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of 2024** would



translate into.

इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए, हमने अनुमान लगाया है कि 2024 के घरेलू उपभोग व्यय सर्वेक्षण में दर्ज मासिक खर्च कितनी थालियों में बदल सकता है।

- The rating agency, **Crisil**, has estimated the cost of a home-cooked thali, comprising rice, dal, vegetables, roti, curd and salad, as ₹30.  
रेटिंग एजेंसी क्रिसिल ने घर पर बनी थाली की कीमत, जिसमें चावल, दाल, सब्जी, रोटी, दही और सलाद शामिल हैं, ₹30 आँकी है।
- Adopting this price, we found that in 2023-24, up to 50% of the rural population and up to 20% of the urban population could not have afforded two thalis per day at the food expenditure recorded.  
इस कीमत को अपनाकर, हमने पाया कि 2023-24 में, ग्रामीण आबादी का 50% तक और शहरी आबादी का 20% तक दर्ज खाद्य खर्च पर प्रतिदिन दो थाली वहन नहीं कर सकते थे।
- If two thalis a day is taken as the minimum acceptable standard of food consumption, our estimates point to much greater food deprivation in India than conveyed by the poverty figures from the World Bank.  
यदि प्रतिदिन दो थालियों को खाद्य उपभोग का न्यूनतम स्वीकार्य मानक माना जाए, तो हमारे अनुमान विश्व बैंक द्वारा दिए गए गरीबी आँकड़ों से कहीं अधिक खाद्य अभाव की ओर संकेत करते हैं।
- A crucial reason why our findings differ is that we do not assume that all of a household's income is available for spending on food.  
हमारे निष्कर्षों के भिन्न होने का एक महत्वपूर्ण कारण यह है कि हम यह मानकर नहीं चलते कि परिवार की पूरी आय भोजन पर खर्च करने के लिए उपलब्ध है।
- A household needs to spend on rent, transportation, telephony, health maintenance and education to just remain in the workforce.  
किसी परिवार को केवल कार्यबल में बने रहने के लिए किराया, परिवहन, दूरसंचार, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल और शिक्षा पर खर्च करना पड़ता है।
- Now, expenditure on food ends up as the residual. Therefore, we have based our estimates on the actual expenditure on food.  
अब, भोजन पर खर्च शेष बचा हुआ होता है। इसलिए, हमने अपने अनुमान भोजन पर वास्तविक खर्च के आधार पर बनाए हैं।
- It tends to be assumed that the Public Distribution System (PDS) deals effectively with food deprivation.  
यह मान लिया जाता है कि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) खाद्य अभाव से प्रभावी ढंग से निपटती है।
- To assess this, we have computed the value of food consumption including the imputed value of supplies received via the PDS — both purchased and free of cost.  
इसका आकलन करने के लिए, हमने खाद्य उपभोग का मूल्य गणना किया है, जिसमें PDS से प्राप्त आपूर्ति का अनुमानित मूल्य — चाहे खरीदा गया हो या निःशुल्क — शामिल है।
- With the value of consumption thus adjusted, the proportion of the population that cannot afford two thalis declines to 40% in rural areas and 10% in urban areas.  
उपभोग मूल्य को इस प्रकार समायोजित करने पर, दो थाली वहन नहीं कर पाने वाली जनसंख्या का अनुपात ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 40% और शहरी क्षेत्रों में 10% हो जाता है।



- Notably, food deprivation remains very high in the former even with subsidised food.  
उल्लेखनीय है कि सब्सिडी वाले भोजन के बावजूद, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खाद्य अभाव बहुत अधिक बना रहता है।

## The role of PDS

### पीडीएस की भूमिका

- To understand how the PDS can be leveraged to alleviate **food deprivation**, we estimated the subsidy per person across expenditure classes.  
यह समझने के लिए कि पीडीएस का उपयोग **खाद्य अभाव** को कम करने के लिए कैसे किया जा सकता है, हमने **व्यय वर्गों** के अनुसार प्रति व्यक्ति सब्सिडी का अनुमान लगाया।
- What is interesting is that both **PDS purchases and free food** availed of by sections of the population that can afford more than **two thalis a day** are high.  
दिलचस्प बात यह है कि **पीडीएस खरीद** और **मुफ्त भोजन** उन आबादी के हिस्सों द्वारा भी अधिक मात्रा में लिया जा रहा है जो **दिन में दो थाली से अधिक** वहन कर सकते हैं।
- For instance, in **rural India**, the subsidy received by an individual in the **90%-95% fractile** is **88%** of the subsidy received by an individual in **0%-5% fractile**, even as the first has a **consumption expenditure more than three times greater**, and going by our **thali index** does not require further support.  
उदाहरण के लिए, **ग्रामीण भारत** में, **90%-95% फ्रैक्टाइल** में एक व्यक्ति को मिलने वाली सब्सिडी, **0%-5% फ्रैक्टाइल** में व्यक्ति को मिलने वाली सब्सिडी का **88%** है, जबकि पहले का **व्यय तीन गुना अधिक** है, और हमारे **थाली इंडेक्स** के अनुसार उसे और समर्थन की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- By contrast, in **urban India**, the subsidy regime is strongly progressive.  
इसके विपरीत, **शहरी भारत** में सब्सिडी व्यवस्था काफी प्रगतिशील है।
- But here too about **80% receive subsidised sales from the PDS** and also free food, even when they too can afford more than **two thalis per day**.  
लेकिन यहां भी लगभग **80%** लोग पीडीएस से सब्सिडी पर बिक्री और मुफ्त भोजन प्राप्त करते हैं, जबकि वे भी **दिन में दो थाली से अधिक** वहन कर सकते हैं।
- Based on the data on **food deprivation** and the structuring of the **food subsidy regime** we make a proposal on how policy should evolve.  
**खाद्य अभाव और खाद्य सब्सिडी व्यवस्था** की संरचना पर आधारित आंकड़ों से हमने नीति के विकास पर एक प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया।
- This data point to what needs to be done and how it can be achieved.  
यह आंकड़े बताते हैं कि क्या किया जाना चाहिए और यह कैसे हासिल किया जा सकता है।
- First, there is scope for **restructuring the food subsidy**, raising it at the lower end of the distribution and eliminating it altogether at the upper.  
सबसे पहले, **खाद्य सब्सिडी के पुनर्गठन** की संभावना है, इसे वितरण के निचले छोर पर बढ़ाया जा सकता है और ऊपरी छोर पर पूरी तरह समाप्त किया जा सकता है।
- However, we learn from the most recent **consumption survey** that there is a constraint to be faced: **cereals consumption is almost identical for individuals in the 0%-5% fractile and the 95%-100% fractile**.  
हालांकि, हमें हालिया **उपभोग सर्वेक्षण** से पता चलता है कि एक बाधा है: **अनाज की खपत 0%-5% फ्रैक्टाइल और 95%-100% फ्रैक्टाइल** के व्यक्तियों के लिए लगभग समान है।
- This suggests that the desired level of consumption of **cereals, both rice and wheat**, has been reached, for the richest can afford to purchase all the cereals that they desire.



यह संकेत देता है कि **अनाज** (चावल और गेहूं दोनों) की वांछित खपत का स्तर प्राप्त कर लिया गया है, क्योंकि सबसे धनी सभी अनाज खरीद सकते हैं जो वे चाहते हैं।

- While it points to the success of the **PDS**, in that it has equalised the consumption of a staple food, at the same time, it points to the limits to using the **PDS** in its present form to end food deprivation.

यह **पीडीएस** की सफलता की ओर इशारा करता है, क्योंकि इसने एक मुख्य खाद्य पदार्थ की खपत को बराबर किया है, लेकिन साथ ही यह वर्तमान रूप में **पीडीएस** की सीमाओं को भी दर्शाता है कि यह खाद्य अभाव को समाप्त नहीं कर सकता।

- Not only has **cereals consumption** very likely reached its desired level across the population but also it constitutes only **10%** of the average household's expenditure. न केवल **अनाज की खपत** ने पूरे जनसंख्या में वांछित स्तर प्राप्त कर लिया है बल्कि यह औसत घर के खर्च का केवल **10%** ही है।

It is unreasonable, from considerations of both **logistics and expense**, to expect that a government can distribute the entire food basket to any section.

यह अव्यवहारिक है, दोनों **लॉजिस्टिक्स और खर्च** के दृष्टिकोण से, यह उम्मीद करना कि सरकार पूरी खाद्य टोकरी किसी वर्ग को वितरित कर सकती है।

- There is a middle path though, and that is to expand the distribution of **pulses** through the PDS.

हालांकि एक मध्य मार्ग है, और वह है पीडीएस के माध्यम से **दालों** के वितरण का विस्तार करना।

- In a further comparison of the consumption patterns at the two ends of the distribution, we find that unlike in the case of the cereals, the per capita consumption of **pulses in the 0%-5% fractile is exactly half of that in the 95%-100% fractile**.

वितरण के दोनों छोर पर खपत के पैटर्न की आगे की तुलना में, हमें पता चलता है कि **अनाज** के विपरीत, **0%-5% फ्रैक्टाइल** में **दालों** की प्रति व्यक्ति खपत **95%-100% फ्रैक्टाइल** की तुलना में ठीक आधी है।

## Pulses consumption

### दालों की खपत

- The **PDS** can be leveraged to equalise the primary food consumption across the population.

**पीडीएस** का उपयोग पूरी आबादी में प्राथमिक खाद्य खपत को बराबर करने के लिए किया जा सकता है।

- The expansion of the **PDS** to ensure desirable levels of consumption of **pulses** — for many Indians, the only source of protein and a very costly food item — is both desirable and feasible.

**पीडीएस** का विस्तार करके **दालों** की वांछित खपत सुनिश्चित करना — जो कई भारतीयों के लिए प्रोटीन का एकमात्र स्रोत और बहुत महंगा खाद्य पदार्थ है — वांछनीय और संभव दोनों है।

- The financial aspect can be addressed by restructuring the **PDS**.

वित्तीय पहलू को **पीडीएस** के पुनर्गठन से संबोधित किया जा सकता है।

- The **per capita consumption of rice and wheat in the 0%-5% fractile implies that the PDS entitlement of rice and wheat** is well above what is necessary for a significant number.

**0%-5% फ्रैक्टाइल** में **चावल और गेहूं** की प्रति व्यक्ति खपत यह दर्शाती है कि **पीडीएस अधिकार** चावल और गेहूं का एक बड़ी संख्या के लिए आवश्यक स्तर से काफी अधिक है।



- Expanding the subsidy regime to supply **cereal to 80 crore people**, as done by the central government in **January 2024**, and the particularly large entitlement of rice given to those **below the poverty line** in some States, do not reflect need.  
जनवरी 2024 में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किए गए अनुसार, **80 करोड़ लोगों को अनाज** की आपूर्ति के लिए सब्सिडी व्यवस्था का विस्तार और कुछ राज्यों में **गरीबी रेखा से नीचे** वालों को चावल का विशेष रूप से बड़ा अधिकार प्रदान करना, आवश्यकता को प्रदर्शित नहीं करता।
- Also, they come at a cost to the economy, given the alternative uses of public funds. इसके अलावा, वे अर्थव्यवस्था पर लागत डालते हैं, क्योंकि सार्वजनिक धन के वैकल्पिक उपयोग भी मौजूद हैं।
- **Trimming the current entitlement of cereals to levels indicated as needed by the recent consumption survey** at the lower end of the distribution and eliminating it altogether at the upper end would also require lower stocking requirements for the **Food Corporation of India**, with substantial gains.  
हालिया **उपभोग सर्वेक्षण** द्वारा दर्शाए गए स्तरों तक वितरण के निचले छोर पर वर्तमान **अनाज अधिकार** को कम करना और ऊपरी छोर पर इसे पूरी तरह समाप्त करना, **भारतीय खाद्य निगम** के लिए भंडारण आवश्यकताओं को भी कम करेगा, जिससे पर्याप्त लाभ होगा।
- We have proposed an expansion of the **PDS** in the direction of the food most needed by the least well-off, namely **pulses**, accompanied by the elimination of subsidies for those whose food consumption exceeds a reasonable norm, such as **two thalis a day**.  
हमने **पीडीएस** का विस्तार उन खाद्य पदार्थों की ओर करने का प्रस्ताव रखा है जिनकी सबसे कमज़ोर वर्ग को सबसे अधिक आवश्यकता है, अर्थात् **दालें**, और साथ ही उन लोगों के लिए सब्सिडी को समाप्त करना जिनकी खपत एक उचित मानक, जैसे **दिन में दो थाली**, से अधिक है।
- Right now, the **PDS** is both unwieldy and ineffective, as it spreads resources thin. अभी, **पीडीएस** बोझिल और अप्रभावी दोनों है, क्योंकि यह संसाधनों को पतला फैलाता है।
- Our proposal will render it compact, enabling the equalisation of primary food consumption in India by raising that of the poorest household to the highest level observed in the economy, a **globally significant outcome**.  
हमारा प्रस्ताव इसे सुसंगत बनाएगा, जिससे भारत में प्राथमिक खाद्य खपत का समानिकरण संभव होगा, गरीबतम घर को अर्थव्यवस्था में देखे गए उच्चतम स्तर तक उठाकर, जो एक **वैश्विक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम** होगा।



# Should India overlook boundary issues while normalising ties with China?

SS II: India-China

PARLEY

**E**arlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his much-anticipated visit to China. Mr. Modi attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and also held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the summit. The two leaders decided to restart bilateral trade and air connectivity, and underlined the importance of peace and tranquility along the border. These decisions were significant as they were made five years after the deadly border clashes between the two neighbours in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh; and months after India launched Operation Sindoor against Pakistan (at the time, China supported the Pakistani military forces). Both leaders reaffirmed that the two countries were “development partners and not rivals, and their differences should not turn to disputes,” the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement after the meeting. Should India overlook boundary issues while normalising ties with China? Vivek Katju and Antara Ghosal Singh discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Kalol Bhattacharjee**. Excerpts:

**Is it possible for India to normalise ties with China without resolving the boundary issue?**

**Vivek Katju:** In 1988, during Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China, India and China decided to normalise ties in other sectors even as they attempted to resolve the border issue. In a way, this constituted a departure from the past. The crucial point was that peace and tranquility had to be maintained along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). While India wanted the border issue to be resolved (as part of normalising ties), China was more reluctant to do so (and wanted to set the issue aside for the time being). In the 1990s too, both countries agreed to maintain peace and tranquility (along the LAC). In 2020, the Galwan incident, which demonstrated China's aggressive approach, upset this arrangement. That didn't mean that there weren't previous incidents which constituted serious setbacks to the normalisation process, but those paled in comparison to what happened in 2020. In the last five years, both sides, through diplomatic and military arrangements, have tried to restore the system that prevailed in the 1990s. So, when you ask whether the border issue is holding us back, I think we had moved past that in 1988 and in the 1990s. And one last point: if you see the Indian and Chinese readouts of the Modi-Xi Jinping meeting at the SCO margins, you will find a distinct difference in how the two sides describe the salience of the border issue.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin, AFP

**Antara Ghosal Singh:** My understanding is that it is not an either-or situation. The overall positive turn in China-India ties is not really a sudden development or a knee-jerk reaction to the current turmoil in international politics or the recent downturn in India-U.S. ties. India-China relations have been showing signs of improvement since early last year. Both sides have been sending some positive signals towards each other. As I gather from Chinese sources, the 2024 Border Patrol Agreement was a key icebreaker. Since the Galwan clash of 2020, India has been consistently demanding that the Chinese Army withdraw to the pre-April 2020 positions and restore India's patrol rights in the disputed areas. From that perspective, India sees the restoration of patrolling points, even in Demchok and Depsang, as a diplomatic victory. Many Indian strategists have acknowledged this fact. Importantly, the Chinese side feels that they have not really suffered any loss in this agreement because it is a border patrol agreement and has nothing to do with the demarcation of sovereignty. The agreement means that two years after achieving disengagement at four places through the creation of non-patrolled buffer zones, now two more places, as demanded by the Indian side, are being disengaged through cross-patrolled buffer zones. That is the Chinese understanding from what I read.

**Do you see a situation where the normalisation of relations could be disrupted by, say, a Galwan-2 in the distant future?**

**VK:** Of course, that will disrupt relations – and disrupt them badly. In the Indian strategic community, China now looms large. China has always loomed large, but I think for historical

**Antara Ghosal Singh:** Despite all our differences, I have always argued that good workable ties between China and India are good for both sides.

reasons, Pakistan occupied a principal place. But today, I do believe, despite Pakistani terror and despite China's consistent support for Pakistan, there is a realisation that China is India's main threat and will continue to be so. Now, there are new formulations that suggest that India and China can be partners and not rivals. What I understand is that China is aspiring for primacy in the world. It no longer considers India to be on par with it. It believes that India is just another South Asian country it has to deal with. If you see (Chinese Foreign Minister) Wang Yi's remarks, after his meeting with (Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan) Ishaq Dar, that part is made clear. A journalist noted that Pakistan was the Minister's final stop after visiting three countries. Mr. Wang said it was the final stop – and the most important one. That speaks volumes.

There has been a shift in India's appreciation of China. But we cannot overlook the enormous infrastructure development, especially in the military area of the Tibetan Plateau. Why is this being done? And what will that lead to? It will lead to India having to spend a fair amount of its own financial resources in ensuring that the LAC infrastructure is fortified and that the LAC is well garrisoned throughout the year. I think that is also a Chinese objective.

I don't think it will be wrong for me to say that China shows no interest in really resolving the border issue. Yes, the special representatives are going to meet, but are they going to make any headway? What does the history of the last 30 years show? And why did Galwan happen? No one has been able to come up with an authoritative reason for why it happened.

**AGS:** If you look at Chinese sources, you will find many theories (behind what prompted China's action in Galwan). The most popular one is the dilution of Article 370 (of Jammu and Kashmir; China protested against the move). Another argument is the competition between China and India in terms of manufacturing. It was during COVID-19 that the first round of the China-U.S. trade war took place and there was this feeling on the Chinese side that India was collaborating with the U.S. to take away China's position in the global supply chains. That caused a lot of panic within Chinese strategic circles. Ambassador Katju also mentioned that India is

often looked down upon by China; that is true. For a long time, China has chosen to believe that India is a retreating image in its rear view mirror. But it was during that time in 2020 when they started to realise that things can change and that India, a country with 1.4 billion people, can be a competitor. There is this weird 'India is a threat' theory. If you look at Chinese discussions on various platforms, you can see how they are concerned about India's economic growth and India's demographic dividend, particularly at a time when China is facing a population crisis. There is also a prevailing mood in China that it should not let Chinese industries invest in India; that it should impose various export controls; and that it should not let India develop and be a competitor to China. So, there is a change in perception within China as well, on the India issue. All these insecurities played a role in what happened in 2020.

**Can the two tracks of the normalisation of India-China relations, and China's plans for South Asia, as seen in the recent Kuningming trilateral featuring Pakistan, China and Bangladesh, be in harmony with each other?**

**VK:** Of course not. I have reached the conclusion that China believes that India, if not now, then in later years, can be a rival and that it must be tackled. The way China is moving in South Asia establishes that too. Earlier, they were entering into bilateral ties. Now there are trilateral mechanisms. There is an Afghanistan, Pakistan, China mechanism. They are trying for a Bangladesh, Pakistan, China mechanism. Soon, I think they would want a mechanism involving all South Asian countries, including us. They will know that we might not take part in it.

**AGS:** They have their cards against us and we have our cards against them. But despite all our differences, I have always argued that good workable ties between China and India are good for both sides. We are aware of China's manufacturing prowess and how dependent India and the world is on Chinese manufacturing. The Economic Survey 2024-25 highlighted China's overwhelming manufacturing dominance in various sectors, including electric vehicles and critical minerals. It also stated how China's overall manufacturing output, which is nearly 45% of the global total, is at a level never seen before since the U.S.'s or the U.K.'s at their industrial peak.



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## Should India overlook boundary issues while normalising ties with China?

क्या भारत को चीन के साथ संबंध सामान्य करते समय सीमा संबंधी मुद्दों (boundary issues) को नजरअंदाज करना चाहिए?

- Earlier this month, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** concluded his much-anticipated visit to **China**.  
इस महीने की शुरुआत में, **प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने अपनी बहुप्रतीक्षित **चीन यात्रा** पूरी की।
- Mr. Modi attended the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit** and also held talks with **Chinese President Xi Jinping** on the sidelines of the summit.  
श्री मोदी ने **शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) शिखर सम्मेलन** में भाग लिया और शिखर सम्मेलन के दौरान **चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग** से भी बातचीत की।



- The two leaders decided to **restart bilateral trade and air connectivity**, and underlined the importance of **peace and tranquility along the border**.  
दोनों नेताओं ने द्विपक्षीय व्यापार और हवाई संपर्क को पुनः शुरू करने का निर्णय लिया और सीमा पर शांति और स्थिरता के महत्व को रेखांकित किया।
- These decisions were significant as they were made **five years after the deadly border clashes in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh**; and months after India launched **Operation Sindoor against Pakistan** (at the time, China supported the Pakistani military forces).  
ये निर्णय महत्वपूर्ण थे क्योंकि यह लद्दाख के गलवान घाटी में घातक सीमा झड़पों के पांच साल बाद लिए गए थे; और भारत द्वारा पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ ऑपरेशन सिंदूर शुरू करने के कुछ महीने बाद (उस समय, चीन ने पाकिस्तानी सेना का समर्थन किया था)।
- Both leaders reaffirmed that the two countries were **“development partners and not rivals, and their differences should not turn to disputes”**, the **Ministry of External Affairs** said in a statement after the meeting.  
दोनों नेताओं ने दोहराया कि दोनों देश **“विकास भागीदार हैं, प्रतिद्वंद्वी नहीं, और उनके मतभेद विवाद में नहीं बदलने चाहिए”**, बैठक के बाद विदेश मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा।

Is it possible for India to normalise ties with China without resolving the boundary issue?

क्या भारत बिना सीमा मुद्दे को हल किए चीन के साथ संबंध सामान्य कर सकता है?

- **Vivek Katju**: In 1988, during **Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit** to China, India and China decided to normalise ties in other sectors even as they attempted to resolve the **border issue**.  
**विवेक कटजू**: 1988 में, प्रधान मंत्री राजीव गांधी की चीन यात्रा के दौरान, भारत और चीन ने अन्य क्षेत्रों में संबंध सामान्य करने का निर्णय लिया, जबकि वे सीमा मुद्दे को हल करने का प्रयास कर रहे थे।
- The crucial point was that **peace and tranquility** had to be maintained along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.  
मुख्य बिंदु यह था कि वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC) पर शांति और स्थिरता बनाए रखनी थी।
- While India wanted the **border issue** to be resolved (as part of normalising ties), China was more reluctant to do so (and wanted to set the issue aside for the time being).  
जब भारत चाहता था कि सीमा मुद्दा हल हो (संबंध सामान्य करने के हिस्से के रूप में), चीन इसे करने में अधिक हिचकिचा रहा था (और इसे अस्थायी रूप से अलग रखना चाहता था)।
- In the **1990s**, both countries agreed to maintain **peace and tranquility along the LAC**.  
1990 के दशक में, दोनों देशों ने LAC पर शांति और स्थिरता बनाए रखने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- In **2020**, the **Galwan incident**, which demonstrated China's **aggressive approach**, upset this arrangement.  
2020 में, गलवान घटना, जिसने चीन के आक्रामक दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाया, इस व्यवस्था को बाधित कर दिया।
- In the last five years, both sides, through **diplomatic and military arrangements**, have tried to restore the system that prevailed in the **1990s**.  
पिछले पांच वर्षों में, दोनों पक्षों ने कूटनीतिक और सैन्य व्यवस्थाओं के माध्यम से 1990 के दशक में प्रचलित प्रणाली को बहाल करने का प्रयास किया है।



- If you see the **Indian and Chinese readouts** of the **Modi-Xi Jinping meeting** at the SCO margins, you will find a distinct difference in how the two sides describe the **salience of the border issue**.  
यदि आप SCO की सीमाओं पर हुई मोदी-शी जिनपिंग बैठक के भारतीय और चीनी रीडआउट देखें, तो आप पाएंगे कि दोनों पक्ष **सीमा मुद्दे की महत्वपूर्णता** को अलग तरीके से वर्णित करते हैं।
- **Antara Ghosal Singh**: The overall positive turn in China-India ties is not really a **sudden development** or a **knee-jerk reaction** to recent geopolitical events.  
**अंतरा घोषाल सिंह**: चीन-भारत संबंधों में समग्र सकारात्मक मोड़ वास्तव में कोई **अचानक विकास** या हाल की भू-राजनीतिक घटनाओं पर **तत्काल प्रतिक्रिया** नहीं है।
- India-China relations have been showing signs of improvement since **early last year**.  
भारत-चीन संबंधों में **पिछले वर्ष की शुरुआत** से सुधार के संकेत दिख रहे हैं।
- The **2024 Border Patrol Agreement** was a key icebreaker.  
**2024 सीमा गश्ती समझौता** एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रारंभिक सफलता थी।
- Since the **Galwan clash of 2020**, India has been consistently demanding that the **Chinese Army withdraw to the pre-April 2020 positions** and restore India's **patrol rights** in the disputed areas.  
**2020 की गलवान झड़प** के बाद से, भारत लगातार मांग कर रहा है कि **चीनी सेना अप्रैल 2020 से पहले की स्थिति में लौटे** और विवादित क्षेत्रों में भारत के **गश्ती अधिकार** को बहाल करे।
- India sees the restoration of **patrolling points**, even in **Demchok and Depsang**, as a **diplomatic victory**.  
भारत **डेमचोक और डेपसांग** में भी **गश्ती बिंदुओं** की बहाली को एक **कूटनीतिक सफलता** के रूप में देखता है।
- The Chinese side feels that they have not suffered any **loss**, as it is a **border patrol agreement** and has nothing to do with the **demarkcation of sovereignty**.  
चीनी पक्ष का मानना है कि उन्हें कोई **हानि** नहीं हुई, क्योंकि यह एक **सीमा गश्ती समझौता** है और इसका **सार्वभौमिक अधिकार क्षेत्र** के निर्धारण से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।
- Two more places, as demanded by the Indian side, are being disengaged through **cross-patrolled buffer zones**, after achieving **disengagement at four places** through **non-patrolled buffer zones**.  
दो और स्थान, जैसा कि भारतीय पक्ष ने मांग किया है, उन्हें **क्रॉस-पैट्रोल बफर ज़ोन** के माध्यम से अलग किया जा रहा है, **चार स्थानों पर गैर-गश्ती बफर ज़ोन** के माध्यम से अलगाव प्राप्त करने के बाद।

## Potential Disruptions in India-China Relations

### भारत-चीन संबंधों में संभावित व्यवधान

- Question: Do you see a situation where the **normalisation of relations** could be disrupted by, say, a **Galwan-2** in the distant future?  
प्रश्न: क्या आप ऐसी स्थिति देखते हैं जहाँ संबंधों के **सामान्यीकरण** को, उदाहरण के लिए, भविष्य में **गलवान-2** से बाधित किया जा सकता है?
- **Vivek Katju (VK)**: Of course, that will **disrupt relations — and disrupt them badly**.  
**विवेक कटजू (VK)**: निश्चित रूप से, इससे संबंधों में **विघटन होगा — और गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित होंगे**।
- In the **Indian strategic community**, **China now looms large**. China has always loomed large, but historically, **Pakistan** occupied a principal place.



भारतीय रणनीतिक समुदाय में, चीन अब प्रमुख खतरे के रूप में देखा जाता है। चीन हमेशा बड़ा था, लेकिन ऐतिहासिक रूप से, पाकिस्तान ने प्रमुख स्थान रखा।

- Today, despite **Pakistani terror** and **China's consistent support for Pakistan**, there is a realisation that **China is India's main threat** and will continue to be so. आज, **पाकिस्तानी आतंकवाद** और चीन के **पाकिस्तान के प्रति लगातार समर्थन** के बावजूद, यह समझ बन गई है कि **चीन भारत का मुख्य खतरा** है और ऐसा ही रहेगा।
- There are new formulations that suggest India and China can be **partners and not rivals**. नए सूत्र बताते हैं कि भारत और चीन **भागीदार हो सकते हैं, प्रतिद्वंद्वी नहीं**।
- China is aspiring for **primacy in the world** and no longer considers India to be on **par with it**. चीन **विश्व में प्रधानता** चाहता है और अब भारत को इसके बराबर नहीं मानता।
- China believes that India is just **another South Asian country** it has to deal with. चीन का मानना है कि भारत केवल **दक्षिण एशियाई देशों में से एक देश** है, जिससे उसे निपटना है।
- **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's** remarks after meeting **Pakistani Deputy PM Ishaq Dar** clarify this perception. **चीनी विदेश मंत्री वांग यी** की **पाकिस्तानी उप प्रधानमंत्री इशाक डार** से मुलाकात के बाद की टिप्पणियाँ इस धारणा को स्पष्ट करती हैं।
- There has been a **shift in India's appreciation of China**, but India cannot overlook the **enormous infrastructure development, especially in the military area of the Tibetan Plateau**. भारत में चीन की सराहना में परिवर्तन आया है, लेकिन भारत **विशाल बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास**, विशेष रूप से **तिब्बती पठार में सैन्य क्षेत्र** को अनदेखा नहीं कर सकता।
- India will have to spend significant **financial resources** to ensure that the **LAC infrastructure is fortified and well garrisoned** throughout the year, which is also a **Chinese objective**. भारत को पर्याप्त **वित्तीय संसाधन** खर्च करने होंगे ताकि **LAC बुनियादी ढांचा मजबूत** और पूरे वर्ष सुरक्षित रखा जा सके, जो कि एक **चीनी उद्देश्य** भी है।
- China shows **no interest in really resolving the border issue**. चीन को **सीमा मुद्दा वास्तव में हल करने में कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं** है।
- Special representatives are meeting, but history of the last **30 years** shows limited progress, and the reason for **Galwan 2020** remains **authoritative unclear**. विशेष प्रतिनिधि मिल रहे हैं, लेकिन पिछले **30 वर्षों** का इतिहास सीमित प्रगति दिखाता है, और **गलवान 2020** के कारण को **अधिकृत रूप से स्पष्ट नहीं** किया गया है।
- **Antara Ghosal Singh (AGS)**: Chinese sources provide many theories behind **China's action in Galwan**. **अंतरा घोषाल सिंह (AGS)**: चीनी स्रोत गलवान में चीन की कार्रवाई के पीछे कई सिद्धांत प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- **Most popular theory: Dilution of Article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir, which China protested**. सबसे लोकप्रिय सिद्धांत: **जम्मू और कश्मीर के अनुच्छेद 370 का पतला होना**, जिस पर चीन ने विरोध किया।
- **Another argument: Competition between China and India in manufacturing**. दूसरा तर्क: **निर्माण क्षेत्र में चीन और भारत के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा**।



- During **COVID-19**, the **first round of China-U.S. trade war** happened; Chinese felt India was collaborating with **U.S.** to take away China's position in **global supply chains**, causing **panic in Chinese strategic circles**.  
**COVID-19** के दौरान, **चीन-अमेरिका व्यापार युद्ध का पहला दौर** हुआ; चीनी महसूस कर रहे थे कि भारत **अमेरिका** के साथ सहयोग कर चीन की **वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** में स्थिति छीनने की कोशिश कर रहा है, जिससे **चीनी रणनीतिक गणों में घबराहट** हुई।
- Ambassador Katju noted that India is often **looked down upon by China**, which has historical roots.  
 राजदूत कटजू ने कहा कि भारत को अक्सर **चीन द्वारा नीचा देखा जाता है**, जिसका ऐतिहासिक कारण है।
- China believed India was a **retreating image**, but in **2020**, realisation arose that India, with **1.4 billion people**, can be a **competitor**.  
 चीन मानता था कि भारत एक **पीछे हटती हुई छवि** है, लेकिन **2020** में यह समझ आया कि **1.4 अरब लोग वाला भारत एक प्रतिद्वंद्वी** हो सकता है।
- There is a theory: **"India is a threat"** in Chinese discussions.  
 एक सिद्धांत है: **"भारत एक खतरा है"** चीनी चर्चाओं में।
- **China is concerned about India's economic growth and demographic dividend, especially during China's population crisis.**  
 चीन भारत की **आर्थिक वृद्धि और जनसांख्यिकीय लाभ** को लेकर चिंतित है, विशेष रूप से चीन के **जनसंख्या संकट** के समय।
- Prevailing mood in China: Restrict **Chinese industries investing in India**, impose **export controls**, prevent India from developing into a **competitor**.  
 चीन में प्रचलित मनोवृत्ति: भारत में **चीनी उद्योगों का निवेश रोकना**, **निर्यात नियंत्रण लागू करना**, और भारत को **प्रतिद्वंद्वी बनने से रोकना**।
- These **insecurities** contributed to what happened in **2020**.  
 ये **असुरक्षाएँ 2020** में हुई घटनाओं में योगदान करती हैं।

### Harmony between India-China Normalisation and China's South Asia Plans

भारत-चीन संबंधों के सामान्यीकरण और चीन की दक्षिण एशिया योजनाओं के बीच सामंजस्य

- Question: Can the two tracks of the **normalisation of India-China relations**, and China's plans for **South Asia**, as seen in the recent **Kunming trilateral** featuring Pakistan, China and Bangladesh, be in harmony with each other?  
 प्रश्न: क्या भारत-चीन संबंधों के **सामान्यीकरण** और चीन की **दक्षिण एशिया योजनाओं**, जैसा कि हालिया **कुनमिंग त्रिपक्षीय बैठक** में पाकिस्तान, चीन और बांग्लादेश के बीच देखा गया, आपस में **सामंजस्यपूर्ण** हो सकते हैं?
- **Vivek Katju (VK)**: Of course not. China believes that India, if not now, then in later years, can be a **rival** and must be **tackled**.  
**विवेक कटजू (VK)**: निश्चित रूप से नहीं। चीन मानता है कि भारत, यदि अभी नहीं, तो भविष्य में एक **प्रतिद्वंद्वी** बन सकता है और इसे **निपटाया जाना चाहिए**।
- **China's movement in South Asia** establishes this. Earlier, they focused on **bilateral ties**, now **trilateral mechanisms** are being created.  
**दक्षिण एशिया** में चीन की गतिविधियाँ इसे साबित करती हैं। पहले वे **द्विपक्षीय संबंधों** पर ध्यान देते थे, अब **त्रिपक्षीय तंत्र** बनाए जा रहे हैं।



- There is an **Afghanistan-Pakistan-China mechanism** and an effort for a **Bangladesh-Pakistan-China mechanism**.  
एक अफ़गानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान-चीन तंत्र है और एक बांग्लादेश-पाकिस्तान-चीन तंत्र के लिए प्रयास हो रहा है।
- Soon, China may aim for a mechanism involving **all South Asian countries**, including India, knowing India might **not take part**.  
जल्द ही, चीन **सभी दक्षिण एशियाई देशों** को शामिल करने वाला तंत्र चाहता है, जिसमें भारत भी शामिल है, यह जानते हुए कि भारत शायद इसमें **भाग न ले**।
- **Antara Ghosal Singh (AGS)**: Both sides have **cards against each other**, but **good workable ties** between China and India are **beneficial for both sides**.  
**अंतरा घोषाल सिंह (AGS)**: दोनों पक्षों के पास एक-दूसरे के खिलाफ **कार्ड** हैं, लेकिन चीन और भारत के बीच **अच्छे कार्यशील संबंध** दोनों पक्षों के लिए **फायदेमंद** हैं।
- India and the world are **dependent on Chinese manufacturing**, and China's **manufacturing prowess** is well recognised.  
भारत और दुनिया **चीनी निर्माण पर निर्भर** हैं, और चीन की **निर्माण क्षमता** अच्छी तरह मान्यता प्राप्त है।
- **Economic Survey 2024-25** highlighted China's **overwhelming manufacturing dominance**, including **electric vehicles** and **critical minerals**.  
**आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण 2024-25** में चीन की **प्रभावशाली निर्माण प्रभुत्व** को उजागर किया गया, जिसमें **इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन** और **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज** शामिल हैं।
- **China's overall manufacturing output**, nearly **45% of global total**, is at a level **unseen since the industrial peak of U.S. or U.K.**  
चीन का **कुल निर्माण उत्पादन**, लगभग **45% वैश्विक कुल**, **यू.एस. या यू.के. के औद्योगिक शिखर के बाद कभी नहीं देखा गया स्तर** है।



# Why did India condemn Doha strike?

How was India's reaction differ from its past responses? Why is Qatar treated differently from other countries? What role do India-Qatar ties play? Why has India stayed largely silent on Gaza? What does this mean for India's West Asia policy?

OS II, West Asia

## EXPLAINER

Suhasini Haidar

### The story so far:

India's condemnation of Israel's bombing in Doha last week as a "violation of sovereignty" is a shift from its more muted positions on previous Israeli operations in other countries, leading some to wonder if there's a larger change in New Delhi's stand on the crisis in West Asia. However, experts said that while the strong wording of the statement denotes growing distress over mounting civilian casualties in the war in Gaza, India's intervention has more to do with its close ties with Qatar and the Gulf region than with an assertion of principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. This has become particularly important, given New Delhi's concerns over the Saudi-Pakistan mutual defence agreement signed in Riyadh on Wednesday.

### Why did India criticise the Doha strike?

On September 16, India referred to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) bombing on September 9 of a home in Doha where leaders of Hamas gathered to discuss the United States' latest ceasefire proposal, as actions that "threaten peace, stability and security" in the region and worldwide. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended the strike, which killed five, saying that it was "justified" as Qatar "harbours and funds" Hamas operatives.

"India is deeply concerned about the recent attacks in Doha and their impact on the security situation in the region. We unequivocally condemn the violation of the sovereignty of Qatar," said India's Ambassador to the UN Mission in Geneva Arindam Bagchi, speaking at the UN Human Rights Council, also invoking the UN charter and international law.

"Any escalation must be avoided, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States must be upheld," Mr. Bagchi added, in a statement that built on an earlier statement by the Ministry of



A damaged building, following an Israeli attack on Hamas leaders, in Doha, on September 9. REUTERS

External Affairs, and another statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamin Bin Hamad Al Thani on September 10, expressing "solidarity with the Qatari people".

### How does this differ from India's past reactions?

The statements are in stark contrast to New Delhi's reactions to Israel's bombings of several other countries in the region, including Lebanon, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, and Iran.

When Israel bombed the Iranian Embassy in Damascus last April, the MEA had expressed some "concern", as it had when Israeli forces attacked a UN Peacekeeping post in southern Lebanon, but remained largely silent over other Israeli attacks on other countries. When Israeli intelligence detonated hundreds of pager bombs against Hezbollah in Beirut in September 2024, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi called the operation a "masterstroke". On Iran – a country with close ties with India and where investments such as the Chabahar port are at stake – the government's reactions have been more puzzling. In June, India called for dialogue after Israeli

and U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, which Iran responded to. However, New Delhi disassociated from a statement issued by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) days later, which condemned the strikes on Iran. In a subsequent flip-flop, India signed on to the SCO joint declaration on September 1 that "condemned" Israel and the U.S. for the June strikes.

### Why is Qatar treated differently?

"India's ties with the other countries mentioned are not the same as ties with Qatar, with its large Indian diaspora and personal relations at the highest levels between PM Modi and the Qatari Emir," explained former Ambassador to the UAE and Egypt, Navdeep Suri. "Eventually, in an age of 'transactionalism', this is not as much about values and principles as about the bilateral relationship with each of these countries, including Israel," he told *The Hindu*.

The MEA declined to respond to a question from *The Hindu* on why the Modi government has taken conflicting positions on the issue. Experts said a number of reasons explained the varied statements, from geopolitical to regional and bilateral. According to former

Ambassador and author of *West Asia at War*, Talmiz Ahmad, India's response to the attack on Qatar had "no larger strategic purpose" but focused on Qatar being a "crucial supplier of gas".

He also pointed out that Israel's attack on Qatar had put Gulf countries that house U.S. military bases and count on the U.S. to guarantee security "on notice", indicating a "fundamental geopolitical shift in the region", which India may need to take note of.

"The message Israel has given is that every Arab country, every Gulf country, is within their target zone and put them all on notice. Israel has now ended the process of normalisation and made it clear that ties with other West Asian countries are not a priority over its operations. Thirdly, Israel has shown that the U.S. is no longer a guarantor of security for these GCC countries," Mr. Ahmad said, speaking at a seminar organised by the India-America Friendship Association on Tuesday.

The alarm among Gulf countries was visible at an emergency joint session of the Arab League and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) conference in Doha this week, which condemned Israel's actions, even as the Gulf Cooperation Council committed to building a "joint defence mechanism" to deal with future threats.

### What does this mean for India's broader West Asia policy?

In addition, experts said India's silence on Gaza – where more than 65,000 have been killed, including at least 20,000 children, in Israel's incessant bombardment of Gaza, including the latest offensive against Gaza City – is straining its ties with the Arab world. In a rare response to media queries on August 27, the MEA called the killing of journalists and civilians by the IDF "shocking and deeply regrettable". India also voted in favour of a UNGA resolution endorsing the two-state solution for Palestine on September 12, indicating that, despite the steadfast relationship with Israel, the Modi government's shifts may indicate that it needs to factor in the rest of the region as well.

## THE GIST

India condemns Israel's bombing in Doha as a 'violation of sovereignty' and expresses concern over regional peace and security.

The strong stance reflects India's close ties with Qatar and the Gulf region rather than a shift in principles on sovereignty.

India's silence on Gaza and varied reactions to other Israeli strikes show a careful balancing of strategic, regional, and bilateral interests.

## Why did India condemn Doha strike?

### भारत ने दोहा हमले (Doha strike) की निंदा क्यों की?

- India's condemnation of Israel's bombing in Doha last week as a "violation of sovereignty" is a shift from its more muted positions on previous Israeli operations in other countries.

पिछले हफ्ते दोहा में इजरायल की बमबारी को "संप्रभुता का उल्लंघन" कहकर भारत की निंदा, अन्य देशों में इजरायल के पिछले अभियानों पर भारत के शांतिपूर्ण रुख से एक बदलाव है।

- This has led some to wonder if there's a larger change in New Delhi's stand on the crisis in West Asia.

इससे कुछ लोग सोच रहे हैं कि क्या नई दिल्ली का पश्चिम एशिया संकट पर रुख बड़े स्तर पर बदल गया है।

- Experts say the strong wording reflects growing distress over mounting civilian casualties in Gaza, but India's intervention relates more to its close ties with Qatar and the Gulf region than principles of sovereignty.



विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि कठोर शब्दावली गाजा में बढ़ते नागरिक हताहतों पर बढ़ती चिंता को दर्शाती है, लेकिन भारत की हस्तक्षेप अधिकतर क्रतर और खाड़ी क्षेत्र के साथ निकट संबंधों से जुड़ा है, न कि संप्रभुता के सिद्धांतों से।

- This has become particularly important given New Delhi's concerns over the **Saudi-Pakistan mutual defence agreement** signed in **Riyadh on Wednesday**.  
यह विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हो गया है, क्योंकि नई दिल्ली को सऊदी-पाकिस्तान आपसी रक्षा समझौते के बारे में चिंता है, जो बुधवार को रियाध में हस्ताक्षरित हुआ।

### Why did India criticise the Doha strike?

भारत ने दोहा स्ट्राइक की आलोचना क्यों की?

- On **September 16**, India referred to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) bombing on **September 9** of a home in Doha where **Hamas leaders** gathered to discuss the **U.S. ceasefire proposal**, calling it actions that **"threaten peace, stability and security"**.  
16 सितंबर को भारत ने 9 सितंबर को दोहा में एक घर पर इजरायली रक्षा बलों (IDF) की बमबारी का जिक्र किया, जहाँ हमास नेता अमेरिकी अस्थायी संघर्ष प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा करने के लिए एकत्र हुए थे, इसे ऐसे कार्य कहा जो "शांति, स्थिरता और सुरक्षा को खतरे में डालते हैं"।
- **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** defended the strike, which killed **five**, saying it was **"justified"** as **Qatar "harbours and funds" Hamas operatives**.  
इजरायली प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू ने इस हमले का बचाव किया, जिसमें पाँच लोग मारे गए, और कहा कि यह "संगत" था क्योंकि क्रतर हमास ऑपरेटिव्स को आश्रय और धन देता है।
- **India's Ambassador to the UN Mission in Geneva Arindam Bagchi**: "India is deeply concerned about recent attacks in Doha and their impact on security. We unequivocally condemn the **violation of Qatar's sovereignty**."  
भारत के जेनिवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र मिशन के राजदूत अरिंदम बागची: "भारत दोहा में हालिया हमलों और उनके सुरक्षा पर प्रभाव के बारे में गहरी चिंता व्यक्त करता है। हम स्पष्ट रूप से क्रतर की संप्रभुता के उल्लंघन की निंदा करते हैं।"
- Any escalation must be avoided, and respect for **sovereignty and territorial integrity** must be upheld.  
किसी भी बढ़ोतरी से बचना चाहिए, और संप्रभुता और भौगोलिक अखंडता का सम्मान बनाए रखना चाहिए।
- Statement builds on earlier **MEA** statement and another after **PM Modi spoke to Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamin Bin Hamad Al Thani on September 10**, expressing **solidarity with Qatari people**.  
यह बयान पहले विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) के बयान और प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के 10 सितंबर को कतारी अमीर शेख तमिन बिन हमद अल थानी से बातचीत के बाद जारी बयान पर आधारित है, जिसमें कतारी लोगों के साथ एकजुटता व्यक्त की गई।

### How does this differ from India's past reactions?

भारत की पिछली प्रतिक्रियाओं से यह कैसे अलग है?

- **Statements contrast with India's reactions to Israel's bombings of Lebanon, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, and Iran**.  
ये बयान भारत की लेबनान, यमन, ट्यूनीशिया, सीरिया और ईरान में इजरायल की बमबारी पर प्रतिक्रियाओं से स्पष्ट विरोधाभास दिखाते हैं।



- When Israel bombed **Iranian Embassy in Damascus** last April, MEA expressed some “**concern**”, similarly when **UN Peacekeeping post attacked in southern Lebanon**, but largely silent on others.  
जब इजरायल ने पिछले अप्रैल में दमिश्क में ईरानी दूतावास पर बमबारी की, तो MEA ने कुछ “चिंता” व्यक्त की, इसी तरह जब दक्षिणी लेबनान में UN शांति सेना पोस्ट पर हमला हुआ, लेकिन अन्य मामलों में मुख्य रूप से चुप रहा।
- **September 2024**: Israeli intelligence detonated hundreds of **pager bombs against Hezbollah in Beirut**; Indian Army Chief **General Upendra Dwivedi** called it a “**masterstroke**”.  
सितंबर 2024 में: इजरायली खुफिया ने बीरुत में हीज़बोल्लाह के खिलाफ सैकड़ों पेजर बम विस्फोटित किए; भारतीय सेना प्रमुख जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी ने इसे “मास्टरस्ट्रोक” कहा।
- On **Iran**, where India has **close ties** and investments like **Chabahar port**, government reactions have been puzzling.  
ईरान पर, जहाँ भारत के निकट संबंध हैं और चाबहार पोर्ट जैसे निवेश हैं, सरकार की प्रतिक्रियाएँ पहेली जैसी रही हैं।
- In June, India called for **dialogue** after Israeli and U.S. strikes on **Iranian nuclear facilities**, which Iran responded to.  
जून में, भारत ने ईरानी परमाणु सुविधाओं पर इजरायल और अमेरिका के हमलों के बाद संवाद की अपील की, जिसका जवाब ईरान ने दिया।
- India disassociated from **SCO statement condemning strikes on Iran** days later, then later signed **SCO joint declaration on September 1** condemning **Israel and U.S.** for June strikes.  
भारत ने कुछ दिन बाद ईरान पर हमलों की निंदा करने वाले SCO बयान से खुद को अलग कर लिया, और बाद में 1 सितंबर को SCO संयुक्त घोषणा पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसमें जून हमलों के लिए इजरायल और अमेरिका की निंदा की गई।

### Why is Qatar treated differently?

कतर के साथ अलग व्यवहार क्यों किया जाता है?

- “India’s ties with the other countries mentioned are not the same as ties with **Qatar**, with its large **Indian diaspora** and **personal relations at the highest levels** between PM Modi and the Qatari Emir,” explained former Ambassador to the UAE and Egypt, **Navdeep Suri**.  
“भारत के संबंध अन्य उल्लेखित देशों के साथ वैसे नहीं हैं जैसे कतर के साथ हैं, जहाँ बड़ी भारतीय डायस्पोरा है और प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और कतारी अमीर के बीच उच्चतम स्तर पर व्यक्तिगत संबंध हैं,” UAE और मिस्र के पूर्व राजदूत नवदीप सूरी ने बताया।
- “Eventually, in an age of ‘**transactionalism**’, this is not as much about **values and principles** as about the **bilateral relationship** with each of these countries, including **Israel**,” he told **The Hindu**.  
“अंततः, ‘ट्रांज़ैक्शनलिज़्म’ के युग में, यह इतना मूल्यों और सिद्धांतों के बारे में नहीं है, जितना कि इन देशों के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंधों, जिसमें इजरायल भी शामिल है, के बारे में है,” उन्होंने द हिंदू को बताया।
- The **MEA** declined to respond to a question from **The Hindu** on why the Modi government has taken **conflicting positions** on the issue.



विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने द हिंदू के उस प्रश्न का उत्तर देने से इनकार कर दिया कि मोदी सरकार ने इस मुद्दे पर विरोधाभासी रुख क्यों अपनाया।

- Experts said a number of reasons explain the **varied statements**, from **geopolitical to regional and bilateral**.

विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि कई कारण हैं जो **विविध बयानों** को समझाते हैं, जिसमें **भू-राजनीतिक, क्षेत्रीय और द्विपक्षीय** कारण शामिल हैं।

- According to former Ambassador and author of *West Asia at War*, **Talmiz Ahmad**, India's response to the attack on **Qatar** had "**no larger strategic purpose**" but focused on Qatar being a "**crucial supplier of gas**".

पूर्व राजदूत और *West Asia at War* के लेखक **तल्मिज अहमद** के अनुसार, कतर पर हमले पर भारत की प्रतिक्रिया का "**कोई बड़ा रणनीतिक उद्देश्य नहीं था**", बल्कि यह कतर के "**महत्वपूर्ण गैस आपूर्तिकर्ता**" होने पर केंद्रित थी।

- He pointed out that Israel's attack on Qatar had put **Gulf countries** that house **U.S. military bases** and rely on the U.S. for **security** "on notice", indicating a **fundamental geopolitical shift** in the region.

उन्होंने बताया कि कतर पर इजरायल के हमले ने उन **खाड़ी देशों** को "सावधान" कर दिया है, जिनमें **अमेरिकी सैन्य आधार** हैं और जो **सुरक्षा** के लिए अमेरिका पर भरोसा करते हैं, जो क्षेत्र में **मूलभूत भू-राजनीतिक बदलाव** का संकेत देता है।

- "The message Israel has given is that every **Arab country**, every **Gulf country**, is within their **target zone** and put them all on notice. Israel has now ended the **process of normalisation** and made it clear that ties with other West Asian countries are not a priority over its operations. Thirdly, Israel has shown that the **U.S.** is no longer a **guarantor of security** for these **GCC countries**," Mr. Ahmad said at a seminar by the **India-America Friendship Association** on Tuesday.

"इजरायल का संदेश यह है कि हर **अरब देश**, हर **खाड़ी देश**, उनके **लक्ष्य क्षेत्र** में है और सभी को सावधान कर दिया गया है। इजरायल ने अब **सामान्यीकरण की प्रक्रिया** समाप्त कर दी है और स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि अन्य पश्चिम एशियाई देशों के साथ संबंध उसके अभियानों पर प्राथमिकता नहीं रखते। तीसरे, इजरायल ने दिखाया है कि **अमेरिका** अब इन **GCC देशों** के लिए **सुरक्षा की गारंटी** नहीं है," श्री अहमद ने मंगलवार को **इंडिया-अमेरिका फ्रेंडशिप एसोसिएशन** द्वारा आयोजित एक सेमिनार में कहा।

- The alarm among Gulf countries was visible at an **emergency joint session** of the **Arab League and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** conference in **Doha this week**, condemning Israel's actions.

खाड़ी देशों में चेतावनी इस सप्ताह **दोहा** में आयोजित **अरब लीग और इस्लामिक सहयोग संगठन (OIC)** की **आपातकालीन संयुक्त बैठक** में दिखाई दी, जिसने इजरायल की कार्रवाइयों की निंदा की।

- The **Gulf Cooperation Council** committed to building a "**joint defence mechanism**" to deal with future threats.

**gulf cooperation council** ने भविष्य के खतरों से निपटने के लिए "**संयुक्त रक्षा तंत्र**" बनाने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई।

**What does this mean for India's broader West Asia policy?**

**भारत की व्यापक पश्चिम एशिया नीति के लिए इसका क्या अर्थ है?**

- Experts said India's **silence on Gaza** — where more than **65,000** have been killed, including at least **20,000 children**, in Israel's incessant bombardment, including the



latest offensive against **Gaza City** — is straining its ties with the **Arab world**.

विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि गाजा पर भारत की चुप्पी — जहाँ **65,000 से अधिक लोग मारे गए**, जिसमें कम से कम **20,000 बच्चे** शामिल हैं, इजरायल की लगातार बमबारी में, जिसमें **गाजा सिटी** पर नवीनतम हमला भी शामिल है — यह भारत के **अरब दुनिया** के साथ संबंधों को तनावपूर्ण बना रही है।

- In a rare response to media queries on **August 27**, the MEA called the killing of journalists and civilians by the **IDF** “**shocking and deeply regrettable**”.  
**27 अगस्त** को मीडिया प्रश्नों पर एक दुर्लभ प्रतिक्रिया में, **MEA** ने **IDF** द्वारा पत्रकारों और नागरिकों की हत्या को “**चौंकाने वाला और गहराई से खेदजनक**” कहा।
- India also voted in favour of a **UNGA resolution** endorsing the **two-state solution** for Palestine on **September 12**, indicating that despite the steadfast relationship with Israel, the **Modi government’s shifts** may indicate a need to factor in the **rest of the region** as well.  
भारत ने **12 सितंबर** को फ़िलिस्तीन के लिए **दो-राज्य समाधान** को समर्थन देने वाले **UNGA प्रस्ताव** के पक्ष में मतदान किया, जो यह दर्शाता है कि इजरायल के साथ स्थिर संबंधों के बावजूद, **मोदी सरकार के रुख में बदलाव** यह संकेत दे सकते हैं कि क्षेत्र के **बाकी हिस्से** को भी ध्यान में रखना आवश्यक है।

## Pager bombs

- A *pager bomb* (also called *pager-bombing* or *pager flooding*) is a form of message-flooding abuse in which a target pager or paging-address is sent a very large number of pages/short messages in a short time, overwhelming the device, interrupting the recipient and sometimes denying legitimate messages.
- In modern terms it’s analogous to SMS-flooding or app notification spam.

## How it works — high level (non-technical)

- An attacker (or prankster) triggers many messages to the unique pager address or phone/SMS number.
- The recipient’s device continually alerts, may run out of battery or attention, and can miss legitimate emergency messages.
- It’s a form of **denial-of-service against personal communications**, not unlike DDoS but aimed at a single user.

## Impact & why it matters



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

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

**CONTACT:** 9971932488



- **Disruption:** Continuous alarms interfere with work, sleep and emergency responsiveness.
- **Safety risk:** For emergency professionals (doctors, first responders) missed pages can endanger lives.
- **Privacy & harassment:** Used to harass, intimidate, or silence individuals.
- **Operational cost:** Carriers and organisations bear costs responding to and mitigating attacks.

### Arab League

- The **Arab League**, officially known as the **League of Arab States (LAS)**, is a **regional organization of Arab countries** in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the Middle East.
- It was formed to **promote political, economic, cultural, and social cooperation** among member states and to **safeguard their sovereignty and independence**.
- **Founded: 22 March 1945** in **Cairo, Egypt**.
- **Founding Members: Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (now Jordan), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen**.
- **Charter:** Signed in 1945, establishing the League's framework for cooperation.

### Membership

- **Current Members: 22 countries**.
- **Suspension of Syria:** Since **2011**, Syria's membership was suspended due to the civil war and government crackdown on protests. In **2023**, Syria was readmitted after 12 years.

### Headquarters

- **Permanent Headquarters: Cairo, Egypt**.
- Moved temporarily to **Tunis, Tunisia (1979–1990)** after Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, then returned to Cairo.



# Qatar meets ICC head as it mulls action against Israel

Five Hamas members and a Qatari official were killed in the Israeli strike in Doha that targeted the group's top leadership; Qatar, as an observer state at the ICC, cannot itself refer cases to the court

**GS II: International Institutions**  
Agg.  
DOHA

Qatar has met with the president of the International Criminal Court as it seeks legal action against Israel over its unprecedented strike on its territory last week, an official said on Thursday.

The emirate's chief negotiator, Mohammed al-Khulaifi, met in The Hague on Wednesday with the president of the ICC, Judge Tomoko Akane, as it pursues "every available legal and diplomatic avenue to ensure accountability for those responsible for Israel's attack on Qatar", the Qatari official said.

Last week's deadly Israeli strike targeted Qatar-based leaders of Palestinian militant group Hamas and sent shock waves through the Gulf states that have long depended on the United States for their security.

Hamas has said top offi-



The emirate's chief negotiator says it is 'exploring legal avenues to respond to the illegal Israeli armed attack against Qatar'. AFP

cial of its political bureau, hosted in Qatar with U.S. blessing since 2012, survived the strike but it said five members were killed, along with an officer of Qatar's internal security force.

Speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions, the official called Israel's attack "unlawful", adding it "constitutes grave violations of international humanitarian law".

Qatar, as an observer

state at the ICC, cannot itself refer cases to the court.

But after emergency talks in Doha, the Arab and Islamic blocs called on their members on Monday to take "all possible legal and effective measures to prevent Israel from continuing its actions".

In a post on X after his meeting with the ICC chief, Mr. Khulaifi said his visit had been "part of the work of the team tasked with exploring legal avenues to

respond to the illegal Israeli armed attack against the State of Qatar".

Last year, the ICC launched a prosecution of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for war crimes and crimes against humanity during Israel's war in Gaza, including by intentionally targeting civilians and using starvation as a method of war.

The ICC also sought the arrest of Israel's former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Hamas commander Mohammed Deif, who has since been confirmed killed by Israel.

The Gaza war was triggered by Hamas's October 2023 attack, which resulted in the deaths of 1,219 people, most of them civilians.

Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed at least 65,141 people, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the territory's Health Ministry that the United Nations considers reliable.

## Qatar meets ICC head as it mulls action against Israel

कतर ने ICC प्रमुख से मुलाकात की क्योंकि वह इज़राइल के खिलाफ कार्रवाई पर विचार कर रहा है

Five Hamas members and a Qatari official were killed in the Israeli strike in Doha that targeted the group's top leadership; Qatar, as an observer state at the ICC, cannot itself refer cases to the court.

इज़राइली हमले में Doha में पांच Hamas सदस्य और एक कतर अधिकारी मारे गए, जो समूह के शीर्ष



नेतृत्व को निशाना बना रहा था; कतर, ICC में पर्यवेक्षक राज्य के रूप में, स्वयं मामले अदालत में नहीं भेज सकता।

- Qatar has met with the **president of the International Criminal Court** as it seeks legal action against Israel over its unprecedented strike on its territory last week, an official said on Thursday.  
कतर ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय के अध्यक्ष से मुलाकात की क्योंकि वह पिछले सप्ताह अपने क्षेत्र पर हुए इज़राइल के अभूतपूर्व हमले के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई करना चाहता है, एक अधिकारी ने गुरुवार को कहा।
- The emirate's chief negotiator, **Mohammed al-Khulai**, met in **The Hague** on Wednesday with the president of the ICC, **Judge Tomoko Akane**, as it pursues "every available legal and diplomatic avenue to ensure accountability for those responsible for Israel's attack on Qatar", the Qatari official said.  
राज्य के प्रमुख वार्ताकार, **Mohammed al-Khulai**, ने बुधवार को **The Hague** में ICC के अध्यक्ष, **Judge Tomoko Akane** से मुलाकात की, क्योंकि वह "इज़राइल के कतर पर हमले के लिए जिम्मेदार लोगों के लिए जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हर उपलब्ध कानूनी और कूटनीतिक रास्ता" अपनाने की कोशिश कर रहा है, कतर अधिकारी ने कहा।
- Last week's deadly Israeli strike targeted Qatar-based leaders of Palestinian militant group **Hamas** and sent shock waves through the Gulf states that have long depended on the **United States** for their security.  
पिछले सप्ताह के घातक इज़राइली हमले ने कतर-आधारित फिलिस्तीनी उग्रवादी समूह **Hamas** के नेताओं को निशाना बनाया और खाड़ी राज्यों में झटका दिया, जो लंबे समय से अपनी सुरक्षा के लिए **United States** पर निर्भर रहे हैं।
- Hamas has said top officials of its political bureau, hosted in Qatar with **U.S. blessing** since 2012, survived the strike but it said five members were killed, along with an officer of Qatar's internal security force.  
Hamas ने कहा कि उसके राजनीतिक ब्यूरो के शीर्ष अधिकारी, जिन्हें 2012 से **U.S. blessing** के साथ कतर में रखा गया था, हमले में बचे, लेकिन पांच सदस्य मारे गए और कतर की आंतरिक सुरक्षा बल का एक अधिकारी भी मारा गया।
- Speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions, the official called Israel's attack "unlawful", adding it "constitutes grave violations of international humanitarian law".  
चर्चाओं की संवेदनशीलता के कारण गुमनाम रहने की शर्त पर, अधिकारी ने इज़राइल के हमले को "अवैध" कहा और जोड़ा कि यह "अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानवतावादी कानून के गंभीर उल्लंघनों" का गठन करता है।
- Qatar, as an **observer state** at the ICC, cannot itself refer cases to the court.  
कतर, ICC में एक **पर्यवेक्षक राज्य** के रूप में, स्वयं मामलों को अदालत में नहीं भेज सकता।
- But after emergency talks in Doha, the **Arab and Islamic blocs** called on their members on Monday to take "all possible legal and effective measures to prevent Israel from continuing its actions".  
लेकिन Doha में आपातकालीन वार्ताओं के बाद, **अरब और इस्लामी ब्लॉकों** ने सोमवार को अपने सदस्यों से कहा कि वे "इज़राइल को अपनी कार्रवाई जारी रखने से रोकने के लिए सभी संभव कानूनी और प्रभावी उपाय करें"।
- In a post on **X** after his meeting with the ICC chief, Mr. Khulai said his visit had been "part of the work of the team tasked with exploring legal avenues to respond to the



illegal Israeli armed attack against the State of Qatar”.

ICC प्रमुख से मुलाकात के बाद X पर एक पोस्ट में, श्री Khulai ने कहा कि उनका दौरा “कतर राज्य के खिलाफ अवैध इज़राइली सशस्त्र हमले का जवाब देने के लिए कानूनी रास्तों की जांच करने के लिए टीम के काम का हिस्सा” था।

- Last year, the ICC launched a prosecution of Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** for **war crimes** and **crimes against humanity** during Israel’s war in Gaza, including by intentionally targeting civilians and using starvation as a method of war.

पिछले वर्ष, ICC ने इज़राइल के युद्ध में गाजा के दौरान नागरिकों को जानबूझकर निशाना बनाने और युद्ध की विधि के रूप में भूखमरी का उपयोग करने सहित **युद्ध अपराधों** और **मानवता के खिलाफ अपराधों** के लिए इज़राइल के प्रधानमंत्री **Benjamin Netanyahu** के खिलाफ मुकदमा शुरू किया।

- The ICC also sought the arrest of Israel’s former **Defence Minister Yoav Gallant** and Hamas commander **Mohammed Deif**, who has since been confirmed killed by Israel.

ICC ने इज़राइल के पूर्व **Defence Minister Yoav Gallant** और Hamas कमांडर

**Mohammed Deif** की गिरफ्तारी भी मांगी, जिन्हें बाद में इज़राइल द्वारा मारा गया माना गया।

- The Gaza war was triggered by Hamas’s **October 2023 attack**, which resulted in the deaths of **1,219 people**, most of them civilians.

गाजा युद्ध **October 2023 attack** के कारण शुरू हुआ, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **1,219 लोग** मारे गए, जिनमें अधिकांश नागरिक थे।

- Israel’s retaliatory campaign has killed at least **65,141 people**, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the territory’s **Health Ministry** that the United Nations considers reliable.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा विश्वसनीय माना जाने वाला क्षेत्र की **Health Ministry** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, इज़राइल के प्रतिशोध अभियान में कम से कम **65,141 लोग** मारे गए, जिनमें अधिकांश नागरिक हैं।

## GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, &IS

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अमेरिका ने फेंटेनाइल में उपयोग होने वाले अवयवों की ‘तस्करी’ के लिए भारतीय अधिकारियों के वीज़ा रद्द किए

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ईपीएफओ का ‘पासबुक लाइट’ पीएफ विवरण तक आसान पहुंच प्रदान करेगा



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कमज़ोर वित्तीय स्थिति नगर निगम बॉन्ड जारी करने में बाधा डालती है
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10. **France erupts in protest over Macron's proposed fund cuts in public services**  
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# U.S. revokes visas of Indian executives for 'smuggling' ingredients used in fentanyl

GS III: S&T

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

Months after charging two Indian companies of "criminal conspiracies" to smuggle fentanyl precursors into the United States, the U.S. Embassy on Thursday said that it has revoked and denied visas for "certain" Indian "business executives and corporate leadership", accusing them of smuggling ingredients that are used in the illegal production of the drug.

In a statement, the Embassy said the "family members" of these business executives would also "face consequences" for the illegal production and trafficking of drugs.

"In furtherance to the Trump Administration's efforts to keep Americans

## Drug precursors

The following are two precursors highly suitable for illicit manufacture of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues

■ 4-piperidone

■ 1-boc-4-piperidone

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are very potent narcotic drugs that continue to result in overdose deaths, according to the International Narcotics Control Board



safe from dangerous synthetic narcotics, the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has revoked and subsequently denied visas for certain business executives and corporate leadership based on involvement in trafficking fentanyl precursors," it said, acknowledging the support received from "counterparts in the Go-

vernment of India" toward stopping the flow of fentanyl and its precursors.

The Embassy continues to be "steadfast in its commitment to combating illicit drug trafficking", said U.S. chargé d'affaires Jorgan Andrews.

"Individuals and organisations involved in the illegal production and traffick-

ing of drugs to the U.S., along with their families, will face consequences that may include being denied access to the U.S.," he added. The statement did not name the "business executives and corporate leadership", but added, "The Embassy is further flagging executives connected with companies known to have trafficked fentanyl precursors for heightened scrutiny if and when they apply for U.S. visas."

The Embassy announcement follows several U.S. executive orders aimed at combating drug trafficking organisations and demanding "reform by source countries from which illicit drugs and precursor chemicals flow into the United States."

In January this year, two

Indian companies – Raxuter Chemicals and Athos Chemicals – were charged with criminal conspiracies to distribute and import fentanyl precursor chemicals to the United States. Bhavesh Lathiya, founder and senior executive of Raxuter Chemicals, was arrested in New York on January 4 for smuggling fentanyl precursors to the United States.

Charging Mr. Lathiya, Raxuter Chemicals, and Surat-based Athos Chemicals with engaging in criminal conspiracies, the U.S. Department of Justice said that fentanyl was the "deadliest drug threat currently facing the United States".

Mr. Lathiya was charged on January 6, just ahead of the swearing-in of Donald Trump.

## U.S. revokes visas of Indian executives for 'smuggling' ingredients used in fentanyl

अमेरिका ने फेंटेनाइल में उपयोग होने वाले अवयवों की 'तस्करी' के लिए भारतीय अधिकारियों के वीजा रद्द किए

Months after charging two Indian companies of "criminal conspiracies" to smuggle fentanyl precursors into the United States, the U.S. Embassy on Thursday said that it has revoked and denied visas for "certain" Indian "business executives and corporate leadership", accusing them of smuggling ingredients that are used in the illegal production of the drug.

दो भारतीय कंपनियों पर फेंटेनाइल प्रीकर्सर को अमेरिका में तस्करी करने की "आपराधिक साजिशों" का आरोप लगाने के महीनों बाद, अमेरिकी दूतावास ने गुरुवार को कहा कि उसने "कुछ" भारतीय "व्यावसायिक अधिकारियों और कॉर्पोरेट नेतृत्व" के वीजा रद्द और अस्वीकार कर दिए हैं, उन पर इस दवा के अवैध उत्पादन में उपयोग होने वाले अवयवों की तस्करी का आरोप लगाया।

- In a statement, the Embassy said the "family members" of these business executives would also "face consequences" for the illegal production and trafficking of drugs. एक बयान में, दूतावास ने कहा कि इन व्यावसायिक अधिकारियों के "परिवार के सदस्य" भी दवाओं के अवैध उत्पादन और तस्करी के लिए "परिणामों का सामना करेंगे।"



- “In furtherance to the **Trump Administration’s** efforts to keep Americans safe from dangerous synthetic narcotics, the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has revoked and subsequently denied visas for certain business executives and corporate leadership based on involvement in trafficking fentanyl precursors,” it said, acknowledging the support received from “counterparts in the Government of India” toward stopping the flow of fentanyl and its precursors.  
“ट्रम्प प्रशासन के इस प्रयास को आगे बढ़ाते हुए कि अमेरिकियों को खतरनाक सिंथेटिक नशीले पदार्थों से सुरक्षित रखा जाए, नई दिल्ली में अमेरिकी दूतावास ने फेंटेनाइल प्रीकर्सर की तस्करी में शामिल कुछ व्यावसायिक अधिकारियों और कॉर्पोरेट नेतृत्व के वीजा रद्द और अस्वीकार कर दिए हैं,” यह कहा गया, और “भारत सरकार में समकक्षों” से प्राप्त समर्थन को स्वीकार किया गया, जो फेंटेनाइल और इसके प्रीकर्सरों के प्रवाह को रोकने के लिए था।
- The Embassy continues to be “steadfast in its commitment to combating illicit drug trafficking”, said U.S. chargé d’affaires **Jorgan Andrews**.  
अमेरिकी प्रभारी राजदूत **जॉर्गन एंड्रयूज** ने कहा कि दूतावास “अवैध मादक द्रव्यों की तस्करी से लड़ने के अपने संकल्प में अडिग है।”
- “Individuals and organisations involved in the illegal production and trafficking of drugs to the U.S., along with their families, will face consequences that may include being denied access to the U.S.,” he added.  
उन्होंने आगे कहा, “व्यक्ति और संगठन जो अमेरिका में दवाओं के अवैध उत्पादन और तस्करी में शामिल हैं, उनके परिवारों सहित, परिणामों का सामना करेंगे जिसमें अमेरिका में प्रवेश से इनकार भी शामिल हो सकता है।”
- The statement did not name the “business executives and corporate leadership”, but added, “The Embassy is further flagging executives connected with companies known to have trafficked fentanyl precursors for heightened scrutiny if and when they apply for U.S. visas.”  
बयान में “व्यावसायिक अधिकारियों और कॉर्पोरेट नेतृत्व” का नाम नहीं लिया गया, लेकिन यह जोड़ा गया, “दूतावास उन अधिकारियों को और चिह्नित कर रहा है जो उन कंपनियों से जुड़े हैं जिन्हें फेंटेनाइल प्रीकर्सर की तस्करी के लिए जाना जाता है, ताकि जब वे अमेरिकी वीजा के लिए आवेदन करें तो उन पर अधिक गहन जांच हो।”
- The Embassy announcement follows several U.S. executive orders aimed at combating drug trafficking organisations and demanding “reform by source countries from which illicit drugs and precursor chemicals flow into the United States.”  
दूतावास की घोषणा कई अमेरिकी कार्यकारी आदेशों के बाद आई है, जिनका उद्देश्य मादक द्रव्यों की तस्करी करने वाले संगठनों से लड़ना और “स्रोत देशों द्वारा सुधार की मांग करना है, जहाँ से अवैध दवाएँ और प्रीकर्सर रसायन अमेरिका में प्रवाहित होते हैं।”
- In **January** this year, two Indian companies — **Raxuter Chemicals** and **Athos Chemicals** — were charged with criminal conspiracies to distribute and import fentanyl precursor chemicals to the United States.  
इस साल **जनवरी** में, दो भारतीय कंपनियों — **Raxuter Chemicals** और **Athos Chemicals** — पर फेंटेनाइल प्रीकर्सर रसायनों को अमेरिका में वितरित और आयात करने की आपराधिक साजिश का आरोप लगाया गया था।
- **Bhavesh Lathiya**, founder and senior executive of Raxuter Chemicals, was arrested in **New York** on **January 4** for smuggling fentanyl precursors to the United States.  
**भवेश लाठिया**, **Raxuter Chemicals** के संस्थापक और वरिष्ठ कार्यकारी, को **4 जनवरी** को **न्यूयॉर्क** में अमेरिका में फेंटेनाइल प्रीकर्सर की तस्करी के लिए गिरफ्तार किया गया।



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

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

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- Charging Mr. Lathiya, Raxuter Chemicals, and Surat-based Athos Chemicals with engaging in criminal conspiracies, the U.S. Department of Justice said that fentanyl was the “deadliest drug threat currently facing the United States”.  
श्री लाठिया, **Raxuter Chemicals**, और सूरत स्थित **Athos Chemicals** पर आपराधिक साजिश में शामिल होने का आरोप लगाते हुए, अमेरिकी न्याय विभाग ने कहा कि फेंटेनाइल “अमेरिका के सामने वर्तमान में सबसे घातक नशीली दवा का खतरा” है।
- Mr. Lathiya was charged on **January 6**, just ahead of the swearing-in of **Donald Trump**.  
श्री लाठिया पर **6 जनवरी** को आरोप लगाया गया, ठीक **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** के शपथ ग्रहण से पहले।

PATRIOTIC IAS



# EPFO's 'Passbook Lite' to provide easy access to PF details

**GS III: Economy**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Thursday launched a new facility called "Passbook Lite" within its members' portal, which will provide a summarised view of the passbook with contributions, withdrawals, and current balance. Currently, members need to log in separately to the "passbook portal" to check their Provident Fund (PF) details.

Announcing the reform, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the dual login system often caused delays, password synchronisation issues, and other grievances. He said the new move would reduce the load on the "passbook portal" and improve operational efficiency. "For detailed and comprehensive view of passbook, including graphic display, the existing 'passbook portal' can still be accessed," the Minister said.

"The initiative is expected to reduce grievances, improve transparency, and enhance member satisfaction," he said.

The EPFO also enabled online access to 'Annexure K' (transfer certificate) for



Mansukh Mandaviya

transparency in PF transfers. At present, when employees change jobs, their PF accounts are transferred to the new employer's PF office through Form 13 online. After their transfer, a transfer certificate (Annexure K) is generated by the previous PF office and sent to the new PF office.

"Until now, Annexure K was only shared between PF offices and was made available to members only on their request. From today (Thursday), members can directly download Annexure K in PDF format from the members' portal itself," the Minister said.

He said members could track the status of transfer applications online. "This ensures full transparency and allows members to easily verify their PF transfers..." he said.

**EPFO's 'Passbook Lite' to provide easy access to PF details**

**ईपीएफओ का 'पासबुक लाइट' पीएफ विवरण तक आसान पहुंच प्रदान करेगा**

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Thursday launched a new facility called "Passbook Lite" within its members' portal, which will provide a summarised view of the passbook with contributions, withdrawals, and current balance.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (EPFO) ने गुरुवार को अपने सदस्यों के पोर्टल में एक नई सुविधा "पासबुक लाइट" शुरू की, जो योगदान, निकासी और वर्तमान शेष राशि के साथ पासबुक का संक्षिप्त दृश्य प्रदान करेगी।

- Currently, members need to log in separately to the "passbook portal" to check their Provident Fund (PF) details. वर्तमान में, सदस्यों को अपने भविष्य निधि (PF) विवरण की जांच करने के लिए अलग से "पासबुक पोर्टल" में लॉगिन करना पड़ता है।
- Announcing the reform, Union Labour Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** said the dual login system often caused delays, password synchronisation issues, and other grievances.

सुधार की घोषणा करते हुए केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्री **मंसुख मांडविया** ने कहा कि दोहरे लॉगिन सिस्टम के कारण अक्सर देरी, पासवर्ड सिंक्रोनाइजेशन की समस्याएं और अन्य शिकायतें होती थीं।

- He said the new move would reduce the load on the "passbook portal" and improve operational efficiency. "For detailed and comprehensive view of passbook, including graphic display, the existing 'passbook portal' can still be accessed," the Minister said.

उन्होंने कहा कि नया कदम "पासबुक पोर्टल" पर लोड कम करेगा और परिचालन दक्षता में सुधार



करेगा। “पासबुक का विस्तृत और व्यापक दृश्य, जिसमें ग्राफिक प्रदर्शन शामिल है, के लिए मौजूदा ‘पासबुक पोर्टल’ तक अभी भी पहुंचा जा सकता है,” मंत्री ने कहा।

- “The initiative is expected to reduce grievances, improve transparency, and enhance member satisfaction,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “इस पहल से शिकायतें कम होने, पारदर्शिता में सुधार होने और सदस्य संतुष्टि बढ़ने की उम्मीद है।”

- The EPFO also enabled online access to ‘Annexure K’ (transfer certificate) for transparency in PF transfers.

ईपीएफओ ने पीएफ ट्रांसफर में पारदर्शिता के लिए ‘अनुबंध K’ (ट्रांसफर सर्टिफिकेट) तक ऑनलाइन पहुंच भी सक्षम की।

- At present, when employees change jobs, their PF accounts are transferred to the new employer’s PF office through **Form 13 online**. After their transfer, a transfer certificate (**Annexure K**) is generated by the previous PF office and sent to the new PF office.

वर्तमान में, जब कर्मचारी नौकरी बदलते हैं, तो उनके पीएफ खाते को **फॉर्म 13 ऑनलाइन** के माध्यम से नए नियोक्ता के पीएफ कार्यालय में स्थानांतरित किया जाता है। स्थानांतरण के बाद, पिछला पीएफ कार्यालय एक ट्रांसफर सर्टिफिकेट (**अनुबंध K**) तैयार करता है और नए पीएफ कार्यालय को भेजता है।

- “Until now, **Annexure K** was only shared between PF offices and was made available to members only on their request. From today (Thursday), members can directly download **Annexure K** in **PDF format** from the members’ portal itself,” the Minister said.

“अब तक, **अनुबंध K** केवल पीएफ कार्यालयों के बीच साझा किया जाता था और इसे केवल सदस्यों के अनुरोध पर उपलब्ध कराया जाता था। आज (गुरुवार) से, सदस्य स्वयं पोर्टल से सीधे **पीडीएफ प्रारूप** में **अनुबंध K** डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।

- He said members could track the status of transfer applications online. “This ensures full transparency and allows members to easily verify their PF transfers...,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि सदस्य ऑनलाइन ट्रांसफर आवेदन की स्थिति को ट्रैक कर सकते हैं। “यह पूरी पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करता है और सदस्यों को अपने पीएफ ट्रांसफर को आसानी से सत्यापित करने की अनुमति देता है...,” उन्होंने कहा।



# Ageing arteries, lingering risks: COVID's quiet impact on heart health

A large, multinational investigation into pandemic's impact on the cardiovascular system has found that survivors, particularly women, are left with stiffer arteries, equivalent to an age about five to ten years older; with nearly 700 million people surviving COVID worldwide, long-term healthcare burden of accelerated ageing could be significant

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

**W**hat if a single COVID-19 infection could make your arteries behave as though they were five to 10 years older? That unsettling possibility emerges from the CARTESIAN study, the largest multinational investigation yet into the pandemic's hidden impact on the cardiovascular system. Recently published in the *European Heart Journal*, it tracked nearly 2,400 participants across 18 countries and found that survivors of COVID-19 had stiffer arteries – a recognised marker of “vascular ageing” – compared to those never infected. The effect was most pronounced in women, whose arteries showed changes equivalent to an extra decade of age.

“The pulse wave velocity in women after COVID corresponded to that of women five to ten years older,” said Rosa Maria Bruno, lead author and cardiologist at Inserm, France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research, in Paris.

## Why it matters

As arteries stiffen, the heart pumps harder, blood pressure rises, and the risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, and dementia increases. Unlike wrinkles, these vascular changes are invisible until serious events occur. That is what makes CARTESIAN worrying. The WHO estimates nearly 700 million people worldwide have survived COVID. If even a fraction experience accelerated vascular ageing, the long-term healthcare burden could be significant. Notably, stiffening appeared even in survivors of mild infections.

## What the study did

CARTESIAN – short for *COVID-19 effects on Arterial Stiffness and Vascular Ageing* – asked whether COVID leaves a vascular imprint. Researchers from 38 centres across 18 countries recruited 2,390 adults, average age 50, about half of them women. Groups included uninfected controls and three survivor categories: non-hospitalised, hospitalised, and intensive care. Tests were performed around six months after infection, with follow-ups at twelve months.

The team measured carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (PWV), a gold-standard indicator of arterial stiffness. PWV tracks how fast blood pressure waves travel: the stiffer the artery, the faster the wave. Comparing COVID-positive groups with controls revealed whether infection accelerated ageing.

Results were clear. Every COVID-positive group had stiffer arteries



**Long-term impact:** The effect was most pronounced in women, whose arteries showed changes equivalent to an extra decade of age. They showed higher stiffness regardless of illness severity. FILE PHOTO

than controls. After adjusting for age, sex, blood pressure, diabetes and smoking, survivors still showed PWV about 0.4 metres per second faster – equivalent to arteries five years older. The effect, however, was striking only in women. They showed higher stiffness regardless of illness severity, and ICU patients had the equivalent of an extra decade of ageing.

Persistent symptoms mattered. Women with fatigue, breathlessness or muscle aches months later – often labelled “long COVID” – had even stiffer arteries. “Women mount a stronger immune response, which protects them during infection, but if that response lingers, it can damage blood vessels,” Dr. Bruno explained.

## Vaccination and recovery

One hopeful signal was that stiffening did not worsen indefinitely. In a subgroup followed for about a year, survivors' stiffness stabilised or slightly improved, while controls showed the gradual increase expected with normal ageing. Still, the damage did not vanish. “No return to baseline has been observed,” Dr. Bruno cautioned. “An improvement has been observed mostly in very severe cases, whereas PWV is mostly stable in most individuals.”

Vaccination blunted the impact, particularly in women. Those with at least one dose had lower stiffness than unvaccinated peers.

Not all cardiologists are convinced though. Balbir Singh, group chairman of

cardiac sciences at Max Healthcare, Delhi, urges caution. “I don't think we can make very firm conclusions based on the CARTESIAN study,” he said, citing the absence of pre-COVID baseline data as a major limitation. “These findings suggest arterial stiffness could be accelerated in patients who had COVID, but do not conclusively prove it.” From his own practice, Dr. Singh adds, he has not observed a marked shift. “Are we seeing higher hypertensive patients than before? I'm not seeing that. Am I seeing those who went into the ICU during COVID now coming back with heart problems? I'm not seeing that.”

Elsewhere, clinicians have been drawing different lessons from what they encounter. At the Cleveland Clinic, a nonprofit academic medical centre based in Ohio, U.S., Stanley Hazen has argued that a history of COVID-19 should inform preventive care, based on his research connecting the virus to heart problems, stroke, and death. “As clinicians, we should consider a patient's history of prior COVID-19 when formulating cardiovascular prevention plans – these effects [his findings] are not a small subgroup finding but a global signal that will translate into more cardiovascular disease,” he said.

Observations from other centres echo this. Dara Lee Lewis – writing from Brigham and Women's, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, U.S. – described cases of myocarditis and persistent palpitations in previously

healthy individuals. Meanwhile, Bruce Levy, of the same hospital, points to autonomic dysfunction such as POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome) – where the heart races upon standing – as an example of how COVID can disrupt vascular regulation in practice.

At Mount Sinai in New York, physicians using advanced imaging have detected signs of inflammation in the hearts and large vessels of patients who had only mild infections.

## India's picture

CARTESIAN, like most large European studies, was not representative of South Asia. “A small proportion identified as Asian, and while their arteries appeared less stiff than Western participants in the uninfected group, this difference disappeared after COVID – suggesting the virus erased any ethnic advantage,” Dr. Bruno noted.

For India, that gap leaves open an urgent question. If COVID might accelerate vascular ageing elsewhere, what does it mean for a population already carrying one of the heaviest burdens of cardiovascular disease worldwide? Without rigorous home-grown data – the kind that is now guiding international researchers and physicians – the risk remains largely invisible.

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## THE GIST

As arteries stiffen, the heart pumps harder, blood pressure rises, and the risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, and dementia increases. Unlike wrinkles, these vascular changes are invisible until serious events occur

Recently published in the *European Heart Journal*, the study tracked nearly 2,400 participants across 18 countries and found that survivors of COVID-19 had stiffer arteries – a recognised marker of “vascular ageing” – compared to those never infected

One hopeful signal was that stiffening did not worsen indefinitely. In a subgroup followed for about a year, survivors' stiffness stabilised or slightly improved, while controls showed the gradual increase expected with normal ageing

## Ageing arteries, lingering risks: COVID's quiet impact on heart health

**बुढ़ाती धमनियां, बने रहने वाले जोखिम: COVID का हृदय स्वास्थ्य पर शांत प्रभाव**

A large, multinational investigation into pandemic's impact on the cardiovascular system has found that survivors, particularly women, are left with stiffer arteries, equivalent to an age about five to ten years older; with nearly 700 million people



surviving COVID worldwide, long-term healthcare burden of accelerated ageing could be significant

महामारी के हृदयवाहिनी तंत्र (cardiovascular system) पर प्रभाव की एक बड़ी, बहुराष्ट्रीय जांच (multinational investigation) ने पाया है कि बचे हुए मरीज (survivors), विशेषकर महिलाओं, में कठोर धमनियां (stiffer arteries) रह गई हैं, जो लगभग 5 से 10 वर्ष अधिक आयु के बराबर हैं; चूंकि विश्वभर में लगभग 700 मिलियन लोग COVID से बचे हैं, इसलिए तेजी से बढ़ती उम्र (accelerated ageing) का दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य बोझ महत्वपूर्ण हो सकता है।

What if a single COVID-19 infection could make your arteries behave as though they were five to 10 years older?

क्या होगा यदि एक अकेला COVID-19 संक्रमण आपकी धमनियों को इस तरह व्यवहार करने पर मजबूर कर दे जैसे वे पाँच से दस साल बड़ी हो गई हों?

- That unsettling possibility emerges from the **CARTESIAN study**, the largest multinational investigation yet into the pandemic's hidden impact on the cardiovascular system.

यह अस्थिर कर देने वाली संभावना **CARTESIAN अध्ययन** से सामने आई है, जो महामारी के हृदय-वाहिका तंत्र पर छिपे प्रभाव की अब तक की सबसे बड़ी बहुराष्ट्रीय जांच है।

- Recently published in the **European Heart Journal**, it tracked nearly **2,400 participants** across **18 countries** and found that survivors of COVID-19 had stiffer arteries — a recognised marker of “**vascular ageing**” — compared to those never infected.

हाल ही में **European Heart Journal** में प्रकाशित इस अध्ययन ने **18 देशों** के लगभग **2,400 प्रतिभागियों** को ट्रैक किया और पाया कि COVID-19 से बचे लोगों की धमनियाँ अधिक कठोर थीं — जो “**vascular ageing**” का एक मान्यता प्राप्त संकेतक है — उन लोगों की तुलना में जिन्हें कभी संक्रमण नहीं हुआ।

- The effect was most pronounced in **women**, whose arteries showed changes equivalent to an extra decade of age.

यह प्रभाव सबसे अधिक **महिलाओं** में देखा गया, जिनकी धमनियों में ऐसे परिवर्तन दिखे जो उम्र में अतिरिक्त **दस वर्षों** के बराबर थे।

- “The **pulse wave velocity** in women after COVID corresponded to that of women five to ten years older,” said **Rosa Maria Bruno**, lead author and cardiologist at **Inserm**, France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research, in Paris.

“COVID के बाद महिलाओं में **pulse wave velocity** उन महिलाओं के समान थी जो **पाँच से दस वर्ष** बड़ी थीं,” ऐसा कहा **Rosa Maria Bruno** ने, जो **Inserm** (फ्रांस के राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य और चिकित्सा अनुसंधान संस्थान, पेरिस) में मुख्य लेखक और हृदय रोग विशेषज्ञ हैं।

Why it matters

यह क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

- **As arteries stiffen, the heart pumps harder, blood pressure rises, and the risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, and dementia increases.**

जैसे-जैसे धमनियाँ कठोर होती हैं, हृदय को अधिक जोर से पंप करना पड़ता है, रक्तचाप बढ़ता है, और दिल का दौरा, स्ट्रोक, गुर्दे की बीमारी और डिमेंशिया का जोखिम बढ़ जाता है।



- Unlike wrinkles, these vascular changes are invisible until serious events occur.  
झुर्रियों के विपरीत, ये वाहिकीय परिवर्तन तब तक दिखाई नहीं देते जब तक गंभीर घटनाएँ न हो जाएँ।
- That is what makes **CARTESIAN** worrying. The **WHO** estimates nearly **700 million people** worldwide have survived COVID.  
यही कारण है कि **CARTESIAN** चिंताजनक है। **WHO** का अनुमान है कि विश्वभर में लगभग **700 मिलियन लोग** COVID से उबर चुके हैं।
- If even a fraction experience accelerated vascular ageing, the long-term healthcare burden could be significant.  
यदि उनमें से केवल एक अंश भी तेज़ गति से वाहिकीय उम्र बढ़ने का अनुभव करता है, तो दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल का बोझ महत्वपूर्ण हो सकता है।
- Notably, stiffening appeared even in survivors of **mild infections**.  
विशेष रूप से, कठोरता **हल्के संक्रमण** से बचे लोगों में भी दिखाई दी।

### What the study did

#### अध्ययन ने क्या किया

- **CARTESIAN** — short for **COVID-19 effects on Arterial Stiffness and Vascular Ageing** — asked whether COVID leaves a vascular imprint.  
**CARTESIAN** — जिसका पूरा नाम **COVID-19 effects on Arterial Stiffness and Vascular Ageing** है — ने यह पूछा कि क्या COVID कोई वाहिकीय छाप छोड़ता है।
- Researchers from **38 centres** across **18 countries** recruited **2,390 adults**, average age **50**, about half of them women.  
**18 देशों** के **38 केंद्रों** से शोधकर्ताओं ने **2,390 वयस्कों** को शामिल किया, जिनकी औसत आयु **50 वर्ष** थी, जिनमें से लगभग आधी महिलाएँ थीं।
- Groups included uninfected controls and three survivor categories: **non-hospitalised, hospitalised, and intensive care**.  
समूहों में असंक्रमित नियंत्रण और तीन बचे हुए श्रेणियाँ शामिल थीं: **गैर-हॉस्पिटलाइज़्ड, हॉस्पिटलाइज़्ड, और गहन देखभाल (ICU)**।
- Tests were performed around **six months** after infection, with follow-ups at **twelve months**.  
संक्रमण के लगभग **छह महीने** बाद परीक्षण किए गए, और **बारह महीने** पर फॉलो-अप किया गया।
- The team measured **carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (PWV)**, a gold-standard indicator of arterial stiffness.  
टीम ने **carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (PWV)** को मापा, जो धमनियों की कठोरता का **स्वर्ण-मानक संकेतक** है।
- PWV tracks how fast blood pressure waves travel: the stiffer the artery, the faster the wave.  
PWV यह ट्रैक करता है कि रक्तचाप की तरंगें कितनी तेजी से यात्रा करती हैं: धमनी जितनी कठोर होगी, तरंग उतनी ही तेज़ होगी।
- Comparing COVID-positive groups with controls revealed whether infection accelerated ageing.  
COVID-पॉज़िटिव समूहों की तुलना नियंत्रण समूहों से करने पर पता चला कि क्या संक्रमण ने उम्र बढ़ने को तेज किया।



## Results

### परिणाम

- Results were clear. Every COVID-positive group had stiffer arteries than controls. परिणाम स्पष्ट थे। प्रत्येक COVID-पॉजिटिव समूह की धमनियाँ नियंत्रण समूहों से अधिक कठोर थीं।
- After adjusting for **age, sex, blood pressure, diabetes and smoking**, survivors still showed PWV about **0.4 metres per second faster** — equivalent to arteries **five years older**.  
आयु, लिंग, रक्तचाप, मधुमेह और धूम्रपान के लिए समायोजन के बाद भी, बचे हुए लोगों ने PWV लगभग **0.4 मीटर प्रति सेकंड तेज़** दिखाया — जो धमनियों के **पाँच वर्ष बड़ी** होने के बराबर था।
- The effect, however, was striking only in **women**.  
हालाँकि, यह प्रभाव केवल **महिलाओं** में उल्लेखनीय था।
- They showed higher stiffness regardless of illness severity, and **ICU patients** had the equivalent of an **extra decade of ageing**.  
उन्होंने बीमारी की गंभीरता की परवाह किए बिना अधिक कठोरता दिखाई, और **ICU मरीजों** में उम्र बढ़ने का प्रभाव **अतिरिक्त दस वर्षों** के बराबर था।
- Persistent symptoms mattered. **Women with fatigue, breathlessness or muscle aches** months later — often labelled “**long COVID**” — had even stiffer arteries.  
लगातार लक्षण मायने रखते थे। **महिलाओं** में थकान, सांस की तकलीफ या मांसपेशियों में दर्द महीनों बाद भी — जिसे अक्सर “**लॉन्ग COVID**” कहा जाता है — और भी कठोर धमनियाँ थीं।
- “**Women mount a stronger immune response**, which protects them during infection, but if that response lingers, it can damage blood vessels,” **Dr. Bruno** explained.  
“महिलाएँ एक मजबूत प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया देती हैं, जो उन्हें संक्रमण के दौरान बचाती है, लेकिन यदि वह प्रतिक्रिया लंबे समय तक रहती है, तो यह रक्त वाहिकाओं को नुकसान पहुँचा सकती है,” ऐसा **Dr. Bruno** ने समझाया।

## Vaccination and recovery

### टीकाकरण और स्वस्थ होना

- One hopeful signal was that stiffening did not worsen indefinitely.  
एक आशाजनक संकेत यह था कि कठोरता अनिश्चित काल तक खराब नहीं हुई।
- In a subgroup followed for about a year, survivors’ stiffness stabilised or slightly improved, while controls showed the gradual increase expected with normal ageing.  
लगभग एक वर्ष तक अनुसरण किए गए एक उपसमूह में, बचे हुए लोगों की कठोरता स्थिर हो गई या थोड़ा सुधरी, जबकि नियंत्रण समूह में सामान्य उम्र बढ़ने के साथ अपेक्षित धीरे-धीरे वृद्धि दिखाई दी।
- Still, the damage did not vanish. “No return to baseline has been observed,” **Dr. Bruno** cautioned.  
फिर भी, नुकसान गायब नहीं हुआ। “कोई भी वापसी बेसलाइन पर नहीं देखी गई है,” डॉ. ब्रूनो ने चेतावनी दी।
- “An improvement has been observed mostly in very severe cases, whereas **PWV** is mostly stable in most individuals.”



“सुधार मुख्य रूप से बहुत गंभीर मामलों में देखा गया है, जबकि अधिकांश व्यक्तियों में PWV अधिकांशतः स्थिर है।”

- **Vaccination** blunted the impact, particularly in **women**. Those with at least one dose had lower stiffness than unvaccinated peers.

**टीकाकरण** ने प्रभाव को कम कर दिया, विशेष रूप से **महिलाओं** में। जिनके पास कम से कम एक खुराक थी, उनकी कठोरता बिना टीकाकरण वालों की तुलना में कम थी।

- Not all cardiologists are convinced though. **Balbir Singh**, group chairman of cardiac sciences at **Max Healthcare, Delhi**, urges caution.

हालांकि सभी हृदय रोग विशेषज्ञ आश्वस्त नहीं हैं। **बलबीर सिंह, मैक्स हेल्थकेयर, दिल्ली** में कार्डियक साइंसेज के समूह अध्यक्ष, सावधानी बरतने का आग्रह करते हैं।

- “I don’t think we can make very firm conclusions based on the **CARTESIAN study**,” he said, citing the absence of **pre-COVID baseline data** as a major limitation.

उन्होंने कहा, “मुझे नहीं लगता कि हम **CARTESIAN अध्ययन** के आधार पर बहुत ठोस निष्कर्ष निकाल सकते हैं,” उन्होंने **COVID-पूर्व बेसलाइन डेटा** की अनुपस्थिति को एक प्रमुख सीमा बताया।

- “These findings suggest arterial stiffness could be accelerated in patients who had COVID, but do not conclusively prove it.”

“ये निष्कर्ष सुझाव देते हैं कि COVID से पीड़ित रोगियों में धमनी की कठोरता तेज हो सकती है, लेकिन यह निर्णायक रूप से साबित नहीं होता।”

- From his own practice, Dr. Singh adds, he has not observed a marked shift.

अपने अनुभव से, डॉ. सिंह जोड़ते हैं कि उन्होंने कोई उल्लेखनीय परिवर्तन नहीं देखा है।

- “Are we seeing higher hypertensive patients than before? I’m not seeing that. Am I seeing those who went into the ICU during COVID now coming back with heart problems? I’m not seeing that.”

“क्या हम पहले से अधिक उच्च रक्तचाप वाले मरीज देख रहे हैं? मैं ऐसा नहीं देख रहा। क्या मैं उन लोगों को देख रहा हूँ जो COVID के दौरान ICU में गए थे और अब हृदय की समस्याओं के साथ वापस आ रहे हैं? मैं ऐसा नहीं देख रहा।”

- Elsewhere, clinicians have been drawing different lessons from what they encounter.

अन्य जगहों पर, चिकित्सक जो देखते हैं उससे अलग-अलग सबक ले रहे हैं।

- At the **Cleveland Clinic**, a nonprofit academic medical centre based in **Ohio, U.S.**, **Stanley Hazen** has argued that a history of COVID-19 should inform preventive care.

**ओहायो, अमेरिका** स्थित **क्लीवलैंड क्लिनिक**, एक गैर-लाभकारी शैक्षणिक चिकित्सा केंद्र में, **स्टैनली हैज़न** ने तर्क दिया है कि COVID-19 का इतिहास निवारक देखभाल में शामिल होना चाहिए।

- Based on his research connecting the virus to **heart problems, stroke, and death**.

अपने शोध के आधार पर उन्होंने वायरस को **हृदय की समस्याओं, स्ट्रोक और मृत्यु** से जोड़ा है।

- “As clinicians, we should consider a patient’s history of prior COVID-19 when formulating cardiovascular prevention plans — these effects [his findings] are not a small subgroup finding but a global signal that will translate into more cardiovascular disease,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “चिकित्सक के रूप में, हमें हृदय संबंधी रोकथाम योजनाएँ बनाते समय रोगी के पूर्व COVID-19 इतिहास पर विचार करना चाहिए — ये प्रभाव [उनके निष्कर्ष] एक छोटे उपसमूह की खोज नहीं हैं बल्कि एक वैश्विक संकेत हैं जो अधिक हृदय संबंधी रोग में बदल जाएगा।”

- Observations from other centres echo this. **Dara Lee Lewis** — writing from **Brigham and Women’s**, a teaching hospital of **Harvard Medical School, U.S.** — described cases of **myocarditis and persistent palpitations** in previously healthy individuals.

अन्य केंद्रों से प्राप्त अवलोकन भी इसी की पुष्टि करते हैं। **दारा ली लुईस** — **ब्रिघम एंड वीमेंस, हार्वर्ड**



मेडिकल स्कूल, अमेरिका के एक शिक्षण अस्पताल से लिखते हुए — ने पहले से स्वस्थ व्यक्तियों में मायोकार्डिटिस और लगातार धड़कन के मामले बताए।

- Meanwhile, **Bruce Levy**, of the same hospital, points to autonomic dysfunction such as **POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome)** — where the heart races upon standing — as an example of how COVID can disrupt vascular regulation in practice.

इसी बीच, उसी अस्पताल के **ब्रूस लेवी** ने स्वायत्त विकार जैसे **POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome)** — जिसमें खड़े होने पर हृदय तेजी से धड़कता है — को COVID द्वारा व्यावहारिक रूप से रक्तवाहिका विनियमन को बाधित करने का एक उदाहरण बताया।

- At **Mount Sinai in New York**, physicians using advanced imaging have detected signs of **inflammation** in the hearts and large vessels of patients who had only **mild infections**.

**न्यूयॉर्क के माउंट सिनाई** में, चिकित्सकों ने उन्नत इमेजिंग का उपयोग करके केवल **हल्के संक्रमण** वाले रोगियों के हृदय और बड़ी रक्त वाहिकाओं में **सूजन** के संकेत पाए हैं।

## India's picture

### भारत की स्थिति

- **CARTESIAN**, like most large European studies, was not representative of **South Asia**.

**CARTESIAN**, अधिकांश बड़े यूरोपीय अध्ययनों की तरह, **दक्षिण एशिया** का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करता था।

- “A small proportion identified as Asian, and while their arteries appeared less stiff than Western participants in the uninfected group, this difference disappeared after COVID — suggesting the virus erased any ethnic advantage,” **Dr. Bruno** noted.

“एक छोटा अनुपात एशियाई के रूप में पहचाना गया, और यद्यपि उनकी धमनियाँ असंक्रमित समूह में पश्चिमी प्रतिभागियों की तुलना में कम कठोर दिखाई दीं, लेकिन यह अंतर COVID के बाद गायब हो गया — यह सुझाव देते हुए कि वायरस ने किसी भी जातीय लाभ को मिटा दिया,” **डॉ. ब्रूनो** ने कहा।

- For **India**, that gap leaves open an urgent question. If COVID might accelerate vascular ageing elsewhere, what does it mean for a population already carrying one of the heaviest burdens of **cardiovascular disease worldwide**?

**भारत** के लिए, यह अंतर एक तात्कालिक प्रश्न छोड़ता है। यदि COVID कहीं और रक्तवाहिका की उम्र बढ़ने को तेज कर सकता है, तो इसका क्या अर्थ है उस आबादी के लिए जो पहले से ही विश्व स्तर पर **हृदय संबंधी रोग का सबसे बड़ा बोझ** ढो रही है?

- Without rigorous home-grown data — the kind that is now guiding international researchers and physicians — the risk remains largely invisible.

कठोर स्वदेशी डेटा के बिना — वह प्रकार जो अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोधकर्ताओं और चिकित्सकों का मार्गदर्शन कर रहा है — जोखिम काफी हद तक अदृश्य बना रहता है।

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# Why prompt medical attention is crucial in cases of testicular torsion in children

**CS III: S&T**

**D. Venkat Subramaniam**

Children's testicular pain is frequently brushed off as a minor injury, or it is assumed that it will go away on its own. Testicular torsion is one condition though, where a delay could mean the difference between saving or losing the testicle. Raising awareness is the first line of defence against long-term effects.

When the testicle twists around the spermatic cord and cuts off its blood supply, this condition is known as testicular torsion.

The testicle may sustain permanent injury if treatment is not given immediately, typically within four to six hours.

Although it can happen at any age, newborns and children as well as teenagers during puberty are more likely to sustain this condition, when growth spurts cause the testicles to become more mobile. Timely intervention is critical. Taking the pain seriously and seeking immediate medical care can ensure the testis is saved.

Children might not always be able to express their symptoms as well as adults do. Parents need to be aware of any unexpected changes, such as: sudden, severe pain in one testicle, scrotal swelling or redness, nausea and vomiting, the child walking



awkwardly, refusing to sit or play and pain that comes on after a minor injury but continues to worsen.

Children frequently arrive at the emergency room hours after the pain starts, which can significantly lower the testicle's chances of survival. Awareness is key. Teenagers, young adults, and parents must be educated about the symptoms of torsion and the need for immediate medical attention. Until proven otherwise, treat scrotal pain in children as an emergency. A physician can confirm the diagnosis through an

examination or with an ultrasound. Emergency surgery to untwist the spermatic cord and fix both testicles is the standard treatment for testicular torsion in order to prevent recurrence. The testicle can be saved if blood supply to it is promptly restored. Delays longer than six to eight hours, however, significantly reduce the affected testicle's chances of surviving.

In cases where the testicle cannot be saved, removal may be required. Even then, with one healthy testicle, boys usually maintain normal fertility and hormonal function. Although a

normal sexual life and good quality of life are possible even with a single testis, the goal should always be to preserve both, for the physical and psychological well-being of the individual.

Although torsion is uncommon, it can have major consequences. The testicle can be saved with early detection and prompt treatment.

(Dr. D. Venkat Subramaniam is senior consultant urologist & executive director at Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology, Chennai. drvenkat@ainuindia.com)

## Why prompt medical attention is crucial in cases of testicular torsion in children

**बच्चों में वृषण मरोड़ (testicular torsion) के मामलों में त्वरित**

**चिकित्सीय ध्यान क्यों आवश्यक है**

### Testicular Torsion in Children

**बच्चों में वृषण मरोड़ (टेस्टिक्युलर टॉर्शन)**

- Children's testicular pain is frequently brushed off as a minor injury, or it is assumed that it will go away on its own. Testicular torsion is one condition though, where a delay could mean the difference between saving or losing the testicle. Raising awareness is the first line of defence against long-term effects.

बच्चों का वृषण दर्द अक्सर एक मामूली चोट मानकर नज़रअंदाज़ कर दिया जाता है, या यह मान लिया जाता है कि यह अपने आप चला जाएगा। लेकिन टेस्टिक्युलर टॉर्शन ऐसी स्थिति है, जिसमें



देरी का मतलब वृषण को बचाना या खोना हो सकता है। **जागरूकता बढ़ाना** लंबे समय के प्रभावों के खिलाफ पहली रक्षा रेखा है।

- **When the testicle twists around the spermatic cord and cuts off its blood supply, this condition is known as testicular torsion.**

जब वृषण **शुक्राणु वाहिनी (spermatic cord)** के चारों ओर मरोड़ जाता है और उसका रक्त प्रवाह रुक जाता है, तो इस स्थिति को **टेस्टिक्युलर टॉर्शन** कहा जाता है।

- The testicle may sustain permanent injury if treatment is not given immediately, typically within **four to six hours**.

यदि तुरंत उपचार न दिया जाए, तो वृषण को स्थायी चोट लग सकती है, आमतौर पर **चार से छह घंटे** के भीतर।

- **Although it can happen at any age, newborns and children as well as teenagers during puberty are more likely to sustain this condition**, when **growth spurts** cause the testicles to become more mobile. Timely intervention is critical. Taking the pain seriously and seeking immediate medical care can ensure the testis is saved.

हालांकि यह किसी भी उम्र में हो सकता है, लेकिन यह स्थिति **नवजात शिशुओं, बच्चों और किशोरावस्था (puberty)** के दौरान किशोरों में अधिक देखी जाती है, जब **growth spurts** के कारण वृषण अधिक गतिशील हो जाते हैं। समय पर हस्तक्षेप बेहद ज़रूरी है। दर्द को गंभीरता से लेना और तुरंत चिकित्सा देखभाल प्राप्त करना वृषण को बचा सकता है।

- Children might not always be able to express their symptoms as well as adults do. Parents need to be aware of any unexpected changes, such as: sudden, severe pain in one testicle, **scrotal swelling or redness**, nausea and vomiting, the child walking awkwardly, refusing to sit or play and pain that comes on after a minor injury but continues to worsen.

बच्चे हमेशा अपने लक्षणों को वयस्कों की तरह व्यक्त नहीं कर पाते। माता-पिता को किसी भी अप्रत्याशित बदलाव पर ध्यान देना चाहिए, जैसे: एक वृषण में अचानक और तेज़ दर्द, **अंडकोश में सूजन या लालिमा**, मतली और उल्टी, बच्चे का अजीब तरीके से चलना, बैठने या खेलने से मना करना और दर्द जो किसी मामूली चोट के बाद शुरू होता है लेकिन लगातार बढ़ता जाता है।

- Children frequently arrive at the emergency room hours after the pain starts, which can significantly lower the testicle's chances of survival. Awareness is key. **Teenagers, young adults, and parents must be educated about the symptoms of torsion and the need for immediate medical attention.**

बच्चे अक्सर दर्द शुरू होने के **कई घंटे बाद** आपातकालीन कक्ष में पहुँचते हैं, जिससे वृषण के बचने की संभावना काफी कम हो जाती है। **जागरूकता ही मुख्य उपाय है।** किशोरों, युवाओं और माता-पिता को टॉर्शन के लक्षणों और तत्काल चिकित्सा की आवश्यकता के बारे में शिक्षित करना ज़रूरी है।

- Until proven otherwise, treat **scrotal pain** in children as an **emergency**. A physician can confirm the diagnosis through an examination or with an ultrasound. Emergency surgery to **untwist the spermatic cord** and fix both testicles is the standard treatment for testicular torsion in order to prevent recurrence. The testicle can be saved if blood supply to it is promptly restored.

जब तक अन्यथा साबित न हो, बच्चों में **अंडकोश का दर्द** को **आपातकाल** मानें। एक चिकित्सक जांच या अल्ट्रासाउंड के माध्यम से निदान की पुष्टि कर सकता है। **शुक्राणु वाहिनी को खोलने (untwist)** और दोनों वृषण को स्थिर करने के लिए आपातकालीन शल्य चिकित्सा टेस्टिक्युलर टॉर्शन का मानक उपचार है, ताकि पुनरावृत्ति को रोका जा सके। यदि रक्त आपूर्ति तुरंत बहाल हो जाती है, तो वृषण को बचाया जा सकता है।



- Delays longer than **six to eight hours**, however, significantly reduce the affected testicle's chances of surviving.  
लेकिन छह से आठ घंटे से अधिक की देरी वृषण के बचने की संभावना को काफी कम कर देती है।
- **In cases where the testicle cannot be saved, removal may be required. Even then, with one healthy testicle, boys usually maintain normal fertility and hormonal function.** Although a normal sexual life and good quality of life are possible even with a single testis, the goal should always be to preserve both, for the physical and psychological well-being of the individual.  
उन मामलों में जहां वृषण को नहीं बचाया जा सकता, उसे निकालना पड़ सकता है। फिर भी, एक स्वस्थ वृषण के साथ लड़के सामान्य उर्वरता (fertility) और हार्मोनल कार्य बनाए रखते हैं। हालांकि एक वृषण के साथ भी सामान्य यौन जीवन और अच्छी जीवन गुणवत्ता संभव है, लेकिन लक्ष्य हमेशा दोनों को बचाने का होना चाहिए, ताकि व्यक्ति का शारीरिक और मानसिक कल्याण सुनिश्चित हो सके।
- Although torsion is uncommon, it can have major consequences. The testicle can be saved with **early detection and prompt treatment.**  
हालांकि टॉर्शन असामान्य है, लेकिन इसके गंभीर परिणाम हो सकते हैं। वृषण को **जल्दी पहचान** और **तुरंत उपचार** से बचाया जा सकता है।

PATRIOTICIAS

# India needs more focus to reach SDG 3, a crucial goal

## GS III: Environment

In June this year, India secured its best-ever position in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, ranking 99 out of 167 nations in the 2025 edition of the SDG Report. This marked a significant improvement from its rank of 109 in 2024, reflecting steady progress since 2021. India has demonstrated advancement in areas such as access to basic services and infrastructure. Yet, the report also flagged pressing challenges in key sectors, particularly health and nutrition, where progress has been uneven, especially in rural and tribal communities.

### There is still ground to be covered

In this backdrop, it is critical to ponder over SDG 3. Its goal is to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, and is one of the most crucial, yet demanding, goals in India’s SDG journey. It encompasses specific targets that India has committed to achieve by 2030. Despite gains in some areas, the overall trajectory indicates that India is not on track in most targets. For example, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) – the number of mothers dying after childbirth per 100,000 live births – stands at 97 deaths per 100,000 live births, higher than the 2030 target of 70.

Even the under-five mortality rate remains at 32 deaths per 1,000 live births against the target of 25. In developed countries, it ranges between two and six deaths. Life expectancy now is only 70 years, falling short of the target of 73.63 years. Out-of-pocket health-care expenditure continues to burden families at 13% of total consumption, nearly double the targeted 7.83%. Even immunisation coverage, though commendably high at 93.23%, has not yet reached the universal target of 100%.

There are multiple reasons for these gaps. They include, first, lack of access to quality health care partially due to poor infrastructure and economic factors; second, non-economic factors such as poor nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and other lifestyle choices and, third, cultural



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Compulsory health education in schools is one measure that can help close the gap

practices and stigma around physical and mental health. These cultural practices and limited awareness often prevent communities from accessing even the health-care services available to them.

If India is to accelerate progress on SDG Goal 3, a three-pronged approach is essential and one that focuses on treatment and prevention of diseases. The first is providing Universal Health Insurance to the population. World Bank studies show that countries with robust insurance systems have lowered catastrophic health-care expenditure while ensuring greater equity in access. The second is to have high-quality primary health centres across the country and coordination of primary, secondary and tertiary care.

The World Health Statistics 2022 by the World Health Organization highlights that strong primary systems help in detecting diseases earlier, reducing hospitalisation costs, and achieving better long-term outcomes. This will also require harnessing the transformative potential of digital health tools. Telemedicine and integrated digital health records can bridge access gaps, especially in rural and underserved regions. Evidence from the Lancet Digital Health Commission shows how digital platforms have improved maternal health care and vaccination tracking in several low and middle-income countries, offering lessons that India can adapt.

### Health education at the school level

Prevention of diseases is more cost-effective than treating them. To prevent diseases, we need to provide health education to all schoolchildren. Children need to be educated about healthy nutrition, good hygiene and sanitation, reproductive health, road safety, and on mental health topics.

At this young age, they need to improve their health behaviour and not just their knowledge. The health habits they develop at this age will be maintained as they grow to be adults. When girls

become mothers, they will be more educated about their health and advocate this for themselves and their family. Over the long term, the school health education initiative has the potential to reduce MMR ratio, under-five mortality and deaths due to road accidents. At the same time, it can increase life expectancy and immunisation rates.

Finland’s school-based health reforms in the 1970s, which wove lessons on nutrition, hygiene and lifestyle into the curricula, played a central role in reducing cardiovascular disease rates in the decades that followed. In Japan, compulsory health education has been linked to improved hygiene practices and longer life expectancy. A structured and progressive curriculum in India can achieve similar results.

### Need for concerted actions

Therefore, closing the SDG gap requires action by policymakers to individual actions. Policymakers need to embed health education in school curricula while simultaneously investing in universal health coverage and primary health care.

All parents have an important role to play in the health education of youth. They can review their child’s school curriculum and determine whether topics on physical, mental and social health are being covered. If not, they should push for it by communicating this to the department of education.

India’s improved SDG ranking is encouraging. But it should not obscure the reality that only 17% of global SDG targets are currently on track to be achieved by 2030. Educating its youth about healthy behaviour, supported by stronger health-care systems, can act as the foundation for sustainable progress. And while 2030 is an important milestone to reach, the true vision lies further ahead – building a healthier and stronger India. A government that devotes its attention to embedding health education in school curricula can help achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat 2047.

## India needs more focus to reach SDG 3, a crucial goal

भारत को SDG 3, एक महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्य, तक पहुँचने के लिए अधिक ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है

### India’s Progress on SDG Index

भारत की एसडीजी इंडेक्स पर प्रगति

- In June this year, India secured its **best-ever position** in the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index**, ranking **99 out of 167 nations** in the **2025 edition** of the **SDG Report**.  
इस वर्ष जून में, भारत ने सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDG) इंडेक्स में अब तक का सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्थान प्राप्त किया, और 2025 संस्करण की SDG रिपोर्ट में 167 देशों में 99वां स्थान हासिल किया।
- **Global SDG Index** Published annually by the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** in collaboration with the **Bertelsmann Stiftung**.



- This marked a significant **improvement from its rank of 109 in 2024**, reflecting steady progress since **2021**.  
यह **2024 में 109वें स्थान** से एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार था, जो **2021** से निरंतर प्रगति को दर्शाता है।
- **India has demonstrated advancement in areas such as access to basic services and infrastructure.**  
भारत ने **मूलभूत सेवाओं और अवसंरचना तक पहुंच** जैसे क्षेत्रों में प्रगति दिखाई है।
- **Yet, the report also flagged pressing challenges in key sectors, particularly health and nutrition, where progress has been uneven, especially in rural and tribal communities.**  
फिर भी, रिपोर्ट ने **स्वास्थ्य और पोषण** जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में गंभीर चुनौतियों को उजागर किया, जहां प्रगति असमान रही है, विशेष रूप से **ग्रामीण और जनजातीय समुदायों** में।

### There is still ground to be covered

अभी भी लंबा रास्ता तय करना बाकी है

- In this backdrop, it is critical to ponder over **SDG 3**. Its goal is to “**ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**”, and is one of the most crucial yet demanding goals in India’s SDG journey.  
इस पृष्ठभूमि में, **एसडीजी 3** पर विचार करना महत्वपूर्ण है। इसका लक्ष्य है “**सभी आयु वर्गों के लिए स्वस्थ जीवन सुनिश्चित करना और कल्याण को बढ़ावा देना**”, और यह भारत की एसडीजी यात्रा के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण लेकिन चुनौतीपूर्ण लक्ष्यों में से एक है।
- It encompasses specific targets that India has committed to achieve by **2030**. Despite gains in some areas, the overall trajectory indicates that India is **not on track** in most targets.  
इसमें विशिष्ट लक्ष्य शामिल हैं जिन्हें भारत ने **2030** तक हासिल करने का वादा किया है। कुछ क्षेत्रों में प्रगति के बावजूद, समग्र रुझान दर्शाता है कि भारत अधिकांश लक्ष्यों में **सही रास्ते पर नहीं** है।
- For example, the **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) stands at 97 deaths per 100,000 live births, higher than the 2030 target of 70.**  
उदाहरण के लिए, **मातृ मृत्यु दर (MMR) 100,000 जीवित जन्मों पर 97 मौतें** है, जो **2030 के लक्ष्य 70** से अधिक है।
- Even the **under-five mortality rate remains at 32 deaths per 1,000 live births against the target of 25.** In developed countries, it ranges between **two and six deaths.**  
यहां तक कि **पांच वर्ष से कम आयु मृत्यु दर भी 1,000 जीवित जन्मों पर 32 मौतें** है, जबकि लक्ष्य **25** है। विकसित देशों में यह **दो से छह मौतों** के बीच है।
- **Life expectancy now is only 70 years, falling short of the target of 73.63 years.**  
वर्तमान में **औसत आयु केवल 70 वर्ष** है, जो लक्ष्य **73.63 वर्ष** से कम है।
- **Out-of-pocket health-care expenditure continues to burden families at 13% of total consumption, nearly double the targeted 7.83%.**  
**स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पर जब से होने वाला खर्च परिवारों पर बोझ बना हुआ है**, जो कुल खपत का **13%** है, और यह निर्धारित लक्ष्य **7.83%** से लगभग दोगुना है।
- Even **immunisation coverage, though commendably high at 93.23%, has not yet reached the universal target of 100%.**  
यहां तक कि **टीकाकरण कवरेज**, जो कि सराहनीय रूप से **93.23%** है, अभी भी सार्वभौमिक लक्ष्य **100%** तक नहीं पहुंचा है।



## Reasons for these gaps

### इन अंतरालों के कारण

- **Lack of access to quality health care** partially due to **poor infrastructure and economic factors**.  
खराब अवसंरचना और आर्थिक कारणों के चलते गुणवत्तापूर्ण स्वास्थ्य सेवा तक पहुंच की कमी।
- **Non-economic factors** such as **poor nutrition, hygiene, sanitation and other lifestyle choices**.  
गैर-आर्थिक कारण जैसे खराब पोषण, स्वच्छता, साफ-सफाई और अन्य जीवनशैली विकल्प।
- **Cultural practices and stigma** around physical and mental health.  
शारीरिक और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य से जुड़े सांस्कृतिक अभ्यास और कलंक।
- These cultural practices and limited awareness often prevent communities from accessing even the health-care services available to them.  
ये सांस्कृतिक अभ्यास और सीमित जागरूकता अक्सर समुदायों को उपलब्ध स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुंचने से भी रोकते हैं।

## Accelerating progress on SDG 3

### एसडीजी 3 पर प्रगति तेज करना

- A **three-pronged approach** is essential that focuses on **treatment and prevention of diseases**.  
एक त्रिस्तरीय दृष्टिकोण आवश्यक है जो बीमारियों के उपचार और रोकथाम पर केंद्रित हो।
- First is **providing Universal Health Insurance** to the population.  
पहला है जनसंख्या को सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य बीमा प्रदान करना।
- **World Bank studies** show that countries with robust insurance systems have lowered **catastrophic health-care expenditure** while ensuring greater **equity in access**.  
विश्व बैंक के अध्ययन दिखाते हैं कि मजबूत बीमा प्रणाली वाले देशों ने विनाशकारी स्वास्थ्य व्यय को कम किया है और पहुंच में अधिक समानता सुनिश्चित की है।
- Second is to have **high-quality primary health centres** across the country and **coordination of primary, secondary and tertiary care**.  
दूसरा है पूरे देश में उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र स्थापित करना और प्राथमिक, द्वितीयक और तृतीयक देखभाल के बीच समन्वय।
- **WHO's World Health Statistics 2022** highlights that strong primary systems help in **detecting diseases earlier, reducing hospitalisation costs, and achieving better long-term outcomes**.  
डब्ल्यूएचओ की विश्व स्वास्थ्य सांख्यिकी 2022 बताती है कि मजबूत प्राथमिक प्रणाली बीमारियों का जल्दी पता लगाने, अस्पताल खर्च घटाने और दीर्घकालिक बेहतर परिणाम प्राप्त करने में मदद करती है।
- This will also require harnessing the transformative potential of **digital health tools**.  
इसके लिए डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य उपकरणों की परिवर्तनकारी क्षमता का उपयोग करना भी आवश्यक होगा।
- **Telemedicine and integrated digital health records** can bridge access gaps, especially in **rural and underserved regions**.  
टेलीमेडिसिन और एकीकृत डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य रिकॉर्ड पहुंच की खाई को भर सकते हैं, विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण और पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में।



- Evidence from the Lancet Digital Health Commission shows how digital platforms have improved maternal health care and vaccination tracking in several low and middle-income countries, offering lessons that India can adapt.  
लैंसेट डिजिटल हेल्थ कमीशन के साक्ष्य दिखाते हैं कि कैसे डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म ने कई निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों में मातृ स्वास्थ्य देखभाल और टीकाकरण ट्रेकिंग में सुधार किया है, जो भारत के लिए उपयोगी सबक प्रस्तुत करता है।

## Health education at the school level

### विद्यालय स्तर पर स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा

- **Prevention of diseases** is more cost-effective than treating them. To prevent diseases, we need to provide **health education** to all schoolchildren.  
बीमारियों की रोकथाम उनका इलाज करने की तुलना में अधिक किफायती है। बीमारियों को रोकने के लिए हमें सभी स्कूली बच्चों को **स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा** प्रदान करने की आवश्यकता है।
- Children need to be educated about **healthy nutrition, good hygiene and sanitation, reproductive health, road safety, and mental health topics**.  
बच्चों को **स्वस्थ पोषण, अच्छी स्वच्छता और साफ-सफाई, प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य, सड़क सुरक्षा और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य विषयों** के बारे में शिक्षित किया जाना चाहिए।
- At this young age, they need to improve their **health behaviour** and not just their knowledge.  
इस कम उम्र में, उन्हें केवल ज्ञान ही नहीं बल्कि अपने **स्वास्थ्य व्यवहार** को सुधारने की आवश्यकता है।
- The **health habits** they develop at this age will be maintained as they grow to be adults.  
इस उम्र में विकसित की गई **स्वास्थ्य आदतें** उनके वयस्क होने पर भी बनी रहेंगी।
- When **girls become mothers**, they will be more educated about their health and advocate this for themselves and their family.  
जब **लड़कियां मां बनती हैं**, तो वे अपने स्वास्थ्य के बारे में अधिक शिक्षित होंगी और अपने तथा अपने परिवार के लिए इसकी वकालत करेंगी।
- Over the long term, the school health education initiative has the potential to reduce **MMR ratio, under-five mortality and deaths due to road accidents**.  
दीर्घकाल में, विद्यालय स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा पहल **मातृ मृत्यु दर, पांच वर्ष से कम आयु मृत्यु दर और सड़क दुर्घटनाओं से होने वाली मौतों** को कम करने की क्षमता रखती है।
- At the same time, it can increase **life expectancy and immunisation rates**.  
साथ ही, यह आयु प्रत्याशा और टीकाकरण दर को बढ़ा सकती है।
- **Finland's school-based health reforms in the 1970s**, which wove lessons on **nutrition, hygiene and lifestyle** into the curricula, played a central role in reducing **cardiovascular disease rates** in the decades that followed.  
फिनलैंड के विद्यालय-आधारित स्वास्थ्य सुधार ने 1970 के दशक में पोषण, स्वच्छता और जीवनशैली को पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल किया, जिसने आने वाले दशकों में **हृदय रोग दरों** को कम करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
- In **Japan**, compulsory health education has been linked to improved **hygiene practices and longer life expectancy**.  
जापान में, अनिवार्य स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा को बेहतर **स्वच्छता प्रथाओं और लंबी आयु प्रत्याशा** से जोड़ा गया है।



- A **structured and progressive curriculum** in India can achieve similar results. भारत में एक संरचित और प्रगतिशील पाठ्यक्रम समान परिणाम प्राप्त कर सकता है।

### Need for concerted actions

#### सामूहिक कार्यवाही की आवश्यकता

- Therefore, closing the **SDG gap** requires action by **policymakers** to individual actions.  
इसलिए, एसडीजी अंतर को बंद करने के लिए नीति-निर्माताओं से लेकर व्यक्तिगत स्तर तक कार्यवाही की आवश्यकता है।
- **Policymakers need to embed health education in school curricula while simultaneously investing in universal health coverage and primary health care.**  
नीति-निर्माताओं को स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम में स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा को शामिल करना चाहिए और साथ ही सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज और प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में निवेश करना चाहिए।
- All **parents** have an important role to play in the health education of youth.  
सभी माता-पिता की युवा स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है।
- **They can review their child's school curriculum and determine whether topics on physical, mental and social health are being covered.**  
वे अपने बच्चे के स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम की समीक्षा कर सकते हैं और यह तय कर सकते हैं कि क्या इसमें शारीरिक, मानसिक और सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य के विषय शामिल हैं।
- If not, they should push for it by communicating this to the **department of education.**  
यदि नहीं, तो उन्हें इसे शिक्षा विभाग तक पहुंचाकर इसके लिए दबाव बनाना चाहिए।
- India's improved **SDG ranking** is encouraging.  
भारत की सुधरी हुई एसडीजी रैंकिंग उत्साहजनक है।
- But it should not obscure the reality that **only 17% of global SDG targets are currently on track to be achieved by 2030.**  
लेकिन यह इस वास्तविकता को छुपाना नहीं चाहिए कि वर्तमान में वैश्विक एसडीजी लक्ष्यों में से केवल 17% ही 2030 तक हासिल होने की राह पर हैं।
- Educating its youth about **healthy behaviour**, supported by stronger **health-care systems**, can act as the foundation for **sustainable progress.**  
अपने युवाओं को स्वस्थ व्यवहार के बारे में शिक्षित करना और मजबूत स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली से समर्थन करना सतत प्रगति की नींव बन सकता है।
- And while **2030** is an important milestone to reach, the true vision lies further ahead — building a **healthier and stronger India.**  
और जबकि 2030 एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है, वास्तविक दृष्टि इससे आगे है — एक स्वस्थ और मजबूत भारत का निर्माण।
- A government that devotes its attention to embedding **health education in school curricula** can help achieve the goal of a **Viksit Bharat 2047.**  
एक सरकार जो स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम में स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा पर ध्यान देती है, वह विकसित भारत 2047 के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में मदद कर सकती है।



GS III: Environment

## Holistic approach

### India needs a multi-pronged strategy to deal with stubble burning

The Supreme Court of India has broached the possibility of prosecuting farmers, caught setting fire to their fields, to prepare for winter sowing or *rabi* crop. 'Stubble burning' is a major contributor to air pollution in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, particularly in October and November, when the southwest monsoon has receded and adverse meteorological conditions trap toxic particulate matter emissions from vehicles, industry, garbage burning and agricultural waste. While the causes and the ways to reduce particulate matter pollution from agriculture are known, the efforts by the Centre to tackle the long-standing problem have been half-hearted. The creation of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), a central body with the power to reach out across the borders of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, was a positive step and an acknowledgement that air pollution in one State cannot be tackled without the cooperation of others. However, the four-year-old statutory body has failed to exercise its powers in a manner that is independent of political pressure. Take the example of its recent order to ban the sale of petrol and diesel in the National Capital Region to 'end-of-life' vehicles, from July 1. A public outcry in Delhi and its political leaders – largely on technical grounds – and the Court's intervention, forced its implementation to November this year, that too beginning with parts of the NCR that are not a part of the Delhi municipalities. In stubble burning too, the CAQM has not been able to impress upon the judiciary that stubble burning was due to recalcitrant farmers, limited enforcement by Punjab and Haryana and the structure of agricultural economics that left the average, debt-ridden farmer with little choice. In recent years, it has emerged that Punjab has been claiming a reduction in farm fires when it was in fact increasing. The CAQM chose not to disclose this.

In the absence of a transparent mechanism to evaluate and address an issue and being cowed down by imagined political repercussions, it is not surprising that suggestions such as to "jail farmers" to act as a deterrent to others are being bandied about. While no section of citizens – farmer or industrialist – can be considered to be above the law, creating better incentives, enforcing existing laws and being transparent about what is realistically achievable are more advisable steps than 'carrot and stick' approaches.

## Holistic approach

### समग्र दृष्टिकोण

- India needs a multi-pronged strategy to deal with stubble burning  
भारत को पराली जलाने (stubble burning) से निपटने के लिए एक बहुआयामी रणनीति (multi-pronged strategy) की आवश्यकता है

### Stubble Burning and Supreme Court's Intervention

#### पराली जलाना और सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का हस्तक्षेप

- The **Supreme Court of India** has broached the possibility of prosecuting farmers, caught setting fire to their fields, to prepare for winter sowing or *rabi* crop. **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने उन किसानों पर मुकदमा चलाने की संभावना जताई है, जिन्हें सर्दियों की बुवाई या *रबी* फसल की तैयारी के लिए खेतों में आग लगाते पकड़ा गया।
- '**Stubble burning**' is a major contributor to air pollution in **Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana**, particularly in **October and November**, when the southwest monsoon has receded and adverse meteorological conditions trap toxic particulate matter emissions from vehicles, industry, garbage burning and agricultural waste.

'पराली जलाना' दिल्ली, उत्तर प्रदेश, पंजाब और हरियाणा में वायु प्रदूषण का एक प्रमुख कारण है, खासकर अक्टूबर और नवंबर में, जब दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून पीछे हट चुका होता है और प्रतिकूल मौसमीय परिस्थितियाँ वाहनों, उद्योगों, कचरा जलाने और कृषि अपशिष्ट से निकलने वाले जहरीले कण पदार्थ को फंसा लेती हैं।

- While the causes and the ways to reduce particulate matter pollution from agriculture are known, the efforts by the **Centre** to tackle the long-standing problem have been half-hearted.

कृषि से कण पदार्थ प्रदूषण को कम करने के कारण और उपाय ज्ञात होने के बावजूद, इस लंबे समय से चली आ रही समस्या को हल करने के लिए केंद्र के प्रयास आधे-अधूरे रहे हैं।

- The creation of the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**, a central body with the power to reach out across the borders of **Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan**, was a positive step and an acknowledgement that air pollution in one State cannot be tackled without the cooperation of others.

वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (CAQM) का गठन, जो एक केंद्रीय



निकाय है और पंजाब, हरियाणा, दिल्ली, उत्तर प्रदेश और राजस्थान की सीमाओं तक पहुँचने की शक्ति रखता है, एक सकारात्मक कदम था और इस बात की स्वीकारोक्ति थी कि एक राज्य का वायु प्रदूषण अन्य राज्यों के सहयोग के बिना हल नहीं किया जा सकता।

- However, the **four-year-old statutory body** has failed to exercise its powers in a manner that is independent of political pressure.

हालांकि, यह चार साल पुराना वैधानिक निकाय राजनीतिक दबाव से स्वतंत्र तरीके से अपनी शक्तियों का उपयोग करने में विफल रहा है।

- Take the example of its recent order to **ban the sale of petrol and diesel in the National Capital Region** to 'end-of-life' vehicles, from **July 1**.

इसका उदाहरण इसका हालिया आदेश है, जिसमें **1 जुलाई से राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (NCR)** में 'पुराने वाहनों' को पेट्रोल और डीजल की बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया।

- A public outcry in **Delhi** and its political leaders — largely on technical grounds — and the **Court's intervention**, forced its implementation to **November** this year, that too beginning with parts of the **NCR** that are not a part of the **Delhi municipalities**.

**दिल्ली** में जनता और राजनीतिक नेताओं का विरोध — मुख्य रूप से तकनीकी आधार पर — और **अदालत के हस्तक्षेप** ने इसके क्रियान्वयन को इस वर्ष के **नवंबर** तक टाल दिया, वह भी केवल उन **NCR** क्षेत्रों में जो **दिल्ली नगरपालिकाओं** का हिस्सा नहीं हैं।

- In **stubble burning** too, the **CAQM** has not been able to impress upon the judiciary that **stubble burning was due to recalcitrant farmers, limited enforcement by Punjab and Haryana** and the structure of agricultural economics that left the average, debt-ridden farmer with little choice.

**पराली जलाने** के मामले में भी, **CAQM** न्यायपालिका को यह समझाने में असमर्थ रहा कि पराली जलाना जिद्दी किसानों, **पंजाब और हरियाणा** द्वारा सीमित प्रवर्तन और कृषि अर्थशास्त्र की उस संरचना के कारण है, जिसने औसत कर्जग्रस्त किसान के पास बहुत कम विकल्प छोड़ा है।

- In recent years, it has emerged that **Punjab** has been claiming a reduction in farm fires when it was in fact increasing. The **CAQM** chose not to disclose this.

हाल के वर्षों में यह सामने आया कि **पंजाब** पराली जलाने की घटनाओं में कमी का दावा कर रहा था, जबकि वास्तव में ये बढ़ रही थीं। **CAQM** ने इसे उजागर नहीं करना चुना।

- In the absence of a transparent mechanism to evaluate and address an issue and being cowed down by imagined political repercussions, it is not surprising that suggestions such as to "**jail farmers**" to act as a deterrent to others are being bandied about.

किसी मुद्दे का मूल्यांकन और समाधान करने के लिए पारदर्शी तंत्र की अनुपस्थिति और काल्पनिक राजनीतिक परिणामों से डर जाने के कारण, यह आश्चर्यजनक नहीं है कि दूसरों को रोकने के लिए किसानों को "**जेल भेजने**" जैसे सुझाव सामने आ रहे हैं।

- While no section of citizens — farmer or industrialist — can be considered to be above the law, creating better **incentives**, enforcing existing **laws** and being **transparent** about what is realistically achievable are more advisable steps than '**carrot and stick**' approaches.

जबकि नागरिकों का कोई भी वर्ग — किसान या उद्योगपति — कानून से ऊपर नहीं माना जा सकता, बेहतर **प्रोत्साहन** देना, मौजूदा **कानूनों** को लागू करना और वास्तविक रूप से क्या हासिल किया जा सकता है, इस पर **पारदर्शी** होना, '**लाठी और गाजर**' दृष्टिकोण से अधिक उचित कदम हैं।



# Why are Maharashtra's onion farmers protesting?

Is the government's buffer stock policy hurting farmers?

GS III: Agriculture

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

The story so far:

Since September 12, thousands of farmers from Maharashtra, India's largest onion-producing State, have been holding a phone protest. The main reason for the agitation is the distress caused by the fall in market prices of onions. Farmers are demanding immediate government intervention and aid of ₹1,500 per quintal. Experts say the problem is systemic. Maharashtra has produced more onions than needed this year, and the quality of stored Rabi onions has deteriorated, lowering market prices. They argue that the government must streamline onion exports, establish a uniform export policy, build trust among importers, and hold discussions with key buyers to secure stable markets.

Why are farmers protesting?

At present, farmers say they earn only

₹800 to ₹1,000 per quintal for their onions, while the production cost stands at ₹2,200 to ₹2,500 per quintal. The Rabi onions stored by farmers in the hope of better rates are deteriorating, forcing them to sell at even lower prices. At the same time, the government has released its buffer stock in the market at cheaper prices, further dragging down rates.

"NCCF and NAFED should be stopped from selling their stocks in cities across the country," one of the key demands put forth by the Maharashtra State Onion Producer Farmers' Organisation said. National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF), a major consumer cooperative in India; and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), the apex cooperative organisation for promoting and developing the cooperative marketing of agricultural produce for the benefit of farmers, jointly procure, store and

thereafter sell the onions in the market as a part of the Government of India's price stabilisation policy.

How is the onion price stabilisation policy affecting the farmers?

India's onion price stabilisation policy focuses on maintaining a strategic buffer stock under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) to manage price volatility. The government procures onions to build this buffer, and during periods of high prices or lean supply, they are released from the stock into major consumption centres through outlets and mobile vans to ensure affordability for consumers and prevent hoarding.

However, at present, farmers are still sitting on the stocks of Rabi onions and are trying to sell them in the market.

At a time when their produce is receiving a market price lower than the production cost, the prices are brought down further due to the NAFED and

NCCF stocks.

What solutions are farmers and experts proposing?

According to government data, 25.25 lakh tonnes of onions were exported in the year 2022-23, a significant surge compared to previous years. But within two years, exports fell by more than half – in 2024-25, only 11.47 lakh tonnes were exported. "There is an urgent need to restore competitiveness and secure India's position in global onion markets. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were the two main importers of Indian onions. Today, both of them have looked away from us. The government needs to have a stable export policy. Any flip-flops lead to a loss of credibility for the country in the international market," an exporter who did not wish to be named said.

Farmers and exporters want the government to incentivise exports, as India is one of the leading growers of onions in the world. During the flux in the government's export policy, countries like China and Pakistan have taken over India's export market, farmers said.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh government has announced procurement of onions at ₹1,200 per quintal, a base price considered crucial to protecting farmers. One of the suggestions given to the government of Maharashtra is to emulate the Andhra model and incentivise the onion farmers.

## Maharashtra's Onion Farmers Protest

### महाराष्ट्र के प्याज किसानों का प्रदर्शन

- Why are Maharashtra's onion farmers protesting?  
महाराष्ट्र के प्याज (onion) किसानों का प्रदर्शन क्यों हो रहा है?
- Is the government's buffer stock policy hurting farmers?  
क्या सरकार की बफर स्टॉक नीति (buffer stock policy) किसानों को प्रभावित कर रही है?

## Maharashtra Farmers' Onion Protest

### महाराष्ट्र के किसानों का प्याज विरोध

- Since **September 12**, thousands of farmers from **Maharashtra**, **India's largest onion-producing State**, have been holding a **phone protest**.  
12 सितंबर से, भारत के सबसे बड़े प्याज उत्पादक राज्य महाराष्ट्र के हजारों किसान फोन के माध्यम से विरोध कर रहे हैं।
- The main reason for the agitation is the **distress caused by the fall in market prices of onions**.  
आंदोलन का मुख्य कारण प्याज की बाजार कीमतों में गिरावट से उत्पन्न कष्ट है।
- Farmers are demanding **immediate government intervention** and aid of **₹1,500 per quintal**.  
किसान मांग कर रहे हैं तत्काल सरकारी हस्तक्षेप और प्रति क्विंटल ₹1,500 सहायता।
- Experts say the problem is **systemic**.  
विशेषज्ञ कहते हैं कि यह समस्या प्रणालीगत है।
- **Maharashtra** has produced **more onions than needed** this year, and the quality of stored **Rabi onions** has deteriorated, lowering market prices.  
इस वर्ष महाराष्ट्र ने आवश्यक से अधिक प्याज का उत्पादन किया है, और संग्रहीत रबी प्याज की गुणवत्ता खराब हो गई है, जिससे बाजार कीमतें गिर गई हैं।
- Experts argue that the government must **streamline onion exports**, establish a **uniform export policy**, build **trust among importers**, and hold discussions with key



buyers to **secure stable markets**.

विशेषज्ञ तर्क देते हैं कि सरकार को **प्याज निर्यात को सुव्यवस्थित** करना चाहिए, **समान निर्यात नीति** स्थापित करनी चाहिए, **आयातकों के बीच विश्वास** बनाना चाहिए, और **मुख्य खरीदारों के साथ स्थिर बाजार सुनिश्चित करने के लिए वार्ता** करनी चाहिए।

### Why are farmers protesting?

किसान क्यों विरोध कर रहे हैं?

- Farmers say they earn only **₹800 to ₹1,000 per quintal** for their onions, while the **production cost** stands at **₹2,200 to ₹2,500 per quintal**.  
किसान कहते हैं कि उन्हें अपने प्याज के लिए केवल **₹800 से ₹1,000 प्रति क्विंटल** मिलता है, जबकि **उत्पादन लागत ₹2,200 से ₹2,500 प्रति क्विंटल** है।
- The **Rabi onions** stored by farmers in hope of better rates are deteriorating, forcing them to sell at even **lower prices**.  
बेहतर दर की उम्मीद में किसान द्वारा संग्रहित **रबी प्याज** खराब हो रही है, जिससे उन्हें और **कम कीमतों पर बेचने** के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ रहा है।
- At the same time, the government has released its **buffer stock** in the market at **cheaper prices**, further dragging down rates.  
इसी समय, सरकार ने अपने **बफर स्टॉक** को बाजार में **सस्ती कीमतों पर** जारी किया, जिससे कीमतें और गिर गईं।
- “**NCCF** and **NAFED** should be stopped from selling their stocks in cities across the country,” said the **Maharashtra State Onion Producer Farmers’ Organisation**.  
“देश के शहरों में अपने स्टॉक्स बेचने से **NCCF** और **NAFED** को रोका जाना चाहिए,” **महाराष्ट्र स्टेट प्याज उत्पादक किसान संगठन** ने कहा।
- **NCCF** and **NAFED** jointly procure, store and sell onions as part of the **Government of India’s price stabilisation policy**.  
**NCCF** और **NAFED** मिलकर प्याज को **खरीदते, संग्रहित करते और बेचते हैं**, जो भारत सरकार की **मूल्य स्थिरीकरण नीति** का हिस्सा है।

### How is the onion price stabilisation policy affecting the farmers?

प्याज मूल्य स्थिरीकरण नीति किसानों को कैसे प्रभावित कर रही है?

- India’s onion price stabilisation policy focuses on maintaining a **strategic buffer stock** under the **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)** to manage **price volatility**.  
भारत की प्याज मूल्य स्थिरीकरण नीति का मुख्य ध्यान **मूल्य अस्थिरता** को नियंत्रित करने के लिए **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)** के तहत **रणनीतिक बफर स्टॉक** बनाए रखने पर है।
- The government procures onions to build this buffer, and during periods of **high prices** or **lean supply**, they are released into **major consumption centres** through **outlets and mobile vans**.  
सरकार इस बफर को बनाने के लिए प्याज खरीदती है, और **उच्च कीमत** या **कम आपूर्ति** के दौरान इन्हें **मुख्य उपभोग केंद्रों में आउटलेट और मोबाइल वैन** के माध्यम से जारी किया जाता है।
- Farmers are still sitting on stocks of **Rabi onions** and trying to sell them, but **NAFED** and **NCCF stocks** are further reducing prices.  
किसान अभी भी **रबी प्याज** के स्टॉक्स पर बैठे हैं और बेचने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, लेकिन **NAFED** और **NCCF** के स्टॉक्स से कीमतें और गिर रही हैं।



## What solutions are farmers and experts proposing?

### किसान और विशेषज्ञ कौन से समाधान प्रस्तावित कर रहे हैं?

- Government data shows **25.25 lakh tonnes** of onions were exported in **2022-23**, a significant surge compared to previous years.  
सरकारी आंकड़े दिखाते हैं कि **2022-23** में **25.25 लाख टन** प्याज का निर्यात हुआ, जो पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि है।
- Within two years, exports fell by more than half — in **2024-25**, only **11.47 lakh tonnes** were exported.  
दो साल के भीतर, निर्यात आधे से अधिक गिर गया — **2024-25** में केवल **11.47 लाख टन** का निर्यात हुआ।
- Experts say there is an urgent need to **restore competitiveness** and secure India's position in **global onion markets**.  
विशेषज्ञ कहते हैं कि **प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बहाल** करने और भारत की स्थिति को **वैश्विक प्याज बाजार** में सुरक्षित करने की **तत्काल आवश्यकता** है।
- **Bangladesh** and **Sri Lanka** were the two main importers of Indian onions, but both have shifted away from India.  
**बांग्लादेश** और **श्रीलंका** भारत के प्याज के दो मुख्य आयातक थे, लेकिन अब दोनों ने भारत से हटकर अन्य विकल्प अपनाए हैं।
- Farmers and exporters want the government to **incentivise exports**, as India is one of the leading **onion growers** in the world.  
किसान और निर्यातक चाहते हैं कि सरकार **निर्यात को प्रोत्साहित** करे, क्योंकि भारत दुनिया के प्रमुख **प्याज उत्पादकों** में से एक है।
- During flux in the government's export policy, countries like **China** and **Pakistan** have taken over India's export market.  
सरकार की निर्यात नीति में अस्थिरता के दौरान, **चीन** और **पाकिस्तान** जैसे देशों ने भारत के निर्यात बाजार पर कब्जा कर लिया है।
- **Andhra Pradesh** government has announced procurement of onions at **₹1,200 per quintal**, considered crucial for protecting farmers.  
**आंध्र प्रदेश** सरकार ने प्याज की खरीद **₹1,200 प्रति क्विंटल** पर करने की घोषणा की, जिसे किसानों की सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण माना जाता है।
- Maharashtra is suggested to **emulate the Andhra model** and **incentivise onion farmers**.  
महाराष्ट्र को सुझाव दिया गया है कि वह **आंध्र मॉडल** अपनाए और **प्याज किसानों को प्रोत्साहित** करे।



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## ABSTRACT



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# How the DeepSeek-R1 AI model was taught to teach itself to reason

Reinforcement learning alone, with the right design, could produce reasoning behaviour that was previously thought to require human examples; DeepSeek-R1 shows signs of reflection, verification, and adaptability without supervised fine-tuning

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

## The story so far:

For many decades, one of the great challenges in artificial intelligence (AI) has been teaching machines to reason. Reasoning goes beyond memorising facts or completing sentences. It's the ability to follow steps, reflect on mistakes, and adjust strategies until the right answer is found.

Humans use reasoning for everything from solving maths problems to writing computer programmes, from negotiating their daily lives to deciding whom to vote for. Large language models (LLMs) such as GPT-4 or DeepSeek-V3 have surprised scientists by showing signs of reasoning when scaled to large sizes. Another method, called chain-of-thought prompting, where the model is nudged to "think step by step", has also boosted performance.

But both these approaches come with limits. Training models to reason usually demand human-made examples. E.g., people show an AI model how to solve problems and the AI learns to copy the method. This is slow, expensive, and introduces human biases. It also caps the AI's creativity because the model can't explore problem-solving methods that humans didn't think of.

In a paper published in *Nature* on September 17, the DeepSeek-AI team reported that it was able to reach its model, called just R1, to reason by asking an ambitious question: what if we allowed the model to teach itself to reason without showing it human examples first? That is, they found that R1 could develop new forms of reasoning using reinforcement learning, a method of trial and error guided only by rewards for correct answers.

## What is reinforcement learning?

The team's aim was to make the model smarter at maths and coding, as well as to

uncover how reasoning behaviours might emerge naturally when a machine is given the proper incentives.

DeepSeek researchers began with V3 Base, a large language model similar to other state-of-the-art systems. Instead of using the usual supervised fine-tuning, where humans provide the reasoning steps, they applied 'group relative policy optimisation', a reinforcement learning method designed for efficiency.

In this setup, the model, called R1-Zero at first, was asked to solve mathematical and algorithmic problems. For each attempt, it had to produce two parts: a reasoning process inside `<think>...</think>` tags and a final answer inside `<answer>...</answer>` tags. The only reward came from whether the final answer was correct, judged by rule-based systems like answer keys or code compilers. No one told the model how its reasoning should look.

Over thousands of training steps, the model learned by trial and error. If an answer was wrong, the path that led there was discouraged; if it was right, the path was reinforced. Importantly, the researchers also tracked how the model's thinking time, i.e., the number of tokens it used in its reasoning section, changed. Strikingly, the model began writing longer and more reflective reasoning chains on its own, sometimes including phrases like "wait" or "let's try again", revealing an ability to self-correct.

## Was there human intervention?

To address weaknesses such as poor readability and mixing English with Chinese, the team built R1 from R1-Zero. This process included adding incentives for consistently using one language, supervised fine-tuning with both reasoning and non-reasoning data. The final model thus inherited the raw reasoning power of R1-Zero while also becoming easier to use and safer.

The results were striking. On the American Invitational Mathematics

Examination (AIME) 2024, a tough competition that usually the smartest high-school students attempt, R1-Zero's accuracy jumped from just 15.6% at the start of training to 77.9% by the end. With more tuning, it reached 86.7%, surpassing the average performance of human students.

At a certain stage, R1-Zero began using the word "wait" more often in its reasoning, just like a human might have when a mistake is spotted. The researchers said this meant the model wasn't blindly following a path but actively rethinking steps when something seemed off. In effect, reinforcement learning had coaxed the AI into behaviours that resembled reflection and verification, both elements of reasoning.

The ultimate R1 model was even stronger: it was good at maths and coding as well as on benchmarks for general knowledge, answering questions, and following instructions. Compared to its predecessors, R1 was also more consistent with its choice of language and better aligned with human preferences for helpfulness and safety. When evaluated with frameworks like AlpacaEval 2.0 and Arena-Hard, which test how well a model follows instructions, R1 improved by 25% and 17%, respectively, which are considered large.

## What are the pros and cons of reasoning?

Many large language models, including widely used systems like ChatGPT, often demand large amounts of computational resources during testing. R1, on the other hand, could adapt how much it "thought" depending on the task's difficulty. Simple problems were met with short reasoning chains, while harder ones led to longer, more elaborate chains. This dynamic allocation avoided demanding power on questions that didn't warrant it. However, reinforcement learning itself is energy-intensive.

Taken together, the findings confirm

that reinforcement learning alone (with the right design) could produce reasoning behaviours that were previously thought to require human examples. This could change the way we think about how intelligence might grow in artificial systems. For instance, in the future, researchers could build verifiers that check answers and let the model figure out its own strategies. If the answer to a maths problem, a computer programme or a factual question can be reliably checked, then reinforcement learning can do the rest. This could speed up progress while reducing human labour and bias.

Indeed, traditional LLM training pipelines bank heavily on large human-labelled datasets – people writing question-answer pairs, reasoning steps, preference judgments, etc. They are expensive and often assembled under exploitative labour conditions. If machines can be taught to reason using reinforcement learning alone, the demand for human-annotated data can shrink, thus also reducing pressure to source cheap labour worldwide. However, the study paper also acknowledges that tasks without clear ground-truthing still rely on human-labelled data for reward models. So human input is not eliminated; only its scope may shrink to areas where no reliable verifier can be built.

A model that learns to reason will also demand better reward signals for open-ended tasks like writing, which is difficult, as well as stronger safeguards as it becomes capable of generating dangerous or manipulative content. In fact, watching a machine develop reflective behaviour (pausing, checking, revising, etc.) raises questions about how far such systems can go. If reasoning emerges from incentives rather than instructions, could creativity or deeper forms of understanding emerge in the same way?

Time will tell – unless DeepSeek-R1 figures it out first.

## How the DeepSeek-R1 AI model was taught to teach itself to reason

### DeepSeek-R1 एआई मॉडल को स्वयं तर्क करना सिखाने का तरीका

Reinforcement learning alone, with the right design, could produce reasoning behaviour that was previously thought to require human examples;

केवल Reinforcement learning और सही डिज़ाइन के साथ, ऐसा तर्क व्यवहार (reasoning

behaviour) उत्पन्न किया जा सकता है जिसे पहले केवल मानव उदाहरणों (human examples) से संभव

माना जाता था;

- DeepSeek-R1 shows signs of reflection, verification, and adaptability without supervised fine-tuning



DeepSeek-R1 में reflection, verification, और adaptability के संकेत दिखते हैं, बिना किसी supervised fine-tuning के।

## Artificial Intelligence and Machine Reasoning

### कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता और मशीन तर्क

- For many decades, one of the great challenges in **artificial intelligence (AI)** has been teaching machines to **reason**.  
कई दशकों से, **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** में एक बड़ा चुनौती **मशीनों को तर्क करना सिखाना** रहा है।
- Reasoning** goes beyond memorising facts or completing sentences. It's the ability to follow steps, reflect on mistakes, and adjust strategies until the **right answer** is found.  
तर्क केवल तथ्यों को याद करने या वाक्य पूरा करने से आगे जाता है। यह **सही उत्तर** मिलने तक कदमों का पालन करने, गलतियों पर विचार करने, और रणनीतियों को समायोजित करने की क्षमता है।
- Humans use reasoning for everything from solving **maths problems** to writing **computer programmes**, from negotiating daily life to deciding whom to **vote for**.  
मनुष्य तर्क का उपयोग सब कुछ करने के लिए करते हैं, जैसे **गणित की समस्याओं को हल करना, कंप्यूटर प्रोग्राम लिखना**, दैनिक जीवन में निर्णय लेना और यह तय करना कि किसे **वोट देना** है।
- Large language models (LLMs) such as **GPT-4** or **DeepSeek-V3** have surprised scientists by showing signs of **reasoning** when scaled to **large sizes**.  
बड़े भाषा मॉडल (LLMs) जैसे **GPT-4** या **DeepSeek-V3** ने वैज्ञानिकों को आश्चर्यचकित किया है क्योंकि बड़े पैमाने पर इन्हें चलाने पर ये **तर्क करने के संकेत** दिखा रहे हैं।
- Another method, called **chain-of-thought prompting**, where the model is nudged to "think step by step", has also boosted performance.  
एक अन्य तरीका, जिसे **chain-of-thought prompting** कहते हैं, जिसमें मॉडल को "कदम दर कदम सोचने" के लिए प्रेरित किया जाता है, ने भी प्रदर्शन को बढ़ाया है।
- But both these approaches come with **limits**. Training models to reason usually demand **human-made examples**, which is slow, expensive, and introduces **human biases**.  
लेकिन ये दोनों तरीके **सीमाओं** के साथ आते हैं। मॉडल को तर्क सिखाने के लिए आमतौर पर **मानव निर्मित उदाहरण** चाहिए, जो धीमा, महंगा है और **मानव पक्षपात** लाता है।
- It also caps the AI's **creativity** because the model can't explore problem-solving methods that humans didn't think of.  
यह AI की **रचनात्मकता** को भी सीमित करता है क्योंकि मॉडल उन समस्या-समाधान विधियों का पता नहीं लगा सकता जो मनुष्य ने सोची भी नहीं हैं।

## DeepSeek-AI Experiment (R1 Model)

### DeepSeek-AI प्रयोग (R1 मॉडल)

- In a paper published in **Nature on September 17**, the DeepSeek-AI team reported that their model, called **R1**, could reason by teaching itself without human examples first.  
**17 सितंबर** को **Nature** में प्रकाशित एक पत्र में DeepSeek-AI टीम ने बताया कि उनका मॉडल **R1** मानव उदाहरण दिखाए बिना खुद से तर्क कर सकता है।



- R1 developed new forms of reasoning using **reinforcement learning**, a method of **trial and error** guided only by rewards for correct answers.  
R1 ने नए प्रकार के तर्क का विकास किया **reinforcement learning** का उपयोग करके, जो केवल सही उत्तरों के लिए **पुरस्कार आधारित त्रुटि और परीक्षण** विधि है।

## What is Reinforcement Learning?

### रीइन्फोर्समेंट लर्निंग क्या है?

- The aim was to make the model smarter at **maths** and **coding**, and uncover how reasoning behaviours might emerge naturally with proper **incentives**.  
इसका उद्देश्य मॉडल को **गणित** और **कोडिंग** में अधिक स्मार्ट बनाना और यह पता लगाना था कि उचित **प्रोत्साहन** मिलने पर तर्क व्यवहार कैसे स्वाभाविक रूप से उभर सकते हैं।
- DeepSeek researchers began with **V3 Base**, a large language model similar to other **state-of-the-art systems**.  
DeepSeek शोधकर्ताओं ने **V3 Base** से शुरुआत की, जो अन्य **उच्चतम तकनीकी सिस्टम** जैसे बड़े भाषा मॉडल है।
- Instead of **supervised fine-tuning**, they applied **group relative policy optimisation**, a **reinforcement learning** method designed for **efficiency**.  
सामान्य **supervised fine-tuning** के बजाय, उन्होंने **group relative policy optimisation** लागू किया, जो **प्रभावशीलता** के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई **reinforcement learning** विधि है।
- The model, called **R1-Zero** initially, was asked to solve **mathematical** and **algorithmic problems**.  
मॉडल, जिसे शुरुआत में **R1-Zero** कहा गया, से **गणितीय** और **एल्गोरिदमिक समस्याओं** को हल करने के लिए कहा गया।
- For each attempt, it had to produce two parts: a **reasoning process** inside tags and a **final answer** inside tags.  
प्रत्येक प्रयास के लिए, इसे दो भाग बनाने थे टैग के अंदर **तर्क प्रक्रिया** और टैग के अंदर **अंतिम उत्तर**।
- The only reward came from whether the **final answer** was **correct**, judged by rule-based systems like **answer keys** or **code compilers**.  
एकमात्र पुरस्कार इस बात पर आधारित था कि **अंतिम उत्तर सही** है या नहीं, जिसे **उत्तर कुंजी** या **कोड कंपाइलर** जैसे नियम-आधारित सिस्टम से जाँचा गया।
- No one told the model how its reasoning should look.  
किसी ने मॉडल को यह नहीं बताया कि इसका तर्क कैसा दिखना चाहिए।
- Over thousands of training steps, the model learned by **trial and error**. Wrong answers discouraged the path; correct answers **reinforced** it.  
हजारों प्रशिक्षण चरणों के दौरान, मॉडल ने **त्रुटि और परीक्षण** से सीखा। गलत उत्तरों ने रास्ते को हतोत्साहित किया; सही उत्तरों ने उसे **मजबूत** किया।
- Researchers tracked the model's **thinking time**, i.e., the number of **tokens** used in its reasoning section.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने मॉडल के **सोचने के समय** को ट्रैक किया, यानी तर्क अनुभाग में उपयोग किए गए **टोकन** की संख्या।
- Strikingly, the model began writing longer and more **reflective reasoning chains**, sometimes including phrases like **“wait”** or **“let’s try again”**, showing an ability to **self-correct**.



आश्चर्यजनक रूप से, मॉडल ने लंबी और अधिक परावर्तनशील तर्क श्रृंखलाएं लिखनी शुरू कर दीं, कभी-कभी “wait” या “let’s try again” जैसी पंक्तियां शामिल कीं, जो स्व-सुधार की क्षमता दिखाती हैं।

## Human Intervention in DeepSeek-R1

### DeepSeek-R1 में मानव हस्तक्षेप

- To address weaknesses such as poor **readability** and mixing **English with Chinese**, the team built **R1** from **R1-Zero**.  
खराब पठनीयता और अंग्रेजी और चीनी के मिश्रण जैसी कमजोरियों को दूर करने के लिए टीम ने **R1-Zero** से **R1** बनाया।
- This process included adding **incentives** for consistently using one language, **supervised fine-tuning** with both reasoning and non-reasoning data.  
इस प्रक्रिया में एक भाषा के लगातार उपयोग के लिए **प्रोत्साहन** जोड़ना और **सुपरवाइज्ड फाइन-ट्यूनिंग** करना शामिल था, जिसमें तर्क और गैर-तर्क डेटा दोनों शामिल थे।
- The final model inherited the raw **reasoning power** of **R1-Zero** while also becoming **easier to use and safer**.  
अंतिम मॉडल ने **R1-Zero** की कच्ची तर्क शक्ति विरासत में ली और इसे **उपयोग में आसान** और **सुरक्षित** भी बनाया।
- On the **American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) 2024**, R1-Zero's **accuracy** jumped from 15.6% at the start to 77.9% by the end of training.  
**American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) 2024** में, प्रशिक्षण की शुरुआत में R1-Zero की **सटीकता** 15.6% से बढ़कर अंत तक 77.9% हो गई।
- With more **tuning**, it reached 86.7%, surpassing the **average performance of human students**.  
अधिक **ट्यूनिंग** के साथ, यह 86.7% तक पहुँच गया, जो मानव छात्रों के **औसत प्रदर्शन** से बेहतर था।
- At a certain stage, R1-Zero began using the word “**wait**” more often in reasoning, like a human might do when spotting a mistake.  
एक निश्चित चरण पर, R1-Zero ने अपने तर्क में “**wait**” शब्द का अधिक उपयोग करना शुरू किया, जैसे कोई मानव गलती देखने पर करता।
- This indicated the model was not blindly following a path but **actively rethinking steps** when something seemed off.  
इससे पता चला कि मॉडल अंधाधुंध रास्ता नहीं अपना रहा था बल्कि कुछ गलत लगने पर **सक्रिय रूप से कदमों पर पुनर्विचार** कर रहा था।
- Reinforcement learning had coaxed the AI into behaviors resembling **reflection** and **verification**, both key elements of reasoning.  
Reinforcement learning ने AI को ऐसे व्यवहारों में प्रेरित किया जो **परावर्तन** और **सत्यापन** के समान थे, जो तर्क के मुख्य तत्व हैं।
- The ultimate **R1** model excelled at **maths, coding**, benchmarks for **general knowledge, answering questions**, and **following instructions**.  
अंतिम **R1** मॉडल **गणित, कोडिंग, सामान्य ज्ञान** के बेंचमार्क, **प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने**, और **निर्देशों का पालन करने** में उत्कृष्ट था।
- R1 was more **consistent with language choice** and aligned with human preferences for **helpfulness** and **safety**.



R1 अपने भाषा चयन में अधिक संगत था और मानव प्राथमिकताओं के अनुसार सहायता और सुरक्षा के लिए बेहतर अनुकूल था।

- Evaluated with **AlpacaEval 2.0** and **Arena-Hard**, R1 improved by 25% and 17% respectively in following instructions.

**AlpacaEval 2.0** और **Arena-Hard** के साथ मूल्यांकन में, निर्देशों का पालन करने में R1 ने क्रमशः 25% और 17% सुधार किया।

## Pros and Cons of Reasoning

### तर्क के फायदे और नुकसान

- Many large language models like **ChatGPT** demand large **computational resources** during testing.  
कई बड़े भाषा मॉडल जैसे **ChatGPT** परीक्षण के दौरान बड़े संगणनात्मक संसाधनों की मांग करते हैं।
- R1 could **adapt** how much it “thought” depending on task **difficulty**, using short reasoning chains for simple problems and longer, elaborate chains for harder ones.  
R1 कार्य की कठिनाई के अनुसार यह सोचने की मात्रा समायोजित कर सकता था, सरल समस्याओं के लिए छोटी तर्क श्रृंखलाओं और कठिन समस्याओं के लिए लंबी, विस्तृत श्रृंखलाओं का उपयोग करता।
- This **dynamic allocation** avoided wasting computational power on questions that didn’t need it.  
इस गतिशील आवंटन ने उन प्रश्नों पर संगणनात्मक शक्ति बर्बाद होने से बचाया जिनकी जरूरत नहीं थी।
- However, **reinforcement learning** itself is **energy-intensive**.  
हालांकि, **reinforcement learning** स्वयं ऊर्जा-गहन है।
- Findings confirm that **reinforcement learning alone** (with proper design) can produce **reasoning behaviors** previously thought to require **human examples**.  
निष्कर्ष पुष्टि करते हैं कि सही डिजाइन के साथ केवल **reinforcement learning** से तर्क व्यवहार उत्पन्न किया जा सकता है, जिसे पहले मानव उदाहरण की आवश्यकता मानी जाती थी।
- This approach could reduce reliance on **human-annotated datasets**, lowering **human labor** and **bias**, but tasks without clear ground-truthing still need human input.  
यह तरीका मानव-निर्दिष्ट डेटासेट पर निर्भरता कम कर सकता है, जिससे मानव श्रम और पक्षपात कम हो सकता है, लेकिन स्पष्ट सत्यापन के बिना कार्यों के लिए अभी भी मानव इनपुट आवश्यक है।
- A model that learns to reason will need better **reward signals** for **open-ended tasks** like writing, along with stronger **safeguards** to prevent **dangerous or manipulative content**.  
जो मॉडल तर्क सीखता है उसे लेखन जैसी खुली-संरचना वाली गतिविधियों के लिए बेहतर पुरस्कार संकेत और खतरनाक या मनिपुलेटिव सामग्री से बचाने के लिए मजबूत सुरक्षा उपाय चाहिए।
- Watching a machine develop **reflective behavior** raises questions about how far such systems can go, and if **creativity** or **deeper understanding** might emerge from incentives rather than instructions.  
जब कोई मशीन परावर्तनशील व्यवहार विकसित करती है, तो यह सवाल उठता है कि ऐसे सिस्टम कितनी दूर जा सकते हैं, और क्या रचनात्मकता या गहरी समझ केवल प्रोत्साहन से उत्पन्न हो सकती है, निर्देशों से नहीं।



- Time will tell — unless DeepSeek-R1 figures it out first.  
समय बताएगा — जब तक कि DeepSeek-R1 इसे पहले न समझ ले।

# ‘Weak finances deter municipal bond issue’

‘Weak finances deter municipal bond issue’

कमज़ोर वित्तीय स्थिति  
नगर निगम बॉन्ड जारी  
करने में बाधा डालती है

GS III: Capital market

**Ashokamithran T.**

MUMBAI

The weak balance sheets of municipal bodies are a challenge in the development of municipal bond market in India, said Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

“Municipal bonds have been a cornerstone of city-level development, enabling urban local bodies to raise long-term funds for essential projects such as water supply, sanitation, transport, and waste management... challenge lies in project readiness and credibility. Many municipal bodies struggle with weak balance sheets or delayed clearances,” he said at an event here.

“While the municipal bond market in India is still at a nascent stage, its po-

tential is immense.”

He called for measures to develop the capital market and make it attractive for institutional and retail investors to invest in municipal and green bonds.

**Asset monetisation**

He also emphasised on the need to expand asset monetisation.

“There is a need to accelerate asset monetisation in various sectors such as roads, railways, ports, airports, energy, petroleum and gas and logistics. State Governments, barring a few, are yet to crystallise asset monetisation plans to provide further boost to infrastructure creation.”

He highlighted the development of the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) into a new asset class.

The weak balance sheets of municipal bodies are a challenge in the development of municipal bond market in India, said Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

कमज़ोर बैलेंस शीट्स वाले नगर निकाय भारत में नगर निगम बॉन्ड बाजार के विकास में चुनौती हैं, यह बात प्रतिभूतियाँ और विनिमय बोर्ड ऑफ़ इंडिया (SEBI) की अध्यक्ष तूहिन कांता पांडे ने कही।

• “Municipal bonds have been a cornerstone of **city-level development**, enabling urban local bodies to raise long-term funds for essential projects such as water supply, sanitation, transport, and waste management... challenge lies in project readiness and credibility. Many municipal bodies struggle with weak balance sheets or delayed clearances,” he said at an event here.

“नगर निगम बॉन्ड शहर-स्तरीय विकास का एक मूल स्तंभ रहे हैं, जिससे शहरी स्थानीय निकाय आवश्यक परियोजनाओं

जैसे जल आपूर्ति, स्वच्छता, परिवहन और कचरा प्रबंधन के लिए दीर्घकालिक फंड जुटा सकते हैं... चुनौती परियोजना की तैयारी और विश्वसनीयता में है। कई नगर निकाय कमज़ोर बैलेंस शीट या विलंबित मंजूरी से जूझ रहे हैं,” उन्होंने यहां एक कार्यक्रम में कहा।

- “While the municipal bond market in India is still at a **nascent stage**, its potential is immense.”



“हालांकि भारत में नगर निगम बॉन्ड बाजार अभी भी प्रारंभिक चरण में है, इसकी संभावनाएँ विशाल हैं।”

- He called for measures to develop the **capital market** and make it attractive for institutional and retail investors to invest in **municipal and green bonds**.  
उन्होंने **पूंजी बाजार** के विकास और संस्थागत तथा रिटेल निवेशकों के लिए इसे **नगर निगम और ग्रीन बॉन्ड्स** में निवेश आकर्षक बनाने के उपायों की आवश्यकता बताई।

## Asset monetisation

### संपत्ति मुद्रीकरण

- He also emphasised on the need to expand **asset monetisation**.  
उन्होंने **संपत्ति मुद्रीकरण** बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता पर भी जोर दिया।
- “There is a need to accelerate asset monetisation in various sectors such as roads, railways, ports, airports, energy, petroleum and gas and logistics. State Governments, barring a few, are yet to crystallise asset monetisation plans to provide further boost to infrastructure creation.”  
“सड़कों, रेलवे, बंदरगाह, हवाई अड्डे, ऊर्जा, पेट्रोलियम और गैस तथा लॉजिस्टिक्स जैसे विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में **संपत्ति मुद्रीकरण** को तेज करने की आवश्यकता है। कुछ अपवादों को छोड़कर राज्य सरकारों ने अभी तक **संपत्ति मुद्रीकरण योजनाओं** को स्पष्ट नहीं किया है ताकि अवसंरचना निर्माण को और बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।”
- He highlighted the development of the **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** into a new asset class.  
उन्होंने **रियल एस्टेट इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट (REITs)** और **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट (InvITs)** को नए **संपत्ति वर्ग** में विकसित करने पर प्रकाश डाला।



# Switching LPG connections mobile telephony way, PNGRB seeks views

**GS III: Energy & Power**

**N. Ravi Kumar**  
HYDERABAD

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has invited stakeholder and consumer comments on an LPG interoperability framework that would allow households to draw refills from distributors of other PSU oil companies, similar to mobile number portability.

The move follows more than 17 lakh consumer complaints annually, mainly about refill delays.

PNGRB noted while oil marketing companies address grievances, consum-



Delivery men carry LPG cylinders on rickshaws. PTI

ers cannot migrate to another distributor.

“While interoperability has been adopted in telephony with much success, the same has not happened in LPG,” the regula-

tor said. Citing reports that highlighted supply disruptions and prolonged delay in refill deliveries, the regulator said safeguarding consumers from service failures and ensuring uninterrupted access to this essential fuel is necessary.

There may be other reasons too – consumer’s freedom of choice on the LPG company/dealer being one, especially when the cylinder price is same. PNGRB said it was seeking steps to facilitate timely access to refills – by enabling consumers to be served from the nearest available distributor via improved

coordination and flexible delivery arrangements within existing network.

While porting was discussed in the past, the move was given up. Switching distributor or company involves surrendering the equipment and some cost to the consumers.

When it is done during times of disruption and as a temporary measure there will be practical issues, especially on how refills and pressure regulator, which differ from one company to another, are deposited with the concerned company, sources in the industry said.

## Switching LPG connections mobile telephony way, PNGRB seeks views'

**एलपीजी कनेक्शन बदलना मोबाइल टेलीफोनी की तरह, PNGRB ने राय मांगी**

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has invited stakeholder and consumer comments on an LPG interoperability framework that would allow households to draw refills from distributors of other PSU oil companies, similar to mobile number portability.

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (PNGRB) ने हितधारकों और उपभोक्ताओं से एलपीजी इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी फ्रेमवर्क पर टिप्पणियाँ मांगी हैं, जिससे घर दूसरे PSU ऑयल कंपनियों के वितरकों से रीफिल ले सकें, ठीक मोबाइल नंबर पोर्टेबिलिटी की तरह।

- The move follows more than **17 lakh consumer complaints annually**, mainly about refill delays.

यह कदम मुख्य रूप से रीफिल में देरी के कारण सालाना 17 लाख से अधिक उपभोक्ता शिकायतों के बाद उठाया गया है।

- PNGRB noted while oil marketing companies address grievances, consumers cannot migrate to another distributor.

PNGRB ने नोट किया कि जबकि तेल विपणन कंपनियाँ शिकायतों का निवारण करती हैं, उपभोक्ता किसी अन्य वितरक पर स्थानांतरित नहीं हो सकते।

- “While interoperability has been adopted in telephony with much success, the same has not happened in LPG,” the regulator said.



“जहाँ टेलीफोनी में इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी को बहुत सफलता मिली है, वही एलपीजी में नहीं हुआ है,”

नियामक ने कहा।

- Citing reports that highlighted supply disruptions and prolonged delay in refill deliveries, the regulator said safeguarding consumers from service failures and ensuring uninterrupted access to this essential fuel is necessary.  
रिपोर्टों का हवाला देते हुए, जिनमें **सप्लाई में बाधा और रीफिल डिलीवरी में लंबा विलंब** दिखाया गया है, नियामक ने कहा कि उपभोक्ताओं को सेवा विफलताओं से बचाना और इस **आवश्यक ईंधन** तक अविरल पहुँच सुनिश्चित करना आवश्यक है।
- There may be other reasons too — consumer's freedom of choice on the LPG company/dealer being one, especially when the **cylinder price is same**.  
इसके अलावा अन्य कारण भी हो सकते हैं — जैसे कि उपभोक्ता की **एलपीजी कंपनी/डीलर चुनने की स्वतंत्रता**, खासकर जब **सिलेंडर की कीमत समान** हो।
- PNGRB said it was seeking steps to facilitate timely access to refills — by enabling consumers to be served from the **nearest available distributor** via improved coordination and flexible delivery arrangements within existing network.  
PNGRB ने कहा कि वह **रीफिल तक समय पर पहुँच** को सुगम बनाने के उपाय तलाश रहा है — जिससे उपभोक्ताओं को **सबसे नजदीकी उपलब्ध वितरक** से सेवा मिल सके, बेहतर समन्वय और मौजूदा नेटवर्क में लचीले वितरण प्रबंध के माध्यम से।
- While porting was discussed in the past, the move was given up.  
भले ही पहले **पोर्टिंग** पर चर्चा हुई थी, यह कदम छोड़ दिया गया था।
- Switching distributor or company involves surrendering the equipment and some cost to the consumers.  
वितरक या कंपनी बदलने में उपभोक्ताओं को उपकरण **सौंपना** और कुछ **लागत** वहन करना शामिल होता है।
- When it is done during times of disruption and as a temporary measure there will be practical issues, especially on how refills and **pressure regulator**, which differ from one company to another, are deposited with the concerned company, sources in the industry said.  
जब यह **विघटन के समय** और अस्थायी उपाय के रूप में किया जाता है, तो व्यावहारिक समस्याएँ होंगी, खासकर यह कि **रीफिल और प्रेशर रेगुलेटर**, जो कंपनियों के बीच अलग होते हैं, संबंधित कंपनी को कैसे सौंपे जाएँ, उद्योग के स्रोतों ने कहा।



# France erupts in protest over Macron's proposed fund cuts in public services

Labour unions call for strikes and demonstrations; protesters at nationwide 'Block Everything' campaign voice anger about mounting poverty and sharpening inequality; police deployed in large numbers; 94 arrests made by midday; strikes affect schools, transport and other important sectors

**GS III: Fiscal Policy**

**Associated Press**  
PARIS

Protesters hit France with transport strikes, notably hobbling the Paris Metro, demonstrations, traffic slowdowns and blockades on Thursday, pitting the power of the streets against President Emmanuel Macron's government and its proposals to cut funding for public services that underpin the French way of life.

The first whiffs of police tear gas came before daybreak, with scuffles between riot officers and protesters in Paris. Nationwide demonstrations, from France's biggest cities to small towns, were expected to mobilise hundreds of thousands of marchers, voicing anger about mounting poverty, sharpening inequality and struggles for low-paid workers and others to make ends meet.

"We say 'no' to the government. We've had enough. There's no more money, a high cost of living," striking transport worker Nadia Belhoum said at a before-dawn protest targeting a Paris bus depot.

Labour unions that called strikes are pushing for the abandonment of proposed budget cuts, social welfare freezes and other belt-tightening that opponents contend will



**Voicing dissent:** Demonstrators who are part of the 'Bloquons Tout (Block everything)' movement face a police cordon in Toulouse, southwestern France on Thursday. AFP

further hit the pockets of low-paid, middle-class workers and which triggered the collapse of successive governments that sought to push through savings.

Opponents of Mr. Macron's business-friendly leadership complain that taxpayer-funded public services – free schools and public hospitals, subsidised health care, unemployment benefits and other safety nets that are cherished in France – are being eroded. Left-wing parties and their supporters want the wealthy and businesses to pay more, rather than see spending cuts to plug holes in France's finances and to rein in its debts.

"Public service is falling apart," said teacher Clau-

dia Nunez. "It's always the same people who pay."

The day of upheaval – with strikes also impacting schools, industry and other sectors of the European Union's second-largest economy – aimed to turn up the heat on new Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu. Mr. Macron appointed him last week, tasking Mr. Lecornu with building parliamentary support for belt-tightening that brought down his predecessors.

"Bringing in Lecornu doesn't change anything – he's just another man in a suit who will follow Macron's line," said 22-year-old student Juliette Martin.

"We want our voices heard. People my age feel like no one in politics is speaking for us," she said.

whether they are employees, retirees, students – ends and that we make the richest in this country pay."

Striking rail workers waving flares made a brief foray into the Paris headquarters of the Economics Ministry, leaving trails of smoke in the air before leaving.

Mr. Macron's opponents also continue to denounce unpopular pension reforms that he railroaded through Parliament and which raised the minimum retirement age from 62 to 64, triggering a firestorm of anger and rounds of protest earlier in what is his second and last term as President, which ends in 2027.

The government said it was deploying police in exceptionally large numbers – about 80,000 in all – to keep order. Police were ordered to break up traffic blockades and other efforts to prevent people who weren't protesting from going about their business. The Paris Police used tear gas to disperse a before-dawn blockade of a bus depot. French broadcasters also reported sporadic clashes in the cities of Nantes, in the west, and Lyon in the southeast, with volleys of police tear gas and projectiles targeting officers.

The Interior Ministry reported 94 arrests nationwide by midday.

"Every time there's a protest, it feels like daily life is held hostage," said office worker Nathalie Laurent, grappling with disruptions on the Paris Metro during her morning commute.

The Paris Metro operator said rush-hour services suffered fewer disruptions than anticipated but that traffic largely stopped outside those hours except on three driverless automated lines.

French national rail company SNCF said "a few disruptions" were expected on high-speed trains to France and Europe, but most will run.

Regional rail lines, as well as the Paris Metro and commuter trains, will be more severely impacted.

In airports, only few disruptions are anticipated as the main air traffic controllers union decided to postpone its call for a strike pending the appointment of a new Cabinet.

Last week, a day of anti-government action across France saw streets choked with smoke, barricades in flames and volleys of tear gas as protesters denounced budget cuts and political turmoil.

Although falling short of its self-declared intention of total disruption, the "Block Everything" campaign still managed to paralyse parts of daily life and ignite hundreds of hot spots across the country.

## France erupts in protest over Macron's proposed fund cuts in public services

फ्रांस में राष्ट्रपति Macron के सार्वजनिक सेवाओं में प्रस्तावित फंड कटौती के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन

Labour unions call for strikes and demonstrations; protesters at nationwide 'Block Everything' campaign voice anger about mounting poverty and sharpening inequality; police deployed in large numbers; 94 arrests made by midday; strikes affect schools, transport and other important sectors.



श्रम संघों ने हड़ताल और प्रदर्शन की कॉल दी; देशव्यापी 'Block Everything' अभियान में विरोध करने वालों ने बढ़ती गरीबी और बढ़ती असमानता के खिलाफ गुस्सा जताया; पुलिस बड़ी संख्या में तैनात; मध्यान्ह तक 94 गिरफ्तारियां हुईं; हड़तालों से स्कूल, परिवहन और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों पर प्रभाव पड़ा।

- Protesters hit France with transport strikes, notably hobbling the **Paris Metro**, demonstrations, traffic slowdowns and blockades on Thursday, pitting the power of the streets against President Emmanuel Macron's government and its proposals to cut funding for public services that underpin the French way of life.  
विरोधकारियों ने फ्रांस में परिवहन हड़तालों से धक्का दिया, विशेष रूप से **Paris Metro** को बाधित किया, प्रदर्शन, ट्रैफिक धीमा और ब्लॉकेड किए, जिससे सड़कों की ताकत को राष्ट्रपति **Emmanuel Macron** की सरकार और सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के फंड कटौती प्रस्तावों के खिलाफ खड़ा किया गया जो फ्रेंच जीवन शैली को समर्थन देते हैं।
- The first whiffs of police tear gas came before daybreak, with scuffles between riot officers and protesters in Paris.  
सबेर पुलिस के आंसू गैस के पहले संकेत आए, और पेरिस में दंगाई अधिकारियों और विरोधकारियों के बीच झड़पें हुईं।
- Nationwide demonstrations, from France's biggest cities to small towns, were expected to mobilize hundreds of thousands of marchers, voicing anger about mounting poverty, sharpening inequality and struggles for low-paid workers and others to make ends meet.  
फ्रांस के सबसे बड़े शहरों से लेकर छोटे कस्बों तक देशव्यापी प्रदर्शन में सैकड़ों हजारों मार्चर्स के जुटने की उम्मीद थी, जिन्होंने बढ़ती गरीबी, बढ़ती असमानता और कम वेतन वाले कर्मचारियों की जीवन यापन की मुश्किलों के खिलाफ गुस्सा जताया।
- "We say 'no' to the government. We've had enough. There's no more money, a high cost of living," striking transport worker **Nadia Belhoum** said at a before-dawn protest targeting a Paris bus depot.  
"हम सरकार को 'न' कहते हैं। हमने काफी सह लिया। अब और पैसा नहीं है, जीवन यापन की लागत बहुत अधिक है," हड़तालरत परिवहन कार्यकर्ता **Nadia Belhoum** ने पेरिस बस डिपो पर सबेर विरोध में कहा।
- Labour unions that called strikes are pushing for the abandonment of proposed budget cuts, social welfare freezes and other belt-tightening that opponents contend will further hit the pockets of low-paid, middle-class workers and which triggered the collapse of successive governments that sought to push through savings.  
हड़ताल बुलाने वाले श्रम संघ प्रस्तावित बजट कटौती, सामाजिक कल्याण फ्रीज और अन्य खर्च नियंत्रण को छोड़ने के लिए दबाव डाल रहे हैं, जिन्हें विरोधियों का कहना है कि यह कम वेतन वाले और मध्यम वर्ग के कर्मचारियों की जेब पर और प्रभाव डालेगा और जिससे लगातार सरकारों का पतन हुआ जो बचत को आगे बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रही थीं।
- Opponents of Mr. Macron's business-friendly leadership complain that taxpayer-funded public services — free schools and public hospitals, subsidised health care, unemployment benefits and other safety nets that are cherished in France — are being eroded.  
श्री Macron के व्यापार अनुकूल नेतृत्व के विरोधी शिकायत करते हैं कि करदाता-समर्थित सार्वजनिक सेवाएं — मुफ्त स्कूल और सार्वजनिक अस्पताल, सब्सिडी वाली स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, बेरोजगारी लाभ और अन्य सुरक्षा नेटवर्क जो फ्रांस में प्रिय हैं — कमजोर हो रही हैं।



- Left-wing parties and their supporters want the wealthy and businesses to pay more, rather than see spending cuts to plug holes in France's finances and to rein in its debts.  
बाएं ओर की पार्टियां और उनके समर्थक चाहते हैं कि अमीर और व्यवसाय अधिक भुगतान करें, बजाय इसके कि फ्रांस के वित्तीय घाटों को भरने और ऋण को नियंत्रित करने के लिए खर्च में कटौती देखी जाए।
- "Public service is falling apart," said teacher **Claudia Nunez**. "It's always the same people who pay."  
"सार्वजनिक सेवा टूट रही है," शिक्षक **Claudia Nunez** ने कहा। "हमेशा वही लोग भुगतान करते हैं।"
- The day of upheaval — with strikes also impacting schools, industry and other sectors of the European Union's second-largest economy — aimed to turn up the heat on new Prime Minister **Sébastien Lecornu**.  
अराजकता के इस दिन — जिसमें हड़तालों ने स्कूल, उद्योग और यूरोपीय संघ की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था के अन्य क्षेत्रों को भी प्रभावित किया — नए प्रधानमंत्री **Sébastien Lecornu** पर दबाव बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य था।
- Mr. Macron appointed him last week, tasking Mr. Lecornu with building parliamentary support for belt-tightening that brought down his predecessors.  
श्री Macron ने उन्हें पिछले सप्ताह नियुक्त किया, श्री Lecornu को यह कार्य सौंपा कि वह संसद में उस खर्च नियंत्रण का समर्थन जुटाएं जिसने उनके पूर्ववर्तियों को हटा दिया।
- "Bringing in Lecornu doesn't change anything — he's just another man in a suit who will follow Macron's line," said 22-year-old student **Juliette Martin**.  
"Lecornu को लाने से कुछ नहीं बदलता — वह सिर्फ एक और शख्स है जो सूट में है और Macron की लाइन का पालन करेगा," 22 वर्षीय छात्रा **Juliette Martin** ने कहा।
- "We want our voices heard. People my age feel like no one in politics is speaking for us," she said.  
"हम चाहते हैं कि हमारी आवाज सुनी जाए। मेरे उम्र के लोगों को लगता है कि राजनीति में कोई हमारे लिए नहीं बोल रहा है," उसने कहा।
- "It's always our generation that ends up with the insecurity and the debt."  
"हमेशा हमारी पीढ़ी ही असुरक्षा और ऋण के साथ समाप्त होती है।"
- Unions have decried budget proposals by Mr. Macron's minority governments, weakened by their lack of a dependable majority in Parliament, as brutal and punitive for workers, retirees and others who are vulnerable.  
संघों ने श्री Macron की अल्पसंख्यक सरकारों द्वारा पेश किए गए बजट प्रस्तावों की निंदा की, जो संसद में भरोसेमंद बहुमत की कमी से कमजोर हैं, और उन्हें कर्मचारियों, सेवानिवृत्तों और अन्य कमजोर लोगों के लिए कठोर और दंडात्मक बताया।
- "The bourgeoisie of this country have been gorging themselves, they don't even know what to do with their money anymore. So if there is indeed a crisis, the question is who should pay for it," said **Fabien Villedieu**, a leader of the SUDRail train workers union.  
"इस देश की बुर्जुआ खुद को भर-भर कर खाते रहे हैं, उन्हें अब अपने पैसे के साथ क्या करना है यह भी नहीं पता। अगर वास्तव में कोई संकट है, तो सवाल यह है कि इसका भुगतान कौन करेगा," **Fabien Villedieu**, SUDRail ट्रेन कर्मचारियों संघ के नेता ने कहा।
- "We are asking that the government's austerity plan that consists of making the poorest in this country always pay — whether they are employees, retirees, students



— ends and that we make the richest in this country pay.”

“हम मांग कर रहे हैं कि सरकार की कठोरता योजना, जिसमें इस देश के सबसे गरीब लोगों को हमेशा भुगतान करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है — चाहे वे कर्मचारी हों, सेवानिवृत्त हों या छात्र — समाप्त हो और हम इस देश के सबसे अमीर लोगों को भुगतान करने के लिए बाध्य करें।”

- Striking rail workers waving flares made a brief foray into the Paris headquarters of the **Economics Ministry**, leaving trails of smoke in the air before leaving.  
हड़तालरत रेल कर्मचारी, फ्लेयर्स लहराते हुए, पेरिस के अर्थ मंत्रालय मुख्यालय में थोड़ी देर के लिए घुसे और वहां से निकलने से पहले धुएं की लकीरें छोड़ दीं।
- Mr. Macron's opponents also continue to denounce unpopular **pension reforms** that he railroaded through Parliament and which raised the minimum retirement age from **62 to 64**, triggering a firestorm of anger and rounds of protest earlier in what is his second and last term as President, which ends in **2027**.  
श्री Macron के विरोधी अब भी अप्रिय **पेंशन सुधारों** की निंदा कर रहे हैं, जिन्हें उन्होंने संसद में जल्दी पास कराया और जिसने न्यूनतम सेवानिवृत्ति आयु **62 से 64** साल बढ़ा दी, जिससे गुस्से की लहर और विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए, जो उनके राष्ट्रपति के दूसरे और अंतिम कार्यकाल में हुआ, जो **2027** में समाप्त होगा।
- The government said it was deploying police in exceptionally large numbers — about **80,000** in all — to keep order. Police were ordered to break up traffic blockades and other efforts to prevent people who weren't protesting from going about their business.  
सरकार ने कहा कि उन्होंने व्यवस्था बनाए रखने के लिए असाधारण रूप से बड़ी संख्या में पुलिस तैनात की है — कुल **80,000** के लगभग। पुलिस को आदेश दिया गया कि ट्रैफिक ब्लॉकेड और अन्य प्रयासों को तोड़ा जाए ताकि जो लोग विरोध नहीं कर रहे हैं वे अपने कामकाज में जा सकें।
- The Paris Police used tear gas to disperse a before-dawn blockade of a bus depot. French broadcasters also reported sporadic clashes in the cities of **Nantes** in the west, and **Lyon** in the southeast, with volleys of police tear gas and projectiles targeting officers.  
पेरिस पुलिस ने बस डिपो के सबेरे ब्लॉकेड को खत्म करने के लिए आंसू गैस का उपयोग किया। फ्रांसीसी प्रसारकों ने पश्चिम में **Nantes** और दक्षिणपूर्व में **Lyon** में बेतरतीब झड़पों की भी रिपोर्ट दी, जिसमें पुलिस के आंसू गैस और प्रक्षेप्य अधिकारियों को निशाना बना रहे थे।
- The Interior Ministry reported **94 arrests nationwide by midday**.  
गृह मंत्रालय ने रिपोर्ट किया कि **मध्याह्न तक पूरे देश में 94 गिरफ्तारियां** हुईं।
- “Every time there's a protest, it feels like daily life is held hostage,” said office worker **Nathalie Laurent**, grappling with disruptions on the Paris Metro during her morning commute.  
“हर बार जब कोई विरोध होता है, ऐसा लगता है कि रोजमर्रा की जिंदगी बंधक हो गई है,” कार्यालय कर्मचारी **Nathalie Laurent** ने कहा, अपने सुबह के काम पर जाने के दौरान पेरिस मेट्रो में बाधाओं से जूझते हुए।
- The Paris Metro operator said rush-hour services suffered fewer disruptions than anticipated but that traffic largely stopped outside those hours except on three driverless automated lines.  
पेरिस मेट्रो ऑपरेटर ने कहा कि रश-आवर सेवाओं में अपेक्षा से कम बाधाएं आईं, लेकिन उन घंटों के बाहर ट्रैफिक लगभग रुक गया, सिवाय तीन ड्राइवरलेस ऑटोमेटेड लाइन के।
- French national rail company **SNCF** said “a few disruptions” were expected on high-speed trains to France and Europe, but most will run.



फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रीय रेल कंपनी **SNCF** ने कहा कि फ्रांस और यूरोप के उच्च-गति ट्रेनों में “कुछ बाधाओं” की उम्मीद है, लेकिन अधिकांश ट्रेनें चलेंगी।

- Regional rail lines, as well as the Paris Metro and commuter trains, will be more severely impacted.

क्षेत्रीय रेल लाइनें, साथ ही पेरिस मेट्रो और काम करने वाले ट्रेनें, अधिक गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित होंगी।

- In airports, only few disruptions are anticipated as the main air traffic controllers union decided to postpone its call for a strike pending the appointment of a new Cabinet.

हवाई अड्डों में केवल कुछ ही बाधाओं की उम्मीद है क्योंकि मुख्य एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोलर्स यूनियन ने नई कैबिनेट की नियुक्ति तक हड़ताल की कॉल को स्थगित करने का निर्णय लिया।

- Last week, a day of anti-government action across France saw streets choked with smoke, barricades in flames and volleys of tear gas as protesters denounced budget cuts and political turmoil.

पिछले सप्ताह, पूरे फ्रांस में एक दिन की सरकार-विरोधी कार्रवाई में सड़कें धुएं से भरी हुईं, बैरिकेड्स आग में और आंसू गैस के फायरिंग हुए, जबकि विरोधियों ने बजट कटौती और राजनीतिक अशांति की निंदा की।

- Although falling short of its self-declared intention of total disruption, the “**Block Everything**” campaign still managed to paralyse parts of daily life and ignite hundreds of hot spots across the country.

हालांकि अपनी स्वयं घोषित पूरी तरह से व्यवधान की मंशा में सफल नहीं हुई, “**Block Everything**” अभियान ने फिर भी रोजमर्रा की जिंदगी के हिस्सों को लकवाग्रस्त कर दिया और पूरे देश में सैकड़ों हॉटस्पॉट शुरू किए।