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# PATRIOTIC IAS

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

### 09 JANUARY 2025

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PCS Special:	09 January 2026
1.	MSC Elsa 3 owner deposits ₹1,227.62 cr. to free sister vessel एमएससी एल्सा 3 के मालिक ने सहोदर पोत को मुक्त कराने के लिए ₹1,227.62 करोड़ जमा किए
2.	Voice for people-driven conservation जन-आधारित संरक्षण की आवाज़

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**In sync**



**Ready to serve:** Army personnel along with dog squad participate in a rehearsal for the 78th Army Day Parade, scheduled for January 15, in Jaipur on Thursday. EMMANUEL YOGINI

Ready to serve: Army personnel along with dog squad participate in a rehearsal for the 78th Army Day Parade, scheduled for January 15, in Jaipur on Thursday.

## MSC Elsa 3 owner deposits ₹1,227.62 cr. to free sister vessel

**John L. Paul**  
KOCHI

The owner firm of container ship **MSC Elsa 3** that sank off the Kerala coast in May 2025 has deposited a compensation of ₹1,227.62 crore with the High Court as bank guarantee, following which the court permitted the release of its sister vessel **MSC Akiteta-2**.

The sister vessel that had been detained off **Vizhinjam** following a court order of November 11, has thus left the port. A Bench of Justice M.A. Abdul Hakim posted the matter (regarding compensation) for hearing on February 13.

The court had in September reduced the security amount that had to be



The containers from **MSC Elsa 3** that sank in the Kochi outer washed ashore near Kollam Sakhikulangara coast last year. FILE PHOTO

paid by the owners of **MSC Elsa 3** from ₹9,531 crore to ₹1,227.62 crore. It thus modified its July 7 order, in an admiralty suit filed by the State government, following which **MSC Akiteta-2** was detained at Vizhinjam.

The government had

claimed the compensation for the marine and coastal pollution and the loss caused to fishers after the sinking of the ship, following which the court had ordered the conditional arrest of its sister vessel till the compensation was paid.

- A Bench of Justice M.A. Abdul Hakim posted the matter (regarding compensation) for hearing on **February 13**.

न्यायमूर्ति एम.ए. अब्दुल हकीम की पीठ ने (मुआवज़े से संबंधित) मामले की सुनवाई 13 फरवरी के लिए सूचीबद्ध की।

- The court had in **September** reduced the security amount that had to be paid by the owners of **MSC Elsa 3** from ₹9,531 crore to ₹1,227.62 crore.

अदालत ने सितंबर में एमएससी एल्सा 3 के मालिकों द्वारा देय सुरक्षा राशि को ₹9,531 करोड़ से घटाकर ₹1,227.62 करोड़ कर दिया था।

- It thus modified its **July 7** order, in an admiralty suit filed by the State government, following which **MSC Akiteta-2** was detained at **Vizhinjam**.

इस प्रकार राज्य सरकार द्वारा दायर एडमिरल्टी वाद में अपने 7 जुलाई के आदेश में संशोधन किया गया, जिसके बाद एमएससी अकिटेटा-2 को विझिंजम में रोका गया था।

## MSC Elsa 3 owner deposits ₹1,227.62 cr. to free sister vessel

एमएससी एल्सा 3 के मालिक ने सहोदर पोत को मुक्त कराने के लिए ₹1,227.62 करोड़ जमा किए

- The owner firm of container ship **MSC Elsa 3** that sank off the Kerala coast in May 2025 has deposited a compensation of ₹1,227.62 crore with the High Court as bank guarantee, following which the court permitted the release of its sister vessel **MSC Akiteta-2**.

केरल हाईकोर्ट के पास मई 2025 में डूबे कंटेनर जहाज एमएससी एल्सा 3 की मालिक कंपनी ने उच्च न्यायालय में बैंक गारंटी के रूप में ₹1,227.62 करोड़ का मुआवज़ा जमा किया है, जिसके बाद अदालत ने उसके सहोदर पोत एमएससी अकिटेटा-2 को रिहा करने की अनुमति दी।

- The sister vessel that had been detained off **Vizhinjam** following a court order of **November 11**, has thus left the port.

11 नवंबर के अदालती आदेश के बाद विझिंजम के पास रोके गए सहोदर पोत ने इस प्रकार बंदरगाह छोड़ दिया है।



- The government had claimed compensation for the marine and coastal pollution and the loss caused to fishers after the sinking of the ship, following which the court had ordered the conditional arrest of its sister vessel till the compensation was paid.  
सरकार ने जहाज के डूबने के बाद समुद्री और तटीय प्रदूषण तथा मछुआरों को हुए नुकसान के लिए मुआवज़े का दावा किया था, जिसके बाद अदालत ने मुआवज़ा चुकाए जाने तक उसके सहोदर पोत की सशर्त गिरफ्तारी का आदेश दिया था।

# Voice for people-driven conservation

Madhav Gadgil, who passed away in Pune on Wednesday, shifted the paradigm in global conservation discourse, giving primacy to human rights over exclusive wildlife protection; Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel he headed recommended strict but people-driven protection for the ghats

PCS

Divya Gandhi  
BENGALURU

Madhav Gadgil, a pioneering scholar and iconic people's conservationist, passed away in Pune on Wednesday after a brief illness. He was 83.

As someone who started off with the upper-class "urban conservationist approach to nature conservation", Mr. Gadgil metamorphosed into an ecologist who advocated the rights of the marginalised communities for whom the forest was home. He called them the "common people of India", and saw them as "constituents of the ecosystem".

Nothing sums this up better than his own admission in his autobiography, *A Walk Up the Hill: Living with People and Nature*, published in 2023. Writing about his early days as a young conservationist, Mr. Gadgil confessed: "I subscribed to the urban conservationist approach to nature conservation, namely, protection through the devices of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks... I also subscribed to the view that it was necessary to remove habitations from within

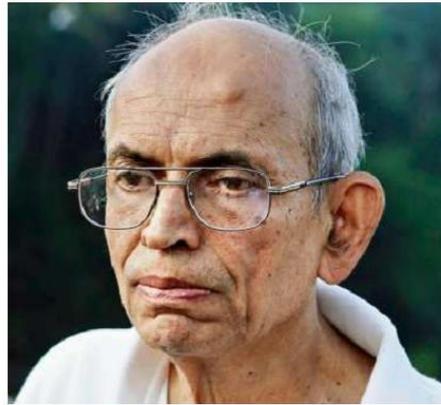
such habitats to safeguard them."

All that changed in the 1980s, when Mr. Gadgil "started thinking about alternative ways of following my passion to conserve nature, working with rather than against the common people of India".

Writing in the foreword to the book, the late M.S. Swaminathan, veteran agriculture scientist, said of Mr. Gadgil: "Madhav has had an illustrious career as one of India's leading researchers in the fields of ecology and environment, but more importantly, his thinking has been combined with action on environmental and ecological security in the service of humanity."

## Paradigm shift

Mr. Gadgil would go on to shift the paradigm in the global conservation discourse, giving primacy to human rights over exclusive wildlife protection. He was distraught by the obsession of governments with commercial interests and their disregard for the rights of farmers and indigenous people. In fact, he began to view the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 as weapon at the hands of the Forest departments "to



MADHAV GADGIL (1942 - 2026)

Gadgil was an ecologist who advocated for rights of the marginalised communities

subjugate the common people of India", especially by criminalising hunter-gatherer communities and farmers.

The Western Ghats, where he was born in 1942, received his particular attention. This interest acquired the sharpest clarity in his 2011 report as chair-

man of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel. The Manmohan Singh government, having responded to an alarm sounded by experts and local populations on the destruction of the fragile ecosystem and people of the Western Ghats by industrialisation, climate change and commercial greed, had tasked Mr. Gadgil with rendering advice on how to save the ghats from an ecological disaster.

Mr. Gadgil scoured the region he knew so intimately, interacted with communities, both forest-

and village-based, panchayats and forest officials, and recommended strict but people-driven protection for the ghats. Advocating the setting up of a Western Ghats Ecology Authority, he asked for the major part of it to be declared environmentally sensitive. No new polluting industries were to be set up in the zones earmarked as particularly endangered and existing industries were to be phased out.

Vested interest groups resisted the ideas, leading, typically and predictably, to the setting up of another panel. Headed by the eminent space scientist K. Kasturirangan, the panel recommended in 2013 that a reduced area (37% of the ghats) be protected. But even that was not accepted.

Till today, the Western Ghats remains a zone of contestation between the dogma of development and the calls for conservation.

Mr. Gadgil also championed the "Save the Silent Valley" movement in Kerala in the 1970s and early 1980s to protect the rainforests, as he campaigned for the forests of Bastar. A "product" of Harvard and a citizen of the world, he focused on the fragilities of

India's ecosystems and the human inhabitants.

Paying tributes on X, former Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Gadgil "was a top-notch academic scientist, a tireless field researcher, a pioneering institution-builder, a great communicator, a believer in people's networks and movements, and friend, philosopher, guide, and mentor to many..."

Historian Ramachandra Guha, who co-authored two books with Mr. Gadgil in the 1990s, described him as "an exemplary scientist and citizen, and, to me, a friend and mentor for forty years and more".

Mr. Gadgil leaves behind a rich legacy for the future generations. He had hoped that this "will be the third generation of people born in free, democratic India whose Constitution professes values of social justice, equity, equality, non-racism and non-sexism, human dignity, an open society, accountability and the rule of law." To achieve that, the ecologist must, as he said, "talk of many things, not just air and water and the bird that sings, but of men and money and economic reforms..."

(With inputs from Vinaya Deshpande Pandit)

## Voice for people-driven conservation जन-आधारित संरक्षण की आवाज़

- Madhav Gadgil, who passed away in Pune on Wednesday, shifted the paradigm in global conservation discourse, giving primacy to human rights over exclusive wildlife protection; Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel he headed recommended strict but people-driven protection for the ghats

माधव गाडगिल, जिनका बुधवार को पुणे में निधन हो गया, ने वैश्विक संरक्षण विमर्श की दिशा बदली और विशिष्ट वन्यजीव संरक्षण के बजाय मानव अधिकारों को प्राथमिकता दी; उनके नेतृत्व वाले पश्चिमी घाट पारिस्थितिकी विशेषज्ञ पैनल ने घाटों के लिए सख्त लेकिन जन-आधारित संरक्षण की सिफारिश की

- Nothing sums this up better than his own admission in his autobiography, *A Walk Up the Hill: Living with People and Nature*, published in 2023.



इसका सबसे अच्छा सार उनके आत्मकथात्मक स्वीकार में मिलता है, जो 2023 में प्रकाशित **A Walk Up the Hill: Living with People and Nature** में है।

- Writing about his early days as a young conservationist, Mr. Gadgil confessed: “I subscribed to the urban conservationist approach to nature conservation, namely, protection through the devices of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks...”

एक युवा संरक्षणवादी के रूप में अपने शुरुआती दिनों के बारे में लिखते हुए श्री गाडगिल ने स्वीकार किया: “मैं प्रकृति संरक्षण की शहरी संरक्षणवादी दृष्टि से जुड़ा था, अर्थात् वन्यजीव अभयारण्यों और राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों के माध्यम से संरक्षण...”

- I also subscribed to the view that it was necessary to remove habitations from within such habitats to safeguard them.”
- Writing in the foreword to the book, the late **M.S. Swaminathan**, veteran agriculture scientist, said of Mr. Gadgil: “Madhav has had an illustrious career as one of India’s leading researchers in the fields of **ecology and environment**, but more importantly, his thinking has been combined with action on **environmental and ecological security in the service of humanity**.”

- In fact, he began to view the **Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972** as a weapon at the hands of the **Forest departments** “to subjugate the common people of India”, especially by **criminalising hunter-gatherer communities and farmers**.

वास्तव में, उन्होंने **वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972** को **वन विभागों** के हाथों में ऐसा हथियार मानना शुरू किया जो **भारत के आम लोगों** को दबाने के लिए उपयोग होता है, विशेषकर **शिकारी-संग्रहकर्ता समुदायों और किसानों** को अपराधी ठहराकर।

- The **Western Ghats**, where he was born in **1942**, received his particular attention. **पश्चिमी घाट**, जहाँ उनका जन्म **1942** में हुआ था, उनके विशेष ध्यान का केंद्र रहे।
- This interest acquired the sharpest clarity in his **2011** report as chairman of the **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel**.

यह रुचि **2011** की उनकी रिपोर्ट में सबसे स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आई, जब वे **पश्चिमी घाट पारिस्थितिकी विशेषज्ञ पैनल** के अध्यक्ष थे।

- The **Manmohan Singh government**, having responded to an alarm sounded by experts and local populations on the destruction of the fragile ecosystem and people of the **Western Ghats** by **industrialisation, climate change and commercial greed**, had tasked Mr. Gadgil with rendering advice on how to save the ghats from an ecological disaster.

**मनमोहन सिंह सरकार** ने **औद्योगीकरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन और व्यावसायिक लालच** से **पश्चिमी घाट** के नाजुक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र और लोगों के विनाश पर विशेषज्ञों व स्थानीय आबादी की चेतावनी के बाद श्री गाडगिल को घाटों को पारिस्थितिक आपदा से बचाने पर सलाह देने का कार्य सौंपा।

- Mr. Gadgil scoured the region he knew so intimately, interacted with communities, both forest- and village-based, **panchayats** and **forest officials**, and recommended strict but **people-driven protection** for the ghats.

श्री गाडगिल ने उस क्षेत्र का गहन अध्ययन किया जिसे वे भली-भांति जानते थे, जंगल और गाँव-आधारित समुदायों, **पंचायतों** और **वन अधिकारियों** से बातचीत की और घाटों के लिए सख्त लेकिन **जन-आधारित संरक्षण** की सिफारिश की।

- **Advocating the setting up of a Western Ghats Ecology Authority**, he asked for the major part of it to be declared **environmentally sensitive**.

उन्होंने **पश्चिमी घाट पारिस्थितिकी प्राधिकरण** की स्थापना की वकालत की और इसके बड़े हिस्से को **पर्यावरणीय रूप से संवेदनशील** घोषित करने की मांग की।

- **No new polluting industries were to be set up in the zones earmarked as particularly endangered and existing industries were to be phased out.**

विशेष रूप से संकटग्रस्त घोषित क्षेत्रों में कोई नई **प्रदूषणकारी उद्योग** स्थापित नहीं की जानी थी और मौजूदा उद्योगों को चरणबद्ध रूप से हटाया जाना था।

- **Vested interest groups** resisted the ideas, leading, typically and predictably, to the setting up of another panel.

**निहित स्वार्थी समूहों** ने इन विचारों का विरोध किया, जिससे सामान्य और अपेक्षित रूप से एक और पैनल का गठन हुआ।

- Headed by the eminent space scientist **K. Kasturirangan**, the panel recommended in **2013** that a reduced area (**37% of the ghats**) be protected.



प्रख्यात अंतरिक्ष वैज्ञानिक के. कस्तूरीरंगन के नेतृत्व वाले पैनल ने 2013 में घाटों के 37% क्षेत्र को संरक्षित करने की सिफारिश की।

- But even that was not accepted.  
लेकिन वह भी स्वीकार नहीं किया गया।
- Till today, the **Western Ghats** remains a zone of contestation between the dogma of **development** and the calls for **conservation**.  
आज तक **पश्चिमी घाट विकास** के सिद्धांत और **संरक्षण** की पुकार के बीच संघर्ष का क्षेत्र बना हुआ है।
- **Gadgil also championed the “Save the Silent Valley” movement in Kerala in the 1970s and early 1980s to protect the rainforests**, as he campaigned for the forests of **Bastar**.  
श्री गाडगिल ने **केरल में 1970 के दशक और 1980 के प्रारंभ** में वर्षावनों की रक्षा के लिए **“सेव द साइलेंट वैली”** आंदोलन का नेतृत्व किया और **बस्तर** के जंगलों के लिए भी अभियान चलाया।
- A “product” of **Harvard** and a citizen of the world, he focused on the fragilities of **India’s ecosystems** and the **human inhabitants**.  
**हार्वर्ड** के “उत्पाद” और विश्व-नागरिक के रूप में उन्होंने **भारत के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** की नाजुकताओं और **मानव निवासियों** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।
- Paying tributes on **X**, former Union Environment Minister **Jairam Ramesh** said Mr. Gadgil “was a top-notch academic scientist, a tireless field researcher, a pioneering institution-builder, a great communicator, a believer in people’s networks and movements, **and friend, philosopher, guide, and mentor** to many...”  
**एक्स (X)** पर श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए पूर्व केंद्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्री **जयराम रमेश** ने कहा कि श्री गाडगिल “एक उत्कृष्ट अकादमिक वैज्ञानिक, अथक क्षेत्रीय शोधकर्ता, अग्रणी संस्थान-निर्माता, महान संप्रेषक, जन-नेटवर्क और आंदोलनों में विश्वास रखने वाले, और अनेक लोगों के मित्र, दार्शनिक, मार्गदर्शक और मेंटर थे...”
- Historian **Ramachandra Guha**, who co-authored two books with Mr. Gadgil in the **1990s**, described him as “an exemplary scientist and citizen, and, to me, a friend and mentor for forty years and more”.  
इतिहासकार **रामचंद्र गुहा**, जिन्होंने **1990 के दशक** में श्री गाडगिल के साथ दो पुस्तकें सह-लेखित कीं, ने उन्हें “एक आदर्श वैज्ञानिक और नागरिक, और मेरे लिए चालीस वर्षों से अधिक समय तक मित्र और मेंटर” बताया।
- Mr. Gadgil leaves behind a rich legacy for the future generations.  
श्री गाडगिल भावी पीढ़ियों के लिए एक समृद्ध विरासत छोड़ गए हैं।
- He had hoped that this “will be the third generation of people born in free, democratic India whose Constitution professes values of **social justice, equity, equality, non-racism and non-sexism, human dignity, an open society, accountability and the rule of law.**”  
उन्होंने आशा की थी कि यह “स्वतंत्र, लोकतांत्रिक भारत में जन्मी तीसरी पीढ़ी होगी, जिसका संविधान सामाजिक न्याय, समानता, बराबरी, नस्लवाद-रहित और लैंगिक भेदभाव-रहितता, मानव गरिमा, खुला समाज, जवाबदेही और कानून के शासन के मूल्यों की घोषणा करता है।”
- To achieve that, the ecologist must, as he said, “talk of many things, not just **air and water and the bird that sings**, but of **men and money and economic reforms...**”  
इसे हासिल करने के लिए, पारिस्थितिकीविद को, जैसा कि उन्होंने कहा, “केवल **हवा, पानी और गाने वाले पक्षी** की ही नहीं, बल्कि **मनुष्य, धन और आर्थिक सुधारों** की भी बात करनी होगी...”

<b>GS Paper 1: History,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>09 January 2026</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>During three-day Gujarat trip, PM to visit Somnath temple and offer prayers</b> तीन दिवसीय गुजरात यात्रा के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री सोमनाथ मंदिर जाएंगे और पूजा-अर्चना करेंगे
<b>2.</b>	<b>6 more held in connection with Turkman Gate violence</b> तुर्कमान गेट हिंसा के मामले में 6 और गिरफ्तार



# During three-day Gujarat trip, PM to visit Somnath temple and offer prayers

GS I: History

**The Hindu Bureau**  
AHMEDABAD

The four-day “Somnath Swabhiman Parv” began on Thursday at the Somnath temple near Veraval in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to begin a three-day visit to Gujarat from Saturday, will offer prayers at the temple on Sunday and lead a “Shaurya Yatra”, officials said.

It will be a one-km roadshow featuring 108 horses.

The celebrations also mark 1,000 years since the first attack on the shrine by the Mahmud of Ghazni. Mr. Modi, in a post on social media platform X on Thursday, recalled his earlier visits to Somnath and



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on the occasion of ‘Somnath Swabhiman Parv’ in Gandhinagar on Thursday. X/@BJP4GUJARAT

highlighted the resilience of faith despite repeated attacks on the shrine.

He said the assault in 1026 and subsequent invasions failed to weaken India’s spiritual resolve and instead strengthened cultural unity, leading to the temple’s repeated reconstruction.

Union Minister Gajen-

dra Singh Shekhawat and Gujarat Ministers Jitu Vaghani and Pradyuman Vaja were present at the inauguration of the “Somnath Swabhiman Parv”.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the event has provided people an opportunity to celebrate India’s heritage and cultural identity.

**During three-day Gujarat trip, PM to visit Somnath temple and offer prayers**

**तीन दिवसीय गुजरात यात्रा के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री सोमनाथ मंदिर जाएंगे और पूजा-अर्चना करेंगे**

- The four-day “Somnath Swabhiman Parv” began on Thursday at the **Somnath temple** near **Veraval** in **Gir Somnath district** of **Gujarat**.  
चार दिवसीय “सोमनाथ स्वाभिमान पर्व” की शुरुआत गुरुवार को गुजरात के गिर सोमनाथ जिले में वेरावल के पास स्थित सोमनाथ मंदिर में हुई।
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, who is scheduled to begin a **three-day visit to Gujarat** from Saturday, will **offer prayers** at the temple on Sunday and lead a “**Shaurya Yatra**”, officials said.  
अधिकारियों के अनुसार, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी, जो शनिवार से तीन दिवसीय गुजरात यात्रा शुरू करने वाले हैं, रविवार को मंदिर में पूजा-अर्चना करेंगे और “शौर्य यात्रा” का नेतृत्व करेंगे।
- It will be a **one-km roadshow** featuring **108 horses**.  
यह एक किलोमीटर का रोडशो होगा, जिसमें 108 घोड़े शामिल होंगे।
- The **celebrations also mark 1,000 years since the first attack on the shrine by Mahmud of Ghazni**.  
ये समारोह महमूद गज़नवी द्वारा मंदिर पर किए गए पहले हमले के 1,000 वर्ष पूरे होने का भी स्मरण कराते हैं।
- Mr. Modi, in a post on social media platform **X** on Thursday, recalled his earlier visits to **Somnath** and highlighted the **resilience of faith** despite repeated attacks on the shrine.



श्री मोदी ने गुरुवार को सोशल मीडिया मंच **एक्स (X)** पर एक पोस्ट में **सोमनाथ** की अपनी पूर्व यात्राओं को याद किया और मंदिर पर बार-बार हुए हमलों के बावजूद **आस्था की दृढ़ता** को रेखांकित किया।

- He said the assault in **1026** and subsequent invasions failed to weaken **India's spiritual resolve** and instead strengthened **cultural unity**, leading to the temple's repeated **reconstruction**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **1026** में हुआ हमला और बाद के आक्रमण **भारत के आध्यात्मिक संकल्प** को कमजोर नहीं कर सके, बल्कि **सांस्कृतिक एकता** को मजबूत किया, जिससे मंदिर का बार-बार **पुनर्निर्माण** हुआ।
- **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and **Gujarat Ministers Jitu Vaghani and Pradyuman Vaja** were present at the inauguration of the "**Somnath Swabhiman Parv**".  
**केंद्रीय मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत** और **गुजरात के मंत्री जीतू वाघाणी तथा प्रद्युमन वजा** "**सोमनाथ स्वाभिमान पर्व**" के उद्घाटन के अवसर पर उपस्थित थे।
- **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** said the event has provided people an opportunity to celebrate **India's heritage and cultural identity**.  
**गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र पटेल** ने कहा कि इस आयोजन ने लोगों को **भारत की विरासत और सांस्कृतिक पहचान** का उत्सव मनाने का अवसर प्रदान किया है।

## Somnath Temple

- The **Somnath Temple** is one of the most sacred Hindu shrines dedicated to **Lord Shiva** and is revered as the **first of the twelve Jyotirlingas** mentioned in the Shaiva tradition.
- It is located at **Prabhas Patan**, near **Veraval** in **Gir Somnath district of Gujarat**, on the coast of the **Arabian Sea**.
- The temple is not only a religious centre but also a powerful symbol of **India's cultural continuity, resilience, and spiritual heritage**.

## Geographical Location and Sacred Setting

- The temple stands at the **confluence of three rivers — Hiran, Kapila and Saraswati** — a site considered highly auspicious in Hindu belief.
- Its coastal position gave Somnath early importance as both a **pilgrimage centre and a maritime landmark** for ancient traders and travellers.

## Somnath as a Jyotirlinga

- In Hindu theology, a **Jyotirlinga** represents the **infinite, luminous form of Lord Shiva**.
- Somnath is traditionally regarded as the **first Jyotirlinga**, giving it exceptional sanctity among Shaiva shrines.
- The name **Somnath** means "**Lord of the Moon**", connected with the legend of **Chandra (the Moon God)** who is believed to have built the temple to seek relief from a curse.

## Ancient Origins

- References to Somnath appear in **Puranic literature** such as the **Skanda Purana and Shiva Purana**, indicating its antiquity as a major pilgrimage site.



- Archaeological and literary evidence suggests that the temple existed in some form from **early historic times**, with continuous patronage from Indian rulers.

### Medieval Period and Destruction

- The temple became a target during medieval invasions due to its **religious importance and accumulated wealth**.
- The most well-known attack occurred in **1025 CE**, when **Mahmud of Ghazni** raided Somnath.
- Over the centuries, the temple was **destroyed and rebuilt several times**, notably during the rule of the **Chaulukyas (Solankis)** and later under **Maratha patronage**.

### Style and Design

- The present Somnath Temple is built in the **Chaulukya style of temple architecture, also known as the Solanki style**.
- It features
  - a grand **shikhara** rising to about **155 feet**,
  - a **kalash** weighing around **10 tonnes** at the top,
  - richly carved pillars, ceilings and doorways.

### Temple Layout

- The complex includes
  - the **garbhagriha** housing the Jyotirlinga,
  - a **sabha mandap** for devotees,
  - and the **Nritya Mandap**, used historically for ritual performances.

### The Baan Stambh and Maritime Symbolism

- Behind the temple stands the **Baan Stambh**, an ancient pillar that bears an inscription stating that **there is no land between Somnath and the South Pole** along that longitude.
- This highlights the temple's historical connection with **Indian maritime awareness and geographical knowledge**.



## 6 more held in connection with Turkman Gate violence

GS I: History

A day after a court-ordered anti-encroachment drive triggered clashes and stone-pelting in central Delhi's Turkman Gate area, six more arrests have been made in connection with the violence, which left police personnel injured. The total number of arrests made in the matter now stands at 11. Those arrested on Thursday have been identified as Afaan, Adil, Shahnawaz, Hamza, Atharr and Ubed, all are residents of the Turkman Gate area. "We have arrested six more people. So far total of 11 people, including one juvenile, have been apprehended," Additional Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan stated.

गई है।

- Those arrested on **Thursday** have been identified as **Afaan, Adil, Shahnawaz, Hamza, Atharr and Ubed**, all are residents of the **Turkman Gate area**.  
गुरुवार को गिरफ्तार किए गए लोगों की पहचान अफान, आदिल, शहनवाज़, हमज़ा, अथर और उबैद के रूप में हुई है, जो सभी तुर्कमान गेट क्षेत्र के निवासी हैं।
- "We have arrested **six more people**. So far a total of **11 people**, including **one juvenile**, have been apprehended," **Additional Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan** stated.

अतिरिक्त पुलिस आयुक्त (सेंट्रल) निधिन वल्सन ने कहा, "हमने छह और लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया है। अब तक एक नाबालिग सहित कुल 11 लोगों को पकड़ा गया है।"

## 6 more held in connection with Turkman Gate violence तुर्कमान गेट हिंसा के मामले में 6 और गिरफ्तार

• A day after a **court-ordered anti-encroachment drive** triggered clashes and **stone-pelting** in **central Delhi's Turkman Gate area**, six more arrests have been made in connection with the **violence**, which left **police personnel injured**.

अदालत के आदेश पर चलाए गए अतिक्रमण विरोधी अभियान के एक दिन बाद मध्य दिल्ली के तुर्कमान गेट क्षेत्र में झड़पों और पथराव की घटनाओं के बाद, हिंसा के संबंध में छह और गिरफ्तारियाँ की गई हैं, जिसमें पुलिसकर्मी घायल हुए थे।

• The **total number of arrests** made in the matter now stands at **11**.

इस मामले में अब तक की गई कुल गिरफ्तारियों की संख्या 11 हो

## Fourteen Fortified Gates of Shahjahanabad

- Shahjahanabad**, founded in **1639** by **Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan**, was the new imperial राजधानी of the Mughal Empire.
- The city was enclosed by a massive **stone fortification wall** nearly **10 km long**.
- This wall had **14 fortified gates**, known as **darwazas**, which controlled entry, trade, defence, and movement.

### Why were the gates built

- Shahjahanabad faced frequent threats from
  - **Rival kingdoms**
  - **Rebellions**
  - **Bandit raids**
- The gates served three major purposes
  - **Defence** of the city
  - **Regulation of trade and taxes**
  - **Control of population movement**

### Period of construction

- Construction of Shahjahanabad and its gates took place between **1639 and 1648**.
- The city became fully operational as the Mughal capital by **1648**.



## List of the 14 Fortified Gates

- **Kashmiri Gate** – northern entry, route to Kashmir and Punjab
- **Mori Gate** – near drainage channels and northern defences
- **Kabuli Gate** – western route to Kabul and Central Asia
- **Lahori Gate** – route to Lahore and major trade corridor
- **Ajmeri Gate** – southern route to Ajmer and Rajasthan
- **Turkman Gate** – southern gate near Sufi settlements
- **Delhi Gate** – eastern ceremonial gate
- **Akbarabadi Gate** – near Akbarabadi Masjid and markets
- **Nigambodh Gate** – close to Yamuna and cremation ghats
- **Kela Gate** – small military gate near Salimgarh Fort
- **Raj Ghat Gate** – access to river trade and ferries
- **Talaqi Gate** – lesser-known service gate
- **Paharganj Gate** – access to hilly routes and caravan paths
- **Khooni Darwaza** – associated with later Mughal and colonial history

## Architectural Features

- Built mainly in **red sandstone and quartzite**.
- Each gate had
  - Massive **arched entrances**
  - **Watchtowers** and battlements
  - **Heavy wooden doors** reinforced with iron spikes
- Some gates also had
  - **Custom houses**
  - **Guard rooms**
  - **Rest areas for traders**

## Cultural and Economic Role

- Gates functioned as **economic checkpoints**
  - Traders paid duties on goods entering the city
- They became **urban hubs**
  - Markets developed around them
  - Caravanserais and inns were built nearby

### British period impact

- After the **Revolt of 1857**, the British
  - Demolished large parts of the city wall
  - Destroyed several gates for easier troop movement
- By the early **20th century**, only a few gates remained intact.

### Present surviving gates

- **Kashmiri Gate**
- **Delhi Gate**
- **Ajmeri Gate**



- Turkman Gate
- Khooni Darwaza (technically earlier but later integrated)

## Turkman Gate (Turkman Darwaza)

- Turkman Gate, also called Turkman Darwaza, is one of the surviving gates of Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi).
- The gate is located in present-day Central Delhi, near Chandni Mahal and Daryaganj.
- It is named after the Turkman Sufi saints who were believed to have lived in this area.
- The gate connected the city with regions toward Mehrauli and Hauz Khas.

### GS Paper 1: Society

#### TOPICS COVERED

09 January 2026

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | <b>Ahead of Makaravilakku fest, Erumely teems with festive spirit as foreign tourists join pilgrims' rituals</b><br>मकरविलक्कु उत्सव से पहले, विदेशी पर्यटकों के श्रद्धालुओं की रस्मों में शामिल होने से एरुमेली उत्सवी माहौल से सराबोर |
| 2. | <b>QUIZ</b>   |

## Ahead of Makaravilakku fest, Erumely teems with festive spirit as foreign tourists join pilgrims' rituals

GS I: Society

**Hiran Unnikrishnan**  
KOTTAYAM

With their faces painted in bright colours and peacock plumes in hand, a group of pilgrims danced through the streets of Erumely. As they moved onto another street, a group of foreign tourists, adorned with elaborate crowns, joined in. The drumbeats rose to a crescendo as the lively crowd gradually made their way to the Nainar Mosque.

These scenes have become increasingly common in Erumely these days, with a growing number of international tourists visiting Kerala stopping by this temple town, which is already alive with festive spirit.



Foreign tourists watching Sabarimala pilgrims moving through the streets of Erumely. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With just days remaining before the Petta Thullal and Chandanakkudam ceremonies, followed by the Makaravilakku festival at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, many visitors are keen to experience the celebrations here. They are also seen capturing photo-

graphs amid the milling crowd of pilgrims, draped in the customary black attire.

The trend is largely attributed to increasing media coverage highlighting the town's unique display of communal harmony. Most of the visiting tourists are

Europeans, drawn to Erumely, located on the eastern outskirts of the district, a key base for their onward journeys to Kumily or Munnar.

"There appears to be growing tourist interest during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season in Erumely, which serves as a key base for these pilgrims. We have been receiving several groups of foreign visitors who stop by to explore the town and even participate in the rituals," says Mithulaj Puthenveetil, secretary of the Erumely Mahallu Muslim Jama-ath.

The primary attraction for foreign visitors seems to be the celebration of religious harmony, where two temples and a mosque stand close by, and pil-

grims honouring all of them in their rituals. "Many are fascinated to capture on camera the unique sight of Ayyappa devotees circumambulating a Muslim mosque," he added.

#### Information source

Police stationed at various points in the town have become the main source of information for visitors, answering questions about safety, key issues, and must-visit locations.

Confirming the trend, an official with the Travancore Devaswom Board says that during the Chandanakkudam festival and the historically renowned Petta Thullal of Ambalappuzha and Alangad teams, large numbers of foreign tourists flock to Erumely.

**Ahead of Makaravilakku fest, Erumely teems with festive spirit as foreign tourists join pilgrims' rituals**



## मकरविलक्कु उत्सव से पहले, विदेशी पर्यटकों के श्रद्धालुओं की रस्मों में शामिल होने से एरुमेली उत्सवी माहौल से सराबोर

- With their faces painted in bright colours and peacock plumes in hand, a group of pilgrims danced through the streets of **Erumely**.  
चमकीले रंगों से चेहरों पर रंग लगाए और हाथों में मोरपंख लिए श्रद्धालुओं का एक समूह एरुमेली की सड़कों पर नृत्य करता हुआ आगे बढ़ा।
- As they moved onto another street, a group of **foreign tourists**, adorned with elaborate crowns, joined in.  
जैसे ही वे दूसरी सड़क पर पहुँचे, सजीव मुकुट पहने विदेशी पर्यटकों का एक समूह भी उनके साथ शामिल हो गया।
- The drumbeats rose to a crescendo as the lively crowd gradually made their way to the **Nainar Mosque**.  
ढोल की थाप तेज होती गई और उत्साही भीड़ धीरे-धीरे नैनार मस्जिद की ओर बढ़ी।
- These scenes have become increasingly common in **Erumely** these days, with a growing number of **international tourists** visiting **Kerala** stopping by this temple town, which is already alive with festive spirit.  
आजकल एरुमेली में ऐसे दृश्य आम होते जा रहे हैं, क्योंकि केरल आने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यटकों की संख्या बढ़ रही है, जो पहले से ही उत्सवी माहौल वाले इस मंदिर नगर में रुक रहे हैं।
- With just days remaining before the **Petta Thullal** and **Chandanakkudam** ceremonies, followed by the **Makaravilakku festival at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple**, many visitors are keen to experience the celebrations here.  
पेट्टा थुल्लल और चंदनक्कुडम अनुष्ठानों तथा सबरीमला अयप्पा मंदिर में होने वाले मकरविलक्कु उत्सव से पहले बचे कुछ ही दिनों में, कई आगंतुक यहाँ के उत्सवों का अनुभव करना चाहते हैं।
- They are also seen capturing photographs amid the milling crowd of pilgrims, draped in the customary **black attire**.  
उन्हें परंपरागत काले वस्त्र पहने श्रद्धालुओं की भीड़ के बीच तस्वीरें लेते हुए भी देखा जा रहा है।
- The trend is largely attributed to increasing **media coverage** highlighting the town's unique display of **communal harmony**.  
इस प्रवृत्ति का श्रेय काफी हद तक मीडिया कवरेज को दिया जा रहा है, जो नगर की अनूठी सांप्रदायिक सद्भाव की झलक को उजागर कर रहा है।
- Most of the visiting tourists are **Europeans**, drawn to **Erumely**, located on the eastern outskirts of the district, a key base for their onward journeys to **Kumily or Munnar**.  
आने वाले अधिकांश पर्यटक यूरॉपियन हैं, जो जिले के पूर्वी छोर पर स्थित एरुमेली की ओर आकर्षित होते हैं, जो कुमिली या मुन्नार की आगे की यात्राओं के लिए एक प्रमुख आधार है।
- "There appears to be growing tourist interest during the **Sabarimala pilgrimage season in Erumely**, which serves as a key base for these pilgrims.  
"सबरीमला तीर्थयात्रा मौसम के दौरान एरुमेली में पर्यटकों की रुचि बढ़ती दिख रही है, जो इन श्रद्धालुओं के लिए एक प्रमुख आधार स्थल है।
- We have been receiving several groups of **foreign visitors** who stop by to explore the town and even participate in the rituals," says **Mithulaj Puthenveetil**, secretary of the **Erumely Mahallu Muslim Jama-ath**.  
हमें विदेशी आगंतुकों के कई समूह मिल रहे हैं जो नगर को देखने और यहाँ तक कि अनुष्ठानों में भाग लेने के लिए रुकते हैं," एरुमेली महल्लू मुस्लिम जमाअथ के सचिव मिथुलाज पुथेनवीटिल ने कहा।
- The primary attraction for foreign visitors seems to be the **celebration of religious harmony, where two temples and a mosque stand close by, and pilgrims honouring all of them in their rituals**.  
विदेशी आगंतुकों के लिए मुख्य आकर्षण धार्मिक सद्भाव का उत्सव प्रतीत होता है, जहाँ दो मंदिर और एक मस्जिद पास-पास स्थित हैं और श्रद्धालु अपनी रस्मों में सभी का सम्मान करते हैं।
- "Many are fascinated to capture on camera the unique sight of **Ayyappa devotees circumambulating a Muslim mosque**," he added.  
"कई लोग मुस्लिम मस्जिद की परिक्रमा करते अयप्पा भक्तों के इस अनोखे दृश्य को कैमरे में कैद करने से मंत्रमुग्ध हो जाते हैं," उन्होंने जोड़ा।



## Information source जानकारी का स्रोत

- Police stationed at various points in the town have become the main source of **information** for visitors, answering questions about **safety**, key issues, and **must-visit locations**.  
नगर के विभिन्न हिस्सों में तैनात **पुलिस** आगंतुकों के लिए **जानकारी** का मुख्य स्रोत बन गई है, जो **सुरक्षा**, **अहम मुद्दों** और **देखने योग्य स्थानों** से जुड़े सवालों का जवाब दे रही है।
- Confirming the trend, an official with the **Travancore Devaswom Board** says that during the **Chandanakkudam festival** and the historically renowned **Petta Thullal** of **Ambalappuzha** and **Alangad** teams, large numbers of **foreign tourists** flock to **Erumely**.  
इस प्रवृत्ति की पुष्टि करते हुए **त्रावणकोर देवस्वोम बोर्ड** के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि **चंदनक्कुडम उत्सव** और **अम्बलापुझा व अलंगाड** टीमों के ऐतिहासिक रूप से प्रसिद्ध **पेट्टा थुल्लल** के दौरान बड़ी संख्या में **विदेशी पर्यटक एरुमेली** पहुँचते हैं।

### Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1.

Name her groundbreaking critique of patriarchy, often regarded as foundational feminist literature, which was listed on the Vatican's 'index of forbidden books'. **Ans: The Second Sex**

2. Name her work depicting the attempts of post-Second World War intellectuals to leave their 'educated elite' status and engage in political activism, which won her the French literary prize Prix Goncourt. **Ans: The Mandarins**

3. What is the only play written by Beauvoir? **Ans: The Useless Mouths (or Who Shall Die)**

4. Name her treatise published in 1947, which deals with themes including freedom, oppression, and responsibility, expounding on the idea that 'human freedom requires the freedom of others for it to be actualised'. **Ans: The ethics of ambiguity**

5. Name her novel, which opens with the quote: "Each conscience seeks the death of the other" from another philosopher, Hegel. **Ans: She came to stay**

Visual: Name this American philosopher who claims to have based her theory of gender performance on Beauvoir's idea that one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman. **Ans: Judith Butler**

**Early Birds:** Dodo Jayaditya | Sadia Najam | Neil Lall | Sunil Madhavan | Mohan Lal Patel

## QUIZ

### The Second Sex — A Groundbreaking Critique of Patriarchy

• **Author:** Simone de Beauvoir

• **First Published:** 1949 (France)

• **Status:** Widely regarded as **foundational feminist literature**

• **Key Fact:** It was listed on the **Vatican's Index Librorum Prohibitorium (Index of Forbidden Books) in 1956**

• **Related Fact:** The Index was officially **abolished in 1966**

• The book argues that women's subordinate position is not "natural" but produced through **social, cultural, and historical processes**.

• It presents the concept of women as **"the Other"**, meaning women are often defined in relation to men rather than as autonomous individuals.

• A central claim is captured in the widely quoted idea:

**"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman"**, indicating **gender roles are socially shaped**.

### Major Arguments

- **Patriarchy** operates through **institutions like family, religion, education, and the economy**.
- **Economic dependence** deepens women's inequality and limits choices.
- **Freedom, agency, and equal opportunities** are necessary for genuine emancipation.
- Women's lived realities are shaped by both **material conditions** and **ideas/values** imposed by society.
- **The Vatican's Index** historically listed works considered dangerous to faith or morals for Catholics.
- It critiques the ways **religious and cultural narratives** can justify women's subordination.
- It treats **sexuality, marriage, and autonomy** through a lens that conflicts with conservative moral frameworks of that era.

### The Mandarins — Simone de Beauvoir's Literary Portrait of Intellectuals and Political Activism

• **Core Theme:** The struggle of **post-Second World War intellectuals** to move beyond their status as an **educated elite** and engage meaningfully in **political and social activism**.

• The novel explores how French intellectuals after **World War II** tried to reconcile

- **Moral responsibility**
- **Political commitment**
- **Personal freedom**

with their privileged position in society.

• It asks a fundamental question:

**Can intellectuals remain detached observers, or must they become active participants in political change?**



- The book portrays writers, journalists, and philosophers who struggle to decide:
  - Whether to stay independent thinkers
  - Or commit themselves fully to political movements.
- It highlights the **tension between ideology and conscience**.

### **The Useless Mouths — The Only Play Written by Simone de Beauvoir**

- **Title:** *The Useless Mouths*
- **Alternative Title:** *Who Shall Die?*
- **Original French Title:** *Les Bouches inutiles*

- *The Useless Mouths* examines a disturbing moral question:

#### **Who deserves to live when survival is at stake?**

- The story is set in a medieval town under siege, where leaders decide that those who do not “contribute” economically — the **elderly, women, children, and the weak** — are “**useless mouths**” who should be sacrificed for the survival of others.

### **The Ethics of Ambiguity — Simone de Beauvoir’s Treatise on Freedom and Responsibility**

- Beauvoir argues that
  - Human beings are **free**, but this freedom is always exercised in a world with others.
  - Therefore, freedom cannot be selfish or purely individual.

### **She Came to Stay — Simone de Beauvoir’s Novel Inspired by Hegel’s**

- **Notable Opening Quote:**  
“Each conscience seeks the death of the other” — G.W.F. Hegel
- **Literary Importance:** Considered Beauvoir’s **first major novel** and a key text in **existentialist literature**.
- Her intellectual partnership with **Jean-Paul Sartre**
- And her engagement with **Hegelian ideas** about self and other.

<b>GS Paper II: Polity,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>09 January 2026</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Mizoram govt. against extending Governor’s Rule in tribal council</b> <b>मिज़ोरम सरकार जनजातीय परिषद में राज्यपाल शासन बढ़ाने के खिलाफ</b>



# Mizoram govt. against extending Governor's Rule in tribal council

**GS II: Polity**

**The Hindu Bureau**

GUWAHATI

As neighbouring Manipur nears a year under President's Rule, the Mizoram government is against extending **Governor's Rule in a tribal council** for another six months.

On Wednesday, the Mizoram Cabinet said there was no justification in extending Governor's Rule in the **Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC)**. It cited three assessments, including one by the **State's Chief Secretary**, to assert that the council was not facing any political instability to merit extension.

The Council of Ministers responded to a reference from Governor Vijay Kumar Singh on whether Governor's Rule, imposed on July 7, 2025, should be ex-



Governor V.K. Singh

tended for another six months. It negated extension by pointing out that a single political party enjoys a clear majority in the CADC.

The Ministers also said that Governor's Rule was imposed despite their earlier recommendation that the single-largest party be allowed to form the next executive committee in the CADC. **Governor's Rule** was imposed following prolonged instability in the tribal council, triggered by

the removal of Bharatiya Janata Party leader **Molin Kumar Chakma** from the post of Chief Executive Member through a no-confidence motion on June 16.

Mr Chakma had assumed charge on February 4, heading the first BJP-led executive in the CADC since its formation in 1972, but the government collapsed within four months after mass defections.

## Mass defection

In June, 12 BJP members resigned and joined the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), which rules the State. A month later, 16 ZPM members staked claim to form the next executive committee.

Earlier, the ZPM had written to the Governor, seeking a floor test to enable the party to prove its majority in the council.

## Mizoram govt. against extending Governor's Rule in tribal council मिज़ोरम सरकार जनजातीय परिषद में राज्यपाल शासन बढ़ाने के खिलाफ

- On Wednesday, the **Mizoram Cabinet** said there was no justification in extending **Governor's Rule** in the **Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC)**.
- The Ministers also said that **Governor's Rule** was imposed despite their earlier recommendation that the **single-largest party** be allowed to form the next **executive committee** in the **CADC**.

मंत्रियों ने यह भी कहा कि उनकी पहले की सिफारिश के बावजूद **राज्यपाल शासन** लगाया गया, जिसमें **सबसे बड़े दल** को **CADC** में अगली **कार्यकारी समिति** बनाने की अनुमति देने की बात कही गई थी।

- Governor's Rule** was imposed following prolonged instability in the tribal council, triggered by the removal of **Bharatiya Janata Party** leader **Molin Kumar Chakma** from the post of **Chief Executive Member** through a **no-confidence motion** on **June 16**.
- In **June**, **12 BJP members** resigned and joined the **Zoram People's Movement (ZPM)**, which rules the **State**.

### Role of the Governor — supervisory and extraordinary powers

The Governor of the state has substantial powers under the Sixth Schedule:

- Organise / reorganise autonomous districts and regions** — including altering boundaries, names or sizes; dividing districts into autonomous regions where multiple tribes reside.



- Nominate up to four members to a District Council.
- Dissolve a District or Regional Council (usually on the recommendation of an inquiry commission) and impose **Governor's rule** in the council **area in case of persistent maladministration**.

## GS Paper II: Governance,

### TOPICS COVERED

09 January 2026

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | <b>Cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims</b><br>सड़क दुर्घटना पीड़ितों के लिए कैशलेस उपचार योजना |
| 2. | <b>Conditional ease.</b><br>सशर्त सहजता।   |

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims

GS II: Governance

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to launch a nationwide cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims, offering coverage of up to ₹1.5 lakh and a cash award for Good Samaritans who rush victims to hospitals.

The scheme will cover road accidents anywhere in the country, and not just on national highways, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said during a two-day conference of Transport Ministers, Secretaries and Commissioners of all States and union territories here.

## AIIMS study

Mr. Gadkari cited an AIIMS study and said road fatalities could be reduced by 30% if there was timely medical intervention. The first 60 minutes after a severe accident is known as the "Golden Hour" during which immediate and necessary medical attention could increase the survival rate of a victim.

The medical coverage would be under the third

**The scheme will cover road accidents anywhere in the country, and not just on National highways**

party insurance bought at the time of a car purchase, and where a vehicle was not insured, the government would fund the medical expenses under the Road Safety Fund.

A person who brings a victim to the hospital, who the government is calling "rahavir", would be given a cash award of ₹25,000. This could not be claimed by more than one individual, Mr. Gadkari said.

## Pilot successful

A pilot for cashless treatment had been successfully carried out in Assam, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Puducherry.

The government also plans to bring a slew of amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which will include recommendations made by States during the two-day conference.

## Cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims सड़क दुर्घटना पीड़ितों के लिए कैशलेस उपचार योजना

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to launch a nationwide cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims, offering coverage of up to ₹1.5 lakh and a cash award for Good Samaritans who rush victims to hospitals.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से सड़क दुर्घटना पीड़ितों के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय कैशलेस उपचार योजना शुरू करने की उम्मीद है, जिसमें ₹1.5 लाख तक का कवरेज और पीड़ितों को अस्पताल पहुंचाने वाले गुड समैरिटन के लिए नकद पुरस्कार शामिल होगा।

The scheme will cover road accidents anywhere in the country, and not just on national highways, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said during a two-day conference of Transport Ministers, Secretaries and Commissioners of all States and union territories here.

## AIIMS study एम्स अध्ययन

Mr. Gadkari cited an AIIMS study and said road fatalities could be reduced by 30% if there was timely medical intervention.

श्री गडकरी ने एक एम्स अध्ययन का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि समय पर चिकित्सीय हस्तक्षेप होने पर सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में मौतों को 30% तक कम किया जा सकता है।

The first 60 minutes after a severe accident is known as the "Golden Hour" during which immediate and necessary medical attention could increase the survival rate of a victim.

The medical coverage would be under the third party insurance bought at the time of a car purchase, and where a vehicle was not insured, the government would fund the

medical expenses under the Road Safety Fund.

चिकित्सीय कवरेज कार खरीदते समय ली गई थर्ड पार्टी इश्योरेंस के अंतर्गत होगा, और जहां वाहन बीमित नहीं होगा, वहां सरकार रोड सेफ्टी फंड के तहत चिकित्सा खर्च वहन करेगी।

A person who brings a victim to the hospital, who the government is calling "rahavir", would be given a cash award of ₹25,000.

जो व्यक्ति पीड़ित को अस्पताल पहुंचाएगा, जिसे सरकार "राहवीर" कह रही है, उसे ₹25,000 का नकद पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा।

This could not be claimed by more than one individual, Mr. Gadkari said.

श्री गडकरी ने कहा कि यह पुरस्कार एक से अधिक व्यक्ति द्वारा दावा नहीं किया जा सकता।

The government also plans to bring a slew of amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which will include recommendations made by States during the two-day conference.



## Conditional ease

The CDSCO guidelines should not regress into a 'pay and pass' scheme

GS II: Governance

The new guidelines to compound minor drug violations that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has released, operationalise a legal change in the works since 2023. Until recently, many instances of relatively minor or technical non-compliance under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, invoked criminal prosecution. The new guidance and standard operating procedures are meant to standardise compounding instead, whereby, at the regulator's discretion, firms can settle certain offences by reporting them and applying to pay a fine, instead of litigating. The legal backdrop is the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act that was framed as an exercise in "decriminalising and rationalising offences ... for ease of living and doing business". In the 1940 Act, Jan Vishwas broadened the scope of Section 32B by adding heads into the group of offences that could be compounded; this now includes making a drug to sell or distribute in breach of the 1940 Act but not covered by its Section 27(a-c) and stocking or exhibiting such a non-spurious or non-adulterated drug, among others. If compounding is granted and paid for, the key benefit is "immunity from prosecution" for that case, subject to conditions. This change is for the better if the regulatory apparatus implements it in good faith. For offences based on record keeping and disclosure, compounding prevents needless criminalisation and lets enforcement focus on direr violations.

The main pitfalls are the guidelines regressing into a 'pay and pass' scheme and the CDSCO's transparency. Firms can seek compounding "before or after" prosecution. If, however, the CDSCO does not publish (even redacted) compounding orders and the underlying case details, the public may lose faith in the legal proceedings and in the regulator. Even if repeat offenders cannot avail of the benefit, there needs to be a publicly auditable trail. The guidance's emphasis on discretion and conditions cannot substitute for public reporting that lets independent actors check whether the same firms are repeat offenders. Similarly, the published process does not create room for consumer groups or whistleblowers to make representations before immunity is granted. Next, the way the errors that can be compounded are written is broad enough in practice to cover a wide range of behaviours, from lapses in paperwork to more substantive compliance failures. If the compounding fines are also set too low, applied inconsistently or used routinely in place of deterrence, compliance will only falter. Perhaps most of all, the CDSCO also needs to link compounding to corrective and preventive actions, follow-up inspections, and, where relevant, public-facing actions such as issuing alerts or directing firms to recall products. Otherwise, there may not be a durable reduction in risk over time.

कुछ शर्तों के अधीन।

- Firms can seek compounding "before or after" prosecution. कंपनियाँ मुकदमा शुरू होने से पहले या बाद में भी समझौते का अनुरोध कर सकती हैं।

## Conditional ease. सशर्त सहजता।

The new guidelines to compound minor drug violations that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has released operationalise a legal change in the works since 2023.

मामूली दवा उल्लंघनों के निपटान के लिए केंद्रीय औषधि मानक नियंत्रण संगठन (CDSCO) द्वारा जारी नए दिशानिर्देश 2023 से चल रहे एक कानूनी बदलाव को लागू करते हैं।

Until recently, many instances of relatively minor or technical non-compliance under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, invoked criminal prosecution.

हाल तक, औषधि और प्रसाधन सामग्री अधिनियम, 1940 के तहत अपेक्षाकृत मामूली या तकनीकी गैर-अनुपालन के कई मामलों में आपराधिक कार्यवाही की जाती थी।

The new guidance and standard operating procedures are meant to standardise compounding instead, whereby, at the regulator's discretion, firms can settle certain offences by reporting them and applying to pay a fine, instead of litigating.

नई मार्गदर्शिका और मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाएँ अब समझौते के माध्यम से निपटान को मानकीकृत करने के लिए हैं, जिसके तहत नियामक के विवेक से कंपनियाँ कुछ अपराधों की रिपोर्ट कर जुर्माना भरकर मुकदमेबाजी से बच सकती हैं।

The legal backdrop is the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, which was framed as an exercise in "decriminalising and rationalising offences ... for ease of living and doing business".

इसका कानूनी आधार जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) अधिनियम है, जिसे "अपराधों के अपराधीकरण को समाप्त करने और उन्हें तर्कसंगत बनाने... ताकि जीवन और व्यवसाय में आसानी हो" के उद्देश्य से लाया गया था।

In the 1940 Act, Jan Vishwas broadened the scope of Section 32B by adding heads into the group of offences that could be compounded.

1940 के अधिनियम में जन विश्वास ने धारा 32B के दायरे को बढ़ाते हुए उन अपराधों की सूची में नए प्रावधान जोड़े जिन्हें समझौते से निपटाया जा सकता है।

This now includes making a drug to sell or distribute in breach of the 1940 Act but not covered by its Section 27(a-c), and stocking or exhibiting such a non-spurious or non-adulterated drug, among others.

इसमें अब 1940 के अधिनियम का उल्लंघन करते हुए दवा बनाना या बेचना, जो उसकी धारा 27(क-ग) के अंतर्गत नहीं आता, तथा ऐसी अमिश्रित या गैर-नकली दवा का भंडारण या प्रदर्शन करना भी शामिल है।

If compounding is granted and paid for, the key benefit is "immunity from prosecution" for that case, subject to conditions.

यदि समझौता स्वीकृत हो जाता है और जुर्माना अदा कर दिया जाता है, तो उस मामले में मुख्य लाभ "अभियोजन से प्रतिरक्षा" होता है,



- Similarly, the published process does not create room for **consumer groups or whistleblowers** to make representations before immunity is granted.

<b>GS Paper II: International Relations</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>09 January 2026</b>
1.	<b>Trump clears Bill that will slap up to 500% tariffs on nations buying Russian oil</b> रूस से तेल खरीदने वाले देशों पर 500% तक टैरिफ लगाने वाले विधेयक को ट्रंप की मंजूरी
2.	<b>Shrill reactions.</b> तीखी प्रतिक्रियाएँ।
3.	<b>India to continue to work with ISA, back solar adoption</b> भारत ISA के साथ काम जारी रखेगा, सौर अपनाने का समर्थन करेगा
4.	<b>India-Europe's growing ties can bring stability to global politics: Jaishankar</b> भारत-यूरोप के बढ़ते संबंध वैश्विक राजनीति में स्थिरता ला सकते हैं: जयशंकर
5.	<b>The last Russia-U.S. nuclear treaty is about to expire; what happens next?</b> अंतिम रूस-अमेरिका परमाणु संधि समाप्त होने वाली है; अब आगे क्या होगा?
6.	<b>Somalia's fight against extremist militants shows signs of success in Mogadishu</b> सोमालिया का चरमपंथी आतंकवादियों के खिलाफ संघर्ष मोगादिशु में सफलता के संकेत दिखा रहा है

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Trump clears Bill that will slap up to 500% tariffs on nations buying Russian oil

**GS II: IR**  
**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

**Doubling down on his pressure on India to stop importing oil from Russia, U.S. President Donald Trump has 'greenlit' a legislation that will empower him to levy up to 500% in tariffs on countries that buy oil or uranium from Russia, according to senior Senator Lindsey Graham.**

Mr. Graham, a close associate of Mr. Trump, said the U.S. President on Wednesday has "greenlit" the **Russia Sanctions Bill**, which could be voted in Congress "as early as next week".

"This Bill would give President Trump tremendous leverage against countries like China, India, and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying the cheap Russian oil that provides the financing for [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's bloodbath against Ukraine," Mr. Graham said.

The bipartisan Bill has thus far got 84 co-sponsors in the Senate (out of 100 members), and 151 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, suggesting it will be passed smoothly once brought to a vote.

## 'Top priority'

The move came just ahead of the arrival of U.S. Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor to New Delhi, who had said that ensuring India ends its import of Russian oil is a "top priority".

Mr. Gor, who was confirmed and sworn in to the position months ago will begin his tenure as Ambassador to India and "Special

## Tariff target

The Bill gives the U.S. President discretion to choose tariff figures over and above the 25% penalty tariffs already imposed on India

- The Bill, introduced in the Senate in April 2025, has enough co-sponsors from Republican and Democratic parties to suggest a smooth passage once brought to vote

- 84 co-sponsors in Senate out of a total of 100 members

- 151 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives

They [India] must stop buying Russian oil... The President has only imposed a 25% tariff [thus far]

**SERGIO GOR**  
U.S. Ambassador-designate



**Envoy to South and Central Asia** on Monday, and is expected to outline his mission with a public statement.

Earlier this week, Mr. Trump, who had jointly addressed the press along with Mr. Graham, announced they had a "great legislation coming", as Mr. Graham said the Bill would give the U.S. President discretion to choose the figure of the tariffs over and above 25% penalty tariffs already imposed on India.

As a result, Mr. Gor's first order of business in Delhi would likely be to push for a full stop to Indian oil imports from Russia, not just a reduction.

This week, Reliance announced that it has not received any cargo of Russian oil at its Jamnagar refinery through most of December, and does not expect any in January, indicating that it has stopped orders of the oil for now.

Indian PSUs increased their intake sharply in November 2025, but with Reliance stopping all such imports and Nayara Energy, the other big importer under sanctions from Western countries unable to import, it is unlikely that

India's Russian oil purchases can recover to previous levels.

In 2018, under similar pressure from the previous Trump administration, India had "zeroed out" its oil imports from Iran and Venezuela as well.

Meanwhile in Paris, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski expressed "satisfaction" that India has reduced its oil imports from Russia, during a joint press appearance with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Foreign Ministers of France and Germany.

In September, during his Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearings, Mr. Gor said that Mr. Trump had been "crystal clear" on the issue of India's oil purchases.

"They [India] must stop buying Russian oil And I believe almost every single member of this committee has co-sponsored Senator Graham's legislation which has proposed a 500% tariff on secondary purchase and reselling of Russian oil. The President has only imposed a 25% tariff [thus far]," he added, referring to the Russia Sanctions Act.

## Trump clears Bill that will slap up to 500% tariffs on nations buying Russian oil

**रूस से तेल खरीदने वाले देशों पर 500% तक टैरिफ लगाने वाले विधेयक को ट्रंप की मंजूरी**

• Doubling down on his pressure on **India** to stop importing oil from **Russia, U.S. President Donald Trump** has 'greenlit' a legislation that will empower him to **levy up to 500% in tariffs on countries that buy oil or uranium from Russia**, according to senior Senator **Lindsey Graham**.

भारत पर रूस से तेल आयात रोकने का दबाव बढ़ाते हुए, **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने ऐसे विधेयक को 'हरी झंडी' दी है, जिससे उन्हें रूस से तेल या यूरैनियम खरीदने वाले देशों पर **500%** तक टैरिफ लगाने की शक्ति मिलेगी, ऐसा वरिष्ठ सीनेटर **लिनडसे ग्राहम** ने कहा।

• Mr. Graham, a close associate of **Mr. Trump**, said the U.S. President on Wednesday has "greenlit" the **Russia Sanctions Bill**, which could be voted in Congress "as early as next week".

**ट्रंप** के करीबी माने जाने वाले **ग्राहम** ने कहा कि अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने बुधवार को **रूस प्रतिबंध विधेयक** को "मंजूरी" दी है, जिस पर कांग्रेस में "अगले सप्ताह की शुरुआत में ही" मतदान हो सकता है।

• "This Bill would give President Trump tremendous leverage against countries like **China, India, and Brazil** to incentivise them to stop buying the cheap Russian oil that provides the financing for [Russian President **Vladimir**] **Putin's** bloodbath against **Ukraine**," Mr. Graham said.



## Shrill reactions

India's cricket is being held hostage to political compulsions

**GS II: IR**  
Caught in a crossfire, India's cricketing ties with its subcontinental neighbours are in a free fall. If border tensions with Pakistan and the scourge of terrorism affected sporting links across the Wagah, turbulence within Bangladesh and extreme reactions to it within India, have turned out to be another stumbling block. The ghastly lynching of members of the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh drew rightful condemnation across the Indian landscape, and yet the reflexive sporting churn should have been avoided. In a social media age wherein violence and insults tend to get amplified, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) responded prematurely in forcing Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to release its Bangladeshi left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman. That the Indian Premier League (IPL) is only commencing on March 26 and much water would have flowed down by then in the Ganges and the Padma, was lost on the officials. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was quick in its rejoinder. A security threat to its squad was propped up as an excuse and a missive was sent to the International Cricket Council (ICC) to relocate Bangladesh's games in the forthcoming ICC T20 World Cup, away from host India. Bangladesh also proposed a ban on the telecast of the IPL in the country.

With the T20 World Cup launching on February 7 in India and Sri Lanka, a last minute scrambling for venues will be difficult. Incidentally, Pakistan's games are slotted in Sri Lanka and even its big contest against India will be staged at Colombo on February 15. With Bangladesh set to play four preliminary league games in India, a reallocation will affect hosting logistics. This is a conundrum that could have been avoided had the BCCI waited for the hostile tide to turn. The ties that bind India and Bangladesh, a nation birthed through the assistance of the former in 1971, now stand frayed. Diplomacy is a complex interplay of adjustment and pragmatism. The deposed former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought refuge and was granted one in Delhi, while the Indian government also paid its last respects to her arch-rival and former Prime Minister, the late Khaleda Zia. The ICC chairman, Jay Shah, has an unenviable task of maintaining neutrality while dealing with the present crisis. The shrill reactions on either side of the border need to be tempered; sport should not be handcuffed by political compulsions.

## Shrill reactions. तीखी प्रतिक्रियाएँ।

• In a **social media age** wherein violence and insults tend to get amplified, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** responded prematurely in forcing **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** to release its Bangladeshi left-arm seamer **Mustafizur Rahman**.

• Bangladesh also proposed a **ban on the telecast of the IPL** in the country.

• Incidentally, **Pakistan's games** are slotted in **Sri Lanka** and even its big contest against **India** will be staged at **Colombo on February 15**.

संयोग से, **पाकिस्तान के मैच श्रीलंका** में तय हैं और **भारत के खिलाफ** उसका बड़ा मुकाबला भी **15 फरवरी को कोलंबो** में खेला जाएगा।

• With **Bangladesh** set to play **four preliminary league games in India**, a reallocation will affect **hosting logistics**.

**बांग्लादेश के भारत में चार प्रारंभिक लीग मैच** खेलने के कार्यक्रम के कारण किसी भी बदलाव से **मेज़बानी व्यवस्था** प्रभावित होगी।

• This is a **conundrum** that could have been avoided had the **BCCI** waited for the hostile tide to turn.

यह एक ऐसा **दुविधाजनक संकट** है जिसे टाला जा सकता था यदि **BCCI** प्रतिकूल माहौल के शांत होने का इंतज़ार करता।

• The ties that bind **India and Bangladesh**, a nation birthed through the assistance of the former in **1971**, now stand **frayed**.

**भारत और बांग्लादेश** को जोड़ने वाले रिश्ते, जो **1971** में पहले की सहायता से जन्मे थे, अब **कमज़ोर** पड़ते दिख रहे हैं।

• **Diplomacy is a complex interplay of adjustment and pragmatism**.

**कूटनीति समायोजन और व्यवहारिकता** का एक जटिल संतुलन है।

• The deposed former Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** sought refuge and was granted one in **Delhi**, while the Indian government also paid its last respects to her arch-rival and former Prime Minister, the late **Khaleda Zia**.

अपदस्थ बांग्लादेश की पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **शेख हसीना** ने **दिल्ली** में शरण ली और उन्हें शरण दी गई, वहीं भारत सरकार ने उनकी कट्टर प्रतिद्वंद्वी और पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री, दिवंगत **खालिदा ज़िया** को भी अंतिम श्रद्धांजलि दी।

• The **ICC chairman, Jay Shah**, has an unenviable task of **maintaining neutrality** while dealing with the present crisis.



# India to continue to work with ISA, back solar adoption

GS II: IR

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

India will continue to work with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and support solar adoption and energy transition goals, government sources said on Thursday, even as the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the alliance.

In an executive order signed on January 7, the U.S. sought to withdraw from 66 “wasteful, ineffective or harmful international organisations”, which also included the solar alliance.

“These withdrawals will end American taxpayer funding and involvement in entities that advance globalist agendas over U.S. priorities, or that address important issues inefficiently or ineffectively such that U.S. taxpayer dollars are best allocated in other ways to support the relevant missions,” read a White House fact sheet.

The 125-member alliance was conceptualised on the sidelines of COP21 in Paris in 2015 and was formally instituted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of France

**The U.S. had sought to withdraw from 66 ‘wasteful, ineffective organisations’ which also included the ISA**

Francois Hollande.

It aspires to unlock \$1 trillion in solar investments by 2030 whilst reducing technology and financing costs relating to solar implementation.

The sources stated that the alliance’s programmes are operational in more than 95 countries and had supported creation of national pipelines, regulatory frameworks, and market creation.

They added that the alliance had been “successful” in demonstrating the “feasibility and effectiveness” of solar solutions.

Taking note of the latest development, the sources held, “ISA will continue to work with member countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states, in development and deployment of solar energy, mobilising finance, building capacity, and reducing risk perceptions.”

**India to continue to work with ISA, back solar adoption**

**भारत ISA के साथ काम जारी रखेगा, सौर अपनाने का समर्थन करेगा**

• India will continue to work with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and support **solar adoption** and **energy transition goals**, government sources said on **Thursday**, even as the **U.S.** announced its **withdrawal** from the alliance.

सरकारी सूत्रों ने गुरुवार को कहा कि **भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन (ISA)** के साथ काम जारी रखेगा और **सौर अपनाने** तथा **ऊर्जा संक्रमण लक्ष्यों** का समर्थन करेगा, जबकि **अमेरिका** ने गठबंधन से अपनी **वापसी** की घोषणा की।

• In an **executive order** signed on **January 7**, the **U.S. sought to withdraw from 66 “wasteful, ineffective or harmful international organisations”**, which also included the **solar alliance**.

**7 जनवरी** को हस्ताक्षरित एक **कार्यकारी आदेश** में **अमेरिका** ने **66 “अपव्ययी, अप्रभावी या हानिकारक अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनों”** से हटने की मांग की, जिनमें **सौर गठबंधन** भी शामिल था।

• “These withdrawals will end **American taxpayer funding** and involvement in entities that advance **globalist agendas** over **U.S. priorities**, or that address important issues **inefficiently or ineffectively** such that **U.S. taxpayer dollars** are best allocated in other ways to support the relevant missions,” read a **White House fact sheet**.

**व्हाइट हाउस फैक्ट शीट** में कहा गया, “ये वापसी **अमेरिकी करदाताओं की फंडिंग** और उन संस्थाओं में भागीदारी को समाप्त करेगी जो **अमेरिकी प्राथमिकताओं** से ऊपर **वैश्विक एजेंडों** को आगे बढ़ाती हैं, या जो महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को **अकुशल या अप्रभावी** तरीके से संबोधित करती हैं, जिससे **अमेरिकी करदाताओं का धन** अन्य तरीकों से संबंधित मिशनों के समर्थन में बेहतर ढंग से आवंटित किया जा सके।”

- The **125-member alliance** was conceptualised on the sidelines of **COP21 in Paris in 2015** and was formally instituted by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President of France Francois Hollande**.

**125 सदस्यीय गठबंधन** की परिकल्पना **2015** में **पेरिस** में **COP21** के इतर की गई थी और इसे औपचारिक रूप से **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** तथा **फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति फ्रांस्वा ओलांद** द्वारा स्थापित किया गया था।

- It aspires to unlock **\$1 trillion in solar investments** by **2030** whilst reducing **technology** and **financing costs** relating to solar implementation.

इसका उद्देश्य **2030** तक **\$1 ट्रिलियन** के **सौर निवेश** को खोलना है, साथ ही सौर कार्यान्वयन से जुड़ी **प्रौद्योगिकी** और **वित्तपोषण लागत** को कम करना है।

- The sources stated that the alliance’s **programmes** are operational in more than **95 countries** and had supported creation of **national pipelines, regulatory frameworks, and market creation**.

सूत्रों ने बताया कि गठबंधन के **कार्यक्रम 95 से अधिक देशों** में संचालित हैं और उन्होंने **राष्ट्रीय पाइपलाइनों, नियामक ढाँचों, और बाजार निर्माण** के सृजन का समर्थन किया है।



- They added that the alliance had been **“successful”** in demonstrating the **“feasibility and effectiveness”** of **solar solutions**.  
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि गठबंधन सौर समाधानों की **“व्यवहार्यता और प्रभावशीलता”** प्रदर्शित करने में **“सफल”** रहा है।
- Taking note of the latest development, the sources held, **“ISA will continue to work with member countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states, in development and deployment of solar energy, mobilising finance, building capacity, and reducing risk perceptions.”**  
नवीनतम घटनाक्रम पर ध्यान देते हुए स्रोतों ने कहा, **“ISA सदस्य देशों के साथ, विशेष रूप से अल्पविकसित देशों और छोटे द्वीपीय विकासशील राज्यों के साथ, सौर ऊर्जा के विकास और परिनियोजन, वित्त जुटाने, क्षमता निर्माण, और जोखिम धारणाओं को कम करने में काम जारी रखेगा।”**

## India-Europe's growing ties can bring stability to global politics: Jaishankar

**GS II IR**  
**Sriram Lakshman**

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's first official visit for 2026 began in Europe, with a visit to Paris and Luxembourg, against the backdrop of major shifts in global politics including the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by the U.S. and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. In Paris, the Minister met his French, German and Polish counterparts for the India-Weimar Triangle meeting. Mr. Jaishankar said he chose Europe to kickstart the year because India-Europe ties were growing and because the two sides could bring stability to the international economy and global politics.

“Why did I come to Europe? I think it was a very conscious choice. It was a choice which reflected our belief that this relationship with Europe is really poised to grow, grow to the next level,” he said at a joint press conference in Paris on Wednesday, with his Weimar Triangle counterparts.

“I think we can bring more stability, both into the international economy and global politics, and that really is why I'm here,” he said.

India's relationship with the EU and with Europe had the most room to grow, among all its major relationships, Mr. Jaishankar said. The discussions in Paris included India sharing perspectives on challenges in the Indo-Pacific and on the Ukraine conflict, he said on X.

The European Union



**Deepening relations:** S. Jaishankar during the first India-Weimar format meeting in Paris on Wednesday. ANI

and India are working to announce a ‘Free Trade’ Agreement (FTA) during the visit of EU leaders Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa to India for Republic Day later this month. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is in Brussels on a two-day visit (January 8-9) for discussions with his EU counterpart, Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič. German Chancellor Frederik Merz is due in Ahmedabad and Bengaluru next week while French President Emmanuel Macron is due in New Delhi next month for the India AI Impact Summit.

Mr. Jaishankar also held bilateral discussions with France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot.

### ‘Build bridges’

Mr. Barrot emphasised that it was the first time a non-European partner had been invited to the Weimar Triangle meeting format at the Foreign Minister level. The rationale, as per Mr. Barrot, was that France currently held the G7 presidency and India, the presidency of BRICS. He also pointed to the FTA that is approaching finalisation.

“In an increasingly vio-

lent world where balances are being questioned, it is important to build bridges between centres of stability, dialogue and responsibility,” the French Minister said.

Europe has been reeling from U.S. President Donald Trump's ambiguity about the transatlantic relationship, including his qualified and wavering support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. More recently, following the U.S.'s capture of Mr. Maduro, Mr. Trump has renewed his push to acquire Greenland, an autonomous region of Denmark. This has alarmed European allies of the U.S., many of whom have defended Denmark and Greenland's sovereignty to determine their future.

“There's no such thing as a collective West. There's no such thing as a Global South,” the French Foreign Minister said at Wednesday's press conference.

“There are but nations who can dialogue for their mutual interests,” he said, adding that countries could come together to defend international law and sovereignty.

## India-Europe's growing ties can bring stability to global politics: Jaishankar

**भारत-यूरोप के बढ़ते संबंध वैश्विक राजनीति में स्थिरता ला सकते हैं: जयशंकर**

• Mr. Jaishankar said he chose **Europe** to kickstart the year because **India-Europe ties** were growing and because the two sides could bring **stability to the international economy and global politics**.

श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि उन्होंने वर्ष की शुरुआत के लिए **यूरोप** को चुना क्योंकि **भारत-यूरोप संबंध** बढ़ रहे हैं और दोनों पक्ष **अंतरराष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था और वैश्विक राजनीति में स्थिरता** ला सकते हैं।

• “Why did I come to Europe? I think it was a very conscious choice. It was a choice which reflected our belief that this relationship with Europe is really poised to grow, grow to the next level,” he said at a **joint press conference in Paris** on Wednesday, with his **Weimar Triangle counterparts**.

“मैं यूरोप क्यों आया? मुझे लगता है यह एक बहुत ही जागरूक चुनाव था। यह चुनाव हमारे विश्वास को दर्शाता है कि यूरोप के साथ यह संबंध वास्तव में बढ़ने के लिए तैयार है, अगले स्तर तक बढ़ने के लिए,” उन्होंने बुधवार को **पेरिस में संयुक्त प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस** में अपने **वीमार ट्रायंगल समकक्षों** के साथ कहा।

• “I think we can bring more stability, both into the international economy and global politics, and that really is why I'm here,” he said.

“मुझे लगता है कि हम **अंतरराष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था और वैश्विक राजनीति** दोनों में अधिक **स्थिरता** ला सकते हैं, और वास्तव में यही कारण है कि मैं यहां हूँ,” उन्होंने कहा।

• India's relationship with the **EU** and with **Europe** had the most room to grow, among all its major relationships, Mr. Jaishankar said.

श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि भारत का **ईयू और यूरोप** के



साथ संबंध, सभी प्रमुख संबंधों में सबसे अधिक बढ़ने की संभावना रखता है।

- The discussions in Paris included India sharing perspectives on challenges in the **Indo-Pacific** and on the **Ukraine conflict**, he said on **X**.  
पेरिस में हुई चर्चाओं में भारत ने **इंडो-पैसिफिक** क्षेत्र की चुनौतियों और **यूक्रेन संघर्ष** पर अपने दृष्टिकोण साझा किए, उन्होंने **X** पर कहा।
- The **European Union** and **India** are working to announce a **'Free Trade' Agreement (FTA)** during the visit of **EU leaders Ursula von der Leyen** and **António Costa** to **India** for **Republic Day** later this month.
- More recently, following the U.S.'s capture of Mr. **Maduro**, Mr. Trump has renewed his push to acquire **Greenland**, an autonomous region of **Denmark**.  
हाल ही में, अमेरिका द्वारा श्री **मादुरो** के कब्जे के बाद, श्री ट्रंप ने **ग्रीनलैंड**, जो कि **डेनमार्क** का स्वायत्त क्षेत्र है, प्राप्त करने के अपने प्रयास को फिर से शुरू किया है।

## The last Russia-U.S. nuclear treaty is about to expire; what happens next?

GS II: IR

**Reuters**  
LONDON

Even at the height of their Cold War nuclear rivalry, the United States and the Soviet Union thrashed out a series of treaties to keep the arms race from spiralling out of control.

Though they agreed on little else, leaders in Moscow and Washington saw value in talks – from 1969 until long after the Soviet collapse in 1991 – to create a stable and predictable framework limiting the size of their nuclear arsenals.

Now the last U.S.-Russia nuclear treaty, New START, is just weeks away from expiring on February 5, and what comes next is uncertain. The two countries, preoccupied by the war in Ukraine, have not held any



Trump has not formally responded to Putin's proposal that they agree to adhere to New START limits for a further 12 months. AFP

talks on a successor treaty.

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed in September that both parties should agree for a further 12 months to adhere to the New START limits, which cap the number of deployed nuclear warheads at 1,550 on each side.

U.S. President Donald

Trump has yet to deliver a formal response, and Western security analysts are divided about the wisdom of accepting Mr. Putin's offer.

On one hand, it would buy time to chart a way forward, while sending a political signal that both sides want to preserve a vestige of arms control.

On the other hand, it would allow Russia to keep developing weapons systems outside the scope of New START, including its Burevestnik cruise missile and Poseidon torpedo.

### The Chinese factor

Former U.S. defence planner Greg Weaver noted in a paper for the Atlantic Council that Russia had refused since 2023 to accept mutual inspections that would provide Washington with assurances that Moscow is still complying with the treaty.

Agreeing to Mr. Putin's proposal, Mr. Weaver added, would also send a message to China that the United States would not build up its strategic nuclear forces in response to China's fast-growing nuclear arsenal.

## The last Russia-U.S. nuclear treaty is about to expire; what happens next? अंतिम रूस-अमेरिका परमाणु संधि समाप्त होने वाली है; अब आगे क्या होगा?

- Even at the height of their **Cold War nuclear rivalry**, the **United States** and the **Soviet Union** thrashed out a series of **treaties** to keep the **arms race** from spiralling out of control.  
अपने **शीत युद्ध परमाणु प्रतिद्वंद्विता** के चरम पर भी, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** और **सोवियत संघ** ने एक श्रृंखला **संधियों** पर चर्चा की ताकि **हथियारों की दौड़** नियंत्रण से बाहर न हो।
- Though they agreed on little else, leaders in **Moscow** and **Washington** saw value in **talks** — from 1969 until long after the **Soviet collapse** in 1991 — **to create a stable and predictable framework limiting the size of their nuclear arsenals**.  
हालांकि अन्य मामलों में उन्होंने कम ही सहमति बनाई, **मास्को** और **वॉशिंगटन** के नेताओं ने **वार्ताओं** में मूल्य देखा — 1969 से लेकर 1991 में **सोवियत पतन** के लंबे समय बाद तक — ताकि उनके **परमाणु शस्त्रागार** के आकार को सीमित करने के लिए एक स्थिर और पूर्वानुमान योग्य **ढांचा** बनाया जा सके।



- Now the last **U.S.-Russia nuclear treaty, New START**, is just weeks away from **expiring on February 5**, and what comes next is **uncertain**.  
अब अंतिम **अमेरिका-रूस परमाणु संधि, न्यू START**, केवल कुछ हफ्तों में **5 फरवरी** को समाप्त होने वाली है, और आगे क्या होगा यह **अनिश्चित** है।
- The two countries, preoccupied by the **war in Ukraine**, have not held any talks on a **successor treaty**.  
दोनों देश, **यूक्रेन युद्ध** में व्यस्त, ने किसी **उत्तराधिकारी संधि** पर कोई वार्ता नहीं की है।
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** proposed in **September** that both parties should agree for a further **12 months** to adhere to the **New START** limits, which **cap the number of deployed nuclear warheads at 1,550 on each side**.  
**रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन** ने **सितंबर** में प्रस्ताव रखा कि दोनों पक्ष अगले **12 महीने** तक **न्यू START** सीमाओं का पालन करने पर सहमत हों, जो प्रत्येक पक्ष के तैनात **परमाणु वारहेड्स** की संख्या को **1,550** पर सीमित करती है।
- **U.S. President Donald Trump** has yet to deliver a formal response, and **Western security analysts** are divided about the wisdom of accepting Mr. Putin's offer.  
**अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने अभी तक औपचारिक प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी है, और **पश्चिमी सुरक्षा विश्लेषक** इस बात को लेकर विभाजित हैं कि श्री पुतिन के प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करना कितना बुद्धिमानी भरा है।
- On one hand, it would buy **time** to chart a way forward, while sending a **political signal** that both sides want to preserve a vestige of **arms control**.  
एक ओर, यह आगे की योजना बनाने के लिए **समय खरीद** देगा, और साथ ही यह **राजनीतिक संकेत** भी भेजेगा कि दोनों पक्ष **हथियार नियंत्रण** की एक निशानियों को बनाए रखना चाहते हैं।
- On the other hand, it would allow **Russia** to keep developing **weapons systems** outside the scope of **New START**, including its **Burevestnik cruise missile** and **Poseidon torpedo**.
- Agreeing to Mr. Putin's proposal, Mr. Weaver added, would also send a message to **China** that the **United States** would not build up its **strategic nuclear forces** in response to **China's fast-growing nuclear arsenal**.

## Somalia's fight against extremist militants shows signs of success in Mogadishu

Associated Press  
MOGADISHU

Mogadishu's first line of defence against the next militant attack on Somalia's capital ranges from machine gunners in pick-up trucks to young men in plain clothes manning checkpoints.

One of the leaders is Abdikani Ali Mohamed, a teenage-faced colonel whose authority has grown in the city as Somalia's government tries to dismantle al-Shabab networks.

Mr. Mohamed's operatives are so suspicious that even an armoured vehicle — the ultimate status symbol beloved by important people — triggers alarm if it has not passed through a

checkpoint for days.

"What we have clearly understood is these people [al-Shabab] are always evolving," Mr. Mohamed said. "The strategy is always evolving in terms of attack mechanisms and the complexity they are utilising."

After his election in 2022, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud declared a "total war" against the militants who oppose his fragile government and are responsible for killing or maiming thousands of people over the years. He has not only vowed to attack al-Shabab on the frontlines but also to target its finances and standing among ordinary Somalis.

Somalia has been with-

out a properly functional central government since the overthrow by warlords of the dictator Siad Barre in 1991.

Authorities have said that the effort to stop al-Shabab — an operation backed by African Union peacekeepers and military advisers from countries such as Egypt and Turkey — must be led by intelligence gatherers, putting the National Intelligence and Security Agency, or NISA, at the centre of the unwieldy security apparatus trying to keep the federal government operational.

The last major attack by al-Shabab came in August 2024 and killed dozens at the city's Lido beach, although there have been an-



President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has vowed to attack al-Shabab on the frontlines and target its finances. AFP

bitious plots like the failed attempt to assassinate the President in March and a prison attack in October.

Security officials claim success because of the rarity these days of major attacks in Mogadishu by al-Shabab, which is fighting to impose Islamic law in

the Horn of Africa nation. The group has ties to al-Qaida.

A "ring of steel" around Mogadishu makes it harder for al-Shabab to penetrate the city, said Abdi Guleed, a Somali who is an independent analyst of the Horn. "The integration of high-

tech surveillance and improved intelligence sharing has disrupted several cells, but this remains a tactical success."

Attacks by al-Shabab typically involve improvised explosive devices hidden in cars and detonated at strategic locations, especially the gates of popular hotels and government buildings. The most powerful bombings have killed hundreds of civilians at a time.

Hotels, restaurants, and other places frequented by government officials are now shielded by concrete barriers, while the presidency and most embassies are ensconced in a fortified zone near the airport, whose security is Mr. Mo-

hamed's responsibility.

"For us we are at war," he said, describing his work after inspecting checkpoints in Mogadishu, where security measures now also mandate shop owners to install security cameras. "This is a battle that is going to be back and forth — and one we are winning currently."

Facing military pressure, including occasional U.S. airstrikes, al-Shabab has retreated to areas of southern and central Somalia that suit its guerrilla tactics.

Beyond Mogadishu, the conflict "has shifted from a rapid offensive to a grinding war of attrition" as al-Shabab fighters retreat under pressure to resupply

and then ambush government troops and their allies in remote towns, according to Mr. Guleed.

In parts of Somalia's Lower Shabelle region — the country's food basket and now also a battleground in the fight with al-Shabab — confrontations between government troops and militants have become more frequent in recent months.

There are construction sites across Mogadishu, a city of just under 3 million people. Cafes and ice cream parlors are sprouting, and at night the neon lights come on in the main thoroughfares, emitting the kind of life that Mogadishu's senior residents hope for.

## Somalia's fight against extremist militants shows signs of success in Mogadishu

सोमालिया का चरमपंथी आतंकवादियों के खिलाफ संघर्ष मोगादिशु में सफलता के संकेत दिखा रहा है

- One of the leaders is **Abdikani Ali Mohamed**, a teenage-faced **colonel** whose **authority** has grown in the city as Somalia's government tries to dismantle **al-Shabab networks**.
- Security officials claim **success** because of the rarity these days of major attacks in **Mogadishu** by **al-Shabab**, which is **fighting to impose Islamic law in the Horn of Africa**



nation.

सुरक्षा अधिकारियों का दावा है कि यह सफलता है क्योंकि आजकल मोगादिशु में अल-शाबाब द्वारा बड़े हमले दुर्लभ हो गए हैं, जो हॉर्न ऑफ़ अफ्रीका देश में इस्लामिक कानून लागू करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है।

- The group has ties to al-Qaida.  
इस समूह का अल-कायदा से संबंध है।
- A “ring of steel” around Mogadishu makes it harder for al-Shabab to penetrate the city, said
- Cafes and ice cream parlors are sprouting, and at night the neon lights come on in the main thoroughfares, emitting the kind of life that Mogadishu’s senior residents hope for.  
कैफे और आइसक्रीम पार्लर उग रहे हैं, और रात में मुख्य मार्गों पर नियाँन लाइट्स जलती हैं, जो उस प्रकार की जीवन की झलक देती हैं जिसकी उम्मीद मोगादिशु के वरिष्ठ नागरिक करते हैं

GS Paper III: Economy,	
TOPICS COVERED	09 January 2026
1.	UN body pegs India’s growth at 7.2% this fiscal संयुक्त राष्ट्र संस्था ने इस वित्त वर्ष भारत की वृद्धि दर 7.2% आंकी
2.	Govt. seeks feedback on draft Bill to regulate pesticides, promote ‘safe and effective’ use कीटनाशकों को विनियमित करने और ‘सुरक्षित व प्रभावी’ उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पर सरकार ने प्रतिक्रिया मांगी
3.	GSDP share as criterion for central-State transfers केंद्रीय-राज्य वित्तीय हस्तांतरण के लिए GSDP हिस्सेदारी को मानदंड बनाना
4.	Is the 10-minute delivery model necessary? क्या 10 मिनट की डिलीवरी मॉडल वास्तव में आवश्यक है?
5.	Textiles ministry signs MoUs with 15 States under Tex-RAMPS scheme टेक्सटाइल्स मंत्रालय ने Tex-RAMPS योजना के तहत 15 राज्यों के साथ MoU किए
6.	After PRAGATI review, ₹3 lakh crore frozen power projects completed PRAGATI समीक्षा के बाद, ₹3 लाख करोड़ के जमे हुए पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स पूरे किए गए



# UN body pegs India's growth at 7.2% this fiscal

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

A day after the Union government estimated the economy to grow at 7.4% in financial year 2025-26, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) said consumption and public investment can "largely offset" the impact of tariffs imposed by the U.S. and enable India to grow by 7.2% this fiscal.

However, the report warned that continuing tariffs could weigh on the economy as 18% of Indian exports are U.S.-bound. It said "tax reforms and monetary easing should provide additional near-term

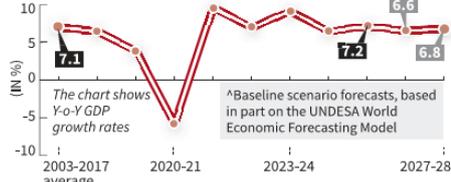
support", adding that strong demand from other markets, including Europe and the West Asia, will limit the tariff impact.

The report predicted India's growth to be 7.4% in calendar year 2025. On a fiscal year basis, it estimated India to grow at 6.6% and 6.8% in 2026-27 and 2027-28, respectively.

"In India, growth is estimated at 7.4% for 2025 and forecast at 6.6% for 2026 and 6.7% for 2027, supported by resilient consumption and strong public investment, which should largely offset the adverse impact of higher United States tariffs," the report, presented in the UN DESA's World Economic Situation

## Varying forecasts

UNDESA estimates India to grow by 7.2% in FY26, slightly lower than the 7.4% estimated by the Indian government



^Baseline scenario forecasts, based in part on the UNDESA World Economic Forecasting Model

tion and Prospects 2026, said.

On the other hand, the report added that, while the tariffs may adversely affect some product categories, key exports such as electronics and smart

phones are expected to remain exempt.

"On the supply side, continued expansion in manufacturing and services sectors will remain a key driver of growth throughout the forecast period,"

the report said.

In 2025, "India recorded strong growth in gross fixed capital formation, led by higher public spending on physical and digital infrastructure, defence, and renewable energy", the report said.

"The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) countries continued to undertake large-scale capital investments aligned with long-term economic diversification strategies." However, in contrast, the report noted that China saw a contraction in its fixed asset investment through the first three quarters of 2025, due to the ongoing weakness in the property sector.

## UN body pegs India's growth at 7.2% this fiscal संयुक्त राष्ट्र संस्था ने इस वित्त वर्ष भारत की वृद्धि दर 7.2% आंकी

- A day after the Union government estimated the economy to grow at 7.4% in financial year 2025-26, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) said consumption and public investment can "largely offset" the impact of tariffs imposed by the U.S. and enable India to grow by 7.2% this fiscal.  
केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में अर्थव्यवस्था की 7.4% वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाए जाने के एक दिन बाद, संयुक्त राष्ट्र आर्थिक और सामाजिक मामलों का विभाग (UN DESA) ने कहा कि उपभोग और सार्वजनिक निवेश अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए टैरिफ के प्रभाव को "काफी हद तक संतुलित" कर सकते हैं और इस वित्त वर्ष भारत को 7.2% की वृद्धि दिला सकते हैं।
- However, the report warned that continuing tariffs could weigh on the economy as 18% of Indian exports are U.S.-bound.  
हालांकि, रिपोर्ट ने चेतावनी दी कि लगातार टैरिफ अर्थव्यवस्था पर बोझ डाल सकते हैं क्योंकि भारतीय निर्यात का 18% अमेरिका को जाता है।
- It said "tax reforms and monetary easing should provide additional near-term support", adding that strong demand from other markets, including Europe and West Asia, will limit the tariff impact.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि "कर सुधार और मौद्रिक सहजता निकट अवधि में अतिरिक्त समर्थन प्रदान करनी चाहिए", साथ ही यूरोप और पश्चिम एशिया सहित अन्य बाजारों से मजबूत मांग टैरिफ के प्रभाव को सीमित करेगी।
- The report predicted India's growth to be 7.4% in calendar year 2025.  
रिपोर्ट ने कैलेंडर वर्ष 2025 में भारत की वृद्धि दर 7.4% रहने का अनुमान लगाया।
- On a fiscal year basis, it estimated India to grow at 6.6% and 6.8% in 2026-27 and 2027-28, respectively.  
वित्तीय वर्ष के आधार पर, रिपोर्ट ने 2026-27 और 2027-28 में भारत की वृद्धि क्रमशः 6.6% और 6.8% रहने का अनुमान लगाया।
- "In India, growth is estimated at 7.4% for 2025 and forecast at 6.6% for 2026 and 6.7% for 2027, supported by resilient consumption and strong public investment, which should largely offset the adverse impact of higher United States tariffs," the report, presented in the UN DESA's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026, said.  
UN DESA की World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026 में प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि "भारत में 2025 के लिए वृद्धि 7.4% आंकी गई है और 2026 के लिए 6.6% तथा 2027 के लिए 6.7% का



अनुमान है, जिसे मजबूत उपभोग और सशक्त सार्वजनिक निवेश का समर्थन मिलेगा, जो **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के उच्च टैरिफ** के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव को काफी हद तक संतुलित करेगा।”

- On the other hand, the report added that, **while the tariffs may adversely affect some product categories, key exports such as electronics and smartphones are expected to remain exempt.**

दूसरी ओर, रिपोर्ट में जोड़ा गया कि हालांकि टैरिफ कुछ उत्पाद श्रेणियों को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित कर सकते हैं, लेकिन **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और स्मार्टफोन** जैसे प्रमुख निर्यात के मुक्त रहने की उम्मीद है।

- “On the supply side, continued expansion in **manufacturing and services sectors** will remain a key driver of growth throughout the forecast period,” the report said.  
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि “आपूर्ति पक्ष में, **विनिर्माण और सेवा क्षेत्रों** में निरंतर विस्तार पूर्वानुमान अवधि के दौरान वृद्धि का प्रमुख कारक बना रहेगा।”

- In **2025**, “India recorded strong growth in **gross fixed capital formation**, led by **higher public spending on physical and digital infrastructure, defence, and renewable energy**”, the report said.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि **2025** में “भारत ने **सकल स्थिर पूंजी निर्माण** में मजबूत वृद्धि दर्ज की, जिसका नेतृत्व भौतिक और डिजिटल अवसंरचना, **रक्षा**, और **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** पर अधिक सार्वजनिक व्यय ने किया।”

- “The **Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)** countries continued to undertake large-scale capital investments aligned with long-term economic diversification strategies.”

“**खाड़ी अरब राज्यों के सहयोग परिषद (GCC)** देशों ने दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक विविधीकरण रणनीतियों के अनुरूप बड़े पैमाने पर पूंजी निवेश जारी रखा।”

- However, in contrast, the report noted that **China saw a contraction in its fixed asset investment** through the first three quarters of **2025**, due to the ongoing weakness in the **property sector**.

हालांकि, इसके विपरीत, रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि **चीन** में **2025** की पहली तीन तिमाहियों के दौरान **स्थिर परिसंपत्ति निवेश** में संकुचन देखा गया, जिसका कारण **रियल एस्टेट क्षेत्र** में जारी कमजोरी है।

## Govt. seeks feedback on draft Bill to regulate pesticides, promote ‘safe and effective’ use

GS III: Economy

A.M. Jigeesh  
NEW DELHI

The Union Agriculture Ministry has invited public comments on the draft **Pesticides Management Bill** that aims to repeal the **Insecticides Act of 1968**.

According to the draft, the **new Bill will regulate manufacture, import, packaging, labelling, storage, advertisement, sale, transport, distribution, use and disposal of pesticides** to “ensure availability of **safe and effective pesticides**”.

The Bill strives to **minimise risk to human beings, animals, living organisms other than pests, and the environment, and promote pesticides that are “biological and based on**



The Bill strives to minimise risk to human beings, animals, living organisms other than pests, and the environment. FILE PHOTO

**traditional knowledge”.**

It defines “**pesticide**” as a substance or mixture of substances, including a formulation, of chemical or biological origin intended to prevent, destroy, attract, repel, mitigate or control any pest in agriculture, industry, pest control

operations, public health, storage or for ordinary use. The definition includes any substance intended for use as a plant growth regulator, defoliant, desiccant, fruit thinning agent, or sprouting inhibitor and also any substance applied to crops either before or after har-

vest to protect them from deterioration during storage and transport.

The draft provides for constituting the **Central Pesticides Board** to advise the Central government and State governments on scientific and technical matters on administering the proposed Act. It will advise the Union government in making criteria for **good manufacturing practices, including processes for pesticide manufacturers, best practices for pest control operators, procedure for the recall of pesticides, the criteria for the disposal of pesticides and packages in an environmentally sound manner and standards for the advertisement of pesticides.**

As per the draft Bill, the

Union government can appoint a registration committee to make decisions on registration of pesticides, specify conditions subject to which a certificate of registration is granted, periodically review the safety and efficacy of registered pesticides and amend or cancel certificates of registration. The committee shall also maintain a national register of pesticides in digital form.

The draft Bill also provides for a punishment of imprisonment up to five years, or fine from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh or with both for the manufacture, import, sale, exhibit for sale, transport, distribute, use or cause to use of pesticide in “death or grievous hurt of another.”



## Govt. seeks feedback on draft Bill to regulate pesticides, promote 'safe and effective' use

### कीटनाशकों को विनियमित करने और 'सुरक्षित व प्रभावी' उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पर सरकार ने प्रतिक्रिया मांगी

- The **Union Agriculture Ministry** has invited public comments on the **draft Pesticides Management Bill** that aims to repeal the **Insecticides Act of 1968**.  
केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्रालय ने कीटनाशक प्रबंधन विधेयक के मसौदे पर सार्वजनिक टिप्पणियां आमंत्रित की हैं, जिसका उद्देश्य 1968 के कीटनाशक अधिनियम को निरस्त करना है।
- According to the draft, the **new Bill will regulate manufacture, import, packaging, labelling, storage, advertisement, sale, transport, distribution, use and disposal of pesticides** to "ensure availability of **safe and effective pesticides**".  
मसौदे के अनुसार, नया विधेयक कीटनाशकों के निर्माण, आयात, पैकेजिंग, लेबलिंग, भंडारण, विज्ञापन, बिक्री, परिवहन, वितरण, उपयोग और निपटान को विनियमित करेगा ताकि **सुरक्षित और प्रभावी कीटनाशकों** की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।
- The **Bill strives to minimise risk to human beings, animals, living organisms other than pests, and the environment, and promote pesticides that are "biological and based on traditional knowledge"**.  
यह विधेयक मनुष्यों, पशुओं, कीटों के अलावा अन्य जीवों और पर्यावरण के लिए जोखिम को न्यूनतम करने तथा **"जैविक और पारंपरिक ज्ञान पर आधारित"** कीटनाशकों को बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास करता है।
- It defines "**pesticide**" as a substance or mixture of substances, including a formulation, of chemical or biological origin intended to prevent, destroy, attract, repel, mitigate or control any pest in agriculture, industry, pest control operations, public health, storage or for ordinary use.  
यह **"कीटनाशक"** को रासायनिक या जैविक मूल के पदार्थ या पदार्थों के मिश्रण, जिसमें फार्मूलेशन भी शामिल है, के रूप में परिभाषित करता है, जिसका उद्देश्य कृषि, उद्योग, कीट नियंत्रण कार्यों, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य, भंडारण या सामान्य उपयोग में किसी भी कीट को रोकना, नष्ट करना, आकर्षित करना, दूर भगाना, कम करना या नियंत्रित करना है।
- The definition includes any substance intended for use as a plant growth regulator, defoliant, desiccant, fruit thinning agent, or sprouting inhibitor and also any substance applied to crops either before or after harvest to protect them from deterioration during storage and transport.  
इस परिभाषा में पौध वृद्धि नियामक, पत्तियां गिराने वाला, सुखाने वाला, फल पतलापन एजेंट या अंकुरण अवरोधक के रूप में उपयोग होने वाला कोई भी पदार्थ, तथा भंडारण और परिवहन के दौरान फसलों को खराब होने से बचाने के लिए कटाई से पहले या बाद में लगाया गया कोई भी पदार्थ शामिल है।
- The draft provides for constituting the **Central Pesticides Board** to advise the Central government and State governments on scientific and technical matters on administering the proposed Act.  
मसौदा प्रस्तावित अधिनियम के प्रशासन से संबंधित वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी मामलों पर केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों को सलाह देने के लिए **केंद्रीय कीटनाशक बोर्ड** के गठन का प्रावधान करता है।
- It will advise the Union government in making criteria for **good manufacturing practices**, including processes for pesticide manufacturers, best practices for pest control operators, procedure for the recall of pesticides, the criteria for the disposal of pesticides and packages in an environmentally sound manner and standards for the advertisement of pesticides.  
यह **अच्छी विनिर्माण प्रथाओं** के मानदंड तय करने, कीटनाशक निर्माताओं की प्रक्रियाओं, कीट नियंत्रण संचालकों के लिए सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं, कीटनाशकों की वापसी की प्रक्रिया, पर्यावरण के अनुकूल तरीके से कीटनाशकों और पैकेजों के निपटान के मानदंड तथा कीटनाशकों के विज्ञापन के मानकों पर केंद्र सरकार को सलाह देगा।
- As per the draft Bill, the **Union government can appoint a registration committee** to make decisions on registration of pesticides, specify conditions subject to which a **certificate of registration** is granted, periodically review the safety and efficacy of registered pesticides and amend or cancel certificates of registration.  
मसौदा विधेयक के अनुसार, केंद्र सरकार कीटनाशकों के पंजीकरण पर निर्णय लेने, **पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र** दिए जाने की शर्तें निर्धारित करने, पंजीकृत कीटनाशकों की सुरक्षा और प्रभावशीलता की समय-समय पर समीक्षा करने तथा पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्रों में संशोधन या रद्द करने के लिए **पंजीकरण समिति** नियुक्त कर सकती है।



- The committee shall also maintain a **national register of pesticides** in digital form. समिति डिजिटल रूप में **राष्ट्रीय कीटनाशक रजिस्टर** भी बनाए रखेगी।
- The **draft Bill** also provides for a punishment of imprisonment up to **five years, or fine from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh** or with both for the manufacture, import, sale, exhibit for sale, transport, distribute, use or cause to use of pesticide in “**death or grievous hurt of another.**”  
मसौदा विधेयक में ऐसे मामलों में कीटनाशकों के निर्माण, आयात, बिक्री, बिक्री के लिए प्रदर्शन, परिवहन, वितरण, उपयोग या उपयोग कराने पर **पांच वर्ष** तक की कैद, या **₹10 लाख से ₹50 लाख** तक का जुर्माना, या दोनों का प्रावधान है, जहां इससे “**किसी अन्य की मृत्यु या गंभीर चोट**” होती है।

## GSDP share as criterion for central-State transfers

GS III: Economy

MOB

The central government shares its gross tax revenues with States based on the recommendations of successive Finance Commissions (FCs), which determine both the overall share to States and the formula for tax devolution. The Centre also transfers resources through grants-in-aid and centrally sponsored schemes (CSS). While the recommendations of 15 FCs have been implemented, those of the 16th FC have yet to be tabled in Parliament.

Central transfers have become a subject of intense debate. Key concerns include the erosion of the fiscal autonomy of States following the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), revenue losses arising from GST rate cuts, the increasing dominance of CSS that constraint State-level spending flexibility, the Centre's growing cesses and surcharges that are not shared with States, and declining devolution shares of high-performing States. Moreover, most FCs have prioritised equity over efficiency, having relied heavily on debatable criteria such as income distance and population, and frequently altered the weights assigned to these variables. Significant regional disparities also persist across States in expenditure needs and fiscal capacity.

### Tax collection versus tax contribution

States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu argue that they contribute disproportionately to central tax revenues but receive relatively smaller shares through tax devolution. This claim, however, is often contested on the grounds that direct tax figures reflect the location of collections rather than the



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GSDP share is a meaningful indicator of the accrual of central taxes at the State level

actual place where income is generated. Individuals and companies may pay taxes in locations different from where economic activity occurs.

For example, automobile manufacturers in Tamil Nadu may sell vehicles across India, but their tax payments are recorded in the State where their registered office is located. Similarly, plantation companies in Kerala earn profits nationwide, though taxes are paid in Kerala.

Therefore, jurisdiction based on PAN data fails to accurately capture State-wise contributions to direct taxes. This is due to the presence of multi-State firms, labour migration, temporary or multi-location work arrangements, and the absence of detailed data on inter-State transactions among associated enterprises. Therefore, an indirect and more reliable proxy is needed to estimate the accrual of central taxes at the State level.

### GSDP as proxy for State-level tax accrual

Although the Centre levies direct taxes, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) represents the underlying tax base within each State. If tax administration efficiency is broadly uniform across States and the ratio of direct tax revenue to GSDP does not vary significantly, a State's share in national GSDP can reasonably approximate its contribution to central tax revenues. Since the GST is destination-based and the principal source of indirect taxation, its attribution across States is relatively uncontroversial.

Empirical evidence supports this approach. Using 2023-24 data, the correlation between States' GSDP and direct tax collections is 0.75,

while the correlation between GSDP and GST collections is as high as 0.91. This strong relationship suggests that GSDP share is a meaningful indicator of the accrual of central taxes at the State level.

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Centre devolved 41% of its gross tax revenues to States in line with the 15th FC's recommendations, along with additional transfers through grants-in-aid and CSS. According to the Ministry of Finance (Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 236, dated December 2, 2025), total transfers during this five-year period amounted to ₹ 75.12 lakh crore (see Table).

Uttar Pradesh received the largest share of transfers (15.81%), followed by Bihar (8.65%), and West Bengal (6.96%). However, these States accounted for only 4.6%, 0.67% and 3.99%, respectively, of combined direct tax and GST collections. In contrast, Maharashtra contributed the highest share of tax collections (40.3%), but received only 6.64% of total transfers. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu contributed 12.65% and 7.61%, while receiving 3.9% and 4.66%, respectively. Haryana (1.1%), Himachal Pradesh (1.58%) and Uttarakhand (1.65%) received low shares of transfers, despite contributing 5.39%, 0.43% and 0.81%, respectively.

The 15th FC's devolution shares show an almost perfect correlation (0.99) with actual transfers over the five-year period, but a weak correlation (0.24) with tax collection shares. By contrast, GSDP shares display a high correlation with tax collections (0.81) and a moderate correlation with devolution shares (0.58). This suggests that GSDP strikes a balance between efficiency, by reflecting tax contributions, and equity, by allowing redistribution.

Only in Haryana, Karnataka and Maharashtra, the GSDP share is less than tax collection share, likely due to the concentrations of registered offices of multi-State firms. In Tamil Nadu, GSDP share exceeds tax collections, reflecting production activity whose tax payments are recorded elsewhere.

**Gainers, losers under a GSDP-based formula**  
If total central transfers were distributed purely on the basis of GSDP shares, nine of the 20 major States would gain. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu would benefit the most, while Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh would experience the largest reductions. Importantly, these gains and losses would be moderate, as GSDP shares differ less sharply from tax collection shares than current devolution outcomes.

A higher weight for GSDP share would better reflect the accrual of central tax revenues, acknowledge the contributions of States to national income, and improve the perceived fairness and the credibility of India's inter-governmental fiscal transfer system.

The views expressed are persona

## Central tax collections, transfers and GSDP

GSDP, reflecting accrual of central taxes, strikes a balance between efficiency and equity in tax devolution

State-wise direct tax and gross GST collections, central transfers and GSDP from 2020-21 to 2024-25

States	Direct tax and GST collection		Central transfers		FC devolution		GSDP		Transfers using GSDP share	Loss or gain
	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share		
Andhra Pradesh	3.32	2.97	3.23	4.30	4.07	64.35	4.97	3.74	0.51	
Assam	0.75	0.67	2.93	3.90	3.13	24.48	1.89	1.42	-1.51	
Bihar	0.76	0.68	6.5	8.65	10.06	38.48	2.97	2.23	-4.27	
Chhattisgarh	1.68	1.50	2.36	3.14	3.41	23.03	1.78	1.34	-1.02	
Gujarat	7.69	6.88	2.55	3.39	3.48	108.38	8.37	6.29	3.74	
Haryana	6.02	5.39	0.83	1.10	1.09	48.82	3.77	2.83	2.00	
Himachal Pradesh	0.48	0.43	1.19	1.58	0.83	9.58	0.74	0.56	-0.63	
Jharkhand	1.58	1.41	2.22	2.96	3.31	20.69	1.60	1.20	-1.02	
Karnataka	14.14	12.65	2.93	3.90	3.65	113.94	8.80	6.61	3.68	
Kerala	1.81	1.62	2.03	2.70	1.93	51.19	3.96	2.97	0.94	
Madhya Pradesh	2.17	1.94	5.56	7.40	7.85	61.26	4.73	3.56	-2.00	
Maharashtra	40.3	36.06	4.99	6.64	6.32	179.83	13.90	10.44	5.45	
Odisha	2.61	2.34	3.32	4.42	4.53	36.40	2.81	2.11	-1.21	
Punjab	1.47	1.32	1.57	2.09	1.81	34.71	2.68	2.02	0.45	
Rajasthan	2.83	2.53	4.57	6.08	6.03	67.96	5.25	3.94	-0.63	
Tamil Nadu	8.5	7.61	3.5	4.66	4.08	120.41	9.30	6.99	3.49	
Telangana	4.32	3.87	1.84	2.45	2.10	64.81	5.01	3.76	1.92	
Uttar Pradesh	5.14	4.60	11.88	15.81	17.94	116.28	8.98	6.75	-5.13	
Uttarakhand	0.9	0.81	1.24	1.65	1.12	14.84	1.15	0.86	-0.38	
West Bengal	4.46	3.99	5.23	6.96	7.52	74.64	5.77	4.33	-0.90	
8 small States	0.82	0.73	4.63	6.16	5.79	20.07	1.55	1.17	-3.46	
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.75</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>75.12</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.02</b>	<b>1294.15</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>75.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

**GSDP share as criterion for central-State transfers**  
केंद्रीय-राज्य वित्तीय हस्तांतरण के लिए GSDP हिस्सेदारी को मानदंड बनाना



- The central government shares its **gross tax revenues** with States based on the recommendations of successive **Finance Commissions (FCs)**, which determine both the overall share to States and the **formula for tax devolution**.  
केंद्र सरकार अपने **सकल कर राजस्व** को राज्यों के साथ क्रमिक **वित्त आयोगों (FCs)** की सिफारिशों के आधार पर साझा करती है, जो राज्यों को मिलने वाले कुल हिस्से और **कर हस्तांतरण के सूत्र** दोनों को तय करते हैं।
- The **Centre also transfers resources through grants-in-aid and centrally sponsored schemes (CSS)**.  
केंद्र सरकार **अनुदान सहायता** और **केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं (CSS)** के माध्यम से भी संसाधनों का हस्तांतरण करती है।
- While the recommendations of **15 Finance Commissions** have been implemented, those of the **16th Finance Commission** have yet to be tabled in **Parliament**.  
जहाँ **15 वित्त आयोगों** की सिफारिशें लागू हो चुकी हैं, वहीं **16वें वित्त आयोग** की सिफारिशें अभी तक **संसद** में पेश नहीं की गई हैं।
- Central transfers have become a subject of **intense debate**.  
केंद्रीय हस्तांतरण अब **तीव्र बहस** का विषय बन गए हैं।
- Key concerns include the **erosion of the fiscal autonomy of States following the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.  
मुख्य चिंताओं में **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST)** लागू होने के बाद राज्यों की **राजकोषीय स्वायत्तता** में कमी शामिल है।
- **Revenue losses arising from GST rate cuts are another concern**.  
**GST दरों में कटौती** से होने वाले राजस्व नुकसान भी एक बड़ी चिंता हैं।
- The **increasing dominance of centrally sponsored schemes constrains State-level spending flexibility**.  
**केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं** का बढ़ता प्रभुत्व **राज्य-स्तरीय खर्च की लचीलापन** को सीमित करता है।
- The **Centre's growing cesses and surcharges** that are not shared with States also remain contentious.  
केंद्र द्वारा लगाए जा रहे बढ़ते **सेस और सरचार्ज**, जिन्हें राज्यों के साथ साझा नहीं किया जाता, भी विवाद का विषय बने हुए हैं।
- There is also concern about the **declining devolution shares of high-performing States**.  
**बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्यों** के हिस्से में कमी को लेकर भी चिंता जताई जाती है।
- Moreover, most **Finance Commissions** have **prioritised equity over efficiency**.  
इसके अलावा, अधिकांश **वित्त आयोगों** ने **कुशलता के बजाय समानता** को प्राथमिकता दी है।
- They have relied heavily on debatable criteria such as **income distance and population, and frequently altered the weights assigned to these variables**.  
उन्होंने **आय अंतर और जनसंख्या** जैसे विवादास्पद मानकों पर अधिक निर्भरता दिखाई है और इनके लिए तय **भारों** बार-बार बदले गए हैं।
- Significant **regional disparities** also persist across States in **expenditure needs and fiscal capacity**.  
**व्यय आवश्यकताओं और राजकोषीय क्षमता** के मामले में राज्यों के बीच अब भी गहरी **क्षेत्रीय असमानताएँ** बनी हुई हैं।

### Tax collection versus tax contribution कर संग्रह बनाम कर योगदान

- States such as **Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu** argue that they contribute **disproportionately to central tax revenues** but receive relatively smaller shares through **tax devolution**.  
**कर्नाटक, महाराष्ट्र और तमिलनाडु** जैसे राज्य तर्क देते हैं कि वे **केंद्रीय कर राजस्व** में असमान रूप से अधिक योगदान देते हैं, लेकिन **कर हस्तांतरण** के माध्यम से उन्हें अपेक्षाकृत कम हिस्सा मिलता है।
- **This claim, however, is often contested on the grounds that direct tax figures reflect the location of collections rather than the actual place where income is generated**.  
हालाँकि इस दावे को यह कहकर चुनौती दी जाती है कि **प्रत्यक्ष कर आँकड़े** उस स्थान को दर्शाते हैं जहाँ कर वसूला जाता है, न कि उस जगह को जहाँ वास्तव में आय उत्पन्न होती है।



- Individuals and companies may pay taxes in locations different from where **economic activity** occurs.  
व्यक्ति और कंपनियाँ उस स्थान से अलग जगह पर कर अदा कर सकते हैं जहाँ **आर्थिक गतिविधि** होती है।
- For example, **automobile manufacturers in Tamil Nadu** may sell vehicles across India, but **their tax payments are recorded in the State where their registered office is located**.
- Therefore, jurisdiction based on **PAN data** fails to accurately capture **State-wise contributions** to direct taxes.  
इसलिए **पैन डेटा** पर आधारित क्षेत्राधिकार **राज्यवार प्रत्यक्ष कर योगदान** को सही रूप में नहीं दर्शा पाता।
- This is due to the presence of **multi-State firms, labour migration, temporary or multi-location work arrangements**, and the absence of detailed data on **inter-State transactions among associated enterprises**.  
यह स्थिति **बहु-राज्य कंपनियों, श्रम प्रवासन, अस्थायी या बहु-स्थानीय कार्य व्यवस्थाओं**, और संबद्ध उद्यमों के बीच **अंतर-राज्यीय लेन-देन** पर विस्तृत आँकड़ों की कमी के कारण उत्पन्न होती है।

### GSDP as proxy for State-level tax accrual राज्य-स्तरीय कर प्राप्ति के लिए GSDP एक सूचक

- Although the **Centre levies direct taxes**, **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** represents the underlying **tax base** within each State.  
हालाँकि केंद्र **प्रत्यक्ष कर** लगाता है, लेकिन **सकल राज्य घरेलू उत्पाद (GSDP)** प्रत्येक राज्य में मौजूद कर आधार को दर्शाता है।
- If **tax administration efficiency** is broadly uniform across States and the ratio of **direct tax revenue to GSDP** does not vary significantly, a State's share in national **GSDP** can reasonably approximate its contribution to **central tax revenues**.  
यदि **कर प्रशासन की दक्षता** राज्यों में लगभग समान हो और **प्रत्यक्ष कर राजस्व का GSDP से अनुपात** बहुत अलग न हो, तो राष्ट्रीय **GSDP** में किसी राज्य का हिस्सा उसके **केंद्रीय कर योगदान** का उचित अनुमान दे सकता है।
- Since the **GST is destination-based** and the principal source of **indirect taxation**, its attribution across States is relatively **uncontroversial**.  
चूँकि **GST** गंतव्य-आधारित है और **अप्रत्यक्ष कर** का मुख्य स्रोत है, इसलिए राज्यों में इसका वितरण अपेक्षाकृत **अविवादित** है।
- **Empirical evidence** supports this approach.  
**अनुभवजन्य साक्ष्य** इस दृष्टिकोण का समर्थन करते हैं।
- Using **2023–24 data**, the correlation between States' **GSDP** and **direct tax collections** is **0.75**.  
**2023–24 के आँकड़ों** के अनुसार, राज्यों के **GSDP** और **प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह** के बीच सहसंबंध **0.75** है।
- The correlation between **GSDP** and **GST collections** is as high as **0.91**.  
**GSDP** और **GST संग्रह** के बीच सहसंबंध **0.91** तक है।
- This strong relationship suggests that **GSDP share** is a meaningful indicator of the **accrual of central taxes** at the State level.  
यह मजबूत संबंध दर्शाता है कि **GSDP में हिस्सा** राज्य स्तर पर **केंद्रीय कर प्राप्ति** का एक महत्वपूर्ण संकेतक है।
- From **2020–21 to 2024–25**, the Centre devolved **41% of its gross tax revenues** to States in line with the **15th Finance Commission's recommendations**.  
**2020–21 से 2024–25** के बीच, केंद्र ने **15वें वित्त आयोग** की सिफारिशों के अनुसार अपने **सकल कर राजस्व का 41%** राज्यों को हस्तांतरित किया।
- This was along with additional transfers through **grants-in-aid** and **centrally sponsored schemes**.  
इसके साथ **अनुदान सहायता** और **केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं** के माध्यम से अतिरिक्त हस्तांतरण भी किए गए।
- According to the **Ministry of Finance** (Rajya Sabha **Unstarred Question No. 236**, dated **December 2, 2025**), total transfers during this five-year period amounted to **₹ 75.12 lakh crore**.  
**वित्त मंत्रालय** के अनुसार (राज्यसभा **अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 236**, दिनांक **2 दिसंबर 2025**), इस पाँच वर्षीय अवधि में कुल हस्तांतरण **₹ 75.12 लाख करोड़** रहा।



## State-wise transfers, tax contributions and the case for a GSDP-based formula राज्यवार हस्तांतरण, कर योगदान और GSDP-आधारित सूत्र का पक्ष

- Uttar Pradesh received the largest share of transfers at **15.81%**, followed by Bihar (**8.65%**) and West Bengal (**6.96%**).  
उत्तर प्रदेश को हस्तांतरण में सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा **15.81%** मिला, इसके बाद बिहार (**8.65%**) और पश्चिम बंगाल (**6.96%**) का स्थान रहा।
- However, these States accounted for only **4.6%**, **0.67%** and **3.99%**, respectively, of combined **direct tax and GST collections**.  
हालाँकि, ये राज्य संयुक्त प्रत्यक्ष कर और GST संग्रह में क्रमशः केवल **4.6%**, **0.67%** और **3.99%** का ही योगदान करते हैं।
- In contrast, Maharashtra contributed the highest share of tax collections at **40.3%**, but received only **6.64%** of total transfers.  
इसके विपरीत, महाराष्ट्र ने कर संग्रह में सबसे बड़ा योगदान **40.3%** दिया, लेकिन कुल हस्तांतरण में उसे केवल **6.64%** मिला।
- Karnataka and Tamil Nadu contributed **12.65%** and **7.61%**, while receiving **3.9%** and **4.66%**, respectively.

## Is the 10-minute delivery model necessary? क्या 10 मिनट की डिलीवरी मॉडल वास्तव में आवश्यक है?

- There is so much beyond that, and a few powerful people are deliberately trying to make it a **binary between consumers' comfort and gig workers' misery**.
- First, this is not just software that runs the system, it works because of a **massive human workforce kept under unstable pay, changing rules, and the constant threat of IDs being blocked by an app**.  
पहला, यह प्रणाली सिर्फ सॉफ्टवेयर से नहीं चलती, बल्कि एक विशाल मानव कार्यबल पर निर्भर है, जिसे अस्थिर वेतन, बदलते नियमों, और ऐप द्वारा आईडी ब्लॉक किए जाने के लगातार खतरे में रखा जाता है।
- Second, do we allow this logic in other industries, because **speed is not created by technology, it is extracted from real people**.
- From **2024 to 2027**, quick commerce has grown **threefold**.  
**2024 से 2027** के बीच, क्विक कॉमर्स **तीन गुना** बढ़ा है।
- From **₹50,000 crore in 2025**, it is closing in on **₹1 lakh crore to ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next two years**.  
KK says that globally, India's **labour laws** are considered among the most protected, meaning **full-time employees have greater protection under existing regulations**.  
केके कहते हैं कि वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत के श्रम कानून सबसे अधिक संरक्षित माने जाते हैं, यानी मौजूदा नियमों के तहत पूर्णकालिक कर्मचारियों को अधिक सुरक्षा मिलती है।
- PK says that studies show **80% of workers engaged with gigs and platforms are working full time**.  
पीके कहते हैं कि अध्ययनों से पता चलता है कि गिग और प्लेटफॉर्म से जुड़े **80% कामगार पूर्णकालिक** काम कर रहे हैं।
- For **millions**, this is their **primary livelihood**.  
लाखों लोगों के लिए यह उनकी **मुख्य आजीविका** है।
- They are asking for **predictable minimum income, fair pay, protection from sudden ID blocks, and clear rules for pay and penalties**.  
वे **न्यूनतम आय की निश्चितता, उचित वेतन, अचानक आईडी ब्लॉक होने से सुरक्षा, और वेतन व दंड के लिए स्पष्ट नियमों** की माँग कर रहे हैं।
- They are asking for **basic safety cover** and for **data transparency**.  
वे **मूलभूत सुरक्षा कवर और डेटा पारदर्शिता** की भी माँग कर रहे हैं।
- Platforms **set prices, decide who gets work, control ratings, and can switch people off overnight**.  
प्लेटफॉर्म **कीमतें तय करते हैं, किसे काम मिलेगा यह तय करते हैं, रेटिंग्स नियंत्रित करते हैं, और रातोंरात लोगों को काम से बाहर कर सकते हैं।**



- If you control the work, you must carry obligations.  
यदि आप काम को नियंत्रित करते हैं, तो आपको ज़िम्मेदारियाँ भी उठानी होंगी।
- That means ensuring minimum earnings, accident insurance, pensions, or at least having a process before blocking or punishing workers.

### Are Labour Codes sufficient to create a social security system for gig workers

क्या श्रम संहिताएँ गिग वर्कर्स के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रणाली बनाने के लिए पर्याप्त हैं

- The Code authorises a few welfare programmes like accident insurance and maternity benefits, but it does not make them mandatory or enforceable right away.  
संहिता कुछ कल्याणकारी कार्यक्रमों जैसे दुर्घटना बीमा और मातृत्व लाभ को अधिकृत करती है, लेकिन उन्हें तुरंत अनिवार्य या लागू करने योग्य नहीं बनाती।
- Gig workers have to register on the e-SHRAM portal and get an ID card, but they receive no tangible benefits like covered hospital bills or pensions.  
गिग वर्कर्स को ई-श्रम पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण कर आईडी कार्ड लेना होता है, लेकिन उन्हें अस्पताल खर्च या पेंशन जैसे ठोस लाभ नहीं मिलते।
- The Codes offer a social security scheme but no broader labour rights, and explicitly exclude gig workers from being classified as employees.  
संहिताएँ एक सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजना देती हैं, लेकिन व्यापक श्रम अधिकार नहीं देती और गिग वर्कर्स को कर्मचारी के रूप में वर्गीकृत करने से स्पष्ट रूप से बाहर रखती हैं।
- This means no access to minimum wages, regulated working hours, paid leaves, overtime pay, or collective bargaining under other Labour Codes.

### Future of platforms and gig workers in the age of AI and technological change

एआई और तकनीकी बदलाव के दौर में प्लेटफॉर्म और गिग वर्कर्स का भविष्य

- A NITI Aayog report envisages that about 2.35 crores will join the gig economy by 2029–2030.  
एक नीति आयोग रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2029–2030 तक लगभग 2.35 करोड़ लोग गिग इकॉनॉमी से जुड़ेंगे।
- So, what is the future of these platforms and gig workers in the background of everyday changes that AI and technological innovations bring.  
तो, एआई और तकनीकी नवाचारों से होने वाले रोज़मर्रा के बदलावों की पृष्ठभूमि में इन प्लेटफॉर्मों और गिग वर्कर्स का भविष्य क्या है।
- KK says that we should protect the good aspects of this model and engage with platforms more, instead of disrupting their business models.  
केके कहते हैं कि हमें इस मॉडल की अच्छी बातों की रक्षा करनी चाहिए और प्लेटफॉर्मों के व्यावसायिक मॉडल को बाधित करने के बजाय उनके साथ अधिक संवाद करना चाहिए।
- The focus should be on how to bring social security while allowing otherwise unskilled people to get a job.  
ध्यान इस पर होना चाहिए कि सामाजिक सुरक्षा कैसे लाई जाए और साथ ही कम कौशल वाले लोगों को भी रोज़गार कैसे मिले।
- He feels that there is no recourse but to protect what works.  
उनका मानना है कि जो काम कर रहा है, उसकी रक्षा करने के अलावा हमारे पास कोई दूसरा रास्ता नहीं है।
- AI will come in and work more on entry-level repetitive tasks that can be automated.  
एआई आएगा और ज़्यादातर प्रारंभिक स्तर के दोहराए जाने वाले कामों को संभालेगा, जिन्हें स्वचालित किया जा सकता है।
- So, in the short term, the current model of gig platforms employing workers will not be disrupted.  
इसलिए निकट भविष्य में, गिग वर्कर्स को रोज़गार देने वाला मौजूदा प्लेटफॉर्म मॉडल तुरंत बाधित नहीं होगा।
- At the same time, manufacturing is a sector that India is focusing on very strongly.  
साथ ही, विनिर्माण ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिस पर भारत बहुत जोर दे रहा है।
- The fastest movement today is in the quick commerce sector, and it should be protected.  
आज सबसे तेज़ गति क्विक कॉमर्स सेक्टर में है और इसकी रक्षा की जानी चाहिए।
- PK says that the huge crisis of unemployment cannot be addressed without improving the manufacturing sector, especially labour-intensive industries.



पीके कहते हैं कि बेरोज़गारी की बड़ी समस्या का समाधान विनिर्माण क्षेत्र, खासकर श्रम-प्रधान उद्योगों, को मजबूत किए बिना नहीं हो सकता।

- Therefore, the government should frame **policies** to improve these sectors. इसलिए सरकार को इन क्षेत्रों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए नीतियाँ बनानी चाहिए।
- He warns that if we do not change the **rules** and the **way we think**, the future of gig workers will be **very brutal**. वे चेतावनी देते हैं कि अगर हम नियमों और सोचने के तरीके में बदलाव नहीं करेंगे, तो गिग वर्कर्स का भविष्य बहुत कठोर होगा।
- **AI will bring more control, less voice, and more people will live just one algorithm update away from losing their income.** एआई से ज़्यादा नियंत्रण, कम आवाज़, और ज़्यादा लोग ऐसे हालात में होंगे कि उनकी आय एक एल्गोरिदम अपडेट से ही खत्म हो सकती है।
- Today, a delivery worker can be **switched off by an app**. आज, एक डिलीवरी वर्कर को एक ऐप से ही काम से बाहर किया जा सकता है।
- Tomorrow, **AI will decide this even faster, cheaper, and at a larger scale.** कल, एआई यह फैसला और भी तेज़, सस्ते और बड़े पैमाने पर करेगा।
- **There will be no conversation, no explanation, and no appeal, just a silent drop in orders and then nothing.** फिर न कोई बातचीत होगी, न कोई वजह बताई जाएगी, न कोई अपील, बस ऑर्डर चुपचाप घटेंगे और फिर सब खत्म।
- So, **AI will make platforms more efficient at replacing people, rotating workers, and squeezing more work out of whoever is still logged in.** इस तरह, एआई प्लेटफॉर्मों को लोगों को बदलने, घुमाने, और जो अभी भी लॉग इन हैं उनसे ज़्यादा काम निचोड़ने में और कुशल बना देगा।
- That means workers will become more **disposable**, not more **secure**. इसका मतलब है कि कामगार ज़्यादा अस्थायी हो जाएँगे, ज़्यादा सुरक्षित नहीं।

## Textiles ministry signs MoUs with 15 States under **Tex-RAMPS** scheme

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau  
COIMBATORE

The Ministry of Textiles has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with 15 States as part of the

'Textiles focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning And Start-Up' (Tex-RAMPS) scheme.

The MoUs were signed on the first day of the two-day national textile minis-

ters' conference in Guwahati on the theme 'India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation'.

The scheme is designed to improve the coverage, quality, timeliness, and

credibility of textile-related statistical products and research, according to a press release.

The initiative drives integrated planning for key sectors including han-

dlooms, handicrafts, apparel, and technical textiles by focusing efforts directly at the cluster and district levels, the release said.

The Ministry provides an annual grant of ₹12 lakh

to each State or Union Territory. An additional grant of ₹1 lakh a year will be provided for each district, based on the development and execution of specific district action plans.

### Textiles ministry signs MoUs with 15 States under **Tex-RAMPS** scheme टेक्सटाइल्स मंत्रालय ने **Tex-RAMPS** योजना के तहत 15 राज्यों के साथ MoU किए

- The **Ministry of Textiles** has signed **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** with **15 States** as part of the '**Textiles focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning And Start-Up**' (**Tex-RAMPS**) scheme. टेक्सटाइल्स मंत्रालय ने **Tex-RAMPS** योजना ('टेक्सटाइल्स फोकस्ड रिसर्च, असेसमेंट, मॉनिटरिंग, प्लानिंग एंड स्टार्ट-अप') के तहत **15 राज्यों** के साथ **मेमोरेंडम ऑफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग (MoU)** पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।
- The MoUs were signed on the **first day** of the **two-day national textile ministers' conference** in **Guwahati** on the theme '**India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation**'.



MoU पर हस्ताक्षर गुवाहाटी में आयोजित दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय टेक्सटाइल मंत्रियों की सम्मेलन के पहले दिन किए गए, जिसका थीम था 'भारत के टेक्सटाइल्स: विकास, विरासत और नवाचार को बुनना'।

- The scheme is designed to improve the **coverage, quality, timeliness, and credibility of textile-related statistical products and research**, according to a press release. एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, यह योजना टेक्सटाइल से संबंधित सांख्यिकीय उत्पादों और अनुसंधान की कवरेज, गुणवत्ता, समयबद्धता और विश्वसनीयता को सुधारने के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई है।
- The initiative drives **integrated planning** for key sectors including **handlooms, handicrafts, apparel, and technical textiles** by focusing efforts directly at the **cluster and district levels**, the release said. विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया कि यह पहल **मुख्य क्षेत्रों** जैसे हैंडलूम, हस्तशिल्प, परिधान और तकनीकी टेक्सटाइल्स के लिए **समेकित योजना** को बढ़ावा देती है, और प्रयासों को सीधे **क्लस्टर और जिला स्तर** पर केंद्रित करती है।
- The Ministry provides an **annual grant of ₹12 lakh** to each **State or Union Territory**. मंत्रालय प्रत्येक राज्य या केंद्र शासित प्रदेश को सालाना ₹12 लाख की अनुदान प्रदान करता है।
- An **additional grant of ₹1 lakh a year** will be provided for each **district**, based on the development and execution of **specific district action plans**. प्रत्येक जिले के लिए सालाना अतिरिक्त ₹1 लाख की अनुदान दी जाएगी, जो विशिष्ट जिला कार्य योजनाओं के विकास और क्रियान्वयन पर आधारित होगी।

## After PRAGATI review, ₹3 lakh crore frozen power projects completed

GS III: Economy

Saptaparno Ghosh  
NEW DELHI

Since the introduction of **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** platform, a total of 53 projects of the Power Ministry have been reviewed of which 43 have been completed and 10 are under varied phases of construction, senior officials in the Ministry informed Thursday.

Launched in 2015, the **PRAGATI platform** endeavours to monitor and review crucial frozen pro-



**Keeping an eye:** Official informed the 53 projects reviewed were cumulatively valued at about ₹4.13 lakh crore. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

grammes and projects of the Central government, as well as those flagged by the State governments, for expediting completion.

The officials informed the 53 projects reviewed were cumulatively valued at approximately ₹4.13 lakh crore, whilst the 43 com-

missioned projects were worth ₹3.02 lakh crore and those under construction ₹1.10 lakh crore.

A total of 22 projects of the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, 16 of the National Thermal Power Corporation, four each of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation, among others, have been reviewed. As on date, two projects each of the entities are under construction with the balance successfully commissioned.

### After PRAGATI review, ₹3 lakh crore frozen power projects completed PRAGATI समीक्षा के बाद, ₹3 लाख करोड़ के जमे हुए पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स पूरे किए गए

- Since the introduction of the **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) platform**, a total of 53 projects of the Power Ministry have been reviewed of which 43 have been completed and 10 are under varied phases of construction, senior officials in the Ministry informed Thursday.  
प्रो-एक्टिव गवर्नेंस एंड टाइमली इम्प्लीमेंटेशन (PRAGATI) प्लेटफॉर्म के परिचय के बाद से, पावर



मंत्रालय के कुल 53 प्रोजेक्ट्स की समीक्षा की गई, जिनमें से 43 पूरे किए गए और 10 विभिन्न निर्माण चरणों में हैं, मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने गुरुवार को जानकारी दी।

- Launched in 2015, the **PRAGATI platform** endeavours to monitor and review crucial **frozen programmes and projects** of the **Central government**, as well as those flagged by the **State governments**, for expediting completion.

<b>GS Paper III: S&amp;T,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>09 January 2026</b>
2.	<b>Why awareness about folic acid is the key to prevent Spina Bifida</b> स्पाइना बिफिडा की रोकथाम में फोलिक एसिड के प्रति जागरूकता क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है।
3.	<b>Emerging challenge of childhood hypertension</b> बाल्यावस्था में उच्च रक्तचाप की उभरती हुई चुनौती
4.	<b>QUIZ: Biology</b>
5.	<b>ISRO and the next big challenge.</b> इसरो और अगली बड़ी चुनौती।

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Why awareness about folic acid is the key to prevent Spina Bifida

The fact that pre-conceptional intake of folic acid can prevent more than 70% of Spina Bifida cases has been known; yet, India is one of the few countries where no meaningful efforts have been made to create awareness making it home to one of highest prevalence rates of the condition

**CS III: S&T**

Santosh Karmarkar  
Sneha Sawant

One day, some weeks ago, a young mother of a seven-month-old baby from Jharkhand called in tears, about her child who was born with a large lump on his back and was unable to move his legs.

Local doctors did not give her any information about the problem that her newborn had, or treatment options. The infant seemed otherwise normal, and in the first six months was growing as any other child, except for paralysis of his lower limbs. He smiled, recognised his parents and was a great source of joy for the entire family. But his diagnosis and treatment had remained unknown to the parents. They were not informed that this birth defect is called Spina Bifida and is the commonest birth defect in India. Nor were they aware that this serious condition could potentially be prevented by taking a folic acid tablet preconceptionally. And most of all, they were not aware that there are several medical and surgical treatments for children born with this condition.

## Understanding Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida is a birth defect of the spinal cord that causes serious childhood paralysis and occurs in more than 25,000 children in India each year, making the country home to one of the highest prevalence rates of this condition in the world. And yet, awareness about it remains poor.

The range of paralysis in Spina Bifida patients varies from mild weakness in the feet to complete paralysis from the hip downwards, resulting in many patients being wheelchair dependent right from early childhood.

Additionally, affected children may have associated problems such as excessive water in the brain (hydrocephalus), urinary and bowel incontinence (lack of control) and orthopaedic issues such as club feet, and other medical problems.

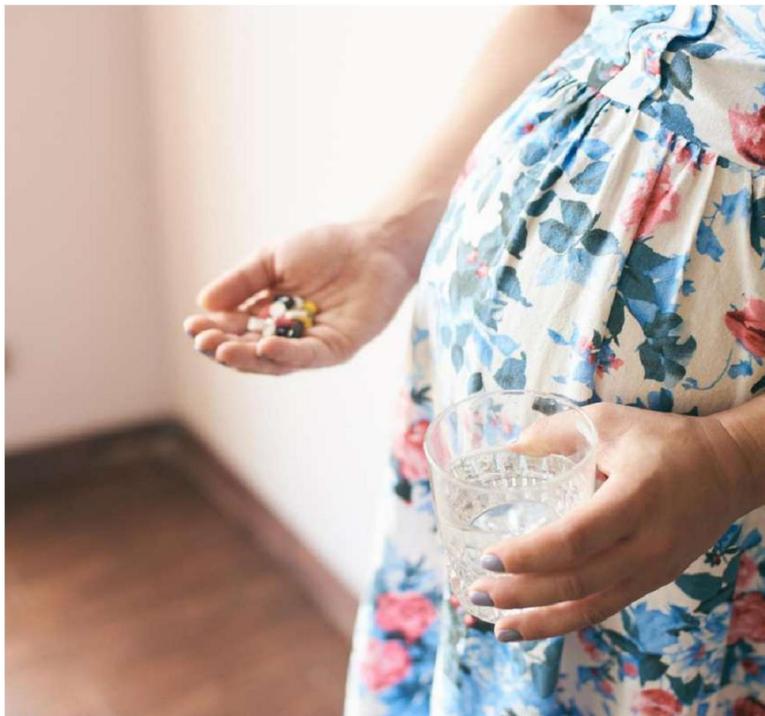
Though many children become paraplegic and incontinent, there is no intellectual impairment: they are capable of leading independent and productive lives, if they are able to access expert medical care. However, in India, medical care is not available to over 75% of children with Spina Bifida.

Spina Bifida, therefore, can be a devastating condition for those affected by it, as well as for their families.

## Meaningful efforts missing

What is both tragic and unpardonable, is the fact that despite the knowledge that Spina Bifida can be largely prevented with a B complex vitamin (folic acid), awareness regarding this simple and inexpensive intervention continues to remain lacking.

Since 1991, the fact that pre-conceptional intake of folic acid by women can prevent more than 70% of Spina Bifida cases has been known, after the results of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Vitamin Study were published in *The Lancet*. Yet, 30 years later, India is one of the few countries



**Preventable condition:** Spina Bifida is a birth defect of the spinal cord that causes serious childhood paralysis and occurs in more than 25,000 children in India each year. The range of paralysis varies from mild weakness in the feet to complete paralysis from the hip downwards. GETTY IMAGES

where no meaningful efforts to create awareness about this intervention have been carried out – both at the level of States and the Centre. This gap has resulted in thousands of children in India being born with serious childhood paralysis, causing great socio-economic distress to a multitude of families.

While it is understood that in unplanned pregnancies awareness about pre-conceptional vitamins may not be given, the lack of any effort to educate the public about this common, devastating and preventable condition cannot be termed anything less than gross public health negligence.

## Global efforts, research

Many countries across the world have conducted national awareness campaigns and initiated programmes to create awareness in order to prevent of Spina Bifida through folic acid supplementation. Additionally, 68 countries have made fortification of relevant food vehicles, with folic acid, mandatory by law. In these countries, awareness campaigns and food fortification have reduced the prevalence rates of Spina Bifida to below 1 per 1,000 births by eliminating folic acid preventable cases. In India, in contrast,

## Many countries have conducted national awareness campaigns and initiated programmes to create awareness in order to prevent of Spina Bifida through folic acid supplementation

the prevalence rate remains unacceptably high, at about 4 per 1,000, primarily because no such efforts have been undertaken.

Research is ongoing to study the fortification of food vehicles such as salt and tea that are widely and uniformly consumed – especially in countries such as India. A preliminary trial for tea fortification (results of which were published in *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health*) found that tea could potentially be vehicle for fortification with folate and vitamin B12 in India, in order to help eliminate haematological and neurological complications.

## The message

Spina Bifida places enormous socio-economic burdens on families, societies and the healthcare system in India. Each rupee spent on prevention in

this regard can help save more than 100 rupees required for treatment and rehabilitation.

It is time for a national awareness campaign about Spina Bifida and how it can be prevented. Simultaneously, efforts must be made to explore food fortification with folic acid and vitamin B12. It is only efforts such as these that will contribute toward the primary prevention of Spina Bifida and anencephaly, averting stillbirths, and under-five deaths due to these birth defects says Vijaya Kancherla, director, Center for Spina Bifida Prevention (CSBP) at Emory University, U.S.

Until every woman in our country knows that a folic acid tablet, taken before conception and during pregnancy, can help prevent Spina Bifida and until our healthcare systems are in place to comprehensively help families with affected children, the work remains incomplete.

(Dr. Santosh Karmarkar is a paediatric surgeon based in Mumbai and founder-trustee of Spina Bifida Foundation. [santoshjk@yahoo.com](mailto:santoshjk@yahoo.com); Sneha Sawant is social worker and chief coordinator of Spina Bifida Foundation. [sneha.ccsbf@gmail.com](mailto:sneha.ccsbf@gmail.com))

## Why awareness about folic acid is the key to prevent Spina Bifida

स्पाइना बिफिडा की रोकथाम में फोलिक एसिड के प्रति जागरूकता क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है।

- The fact that **pre-conceptional intake of folic acid can prevent more than 70% of Spina Bifida cases has been known**; yet, **India** is one of the few countries where **no meaningful efforts** have been made to create **awareness**, making it home to one of the **highest prevalence rates** of the condition.

यह तथ्य कि गर्भधारण से पहले फोलिक एसिड का सेवन स्पाइना बिफिडा के 70% से अधिक मामलों



**को रोक सकता है**, पहले से ही जाना जाता है; फिर भी, **भारत** उन गिने-चुने देशों में शामिल है जहाँ **जागरूकता** फैलाने के लिए **कोई सार्थक प्रयास** नहीं किए गए हैं, जिससे यह देश इस स्थिति की **सबसे अधिक व्यापकता दरों** में से एक का घर बन गया है।

### Case of a young mother and Spina Bifida awareness एक युवा माँ का मामला और स्पाइना बिफिडा के प्रति जागरूकता

- One day, some weeks ago, a young mother of a seven-month-old baby from Jharkhand called in tears, about her child who was born with **a large lump on his back and was unable to move his legs**.  
एक दिन, कुछ हफ्ते पहले, झारखंड की सात महीने के बच्चे की एक युवा माँ रोते हुए फोन पर आई, अपने बच्चे के बारे में जो **पीठ पर एक बड़ी गाँठ** के साथ पैदा हुआ था और अपने **पैर हिला नहीं पा रहा था**।
- Local doctors did not give her any information about the problem that her newborn had, or **treatment options**.  
स्थानीय डॉक्टरों ने उसके नवजात को हुई समस्या या **इलाज के विकल्पों** के बारे में उसे कोई जानकारी नहीं दी।
- The infant seemed otherwise normal, and in the **first six months** was growing as any other child, except for **paralysis of his lower limbs**.
- Nor were they aware that this serious condition could potentially be **prevented by taking a folic acid tablet periconceptionally**.  
उन्हें यह भी पता नहीं था कि यह गंभीर स्थिति **गर्भधारण के आसपास फोलिक एसिड की गोली लेने से रोकी जा सकती है**।
- **Spina Bifida** is a birth defect of the **spinal cord** that causes serious childhood **paralysis** and occurs in more than **25,000 children in India each year**, making the country home to one of the **highest prevalence rates** of this condition in the world.
- Additionally, **affected children may have associated problems such as excessive water in the brain (hydrocephalus), urinary and bowel incontinence, and orthopaedic issues such as club feet, and other medical problems**.  
इसके अलावा, प्रभावित बच्चों में **दिमाग में पानी भरना (हाइड्रोसेफलस)**, पेशाब और मल पर नियंत्रण न होना, तथा **ऑर्थोपेडिक समस्याएँ** जैसे **क्लब फीट** और अन्य चिकित्सकीय परेशानियाँ भी हो सकती हैं।
- Though many children become **paraplegic and incontinent**, there is **no intellectual impairment**: they are capable of leading **independent and productive lives**, if they are able to access **expert medical care**.
- While it is understood that in **unplanned pregnancies** awareness about pre-conceptional vitamins may not be given, the lack of any effort to **educate the public** about this common, devastating and **preventable condition** cannot be termed anything less than **gross public health negligence**.
- Additionally, **68 countries** have made **fortification of relevant food vehicles with folic acid, mandatory by law**.
- A preliminary trial for **tea fortification**, results of which were published in **BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health**, found that **tea could potentially be a vehicle for fortification with folate and vitamin B12 in India, in order to help eliminate haematological and neurological complications**.
- It is only efforts such as these that will contribute toward the **primary prevention** of **Spina Bifida and anencephaly**, **averting stillbirths and under-five deaths** due to these birth defects, says **Vijaya Kancherla**, director, **Center for Spina Bifida Prevention (CSBP)** at **Emory University, U.S.**



# Emerging challenge of childhood hypertension

GS III: S&T  
Athira Elssa Johnson

Hypertension and its associated risks among children and adolescents are emerging as a significant paediatric health issue, driven by lifestyle changes, rising obesity and urban living. A recent Lancet systematic review and meta-analysis on the global prevalence of hypertension among children and adolescents aged 19 years or younger found that prevalence has nearly doubled between 2000 and 2020, reflecting a consistent upward trend across regions. Experts warn that this rise carries long-term implications for cardiovascular, metabolic and kidney health.

Hypertension in children differs fundamentally in its underlying profile. "Unlike in adults, where most cases are primary and without an identifiable cause, children with high blood pressure often have an underlying condition," said Suresh Kumar K., cardiologist, Kauvery Hospitals, Chennai. Disorders of the kidneys, adrenal glands and blood vessels are commonly implicated, making evaluation for secondary causes a critical step when elevated readings are detected in children.

This distinction, clinicians say, underscores the need for careful clinical assessment rather than treating elevated blood pressure in children as a lifestyle issue alone.

## Key drivers and risk factors

Paediatricians point to rapid urbanisation as a major contributor to changing blood pressure patterns. According to S. Satyamanasa Gayatri Vinay, senior consultant in paediatrics, SRM Global Hospitals, Chennai, increased consumption of processed foods, higher salt intake, reduced physical activity and longer screen time have become defining features of childhood in urban settings. Environmental stressors including noise, air pollution and academic pressure further compound the risk. Limited access to safe play spaces and healthy food options adds to the burden, particularly in cities.

P. Manokar, senior interventional cardiologist at Kauvery Hospital, Vadapalani, described this phenomenon as part of what experts term 'environmental hypertensionology', where neighbourhood design, green spaces, walkability and pollution levels influence blood pressure. "Being urban itself has become a non-modifiable risk factor," he said. Body weight remains the most significant modifiable risk factor. Excess fat alters hormonal balance and vascular function, increasing cardiac workload and vascular resistance.

Long-term risks include coronary heart disease, stroke, type-2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Prolonged untreated hypertension may also cause lasting vascular damage, often described as irreversible arterial changes.

Accurate diagnosis requires age-appropriate assessment. "Blood pressure interpretation in children must be guided by percentile charts based on age and body size," said Neville Solomon, consultant paediatric and adult congenital cardiac surgeon, Apollo Children's Hospitals, Chennai. Adolescents may be assessed using adult thresholds, but younger children and infants require specialised reference standards.

Improper measurement including the use of adult cuffs can lead to misdiagnosis, experts caution.

School health programmes are increasingly viewed as a key platform for early detection. Regular screening can help identify children at risk and initiate timely dietary, lifestyle or medical interventions.

Experts emphasise that prevention and management must begin early. ([athira.elsa@thehindu.co.in](mailto:athira.elsa@thehindu.co.in))

**academic pressure** further compound the risk.

शोर, वायु प्रदूषण और शैक्षणिक दबाव जैसे पर्यावरणीय तनाव कारक जोखिम को और बढ़ाते हैं।

- **Limited access to safe play spaces and healthy food options** adds to the burden, particularly in cities.

- **Body weight** remains the most significant modifiable risk factor.

शरीर का वजन सबसे महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तनीय जोखिम कारक बना हुआ है।

- **Excess fat alters hormonal balance and vascular function**, increasing cardiac workload and vascular resistance.

अधिक चर्बी हार्मोनल संतुलन और रक्त वाहिकाओं के कार्य को बदल देती है, जिससे हृदय पर भार और रक्त वाहिकाओं का प्रतिरोध बढ़ जाता है।

- Long-term risks include **coronary heart disease, stroke, type-2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease**.

- Adolescents may be assessed using **adult thresholds**, but younger children and infants require **specialised reference standards**.

किशोरों का मूल्यांकन वयस्क मानकों से किया जा सकता है, लेकिन छोटे बच्चों और शिशुओं के लिए विशेष संदर्भ मानकों की आवश्यकता होती है।

- Improper measurement including the use of **adult cuffs** can lead to **misdiagnosis**, experts caution.

## Emerging challenge of childhood hypertension

### बाल्यावस्था में उच्च रक्तचाप की उभरती हुई चुनौती

- Experts warn that this rise carries **long-term implications** for **cardiovascular, metabolic and kidney health**.

- Paediatricians point to **rapid urbanisation** as a major contributor to changing blood pressure patterns.

बाल रोग विशेषज्ञ तेज़ी से हो रहे शहरीकरण को रक्तचाप के बदलते पैटर्न का प्रमुख कारण बताते हैं।

- According to **S. Satyamanasa Gayatri Vinay**, senior consultant in paediatrics, **SRM Global Hospitals, Chennai**, **increased consumption of processed foods, higher salt intake, reduced physical activity and longer screen time** have become defining features of childhood in urban settings.

एस. सत्यमानसा गायत्री विनय, वरिष्ठ बाल रोग सलाहकार, एसआरएम ग्लोबल हॉस्पिटल्स, चेन्नई के अनुसार, प्रोसेस्ड फूड का अधिक सेवन, नमक की अधिक मात्रा, कम शारीरिक गतिविधि और अधिक स्क्रीन टाइम शहरी बचपन की पहचान बन गए हैं।

- **Environmental stressors** including **noise, air pollution and**



विशेषज्ञ चेतवनी देते हैं कि **वयस्क कफ** के उपयोग जैसी गलत माप विधियाँ **गलत निदान** का कारण बन सकती हैं।

- **School health programmes are increasingly viewed as a key platform for early detection.** स्कूल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों को अब **शीघ्र पहचान का प्रमुख मंच** माना जा रहा है।
- Regular **screening** can help identify children at risk and initiate **timely dietary, lifestyle or medical interventions.** नियमित **जाँच** से जोखिम वाले बच्चों की पहचान कर समय पर **आहार, जीवनशैली** या **चिकित्सकीय हस्तक्षेप** शुरू किए जा सकते हैं।
- Experts emphasise that **prevention and management must begin early.** विशेषज्ञ इस बात पर ज़ोर देते हैं कि **रोकथाम और प्रबंधन** की शुरुआत **जल्दी** होनी चाहिए।

#### Answers to previous edition's quiz:

1. **\_\_\_\_\_** are the intermediate hosts for the parasitic flatworm that causes schistosomiasis (bilharzia). **Ans:**

**Freshwater snails** 2. Triatomine bugs transmit Chagas disease by biting a person and defecating near the bite.

These bugs have a nickname. What is it?

**Ans: Kissing bugs** 3. Sandflies carry this parasitic protozoa found in tropical and subtropical areas, which in humans can cause severe skin ulcers or infection of internal organs. Name the parasite, which gives its name to the disease it. **Ans:**

**Leishmania** 4. \_\_\_\_\_ is a group of diseases caused by a bacteria called Rickettsiaprowazekii. **Ans: epidemic typhus**

5. Anopheles mosquito also causes a viral infection, a neglected disease. Name this tongue-twisting disease. **Ans: O'nyong-nyong fever**

Visual: This disease is also called 'rabbit fever'. Symptoms may include fever, skin ulcers, and enlarged lymph nodes. Identify the disease. **Ans: Tularemia**

- Because they feed near the **mouth** ("kissing" area), the nickname "kissing bugs" became widely used in both medical and popular literature.

#### Leishmania — The Parasitic Protozoa Transmitted by Sandflies

- **Sandflies** transmit a parasitic protozoa called **Leishmania**.
- **Leishmania** gives its name to the disease **leishmaniasis**, which can cause
- **Severe skin ulcers**
- **Life-threatening infection of internal organs.**
- **Parasite name: Leishmania**
- **Type:** Protozoan parasite
- **Vector: Female sandflies** (*Phlebotomus* in the Old World, *Lutzomyia* in the New World)
- **Geographical range: Tropical and subtropical regions**
- **Disease status:** Classified as a **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**
- **Leishmania** causes one of the most serious **vector-borne parasitic diseases** after malaria.
- The disease affects millions, especially in South Asia

#### QUIZ: Biology

##### Freshwater Snails and Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia)

• **Freshwater snails** are the **intermediate hosts** for the parasitic flatworm that causes **schistosomiasis (bilharzia)**.

• The parasite belongs to the genus **Schistosoma**, a group of **blood flukes** that infect humans.

• **Causative agent:** Parasitic flatworms of the genus **Schistosoma**

• **Type of disease:** Neglected tropical disease

• **Mode of transmission:** Contact with **freshwater** contaminated with parasite larvae

• **Key biological fact:** The parasite **cannot complete its life cycle without freshwater snails.**

##### Kissing Bugs — The Nickname of Triatomine Bugs that Transmit Chagas Disease

• **Triatomine bugs** are commonly known as "**Kissing bugs.**"

• They transmit **Chagas disease** by biting humans and **defecating near the bite site**, allowing the parasite to enter the body through the skin or mucous membranes.

• **Causative agent:** *Trypanosoma cruzi* (a protozoan parasite)

• **Geographical range:** Mainly **Latin America**, but increasingly reported in parts of **North America** due to migration and climate factors.

• These insects often bite **around the lips, mouth, and face** while people are sleeping.



# ISRO and the next big challenge

ISRO's past accomplishments raise the bar for future missions as it prepares in parallel for more complex programmes: the next phase depends less on individual feats and more on sustained institutional performance, clearer legal structures, and the capacity to execute ambitious missions in a routine way

SS III S&T

FULL CONTENT

Vasudevan Mukunth

**T**he record of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) over the last decade has been remarkably broad for an agency of its size and budget.

Its rockets, especially the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), have sustained reliable access to orbit, rendering operations with multiple satellite classes almost a matter of routine today. And ISRO is attempting even more technically demanding missions. The soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lander on the moon on August 23, 2023, placed India in a coterie of countries with demonstrated lunar-landing capability.

The Aditya-L1 probe reached its intended halo orbit around the first sun-earth Lagrange point on January 6, 2024, adding a dedicated solar observatory mission to ISRO's portfolio. In July 2025, ISRO executed a prominent international collaboration by launching the billion-dollar NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, an earth-observation platform for climate and hazard monitoring.

## Preparing in parallel

The thing about succeeding in such a consistent way is that it also raises the bar for future accomplishments. It no longer matters that ISRO had humble beginnings or that it transported parts of its first rocket on a bullock cart. Even launching the PSLV or the GSLV flawlessly the first dozen or so times is awesome, but being able to do that also changes what comes next. And it will be good for ISRO to be able to access that new opportunity space, and without taking too long to do so. Otherwise, it will have some difficult questions to answer.

Today, on the cusp of Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), among others, ISRO's major challenges can be distilled to three: (i) its capacity to execute most complex missions; (ii) questions about how clearly the space programme is and can be governed in a newly liberalised sector; and (iii) constraints on ISRO's competitiveness that are as industrial and financial as they're technological.

First, ISRO currently confronts a deceptively structural prioritisation problem. Specifically, as the organisation prepares in parallel for the human spaceflight mission, complex science missions, satellite replenishment, and the development of NGLV, a more powerful launch vehicle (GSLV may be 'Bahubali' but it's still only in the medium-lift category), its annual launch cadence and project timelines have become an increasingly obvious bottleneck. Experts have linked its low number of launches in 2025 – only five against the then ISRO chairman V. Somnath's projection of an also-low eight – to project delays and to the organisation shifting towards big-ticket programmes. At the same time, private launch providers still depend heavily on ISRO facilities and infrastructure, meaning the system can't yet offload work at scale. The implication is that when a mission suffers an anomaly, it has cascading effects.

To prevent this ISRO needs more integration capacity, better access to test stands, industrial supply chains for structures and avionics, and a workflow that can absorb setbacks without freezing unrelated programmes or cramping their timelines. Perhaps the first step could be an internal scheme to help scientists and

MOE



On track: The LVM-3 launch vehicle at Sriharikota ahead of its M6 mission to launch the BlueBird Block-2 satellite on December 24, 2025. isro

engineers determine which mission's timelines are allowed to slip and for what particular reasons, together with separate resource allocations for R&D vehicles and operational vehicles and creating new capacity in the industrial base. The ultimate aim should be for ISRO to not simultaneously be the designer, the integrator, and the bottleneck for all missions.

## ISRO pulled in

Second, ISRO's role in India's liberalised space and spaceflight ecosystem – since the national government's 2020 reforms – is conceptually clear only on paper. The principal issue here is that India still lacks a comprehensive national space law. The Indian Space Policy framework, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) and New Space India Ltd. (NSIL), created in 2019-2020, were meant to separate functions. Research and advanced capability development would lie with ISRO, authorisation and promotion with IN-SPACE, and commercialisation with NSIL.

But for all of them to execute those functions efficiently, they need statutory authority and clearer legal allocations of obligations, especially those pertaining to authorisation, liability, insurance, and resolving disputes.

A national space law wouldn't merely help startups: it would also protect ISRO by reducing the *ad hoc* demands placed on it because it's still perceived as a

fallback regulator and technical certifier for everything. If IN-SPACE is to be the authorising body, it needs to have legal authority. If NSIL is to be the commercial arm, it shouldn't be in a situation where, if a commercial mission fails, creates third-party liabilities or whatever, nobody can say in advance who is responsible for what, leaving ISRO to be pulled in by 'default' because it's the most capable state actor. And if ISRO is to focus on frontier capabilities, it needs to be insulated from routine tasks, like booking and operating test stands or coordinating spectrum allocation, that actually should be performed by an industrial and regulatory ecosystem.

Finally, like most laws, a space law – and thus the activities it supports – would also survive political and administrative changes.

## Sustained performance

Third, ISRO's competitiveness increasingly resembles an ecosystem problem. The system is moving towards more frequent launches by providers, partially reusable launch vehicles, and rapid satellite manufacturing, and India needs to respond with more than by expanding its engineering ambitions. The Indian government's own framing of the NGLV, linking the space programme's future goals to its "high payload capability" and "reusability", including a reusable first stage and the ability to lift up to 30 tonnes to low-earth orbit, acknowledges that economic launches

and agility are now central, rather than optional, features of enterprises that operate launch vehicles. And building such systems and operating them in turn requires more production depth, advanced manufacturing capabilities, higher qualification capacity, and much more capital.

Investment in India's space sector fell sharply in 2024, reflecting both global headwinds and the specific difficulties of financing hardware that's developed and deployed on long horizons. IN-SPACE has in response launched a technology adoption fund aimed at helping firms bridge prototypes with scalable products and at reducing import dependence, among other funding instruments.

ISRO's past accomplishments have earned it political capital and public trust but the next phase depends less on individual feats and more on sustained institutional performance. The capacity to execute will determine whether the Indian space programme will also be able to deliver ambitious missions in a routine way. And within this context, governance and law will say whether the government's efforts to liberalise the sector will reduce ISRO's burden or, counterintuitively, expand it. Similarly ISRO's ability to compete will depend on whether the programme can transition from executing a series of individually laudable missions to being an industrial system, and for this engineering, regulation, manufacturing, and finance will have to mature together.

## THE GIST

ISRO's consistent success raises the bar for future accomplishments as it prepares in parallel for human spaceflight, complex science missions, satellite replenishment, and the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle.

In a newly liberalised space sector, the absence of a comprehensive national space law leaves ISRO pulled in by default, even as clearer legal allocations of authorisation, liability, and commercial responsibility are required to insulate it from routine tasks.

The transition from individual feats to sustained institutional performance depends on competitiveness that is as industrial and financial as it is technological, requiring production depth, advanced manufacturing, and an ecosystem that allows missions to become routine.

## ISRO and the next big challenge. इसरो और अगली बड़ी चुनौती।

- And ISRO is attempting even more technically demanding missions. और इसरो अब और भी तकनीकी रूप से चुनौतीपूर्ण मिशनों का प्रयास कर रहा है।
- The soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lander on the moon on August 23, 2023, placed India in a coterie of countries with demonstrated lunar-landing capability.



23 अगस्त 2023 को चंद्रमा पर चंद्रयान-3 लैंडर की सॉफ्ट लैंडिंग ने भारत को उन देशों के समूह में शामिल कर दिया जिनके पास चंद्र-लैंडिंग क्षमता सिद्ध हो चुकी है।

- The **Aditya-L1 probe** reached its intended halo orbit around the first **Sun-Earth Lagrange point** on **January 6, 2024**, adding a dedicated **solar observatory mission** to ISRO's portfolio.  
6 जनवरी 2024 को आदित्य-L1 प्रोब पहले सूर्य-पृथ्वी लैग्रेंज बिंदु के चारों ओर अपने निर्धारित हेलो ऑर्बिट में पहुँचा, जिससे इसरो के मिशनों में एक समर्पित सौर वेधशाला मिशन जुड़ गया।
- In **July 2025**, ISRO executed a prominent **international collaboration** by launching the billion-dollar **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** mission, an earth-observation platform for **climate and hazard monitoring**.
- It no longer matters that ISRO had **humble beginnings** or that it transported parts of its first rocket on a **bullock cart**.
- Today, on the cusp of **Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**, ISRO's major challenges can be distilled to three.  
आज गगनयान, चंद्रयान-4 और नेक्स्ट-जेनरेशन लॉन्च व्हीकल (NGLV) के मुहाने पर खड़े इसरो की मुख्य चुनौतियाँ तीन हैं।
- Its capacity to execute **more complex missions**.  
अधिक जटिल मिशनों को पूरा करने की उसकी क्षमता।
- Questions about how clearly the **space programme is governed** in a newly liberalised sector.
- The **Indian Space Policy framework, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) and New Space India Ltd. (NSIL)**, created in **2019–2020**, were meant to separate functions.  
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष नीति ढाँचा, इंडियन नेशनल स्पेस प्रमोशन एंड ऑथराइज़ेशन सेंटर (IN-SPACE) और न्यू स्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड (NSIL), जिन्हें 2019–2020 में बनाया गया, कार्यों के विभाजन के लिए थे।
- Research and advanced capability development** would lie with **ISRO**, **authorisation and promotion** with **IN-SPACE**, and **commercialisation** with **NSIL**.
- If ISRO is to focus on **frontier capabilities**, it needs to be insulated from **routine tasks**.  
यदि इसरो को अग्रणी क्षमताओं पर ध्यान देना है, तो उसे रोज़मर्रा के कार्यों से अलग रखना होगा।
- Tasks like **booking test stands** or **coordinating spectrum allocation** should be handled by an **industrial and regulatory ecosystem**.
- In response, **IN-SPACE** launched a **technology adoption fund**.  
इसके जवाब में **IN-SPACE** ने एक टेक्नोलॉजी एडॉप्शन फंड शुरू किया।
- This aims to help firms bridge **prototypes with scalable products** and reduce **import dependence**.

<b>GS Paper III: Environment,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>09 January 2026</b>
1.	<b>Satellite tagging of sea turtles aims to aid conservation</b> समुद्री कछुओं की सैटेलाइट टैगिंग का उद्देश्य संरक्षण में सहायता करना
2.	<b>Madhav Gadgil's enduring legacy in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve</b> नीलगिरि बायोस्फियर रिज़र्व में माधव गाडगिल की स्थायी विरासत
3.	<b>Ecologist's advocacy shaped political and ecological narratives in Kerala</b> केरल में पर्यावरणविद् की वकालत ने राजनीतिक और पारिस्थितिक विमर्श को आकार दिया
4.	<b>Top court's green governance, cause for uncertainty</b> शीर्ष अदालत का पर्यावरणीय शासन, अनिश्चितता का कारण
5.	<b>Trump withdraws U.S. from UNFCCC, a key climate treaty</b> ट्रम्प ने अमेरिका को UNFCCC, एक प्रमुख जलवायु संधि से बाहर निकाला



## Satellite tagging of sea turtles aims to aid conservation

**GS III: Environment**  
**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, two Olive Ridley sea turtles, which came ashore to nest on the Chennai city beach, were satellite-tagged and released back into the sea on Thursday, as part of a **radio telemetry study**.

The **two-year study**, scheduled to run from 2025 to 2027, aims at strengthening conservation efforts by using **telemetry technology** to monitor turtle behaviour, nesting patterns, and interactions with fishing activities.

According to a government order (G.O.) issued in August 2025 by Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Forests, the study will deploy satellite tags on Olive Ridley turtles across key and vulnerable nesting sites in Tamil Nadu, including the Chennai coast and the Cauvery delta.

The tags will enable researchers to track the turtles' movements in near-shore waters during the nesting season from November to April.

In addition to satellite tagging, **flipper tags** will be used to mark individual turtles for long-term monitoring of nest-site fidelity and migration patterns.

The study is being carried out jointly by the **Wildlife Institute of India** and the **Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Vandalur**.



The turtle tagged on the day of the launch was a female that came ashore to nest at the Besant Nagar hatchery.

The turtles tagged on Thursday were females that came ashore to nest near Besant Nagar. One of them, weighing approximately 40 kg, appeared to have nested for the first time. It laid a large clutch of over 130 eggs. It is estimated to be between 25 and 30 years old, officials said.

The other turtle had a large fishing hook lodged in its mouth. It was operated upon by veterinarians from Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, at the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary.

K. Sridhar, zoo vet, said the turtle was sedated and the hook was removed. "It is in a good condition. We have satellite tagged it and will be releasing it into the sea," he said.

The **telemetry study** aims at generating data on the Olive Riddleys' migratory routes, foraging grounds, and nesting behaviour, which will help inform future conservation policies, Ms. Sahu said. She added that satellite data would be transmitted every hour, which will enable the continuous tracking of the tagged turtle.

## Satellite tagging of sea turtles aims to aid conservation

### समुद्री कछुओं की सैटेलाइट टैगिंग का उद्देश्य संरक्षण में सहायता करना

• In a **first-of-its-kind initiative**, two **Olive Ridley sea turtles**, which came ashore to nest on the **Chennai city beach**, were **satellite-tagged** and released back into the sea on **Thursday**, as part of a **radio telemetry study**.

एक पहली बार की गई पहल में, ऑलिव रिडले समुद्री कछुओं के दो नमूनों को, जो चेन्नई शहर के समुद्र तट पर अंडे देने आए थे, गुरुवार को सैटेलाइट टैग किया गया और रेडियो टेलीमेट्री अध्ययन के तहत वापस समुद्र में छोड़ा गया।

• The **two-year study**, scheduled to run from **2025 to 2027**, aims at strengthening **conservation efforts** by using **telemetry technology** to monitor turtle behaviour, nesting patterns, and interactions with **fishing activities**.

दो वर्षीय अध्ययन, जो 2025 से 2027 तक चलने वाला है, टेलीमेट्री तकनीक का उपयोग करके कछुओं के व्यवहार, घोंसला बनाने के पैटर्न और मछली पकड़ने की गतिविधियों के साथ उनके अंतःक्रियाओं की निगरानी कर संरक्षण प्रयासों को मजबूत करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।

• According to a **government order (G.O.)** issued in **August 2025** by **Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary** to the Department of **Environment, Climate Change, and Forests**, the study will **deploy satellite tags** on **Olive Ridley turtles** across **key and vulnerable nesting sites** in **Tamil Nadu**, including the **Chennai coast** and the **Cauvery delta**.

पर्यावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन और वन विभाग की अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव सुप्रिया साहू द्वारा अगस्त 2025 में जारी सरकारी आदेश (G.O.) के अनुसार, यह अध्ययन तमिलनाडु के प्रमुख और संवेदनशील घोंसला स्थलों, जिनमें चेन्नई तट और कावेरी डेल्टा शामिल हैं, में ऑलिव रिडले कछुओं पर सैटेलाइट टैग लगाएगा।

• The **tags** will enable researchers to **track the turtles' movements** in **nearshore waters** during the nesting season from **November to April**.

ये टैग शोधकर्ताओं को नवंबर से अप्रैल तक के घोंसला बनाने के मौसम के दौरान तटीय जल क्षेत्रों में कछुओं की गतिविधियों को ट्रैक करने में सक्षम बनाएंगे।

• In addition to **satellite tagging**, **flipper tags** will be used to mark individual turtles for long-term monitoring of **nest-site fidelity** and **migration patterns**.

सैटेलाइट टैगिंग के अलावा, फ्लिपर टैग का उपयोग व्यक्तिगत कछुओं को चिह्नित करने के लिए किया जाएगा ताकि घोंसला स्थल के प्रति निष्ठा और प्रवासन पैटर्न की दीर्घकालिक निगरानी की जा सके।

• The study is being carried out jointly by the **Wildlife Institute of India** and the **Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Vandalur**.

• One of them, weighing approximately **40 kg**, appeared to have nested for the **first time**. उनमें से एक, जिसका वजन लगभग **40 किलोग्राम** था, संभवतः पहली बार घोंसला बना रही थी।

• It laid a **large clutch** of over **130 eggs**.

उसने **130 से अधिक अंडों** का एक बड़ा समूह दिया।

• It is estimated to be between **25 and 30 years old**, officials said.

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि उसकी आयु लगभग **25 से 30 वर्ष** के बीच आंकी गई है।



# Madhav Gadgil's enduring legacy in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve

GS III: Environment

**Rohan Premkumar**  
UDHAGAMANDALAM

The passing of ecologist Madhav Gadgil on Wednesday has left a void in the Nilgiris, where he had done phenomenal work.

"Almost everyone working on ecology in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and across the Western Ghats, directly or indirectly, is connected to, or is influenced by the work of Madhav Gadgil," said a scientist who spoke to *The Hindu* about the ecologist's lasting legacy.

Ecologists and academics who either worked directly with Gadgil or were familiar with his work say his research and that of his students in the Western Ghats, particularly in what is today known as the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve (NBR), laid the foundation for the recognition of the region's importance to bio-



The passing of Madhav Gadgil has left a void in the Nilgiris, where he had done phenomenal work. FILE PHOTO

diversity and to its protection.

"It was during his students' work on elephants in the landscape that Gadgil understood the importance of a landscape-level conservation framework that was required to protect the Asian elephant," said a senior scientist who requested anonymity.

"He established the Centre for Ecological Science in the Indian insti-

tute of Sciences, Bangalore. And as Director of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, he authored the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve concept document, the first Biosphere Reserve, under the Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) Program of UNESCO, in India," said the former member of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) B.J. Krishnan.

"As a member of the

WGEEP, I had the privilege of working with Professor Gadgil and contributing to the panel's report. Gadgil was a gentle colossus in the field of all-inclusive, people-centric, nature conservation regime. His demise is a huge loss for nature conservation and biodiversity dependant livelihoods, Mr. Krishnan said.

Karthick Balasubramanian, scientist at the Agharkar Research Institute in Pune, said that Mr. Gadgil's legacy extended even further than the formation of the NBR and the recommendations of the WGEEP, as it helped shape the careers of young, aspiring scientists and conservationists. "Through his Western Ghats Network Programme, he managed to connect faculties and students from across the Western Ghats, from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu," Mr. Balasubramanian said.

## Madhav Gadgil's enduring legacy in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve नीलगिरि बायोस्फियर रिज़र्व में माधव गाडगिल की स्थायी विरासत

- The passing of ecologist **Madhav Gadgil** on **Wednesday** has left a void in the **Nilgiris**, where he had done **phenomenal work**.  
बुधवार को पर्यावरणविद् माधव गाडगिल के निधन से नीलगिरि में एक खालीपन पैदा हो गया है, जहाँ उन्होंने असाधारण कार्य किया था।
- "Almost everyone working on ecology in the **Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve** and across the **Western Ghats**, directly or indirectly, is connected to, or is influenced by the work of **Madhav Gadgil**," said a scientist who spoke to **The Hindu** about the ecologist's **lasting legacy**.  
"नीलगिरि बायोस्फियर रिज़र्व और पूरे पश्चिमी घाट में पारिस्थितिकी पर काम करने वाला लगभग हर व्यक्ति प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष रूप से माधव गाडगिल के कार्य से जुड़ा है या उससे प्रभावित है," एक वैज्ञानिक ने द हिंदू से पर्यावरणविद् की **स्थायी विरासत** पर बात करते हुए कहा।
- Ecologists and academics who either worked directly with **Gadgil** or were familiar with his work say his research and that of his students in the **Western Ghats**, particularly in what is today known as the **Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve (NBR)**, laid the foundation for the recognition of the region's importance to **biodiversity** and to its **protection**.  
जो पर्यावरणविद् और शिक्षाविद् सीधे गाडगिल के साथ काम कर चुके हैं या उनके कार्य से परिचित हैं, उनका कहना है कि **पश्चिमी घाट** में उनके और उनके छात्रों के शोध, विशेष रूप से आज के **नीलगिरि बायोस्फियर रिज़र्व (NBR)** में, ने क्षेत्र के **जैव विविधता** के महत्व और उसकी **सुरक्षा** की मान्यता की नींव रखी।
- "It was during his students' work on **elephants** in the landscape that **Gadgil** understood the importance of a **landscape-level conservation framework** that was required to protect the **Asian elephant**," said a senior scientist who requested anonymity.  
"परिदृश्य में हाथियों पर उनके छात्रों के कार्य के दौरान ही गाडगिल ने **एशियाई हाथी** की सुरक्षा के लिए



आवश्यक परिदृश्य-स्तरीय संरक्षण ढाँचे के महत्व को समझा," नाम न छापने की शर्त पर एक वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक ने कहा।

- "He established the **Centre for Ecological Science** in the **Indian institute of Sciences, Bangalore**. And as Director of the **Centre for Ecological Sciences**, he authored the **Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve** concept document, the **first Biosphere Reserve**, under the **Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) Program of UNESCO**, in India,"

## Ecologist's advocacy shaped political and ecological narratives in Kerala

GS III: Environment

**K.S. Sudhi**  
KOCHI

Kerala will remember Madhav Gadgil, ecologist who passed away on Wednesday, as a one-man green army who shaped the socio-political and ecological narratives of the State for the past decade and a half in an unprecedented manner.

The report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), led by Mr. Gadgil, which convulsed the political and conservation landscape of Kerala, classified the mountain range into different Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) based on their ecological significance. It categorised the 142 taluks in the Ghats boundary into ESZs 1, 2 and 3 while prescribing that no new polluting industries, including coal-based power plants, should be allowed in the



Madhav Gadgil, who led the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, visiting the Chembanmudy Hills in Kerala in 2013. FILE PHOTO

first two zones. The panel report almost divided the State's political leaders into two camps: those who supported it and those who opposed it.

While the pro-conservationists revered Mr. Gadgil as the saviour of the Western Ghats and the vanguard of the ecosystem, he was fiercely hated by those who advocated that development needs must be

prioritised over ecology. The Assembly election that followed the submission of the WGEEP report in 2011 also witnessed the political battle being fought in the hilly districts of Kerala on the question of conservation and development. However, Gadgil was often worried that his report was "misinterpreted by interest groups", which propagated that people should be

evacuated from hilly districts such as Idukki. The report sealed the fate of the 163-MW Athirappally hydel project in the Chakkudy river, pushed by the then State government.

"The views of Mr. Gadgil have left an influence on the green movements and ecological campaigns of the State. His stand on issues concerning development and environment was widely discussed in the State," Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in his condolence message.

Communist Party of India leader Binoy Viswom said Mr. Gadgil taught that it was not the intervention to improve the living standards of ordinary people, but the violent intervention of profit-oriented capitalist development that polluted soil, water and nature everywhere and makes human life impossible.

### Ecologist's advocacy shaped political and ecological narratives in Kerala

केरल में पर्यावरणविद् की वकालत ने राजनीतिक और पारिस्थितिक विमर्श को आकार दिया

- The report of the **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)**, led by **Mr. Gadgil**, which convulsed the **political and conservation landscape of Kerala**, classified the mountain range into different **Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** based on their **ecological significance**.

पश्चिमी घाट पारिस्थितिकी विशेषज्ञ पैनल (WGEEP) की रिपोर्ट, जिसका नेतृत्व श्री गाडगिल ने किया, जिसने केरल के राजनीतिक और संरक्षण परिदृश्य को झकझोर दिया, ने पर्वत श्रृंखला को उनकी पारिस्थितिक महत्ता के आधार पर विभिन्न पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों (ESZs) में वर्गीकृत किया।

- It categorised the **142 taluks** in the Ghats boundary into **ESZs 1, 2 and 3** while prescribing that no new **polluting industries**, including **coal-based power plants**, should be allowed in the **first two zones**.

इसने घाट सीमा के भीतर **142 तालुकों** को **ESZ 1, 2 और 3** में वर्गीकृत किया और यह निर्देश दिया कि **पहले दो क्षेत्रों** में **कोयला-आधारित बिजली संयंत्रों** सहित कोई नई **प्रदूषणकारी उद्योग** को अनुमति नहीं दी जानी चाहिए।



- The panel report almost divided the State's **political leaders** into two camps: those who **supported** it and those who **opposed** it.
- The report sealed the fate of the **163-MW Athirappally hydel project in the Chalakkudy river, pushed by the then State government.**

## Top court's green governance, cause for uncertainty

GS III: Environment

MOB

Over the last decade, the Supreme Court of India has increasingly moved from reviewing the legality of administrative decisions to issuing forward-looking directions mimicking regulation in important environmental cases. This shift has emerged in a series of matters in which regulators have dropped the ball, pulling the Court into a managerial role. But the Court has then compounded the problem by continuing to substitute for the regulator instead of correcting the regulator's process and stepping back.

This tendency to remain involved, especially within a single continuing mandamus across domains, has consequences for regulated actors, the state, and the people, and needs to be tempered.

### Rulings and shifts

In June 2022, the Court laid down that protected areas across India should have an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of at least one kilometre from their boundaries. But in April 2023, the Court modified the direction and said the rule would not apply where the Environment Ministry had already issued ESZ notifications, partly because States had argued that the blanket rule was hard to implement.

Earlier, in December 2015, the Court had banned the registration of private diesel cars and sport utility vehicles with an engine capacity of 2,000 cc or more in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). However, by August 2016, it lifted the embargo and replaced it with a charge to compensate, reported widely as 1%-2% on the ex-showroom price. In 2025, the Court again started with a broad protection that was easy to articulate, calling for no-coercive action against owners of diesel or petrol vehicles that were more than 10 or 15 years old, respectively. Then the Court narrowed the rule by restricting action only against those vehicles below the Bharat Stage-IV standard.

The firecracker matter followed the same trajectory. The Court sometimes imposed a



Vasudevan Mukunth

The Supreme Court should protect the environment by disciplining the state back into regulation

near-total ban in the NCR because of air pollution, only to relax it around specific festivals and limited categories such as "green crackers", in both instances citing enforcement constraints and public order realities.

While fragmented enforcement, delayed notifications, poor monitoring and ad hoc exemptions left gaps that invited judicial intervention, the Court has often responded by stepping into the regulator's shoes rather than by holding regulators to their statutory duties.

In these matters, the Court's justification has often shifted from being rooted in legality to that in consequences. In May 2025, in *Vanashakti vs Union of India*, the Court said ex post facto environmental clearances run against core environmental principles. But in November, it recalled that position in a review, with the majority judgment expressing concerns about disrupting ongoing commercial activity. In these instances, the Court's impulse to govern caused it to treat a doctrinal statement as the starting point and to manage the fallout later.

### The issue of expertise

'Expertise' has also been a source of support as well as dispute once the Court starts issuing forward-looking directives. In the Aravalli matter, for instance, the Court's November 20 order adopted a unified definition for "Aravalli hills and ranges" in the context of controlling mining, based on a committee's findings. Within weeks, however, it placed that order in abeyance and moved to constitute a new committee after concerns that the definition would have unintended legal effects. In the ESZ issue as well, a uniform buffer sounded decisive at first but once stakeholders realised that the ecological basis and feasibility varied considerably across landscapes, the rule met with resistance. The Court has used expert inputs to compensate for its limits but has also contested expertise. This push-pull relationship, while implicitly not a bad thing, has also set the stage for U-turns.

Perhaps where the Court conducting itself as an approving authority has bitten the hardest is the consequences for public challenge. As environmental lawyer Ritwick Dutta has argued, project proponents and governments have been forced to approach the Court for permissions even before statutory authorities have finished examining a project, at the same time conferring a sense of finality that discourages contestation later. The bigger problem here is not that the Court may get a technical detail wrong but that its early entry into the approval process can smother meaningful judicial review in other fora. As a result, when the Court modifies an older rule, it also reshapes who is heard and on what evidentiary basis.

### Need for stability

Many of these disputes also sit inside continuing mandamus structures – serial interim directions, committee reports, affidavits, and modifications – so it has been easy for the Court to correct course but often at the expense of stability. Instead, the Court should consider adopting a steadier hand, i.e., protecting the environment by disciplining the state back into regulation. It can do this by specifying thresholds for when it will issue managerial directions and insisting on time-bound regulatory action with reasons and public data, while retaining its prerogative to review legality and procedures. It can also reduce uncertainty by avoiding sweeping rules that also immediately invite exceptions and by explaining in advance what kinds of evidence or implementation constraints would justify modification.

This way, regulated actors will deal with strict rather than negotiable rules, governments will not have to contend with parallel decision-making, and the people will know where and how to contest activities that render environmental harm.

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## Top court's green governance, cause for uncertainty शीर्ष अदालत का पर्यावरणीय शासन, अनिश्चितता का कारण

- Over the last decade, the **Supreme Court of India** has increasingly moved from reviewing the **legality of administrative decisions** to issuing **forward-looking directions** mimicking **regulation** in important environmental cases.

पिछले एक दशक में, **भारत का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** प्रशासनिक निर्णयों की **कानूनी वैधता की समीक्षा** से आगे बढ़कर महत्वपूर्ण पर्यावरणीय मामलों में **नियमन जैसे अग्रिम निर्देश** जारी करने लगा है।

- This shift has emerged in a series of matters in which **regulators have dropped the ball**, pulling the Court into a **managerial role**.

यह बदलाव उन कई मामलों में सामने आया है जहाँ **नियामक अपनी जिम्मेदारी निभाने में विफल रहे**, जिससे न्यायालय को **प्रबंधकीय भूमिका** निभानी पड़ी।

- But the Court has then compounded the problem by continuing to **substitute for the regulator instead of correcting the regulator's process and stepping back**.

लेकिन इसके बाद न्यायालय ने समस्या को और बढ़ाया क्योंकि उसने नियामकों की प्रक्रिया सुधारने और **पीछे हटने** के बजाय स्वयं ही **नियामक की जगह लेना** जारी रखा।

- This tendency to remain involved, especially within a single **continuing mandamus** across domains, has consequences for **regulated actors**, the **state**, and the **people**, and needs to be **tempered**.



यह प्रवृत्ति, विशेषकर विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में एक ही निरंतर निर्देश के तहत जुड़े रहने की, नियंत्रित पक्षों, राज्य, और जनता सभी पर प्रभाव डालती है और इसे संयमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

## Rulings and shifts निर्णय और बदलाव

- In June 2022, the Court laid down that protected areas across India should have an **eco-sensitive zone (ESZ)** of at least **one kilometre** from their boundaries.  
जून 2022 में, न्यायालय ने निर्देश दिया कि पूरे भारत में संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के चारों ओर कम से कम एक किलोमीटर का पर्यावरण-संवेदनशील क्षेत्र (ESZ) होना चाहिए।
- But in April 2023, the Court modified the direction and said the rule would not apply where the **Environment Ministry** had already issued ESZ notifications.  
लेकिन अप्रैल 2023 में, न्यायालय ने निर्देश में संशोधन करते हुए कहा कि जहाँ पर्यावरण मंत्रालय पहले ही ESZ अधिसूचनाएँ जारी कर चुका है, वहाँ यह नियम लागू नहीं होगा।
- This was partly because States had argued that the **blanket rule** was hard to implement.  
यह आंशिक रूप से इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि राज्यों ने तर्क दिया था कि **सर्वव्यापी नियम** लागू करना कठिन है।
- Earlier, in December 2015, the Court had banned the registration of private **diesel cars and SUVs** with an engine capacity of **2,000 cc or more** in the **Delhi-NCR**.  
इससे पहले, दिसंबर 2015 में, न्यायालय ने दिल्ली-एनसीआर में 2,000 सीसी या उससे अधिक इंजन क्षमता वाली निजी डीज़ल कारों और एसयूवी के पंजीकरण पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था।
- However, by August 2016, it lifted the embargo and replaced it with a **charge to compensate**, reported widely as **1%–2% of the ex-showroom price**.  
हालाँकि, अगस्त 2016 तक इस प्रतिबंध को हटाकर उसकी जगह **मुआवज़े के रूप में शुल्क** लगाया गया, जिसे व्यापक रूप से **एक्स-शोरूम कीमत का 1%–2%** बताया गया।
- In 2025, the Court again started with a broad protection, calling for **no-coercive action** against owners of diesel or petrol vehicles that were more than **10 or 15 years old**, respectively.  
2025 में, न्यायालय ने फिर से एक व्यापक सुरक्षा की शुरुआत की और **10 या 15 वर्ष से अधिक पुराने** डीज़ल और पेट्रोल वाहनों के मालिकों के खिलाफ **कोई दमनात्मक कार्रवाई न करने** का आह्वान किया।
- Then the Court narrowed the rule by restricting action only against those vehicles below the **Bharat Stage-IV** standard.  
इसके बाद न्यायालय ने नियम को सीमित करते हुए कार्रवाई केवल **भारत स्टेज-IV** मानक से नीचे के वाहनों तक कर दी।
- The **firecracker matter** followed the same trajectory.  
**पटाखों का मामला** भी इसी राह पर चला।
- In both instances, it cited **enforcement constraints and public order realities**.  
दोनों ही मामलों में **प्रवर्तन की सीमाएँ** और **सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था की वास्तविकताएँ** कारण बताई गईं।
- While **fragmented enforcement, delayed notifications, poor monitoring and ad hoc exemptions** left gaps that invited judicial intervention, the Court has often responded by **stepping into the regulator's shoes** rather than holding regulators to their **statutory duties**.  
जहाँ **खंडित प्रवर्तन, देरी से अधिसूचनाएँ, कमज़ोर निगरानी** और **तदर्थ छूट** ने न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप की गुंजाइश छोड़ी, वहीं न्यायालय ने कई बार नियामकों को उनके **वैधानिक कर्तव्यों** के लिए जवाबदेह ठहराने के बजाय खुद ही **नियामक की भूमिका** निभाई।
- In these matters, the Court's justification has often shifted from being rooted in **legality** to that in **consequences**.  
इन मामलों में, न्यायालय का औचित्य अक्सर **कानून आधारित** होने से हटकर **परिणामों पर आधारित** हो गया है।
- In May 2025, in **Vanashakti vs Union of India**, the Court said **ex post facto environmental clearances** run against core **environmental principles**.  
मई 2025 में, **Vanashakti vs Union of India** में, न्यायालय ने कहा कि **ex post facto** पर्यावरण स्पष्टीकरण **पर्यावरण के मूल सिद्धांतों** के खिलाफ हैं।
- In the **Aravalli** matter, for instance, the Court's **November 20** order adopted a **unified definition** for "**Aravalli hills and ranges**" in the context of controlling mining, based on a committee's findings.  
Aravalli मामले में, न्यायालय ने नवंबर 20 के आदेश में **एकified definition** को अपनाया, जो **खनिजों को नियंत्रित करने** के संदर्भ में **Aravalli hills and ranges** के लिए, जो **एक समिति के** खोजों पर आधारित था।
- Many of these disputes also sit inside **continuing mandamus** structures — **serial interim directions, committee reports, affidavits, and modifications** — so it has been easy for the Court to **correct course**, but often at the expense of **stability**.  
इनमें से कई विवाद **continuing mandamus** संरचनाओं में होते हैं — **serial interim directions, committee reports, affidavits, and modifications** — इसलिए न्यायालय को **correct course** सुधारने में आसानी मिली है, लेकिन अक्सर **stability** की हानि के कारण।



- It can also reduce **uncertainty** by avoiding **sweeping rules** that immediately invite exceptions.

# Trump withdraws U.S. from UNFCCC, a key climate treaty

GS III: Environment

Agence France-Presse  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from a bedrock climate treaty was slammed on Thursday by the EU, which vowed to keep tackling the crisis with other nations.

The White House on Wednesday flagged the U.S. exit from 66 global organisations and treaties – roughly half affiliated with the United Nations – it identified as “contrary to the interests of the United States”.



Donald Trump

Most notable among them is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty underpinning all major international climate agreements.

The treaty adopted in 1992 is a global pact by nations to cooperate to drive down planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

European Union climate chief Wopke Hoekstra said the UNFCCC “underpins global climate action” and brings nations together in the collective fight against the crisis.

“The decision by the world’s largest economy and second-largest emitter to retreat from it is regrettable and unfortunate,” Mr. Hoekstra said.

## Trump withdraws U.S. from UNFCCC, a key climate treaty ट्रम्प ने अमेरिका को UNFCCC, एक प्रमुख जलवायु संधि से बाहर निकाला

- U.S. President **Donald Trump's** decision to withdraw the **United States** from a bedrock **climate treaty** was slammed on Thursday by the **EU**, which vowed to keep tackling the crisis with other nations.  
अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** के **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** को एक मूलभूत **जलवायु संधि** से बाहर निकालने के निर्णय की **ईयू** ने गुरुवार को आलोचना की, जिसने अन्य देशों के साथ संकट से निपटने का संकल्प व्यक्त किया।
- Most notable among them is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, the parent treaty underpinning all major international **climate agreements**.  
इनमें सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन फ्रेमवर्क कन्वेंशन (UNFCCC)**, जो सभी प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय **जलवायु समझौतों** की नींव है।
- The treaty adopted in 1992 is a global pact by nations to cooperate to drive down planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.**
- The decision by the world's largest economy and second-largest emitter to retreat from it is regrettable and unfortunate.**