



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>  
CONTACT: 9971932488



# PATRIOTIC IAS

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

### 28 FEBRUARY 2026

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

PCS Special:

28 February

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur  
Email Id : [info@patrioticias.in](mailto:info@patrioticias.in)  
Contact Number : 9971932488  
Website : [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)



**Defaced defiance**



**Slogans in stone:** A graffiti reading "Never again is now" is pictured on a statue of Britain's former Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, London on Friday. The words "free Palestine" and "stop the genocide" were also sprayed on it. The Dutch group called "Free the Fulton 24," a reference to Palestine Action activists, claimed responsibility for the act. AP

Slogan in stone: A graffiti reading 'Never again is now' is pictured on a statue of Britain's former Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, London on Friday. The words "free Palestine" and "stop the genocide" were also sprayed on it. The Dutch group called "Free the Fulton 24," a reference to Palestine Action activists, claimed responsibility for the act.

<b>GS Paper II: Governance,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>28 February 2026</b>
<b>28F</b>	<b>Kerala's paradox can spark its global vision</b> केरल का विरोधाभास उसकी वैश्विक दृष्टि को प्रज्वलित कर सकता है
<b>28F</b>	<b>Up in the air</b> अस्पष्ट स्थिति में
<b>28F</b>	<b>Deadlines, disputes, doubts dog UMEED for waqf properties</b> समय-सीमाएँ, विवाद और आशंकाएँ वक्फ संपत्तियों के लिए UMEED को परेशान कर रही हैं



## Kerala's paradox can spark its global vision

CS II: Governance

Long before “globalization” became the lingua franca of Davos economists, Kerala, sandwiched between the verdant Western Ghats and the cerulean Arabian Sea, was practising it with cosmopolitan flair. History whispers to us from the excavations of Muziris, where the clinking of Roman sesterces once drowned out local Malayalam dialects. The Chinese, Arabs, Jews and Europeans all arrived in pursuit of our spices and textiles, creating a syncretic civilisation where church bells, the muezzin’s call, and temple chants harmonised into a symphony of coexistence.

### Switch from remittance to innovation

This indomitable spirit has metamorphosed into the “Global Malayalee”. From the oil rigs of the Middle East to the boardrooms of Silicon Valley, the Keralite is omnipresent, constructing a “Remittance Economy” worth an estimated ₹1.3 lakh crore annually. We are the super-expats of the 21st century. But the challenge for Kerala is to transform this “Remittance Economy” into an “Innovation Economy”. For too long, Kerala’s economic discourse has been entrapped in a futile exercise of self-flagellation, comparing ourselves to our neighbours, wondering why we cannot replicate the automobile factories of Tamil Nadu or the industrial belts of Maharashtra. But this ignores the crucial truth: Kerala is an anomaly. We are a State boasting first-world social indicators amidst third-world infrastructure pressures, possessing the population density of the Netherlands (901 per square kilometre), the literacy of Singapore (96.2%), and the ecological fragility of Costa Rica. To try to force-fit the heavy industrial models of continental India onto the delicate geography of Kerala is an error of imagination. Our future does not lie in competing with Chennai or Mumbai for monostacks; it lies in looking outward, across the seas, to the small States that have turned their constraints into competitive advantages.

Kerala is already the nursing capital of the world; we must now aspire to be its healing garden. Our demographic reality – we are the fastest aging society in India – presents us with a unique paradox that is also an opportunity. Leveraging our unique genetic admixture – a blend of Dravidian, Aryan, Arab, and European markers – we must move beyond general health care to precision medicine. Like Iceland, which utilised its population data to drive biotech, we can establish a “Gene Valley”, mapping disease risks and drug responses specific to diverse populations, transforming our diverse heritage into a scientific asset.

Why should we import 80% of our medical devices when we possess the engineering talent to create them? We must look to Costa Rica, a small nation that became a med-tech powerhouse. By leveraging institutions such as



**Shashi Tharoor**

is the fourth-term Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram (Lok Sabha), a member of the Congress Working Committee, and the award-winning author of 28 books

The State must look across the oceans to chart a bright future

the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute, we can manufacture high-value components – stents, heart valves, and surgical robots – for the world. We already are a leading State in blood-bags.

Furthermore, we must cease viewing our aging population as a liability and recognise it as an economic engine. By emulating the Japanese model and developing “retirement villages” in our climate-friendly highlands, we can offer world-class assisted living not just for locals, but for the “grey nomads” of the West. Additionally, we must elevate Ayurveda from “wellness” to “cure”, much like China successfully globalised Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) through scientific validation. By combining our 1,200 species of medicinal plants with modern diagnostics, we can position Kerala as the “Sanatorium of the East”.

One of Kerala’s greatest, yet most neglected, assets is its biological gene pool; as one of the world’s eight “hottest hotspots” of biodiversity, we house approximately 5,679 species of flowering plants (2022-23 data). With no land to spare for low-yield crops, we must adopt the Dutch model of glasshouse farming. The Netherlands is the world’s second largest agri-food exporter despite its diminutive size because it prioritises technology over territory. By focusing on climate-resilient local varieties, such as the saline-tolerant Pokkali rice, and vertically extracting high-value spice oleoresins, we maximise revenue per inch.

### Possibilities by the ocean side

We must stop being hunter-gatherers of the sea and become farmers. Like Norway, we should lead in sustainable salmon and shrimp farming and extracting pharmaceuticals from marine algae, while investing in deep-sea fishing fleets and cold storage managed with scientific rigour. The Vizhinjam International Seaport is our gateway, but a port without value addition is merely a parking lot. We must look to Singapore and construct a logistics city that refines, assembles, and repackages goods, transforming Vizhinjam from a transit point into a global economic anchor. We can also be the gas station of the Indian Ocean; like Chile, we can use our solar and wind potential to produce green ammonia for the ships docking at our ports, fuelling the maritime fleets of the future.

Since heavy industry is ecologically unviable, our path to prosperity lies in the “weightless economy” – sectors requiring high intellect but low physical footprint. We are the Toulouse of India; with the legacy of VSSC, LPSC, and IIST – Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre and Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology – Thiruvananthapuram is already a space citadel. We must encourage private startups, creating a commercial “space coast” for nano-satellite launches and propulsion

systems. Similarly, the presence of Brahmos should be leveraged to set up auxiliary defence production. We must emulate Manchester (“Graphene City”) by turning our rare earth minerals (ilmenite, monazite) into the microchips and superconductors of tomorrow. The India Innovation Centre for Graphene in Kochi is merely the seed; we must grow the forest.

Given our financial literacy and an economy fuelled by global remittances, we need a regulatory “sandbox” in a Global FinTech Centre, similar to the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), to attract the world’s crypto and fintech pioneers. Furthermore, like The Hague or Singapore, Kerala can become a venue for international commercial arbitration, leveraging our legal expertise and the serene “peace dividend” of locations such as Kumarakom to settle global corporate disputes at a fraction of London’s cost.

### The change begins here

“God’s Own Country” is a brilliant slogan, but scenic beauty is no longer enough; the modern traveller craves immersion and activity. We can be the Montreal of Asia, utilising our vibrant cinema culture and artistic youth to become the post-production back-office for Hollywood and Bollywood, offering tax credits to attract global gaming studios and VFX houses/visual effects studios. We must pivot from selling handicrafts to selling “heritage luxury”. Consider the Aranmula Kannadi or the exquisite Balaramapuram handloom; currently, these are marketed merely as curiosities for tourists. We must look to Italy’s Tuscany or France’s Lyon – why must a Kasavu saree be mere attire when it can be couture? We need to establish a “Kerala Design Institute” partnering with Milan or Paris to elevate our master craftsmen into designers, exporting not just the cloth, but the brand. Imagine a global luxury brand based on Kerala’s eco-friendly hand-woven textiles, utilising the narrative of “sustainable luxury”.

Finally, we must turn our climate vulnerability into expertise. Like the Dutch, who sell their water management engineering to the world, Kerala can become a “living lab” for disaster-resilient infrastructure, exporting low-cost, flood-resistant housing and soil stabilisation technologies to the tropical world.

The path forward requires a psychological shift. We must cease asking, “How do we catch up with Bangalore?” and start inquiring, “How do we collaborate with Amsterdam? How do we compete with Colombo? How do we learn from Kyoto?” Kerala has historically served as a bridge between the east and the west. It is time we ceased being merely a bridge – and started being the destination. A destination where the best of the world is adapted, improved, and offered back to humanity with a distinctly Malayali touch.

## 28F. Kerala's paradox can spark its global vision

केरल का विरोधाभास उसकी वैश्विक दृष्टि को प्रज्वलित कर सकता है

- The Chinese, Arabs, Jews and Europeans all arrived in pursuit of our spices and textiles, creating a syncretic civilisation where church bells, the muezzin’s call, and temple chants harmonised into a symphony of coexistence. चीनी, अरब, यहूदी और यूरोपीय सभी हमारे मसालों और वस्त्रों की खोज में आए, जिससे एक समन्वित सभ्यता बनी जहाँ चर्च की घंटियाँ, मुअज्जिन की अज़ान और मंदिरों के मंत्र सहअस्तित्व की एक समरस ध्वनि में मिल गए।
- We are a State boasting first-world social indicators amidst third-world infrastructure pressures, possessing the population density of the Netherlands (901 per square kilometre), the literacy of Singapore (96.2%), and the ecological fragility of Costa Rica. हम एक ऐसा राज्य हैं जिसके पास प्रथम विश्व के सामाजिक सूचकांक हैं, जबकि तृतीय विश्व के बुनियादी ढांचे का दबाव है, जिसकी जनसंख्या घनत्व नीदरलैंड (901 प्रति वर्ग किलोमीटर) के समान है, साक्षरता सिंगापुर (96.2%) के समान है, और पारिस्थितिक नाजुकता कोस्टा रिका जैसी है।
- Kerala is already the nursing capital of the world; we must now aspire to be its healing garden.



केरल पहले से ही दुनिया की नर्सिंग राजधानी है; अब हमें इसका उपचार उद्यान बनने की आकांक्षा रखनी चाहिए।

- Leveraging our unique genetic admixture — a blend of Dravidian, Aryan, Arab, and European markers — we must **move beyond general health care to precision medicine**.  
हमारे विशिष्ट आनुवंशिक मिश्रण — द्रविड़, आर्य, अरब और यूरोपीय संकेतकों के मिश्रण — का उपयोग करते हुए, हमें सामान्य स्वास्थ्य सेवा से आगे बढ़कर सटीक चिकित्सा की ओर जाना चाहिए।
- **Why should we import 80% of our medical devices when we possess the engineering talent to create them?**

जब हमारे पास उन्हें बनाने की इंजीनियरिंग क्षमता है तो हमें अपने **80% चिकित्सा उपकरण** क्यों आयात करने चाहिए?

- We must look to **Costa Rica, a small nation that became a med-tech powerhouse**.  
हमें **कोस्टा रिका** की ओर देखना चाहिए, जो एक छोटा राष्ट्र होकर भी मेड-टेक शक्ति बना।
- **By leveraging institutions such as the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute, we can manufacture high-value components — stents, heart valves, and surgical robots — for the world.**

**श्री चित्र तिरुनाल संस्थान** जैसे संस्थानों का उपयोग कर, हम उच्च-मूल्य घटक — स्टेंट, हृदय वाल्व और सर्जिकल रोबोट — विश्व के लिए निर्मित कर सकते हैं।

- We already are **a leading State in blood-bags**.  
हम पहले से ही रक्त बैग के क्षेत्र में एक अग्रणी राज्य हैं।
- Furthermore, we must cease viewing our aging population as a liability and recognise it as an economic engine.  
इसके अलावा, हमें अपनी वृद्ध होती आबादी को बोझ के रूप में देखना बंद कर इसे एक आर्थिक इंजन के रूप में पहचानना चाहिए।
- By emulating the Japanese model and **developing “retirement villages” in our climate-friendly highlands, we can offer world-class assisted living not just for locals, but for the “grey nomads” of the West.**

**जापानी मॉडल** का अनुसरण करते हुए और अपने जलवायु-अनुकूल पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में **“रिटायरमेंट विलेज”** विकसित कर, हम न केवल स्थानीय लोगों के लिए बल्कि पश्चिम के **“ग्रे नोमैड्स”** के लिए भी विश्व-स्तरीय सहायक निवास प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

- Additionally, we must **elevate Ayurveda from “wellness” to “cure”**, much like **China successfully globalised Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) through scientific validation**.  
इसके अतिरिक्त, हमें आयुर्वेद को **“वेलनेस”** से **“क्योर”** तक उन्नत करना चाहिए, ठीक वैसे ही जैसे **चीन** ने वैज्ञानिक मान्यता के माध्यम से **Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)** का सफल वैश्वीकरण किया।
- **By combining our 1,200 species of medicinal plants with modern diagnostics, we can position Kerala as the “Sanatorium of the East”.**

अपनी **1,200 औषधीय पौधों की प्रजातियों** को आधुनिक निदान तकनीकों के साथ जोड़कर, हम केरल को **“पूर्व का सैनिटोरियम”** के रूप में स्थापित कर सकते हैं।

- One of Kerala’s greatest, yet most neglected, assets is its **biological gene pool; as one of the world’s eight “hottest hotspots” of biodiversity, we house approximately 5,679 species of flowering plants (2022-23 data)**.

केरल की सबसे बड़ी, किंतु उपेक्षित संपत्तियों में से एक इसका जैविक जीन पूल है; जैव विविधता के विश्व के आठ **“हॉटस्पॉट्स”** में से एक होने के नाते, यहाँ लगभग **5,679 पुष्पीय पौधों की प्रजातियाँ (2022-23 डेटा)** पाई जाती हैं।

- With no land to spare for low-yield crops, we must adopt the **Dutch model of glasshouse farming**.

कम उपज वाली फसलों के लिए भूमि की कमी के कारण, हमें **डच मॉडल** की ग्लासहाउस खेती अपनानी चाहिए।

- The Netherlands is the world’s second largest agri-food exporter despite its diminutive size because it prioritises technology over territory.

**नीदरलैंड** अपने छोटे आकार के बावजूद विश्व का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा कृषि-खाद्य निर्यातक है क्योंकि वह क्षेत्रफल से अधिक तकनीक को प्राथमिकता देता है।

- By focusing on **climate-resilient local varieties, such as the saline-tolerant Pokkali rice**, and vertically extracting **high-value spice oleoresins**, we maximise revenue per inch.

जलवायु-सहिष्णु स्थानीय किस्मों जैसे नमक-सहिष्णु **पोक्कली चावल** पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर और उच्च-मूल्य मसाला ओलियोरेजिन का ऊर्ध्वनिष्कर्षण कर, हम प्रति इंच राजस्व अधिकतम करते हैं।



## Possibilities by the ocean side

### समुद्र किनारे संभावनाएँ

- We must stop being hunter-gatherers of the sea and become farmers.  
हमें समुद्र के शिकारी-संग्रहकर्ता होने से आगे बढ़कर किसान बनना होगा।
- Like **Norway**, we should lead in sustainable salmon and shrimp farming and extracting pharmaceuticals from marine algae, while investing in deep-sea fishing fleets and cold storage managed with scientific rigour.  
नॉर्वे की तरह, हमें टिकाऊ सैल्मन और झींगा पालन तथा समुद्री शैवाल से औषधीय पदार्थों के निष्कर्षण में अग्रणी बनना चाहिए, साथ ही वैज्ञानिक कठोरता से प्रबंधित गहरे समुद्र की मछली पकड़ने वाली नौकाओं और कोल्ड स्टोरेज में निवेश करना चाहिए।
- The **Vizhinjam International Seaport** is our gateway, but a port without value addition is merely a parking lot.  
**विझिंजम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बंदरगाह** हमारा प्रवेश द्वार है, लेकिन मूल्य संवर्धन के बिना बंदरगाह केवल एक पार्किंग स्थल है।
- We must look to **Singapore** and construct a logistics city that refines, assembles, and repackages goods, transforming Vizhinjam from a transit point into a global economic anchor.  
हमें **सिंगापुर** की ओर देखना चाहिए और एक लॉजिस्टिक्स सिटी बनानी चाहिए जो वस्तुओं को परिष्कृत, संयोजित और पुनःपैकेज करे, जिससे विझिंजम एक ट्रांजिट बिंदु से वैश्विक आर्थिक आधार में परिवर्तित हो सके।
- We can also be the gas station of the Indian Ocean; like **Chile**, we can use our solar and wind potential to produce green ammonia for the ships docking at our ports, fuelling the maritime fleets of the future.  
हम हिंद महासागर के गैस स्टेशन भी बन सकते हैं; **चिली** की तरह, हम अपने सौर और पवन क्षमता का उपयोग कर बंदरगाहों पर लगने वाले जहाजों के लिए ग्रीन अमोनिया का उत्पादन कर सकते हैं, जो भविष्य के समुद्री बेड़ों को ऊर्जा देगा।
- Since heavy industry is ecologically unviable, our path to prosperity lies in the “weightless economy” — sectors requiring high intellect but low physical footprint.  
चूँकि भारी उद्योग पारिस्थितिक रूप से अव्यवहार्य है, हमारी समृद्धि का मार्ग “**वेटलेस इकोनॉमी**” में है — ऐसे क्षेत्र जो उच्च बुद्धिमत्ता लेकिन कम भौतिक स्थान की आवश्यकता रखते हैं।
- We are the **Toulouse of India**; with the legacy of **VSSC, LPSC, and IIST — Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre and Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology — Thiruvananthapuram** is already a space citadel.  
हम **भारत का टूलूज़** हैं; **VSSC, LPSC और IIST — विक्रम साराभाई स्पेस सेंटर, लिक्विड प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम्स सेंटर और भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान — तिरुवनंतपुरम** पहले से ही एक अंतरिक्ष दुर्ग है।
- We must encourage private startups, creating a commercial “space coast” for nano-satellite launches and propulsion systems.  
हमें निजी स्टार्टअप्स को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए, नैनो-उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण और प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम्स के लिए एक वाणिज्यिक “**स्पेस कोस्ट**” का निर्माण करना चाहिए।
- Similarly, the presence of **Brahmos** should be leveraged to set up auxiliary defence production.  
इसी प्रकार, **ब्रह्मोस** की उपस्थिति का उपयोग सहायक रक्षा उत्पादन स्थापित करने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए।
- We must emulate **Manchester (“Graphene City”)** by turning our rare earth minerals (**ilmenite, monazite**) into the microchips and superconductors of tomorrow.  
हमें **मैनचेस्टर (“ग्रेफीन सिटी”)** का अनुकरण करते हुए अपने दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खनिजों (**इल्मेनाइट, मोनाज़ाइट**) को भविष्य के माइक्रोचिप्स और सुपरकंडक्टर्स में बदलना चाहिए।
- The **India Innovation Centre for Graphene in Kochi** is merely the seed; we must grow the forest.  
**कोच्चि में इंडिया इनोवेशन सेंटर फॉर ग्रेफीन** केवल बीज है; हमें पूरे वन का विकास करना होगा।
- Given our financial literacy and an economy fuelled by global remittances, we need a regulatory “sandbox” in a **Global FinTech Centre**, similar to the **Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)**, to attract the world’s crypto and fintech pioneers.  
हमारी वित्तीय साक्षरता और वैश्विक प्रेषणों से संचालित अर्थव्यवस्था को देखते हुए, हमें विश्व के क्रिप्टो और फिनटेक अग्रदूतों को आकर्षित करने के लिए **ग्लोबल फिनटेक सेंटर** में एक नियामक “**सैंडबॉक्स**” की आवश्यकता है, जो **दुबई इंटरनेशनल फाइनेंशियल सेंटर (DIFC)** के समान हो।



- Furthermore, like **The Hague** or **Singapore**, Kerala can become a venue for international commercial arbitration, leveraging our legal expertise and the serene “peace dividend” of locations such as **Kumarakom** to settle global corporate disputes at a fraction of London’s cost.

इसके अलावा, **द हेग** या **सिंगापुर** की तरह, केरल अंतरराष्ट्रीय वाणिज्यिक मध्यस्थता का केंद्र बन सकता है, अपनी कानूनी विशेषज्ञता और **कुमारकोम** जैसे स्थानों के शांत “पीस डिविडेंड” का उपयोग कर वैश्विक कॉर्पोरेट विवादों को लंदन की लागत के एक अंश पर सुलझा सकता है।

### The change begins here परिवर्तन यहीं से शुरू होता है

- “**God’s Own Country**” is a brilliant slogan, but scenic beauty is no longer enough; the modern traveller craves immersion and activity.  
“**गॉड्स ओन कंट्री**” एक उत्कृष्ट नारा है, लेकिन केवल प्राकृतिक सुंदरता अब पर्याप्त नहीं है; आधुनिक यात्री गहन अनुभव और गतिविधि चाहता है।
- We can be the **Montreal of Asia**, utilising our vibrant cinema culture and artistic youth to become the post-production back-office for **Hollywood** and **Bollywood**, offering tax credits to attract global gaming studios and VFX houses/visual effects studios.  
हम **एशिया का मॉन्ट्रियल** बन सकते हैं, अपनी जीवंत सिनेमा संस्कृति और कलात्मक युवाओं का उपयोग कर **हॉलीवुड** और **बॉलीवुड** के लिए पोस्ट-प्रोडक्शन बैक-ऑफिस बन सकते हैं, और वैश्विक गेमिंग स्टूडियो तथा VFX स्टूडियो को आकर्षित करने के लिए कर प्रोत्साहन दे सकते हैं।
- We must pivot from selling handicrafts to selling “heritage luxury”.  
हमें हस्तशिल्प बेचने से आगे बढ़कर “**हेरिटेज लजरी**” बेचने की ओर मुड़ना चाहिए।
- Consider the **Aranmula Kannadi** or the exquisite **Balaramapuram handloom**; currently, these are marketed merely as curiosities for tourists.  
**अरनमुला कन्नड़ी** या उत्कृष्ट **बलरामपुरम हैंडलूम** पर विचार करें; वर्तमान में इन्हें केवल पर्यटकों के लिए जिज्ञासा वस्तुओं के रूप में विपणन किया जाता है।
- We must look to **Italy’s Tuscany** or **France’s Lyon** — why must a **Kasavu saree** be mere attire when it can be couture?  
हमें **इटली के टस्कनी** या **फ्रांस के ल्यों** की ओर देखना चाहिए — जब **कसावु साड़ी** कूटयोर बन सकती है तो वह केवल परिधान क्यों रहे?
- We need to establish a “Kerala Design Institute” partnering with **Milan** or **Paris** to elevate our master craftsmen into designers, exporting not just the cloth, but the brand.  
हमें **मिलान** या **पेरिस** के साथ साझेदारी में एक “**केरल डिज़ाइन इंस्टीट्यूट**” स्थापित करना चाहिए, ताकि हमारे शिल्पकार डिज़ाइनर बन सकें, और केवल कपड़ा ही नहीं बल्कि ब्रांड भी निर्यात कर सकें।
- Imagine a global luxury brand based on Kerala’s eco-friendly hand-woven textiles, utilising the narrative of “sustainable luxury”.  
केरल के पर्यावरण-अनुकूल हस्त-करघा वस्त्रों पर आधारित एक वैश्विक लजरी ब्रांड की कल्पना करें, जो “**सस्टेनेबल लजरी**” की अवधारणा का उपयोग करे।
- Finally, we must turn our climate vulnerability into expertise.  
अंततः, हमें अपनी जलवायु संवेदनशीलता को विशेषज्ञता में बदलना चाहिए।
- Like the **Dutch**, who sell their water management engineering to the world, Kerala can become a “living lab” for disaster-resilient infrastructure, exporting low-cost, flood-resistant housing and soil stabilisation technologies to the tropical world.  
**डच** की तरह, जो अपनी जल प्रबंधन इंजीनियरिंग विश्व को बेचते हैं, केरल आपदा-प्रतिरोधी अवसंरचना के लिए “**लिविंग लैब**” बन सकता है, और कम लागत वाले बाढ़-रोधी आवास तथा मृदा स्थिरीकरण तकनीकों को उष्णकटिबंधीय विश्व में निर्यात कर सकता है।
- The path forward requires a psychological shift.  
आगे का मार्ग एक मानसिक बदलाव की मांग करता है।
- We must cease asking, “How do we catch up with **Bangalore**?” and start inquiring, “How do we collaborate with **Amsterdam**? How do we compete with **Colombo**? How do we learn from **Kyoto**?”  
हमें यह पूछना बंद करना चाहिए, “हम **बैंगलोर** की बराबरी कैसे करें?” और यह पूछना शुरू करना चाहिए, “हम **एम्स्टर्डम** के साथ कैसे सहयोग करें? हम **कोलंबो** से कैसे प्रतिस्पर्धा करें? हम **क्योटो** से क्या सीखें?”



- Kerala has historically served as a bridge between the east and the west.  
केरल ऐतिहासिक रूप से पूर्व और पश्चिम के बीच एक सेतु रहा है।
- It is time we ceased being merely a bridge — and started being the destination.  
अब समय है कि हम केवल सेतु होना छोड़ दें — और स्वयं गंतव्य बनें।
- A destination where the best of the world is adapted, improved, and offered back to humanity with a distinctly Malayali touch.  
एक ऐसा गंतव्य जहाँ विश्व की श्रेष्ठताओं को अपनाया जाए, सुधारा जाए, और विशिष्ट मलयाली स्पर्श के साथ मानवता को पुनः प्रस्तुत किया जाए।

GS II: Governance MQB

## Up in the air

Flights by non-scheduled operators need better enforcement

A series of flight incidents within a month — two crashes involving small aircraft, at Baramati (Maharashtra) in January, and near Simaria (Jharkhand), and a helicopter crash-landing in the Andamans — is a reminder that charter aviation in India cannot be treated as a lightly regulated adjunct to commercial flying. The troubled charter aviation sector is expanding and the need for oversight has become critical. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) website lists 133 non-scheduled operators, or NSOs (updated till September 30, 2025), using a mix of fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. The meeting on February 24 that the DGCA held with all NSO permit holders was thus long overdue. The proposal to rank charter operators based on safety performance and the requirement for NSOs to disclose critical safety information on their websites, which covers aircraft age, maintenance history, and pilot experience, could be the first steps towards basic transparency. Equally significant is the DGCA's line that commercial considerations must not be allowed to affect safety, a pointer to pressures to prioritise VIP schedules and even business commitments. The regulator's focus on maintenance standards, particularly among operators with in-house maintenance, repair, and operation facilities, is another critical, but late, intervention. Cockpit voice recorder audits, fuel records and ADS-B data scrutiny as well as enforcement of flight duty time limitations are pivotal, though belated, steps. Most importantly, holding senior management accountable for systemic failures is another corrective measure.

Adverse weather has been a contributory factor in several charter and non-scheduled flight accidents, which includes the Bell 430 helicopter crash in Andhra Pradesh in 2009 and the Beechcraft C-90 King Air accident in 2001 that claimed the lives of prominent political leaders. The DGCA has specified that recurrent training of pilots must focus on 'weather awareness strategies and decision-making in uncontrolled environments'. The rollout of safety audits, with a physical workshop on safety, may help align all operators with the safety mandate. However, the fact is that there are some operators with poor safety records. There are also gaps in pilot training and experience on type, scant simulator training centres in India, a dearth of quality instructors and weak audits. It is acknowledged that the regulator itself is short-staffed in certain safety critical departments. Earlier this month, the Civil Aviation Minister spoke of conducting a "very thorough study" of flight operations by non-scheduled operators and to uncontrolled airfields. But for such a safety drive to lock into place there has to be consistent enforcement and committed transparency.

## 28F. Up in the air अस्पष्ट स्थिति में

• Flights by non-scheduled operators need better enforcement

गैर-अनुसूचित ऑपरेटरों द्वारा संचालित उड़ानों के लिए बेहतर प्रवर्तन की आवश्यकता है

## A series of flight incidents within a month एक महीने के भीतर उड़ान घटनाओं की एक श्रृंखला

• A series of flight incidents within a month — two crashes involving small aircraft, at Baramati (Maharashtra) in January, and near Simaria (Jharkhand), and a helicopter crash-landing in the Andamans — is a reminder that charter aviation in India cannot be treated as a lightly regulated adjunct to commercial flying.

एक महीने के भीतर उड़ान घटनाओं की एक श्रृंखला — जनवरी में बारामती (महाराष्ट्र) और सिमरिया (झारखंड) के पास छोटे विमानों की दो दुर्घटनाएँ, तथा अंडमान में हेलीकॉप्टर की क्रैश-लैंडिंग — यह याद दिलाती है कि भारत में चार्टर विमानन को वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों के हल्के विनियमित सहायक के रूप में नहीं देखा जा सकता।

• The troubled charter aviation sector is expanding and the need for oversight has become critical.

समस्याग्रस्त चार्टर विमानन क्षेत्र विस्तार कर रहा है और निगरानी की आवश्यकता अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हो गई है।

• The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) website lists 133 non-scheduled operators, or NSOs (updated till September 30, 2025), using a mix of fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) की वेबसाइट पर 133 गैर-अनुसूचित ऑपरेटर (NSOs) (30 सितंबर 2025 तक अद्यतन) सूचीबद्ध हैं, जो फिक्स्ड-विंग और रोटरी-विंग विमानों का मिश्रण उपयोग करते हैं।

• The meeting on February 24 that the DGCA held with all NSO permit holders was thus long overdue.

24 फरवरी को सभी NSO परमिट धारकों के साथ DGCA की बैठक लंबे समय से अपेक्षित थी।

• The proposal to rank charter operators based on safety performance and the requirement for NSOs to disclose critical safety information on their websites, which covers aircraft age, maintenance history, and pilot experience, could be the first steps towards basic transparency.

सुरक्षा प्रदर्शन के आधार पर चार्टर ऑपरेटरों की रैंकिंग का प्रस्ताव और NSOs द्वारा अपनी वेबसाइटों पर विमान की आयु, रखरखाव इतिहास और पायलट अनुभव जैसी महत्वपूर्ण सुरक्षा जानकारी प्रकट करने की आवश्यकता, बुनियादी पारदर्शिता की दिशा में पहला कदम हो सकता है।



- Equally significant is the **DGCA's** line that **commercial considerations must not be allowed to affect safety, a pointer to pressures to prioritise VIP schedules and even business commitments.**  
उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण **DGCA** का यह कथन है कि वाणिज्यिक विचारों को सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने की अनुमति नहीं दी जानी चाहिए, जो VIP कार्यक्रमों और व्यावसायिक प्रतिबद्धताओं को प्राथमिकता देने के दबाव की ओर संकेत करता है।
- The **regulator's focus on maintenance standards, particularly among operators with in-house maintenance, repair, and operation facilities, is another critical, but late, intervention.**  
नियामक का रखरखाव मानकों पर ध्यान, विशेषकर उन ऑपरेटर्स के बीच जिनके पास इन-हाउस रखरखाव, मरम्मत और संचालन सुविधाएँ हैं, एक और महत्वपूर्ण लेकिन विलंबित हस्तक्षेप है।
- Cockpit voice recorder audits, fuel records and ADS-B data scrutiny as well as enforcement of flight duty time limitations are pivotal, though belated, steps.**  
कॉकपिट वॉयस रिकॉर्डर ऑडिट, ईंधन अभिलेख और **ADS-B डेटा** की जांच तथा उड़ान ड्यूटी समय सीमाओं का प्रवर्तन महत्वपूर्ण, यद्यपि विलंबित, कदम हैं।
- Most importantly, holding senior management accountable for systemic failures is another corrective measure.  
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि प्रणालीगत विफलताओं के लिए वरिष्ठ प्रबंधन को जवाबदेह ठहराना एक और सुधारात्मक उपाय है।
- Adverse weather has been a contributory factor in several charter and non-scheduled flight accidents, which includes the **Bell 430 helicopter crash in Andhra Pradesh in 2009** and the **Beechcraft C-90 King Air accident in 2001** that claimed the lives of prominent political leaders.  
प्रतिकूल मौसम कई चार्टर और गैर-अनुसूचित उड़ान दुर्घटनाओं में सहायक कारक रहा है, जिसमें **2009 में आंध्र प्रदेश में बेल 430 हेलीकॉप्टर दुर्घटना** और **2001 में बीचक्राफ्ट C-90 किंग एयर दुर्घटना** शामिल हैं, जिसमें प्रमुख राजनीतिक नेताओं की मृत्यु हुई थी।
- The **DGCA** has specified that recurrent training of pilots must focus on 'weather awareness strategies and decision-making in uncontrolled environments'.  
**DGCA** ने निर्दिष्ट किया है कि पायलटों के आवर्ती प्रशिक्षण में 'मौसम जागरूकता रणनीतियाँ और अनियंत्रित वातावरण में निर्णय-निर्धारण' पर ध्यान केंद्रित होना चाहिए।
- The rollout of safety audits, with a physical workshop on safety, may help align all operators with the safety mandate.  
सुरक्षा पर भौतिक कार्यशाला के साथ सुरक्षा ऑडिट का आरंभ सभी ऑपरेटर्स को सुरक्षा आदेश के अनुरूप लाने में सहायक हो सकता है।
- However, the fact is that there are some operators with poor safety records.  
हालाँकि, तथ्य यह है कि कुछ ऑपरेटर्स का सुरक्षा रिकॉर्ड खराब है।
- There are also gaps in pilot training and experience on type, **scant simulator training centres in India, a dearth of quality instructors and weak audits.**  
पायलट प्रशिक्षण और प्रकार पर अनुभव में भी अंतराल हैं, भारत में सीमित सिमुलेटर प्रशिक्षण केंद्र हैं, गुणवत्ता वाले प्रशिक्षकों की कमी है और ऑडिट कमजोर हैं।
- It is acknowledged that the regulator itself is short-staffed in certain safety critical departments.  
यह स्वीकार किया गया है कि स्वयं नियामक कुछ सुरक्षा-आवश्यक विभागों में कर्मचारियों की कमी से जूझ रहा है।
- Earlier this month, the **Civil Aviation Minister** spoke of conducting a "very thorough study" of flight operations by non-scheduled operators and to uncontrolled airfields.  
इस महीने की शुरुआत में **नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री** ने गैर-अनुसूचित ऑपरेटर्स और अनियंत्रित हवाई क्षेत्रों में उड़ान संचालन का "बहुत गहन अध्ययन" करने की बात कही।
- But for such a safety drive to lock into place there has to be consistent enforcement and committed transparency.  
लेकिन ऐसी सुरक्षा पहल को स्थायी बनाने के लिए सतत प्रवर्तन और प्रतिबद्ध पारदर्शिता आवश्यक है।



# Deadlines, disputes, doubts dog UMEED for waqf properties

Telangana's waqf institutions are caught in a high-pressure race to digitise decades and centuries-old records on the UMEED portal, launched by the Centre to bring transparency and efficiency to waqf management. But what began as a reform exercise has unfolded into a complex, anxiety-ridden process marked by technical glitches, legal uncertainty, institutional disputes and distrust over intent. The controversy has been sharpened by disagreements between the Telangana State Waqf Board and Department of Heritage as well as political and legal challenges to the amended law, writes **Syed Mohammed**

## SSM Government

If they miss the deadline, thousands of properties, some of them centuries old, may slip into a digital void.

That fear hangs heavy outside a central masjid in Hyderabad, where small groups of men wait in silence, files pressed close to their chests. Some hold rolled gazette notifications and title deeds while others carry electricity bills, tax receipts or fragile photocopies salvaged from ageing registers. Every scrap of paper matters. A few hundred metres from the masjid, across a busy road, another queue mirrors the first. On a designated floor inside a government office, young men with sunken eyes and parched lips – evident effects of fasting – type relentlessly into laptops. Every document that can establish a property as waqf must be uploaded to the UMEED Waqf portal before time runs out.

The urgency is unmistakable, the anxiety visible. The first deadline has already slipped by. The next one, March 12, is barely a fortnight away, and the scale of the task is overwhelming.

Launched amid promises of reform, the UMEED (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development) portal was pitched last June by Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju as a system that would "not only bring transparency but also help the common Muslims, particularly women and children". Conceived as a centralised digital platform, it seeks real-time uploading, verification and monitoring of waqf properties, offering geo-tagged inventories, GIS integration, transparent leasing records, an online grievance redressal system and public access to verified data.

In Telangana, however, the ground reality began unravelling within days of the exercise. Thousands of waqf properties had to be identified, their paperwork traced, collated and digitised, often from fragmented, incomplete or disputed records, within a rigid timeframe. Distrust over intent, unfamiliarity with digital procedures, confusion over technical questions and legal uncertainty combined to slow the process, even as the clock kept ticking.

Matters were further complicated when the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) approached the Supreme Court of India. With the outcome described within the community as disappointing, hesitation set in among mutawallis (manager, caretaker or superintendent of a waqf, an Islamic charitable endowment) and managing committees.

Besides, there was dissatisfaction over the approach of the AIMPLB. While the Board had in-



The Waqf Board had entered certain medieval monuments into UMEED portal. The department has sought the removal of these places of worship from the portal, invoking Section 3D of Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

**ARJUN RAO KUTHADL**, Director, Department of Heritage Telangana

initially discouraged uploading documents to the portal, citing apprehensions that the Union government could interpret it as acceptance of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, the position later shifted amid fears of irreversible loss.

The AIMPLB is of the opinion that the legislation is discriminatory and contradicts Articles 14 (equality before law and equal protection of the laws), 25 (freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion) and 26 (freedom to manage religious affairs) of the Constitution.

Explaining the dilemma, AIMPLB spokesperson and member S.Q.R. Iyas told *The Hindu* says, "We had hoped for a halt on uploading till the issue was fully dealt with. But in order not to lose out, the Board then said people can go ahead with uploading. The case has to go to a larger bench of the Supreme Court, and the Board will fight it out, including on aspects of law of limitation." The scale of what is at stake is staggering. According to Telangana State Waqf Board CEO Mohammed Asadullah, the State has 33,929 gazette-notified waqf properties while another 13,400 were identified during the second waqf survey. This is in addition to about 2,800 waqf institutions listed in the Kitab-ul-Awqaf, the register of endowments maintained by authorities that existed before 1954.

Spread across cities, towns and remote villages, these assets form the backbone of religious, charitable and community life. And even these numbers, officials admit, may not capture the full extent of waqf-by-user properties that exist without formal records.

The problems were not merely legal or procedural; they were also technical. "After we



Telangana State Waqf Board, located at Haj House in Hyderabad, NAGARA GOPAL

moved the Waqf Tribunal, there continued to be some technical difficulties. The bulk approval selection was disabled. So we had to select each and every entry to either approve or reject. This proved time consuming. The number of enclosures or list of documents increased too," says Asadullah, outlining the challenges the Telangana Waqf Board has been grappling with.

On February 23, Syed Bandagi Badeshah Quadri, a member of the Telangana Waqf Board from the mutawalli community, flagged another concern, which he says had been conveyed to chairman Syed Azmatullah Huseni. "Applications of ten show the status as 'submitted' but applicants are not informed if they are later rejected or require corrections," he says.

## Fault lines on the portal

Many, he points out, assume their applications are under process when they may not be. Since registration ultimately depends on approval on the portal, such gaps could leave properties unregistered. "There is an urgent need to alert applicants through SMS, email or portal notifications and ask them to recheck their application status," he suggests.

Even as these technical issues and procedural ambiguities persist, the number of waqf-by-user applications has increased. This, in turn, exposed another fault line – more than one person or committee has, in several cases, staked claim to a single institution. "In this case, we decided to go according to what the records state. If the records state that a person is a mutawalli, we are not entertaining applications in which another person claims to be the mutawalli of the same waqf institution," Asadullah explains.

When concerns around registering on the portal were at their peak last year, the human cost of the exercise played out late one night at the Shahi Masjid complex in Public Gardens. There, a room had been converted into a centre for uploading

waqf property details onto UMEED portal.

A man stepped out quietly. The collar of his shirt was frayed, his trousers hung loose and worn rubber slippers slapped against cracked ankles as he walked. Hours of waiting had dulled his eyes with fatigue. He

approached those assisting applicants through the night. Asked if his work was complete, he nodded. He had travelled from a place near Narayanpet, about 170 km from Hyderabad, to register a small mosque he established years ago.

"Earlier, there was no masjid for 7-8 kilometres. At our masjid, around 25 people come to pray. We need an imam (one who leads daily congregational prayers). There is a room for him to stay," he had said.

Moments later, he climbed into a waiting autorickshaw, started the engine and drove away. His was another institution logged into a vast, still-unfinished digital exercise. Volunteers say there were many such instances: people from modest backgrounds, travelling long distances, determined to ensure that the waqf institutions they represent exist on record.

While anxiety runs high among many stakeholders, some others, particularly those associated with smaller and relatively newer waqf properties, say they have chosen not to upload documents. "It is not clear how the information will be used or whether the Central government will interfere. This is why we did not go ahead

with uploading documents," says a person, associated with a small masjid in Banjara Hills, constructed nearly five years ago, requesting anonymity.

Official data obtained on February 24 shows both, progress and backlog. As many as 17,289 properties submitted by makers were pending with checkers, while 6,638 submissions cleared by checkers awaited approval. Another 23,945 properties had already been approved. In all, records show that 62,837 waqf property registrations had either been initiated or completed. Officials, however, point out that these figures mask the scale of pending work, with verification stages, documentation corrections and approval bottlenecks continuing to slow the process.

Even as the Waqf Board grapples with numbers and technical hurdles, a new complication emerged last week, adding yet another layer to an already demanding exercise.

## A new complication

The Department of Heritage Telangana (DHT) has claimed that the Waqf Board had entered certain medieval monuments – Muslim in nature – into UMEED portal.

DHT director Arjun Rao Kuthadi told *The Hindu* that the department has sought the removal of these places of worship from the portal, invoking Section 3D of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The section renders void any declaration of a protected monument as waqf. Accordingly, any notification identifying a property as waqf would not be valid if the site is protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904 or the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958.

The Waqf Board, however, has pushed back strongly against the claims. Senior officials say while a formal response is being prepared and relevant documentation sought from the department, the issue cannot be reduced to a narrow legal reading. Questions around continuation of rituals, customs and acts of worship at such sites, they argue, must be examined and addressed.

Officials maintain that the interpretation of Section 3D itself warrants careful scrutiny. Whether the provision applies to the structure alone or to the land on which it stands, and to what extent, are matters that need deliberation, they say. A blanket transfer of institutions, along with associated land parcels, cannot be undertaken without detailed deliberation. While DHT officials have indicated that legal remedies may be explored, if required, the Waqf Board continues to assert that these are active religious places of worship and that it remains a stakeholder.

The controversy has also drawn in political voices. Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, who is also president of All India Majlis-Ittehadul Muslimeen, had raised serious concerns during the introduction and passage of the amendment over how Section 3D could be implemented. He had warned that worship at such sites could, in certain contexts, be restricted or stopped altogether.

Mr. Owaisi had said the provision was not part of the original Bill but was introduced "surprisingly" on the day of debate. The Section, he said, would "snatch masjids, imam bars and dargahs from the Waqf Board", leading Muslims to lose their places of worship. He also cited the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, which had suggested that Muslim places of worship in Delhi under the custody of Archaeological Survey of India be handed over to Delhi Waqf Board.

Now, as legal interpretations are contested and institutional positions harden, the clock continues to tick. With the March 12 deadline for uploading documents to UMEED portal looming, Waqf Board officials say they remain hopeful of completing the process, even as the digital exercise unfolds amid unresolved disputes and rising uncertainty.

## 28F. Deadlines, disputes, doubts dog UMEED for waqf properties

समय-सीमाएँ, विवाद और आशंकाएँ वक्फ संपत्तियों के लिए UMEED को परेशान कर रही हैं

- Telangana's waqf institutions are caught in a high-pressure race to digitise decades and centuries-old records on the **UMEED portal**, launched by the Centre to bring transparency and efficiency to waqf management.

वक्फ प्रबंधन में पारदर्शिता और दक्षता लाने के लिए केंद्र द्वारा शुरू किए गए **UMEED पोर्टल** पर दशकों और सदियों पुराने रिकॉर्ड को डिजिटल करने की उच्च दबाव वाली दौड़ में तेलंगाना की वक्फ संस्थाएँ फँसी हुई हैं।

- But what began as a reform exercise has unfolded into a complex, anxiety-ridden process marked by technical glitches, legal uncertainty, institutional disputes and distrust over intent. लेकिन जो प्रक्रिया सुधार के रूप में शुरू हुई थी, वह तकनीकी खामियों, कानूनी अनिश्चितता, संस्थागत विवादों और मंशा को लेकर अविश्वास से भरी एक जटिल और चिंताजनक प्रक्रिया बन गई है।

- The controversy has been sharpened by disagreements between the **Telangana State Waqf Board** and **Department of Heritage** as well as political and legal challenges to the amended law, writes **Syed Mohammed**.

इस विवाद को तेलंगाना राज्य वक्फ बोर्ड और विरासत विभाग के बीच मतभेदों तथा संशोधित कानून को लेकर राजनीतिक और कानूनी चुनौतियों ने और तीखा बना दिया है, लिखते हैं **सैयद मोहम्मद**।

- If they miss the deadline, thousands of properties, some of them centuries old, may slip into a digital void.

यदि वे समय-सीमा चूक गए, तो हजारों संपत्तियाँ, जिनमें से कुछ सदियों पुरानी हैं, डिजिटल शून्य में खो सकती हैं।



- That fear hangs heavy outside a central masjid in **Hyderabad**, where small groups of men wait in silence, files pressed close to their chests.  
यह भय हैदराबाद की एक केंद्रीय मस्जिद के बाहर गहराया हुआ है, जहाँ पुरुषों के छोटे-छोटे समूह चुपचाप खड़े हैं, फाइलें सीने से लगाए हुए।
- Some hold rolled gazette notifications and title deeds while others carry electricity bills, tax receipts or fragile photocopies salvaged from ageing registers.  
कुछ के हाथों में गजट अधिसूचनाएँ और टाइटल डीड्स लिपटी हुई हैं, जबकि अन्य बिजली बिल, कर रसीदें या पुराने रजिस्ट्रों से निकाली गई नाजुक फोटोकॉपी लिए हुए हैं।
- Every scrap of paper matters.  
कागज़ का हर टुकड़ा मायने रखता है।
- A few hundred metres from the masjid, across a busy road, another queue mirrors the first.  
मस्जिद से कुछ सौ मीटर दूर, एक व्यस्त सड़क के उस पार, दूसरी कतार पहली की ही तरह दिखाई देती है।
- On a designated floor inside a government office, young men with sunken eyes and parched lips — evident effects of fasting — type relentlessly into laptops.  
एक सरकारी कार्यालय की निर्धारित मंज़िल पर, धँसी आँखों और सूखे होंठों वाले युवा — उपवास के स्पष्ट प्रभाव — लगातार लैपटॉप पर टाइप कर रहे हैं।
- Every document that can establish a property as waqf must be uploaded to the **UMEED Waqf portal** before time runs out.  
जो भी दस्तावेज़ किसी संपत्ति को वक्फ सिद्ध कर सकता है, उसे समय समाप्त होने से पहले **UMEED वक्फ पोर्टल** पर अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है।
- The urgency is unmistakable, the anxiety visible.  
तत्कालता स्पष्ट है और चिंता साफ दिखाई देती है।
- The first deadline has already slipped by.  
पहली समय-सीमा पहले ही निकल चुकी है।
- The next one, **March 12**, is barely a fortnight away, and the scale of the task is overwhelming.  
अगली समय-सीमा, **12 मार्च**, महज़ दो सप्ताह दूर है और कार्य का पैमाना भारी है।
- Launched amid promises of reform, the **UMEED (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development) portal** was pitched last June by Union Minister for Minority Affairs **Kiren Rijju** as a system that would “not only bring transparency but also help the common Muslims, particularly women and children”.  
सुधार के वादों के बीच शुरू किया गया **UMEED (यूनिफाइड वक्फ मैनेजमेंट, एम्पावरमेंट, एफिशिएंसी एंड डेवलपमेंट) पोर्टल** पिछले जून में केंद्रीय अल्पसंख्यक मामलों के मंत्री **किरण रिजजू** द्वारा एक ऐसी प्रणाली के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया था जो “न केवल पारदर्शिता लाएगा बल्कि आम मुसलमानों, विशेषकर महिलाओं और बच्चों की मदद भी करेगा।”
- Conceived as a centralised digital platform, it seeks real-time uploading, verification and monitoring of waqf properties, offering geotagged inventories, GIS integration, transparent leasing records, an online grievance redressal system and public access to verified data.  
एक केंद्रीकृत डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म के रूप में परिकल्पित यह पोर्टल वक्फ संपत्तियों की रियल-टाइम अपलोडिंग, सत्यापन और निगरानी का लक्ष्य रखता है तथा जियो-टैग्ड इन्वेंट्री, GIS एकीकरण, पारदर्शी लीज़ रिकॉर्ड, ऑनलाइन शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली और सत्यापित डेटा तक सार्वजनिक पहुँच प्रदान करता है।
- In Telangana, however, the ground reality began unravelling within days of the exercise.  
हालाँकि, तेलंगाना में इस अभ्यास की शुरुआत के कुछ ही दिनों में ज़मीनी हकीकत सामने आने लगी।
- Thousands of waqf properties had to be identified, their paperwork traced, collated and digitised, often from fragmented, incomplete or disputed records, within a rigid timeframe.  
हज़ारों वक्फ संपत्तियों की पहचान करनी पड़ी, उनके कागज़ात ढूँढकर, एकत्र कर और डिजिटाइज़ करने पड़े, जो अक्सर बिखरे हुए, अपूर्ण या विवादित रिकॉर्ड थे, वह भी एक कठोर समय-सीमा के भीतर।
- Distrust over intent, unfamiliarity with digital procedures, confusion over technical questions and legal uncertainty combined to slow the process, even as the clock kept ticking.  
मंशा को लेकर अविश्वास, डिजिटल प्रक्रियाओं से अपरिचय, तकनीकी प्रश्नों पर भ्रम और कानूनी अनिश्चितता ने मिलकर प्रक्रिया को धीमा कर दिया, जबकि समय लगातार बीतता रहा।
- Matters were further complicated when the **All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB)** approached the **Supreme Court of India**.  
जब **ऑल इंडिया मुस्लिम पर्सनल लॉ बोर्ड (AIMPLB)** ने **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** का रुख किया, तो मामले और जटिल हो गए।



- With the outcome described within the community as disappointing, hesitation set in among **mutawallis** and managing committees.  
समुदाय के भीतर परिणाम को निराशाजनक बताए जाने के बाद **मुतवल्लियों** और प्रबंधन समितियों में हिचकिचाहट पैदा हो गई।
- Besides, there was dissatisfaction over the approach of the AIMPLB.  
इसके अलावा AIMPLB के दृष्टिकोण को लेकर भी असंतोष था।
- While the Board had initially discouraged uploading documents to the portal, citing apprehensions that the Union government could interpret it as acceptance of the **Waqf (Amendment) Act**, the position later shifted amid fears of irreversible loss.  
हालाँकि बोर्ड ने शुरू में यह आशंका जताते हुए दस्तावेज़ अपलोड करने से हतोत्साहित किया था कि केंद्र सरकार इसे **वक्फ (संशोधन) अधिनियम** की स्वीकृति मान सकती है, लेकिन बाद में अपूरणीय नुकसान के डर से उसका रुख बदल गया।
- The AIMPLB is of the opinion that the legislation is discriminatory and contradicts **Articles 14, 25 and 26 of the Constitution**.  
AIMPLB का मत है कि यह कानून भेदभावपूर्ण है और **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14, 25 और 26** का उल्लंघन करता है।
- Explaining the dilemma, AIMPLB spokesperson and member **S.Q.R. Ilyas** told The Hindu, "We had hoped for a halt on uploading till the issue was fully dealt with."  
दुविधा समझाते हुए AIMPLB के प्रवक्ता और सदस्य **एस.क्यू.आर. इलियास** ने 'द हिंदू' से कहा, "हमें उम्मीद थी कि जब तक मामला पूरी तरह न सुलझ जाए, अपलोडिंग पर रोक लगेगी।"
- The scale of what is at stake is staggering.  
जो दाँव पर लगा है, उसका पैमाना चौकाने वाला है।
- According to **Telangana State Waqf Board CEO Mohammed Asadullah**, the State has **33,929 gazette-notified waqf properties**.  
**तेलंगाना राज्य वक्फ बोर्ड** के सीईओ **मोहम्मद असदुल्लाह** के अनुसार, राज्य में **33,929 गजट-अधिसूचित वक्फ संपत्तियाँ** हैं।
- Now, as legal interpretations are contested and institutional positions harden, the clock continues to tick.  
अब जब कानूनी व्याख्याएँ विवादित हैं और संस्थागत रुख कठोर होते जा रहे हैं, तब भी समय की सुई आगे बढ़ती जा रही है।
- With the **March 12** deadline for uploading documents to the **UMEED portal** looming, Waqf Board officials say they remain hopeful of completing the process, even as the digital exercise unfolds amid unresolved disputes and rising uncertainty.  
**UMEED पोर्टल** पर दस्तावेज़ अपलोड करने की **12 मार्च** की समय-सीमा नज़दीक आने के साथ, वक्फ बोर्ड के अधिकारी कहते हैं कि वे प्रक्रिया पूरी होने को लेकर अब भी आशान्वित हैं, भले ही यह डिजिटल अभ्यास अनसुलझे विवादों और बढ़ती अनिश्चितता के बीच आगे बढ़ रहा हो।

<b>GS Paper II: International Relations</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>28 February 2026</b>
<b>28F</b>	<b>'Open war': Afghan Taliban seeks 'dialogue' as Pakistan bombs Kabul, other cities</b> <b>'खुला युद्ध': पाकिस्तान द्वारा काबुल और अन्य शहरों पर बमबारी के बीच अफ़ग़ान तालिबान ने 'संवाद' की मांग की</b>
<b>28F</b>	<b>Canadian PM Carney lands in Mumbai for four-day India visit</b> <b>कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री कार्नी चार दिवसीय भारत यात्रा पर मुंबई पहुंचे</b>
<b>28F</b>	<b>International law is not dead, its rules stay resilient</b> <b>अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून मृत नहीं है, उसके नियम दृढ़ बने हुए हैं</b>
<b>28F</b>	<b>Greens win U.K. bypoll, in blow to Starmer</b> <b>ग्रीन्स ने यू.के. उपचुनाव जीता, स्टारमर को झटका</b>



28F	<b>How Pakistan and Afghan Taliban, former allies, drifted into an 'open war'</b> <b>पाकिस्तान और अफ़ग़ान तालिबान, जो कभी सहयोगी थे, कैसे 'खुले युद्ध' की ओर बढ़े</b>
28F	<b>Exiled Opposition leader fears Belarus turning into Putin's 'consolation prize'</b> <b>निर्वासित विपक्षी नेता को डर, बेलारूस पुतिन का 'सांत्वना पुरस्कार' बन सकता है</b>

## 'Open war': Afghan Taliban seeks 'dialogue' as Pakistan bombs Kabul, other cities

GS II-IR  
Agence France-Presse  
ISLAMABAD



Taliban fighters sit beside an anti-aircraft gun while keeping watch for Pakistan's fighter jets in Khost province, Afghanistan. REUTERS

Pakistan bombed major cities in Afghanistan including the capital Kabul on Friday, with Islamabad's Defence Minister declaring the neighbours at "open war" following months of tit-for-tat clashes.

The overnight operation was Pakistan's most widespread bombardment of the Afghan capital and its first air strikes on the southern power base of the Taliban authorities since they returned to power in 2021.

"Children, women, and old people were running," Gander Khan, a 65-year-old man, told AFP in front of rows of tents at the Omari camp.

Pakistan's latest operation came after Afghan forces attacked Pakistani border troops on Thursday night in retaliation for earlier air strikes by Islamabad.

Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Afghan forces killed 55 Pakistani soldiers and captured several others, while putting the death toll among Afghan troops at 13.

The head of the Pakistan military's publicity wing, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, told reporters "274 Taliban regime members and terrorists" had been killed, for the loss of 12 Pakistani troops.

The sharp surge in hostilities drew international concern, with China, Britain and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) calling for immediate de-escalation and return to dialogue.

Relations between the neighbours have plunged in recent months, with

land border crossings largely shut since deadly fighting in October that killed more than 70 people on both sides.

### TTP factor

Islamabad accuses Afghanistan of failing to act against militant groups that carry out attacks in Pakistan, which the Taliban government denies.

Most of the attacks have been claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a militant group that has stepped up assaults in Pakistan since the Afghan Taliban returned to power.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif declared an "all-out confrontation" with the Taliban government, posting on X: "Now it is open war between us and you."

Taliban government spokesman Mujahid said Afghanistan wanted "dialogue" to resolve the conflict.

"We have repeatedly emphasised a peaceful solution, and still want the problem to be resolved through dialogue," Mr. Mujahid told a news conference, adding: "Right now, Pakistani planes, reconnaissance aircraft, are flying over Afghanistan's airspace."

The overnight strikes

mark a "significant and dangerous escalation from earlier clashes", South Asia expert Michael Kugelman said on X.

"Pakistan appears to have expanded its targeting beyond TTP to the Taliban regime itself," he said.

Several rounds of negotiations between Islamabad and Kabul followed an initial ceasefire brokered by Qatar and Turkey, but the efforts have failed to produce a lasting agreement.

After repeated breaches of the initial truce, Saudi Arabia intervened this month, mediating the release of three Pakistani soldiers captured by Afghanistan in October.

Iran, which shares border with Afghanistan and Pakistan, offered on Friday to help "facilitate dialogue", while the Saudi Foreign Minister spoke with his Pakistani counterpart and China said it was "working with" both countries while calling for calm.

ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric said the organisation was preparing to respond with humanitarian assistance but stressed that "no humanitarian response can compensate for political will to respect the rules of war and prioritise de-escalation".

## 28F. 'Open war': Afghan Taliban seeks 'dialogue' as Pakistan bombs Kabul, other cities

### 'खुला युद्ध': पाकिस्तान द्वारा काबुल और अन्य शहरों पर बमबारी के बीच अफ़ग़ान तालिबान ने 'संवाद' की मांग की

• Pakistan bombed major cities in Afghanistan including the capital **Kabul** on Friday, with Islamabad's **Defence Minister** declaring the neighbours at "**open war**" following months of tit-for-tat clashes.

पाकिस्तान ने शुक्रवार को अफ़ग़ानिस्तान के प्रमुख शहरों, जिनमें राजधानी **काबुल** भी शामिल है, पर बमबारी की, जिसके बाद इस्लामाबाद के **रक्षा मंत्री** ने महीनों से चल रहे जवाबी संघर्षों के बाद दोनों पड़ोसी देशों के बीच "**खुले युद्ध**" की घोषणा की।

• The overnight operation was Pakistan's most widespread bombardment of the Afghan capital and its first air strikes on the southern power base of the **Taliban authorities** since they returned to power in **2021**.

रातोंरात किया गया यह अभियान अफ़ग़ान राजधानी पर पाकिस्तान की अब तक की सबसे व्यापक बमबारी थी और **2021** में सत्ता में लौटने के बाद **तालिबान प्रशासन** के दक्षिणी शक्ति केंद्र पर पहला हवाई हमला था।

• "**Children, women, and old people were running**," Gander Khan, a 65-year-old man, told **AFP** in front of rows of tents at the **Omari camp**.

"**बच्चे, महिलाएं और बुजुर्ग भाग रहे थे**," 65 वर्षीय गंदर खान ने **ओमारी शिविर** में टेंटों की कतारों के सामने **एएफ़पी** से कहा।

• Pakistan's latest operation came after Afghan forces attacked Pakistani border troops on Thursday night in retaliation for earlier air strikes by **Islamabad**.

पाकिस्तान का यह ताज़ा अभियान तब हुआ जब गुरुवार रात अफ़ग़ान बलों ने **इस्लामाबाद** द्वारा पहले

किए गए हवाई हमलों के जवाब में पाकिस्तानी सीमा सैनिकों पर हमला किया।

- Taliban government spokesman **Zabihullah Mujahid** said Afghan forces killed **55 Pakistani soldiers** and captured several others, while putting the death toll among Afghan troops at **13**. तालिबान सरकार के प्रवक्ता **ज़बीहुल्लाह मुजाहिद** ने कहा कि अफ़ग़ान बलों ने **55 पाकिस्तानी सैनिकों** को मार गिराया और कई अन्य को पकड़ लिया, जबकि अफ़ग़ान सैनिकों की मौत की संख्या **13** बताई।



- The head of the Pakistan military's publicity wing, **Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry**, told reporters “**274 Taliban regime members and terrorists**” had been killed, for the loss of **12 Pakistani troops**.  
पाकिस्तानी सेना की प्रचार शाखा के प्रमुख **लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल अहमद शरीफ चौधरी** ने पत्रकारों को बताया कि “**274 तालिबान शासन के सदस्य और आतंकवादी**” मारे गए हैं, जबकि **12 पाकिस्तानी सैनिकों** की मौत हुई है।
- The sharp surge in hostilities drew **international concern**, with **China, Britain** and the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** calling for immediate **de-escalation** and return to **dialogue**.  
तनाव में आई इस तीव्र बढ़ोतरी ने **अंतरराष्ट्रीय चिंता** पैदा की, जहां **चीन, ब्रिटेन** और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय रेड क्रॉस समिति (ICRC)** ने तत्काल **तनाव कम करने** और **संवाद** पर लौटने की अपील की।
- Relations between the neighbours have plunged in recent months, with land border crossings largely shut since deadly fighting in **October** that killed more than **70 people** on both sides.  
हाल के महीनों में दोनों पड़ोसियों के रिश्ते बुरी तरह बिगड़ गए हैं, और **अक्टूबर** में हुई घातक झड़पों के बाद से ज़मीनी सीमा मार्ग **largely बंद** हैं, जिनमें दोनों पक्षों के **70 से अधिक लोग** मारे गए थे।

### TTP factor टीटीपी कारक

- Islamabad accuses Afghanistan of failing to act against militant groups that carry out attacks in Pakistan, which the Taliban government denies.  
इस्लामाबाद अफ़ग़ानिस्तान पर पाकिस्तान में हमले करने वाले उग्रवादी समूहों के खिलाफ़ कार्रवाई न करने का आरोप लगाता है, जिसे तालिबान सरकार नकारती है।
- Most of the attacks have been claimed by the **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, a militant group that has stepped up assaults in Pakistan since the Afghan Taliban returned to power.  
अधिकांश हमलों की ज़िम्मेदारी **तहरीक-ए-तालिबान पाकिस्तान (टीटीपी)** ने ली है, जिसने अफ़ग़ान तालिबान के सत्ता में लौटने के बाद पाकिस्तान में हमले तेज़ कर दिए हैं।
- Pakistan's Defence Minister **Khawaja Asif** declared an “**all-out confrontation**” with the Taliban government, posting on X: “Now it is **open war** between us and you.”  
पाकिस्तान के रक्षा मंत्री **ख़्वाजा आसिफ़** ने तालिबान सरकार के साथ “**पूरे पैमाने के टकराव**” की घोषणा करते हुए **एक्स** पर लिखा: “अब हमारे और आपके बीच **खुला युद्ध** है।”
- Taliban government spokesman Mujahid said Afghanistan wanted “**dialogue**” to resolve the conflict.  
तालिबान सरकार के प्रवक्ता मुजाहिद ने कहा कि अफ़ग़ानिस्तान इस संघर्ष को सुलझाने के लिए “**संवाद**” चाहता है।
- “We have repeatedly emphasised a **peaceful solution**, and still want the problem to be resolved through dialogue,” Mr. Mujahid told a news conference, adding: “Right now, **Pakistani planes, reconnaissance aircraft**, are flying over Afghanistan's airspace.”  
“हमने बार-बार **शांतिपूर्ण समाधान** पर ज़ोर दिया है और अब भी चाहते हैं कि समस्या का समाधान संवाद से हो,” श्री मुजाहिद ने एक प्रेस कॉन्फ़्रेंस में कहा, और जोड़ा: “इस समय **पाकिस्तानी विमान और टोही विमान** अफ़ग़ानिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र में उड़ान भर रहे हैं।”
- The overnight strikes mark a “**significant and dangerous escalation from earlier clashes**”, South Asia expert **Michael Kugelman** said on X.  
दक्षिण एशिया विशेषज्ञ **माइकल कुगेलमैन** ने एक्स पर कहा कि ये रातोंरात हमले पहले की झड़पों से “**महत्वपूर्ण और खतरनाक बढ़ोतरी**” को दर्शाते हैं।
- “Pakistan appears to have expanded its targeting beyond **TTP** to the **Taliban regime itself**,” he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, “पाकिस्तान ने **टीटीपी** से आगे बढ़कर सीधे **तालिबान शासन** को निशाना बनाना शुरू कर दिया है।”
- Several rounds of negotiations between **Islamabad and Kabul** followed an initial ceasefire brokered by **Qatar and Turkey**, but the efforts have failed to produce a lasting agreement.  
**इस्लामाबाद और काबुल** के बीच **क़तर और तुर्की** की मध्यस्थता से हुए प्रारंभिक संघर्षविराम के बाद कई दौर की बातचीत हुई, लेकिन ये प्रयास स्थायी समझौता कराने में विफल रहे।
- After repeated breaches of the initial truce, **Saudi Arabia** intervened this month, mediating the release of **three Pakistani soldiers** captured by Afghanistan in October.



प्रारंभिक संघर्षविराम के बार-बार उल्लंघन के बाद, इस महीने **सऊदी अरब** ने हस्तक्षेप किया और अक्टूबर में अफ़ग़ानिस्तान द्वारा पकड़े गए **तीन पाकिस्तानी सैनिकों** की रिहाई में मध्यस्थता की।

- **Iran**, which shares a border with Afghanistan and Pakistan, offered on Friday to help “facilitate dialogue”, while the **Saudi Foreign Minister** spoke with his Pakistani counterpart and **China** said it was “working with” both countries while calling for calm.

**ईरान**, जिसकी सीमा अफ़ग़ानिस्तान और पाकिस्तान दोनों से लगती है, ने शुक्रवार को “**संवाद को सुगम बनाने**” में मदद की पेशकश की, जबकि **सऊदी विदेश मंत्री** ने अपने पाकिस्तानी समकक्ष से बात की और **चीन** ने कहा कि वह शांति की अपील करते हुए दोनों देशों के साथ “काम कर रहा है।”

- **ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric** said the organisation was preparing to respond with **humanitarian assistance** but stressed that “no humanitarian response can compensate for **political will** to respect the **rules of war** and prioritise **de-escalation**.”

**आईसीआरसी अध्यक्ष मिर्जाना स्पोज़ारिक** ने कहा कि संगठन **मानवीय सहायता** के साथ प्रतिक्रिया देने की तैयारी कर रहा है, लेकिन उन्होंने ज़ोर दिया कि “कोई भी मानवीय प्रतिक्रिया **युद्ध के नियमों** का सम्मान करने और **तनाव कम करने** की **राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति** की भरपाई नहीं कर सकती।”

## Canadian PM Carney lands in Mumbai for four-day India visit

GS II: IR

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney landed in India on Friday as he hopes to reset ties and double trade, offsetting the damage from his country’s fracturing relations with the United States.

Mr. Carney landed in Mumbai, where he is expected to address business leaders. The Canadian Prime Minister will be travelling to New Delhi and will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. Mr. Carney will also

meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and there will be an exchange of MoUs. He will also address the India-Canada CEO Forum.

Mr. Carney is expected to focus on India-Canada trade negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, investment opportunities, cooperation in fossil fuel and nuclear energy, as well as critical minerals technology. After his India visit, Mr. Carney will fly to Australia to discuss cooperation on defence and maritime security.

**Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar**, and there will be an exchange of **MoUs**.

श्री कार्नी **विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर** से भी मुलाकात करेंगे, और **समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoUs)** का आदान-प्रदान होगा।

- He will also address the **India-Canada CEO Forum**.  
वे **भारत-कनाडा सीईओ फोरम** को भी संबोधित करेंगे।
- Mr. Carney is expected to focus on **India-Canada trade negotiations** for a **comprehensive economic partnership agreement**, investment opportunities, cooperation in **fossil fuel and nuclear energy**, as well as **critical minerals technology**.

श्री कार्नी से **भारत-कनाडा व्यापार वार्ता** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की उम्मीद है, जिसमें **व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौता**, निवेश अवसर, जीवाश्म ईंधन और परमाणु ऊर्जा में सहयोग, तथा महत्वपूर्ण खनिज प्रौद्योगिकी शामिल हैं।

- After his India visit, Mr. Carney will fly to **Australia** to discuss cooperation on **defence** and **maritime security**.

### 28F. Canadian PM Carney lands in Mumbai for four-day India visit कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री कार्नी चार दिवसीय भारत यात्रा पर मुंबई पहुंचे

- Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney** landed in India on Friday as he hopes to reset ties and **double trade**, offsetting the damage from his country’s **fracturing relations** with the **United States**.

कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री **मार्क कार्नी** शुक्रवार को भारत पहुंचे, क्योंकि वे संबंधों को फिर से स्थापित करने और **व्यापार को दोगुना** करने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं, ताकि **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के साथ अपने देश के **बिगड़ते संबंधों** से हुए नुकसान की भरपाई की जा सके।

- Mr. Carney landed in **Mumbai**, where he is expected to address **business leaders**.  
श्री कार्नी **मुंबई** पहुंचे, जहां उनके **व्यापारिक नेताओं** को संबोधित करने की उम्मीद है।

- The Canadian Prime Minister will be travelling to **New Delhi** and will meet Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Monday.

कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री **नई दिल्ली** जाएंगे और सोमवार को प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** से मुलाकात करेंगे।

- Mr. Carney will also meet **External**



भारत यात्रा के बाद, श्री कार्नी ऑस्ट्रेलिया जाएंगे, जहां वे रक्षा और समुद्री सुरक्षा पर सहयोग को लेकर चर्चा करेंगे।

## International law is not dead, its rules stay resilient

GS II: IR

Rising tensions between the United States and Iran, with threats of the use of force, have once again triggered a debate on the utility of international law. International relations scholars are writing obituaries of international law, arguing that one should brace for a norm-free world. This precarious argument started with the Russian invasion of Ukraine (2022), followed by Israel's military actions in Gaza and West Asia. Donald Trump's presidency, the recent illegal American actions in Venezuela, the U.S.'s withdrawal from numerous international organisations, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's astute observation of 'rupture' in the global order have given this thought a fillip. While it is true that international law is undergoing one of its darkest phases, pronouncing its death is not just merely intellectually lazy but also misleading.

### Use of force

Let us take one of the most fundamental international norms – the prohibition on the threat or use of force in international relations, enshrined in Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter – as an example to understand this. It is true that this norm has been breached many times in recent years, but it has not been unprecedented. In 1970, international lawyer Thomas Franck argued that Article 2(4) had died because of wars around the world, owing to the Cold War rivalry between the U.S. and the then Soviet Union. In the past four decades, the U.S. and other powers have been involved in several wars, including the Soviet-Afghan war (1979-89), the Falklands war (1982), the Gulf war (1990-91), and conflicts in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan (2001), Iraq (2003), Syria, and Libya in the 2010s. All these wars, like the wars and military attacks in the last few years, battered Article 2(4); they could not kill it. The law continues to exist and remains the only normative framework for holding the powerful accountable.



**Prabhesh Ranjan**  
is Professor and Vice Dean (Research), Jindal Global Law School

Proclaiming the death of international law aids world tyrants

As Columbia professor Monica Hakimi argues, when international relations are legalised, those wielding public power are compelled to explain their conduct using the framework of international law. The claims that they make about authority will resonate with people only when their actions are grounded in domestic and international rules. Related to this is the point that international law is the only framework that gives the powerless a semblance of agency to ask questions to those wielding public power. A world without such a normative framework would be far more dangerous.

Still, today's breach of Article 2(4) differs qualitatively from the past. In the past, powerful states justified their use of force by employing the analytical framework of international law, demonstrating that even hegemony needed this normative framework. This left open a prospect of dialogue and deliberation. So, in the 1990s and 2000s, the U.S. legally expanded the interpretation of self-defence – an exception to the use of force – to justify its military actions. Whether the American legal interpretations were correct or merely a tool to mask its imperial designs is debatable.

In today's populist-authoritarian world, there is brazenness. A scarce attempt is made to justify behaviour as per international law, and the imperial designs stare in one's face. The U.S.'s repeated insistence on Venezuelan oil drives home the point. It is this rising populist-authoritarianism that poses the greatest threat to international law, not the act of a military strike or invasion itself.

### Looking beyond the use of force

Concurrently, it would be a mistake to reduce the entire body of international law to the UN Charter. While the UN Charter is undoubtedly a critical pillar, it does not by itself define the legalisation of international relations that has occurred over the last eight decades. Today,

international law is widespread and diverse, governing international trade, foreign investment, civil aviation, maritime resources, outer space, human rights, climate change, chemical and biological weapons, and many other areas. This, as Yale professor Oona A. Hathaway argues, means that international law is flourishing as a social phenomenon.

### International law works silently

International law-making continues unabated, as evidenced by the conclusion of free trade agreement negotiations between India and the European Union. In recent years, key treaties such as the High Seas Treaty (aimed at the sustainability of marine biological diversity), and a Pandemic Agreement (to strengthen pandemic prevention), have been signed. Over the years, hundreds of international courts, at global (such as the International Criminal Court) and regional levels (such as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights), have been created, demonstrating the judicialisation of international relations. These courts, away from the limelight, continue to resolve complex international law disputes peacefully.

In sum, as international lawyer Philippe Sands reminds us, much of international law operates silently and seamlessly behind the scenes, despite the media-grabbing headlines about breaches of the UN Charter. This silent international law enables goods and people to cross borders, and communication networks to transcend national geographies, positively impacting the lives of ordinary people. Just as one does not abandon a liberal constitutional order due to an authoritarian regime running amok, one should fight to preserve the existing liberal international law order against the global bullies. Pontificating on the death of international law only plays into the hands of the global bullies.

The views expressed are personal

## 28F. International law is not dead, its rules stay resilient

अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून मृत नहीं है, उसके नियम दृढ़ बने हुए हैं

- Let us take one of the most fundamental international norms — the prohibition on the threat or use of force in international relations, enshrined in **Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter** — as an example to understand this.

इसे समझने के लिए हम सबसे मौलिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानदंडों में से एक — अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों में बल प्रयोग या उसकी धमकी पर प्रतिबंध, जो **संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर के अनुच्छेद 2(4)** में निहित है — का उदाहरण लेते हैं।

- In 1970, international lawyer **Thomas Franck** argued that **Article 2(4)** had died because of wars around the world, owing to the Cold War rivalry between the **U.S.** and the then **Soviet Union**.

1970 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय विधिवेत्ता **थॉमस फ्रैंक** ने तर्क दिया कि **अनुच्छेद 2(4)** की मृत्यु हो चुकी है, क्योंकि विश्वभर में युद्ध हो रहे थे, जो **अमेरिका** और तत्कालीन **सोवियत संघ** के बीच शीत युद्ध की प्रतिस्पर्धा के कारण थे।

- In the past four decades, the **U.S.** and other powers have been involved in several wars, including the **Soviet-Afghan war (1979-89)**, the **Falklands war (1982)**, the **Gulf war (1990-91)**, and conflicts in **Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan (2001)**, **Iraq (2003)**, **Syria, and Libya in the 2010s**.

पिछले चार दशकों में **अमेरिका** और अन्य शक्तियाँ कई युद्धों में शामिल रही हैं, जिनमें **सोवियत-अफगान युद्ध (1979-89)**, **फॉकलैंड युद्ध (1982)**, **गल्फ युद्ध (1990-91)**, तथा **बोस्निया, कोसोवो, अफगानिस्तान (2001)**, **इराक (2003)**, **सीरिया और 2010 के दशक में लीबिया** के संघर्ष शामिल हैं।

- While the **UN Charter** is undoubtedly a critical pillar, it does not by itself define the legalisation of international relations that has occurred over the last eight decades.

यद्यपि **संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर** निस्संदेह एक महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ है, लेकिन यह अकेले पिछले आठ दशकों में अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों के वैधीकरण को परिभाषित नहीं करता।



- Today, international law is widespread and diverse, governing international trade, foreign investment, civil aviation, maritime resources, outer space, human rights, climate change, chemical and biological weapons, and many other areas.  
आज अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून व्यापक और विविध है, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार, विदेशी निवेश, नागरिक उड्डयन, समुद्री संसाधन, बाह्य अंतरिक्ष, मानवाधिकार, जलवायु परिवर्तन, रासायनिक और जैविक हथियारों तथा अनेक अन्य क्षेत्रों को नियंत्रित करता है।
- In recent years, key treaties such as the **High Seas Treaty** (aimed at the sustainability of marine biological diversity), and a **Pandemic Agreement** (to strengthen pandemic prevention), have been signed.  
हाल के वर्षों में, **हाई सीज़ संधि** (समुद्री जैव विविधता की स्थिरता हेतु) और **पैंडेमिक एग्रीमेंट** (महामारी रोकथाम को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु) जैसे महत्वपूर्ण समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं।

## Greens win U.K. bypoll, in blow to Starmer

Green Party's Hannah Spencer won the Gorton and Denton seat with 40.7% votes; Reform UK came in second with 28.7%, while Labour finished third with 25.4%; Prime Minister Starmer called the result 'very disappointing', but said he would fight against extremes both on the right and left

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

It was a bad night for U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his Labour Party after the Green Party won the Greater Manchester parliamentary seat of Gorton and Denton from Labour. The nativist far-right party Reform UK came in second and Labour in third place in an election that could further erode Mr. Starmer's ability to stay in position until the next general election.

"This byelection has shown that there is no longer any such thing as a safe seat and there is no part of the country where the Green Party cannot win," said 36-year-old plumber Hannah Spencer, who won

the election with around 40.7% of the vote. "I think this election will transform the face of British politics," said Greens chief Zack Polanski, during a joint press conference with Ms. Spencer in Manchester.

"We have torn the roof of British politics, and that's because people now recognise there is an alternative," Mr. Polanski said, adding Labour's "stranglehold" was over as people realised there was an alternative. Labour won 25.4% of the vote, behind Reform UK's 28.7%. The Conservatives got a mere 1.9% of the vote and the Liberal Democrats 1.8%.

The results meant that Labour's vote share had halved relative to its 2024 general election performance in the constituency.



Green Party's candidate Hannah Spencer being congratulated after her victory in the byelection, in Manchester on Friday. REUTERS

There were divisions within Labour on the choice for the byelection with a faction preferring the charismatic Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, over councillor Angeliki Stogia, who was chosen. Earlier this month, Mr. Starmer and Labour's

governing body found themselves at the centre of criticism for denying Mr. Burnham permission to run, with some speculating that Mr. Starmer was blocking a path to Westminster for Mr. Burnham in order to fend off a potential leadership challenge in the future. In addition to bread-and-butter issues facing Britons featuring the campaign, there were accusations of sectarianism in the campaign.

The Greens were criticised for distributing material trying to appeal to Muslim voters, including a video showing Mr. Starmer with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.K. Deputy PM David Lammy with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and another clip depicting Reform leader Nigel Farage and U.S. President Donald Trump. One particular image with Mr. Modi and Mr. Netanyahu said in Bengali: "But political leaders are not working for us," and said bills and rents were going up.

Some campaign leaflets

were in Urdu asking voters to "punish" Labour for its position on Gaza. Muslims have traditionally aligned with the Labour Party.

"I think people are allowed to communicate with different communities... about those things those communities care about," Mr. Polanski said on Friday in an interview with the BBC. Mr. Polanski, who is Jewish, said it was wrong to assume that only Muslims cared about the genocide in Gaza.

Mr. Starmer called the result "very disappointing". While he acknowledged voters' frustration, he said incumbent governments face such results during their term. He said he would fight against extremes in politics both on the right and left.

### 28F. Greens win U.K. bypoll, in blow to Starmer ग्रीन्स ने यू.के. उपचुनाव जीता, स्टारमर को झटका

- Green Party's **Hannah Spencer** won the **Gorton and Denton** seat with **40.7% votes**; **Reform UK** came in second with **28.7%**, while **Labour** finished third with **25.4%**; **Prime Minister Starmer** called the result '**very disappointing**', but said he would fight against **extremes** both on the **right and left**.  
ग्रीन पार्टी की हैना स्पेंसर ने गॉर्टन और डेंटन सीट **40.7%** वोटों के साथ जीती; **रिफॉर्म यूके 28.7%** के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर रहा, जबकि **लेबर 25.4%** के साथ तीसरे स्थान पर रही; **प्रधानमंत्री स्टारमर** ने नतीजे को '**बहुत निराशाजनक**' बताया, लेकिन कहा कि वह **दाएं और बाएं** दोनों ओर के **अतिवाद** के खिलाफ लड़ेंगे।
- It was a bad night for **U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer** and his **Labour Party** after the **Green Party** won the **Greater Manchester** parliamentary seat of **Gorton and Denton** from Labour.  
**यू.के. के प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टारमर** और उनकी **लेबर पार्टी** के लिए यह एक खराब रात थी, जब **ग्रीन पार्टी** ने **ग्रेटर मैनचेस्टर** की संसदीय सीट **गॉर्टन और डेंटन** लेबर से जीत ली।
- The nativist far-right party **Reform UK** came in second and Labour in third place in an election that could further erode Mr. Starmer's ability to stay in position until the next general election.  
**स्वदेशीवादी धुर-दक्षिणपंथी पार्टी रिफॉर्म यूके** दूसरे स्थान पर रही और लेबर तीसरे स्थान पर, ऐसे



चुनाव में जो अगली आम चुनाव तक पद पर बने रहने की स्टारमर की क्षमता को और कमजोर कर सकता है।

- “This byelection has shown that there is no longer any such thing as a **safe seat** and there is no part of the country where the **Green Party** cannot win,” said **36-year-old plumber Hannah Spencer**, who won the election with around **40.7% of the vote**.  
“इस उपचुनाव ने दिखा दिया है कि अब कोई भी सीट सुरक्षित सीट नहीं रही और देश का कोई भी हिस्सा ऐसा नहीं है जहां ग्रीन पार्टी जीत न सके,” 36 वर्षीय प्लंबर हैना स्पेंसर ने कहा, जिन्होंने लगभग **40.7% वोटों** के साथ चुनाव जीता।
- “I think this election will **transform the face of British politics**,” said **Greens chief Zack Polanski**, during a joint press conference with Ms. Spencer in **Manchester**.  
“मुझे लगता है कि यह चुनाव ब्रिटिश राजनीति का चेहरा बदल देगा,” ग्रीन्स प्रमुख जैक पोलांस्की ने मैनचेस्टर में सुश्री स्पेंसर के साथ संयुक्त प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा।
- “We have torn the roof of **British politics**, and that’s because people now recognise there is an **alternative**,” Mr. Polanski said, adding Labour’s “**stranglehold**” was over as people realised there was an alternative.  
“हमने ब्रिटिश राजनीति की छत उड़ा दी है, और ऐसा इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि लोग अब एक विकल्प को पहचान रहे हैं,” पोलांस्की ने कहा, यह जोड़ते हुए कि लोगों को विकल्प दिखने के बाद लेबर की “पकड़” खत्म हो गई है।
- Labour won **25.4%** of the vote, behind **Reform UK’s 28.7%**.  
लेबर को **25.4%** वोट मिले, जो रिफॉर्म यूके के **28.7%** से कम थे।
- The **Conservatives** got a mere **1.9%** of the vote and the **Liberal Democrats 1.8%**.  
कंजरवेटिव्स को मात्र **1.9%** वोट मिले और लिबरल डेमोक्रेट्स को **1.8%**।
- The results meant that Labour’s vote share had **halved** relative to its **2024 general election performance** in the constituency.  
इन नतीजों का मतलब यह था कि इस निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में **2024 के आम चुनाव प्रदर्शन** की तुलना में लेबर का वोट शेयर **आधा** रह गया।
- There were **divisions within Labour** on the choice for the byelection with a faction preferring the charismatic **Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham**, over councillor **Angeliki Stogia**, who was chosen.  
उपचुनाव के उम्मीदवार चयन को लेकर **लेबर के भीतर मतभेद** थे, जहां एक गुट करिश्माई **ग्रेटर मैनचेस्टर के मेयर एंडी बर्नहैम** को चुनी गई पार्षद **एंजेलिकी स्टोगिया** पर तरजीह दे रहा था।
- Earlier this month, Mr. Starmer and Labour’s governing body found themselves at the centre of **criticism** for denying Mr. Burnham permission to run, with some speculating that Mr. Starmer was blocking a path to **Westminster** for Mr. Burnham in order to fend off a potential **leadership challenge** in the future.  
इस महीने की शुरुआत में, **स्टारमर** और लेबर की शासी निकाय **आलोचना** के केंद्र में आ गए थे, जब उन्होंने **बर्नहैम** को चुनाव लड़ने की अनुमति नहीं दी, और कुछ लोगों ने अनुमान लगाया कि **स्टारमर** भविष्य में संभावित **नेतृत्व चुनौती** से बचने के लिए **वेस्टमिंस्टर** जाने का रास्ता रोक रहे हैं।
- In addition to **bread-and-butter issues** facing Britons featuring the campaign, there were accusations of **sectarianism** in the campaign.  
ब्रिटेनवासियों से जुड़े **रोजमर्रा के मुद्दों** के अलावा, अभियान में **सांप्रदायिकता** के आरोप भी लगे।
- The **Greens** were criticised for distributing material trying to appeal to **Muslim voters**, including a video showing Mr. Starmer with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **U.K. Deputy PM David Lammy** with **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**, and another clip depicting **Reform leader Nigel Farage** and **U.S. President Donald Trump**.  
ग्रीन्स की **मुस्लिम मतदाताओं** को आकर्षित करने वाली सामग्री बांटने के लिए आलोचना हुई, जिसमें प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** के साथ **स्टारमर** और **इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** के साथ **यू.के. के उप प्रधानमंत्री डेविड लैमी** का वीडियो, तथा **रिफॉर्म नेता नाइजल फेराज** और **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** का एक अन्य क्लिप शामिल था।



- One particular image with Mr. Modi and Mr. Netanyahu said in **Bengali**: “But political leaders are not working for us,” and said bills and rents were going up.  
**मोदी और नेतन्याहू** वाली एक विशेष तस्वीर में **बंगाली** में लिखा था: “लेकिन राजनीतिक नेता हमारे लिए काम नहीं कर रहे हैं,” और कहा गया था कि बिल और किराए बढ़ रहे हैं।
- Some campaign leaflets were in **Urdu** asking voters to “**punish**” Labour for its position on **Gaza**.  
कुछ अभियान पर्चे **उर्दू** में थे, जिनमें मतदाताओं से **गाज़ा** पर लेबर के रुख के लिए उसे “**सज़ा**” देने को कहा गया था।
- Muslims have traditionally aligned with the **Labour Party**.  
मुसलमान परंपरागत रूप से **लेबर पार्टी** के साथ जुड़े रहे हैं।
- “I think people are allowed to communicate with different communities... about those things those communities care about,” Mr. Polanski said on Friday in an interview with the **BBC**.  
“मुझे लगता है कि लोगों को अलग-अलग समुदायों से उन मुद्दों पर संवाद करने की अनुमति है, जिनकी उन्हें परवाह है,” पोलांस्की ने शुक्रवार को **बीबीसी** को दिए साक्षात्कार में कहा।
- Mr. Polanski, who is **Jewish**, said it was wrong to assume that only Muslims cared about the **genocide in Gaza**.  
**यहूदी** मूल के पोलांस्की ने कहा कि यह मानना गलत है कि **गाज़ा में नरसंहार** की चिंता केवल मुसलमानों को है।
- Mr. Starmer called the result “**very disappointing**”.  
**स्टारमर** ने नतीजे को “**बहुत निराशाजनक**” बताया।
- While he acknowledged voters’ **frustration**, he said incumbent governments face such results during their term.  
हालांकि उन्होंने मतदाताओं की **निराशा** को स्वीकार किया, लेकिन कहा कि सत्ता में मौजूद सरकारों को अपने कार्यकाल में ऐसे नतीजों का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- He said he would fight against **extremes in politics** both on the **right and left**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि वह राजनीति में **दाएं और बाएं** दोनों ओर के **अतिवाद** के खिलाफ लड़ेंगे।

## How Pakistan and Afghan Taliban, former allies, drifted into an ‘open war’

**SS II IR**  
**NEWS ANALYSIS**

**Stanly Johny**

“Our patience has run out”, Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif wrote in a social media post on Friday. “Now it is open war between us and you.” Mr. Asif’s remarks came after Pakistan carried out air strikes on Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan’s two largest cities, and Paktia, a border province. The strikes were launched hours after Afghan troops attacked Pakistani border posts. Those attacks, in turn, followed earlier Pakistani strikes this week, which Islamabad claimed were carried out in retaliation for recent terror attacks inside its territory.

These incidents, along with the allegations and counter-allegations, underscore the increasingly combustible nature of relations between Islamabad and Kabul. Until a few years ago, Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban were close allies. The Taliban’s top leadership was based in Pakistan’s Quetta while it fought U.S. troops and the previous Afghan government. But four years after the Taliban captured Kabul and established its Islamic Emirate, the former allies have become bitter adversaries. What went wrong between the two?

When the Taliban were an insurgent movement, they relied on Pakistan’s support to sustain their fight against U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Pakistan, wary of India’s growing influence in Afghanistan, viewed the Taliban, a long-time ally, as a vehicle for extending its influence in the neighbourhood. Pakistan believed the Taliban’s return to power would restore its “strategic depth” in South-Central Asia. But the Taliban’s rise reshaped regional dynamics, defying Pakistan’s calculations. Islamabad-Rawalpindi soon found itself confronting three distinct challenges.

**Border clashes**

The first is the Durand Line, the 2,640-km border established between British India and Afghanistan in 1893 and inherited by Pakistan.

No Afghan government since the collapse of the monarchy in 1973 has accepted the line, which cuts through the tribal heartland of the region. The Taliban, too, have refused to recognise the boundary drawn by Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat, and Abdur Rahman Khan,



Vehicles at a crossing along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Balochistan, on Friday. REUTERS

the Emir of Afghanistan.

The border dispute was not an issue between the Taliban and Pakistan when the former was an insurgency. But when the Taliban became the state, the long-standing inter-state dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan moved to the centre of bilateral relations. If Pakistan expected the Taliban to behave as a

client partner, it miscalculated. The Taliban sought to assert their autonomy, leading to growing tensions.

**The other Taliban**

The second is the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as the Pakistani Taliban. The TTP and the Afghan Taliban are organisationally different but

ideologically aligned. The Afghan Taliban wanted to expel U.S. troops from Afghanistan, defeat the Islamic Republic’s security forces, and turn the country into an Islamic Emirate. They achieved their objectives in August 2021. The TTP, for its part, aims to replicate the Afghan Taliban’s success, at least in Pakistan’s tribal regions.

While the Pakistani military supported the Afghan Taliban, it has long viewed the TTP as a serious security threat. The Afghan Taliban’s return to power in 2021 inevitably strengthened the TTP. Initially, the Afghan Taliban brokered a truce between the Pakistani military and the TTP, but the ceasefire collapsed in 2022 and hostilities resumed. In the years since, the security situation in Pakistan’s border regions has deteriorated

sharply, with attacks occurring almost daily.

According to the Pak Institute for Peace Studies, at least 400 people, most of them security personnel, were killed in TTP attacks across Pakistan last year. Pakistan accuses the Afghan Taliban of harbouring the TTP. Islamabad says it will carry out strikes inside Afghanistan targeting TTP camps. But Kabul says such attacks violate Afghanistan’s sovereignty and has warned of retaliation, perpetuating a cycle of violence.

**The India factor**

The third challenge Pakistan faces is the Taliban’s warming ties with India. New Delhi had highly strained ties with the Taliban when the group was in power in the late 1990s. But the Taliban 2.0 have shown greater flexibility in

improving ties with India and New Delhi has reciprocated.

Last year, India hosted the Taliban Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi. Last month, the Taliban appointed an envoy to lead their diplomatic mission in Delhi. Though India has not formally recognised the Taliban, it is clear that engagement between Delhi and Kabul is deepening.

This, too, has complicated Pakistan’s strategic calculations. On Friday, Mr. Asif, Pakistan’s Defence Minister, said the Taliban had become a “proxy for India”.

Pakistan supported the Taliban in the hope of securing strategic depth. Instead, it now finds itself dealing with a Taliban which it thinks poses security, cross-border and geopolitical challenges to Islamabad.

## 28F. How Pakistan and Afghan Taliban, former allies, drifted into an ‘open war’ पाकिस्तान और अफ़गान तालिबान, जो कभी सहयोगी थे, कैसे ‘खुले युद्ध’ की ओर बढ़े

- “Our patience has run out”, Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif wrote in a social media post on Friday.



“हमारा धैर्य खत्म हो चुका है,” पाकिस्तान के रक्षा मंत्री ख्वाजा आसिफ़ ने शुक्रवार को सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में लिखा।

- “Now it is open war between us and you.”  
“अब हमारे और आपके बीच खुला युद्ध है।”
- Mr. Asif’s remarks came after Pakistan carried out **air strikes** on **Kabul** and **Kandahar**, Afghanistan’s two largest cities, and **Paktia**, a border province.  
आसिफ़ की यह टिप्पणी पाकिस्तान द्वारा अफ़ग़ानिस्तान के दो सबसे बड़े शहरों **काबुल** और **कंधार**, तथा सीमावर्ती प्रांत **पक्तिा** में **हवाई हमले** किए जाने के बाद आई।
- The strikes were launched hours after Afghan troops attacked Pakistani border posts.  
ये हमले अफ़ग़ान सैनिकों द्वारा पाकिस्तानी सीमा चौकियों पर हमले के कुछ घंटों बाद किए गए।
- Those attacks, in turn, followed earlier Pakistani strikes this week, which Islamabad claimed were carried out in retaliation for recent terror attacks inside its territory.  
ये हमले इस सप्ताह पहले किए गए पाकिस्तानी हमलों के बाद हुए, जिनके बारे में इस्लामाबाद ने दावा किया कि वे उसके क्षेत्र में हालिया आतंकी हमलों के **प्रतिशोध** में किए गए थे।
- These incidents, along with the allegations and counter-allegations, underscore the increasingly **combustible nature** of relations between **Islamabad** and **Kabul**.  
ये घटनाएँ, आरोप और प्रत्यारोप के साथ, **इस्लामाबाद** और **काबुल** के बीच संबंधों की लगातार **विस्फोटक प्रकृति** को रेखांकित करती हैं।
- Until a few years ago, Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban were **close allies**.  
कुछ वर्ष पहले तक, पाकिस्तान और अफ़ग़ान तालिबान **घनिष्ठ सहयोगी** थे।
- The Taliban’s top leadership was based in Pakistan’s **Quetta** while it fought U.S. troops and the previous Afghan government.  
तालिबान का शीर्ष नेतृत्व पाकिस्तान के **क्वेटा** में स्थित था, जब वह अमेरिकी सैनिकों और पूर्व अफ़ग़ान सरकार से लड़ रहा था।
- But four years after the Taliban captured **Kabul** and established its **Islamic Emirate**, the former allies have become **bitter adversaries**.  
लेकिन तालिबान द्वारा **काबुल** पर कब्ज़ा कर **इस्लामिक अमीरात** स्थापित करने के चार साल बाद, पूर्व सहयोगी **कट्टर विरोधी** बन गए हैं।
- What went wrong between the two?  
दोनों के बीच क्या गलत हुआ?
- When the Taliban were an **insurgent movement**, they relied on Pakistan’s support to sustain their fight against **U.S. forces** in Afghanistan.  
जब तालिबान एक **विद्रोही आंदोलन** था, तब उसने अफ़ग़ानिस्तान में **अमेरिकी बलों** के खिलाफ लड़ाई जारी रखने के लिए पाकिस्तान के समर्थन पर भरोसा किया।
- Pakistan, wary of **India’s growing influence** in Afghanistan, viewed the Taliban, a longtime ally, as a vehicle for extending its influence in the neighbourhood.  
पाकिस्तान, अफ़ग़ानिस्तान में **भारत के बढ़ते प्रभाव** से सतर्क रहते हुए, तालिबान को अपने प्रभाव के विस्तार का माध्यम मानता था।
- Pakistan believed the Taliban’s return to power would restore its **“strategic depth”** in **South-Central Asia**.  
पाकिस्तान का मानना था कि तालिबान की सत्ता में वापसी **दक्षिण-मध्य एशिया** में उसकी **“रणनीतिक गहराई”** को बहाल करेगी।
- But the Taliban’s rise reshaped **regional dynamics**, defying Pakistan’s calculations.  
लेकिन तालिबान के उदय ने **क्षेत्रीय समीकरणों** को बदल दिया और पाकिस्तान की गणनाओं को झूठला दिया।
- Islamabad-Rawalpindi soon found itself confronting **three distinct challenges**.  
इस्लामाबाद-रावलपिंडी जल्द ही **तीन अलग-अलग चुनौतियों** का सामना करने लगा।

## Border clashes

### सीमाई टकराव

- The first is the **Durand Line**, the **2,640-km border** established between British India and Afghanistan in **1893** and inherited by Pakistan.  
पहली चुनौती **डुरंड रेखा** है, जो **1893** में ब्रिटिश भारत और अफ़ग़ानिस्तान के बीच स्थापित **2,640 किलोमीटर लंबी सीमा** है, जिसे पाकिस्तान ने विरासत में पाया।



- No Afghan government since the collapse of the monarchy in **1973** has accepted the line, which cuts through the **tribal heartland** of the region.  
1973 में राजशाही के पतन के बाद से किसी भी अफ़ग़ान सरकार ने इस रेखा को स्वीकार नहीं किया, जो क्षेत्र के **जनजातीय केंद्र** से होकर गुजरती है।
- The Taliban, too, have refused to recognise the boundary drawn by **Mortimer Durand**, a British diplomat, and **Abdur Rahman Khan**, the Emir of Afghanistan.  
तालिबान ने भी ब्रिटिश राजनयिक **मॉर्टिमर डूरंड** और अफ़ग़ानिस्तान के अमीर **अब्दुर रहमान खान** द्वारा खींची गई इस सीमा को मानने से इनकार किया है।
- The border dispute was not an issue between the Taliban and Pakistan when the former was an insurgency.  
जब तालिबान विद्रोही संगठन था, तब सीमा विवाद तालिबान और पाकिस्तान के बीच कोई मुद्दा नहीं था।
- But when the Taliban became the state, the long-standing **inter-state dispute** between Afghanistan and Pakistan moved to the centre of **bilateral relations**.  
लेकिन जब तालिबान सत्ता में आया, तो अफ़ग़ानिस्तान और पाकिस्तान के बीच पुराना **अंतर-राज्यीय विवाद** द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के केंद्र में आ गया।
- If Pakistan expected the Taliban to behave as a **client partner**, it miscalculated.  
यदि पाकिस्तान को उम्मीद थी कि तालिबान एक **आश्रित साझेदार** की तरह व्यवहार करेगा, तो उसने गलत आकलन किया।
- The Taliban sought to assert their **autonomy**, leading to growing tensions.  
तालिबान ने अपनी **स्वायत्तता** स्थापित करने की कोशिश की, जिससे तनाव बढ़ता गया।

### The other Taliban दूसरा तालिबान

- The second is the **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, also known as the **Pakistani Taliban**.  
दूसरी चुनौती **तहरीक-ए-तालिबान पाकिस्तान (TTP)** है, जिसे **पाकिस्तानी तालिबान** भी कहा जाता है।
- The TTP and the Afghan Taliban are organisationally different but **ideologically aligned**.  
टीटीपी और अफ़ग़ान तालिबान संगठनात्मक रूप से अलग हैं, लेकिन **वैचारिक रूप से समान** हैं।
- The Afghan Taliban wanted to expel **U.S. troops** from Afghanistan, defeat the **Islamic Republic's security forces**, and turn the country into an **Islamic Emirate**.  
अफ़ग़ान तालिबान का उद्देश्य **अमेरिकी सैनिकों** को बाहर निकालना, **इस्लामिक गणराज्य की सुरक्षा बलों** को हराना और देश को **इस्लामिक अमीरात** बनाना था।
- They achieved their objectives in **August 2021**.  
उन्होंने अपने लक्ष्य **अगस्त 2021** में हासिल कर लिए।
- The TTP, for its part, aims to replicate the Afghan Taliban's success, at least in Pakistan's **tribal regions**.  
टीटीपी का लक्ष्य कम से कम पाकिस्तान के **जनजातीय क्षेत्रों** में अफ़ग़ान तालिबान की सफलता को दोहराना है।
- While the Pakistani military supported the Afghan Taliban, it has long viewed the TTP as a **serious security threat**.  
जहाँ पाकिस्तानी सेना ने अफ़ग़ान तालिबान का समर्थन किया, वहीं वह टीटीपी को लंबे समय से एक **गंभीर सुरक्षा खतरे** के रूप में देखती रही है।
- The Afghan Taliban's return to power in 2021 inevitably **strengthened the TTP**.  
2021 में अफ़ग़ान तालिबान की सत्ता में वापसी ने अनिवार्य रूप से **टीटीपी को मज़बूत** किया।
- Initially, the Afghan Taliban brokered a **truce** between the Pakistani military and the TTP, but the **ceasefire collapsed** in 2022 and hostilities resumed.  
शुरुआत में, अफ़ग़ान तालिबान ने पाकिस्तानी सेना और टीटीपी के बीच **संघर्षविराम** कराया, लेकिन **2022 में युद्धविराम टूट गया** और शत्रुता फिर शुरू हो गई।
- In the years since, the security situation in Pakistan's border regions has deteriorated sharply, with attacks occurring **almost daily**.  
तब से, पाकिस्तान के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षा स्थिति तेज़ी से बिगड़ी है, जहाँ **लगभग रोज़** हमले हो रहे हैं।
- According to the **Pak Institute for Peace Studies**, at least **400 people**, most of them **security personnel**, were killed in TTP attacks across Pakistan last year.  
**पाक इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर पीस स्टडीज़** के अनुसार, पिछले साल पाकिस्तान में टीटीपी हमलों में कम से कम **400 लोग**, जिनमें अधिकांश **सुरक्षा कर्मी** थे, मारे गए।



- Pakistan accuses the Afghan Taliban of **harbouring the TTP**.  
पाकिस्तान अफ़ग़ान तालिबान पर **टीटीपी को पनाह देने** का आरोप लगाता है।
- Islamabad says it will carry out strikes inside Afghanistan targeting **TTP camps**.  
इस्लामाबाद का कहना है कि वह अफ़ग़ानिस्तान के भीतर **टीटीपी शिविरों** को निशाना बनाकर हमले करेगा।
- But Kabul says such attacks violate Afghanistan's **sovereignty** and has warned of **retaliation**, perpetuating a cycle of violence.  
लेकिन काबुल का कहना है कि ऐसे हमले अफ़ग़ानिस्तान की **संप्रभुता** का उल्लंघन हैं और उसने **प्रतिशोध** की चेतावनी दी है, जिससे हिंसा का चक्र जारी रहता है।

## The India factor भारत कारक

- The third challenge Pakistan faces is the Taliban's **warming ties with India**.  
तीसरी चुनौती तालिबान के **भारत के साथ बढ़ते संबंध** हैं।
- New Delhi had highly **strained ties** with the Taliban when the group was in power in the late **1990s**.  
**1990 के दशक** के अंत में जब तालिबान सत्ता में था, तब नई दिल्ली के उसके साथ संबंध बेहद **तनावपूर्ण** थे।
- But the **Taliban 2.0** have shown greater **flexibility** in improving ties with India and New Delhi has reciprocated.  
लेकिन **तालिबान 2.0** ने भारत के साथ संबंध सुधारने में अधिक **लचीलापन** दिखाया है और नई दिल्ली ने भी इसका प्रत्युत्तर दिया है।
- Last year, India hosted the Taliban **Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi**.  
पिछले वर्ष, भारत ने तालिबान के **विदेश मंत्री आमिर खान मुत्ताक्की** की मेज़बानी की।
- Last month, the Taliban appointed an **envoy** to lead their diplomatic mission in **Delhi**.  
पिछले महीने, तालिबान ने **दिल्ली** में अपने राजनयिक मिशन का नेतृत्व करने के लिए एक **दूत** नियुक्त किया।
- Though India has not formally **recognised** the Taliban, it is clear that engagement between Delhi and Kabul is **deepening**.  
हालाँकि भारत ने औपचारिक रूप से तालिबान को **मान्यता** नहीं दी है, लेकिन दिल्ली और काबुल के बीच संपर्क **गहराता** जा रहा है।
- This, too, has complicated Pakistan's **strategic calculations**.  
इसने भी पाकिस्तान की **रणनीतिक गणनाओं** को जटिल बना दिया है।
- On Friday, Mr. Asif, Pakistan's Defence Minister, said the Taliban had become a "**proxy for India**".  
शुक्रवार को, पाकिस्तान के रक्षा मंत्री **आसिफ़** ने कहा कि तालिबान "**भारत का प्रतिनिधि**" बन गया है।
- Pakistan supported the Taliban in the hope of securing **strategic depth**.  
पाकिस्तान ने **रणनीतिक गहराई** हासिल करने की उम्मीद में तालिबान का समर्थन किया था।
- Instead, it now finds itself dealing with a Taliban which it thinks poses **security, cross-border and geopolitical challenges** to Islamabad.  
लेकिन अब वह ऐसे तालिबान से जूझ रहा है, जो उसके अनुसार इस्लामाबाद के लिए **सुरक्षा, सीमा-पार और भू-राजनीतिक चुनौतियाँ** पैदा करता है।



# Exiled Opposition leader fears Belarus turning into Putin's 'consolation prize'

**GS II: IR**  
**Agence France-Presse**  
STRASBOURG

Exiled Belarus Opposition leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya told AFP in an interview that her country must not become a "consolation prize" for Russian President Vladimir Putin amid intense efforts to end the Ukraine war.

Ms. Tikhonovskaya said it was crucial for Ukraine to win its battle but that Belarus, a close ally of Moscow under current leader President Alexander Lukashenko, should not be sacrificed.

"It is important for us that Europe represents the Belarusian voice during these negotiations as well, that we do not separate the Ukrainian and Belarusian case, that Belarus is not given as a consolation prize to Mr. Putin," she said on



**Person of interest:** Svetlana Tikhonovskaya says it is crucial for Kyiv to win the war, but Belarus should not be sacrificed. AFP

the sidelines of a visit to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

Ukrainian and U.S. negotiators held fresh talks in Geneva on Thursday on efforts to end Russia's invasion, now into a fifth year.

Russia is demanding Ukraine pull its troops out of territory Kyiv's Army still controls – a proposal Mr.

Zelenskyy has rejected – and said there is no deadline for ending the conflict.

## Future launchpad

Ms. Tikhonovskaya said that if Russia succeeded with its conditions, "it will keep the status quo in Belarus for decades, and Belarus can be used as a

launching pad, as a place for escalating deployment of different types of weapons, threatening, blackmailing (its) neighbours for years and years ahead".

Russia used Belarusian territory to launch its invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and Mr. Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus since 1994, announced in December that Russian ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons had been stationed in his country.

Ms. Tikhonovskaya, now 43, stood against Mr. Lukashenko in a 2020 Presidential election that the Opposition say she won.

Official results however awarded the victory to Mr. Lukashenko, triggering major demonstrations and a brutal crackdown, forcing Ms. Tikhonovskaya into exile.

## 28F. Exiled Opposition leader fears Belarus turning into Putin's 'consolation prize'

निर्वासित विपक्षी नेता को डर, बेलारूस पुतिन का 'सांत्वना पुरस्कार' बन सकता है

- Exiled Belarus Opposition leader **Svetlana Tikhonovskaya** told AFP in an interview that her country must not become a "**consolation prize**" for Russian President **Vladimir Putin** amid intense efforts to end the **Ukraine war**.

निर्वासित बेलारूस की विपक्षी नेता **स्वेलाना तिखानोव्स्काया** ने AFP को दिए एक साक्षात्कार में कहा कि उनका देश **यूक्रेन युद्ध** समाप्त करने के लिए चल रहे तीव्र प्रयासों के बीच रूसी राष्ट्रपति **व्लादिमीर पुतिन** के लिए "**सांत्वना पुरस्कार**" नहीं बनना चाहिए।

- Ms. Tikhonovskaya said it was crucial for **Ukraine** to win its battle but that **Belarus**, a close ally of **Moscow** under current leader President **Alexander Lukashenko**, should not be sacrificed.

सुश्री तिखानोव्स्काया ने कहा कि **यूक्रेन** के लिए अपनी लड़ाई जीतना महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन मौजूदा नेता राष्ट्रपति **अलेक्जेंडर लुकाशेंको** के तहत **मास्को** का करीबी सहयोगी **बेलारूस** बलि का बकरा नहीं बनाया जाना चाहिए।

- "It is important for us that **Europe** represents the **Belarusian voice** during these negotiations as well, that we do not separate the Ukrainian and Belarusian case, that Belarus is not given as a consolation prize to Mr. Putin," she said on the sidelines of a visit to the **Council of Europe** in **Strasbourg**.

उन्होंने **स्ट्रासबर्ग** में **काउंसिल ऑफ यूरोप** की यात्रा के दौरान कहा, "यह हमारे लिए महत्वपूर्ण है कि इन वार्ताओं के दौरान **यूरोप** भी **बेलारूसी आवाज़** का प्रतिनिधित्व करे, कि यूक्रेनी और बेलारूसी मामलों को अलग न किया जाए, और बेलारूस को श्री पुतिन को सांत्वना पुरस्कार के रूप में न दिया जाए।"

- Ukrainian and **U.S. negotiators** held fresh talks in **Geneva** on Thursday on efforts to end Russia's invasion, now into a **fifth year**.



यूक्रेनी और अमेरिकी वार्ताकारों ने गुरुवार को जिनेवा में रूस के आक्रमण को समाप्त करने के प्रयासों पर नई बातचीत की, जो अब पाँचवें वर्ष में प्रवेश कर चुका है।

- Russia is demanding Ukraine pull its troops out of territory **Kyiv's Army** still controls — a proposal Mr. **Zelensky** has rejected — and said there is no deadline for ending the **conflict**. रूस मांग कर रहा है कि यूक्रेन उन क्षेत्रों से अपनी सेना हटा ले जिन पर अभी भी **कीव की सेना** का नियंत्रण है — इस प्रस्ताव को राष्ट्रपति **ज़ेलेन्स्की** ने खारिज कर दिया है — और कहा है कि **संघर्ष** समाप्त करने की कोई समय-सीमा नहीं है।

### Future launchpad भविष्य का प्रक्षेपण केंद्र

- Ms. Tikhonovskaya said that if Russia succeeded with its conditions, “it will keep the **status quo** in Belarus for decades, and Belarus can be used as a **launching pad**, as a place for escalating deployment of different types of **weapons**, threatening, blackmailing (its) neighbours for years and years ahead”.  
सुश्री तिखानोव्स्काया ने कहा कि यदि रूस अपनी शर्तों में सफल होता है, तो “यह दशकों तक बेलारूस में **यथास्थिति** बनाए रखेगा, और बेलारूस को **प्रक्षेपण केंद्र** के रूप में, विभिन्न प्रकार के **हथियारों** की तैनाती बढ़ाने, पड़ोसियों को धमकाने और ब्लैकमेल करने के स्थान के रूप में वर्षों तक इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है।”
- Russia used **Belarusian territory** to launch its invasion of Ukraine in **2022**, and Mr. Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus since **1994**, announced in December that Russian **ballistic missiles** capable of carrying **nuclear weapons** had been stationed in his country.  
रूस ने **2022** में यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण शुरू करने के लिए **बेलारूसी क्षेत्र** का उपयोग किया था, और **1994** से बेलारूस पर शासन कर रहे श्री लुकाशेंको ने दिसंबर में घोषणा की कि **परमाणु हथियार** ले जाने में सक्षम रूसी **बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलें** उनके देश में तैनात की गई हैं।
- Ms. Tikhonovskaya, now **43**, stood against Mr. Lukashenko in a **2020 Presidential election** that the Opposition say she won.  
अब **43 वर्ष** की सुश्री तिखानोव्स्काया ने **2020 के राष्ट्रपति चुनाव** में श्री लुकाशेंको के खिलाफ चुनाव लड़ा, जिसे विपक्ष का कहना है कि उन्होंने जीता था।
- Official results however awarded the victory to Mr. Lukashenko, triggering **major demonstrations** and a **brutal crackdown**, forcing Ms. Tikhonovskaya into **exile**.  
हालाँकि आधिकारिक नतीजों में जीत श्री लुकाशेंको को दी गई, जिससे **बड़े प्रदर्शन** और एक **निर्मम दमन** शुरू हुआ, और सुश्री तिखानोव्स्काया को **निर्वासन** में जाने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा।

<b>GS Paper III: Economy,</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>28 February 2026</b>
<b>28F</b>	<b>New GDP series upgrades FY26 growth to 7.6%</b> <b>नई जीडीपी श्रृंखला ने FY26 की वृद्धि दर को 7.6% तक बढ़ाया</b>
<b>28F</b>	<b>Frozen wages, soaring prices</b> <b>जमे हुए वेतन, बढ़ती कीमतें</b>



# New GDP series upgrades FY26 growth to 7.6%

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan  
NEW DELHI

India's economic growth is expected to touch 7.6% in the current financial year 2025-26, showed the second advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) based on the new and updated series released by the government on Friday. This is faster than the 7.4% predicted in the first advance estimates for 2025-26 released in January, which was based on the older series.

The new series of data, released by Statistics Secretary Saurabh Garg and Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran, has incorporated several improvements, including an updated base year of 2022-23 from the earlier 2011-12.

The new series has revised downward the growth for 2023-24 to 7.2% from the 9.2% estimated in the old series and has revised the growth for 2024-25 to 7.1% from the earlier

estimate of 6.5%. According to the data, India's nominal GDP has been revised downward for the three years spanning 2023-26, which will have a negative impact on several fiscal ratios pegged to these numbers, such as the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio and the debt-to-GDP ratio.

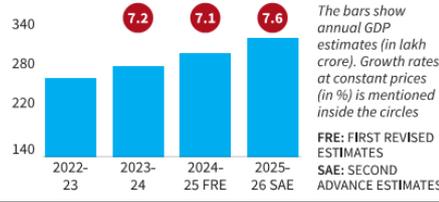
The government also released the GDP growth data for the third quarter of 2025-26 based on the new series, which stood at 7.8% as compared to 8.4% in the second quarter and 6.7% in the first quarter.

## Growth in current year

According to the second advance estimates for 2025-26, the secondary sector is expected to grow at 9.5%, up from 7.3% in 2024-25. This growth is to largely be driven by the manufacturing sector, which is estimated to grow 12.5% in 2025-26 as compared to 8.3% in the previous year. The construction sector is set to grow at

## Stronger outlook

The second advance estimates peg India's economic growth at 7.6% in FY26, higher than the first estimates made in January



6.9%, down from 7.1% over the same period.

Notably, the primary sector is expected to see a significant slowdown, with growth expected to be 2.8% in 2025-26 as compared to 5% in the previous year. This is due to growth in the agriculture sector expected to slow to 2.5% in 2025-26 from 4.3% in 2024-25, and in the mining and quarrying sector to 5% from 11.2% over the same period.

The tertiary sector, comprising the services

sectors, is expected to see growth to quicken to 8.9% in FY26, up from 8.3% in the previous year. This is a result of double-digit growth in the trade, hotels, transport and communication grouping (10.3%), and the financial, real estate, IT, and professional services grouping (10%).

The data in the new series shows that the size of the economy is expected to be ₹345.47 lakh crore in 2025-26, which is about 3.3% smaller than what was predicted in the first

advance estimates based on the old series.

Further, the size of the economy in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 has been revised downward by 3.8% each. According to economists, this would not only revise upwards the government's fiscal deficit ratios over the past few years but would also make its planned debt reduction path a significantly steeper one.

"On a current-price basis, nominal magnitudes for 2023-24 to 2025-26 are lower than those under the old series," D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor at EY India, said. "This also means the overall size of the economy now appears smaller."

According to Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, the new data implies that the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio would be around 15-20 bps higher on an average during the previous year as compared to the earlier estimates.

## 28F. New GDP series upgrades FY26 growth to 7.6%

### नई जीडीपी श्रृंखला ने FY26 की वृद्धि दर को 7.6% तक बढ़ाया

- India's economic growth is expected to touch **7.6%** in the current financial year **2025-26**, showed the second advance estimates of **gross domestic product (GDP)** based on the new and updated series released by the government on Friday.  
सरकार द्वारा शुक्रवार को जारी नई और अद्यतन श्रृंखला पर आधारित **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP)** के दूसरे अग्रिम अनुमानों के अनुसार, चालू वित्तीय वर्ष **2025-26** में भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि **7.6%** तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है।
- This is faster than the **7.4%** predicted in the first advance estimates for 2025-26 released in January, which was based on the **older series**.  
यह जनवरी में जारी 2025-26 के पहले अग्रिम अनुमानों में अनुमानित **7.4%** से अधिक है, जो **पुरानी श्रृंखला** पर आधारित था।
- The new series of data, released by **Statistics Secretary Saurabh Garg** and **Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran**, has incorporated several improvements, including an updated **base year of 2022-23** from the earlier **2011-12**.  
**सांख्यिकी सचिव सौरभ गर्ग** और **मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार वी. अनंत नागेश्वरन** द्वारा जारी नई डेटा श्रृंखला में कई सुधार शामिल किए गए हैं, जिनमें **आधार वर्ष को 2011-12 से अपडेट कर 2022-23** करना शामिल है।
- The new series has revised downward the growth for **2023-24** to **7.2%** from the **9.2%** estimated in the old series and has revised the growth for **2024-25** to **7.1%** from the earlier estimate of **6.5%**.  
नई श्रृंखला में **2023-24** की वृद्धि को पुरानी श्रृंखला में अनुमानित **9.2%** से घटाकर **7.2%** किया गया है और **2024-25** की वृद्धि को पहले के **6.5%** के अनुमान से बढ़ाकर **7.1%** किया गया है।
- According to the data, India's **nominal GDP** has been revised downward for the three years spanning **2023-26**, which will have a **negative impact** on several fiscal ratios pegged to these numbers, such as the **fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio** and the **debt-to-GDP ratio**.  
आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **2023-26** की अवधि के लिए भारत के **नाममात्र जीडीपी** को नीचे की ओर संशोधित किया गया है, जिससे इन आंकड़ों से जुड़े कई राजकोषीय अनुपातों पर **नकारात्मक प्रभाव** पड़ेगा, जैसे **राजकोषीय घाटा-से-जीडीपी अनुपात** और **ऋण-से-जीडीपी अनुपात**।



- The government also released the GDP growth data for the **third quarter of 2025-26** based on the new series, which stood at **7.8%** as compared to **8.4%** in the second quarter and **6.7%** in the first quarter.  
सरकार ने नई श्रृंखला के आधार पर **2025-26 की तीसरी तिमाही** के जीडीपी वृद्धि आंकड़े भी जारी किए, जो दूसरी तिमाही के **8.4%** और पहली तिमाही के **6.7%** की तुलना में **7.8%** रहे।

## Growth in current year चालू वर्ष में वृद्धि

- According to the second advance estimates for **2025-26**, the **secondary sector** is expected to grow at **9.5%**, up from **7.3%** in **2024-25**.  
**2025-26** के दूसरे अग्रिम अनुमानों के अनुसार, **द्वितीयक क्षेत्र** की वृद्धि **9.5%** रहने की उम्मीद है, जो **2024-25** में **7.3%** थी।
- This growth is to largely be driven by the **manufacturing sector**, which is estimated to grow **12.5%** in **2025-26** as compared to **8.3%** in the previous year.  
यह वृद्धि मुख्य रूप से **विनिर्माण क्षेत्र** द्वारा संचालित होगी, जिसकी वृद्धि **2025-26** में **12.5%** रहने का अनुमान है, जबकि पिछले वर्ष यह **8.3%** थी।
- The **construction sector** is set to grow at **6.9%**, down from **7.1%** over the same period.  
**निर्माण क्षेत्र** की वृद्धि **6.9%** रहने की संभावना है, जो इसी अवधि में **7.1%** थी।
- Notably, the **primary sector** is expected to see a significant slowdown, with growth expected to be **2.8%** in **2025-26** as compared to **5%** in the previous year.  
विशेष रूप से, **प्राथमिक क्षेत्र** में उल्लेखनीय मंदी आने की उम्मीद है, जहां **2025-26** में वृद्धि **2.8%** रहने का अनुमान है, जबकि पिछले वर्ष यह **5%** थी।
- This is due to growth in the **agriculture sector** expected to slow to **2.5%** in **2025-26** from **4.3%** in **2024-25**, and in the **mining and quarrying sector** to **5%** from **11.2%** over the same period.  
यह **कृषि क्षेत्र** की वृद्धि के **2024-25** के **4.3%** से घटकर **2025-26** में **2.5%** होने और **खनन एवं उत्खनन क्षेत्र** की वृद्धि के **11.2%** से घटकर **5%** होने के कारण है।
- The **tertiary sector**, comprising the **services sectors**, is expected to see growth to quicken to **8.9%** in **FY26**, up from **8.3%** in the previous year.  
**तृतीयक क्षेत्र**, जिसमें **सेवा क्षेत्र** शामिल हैं, की वृद्धि **FY26** में तेज होकर **8.9%** होने की उम्मीद है, जो पिछले वर्ष **8.3%** थी।
- This is a result of **double-digit growth** in the **trade, hotels, transport and communication** grouping (**10.3%**), and the **financial, real estate, IT, and professional services** grouping (**10%**).  
यह **व्यापार, होटल, परिवहन और संचार समूह (10.3%)** तथा **वित्तीय, रियल एस्टेट, आईटी और पेशेवर सेवाओं** के समूह (**10%**) में **दो अंकों की वृद्धि** का परिणाम है।
- The data in the new series shows that the **size of the economy** is expected to be **₹345.47 lakh crore** in **2025-26**, which is about **3.3% smaller** than what was predicted in the first advance estimates based on the old series.  
नई श्रृंखला के आंकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि **2025-26** में अर्थव्यवस्था का **आकार ₹345.47 लाख करोड़** रहने की उम्मीद है, जो पुरानी श्रृंखला पर आधारित पहले अग्रिम अनुमानों से लगभग **3.3% कम** है।
- Further, the size of the economy in both **2023-24** and **2024-25** has been revised downward by **3.8%** each.  
इसके अलावा, **2023-24** और **2024-25** दोनों वर्षों में अर्थव्यवस्था के आकार को **3.8%-3.8%** नीचे की ओर संशोधित किया गया है।
- According to economists, this would not only revise upwards the government's **fiscal deficit ratios** over the past few years but would also make its planned **debt reduction path** a significantly steeper one.  
अर्थशास्त्रियों के अनुसार, इससे न केवल पिछले कुछ वर्षों में सरकार के **राजकोषीय घाटा अनुपात** ऊपर की ओर संशोधित होंगे, बल्कि इसकी नियोजित **ऋण कटौती की राह** भी कहीं अधिक कठिन हो जाएगी।
- “On a **current-price basis**, nominal magnitudes for **2023-24 to 2025-26** are lower than those under the old series,” **D.K. Srivastava**, chief policy advisor at **EY India**, said.  
**ईवाई इंडिया** के मुख्य नीति सलाहकार **डी.के. श्रीवास्तव** ने कहा, “**वर्तमान मूल्य आधार पर 2023-24 से 2025-26** के लिए नाममात्र परिमाण पुरानी श्रृंखला की तुलना में कम हैं।”



- "This also means the overall **size of the economy** now appears smaller."  
"इसका अर्थ यह भी है कि अब अर्थव्यवस्था का कुल आकार छोटा दिखाई देता है।"
- According to **Aditi Nayar**, chief economist at ICRA, the new data implies that the **fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio** would be around **15-20 bps higher** on an average during the previous year as compared to the earlier estimates.  
**आईसीआरए की मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री अदिति नायर के अनुसार, नए आंकड़ों से संकेत मिलता है कि पिछले वर्ष औसतन राजकोषीय घाटा-से-जीडीपी अनुपात पहले के अनुमानों की तुलना में लगभग 15-20 आधार अंक अधिक होगा।**

## Frozen wages, soaring prices

The compounded inflation rate in Karnataka between 2012 and 2024 has been calculated to be at 208.3%. With minimum wage revision hanging fire, workers have a tough time coping with the rising cost of living, reports **Sharath S. Srivatsa**

GS III: Economy

**M**ahadevappa A., a casual worker at a factory in Jigani, was elated when in April 2025, he was informed of an impending hike in his salary after the government notified increase in minimum wages across sectors of employment.

Nearly a year later, his mood, and that of thousands of workers like him, is no longer upbeat. The notification proposing the hike has remained a draft, with the government dithering on finalising the wage hike.

In his late 30s and a native of T. Narasipura in Mysuru district, Mahadevappa has been working as a casual worker for nearly two decades now. His current gross salary is about ₹15,300 per month, and he had his hopes pinned on the hike to cope with escalating cost of living. "The rent is high and add to it the high school fee. Cost of every food item has gone up too. How do you expect a family to lead a decent life with what we earn?" he asked. He and many of his colleagues have been taking up overtime jobs to earn additional income, but at the cost of social life. His spouse also takes up odd jobs to augment the family income.

Over 1.77 crore workers

For more than three years now, over 1.77 crore workers like Mahadevappa, covered by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, are desperately waiting for the hike. Though the Act mandates revision of wages at least once in five years, this cycle of revision – due in 2022-23 – has not been completed yet. It has been nine years since the last wage revision process was completed in 2016-17.

Bringing hopes in desperate times, the State government on April 11, 2025 proposed fresh minimum wages ranging from ₹25,74 per month for unskilled worker to ₹34,225 per month in Zone 1, which includes Bengaluru; to ₹19,319 per month for unskilled worker to ₹28,285 per month for highly skilled worker in Zone 3. The draft, for the first time, fixed minimum wages for 18 scheduled employments apart from revising minimum wages in the rest. Minimum wages have been notified in a total of 81 scheduled employment.

How it was calculated

For the first time in Karnataka, guidelines laid down by Supreme Court in the landmark Raptakos Brett case in 1952 was followed to arrive at the wages. In a departure from the past minimum wage revision, Karnataka considered non-vegetarian diet to calculate the cost of food (2,700 calories per consumption unit) to form the minimum wage matrix. The inclusion of non-vegetarian diet has been a long-standing demand of the labour unions, which have argued that about 80% of the State's population consumes meat.

Immediately after the draft was published, the



Minimum wage is already a subsistence wage. The tinkering of the Consumer Price Index, based on which the minimum wages are arrived at, causes further injustice to the workers

**MEENAKSHI SUNDARAM**  
CITU general secretary

industry bodies took exception to what they termed as "steep hike", and petitioned the government against its implementation. The draft received more than 150 objections/suggestions from the industries/industry bodies.

With the Karnataka State Minimum Wages Advisory Board, a tripartite body with members from industries, unions and government, delving on the issue, also unable to come to any conclusion after two meetings, the decision is now with the government. As deliberations at the government level are still under way, four cases landed up in Karnataka High Court against the proposed revision.

Will hurt MSMEs

"The proposed hike is too steep and will affect the viability of the MSME sector where 93% of the workforce in Karnataka is employed," said B.C. Prabhakar, president of Karnataka Employees' Association (KEA), which was a petitioner in one of the cases before the Karnataka High Court. He argued that a hike at this scale is disadvantageous to the MSMEs in Karnataka when compared to MSMEs in neighbouring States where minimum wages are lower.

Uma Reddy, president of Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), concurred and said, "Minimum wages should be comparable with other States and neither too low nor too high. With high wages, it will be difficult for the sector to grow." She said the government should either incentivise the enterprises to pay higher wages or exclude the micro and small enterprises from the policy framework. "Micro and small enterprises cannot be in the same bracket with large industries."

On the other hand, the unions, which have welcomed the draft notification and seek its implementation, point to critical flaws in the method of calculation adopted that they claim have depressed the proposed minimum wages by at least 20%. Along with the cost of food, clothing and shelter, the wage calculation should also consider new age requirements such as mobile phone and data bills, the unions have said and also pointed out that rate of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) increase has not kept pace with inflation.

Erosion of wages

The compounded inflation rate in Karnataka between 2012 and 2024 has been calculated to be at 208.3%. The wage increase in these scheduled employ

ments is calculated in terms of VDA, statutorily announced once a year by the State government. Considering the VDAs announced in the corresponding period, the quantum of wage increase is ₹5,814 per month. If one were to get a monthly salary of ₹10,000 in 2012, the salary would have increased to ₹15,814, which is roughly 58% increase, showing that the annual wage increase through VDA does not catch up with inflationary trends.

General secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) Meenakshi Sundaram feels that it is critical to guard against the erosion of real wages of the workers. "Not only should the purchasing power be protected, but also provide for them to participate in the economy. Minimum wage is already a subsistence wage. The tinkering of the Consumer Price Index, based on which the minimum wages are arrived at, causes further injustice to the workers."

Even as the hiring of casual labour increases in government and in large industries against the permanent work force since labour cost is cheap, the lower minimum wage is leading to exploitation, warned the All India Trade Union Congress general secretary D.A. Vijaybhaskar. "In order to reduce the exploitative gap between the permanent and contract workers, it is essential to increase the minimum wage based on real needs."

The genesis of the minimum wage imbroglio goes back to 2022-23 when the current cycle of revision commenced during the BJP government with notification of revised minimum wages for 36 employments with a hike ranging from 5% to 10%. The AITUC, which termed the hike as unilateral and flagged that the guidelines of Reptakos Brett had not been followed, approached the High Court of Karnataka, which eventually stayed the draft. After the Congress government came to power, a fresh wage revision was announced based on Apex Court laid down guidelines in April 2025.

Garment sector issues

Even as the government took up wage revision in 81 scheduled employments, 19 employments, including garment work, have been excluded. Unions in the garment industry that employ about four lakh women have been fighting for fair wages for over a decade now. Over the last four decades, attempts to increase minimum wages in 2009, 2010 and 2018 have resulted in court cases, inordinately delaying the revision. "Instead of a hike in minimum wage, we get an increased VDA hike. There is a huge gap between the VDA and general price rise. Unions are not there to negotiate. Workers are simply suspended for raising their voice," said a worker at a garment factory in Bommasandra. "After 19 years of work, my take home salary does not exceed ₹15,000. House rents have gone up in Bommasandra after the metro connectivity. Legislators' salaries get increased every now and then, but every effort to raise minimum wages is stonewalled," said the worker, who wished to remain anonymous.

Wages have also been fixed arbitrarily, and absence of factory-level workers' unions have compounded the problems.

In 2018, basic wage was initially increased to ₹459.81 per day for unskilled workers in Zone 1, which was withdrawn later and downwardly revised to

₹349.44 per day in 2019 after a tripartite committee decision in which government and industry representatives voted together against the garment workers' demand. In 2023, basic wage was increased to ₹401.07 per day for unskilled and ₹434.48 for highly skilled workers per day.

Currently, an unskilled worker is paid ₹12,818 per month and semi-skilled worker is paid ₹13,085 a month, while a highly skilled worker gets paid ₹13,886 per month.

"The government has revised the basic wage without considering ground realities both in 2018 and 2023. What was fixed in 2023 is far less than what was initially proposed in 2018 when wage revision was common for all 81 scheduled employment," R. Prathiba, president of Garments and Textiles Workers' Union (GATWU) said. By deliberately keeping the garment sector away from the minimum wage revision, the government is causing injustice to the workers, who are mostly women, she added.

The wage has been an issue in the garment industry as the Indian garment industry competes in a highly price sensitive international market with other countries. There is a general difference of about ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 in monthly minimum wage hike between garment workers and workers in other employments.

For instance, the prevailing minimum wage for highly skilled jobs in the garment industry fetches ₹13,686 per month against ₹19,468 for a highly skilled job in the automobile sector in Zone 1. In the past, unions have tried bringing pressure on wage hike implementation through international campaigns. "The historical injustice to garment workers has continued with the government deciding to initiate wage hike through a committee. There has been no fixed time frame too," said GATWU joint secretary K.R. Jayaram.

Shadow of Labour Codes

Meanwhile, as the State government dithered over finalising the wage revision, the notification of four Labour Codes by the BJP-led Union Government on November 21, 2025, seems to have complicated the decision-making though unions have repeatedly pointed out that the Codes do not come in the way of revising minimum wages. The new Industrial Codes have subsumed The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 – all related wages to workers – even as the concept of scheduled employments has been done away with.

Both labour unions and the management representatives have been differing in their point of view over implementation of minimum wages after the four new Codes came into force. "Legally, there is no scheduled employment now and the Minimum Wages Act has been repealed with the notification of Code on Wages, 2019. The power to fix minimum wages under old Acts has been taken away by the new Code. The State government can fix new minimum wages only after the Centre fixes the floor wage," Mr. Prabhakar argued.

The Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), an umbrella platform bringing together nine trade unions in Karnataka, however, has pointed out provisions in the Codes that do not bar implementation of the minimum wages. The JCTU, in its memorandum in December, 2025, urging the government to implement minimum wages immediately, has said that the provisions in the Code on Wages provide ample opportunities to the government to ensure that the process of revision of minimum wages, under way and nearing completion, can be continued under the new Labour Code as well.

The Labour Department, meanwhile, is learnt to have sought opinion from the Law Department over implementation of the minimum wages in the light of Codes coming into effect.

The Department sources say that the decision on the minimum wages will only be made in consultation with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, even as the AITUC plans a State-wide protest against the delay in implementation of minimum wages on March 5.



There is a general difference of about ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 in monthly minimum wage between garment workers and workers in other employments. M.A. SRIBAM



## 28F. Frozen wages, soaring prices जमे हुए वेतन, बढ़ती कीमतें

- The compounded inflation rate in **Karnataka** between **2012 and 2024** has been calculated to be at **208.3%**.  
**2012 से 2024 के बीच कर्नाटक में संयुक्त मुद्रास्फीति दर 208.3% आंकी गई है।**
- With **minimum wage revision** hanging fire, workers have a tough time coping with the rising cost of living, reports **Sharath S. Srivatsa**.



**न्यूनतम वेतन संशोधन** लंबित रहने के कारण, श्रमिकों को बढ़ती जीवन-यापन लागत से निपटने में कठिनाई हो रही है, रिपोर्ट **शरत एस. श्रीवत्स**।



- Mahadevappa A., a casual worker at a factory in Jigani, was elated when in April 2025, he was informed of an impending hike in his salary after the government notified an increase in minimum wages across sectors of employment.

जिगानी की एक फैक्ट्री में आकस्मिक श्रमिक **महादेवप्पा ए.** अप्रैल 2025 में तब बेहद खुश हुए जब उन्हें सरकार द्वारा विभिन्न रोजगार क्षेत्रों में न्यूनतम वेतन बढ़ाने की अधिसूचना के बाद वेतन वृद्धि की जानकारी मिली।

- Nearly a year later, his mood, and that of thousands of workers like him, is no longer upbeat. लगभग एक साल बाद, उनका और उनके जैसे हजारों श्रमिकों का उत्साह अब नहीं रहा।
- The notification proposing the hike has remained a draft, with the government dithering on finalising the wage hike.

वेतन वृद्धि का प्रस्ताव रखने वाली अधिसूचना मसौदा ही बनी हुई है और सरकार इसे अंतिम रूप देने में हिचकिचा रही है।

- In his late 30s and a native of **T. Narasipura** in **Mysuru district**, Mahadevappa has been working as a casual worker for nearly two decades now.

तीस के दशक के उत्तरार्ध में और **मैसूरु जिले** के **टी. नरसीपुरा** के निवासी महादेवप्पा लगभग दो दशकों से आकस्मिक श्रमिक के रूप में काम कर रहे हैं।

- His current gross salary is about **₹15,300 per month**, and he had his hopes pinned on the hike to cope with the escalating cost of living.

उनका वर्तमान सकल वेतन लगभग **₹15,300 प्रति माह** है और बढ़ती जीवन-यापन लागत से निपटने के लिए उन्हें वेतन वृद्धि से उम्मीद थी।

- “The rent is high and adds to it the high school fee. The cost of every food item has gone up too. How do you expect a family to lead a decent life with what we earn?” he asked.

उन्होंने कहा, “किराया ज्यादा है और उस पर स्कूल की फीस भी। हर खाद्य पदार्थ की कीमत बढ़ गई है। हमारी कमाई में परिवार से सम्मानजनक जीवन की उम्मीद कैसे की जा सकती है?”

- He and many of his colleagues have been taking up overtime jobs to earn additional income, but at the cost of social life.

वह और उनके कई सहकर्मी अतिरिक्त आय के लिए ओवरटाइम काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन इसकी कीमत सामाजिक जीवन से चुकानी पड़ रही है।

- His spouse also takes up odd jobs to augment the family income.

उनकी पत्नी भी परिवार की आय बढ़ाने के लिए छोटे-मोटे काम करती हैं।

### Over 1.77 crore workers

#### 1.77 करोड़ से अधिक श्रमिक

- For more than three years now, over **1.77 crore workers**, covered by the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948**, are desperately waiting for a revision.

पिछले तीन वर्षों से अधिक समय से **न्यूनतम वेतन अधिनियम, 1948** के तहत आने वाले **1.77 करोड़ से अधिक श्रमिक** संशोधन का बेसब्री से इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

- Though the Act mandates revision of wages at least once in five years, this cycle of revision — due in 2022-23 — has not been completed yet.

हालांकि अधिनियम के अनुसार हर पाँच वर्ष में वेतन संशोधन अनिवार्य है, लेकिन 2022-23 में देय यह चक्र अब तक पूरा नहीं हुआ है।

- It has been nine years since the last wage revision process was completed in 2016-17. 2016-17 में अंतिम वेतन संशोधन पूरा होने के बाद से नौ वर्ष हो चुके हैं।

- Bringing hopes in desperate times, the State government on **April 11, 2025** proposed fresh minimum wages ranging from **₹25,714 per month** for unskilled worker to **₹34,225 per month** in **Zone 1**, which includes **Bengaluru**; to **₹19,319 per month** for unskilled worker to **₹28,285 per month** for highly skilled worker in **Zone 3**.

निराशाजनक समय में उम्मीद जगाते हुए, राज्य सरकार ने **11 अप्रैल 2025** को **ज़ोन 1** (जिसमें **बंगलुरु** शामिल है) में अकुशल श्रमिक के लिए **₹25,714 प्रति माह** से लेकर **₹34,225 प्रति माह** और **ज़ोन 3** में अकुशल श्रमिक के लिए **₹19,319 प्रति माह** से लेकर अत्यधिक कुशल श्रमिक के लिए **₹28,285 प्रति माह** का प्रस्ताव रखा।



- The draft, for the first time, fixed minimum wages for **18 scheduled employments** apart from revising minimum wages in the rest.  
इस मसौदे में पहली बार शेष रोजगारों के अलावा **18 अनुसूचित रोजगारों** के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन तय किया गया।
- Minimum wages have been notified in a total of **81 scheduled employment**.  
कुल **81 अनुसूचित रोजगारों** में न्यूनतम वेतन अधिसूचित किया गया है।

### How it was calculated यह कैसे गणना की गई

- For the first time in Karnataka, guidelines laid down by the Supreme **Court** in the landmark **Raptakos Brett case (1992)** were followed to arrive at the wages.  
कर्नाटक में पहली बार वेतन तय करने के लिए **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के ऐतिहासिक **रैप्टाकोस ब्रेट केस (1992)** में निर्धारित दिशानिर्देशों का पालन किया गया।
- In a departure from the past minimum wage revision, Karnataka considered a non-vegetarian **diet** to calculate the cost of food (**2,700 calories per consumption unit**) to form the minimum wage matrix.  
पिछले न्यूनतम वेतन संशोधनों से हटकर, कर्नाटक ने खाद्य लागत की गणना के लिए **मांसाहारी आहार (2,700 कैलोरी प्रति उपभोग इकाई)** को शामिल किया।
- The inclusion of a non-vegetarian diet has been a long-standing demand of the labour unions.  
मांसाहारी आहार को शामिल करना श्रमिक संगठनों की लंबे समय से मांग रही है।
- Immediately after the draft was published, the industry bodies took exception to what they termed as a “steep hike”, and petitioned the government against its implementation.  
मसौदा जारी होते ही उद्योग संगठनों ने इसे “तेज वृद्धि” बताते हुए आपत्ति जताई और इसके क्रियान्वयन के खिलाफ सरकार से गुहार लगाई।
- The draft received more than **150 objections/suggestions** from the industries/industry bodies.  
मसौदे को उद्योगों/उद्योग संगठनों से **150 से अधिक आपत्तियाँ/सुझाव** प्राप्त हुए।
- With the **Karnataka State Minimum Wages Advisory Board**, a tripartite body, also unable to come to any conclusion after two meetings, the decision is now with the government.  
**कर्नाटक राज्य न्यूनतम वेतन सलाहकार बोर्ड**, जो एक त्रिपक्षीय निकाय है, दो बैठकों के बाद भी निष्कर्ष पर नहीं पहुँच सका, और अब निर्णय सरकार के पास है।
- As deliberations at the government level are still under way, four cases landed up in **Karnataka High Court** against the proposed revision.  
सरकारी स्तर पर विचार-विमर्श जारी रहने के कारण प्रस्तावित संशोधन के खिलाफ **कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय** में चार मामले दायर हुए।

### Will hurt MSMEs एमएसएमई को नुकसान

- “The proposed hike is too steep and will affect the viability of the **MSME sector** where **93%** of the workforce in Karnataka is employed,” said **B.C. Prabhakar**.  
**बी.सी. प्रभाकर** ने कहा, “प्रस्तावित वृद्धि बहुत अधिक है और इससे **एमएसएमई क्षेत्र** की व्यवहार्यता प्रभावित होगी, जहाँ कर्नाटक की **93%** कार्यबल कार्यरत है।
- (आपके निर्देशों के अनुसार **सामग्री में कोई बदलाव नहीं** किया गया है, प्रत्येक वाक्य के बाद उसका **हिंदी अनुवाद** दिया गया है, **शीर्षक व महत्वपूर्ण शब्द** सीमित रूप से **बोल्ड** किए गए हैं, और **कोई संदर्भ या बिंदुवार संरचना नहीं** जोड़ी गई है।  
यदि आप चाहें, तो मैं अगले उत्तर में **शेष पाठ** भी इसी बिल्कुल समान प्रारूप में जारी कर सकता हूँ।



GS Paper III: S&T,	
TOPICS COVERED	28 February 2026
28F	PM to launch nationwide drive on HPV vaccination प्रधानमंत्री एचपीवी टीकाकरण पर राष्ट्रव्यापी अभियान शुरू करेंगे
28F	Need to strike a balance, says SC on SHANTI Act petition SHANTI अधिनियम याचिका पर संतुलन बनाने की आवश्यकता: सुप्रीम कोर्ट
28F	A leap from blaze to biogas आग से बायोगैस तक की छलांग

## PM to launch nationwide drive on HPV vaccination

GS III: S&T  
The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign on Saturday from Ajmer. The campaign aims to protect 14-year-old girls across the country from cervical cancer, a disease that remains a significant health concern in India.

All States and Union Territories will virtually join the programme that will start at 11.30 a.m., the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

India will use Gardasil, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine, for protection from HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, as well as types 6 and 11.

A Health Ministry official said that the vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost. The one-time vaccine will be administered at designated government health facilities.

## 28F. PM to launch nationwide drive on HPV vaccination प्रधानमंत्री एचपीवी टीकाकरण पर राष्ट्रव्यापी अभियान शुरू करेंगे

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will launch a nationwide **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign** on Saturday from **Ajmer**. प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार को अजमेर से राष्ट्रव्यापी ह्यूमन पैपिलोमावायरस (एचपीवी) टीकाकरण अभियान की शुरुआत करेंगे।

- The campaign aims to protect **14-year-old girls** across the country from **cervical cancer**, a disease that remains a significant **health concern** in India.

इस अभियान का उद्देश्य देशभर की **14 वर्षीय लड़कियों** को **सर्वाइकल कैंसर** से बचाना है, जो भारत में अब भी एक गंभीर **स्वास्थ्य चिंता** बनी हुई है।

- All **States and Union Territories** will virtually join the programme that will start at **11.30 a.m.**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** said.

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय** ने कहा कि कार्यक्रम में सभी राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश वर्चुअली शामिल होंगे और यह **सुबह 11.30 बजे** शुरू होगा।

- India will use **Gardasil**, a **quadrivalent HPV vaccine**, for protection from HPV types **16 and 18**, which cause cervical cancer, as well as types **6 and 11**.

भारत **गार्डसिल**, एक **क्वाड्रिवैलेंट एचपीवी वैक्सीन**, का उपयोग करेगा, जो एचपीवी के प्रकार **16 और 18** से सुरक्षा देती है, जो सर्वाइकल कैंसर का कारण बनते हैं, साथ ही प्रकार **6 और 11** से भी सुरक्षा प्रदान करती है।

- A **Health Ministry official** said that the vaccination will be **voluntary** and **free of cost**.

एक **स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के अधिकारी** ने कहा कि टीकाकरण **स्वैच्छिक** होगा और **निःशुल्क** प्रदान किया जाएगा।

- The **one-time vaccine** will be administered at designated **government health facilities**.

यह **एक बार दिया जाने वाला टीका** निर्धारित **सरकारी स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों** पर लगाया जाएगा।



# Need to strike a balance, says SC on SHANTI Act petition

GS III: S&T

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Friday said a balance has to be struck between “actual, visible, tangible national interest” and “unfortunate, hypothetical loss” while hearing a petition highlighting that India’s new law on nuclear accidents has placed “abysmally low” liability on private operators and even exempted any accountability on the part of the suppliers.

Chief Justice Kant said that bringing nuclear power to India was a necessity to meet the nation’s energy requirements.

“Today, if we do not bring nuclear power, you will not be able to meet your requirements. You do not want to allow the coal industry, you cannot compromise on forestry, you do not have gas... So,

where are we going?” the Chief Justice asked the petitioner counsel, advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi.

The petition filed by former IAS officer E.A.S. Sarma has challenged the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act of 2025, primarily on the ground that it allowed private sector and foreign companies to operate nuclear power plants in India and has further capped the liability of these operators at an “absurdly low level and exempted the supplier from any liability”.

Mr. Bhushan pointed out that the SHANTI Act capped the government’s residual liability at “300 million Special Drawing Rights – a figure that is abysmally low and effectively ensures that victims of death, injury, or proper-

ty damage cannot recover even a small fraction of their actual losses”.

“SHANTI Act, 2025 caps the liability of the largest plant operator in India at a mere ₹3,000 crore (i.e., approximately \$331 million amounting to less than 0.1% of the cost of damage caused by the accidents at Chernobyl or Fukushima).

The exemption of suppliers from any liability in the SHANTI Act is bound to encourage manufacturers and suppliers to cut corners in safety so as to maximise their profits,” Mr. Bhushan submitted.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi on the Bench said the 2025 Act would have to be examined by the court.

“We have to examine whether the provisions of the new Act suffer from the vice of unconstitutionality... Whether it is manifestly unjust or arbitrary,” Justice Bagchi observed orally.

## 28F. Need to strike a balance, says SC on SHANTI Act petition

### SHANTI अधिनियम याचिका पर संतुलन बनाने की आवश्यकता: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Friday said a balance has to be struck between “actual, visible, tangible national interest” and “unfortunate, hypothetical loss” while hearing a petition highlighting that India’s new law on nuclear accidents has placed “abysmally low” liability on private operators and even exempted any accountability on the part of the suppliers.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) सूर्य कांत ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि “वास्तविक, प्रत्यक्ष, ठोस राष्ट्रीय हित” और “दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण, काल्पनिक नुकसान” के बीच संतुलन बनाना होगा, जब वह उस याचिका की सुनवाई कर रहे थे जिसमें यह रेखांकित किया गया था कि भारत के परमाणु दुर्घटनाओं पर नए कानून ने निजी संचालकों पर “बेहद कम” दायित्व रखा है और आपूर्तिकर्ताओं की किसी भी जवाबदेही को भी छूट दी है।

- Chief Justice Kant said that bringing nuclear power to India was a necessity to meet the nation’s energy requirements.



मुख्य न्यायाधीश कांत ने कहा कि भारत में परमाणु ऊर्जा लाना देश की ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए आवश्यक है।

- “Today, if we do not bring nuclear power, you will not be able to meet your requirements. You do not want to allow the **coal industry**, you cannot compromise on **forestry**, you do not have **gas**... So, where are we going?” the Chief Justice asked the petitioner counsel, advocates **Prashant Bhushan** and **Neha Rathi**.

“आज, यदि हम परमाणु ऊर्जा नहीं लाते, तो आप अपनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा नहीं कर पाएंगे। आप **कोयला उद्योग** को अनुमति नहीं देना चाहते, आप **वन संरक्षण** पर समझौता नहीं कर सकते, आपके पास **गैस** नहीं है... तो फिर हम कहां जा रहे हैं?” मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने याचिकाकर्ता के वकीलों **प्रशांत भूषण** और **नेहा राठी** से पूछा।

- The petition filed by former IAS officer **E.A.S. Sarma** has challenged the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act of 2025**, primarily on the ground that it allowed private sector and foreign companies to operate nuclear power plants in India and has further capped the liability of these operators at an **“absurdly low level** and exempted the supplier from any liability”.

पूर्व आईएस अधिकारी **ई.ए.एस. सरमा** द्वारा दायर याचिका ने **सस्टेनेबल हार्नेसिंग एंड एडवांसमेंट ऑफ न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी फॉर ट्रांसफॉर्मिंग इंडिया (SHANTI) अधिनियम, 2025** को मुख्य रूप से इस आधार पर चुनौती दी है कि इसने निजी क्षेत्र और विदेशी कंपनियों को भारत में परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र संचालित करने की अनुमति दी और आगे इन संचालकों की देनदारी को **“बेहद हास्यास्पद रूप से कम स्तर”** पर सीमित कर दिया तथा आपूर्तिकर्ता को किसी भी दायित्व से मुक्त कर दिया।

- Mr. Bhushan pointed out that the **SHANTI Act** capped the government’s residual liability at **“300 million Special Drawing Rights** — a figure that is abysmally low and effectively ensures that victims of death, injury, or property damage cannot recover even a small fraction of their actual losses”.

श्री भूषण ने बताया कि **SHANTI अधिनियम** ने सरकार की शेष देनदारी को **“300 मिलियन स्पेशल ड्रॉइंग राइट्स”** तक सीमित कर दिया है — जो एक बेहद कम आंकड़ा है और प्रभावी रूप से यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि मृत्यु, चोट या संपत्ति क्षति के पीड़ित अपने वास्तविक नुकसान का छोटा सा हिस्सा भी प्राप्त नहीं कर सकें।

- **“SHANTI Act, 2025** caps the liability of the largest plant operator in India at a mere **₹3,000 crore** (i.e., approximately **\$331 million** amounting to less than **0.1%** of the cost of damage caused by the accidents at **Chernobyl** or **Fukushima**).

**“SHANTI अधिनियम, 2025** भारत के सबसे बड़े संयंत्र संचालक की देनदारी को मात्र **₹3,000 करोड़** (अर्थात लगभग **\$331 मिलियन**, जो **चेर्नोबिल** या **फुकुशिमा** दुर्घटनाओं से हुई क्षति की लागत का **0.1%** से भी कम है) तक सीमित करता है।

- The exemption of suppliers from any liability in the **SHANTI Act** is bound to encourage manufacturers and suppliers to cut corners in safety so as to maximise their **profits**,” Mr. Bhushan submitted.

**SHANTI अधिनियम** में आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को किसी भी दायित्व से मुक्त किया जाना निर्माताओं और आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को सुरक्षा में कटौती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करेगा ताकि वे अपने **मुनाफे** को अधिकतम कर सकें,” श्री भूषण ने प्रस्तुत किया।

- Justice **Joymalya Bagchi** on the Bench said the **2025 Act** would have to be examined by the court.

पीठ में शामिल न्यायमूर्ति **जॉयमाल्या बागची** ने कहा कि **2025 के अधिनियम** की अदालत द्वारा जांच की जानी होगी।

- “We have to examine whether the provisions of the new Act suffer from the vice of **unconstitutionality**... Whether it is manifestly **unjust or arbitrary**,” Justice Bagchi observed orally.

“हमें यह जांचना होगा कि नए अधिनियम के प्रावधान **असंवैधानिकता** के दोष से ग्रस्त हैं या नहीं... क्या वे स्पष्ट रूप से **अन्यायपूर्ण या मनमाने** हैं,” न्यायमूर्ति बागची ने मौखिक रूप से टिप्पणी की।



# A leap from blaze to biogas

The State's first Compressed Biogas plant, which converts biodegradable waste into biogas, has become operational at the Brahmapuram garbage treatment yard of the Kochi Corporation.

**M.P. Praveen** meets the engineers and managers of the plant set up by the BPCL Kochi Refinery at the plant site to learn about the facility, which is expected to solve the city's waste management issues

**I**n the evening of March 2, 2023, an inferno erupted in the mountains of plastic waste piled high at the Kochi Corporation's waste treatment yard at Brahmapuram, located on the outskirts of the city.

For nearly a fortnight, flames devoured the sprawling dump, which mostly consisted of tonnes of plastic and non-biodegradable waste accumulated over a decade, along the banks of Kadamparai, a critical freshwater source, sending plumes of smoke across Kochi's skyline. The fire that released huge quantities of noxious gases and soot lasted for almost a fortnight lowered the air quality of the city to alarming levels. Hundreds sought medical assistance following respiratory issues.

When the fire was finally doused, a large area of the 110-acre plot at Brahmapuram in the Vadavode-Puthencruz panchayat on the suburbs of Kochi city resembled a wasteland ravaged by war, leaving behind smouldering embers, acrid smoke and scorched earth so lifeless that it seemed even a blade of grass may never take root again.

Less than three years after the blaze, a 10-acre plot at the yard's epicentre stands transformed beyond recognition, housing a Compressed Biogas plant, funded by BPCL-Kochi Refinery. It will be formally inaugurated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday.

Rising from the once-charred wasteland are three green domes. Two of them are, in fact, double-layered balloons mounted atop digesters, each with the capacity to treat 75 tonnes of municipal solid waste a day.

The inner balloon inflates as raw biogas is generated, while the outer shell holds its form against inclement weather, ensuring the anaerobic functioning of the digesters with the help of a water column controlled by a blower. The third structure is a ground-mounted balloon, which is a specialised, collapsible storage membrane designed exclusively for biogas, with a capacity of 1,500



In other districts, the government will hand over the land, and the BPCL will establish the plant. An MoU has been signed for Kollam, and the foundation stone is set to be laid in Kozhikode.

**M.B. RAJESH**  
Local Self Governments Minister

cubic metres. Before the waste reaches the digesters – the heart of the gas generation segment – it undergoes an elaborate cycle of pre-treatment and feed preparation.

Biodegradable waste collected from 177 centres across the city is first transported to the plant, where it is weighed on a 60-tonne electronic weighing machine. From there, the waste is tipped into a bunker in the pre-treatment area and carried forward on conveyors, passing through vibrators that separate non-biodegradable rejects.

The segregated material is then channelled into a shredder and a bio grinder, which pulverises the waste into a fine slurry of 5 mm thickness. The slurry proceeds to the feed preparation stage where it is emptied into an unloading pit and mixed with an equal quantity of water. From there, it passes through intermediate tanks for further segregation, with fibrous content carefully removed.

The slurry is then channelled into a hydrolyser tank, where the accelerated breakdown of organic matter takes place. Finally, it is fed into two digesters operating on a Continuous Stirred Tank Reactor system. Together, the digesters generate 5.6 tonnes of biogas each day.

#### Manure marketed through FACT

The digesters discharge 290 tonnes of Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM) and 28 tonnes of Solid Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) each day, which are channelled to a dedicated fertilizer shed for separation. Of this, 190 tonnes of LFOM are recycled within the plant itself, while the remaining 100 tonnes, along with the 28 tonnes of FOM produced daily, are marketed through Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT).

"We have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to market FOM through our distribution network. The application of such manure enriches the soil, facilitating better absorption of

nitrogen and phosphorus, which in turn benefits crop yield. That is why petroleum companies have begun producing FOM products, and fertilizer companies are supporting them," says Jeeendra Kumar, General Manager (Marketing), FACT.

Raw biogas generated by the digesters is stored in the ground-mounted balloon before being channelled to the purification unit. In its raw form, the gas contains 45-50% methane, 35-45% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and 0.1-0.4% hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S). A water-scrubbing system is employed to purify the biogas, removing CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S by feeding pressurised gas into a packed column while water is sprayed from above. This process enhances methane purity to 97%. The refined gas is then compressed to a higher pressure and transferred to the refinery at Ambalamedu, where it is converted into green hydrogen, explains the engineer.

When operating at full capacity, the plant will reduce carbon emissions by 85,000 tonnes a year, which is equivalent to planting 3.5 million trees and nurturing them for a decade, a BPCL official says.

#### In Thiruvananthapuram, Changanassery

Similar biogas plants are in the pipeline across several districts in Kerala. Projects being developed under the public-private partnership (PPP) model are nearing completion in Palakkad and Thrissur. "In other districts, the government will hand over the land, and the BPCL will establish the plant. A Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed for Kollam, and the foundation stone is set to be laid in Kozhikode, while similar facilities are under consideration in Thiruvananthapuram and Changanassery. We are pursuing a mix of centralised and decentralised waste treatment facilities. There will not be a complete shift to this model, but it will be advanced alongside the strengthening of decentralised systems," remarks M.B. Rajesh, Minister for Local Self Governments.

The Kochi plant, which entails an annual operational expenditure of ₹7.5 crore, is equipped with both in-built and external safety systems, including a dedicated fire-water network to tackle potential outbreaks. Company officials claim that this feature is unmatched.

The system, say the engineers, is supported by a four-lakh-litre capacity tank, a bore well capable of supplying 5,000 litres an hour, and a conventional well, with the Kadamparai also serving as an additional water source. A flare mechanism ensures that gas is burnt in a controlled manner even if pressure rises beyond the prescribed threshold, he explains.

However, the Corporation had initially proposed a windrow composting plant at an investment of ₹150 crore under BPCL's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. "The proposal changed in the aftermath of the Brahmapuram fire. While hearing cases related to the incident, the Kerala High Court asked why the Corporation could not establish a facility modelled on the plant in Indore. Though the company behind the Indore project held consultations, it eventually

withdrew, citing feasibility concerns. It was at this juncture that the BPCL entered into discussions with the State government, and Ministers M.B. Rajesh and P. Rajeev broached the possibility of a CBG plant," recalls former Mayor M. Anilkumar.

Subsequently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the proposed plant online in October 2023. The State Cabinet approved the CBG project the following month, and the Corporation handed over the land in December. CEID Consultants and Engineering was awarded the contract to set up the facility, while the FACT Engineering & Design Organisation (FEDO) was appointed as the project management consultant.

#### Prime reasons for delay

The original deadline of March 2025 for the project's completion could not be met. The trial run of the plant, beginning with dung and later extended to actual municipal solid waste, commenced in December 2023. The delay was primarily due to the soil structure and the prolonged monsoon. "We received the land in March 2024 and began filling two months later. However, the extended rains triggered a soil collapse, forcing us to resort to piling for all structures except two. To ensure stability, we waited through two monsoon cycles before proceeding. Hence, the soil had time to settle," explains R. Ugesh Raja, Project Manager at CEID, which has been entrusted with the operation and maintenance of the plant for the next decade.

Meanwhile, FEDO is preparing to conclude its association with the project, its first in Kerala. "We are in the process of carrying out a Performance Guarantee Test Run, the completion of which will mark the culmination of our role in the project," says Sarath Santhosh, Senior Manager (Projects and Constructions), FEDO.

In its 2026-27 Budget, the Kochi Corporation has earmarked ₹15 crore for the operation of the CBG plant. "It's our responsibility to handle the rejects from the waste during segregation. Since the actual cost of handling this remains uncertain, we have set aside a token allocation. The company engaged in bio-mining of legacy waste at Brahmapuram has expressed interest in treating the rejects, and we have asked them to submit a project proposal. While the CBG plant is undoubtedly a blessing for the city, we do not want the treatment of rejects to become an additional burden. We are also concerned about whether the quality of waste supplied will affect the plant's operations in the long run, as we have been told that the feedstock must be 'pure', free of any acidic content," says Kochi Mayor V.K. Minimal.

From the ashes of Brahmapuram's inferno has risen a facility that not only addresses the city's mounting waste crisis but also feeds directly into the country's green energy ambitions. As Kochi takes this pioneering step, the challenge ahead lies in ensuring consistent waste quality, managing rejects, and sustaining operations through monsoon cycles and fiscal realities.

**Giving way:** The old garbage treatment plant at Brahmapuram.  
H. VISU



## 28F. A leap from blaze to biogas आग से बायोगैस तक की छलांग

- The State's first **Compressed Biogas plant**, which converts **biodegradable waste** into biogas, has become operational at the **Brahmapuram garbage treatment yard** of the **Kochi Corporation**.

राज्य का पहला कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस संयंत्र, जो जैव-अपघटनीय कचरे को बायोगैस में बदलता है, कोच्चि नगर निगम के ब्राह्मपुरम कचरा उपचार केंद्र में चालू हो गया है।

- M.P. Praveen** meets the engineers and managers of the plant set up by the **BPCL Kochi Refinery** at the plant site to learn about the facility, which is expected to solve the city's **waste management issues**.

एम.पी. प्रवीण संयंत्र स्थल पर बीपीसीएल कोच्चि रिफाइनरी द्वारा स्थापित संयंत्र के इंजीनियरों और प्रबंधकों से मिलते हैं, ताकि इस सुविधा के बारे में जान सकें, जिससे शहर की कचरा प्रबंधन समस्याओं के समाधान की उम्मीद है।

- On the evening of **March 2, 2023**, an **inferno** erupted in the mountains of plastic waste piled high at the Kochi Corporation's waste treatment yard at **Brahmapuram**, located on the outskirts of the city.



**2 मार्च, 2023** की शाम को, शहर के बाहरी इलाके में स्थित **ब्राह्मपुरम** में कोच्चि नगर निगम के कचरा उपचार केंद्र में जमा प्लास्टिक कचरे के पहाड़ों में **भीषण आग** भड़क उठी।

- For nearly a **fortnight**, flames devoured the sprawling dump, which mostly consisted of tonnes of plastic and non-biodegradable waste accumulated over a decade, along the banks of **Kadamprayar**, a critical freshwater source, sending plumes of smoke across Kochi's skyline.

लगभग एक **पखवाड़े** तक आग ने फैले हुए डंप को अपनी चपेट में लिया, जिसमें मुख्य रूप से एक दशक से जमा टन भर प्लास्टिक और गैर-जैव-अपघटनीय कचरा था, जो एक महत्वपूर्ण मीठे पानी के स्रोत **कदंप्रयार** के किनारे स्थित था, और कोच्चि के आकाश में धुएं के गुबार फैल गए।

- The fire that released huge quantities of **noxious gases** and **soot** lasted for almost a fortnight lowered the **air quality** of the city to alarming levels.

इस आग से भारी मात्रा में **विषैली गैसें** और **कालिख** निकलीं और यह लगभग एक पखवाड़े तक चली, जिससे शहर की **वायु गुणवत्ता** खतरनाक स्तर तक गिर गई।

- Hundreds sought **medical assistance** following **respiratory issues**.

**श्वसन संबंधी समस्याओं** के बाद सैकड़ों लोगों ने **चिकित्सकीय सहायता** ली।

- When the fire was finally doused, a large area of the **110-acre plot** at Brahmapuram in the **Vadavucode-Puthencruz panchayat** on the suburbs of Kochi city resembled a wasteland ravaged by war, leaving behind smouldering embers, acrid smoke and scorched earth so lifeless that it seemed even a blade of grass may never take root again.

जब आग अंततः बुझाई गई, तो कोच्चि शहर के उपनगरों में **वडावुकोड-पुथेनकूज़ पंचायत** के ब्राह्मपुरम स्थित **110 एकड़** क्षेत्र का बड़ा हिस्सा युद्ध से तबाह बंजर भूमि जैसा दिखने लगा, जहां सुलगते अंगारे, तीखा धुआं और जली हुई जमीन रह गई, इतनी निर्जीव कि लगता था वहां फिर कभी घास का एक तिनका भी नहीं उगेगा।

- Less than three years after the blaze, a **10-acre plot** at the yard's epicentre stands transformed beyond recognition, housing a **Compressed Biogas plant**, funded by **BPCL-Kochi Refinery**.

आग लगने के तीन साल से भी कम समय में, केंद्र बिंदु पर स्थित **10 एकड़** का क्षेत्र पहचान से परे बदल चुका है, जहां **बीपीसीएल-कोच्चि रिफाइनरी** द्वारा वित्तपोषित **कंप्रेसड बायोगैस संयंत्र** स्थापित है।

- It will be formally inaugurated by **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** on Friday.

इसका औपचारिक उद्घाटन शुक्रवार को **मुख्यमंत्री पिनराई विजयन** द्वारा किया जाएगा।

- Rising from the once-charred wasteland are **three green domes**.

कभी जली हुई बंजर भूमि से अब **तीन हरे गुंबद** उभर रहे हैं।

- Two of them are, in fact, **double-layered balloons** mounted atop **digesters**, each with the capacity to treat **75 tonnes of municipal solid waste a day**.

इनमें से दो वास्तव में **डबल-लेयर्ड गुब्बारे** हैं, जो **डाइजेस्टर्स** के ऊपर लगाए गए हैं, जिनमें से प्रत्येक **प्रतिदिन 75 टन नगर ठोस कचरे** का उपचार कर सकता है।

- The inner balloon inflates as raw biogas is generated, while the outer shell holds its form against inclement weather, ensuring the **anaerobic functioning** of the digesters with the help of a **water column** controlled by a blower.

कच्ची बायोगैस बनने पर अंदरूनी गुब्बारा फूलता है, जबकि बाहरी आवरण खराब मौसम के खिलाफ अपना आकार बनाए रखता है, और ब्लोअर द्वारा नियंत्रित **वॉटर कॉलम** की मदद से डाइजेस्टर्स का **एनारोबिक संचालन** सुनिश्चित करता है।

- The third structure is a **ground-mounted balloon**, which is a specialised, collapsible storage membrane designed exclusively for biogas, with a capacity of **1,500 cubic metres**.

तीसरी संरचना एक **ग्राउंड-माउंटेड गुब्बारा** है, जो विशेष रूप से बायोगैस के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई, मुड़ने योग्य भंडारण झिल्ली है, जिसकी क्षमता **1,500 घन मीटर** है।

- Before the waste reaches the digesters — the **heart of the gas generation segment** — it undergoes an elaborate cycle of **pre-treatment and feed preparation**.

कचरा डाइजेस्टर्स तक पहुंचने से पहले — जो **गैस उत्पादन खंड का केंद्र** है — **पूर्व-उपचार और फीड तैयारी** के एक विस्तृत चक्र से गुजरता है।

- Biodegradable waste collected from **177 centres** across the city is first transported to the plant, where it is weighed on a **60-tonne electronic weighing machine**.

शहर भर के **177 केंद्रों** से एकत्रित जैव-अपघटनीय कचरा पहले संयंत्र में लाया जाता है, जहां इसे **60 टन की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक तौल मशीन** पर तौला जाता है।

- From there, the waste is tipped into a bunker in the **pre-treatment area** and carried forward on conveyors, passing through vibrators that separate **non-biodegradable rejects**.



वहां से कचरे को **पूर्व-उपचार क्षेत्र** में एक बंकर में डाला जाता है और कन्वेयर बेल्ट पर आगे बढ़ाया जाता है, जहां वाइब्रेटर्स **गैर-जैव-अपघटनीय अवशेषों** को अलग करते हैं।

- The segregated material is then channelled into a **shredder** and a **bio grinder**, which pulverises the waste into a fine slurry of **5 mm thickness**.  
अलग की गई सामग्री को फिर **श्रेडर** और **बायो ग्राइंडर** में भेजा जाता है, जो कचरे को **5 मिमी मोटाई** की महीन स्लरी में बदल देता है।
- The slurry proceeds to the **feed preparation stage** where it is emptied into an unloading pit and mixed with an equal quantity of **water**.  
यह स्लरी **फीड तैयारी चरण** में जाती है, जहां इसे एक अनलोडिंग पिट में खाली कर **पानी** की समान मात्रा के साथ मिलाया जाता है।
- From there, it passes through **intermediate tanks** for further segregation, with **fibrous content** carefully removed.  
इसके बाद यह आगे के पृथक्करण के लिए **मध्यवर्ती टैंकों** से गुजरती है, जहां **रेशेदार सामग्री** को सावधानीपूर्वक हटाया जाता है।
- The slurry is then channelled into a **hydrolyser tank**, where the accelerated breakdown of **organic matter** takes place.  
इसके बाद स्लरी को **हाइड्रोलाइज़र टैंक** में भेजा जाता है, जहां **कार्बनिक पदार्थ** का तीव्र अपघटन होता है।
- Finally, it is fed into two digesters operating on a **Continuous Stirred Tank Reactor system**.  
अंततः इसे **कंटीन्यूअस स्टिरर्ड टैंक रिएक्टर प्रणाली** पर संचालित दो डाइजेस्टर्स में डाला जाता है।
- Together, the digesters generate **5.6 tonnes of biogas each day**.  
मिलकर ये डाइजेस्टर्स प्रतिदिन **5.6 टन बायोगैस** उत्पन्न करते हैं।

### Manure marketed through FACT FACT के माध्यम से खाद का विपणन

- The digesters discharge **290 tonnes of Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM)** and **28 tonnes of Solid Fermented Organic Manure (FOM)** each day, which are channelled to a dedicated fertilizer shed for separation.  
डाइजेस्टर्स प्रतिदिन **290 टन तरल किण्वित जैविक खाद (LFOM)** और **28 टन ठोस किण्वित जैविक खाद (FOM)** निकालते हैं, जिन्हें पृथक्करण के लिए एक समर्पित उर्वरक शेड में भेजा जाता है।
- Of this, **190 tonnes of LFOM** are recycled within the plant itself, while the remaining **100 tonnes**, along with the **28 tonnes of FOM** produced daily, are marketed through **Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT)**.  
इनमें से **190 टन LFOM** संयंत्र में ही पुनर्चक्रित किया जाता है, जबकि शेष **100 टन**, और प्रतिदिन उत्पादित **28 टन FOM**, **फर्टिलाइज़र्स एंड केमिकल्स त्रावणकोर (FACT)** के माध्यम से बेचे जाते हैं।
- "We have entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding** to market FOM through our distribution network...", says **Jeetendra Kumar, General Manager (Marketing), FACT**.  
"हमने अपने वितरण नेटवर्क के माध्यम से FOM के विपणन के लिए एक **समझौता ज्ञापन** किया है..." **जीतेन्द्र कुमार, महाप्रबंधक (मार्केटिंग), FACT** कहते हैं।
- Raw biogas generated by the digesters is stored in the **ground-mounted balloon** before being channelled to the **purification unit**.  
डाइजेस्टर्स द्वारा उत्पन्न कच्ची बायोगैस को **ग्राउंड-माउंटेड गुब्बारे** में संग्रहित किया जाता है, इसके बाद इसे **शुद्धिकरण इकाई** में भेजा जाता है।
- In its raw form, the gas contains **45–50% methane**, **35–45% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)**, and **0.1–0.4% hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S)**.  
अपने कच्चे रूप में गैस में **45–50% मीथेन**, **35–45% कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड (CO<sub>2</sub>)** और **0.1–0.4% हाइड्रोजन सल्फाइड (H<sub>2</sub>S)** होता है।
- A **water-scrubbing system** is employed to purify the biogas... enhancing methane purity to **97%**.  
बायोगैस को शुद्ध करने के लिए **वॉटर-स्क्रबिंग सिस्टम** का उपयोग किया जाता है... जिससे मीथेन की शुद्धता **97%** तक बढ़ जाती है।
- The refined gas is then compressed and transferred to the refinery at **Ambalamedu**, where it is converted into **green hydrogen**.  
शोधित गैस को फिर संपीड़ित कर **अम्बलामेडु** स्थित रिफाइनरी में भेजा जाता है, जहां इसे **ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन** में बदला जाता है।



- When operating at full capacity, the plant will reduce **carbon emissions by 85,000 tonnes a year**, equivalent to planting **3.5 million trees**.  
पूर्ण क्षमता पर संचालन करने पर यह संयंत्र प्रतिवर्ष **85,000 टन कार्बन उत्सर्जन** कम करेगा, जो **35 लाख पेड़** लगाने के बराबर है।
- Similar biogas plants are in the pipeline across several districts in **Kerala**.  
**केरल** के कई जिलों में इसी तरह के बायोगैस संयंत्र पाइपलाइन में हैं।
- Projects under the **PPP model** are nearing completion in **Palakkad** and **Thrissur**.  
**पीपीपी मॉडल** के तहत परियोजनाएं **पालक्काड** और **त्रिशूर** में पूरी होने के करीब हैं।
- In its **2026-27 Budget**, the Kochi Corporation has earmarked **₹15 crore** for the operation of the CBG plant.  
**2026-27 के बजट** में, कोच्चि नगर निगम ने CBG संयंत्र के संचालन के लिए **₹15 करोड़** निर्धारित किए हैं।
- From the ashes of **Brahmapuram's inferno** has risen a facility that not only addresses the city's mounting waste crisis but also feeds directly into the country's **green energy ambitions**.  
**ब्राह्मपुरम की आग** की राख से एक ऐसी सुविधा उभरी है, जो न केवल शहर के बढ़ते कचरा संकट को संबोधित करती है, बल्कि देश की **हरित ऊर्जा महत्वाकांक्षाओं** को भी सीधे समर्थन देती है।
- As Kochi takes this pioneering step, the challenge ahead lies in ensuring consistent **waste quality**, managing **rejects**, and sustaining operations through **monsoon cycles and fiscal realities**.  
जब कोच्चि यह अग्रणी कदम उठाता है, तो आगे की चुनौती **कचरे की गुणवत्ता** को बनाए रखने, **अवशेषों** का प्रबंधन करने और **मानसून चक्रों व वित्तीय वास्तविकताओं** के बीच संचालन को बनाए रखने की है।

GS Paper III: IS	
TOPICS COVERED	28 February 2026
28F	<b>New GDP series upgrades FY26 growth to 7.6%</b> नई जीडीपी श्रृंखला ने FY26 की वृद्धि दर को 7.6% तक बढ़ाया
28F	<b>President undertakes sortie in Prachand</b> राष्ट्रपति ने प्रचंड में उड़ान भरी
28F	<b>Navy boosts anti-submarine capability with INS Anjadip</b> नौसेना ने INS अंजदीप के साथ पनडुब्बी-रोधी क्षमता को बढ़ाया

## President undertakes sortie in Prachand

GS III: Internal Security

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday undertook a sortie in the indigenously developed light combat helicopter, Prachand, at the Air Force Station in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

The mission was flown as a two-aircraft LCH formation. Ms. Murmu flew in the lead aircraft with Group Captain Nayan Shantilal Bahua, while Chief of the Air Staff Air

Chief Marshal A.P. Singh flew as Number 2 in the second aircraft along with Group Captain A. Mahendra.

During the 25-minute sortie, the formation flew over Gadisar Lake and Jaisalmer Fort before striking a designated tank target, showing the indigenous combat helicopter's operational capability. In a note written in the visitors' book, Ms. Murmu described the experience as enriching.

### 28F. President undertakes sortie in Prachand राष्ट्रपति ने प्रचंड में उड़ान भरी

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday undertook a sortie in the indigenously developed light combat helicopter, Prachand, at the Air Force Station in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने शुक्रवार को राजस्थान के जैसलमेर स्थित वायु सेना स्टेशन पर स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित लाइट कॉम्बैट हेलिकॉप्टर, प्रचंड में उड़ान भरी।

The mission was flown as a two-aircraft LCH formation.

यह मिशन दो विमानों की एलसीएच संरचना के रूप में उड़ाया गया।

Ms. Murmu flew in the lead aircraft with Group Captain Nayan Shantilal Bahua, while Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh flew as Number 2 in the second aircraft along with Group Captain A. Mahendra.



सुश्री मुर्मू ने लीड विमान में ग्रुप कैप्टन नयन शांतिलाल बहुआ के साथ उड़ान भरी, जबकि वायु सेना प्रमुख एयर चीफ मार्शल ए.पी. सिंह ने दूसरे विमान में नंबर 2 के रूप में ग्रुप कैप्टन ए. महेंद्र के साथ उड़ान भरी।

- During the **25-minute sortie**, the formation flew over **Gadisar Lake** and **Jaisalmer Fort** before striking a **designated tank target**, showing the indigenous combat helicopter's **operational capability**.  
**25 मिनट की उड़ान** के दौरान, इस संरचना ने **गड़ीसर झील** और **जैसलमेर किले** के ऊपर से उड़ान भरी और फिर एक **निर्धारित टैंक लक्ष्य** पर प्रहार किया, जिससे स्वदेशी युद्धक हेलिकॉप्टर की **संचालन क्षमता** प्रदर्शित हुई।
- In a note written in the **visitors' book**, Ms. Murmu described the experience as **enriching**.  
**अतिथि पुस्तिका** में लिखे एक नोट में, सुश्री मुर्मू ने इस अनुभव को **समृद्ध करने वाला** बताया।

## Navy boosts anti-submarine capability with *INS Anjadip*

**GS III: Internal Security**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

In a move to sharpen its anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the Indian Navy on Friday commissioned its fourth indigenously designed and built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft *INS Anjadip* at the Chennai Port.

It was commissioned by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi. Senior naval officials were present.

The vessel, which is 77 metres long, has been designed to detect, track, and neutralise enemy submarines in coastal waters.

It has been named 'Anjadip' to carry forward the valour of the historic island off the coast of Karwar.

The ship is equipped with indigenous anti-submarine warfare weapons and sensor package.

The *INS Anjadip* was



*INS Anjadip* being commissioned by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi at the Chennai Port on Friday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

constructed at Kattupalli by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata, and will mainly address the challenges of the littoral combat environment.

"*Anjadip* is equipped with modern shallow-water sonars, lightweight torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, and combat management system. It is engineered for agility, precision and combat effectiveness," Admiral Tri-

pathi said at the commissioning ceremony. "The ship and her systems distinctly reflect the growing strength of India's indigenous design and industrial ecosystem. Aatmanirbharta, today, is moving beyond Make in India to Trust in India," he added.

It is equipped to undertake coastal surveillance, low-intensity maritime operations, and search and rescue operations.

### 28F. Navy boosts anti-submarine capability with *INS Anjadip* नौसेना ने *INS अंजदीप* के साथ पनडुब्बी-रोधी क्षमता को बढ़ाया

- In a move to sharpen its **anti-submarine warfare capabilities**, the **Indian Navy** on Friday commissioned its fourth indigenously designed and built **anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft *INS Anjadip*** at the **Chennai Port**.  
**पनडुब्बी-रोधी युद्ध क्षमता** को मजबूत करने के कदम के तहत, **भारतीय नौसेना** ने शुक्रवार को **चेन्नई**



बंदरगाह पर स्वदेशी रूप से डिज़ाइन और निर्मित अपनी चौथी पनडुब्बी-रोधी उथले जल की पोत INS अंजदीप को नौसेना में शामिल किया।

- It was commissioned by the **Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi. Senior naval officials** were present.  
इसे नौसेना प्रमुख, एडमिरल दिनेश के. त्रिपाठी ने कमीशन किया। वरिष्ठ नौसैनिक अधिकारी उपस्थित थे।
- The vessel, which is **77 metres long**, has been designed to **detect, track, and neutralise enemy submarines in coastal waters**.  
यह पोत, जो 77 मीटर लंबा है, तटीय जलक्षेत्र में दुश्मन पनडुब्बियों का पता लगाने, उनका पीछा करने और उन्हें निष्क्रिय करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।
- It has been named **'Anjadip'** to carry forward the **valour of the historic island** off the coast of **Karwar**.  
इसे 'अंजदीप' नाम दिया गया है ताकि कारवार तट के पास स्थित ऐतिहासिक द्वीप के शौर्य को आगे बढ़ाया जा सके।
- The ship is equipped with **indigenous anti-submarine warfare weapons and sensor package**.  
यह पोत स्वदेशी पनडुब्बी-रोधी हथियारों और सेंसर पैकेज से सुसज्जित है।
- The **INS Anjadip** was constructed at **Kattupalli** by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata**, and will mainly address the challenges of the **littoral combat environment**.  
INS अंजदीप का निर्माण कोलकाता स्थित गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एंड इंजीनियर्स द्वारा कट्टुपल्ली में किया गया है और यह मुख्य रूप से तटीय युद्ध परिवेश की चुनौतियों से निपटेगा।
- **"Anjadip is equipped with modern shallow-water sonars, lightweight torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, and combat management system. It is engineered for agility, precision and combat effectiveness,"** Admiral Tripathi said at the commissioning ceremony.  
"अंजदीप आधुनिक उथले जल सोनार, हल्के टॉरपीडो, पनडुब्बी-रोधी रॉकेट और कॉम्बैट मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम से लैस है। इसे फुर्ती, सटीकता और युद्ध प्रभावशीलता के लिए इंजीनियर किया गया है," एडमिरल त्रिपाठी ने कमीशनिंग समारोह में कहा।
- **"The ship and her systems distinctly reflect the growing strength of India's indigenous design and industrial ecosystem. Aatmanirbharta, today, is moving beyond Make in India to Trust in India,"** he added.  
"यह पोत और इसकी प्रणालियां भारत के स्वदेशी डिज़ाइन और औद्योगिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की बढ़ती ताकत को स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शाती हैं। आज आत्मनिर्भरता, मेक इन इंडिया से आगे बढ़कर ट्रस्ट इन इंडिया की ओर बढ़ रही है," उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- It is equipped to undertake **coastal surveillance, low-intensity maritime operations, and search and rescue operations**.  
यह तटीय निगरानी, कम तीव्रता वाले समुद्री अभियानों, और खोज एवं बचाव अभियानों को अंजाम देने के लिए सुसज्जित है।