



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



# PATRIOTIC IAS

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

# 05 MAY 2026

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

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

<b>PCS Special:</b>	<b>05 May</b>
<b>05M</b>	<b>Inter regains Serie A crown; Real makes Barcelona wait</b> इंटर ने फिर जीता Serie A खिताब; रियल ने बार्सिलोना को इंतजार कराया

## Inter regains Serie A crown; Real makes Barcelona wait

PCS  
EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse  
MILAN

Inter Milan won its third Serie A title in six seasons, and 21st overall, on Sunday thanks to a comfortable 2-0 win over Parma at a jubilant San Siro.

Marcus Thuram's side-footed finish just before half-time set Inter on its before Henrikh Mkhitaryan's second-half goal put the Scudetto beyond doubt.

With three matches left, Inter has a 12-point lead over reigning champion Na-

poli and 15 more than third-placed AC Milan.

Less than a year after losing the 2025 title race by a point and collapsing to a 5-0 humiliation by Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final, Inter is back at the top.

In LaLiga, Vinicius Junior struck twice for Real Madrid in a 2-0 win over Espanyol on Sunday to make leader Barcelona wait to be crowned champions.

The Catalans would have completed the title defence if Real dropped points, but Alvaro Arbeloa's side trimmed the gap

on Barca to 11 points, with four matches remaining.

**The results: Serie A:** Juventus 1 (Vlahovic 62) drew with Verona 1 (Bowie 34); Inter Milan 2 (Thuram 45+1, Mkhitaryan 80) bt Parma 0.

**LaLiga:** Getafe 0 lost to Rayo Vallecano 2 (Camello 38, Nteka 73); Real Betis 3 (Hernandez 22, 58, Abde 45) bt Real Oviedo 0; Espanyol 0 lost to Real Madrid 2 (Vinicius 55, 66).

**Premier League:** Aston Villa 1 (Buendia 90+6) lost to Tottenham 2 (Gallagher 12, Richarlison 25).

**Bundesliga:** Freiburg 1 (Lienhart 75) drew with Wolfsburg 1 (Koulierakis 55); Borussia Moenchengladbach 1 (Tabakovic 88) bt Borussia Dortmund 0; St. Pauli 1 (Ceasay 87) lost to Mainz 2 (Tietz 6, Mwene 40).

## 05M. Inter regains Serie A crown; Real makes Barcelona wait

इंटर ने फिर जीता Serie A खिताब; रियल ने बार्सिलोना को इंतजार कराया

- Inter Milan won its third Serie A title in six seasons, and 21st overall, on Sunday thanks to a comfortable 2-0 win over Parma at a jubilant San Siro.



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)



Inter Milan ने छह सीज़न में अपना तीसरा Serie A खिताब और कुल 21वां खिताब रविवार को Parma पर 2-0 की जीत के साथ San Siro में जीता।

<b>GS Paper 1: Society</b>		<b>05 May 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>05M</b>	<b>SC brings survivors of forcible ingestion of acid in RPwD Act</b> सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जबरन एसिड पिलाए गए पीड़ितों को RPwD अधिनियम में शामिल किया	
<b>05M</b>	<b>SC raps Odisha courts for 'odious' bail conditions to Adivasi people</b> सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ओडिशा अदालतों को आदिवासियों के लिए 'घृणित' जमानत शर्तों पर फटकारा	

## SC brings survivors of forcible ingestion of acid in RPwD Act

**GS I: Society**  
**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday included persons who were forcibly administered acid within the definition of "acid attack victims" under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

The 2016 law recognised only victims of acid-throwing, and not forcible acid ingestion. It accepted both the act of acid-throwing and the administration of acid as offences punishable with imprisonment from 10 years to a life sentence under Section 124 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt).

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said the reading into of survivors of forcible administration of acid in the category of "acid attack victims" would be deemed to be operative retrospectively from the inception of the Act in 2016.

### Benefits apply

The deemed recognition would aid victims of forcible acid ingestion to claim disability benefits due under the 2016 Act.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, said the nodal Ministry had

### The court has suggested framing a comprehensive policy framework to protect the survivors

already forwarded the proposed amendment in the Schedule of the 2016 Act to the Ministry of Legislative Affairs.

Though Mr. Mehta urged the court to wait for the Ministry to initiate the amendment, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for petitioners, successfully pleaded the court to flex its plenary powers under Article 142.

"The victims mostly, if not all, are women. Till the Schedule of the 2016 Act is changed, the Supreme Court must pass an order under Article 142 to include not only persons on whom acid was thrown but also those who suffered the extreme agony of having to forcibly ingest acid in the category of 'acid attack victim'. There is some monetary support given to them under the Act and they are issued an identity card...," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

The court had suggested framing a comprehensive policy framework to protect the survivors, who require extensive and continuous medical treatment.

### 05M. SC brings survivors of forcible ingestion of acid in RPwD Act

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जबरन एसिड पिलाए गए पीड़ितों को RPwD अधिनियम में शामिल किया

- The Supreme Court on Monday included **persons who were forcibly administered acid within the definition of "acid attack victims" under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.**

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को उन व्यक्तियों को, जिन्हें जबरन एसिड पिलाया गया, "acid attack victims" की परिभाषा में शामिल किया, जो Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 के तहत आता है।

- The 2016 law recognised only victims of acid-throwing, and not forcible acid ingestion.

2016 के कानून ने केवल acid-throwing के पीड़ितों को मान्यता दी थी, न कि जबरन acid ingestion के पीड़ितों को।

- It accepted both the act of acid-throwing and the administration of acid as offences punishable with imprisonment from 10 years to a life sentence under Section 124 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt).

इसने acid-throwing और एसिड पिलाने दोनों को अपराध माना, जो Section 124 (गंभीर चोट पहुँचाना) के तहत 10 वर्ष से लेकर आजीवन कारावास तक की सजा से दंडनीय हैं।

- A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said the reading into of survivors of forcible administration of acid in the category of "acid attack victims" would be deemed to be operative retrospectively from the inception of the Act in 2016.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत और न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्य बागची की पीठ ने कहा कि जबरन एसिड पिलाए गए पीड़ितों को "acid attack victims" की श्रेणी में शामिल करना 2016 में अधिनियम की शुरुआत से ही

retrospectively लागू माना जाएगा।

### Benefits apply

### लाभ लागू होंगे

- The deemed recognition would aid victims of forcible acid ingestion to claim disability benefits due under the 2016 Act.

यह मान्यता जबरन एसिड पिलाए गए पीड़ितों को 2016 अधिनियम के तहत मिलने वाले disability benefits का दावा करने में मदद करेगी।



- Till the Schedule of the 2016 Act is changed, the Supreme Court must pass an order under Article 142 to include not only persons on whom acid was thrown but also those who suffered the extreme agony of having to **forcibly ingest acid in the category of 'acid attack victim'**. जब तक 2016 अधिनियम की अनुसूची में बदलाव नहीं होता, सुप्रीम कोर्ट को **Article 142** के तहत आदेश पारित करना चाहिए ताकि न केवल उन लोगों को शामिल किया जाए जिन पर एसिड फेंका गया, बल्कि उन लोगों को भी शामिल किया जाए जिन्हें जबरन एसिड पिलाया गया और जिन्होंने अत्यधिक पीड़ा झेली।

## SC raps Odisha courts for 'odious' bail conditions to Adivasi people

GS I: Society

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

When the Odisha judiciary set "odious" bail conditions, such as cleaning police stations for two months, for members of Adivasi and Dalit communities, it suggested that judges had a "regressive mindset" and caste-based biases, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

"Assuming that such conditions were imposed inadvertently or without any premeditated bias, the nature of the condition is so abhorrent, degrading, and unknown to law that it carries the potential to cast a serious aspersion, suggesting that the Odisha Judiciary is afflicted by a caste-based bias," a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed in a se-



SC directs the Registrar General of Orissa HC to file compliance report in four weeks.

ven-page order.

The subjects of these bail conditions were around 40 indigenous people facing criminal charges after their protest against the acquisition of their land for a Vedanta Group bauxite mining project in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts allegedly turned violent. Some of them were subsequently allowed bail by various courts in the State. However, a range

of bail conditions were thrust upon the accused in return for exercising their fundamental right to personal liberty.

**'Bad name to judiciary'**

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, who had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the orders imposing "obnoxious" and "unprecedented" these bail conditions, said they had brought a bad name to the judicial institution itself. The Bench noted that, between May 2025 and January 2026, six such bail orders were issued by a local trial court.

The court said it was unfortunate to see that the State High Court and the trial courts were on the same plane, both passing "unpalatable" bail conditions.

"Such conditions reflect the underlying, albeit un-

articulated, bias of the Odisha State judiciary premised on the perception that the accused individuals belonged to the marginalised Adivasi community," the Supreme Court observed.

The court directed that all State judiciaries should refrain from imposing conditions that carry caste implications. It also directed the Supreme Court registry to circulate the order to all High Courts. "Each High Court shall ensure that a copy of this order is sent to each judicial officer in its jurisdiction, accompanied by a communication that such conditions shall not be imposed while granting bail," it said.

The court directed the Registrar General of the Orissa High Court to file a compliance report in four weeks.

### 05M. SC raps Odisha courts for 'odious' bail conditions to Adivasi people

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ओडिशा अदालतों को आदिवासियों के लिए 'घृणित' जमानत शर्तों पर फटकारा

- When the Odisha judiciary set "odious" bail conditions, such as **cleaning police stations for two months, for members of Adivasi and Dalit communities, it suggested that judges had a "regressive mindset" and caste-based biases**, the Supreme Court said on Monday. जब ओडिशा न्यायपालिका ने आदिवासी और दलित समुदायों के सदस्यों के लिए दो महीने तक पुलिस थानों की सफाई जैसी "odious" bail conditions निर्धारित कीं, तो यह दर्शाता है कि न्यायाधीशों में "regressive mindset" और caste-based biases हैं, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को कहा।
- The subjects of these bail conditions were around 40 indigenous people facing criminal charges after their protest against the acquisition of their land for a Vedanta Group bauxite mining project in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts allegedly turned violent. इन जमानत शर्तों के अधीन लगभग 40 indigenous people थे, जो Vedanta Group की बॉक्साइट



खनन परियोजना के लिए अपनी जमीन के अधिग्रहण के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन के दौरान कथित रूप से हिंसक होने के बाद आपराधिक आरोपों का सामना कर रहे थे।

<b>GS Paper 1: Geography</b>		<b>05 May 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>05M</b>	<b>Regional strife in West Asia hushes holy cities in Iraq</b> पश्चिम एशिया में क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष ने इराक के पवित्र शहरों को शांत कर दिया	

## Regional strife in West Asia hushes holy cities in Iraq

GS I: Geography  
 Agence France-Presse  
 NAJAF

In Iraq's holy city of Najaf, the majestic shrine of Imam Ali stands quiet, its vast courtyards no longer echoing with the multilingual whispers of pilgrims from before the West Asia war.

The absence of tourists leaves nearby shopkeepers and hotel owners with little to do, their days dragging on as they hope for the crowds to return. "Iranians used to keep us busy, whether the jeweller, the fabric merchant or the taxi driver. Now there are none," said jewellery shop owner Abdel Rahim Harmoush. "It used to be hard even to step into the market because of foreigners... Even street vendors drew huge crowds of visitors," the 71-year-old added.

Millions of Shia Muslims from around the world typically flock to Najaf and fellow holy city Karbala every year. But the regional war ignited in late February by U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran has stemmed the usual influx of pilgrims.

People in the holy cities "live on religious tourism", said Harmoush, who for 38 years has worked in the old market near Najaf's golden-domed mausoleum. The shrine is the ornate burial place of Ali – the Prophet Mohammed's son-in-law, the fourth Islamic caliph and the first Shia Imam.

The situation is no different in Karbala, which is around 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Najaf and home to the shrines of the revered grandsons of Prophet Mohammed, Imam Hussein and his brother Abbas. The main corridor linking the two golden shrines and the surrounding alleyways were once alive with the murmurs of tourists walking to prayers.

Today, the visitors are almost exclusively Iraqi.

- The situation is no different in **Karbala, which is around 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Najaf** and home to the **shrines of the revered grandsons of Prophet Mohammed, Imam Hussein and his brother Abbas.**

स्थिति **Karbala** में भी अलग नहीं है, जो **Najaf** से लगभग 80 किलोमीटर उत्तर में स्थित है और **Imam Hussein** तथा उनके भाई **Abbas** के पवित्र स्थलों का घर है।

### 05M. Regional strife in West Asia hushes holy cities in Iraq

पश्चिम एशिया में क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष ने इराक के पवित्र शहरों को शांत कर दिया

- In **Iraq's holy city of Najaf**, the **majestic shrine of Imam Ali** stands quiet, its vast courtyards no longer echoing with the multilingual whispers of pilgrims from before the West Asia war.

**Iraq** के पवित्र शहर **Najaf** में **Imam Ali** का भव्य **shrine** शांत खड़ा है, इसके विशाल प्रांगण अब **West Asia war** से पहले की तरह तीर्थयात्रियों की बहुभाषी आवाज़ों से नहीं गूँजते।

- Millions of Shia Muslims from around the world typically flock to **Najaf and fellow holy city Karbala every year.**

दुनिया भर से लाखों **Shia Muslims** हर साल **Najaf** और दूसरे पवित्र शहर **Karbala** आते थे।

- But the regional war ignited in late February by U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran has stemmed the usual influx of pilgrims. लेकिन फरवरी के अंत में **U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran** से शुरू हुए **regional war** ने तीर्थयात्रियों की आमद को रोक दिया है।

- People in the holy cities "live on religious tourism", said Harmoush, who for 38 years has worked in the old market near **Najaf's golden-domed mausoleum.**

पवित्र शहरों के लोग "**religious tourism**" पर निर्भर हैं, **Harmoush** ने कहा, जो 38 वर्षों से **Najaf** के सुनहरे गुंबद वाले मकबरे के पास काम कर रहे हैं।

- The **shrine is the ornate burial place of Ali — the Prophet Mohammed's son-in-law, the fourth Islamic caliph and the first Shia Imam.**

यह **shrine, Ali** का भव्य समाधि स्थल है — जो **Prophet Mohammed** के दामाद, चौथे **Islamic caliph** और पहले **Shia Imam** थे।

<b>GS Paper II: Polity</b>		<b>05 May 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		



05M	Did the PM's broadcast violate MCC? क्या प्रधानमंत्री का प्रसारण MCC का उल्लंघन था?
05M	What does the latest ruling mean for the Forest Rights Act? नवीनतम निर्णय का वन अधिकार अधिनियम के लिए क्या अर्थ है?

# Did the PM's broadcast violate MCC?

What does Part VII say about using public resources? How does election law treat such appeals? Can public broadcasters be used for campaign messaging? Why has the Election Commission not acted so far?

GS II: Polity

## EXPLAINER

V. Venkatesan

### The story so far:

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC), which guides political parties and candidates during elections, was first drafted by the Kerala government in 1960. The Election Commission (EC) formalised it in 1968, revised it in 1974, and added Part VII on the "party in power" in 1979. Former Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan enforced it with unprecedented rigour from 1991. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's April 18 address has raised questions about whether the address violated the Code.

### How did the Model Code of Conduct evolve?

The Supreme Court, in *Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner* (1978), described Article 324 as "a reservoir of power" that allows the EC to act where Parliament has not legislated. The Punjab and Haryana High Court, in *Harbans Singh Jalal v. Union of India* (1997), held that the Code comes into effect from the announcement of the election schedule. Sanctions range from censure to the suspension of party recognition under paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols Order, 1968.

Mr. Modi's address was carried live on Doordarshan, Sansad TV, and All India Radio. He named four Opposition parties and urged women voters in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to punish them at the polls on April 23 for defeating the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha.

**Does the Prime Minister's broadcast violate the Code?**  
Clauses 1(a), 1(b), and 4 of Part VII of the MCC prohibit the party in power from



Prime Minister's address was carried live on Doordarshan, Sansad TV, and All India Radio. PTI

combining official visits with electioneering, using government machinery for campaign work, and misusing publicly funded mass media for partisan coverage during the election period. The broadcast raises distinct questions under both the Code and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The Code asks what the incumbent did with public resources. It does not provide a closed list of impermissible appeals; that open texture is deliberate. On its face, the April 18 address appears to be a textbook Part VII matter. At the time of writing, the Commission has taken no action on the complaints it has received.

The statute is less flexible than the Code. Section 123(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as amended in 1961, makes it a corrupt practice for a candidate or his agent to appeal to voters on the ground of "his" religion, race, caste, community, or language. The provision turns on a pronoun, "his", and five enumerated nouns. In *Abhiram Singh v. C.D. Commachen* (2017), a seven-judge

Bench of the Supreme Court settled, by a 4:3 majority, that "his" extends to the voter as well as the candidate.

### What do the law and the courts say about such appeals?

However, Abhiram Singh grappled with the pronoun, not with the nouns. The 1961 Parliament was legislating against the sectarian appeals of its moment, when religion, race, caste, community, and language were the dominant axes of Indian politics. Section 123(3) was not drafted to police every form of partisan appeal.

The April 18 broadcast ran on different axes: gender as a mobilising category, party affiliation as a target, and the Prime Minister's national broadcast on Doordarshan as the medium. The objection here is not to the identity of the audience, but to the partisan use of publicly funded media. The statute's five nouns were never meant to catch that.

A writ petition pending before the Supreme Court (Diary No. 24600 of

2026), filed by former Congress MP T.N. Prathapan, and a candidate in the just-concluded Assembly elections in Kerala, opens a different statutory route. It invokes Section 123(7), not Section 123(3). Section 123(7) makes it a corrupt practice to obtain or procure the assistance of government servants, including gazetted officers, for the furtherance of a candidate's electoral prospects. The sub-section was drafted to deter candidates from pressuring police and revenue officials into electioneering; the petition asks whether its reach extends to public broadcasters and the PMO.

The petition argues that the use of Doordarshan and Sansad TV, along with Prime Minister's Office personnel, to prepare and disseminate a partisan broadcast falls within this prohibition. Where Section 123(3) focuses on the grounds of an appeal, Section 123(7) turns on who was pressed into service to deliver it.

On that reading, the statute reaches April 18 not through its five nouns but through its workforce clause.

This returns the conversation to the Code. The MCC, unlike the statute, was written to be open-textured. Part VII asks what the party in power did with public resources; the statute asks which of five categories the appeal invoked, or whose assistance it procured. The statute sets a floor on corrupt practice, not a ceiling on what the Code can reach.

The Commission's silence on Mr. Modi's broadcast is not a doctrinal difficulty. It is a choice not to use the one instrument in Indian electoral regulation that was kept open precisely for settings where the statute may reach only belatedly, if at all. If the court admits the petition and the Commission is compelled to answer, the architecture of MCC enforcement may face its hardest test yet.

(V. Venkatesan is a journalist and legal researcher)

## THE GIST

The April 18 broadcast appears to be a textbook Part VII issue, raising questions about the partisan use of State-funded mass media and the use of public resources during the election period, but the Commission has taken no action so far.

While Section 123(3) does not cover such appeals, the petition invokes Section 123(7) on the assistance of government servants, bringing the issue back to the open-textured MCC, which the Commission has chosen not to use.

## 05M. Did the PM's broadcast violate MCC?

क्या प्रधानमंत्री का प्रसारण MCC का उल्लंघन था?

- **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** and election norms / आचार संहिता (MCC) और चुनावी मानदंड
- The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**, which guides **political parties and candidates during elections**, was drafted by the **Kerala government in 1960**.

मॉडल आचार संहिता (MCC), जो चुनावों के दौरान राजनीतिक दलों और उम्मीदवारों का मार्गदर्शन करती है, पहली बार 1960 में केरल सरकार द्वारा तैयार की गई थी।

- The **Election Commission (EC)** formalised it in **1968**, revised it in **1974**, and added **Part VII** on the "**party in power**" in **1979**.

चुनाव आयोग (EC) ने इसे 1968 में औपचारिक रूप दिया, 1974 में संशोधित किया, और 1979 में "सत्ता में पार्टी" पर भाग VII जोड़ा।



- Former **Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan** enforced it with unprecedented **rigour from 1991**.  
पूर्व मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त टी.एन. शेषन ने 1991 से इसे अभूतपूर्व कठोरता के साथ लागू किया।
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's April 18 address** has raised questions about whether the address violated the **Code**.  
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के 18 अप्रैल के संबोधन ने यह प्रश्न उठाया है कि क्या यह संबोधन आचार संहिता का उल्लंघन करता है।
- **How did the Model Code of Conduct evolve? / आचार संहिता का विकास कैसे हुआ?**
- The **Supreme Court**, in **Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner (1978)**, described **Article 324** as "a reservoir of power" that allows the **EC** to act where **Parliament** has not legislated.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मोहन सिंह गिल बनाम मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (1978) में अनुच्छेद 324 को "शक्ति का भंडार" बताया, जो चुनाव आयोग को वहाँ कार्य करने की अनुमति देता है जहाँ संसद ने कानून नहीं बनाया है।
- The **Punjab and Haryana High Court**, in **Harbans Singh Jalal v. Union of India (1997)**, held that the **Code** comes into effect from the announcement of the **election schedule**.  
पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय ने हरबंस सिंह जलाल बनाम भारत संघ (1997) में कहा कि आचार संहिता चुनाव कार्यक्रम की घोषणा के साथ लागू हो जाती है।
- **Sanctions range from censure to the suspension of party recognition under paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols Order, 1968**.  
दंड निंदा से लेकर चुनाव चिह्न आदेश, 1968 के अनुच्छेद 16A के तहत पार्टी मान्यता के निलंबन तक हो सकते हैं।
- Mr. Modi's address was carried live on **Doordarshan, Sansad TV, and All India Radio**.  
श्री मोदी का संबोधन दूरदर्शन, संसद टीवी, और आकाशवाणी पर सीधा प्रसारित किया गया।
- He named four **Opposition parties** and urged **women voters in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal** to punish them at the polls on **April 23** for defeating the **131st Constitution Amendment Bill** in the **Lok Sabha**.  
उन्होंने चार विपक्षी दलों का नाम लिया और तमिलनाडु और पश्चिम बंगाल की महिला मतदाताओं से 23 अप्रैल को चुनाव में उन्हें दंडित करने का आग्रह किया, क्योंकि उन्होंने लोकसभा में 131वाँ संविधान संशोधन विधेयक को पराजित किया था।

**Does the Prime Minister's broadcast violate the Code? / क्या प्रधानमंत्री का प्रसारण आचार संहिता का उल्लंघन करता है?**

- **Clauses 1(a), 1(b), and 4 of Part VII of the MCC** prohibit the **party in power** from combining **official visits** with **electioneering**, using **government machinery** for **campaign work**, and misusing **publicly funded mass media** for **partisan coverage** during the **election period**.  
**MCC के भाग VII के धारा 1(a), 1(b), और 4 के अनुसार सत्ता में पार्टी को आधिकारिक दौरे को चुनावी प्रचार के साथ जोड़ने, सरकारी तंत्र का प्रचार कार्य के लिए उपयोग करने, और सार्वजनिक वित्तपोषित मीडिया का पक्षपातपूर्ण कवरेज के लिए उपयोग करने से प्रतिबंधित किया गया है।**
- The **broadcast raises distinct questions under both the Code and the Representation of the People Act, 1951**.  
यह प्रसारण आचार संहिता और जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 दोनों के अंतर्गत अलग-अलग प्रश्न उठाता है।
- The **Code asks what the incumbent did with public resources**.  
**आचार संहिता यह पूछती है कि सत्ता में व्यक्ति ने सार्वजनिक संसाधनों का उपयोग कैसे किया।**
- It does not provide a closed list of **impermissible appeals**; that **open texture** is deliberate.  
यह अस्वीकार्य अपीलों की कोई निश्चित सूची प्रदान नहीं करती; यह खुली संरचना जानबूझकर रखी गई है।
- **Section 123(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as amended in 1961, makes it a corrupt practice for a candidate or his agent to appeal to voters on the ground of "his"**



**religion, race, caste, community, or language.**

जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 123(3), जिसे 1961 में संशोधित किया गया, के अनुसार किसी उम्मीदवार या उसके प्रतिनिधि द्वारा मतदाताओं से “उसके” धर्म, जाति, वर्ग, समुदाय, या भाषा के आधार पर अपील करना भ्रष्ट आचरण माना जाता है।

- The provision turns on a pronoun, “his”, and five enumerated nouns. यह प्रावधान एक सर्वनाम, “उसके”, और पाँच निर्दिष्ट संज्ञाओं पर आधारित है।
- In **Abhiram Singh v. C.D. Commachen (2017)**, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court settled, by a 4:3 majority, that “his” extends to the voter as well as the candidate. अभिराम सिंह बनाम सी.डी. कम्मचन (2017) में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की सात न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने 4:3 बहुमत से निर्णय दिया कि “उसके” शब्द का विस्तार मतदाता और उम्मीदवार दोनों पर लागू होता है।

What do the law and the courts say about such appeals? / ऐसे अपीलों के बारे में कानून और न्यायालय क्या कहते हैं?

- The April 18 broadcast ran on different axes: gender as a mobilising category, party affiliation as a target, and the Prime Minister’s national broadcast on Doordarshan as the medium. 18 अप्रैल का प्रसारण विभिन्न आधारों पर आधारित था: लिंग को एक संगठित करने वाली श्रेणी के रूप में, पार्टी संबद्धता को लक्ष्य के रूप में, और दूरदर्शन पर प्रधानमंत्री का राष्ट्रीय प्रसारण माध्यम के रूप में।
- The objection here is not to the identity of the audience, but to the partisan use of publicly funded media. यहाँ आपत्ति दर्शकों की पहचान पर नहीं, बल्कि सार्वजनिक रूप से वित्तपोषित मीडिया के पक्षपातपूर्ण उपयोग पर है।
- Section 123(7) makes it a corrupt practice to obtain or procure the assistance of government servants, including gazetted officers, for the furtherance of a candidate’s electoral prospects. धारा 123(7) के अनुसार, सरकारी कर्मचारियों, जिनमें राजपत्रित अधिकारी भी शामिल हैं, की सहायता प्राप्त करना या लेना भ्रष्ट आचरण है यदि इसका उद्देश्य किसी उम्मीदवार की चुनावी संभावनाओं को बढ़ाना हो।
- The sub-section was drafted to deter candidates from pressuring police and revenue officials into electioneering; the petition asks whether its reach extends to public broadcasters and the PMO. यह उपधारा उम्मीदवारों को पुलिस और राजस्व अधिकारियों पर चुनावी प्रचार के लिए दबाव डालने से रोकने के लिए बनाई गई थी; याचिका यह प्रश्न उठाती है कि क्या इसका दायरा सार्वजनिक प्रसारकों और प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) तक विस्तारित होता है।
- The petition argues that the use of Doordarshan and Sansad TV, along with Prime Minister’s Office personnel, to prepare and disseminate a partisan broadcast falls within this prohibition. याचिका में तर्क दिया गया है कि दूरदर्शन और संसद टीवी का उपयोग, साथ ही प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय के कर्मचारियों की सहायता से पक्षपातपूर्ण प्रसारण तैयार और प्रसारित करना इस प्रतिबंध के अंतर्गत आता है।
- On that reading, the statute reaches April 18 not through its five nouns but through its workforce clause. इस व्याख्या के अनुसार, कानून 18 अप्रैल की घटना तक अपनी पाँच संज्ञाओं के माध्यम से नहीं, बल्कि अपने कार्यबल प्रावधान के माध्यम से पहुँचता है।
- Part VII asks what the party in power did with public resources; the statute asks which of five categories the appeal invoked, or whose assistance it procured. भाग VII यह पूछता है कि सत्ता में पार्टी ने सार्वजनिक संसाधनों का उपयोग कैसे किया; जबकि कानून यह पूछता है कि अपील किन पाँच श्रेणियों में आती है या किसकी सहायता ली गई।



- The **statute sets a floor on corrupt practice**, not a ceiling on what the **Code** can reach.  
कानून **भ्रष्ट आचरण** के लिए एक **न्यूनतम सीमा** निर्धारित करता है, न कि यह सीमा तय करता है कि **आचार** **संहिता** कहाँ तक पहुँच सकती है।
- **प्रवर्तन** की संरचना को अब तक की **सबसे कठिन परीक्षा** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

## What does the latest ruling mean for Forest Rights Act?

Why did the court intervene in the DLC's decision? What does the law say about eviction and grazing rights?

CS II: Polity

C.R. Bijoy

The story so far:

In April 20, the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court reminded the District Level Committee (DLC) under the Forest Rights Act 2006 in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh, that any previous court orders inconsistent with a later law are null and void.

Why is the order important?

The High Court struck down the DLC's decision in March 2021, rejecting the forest rights claims of the Tharus of Palla Kalan Tehsil, a tribal community, citing a Supreme Court interim order in 2000 that barred "de-reservation of forests/sanctuaries/national parks" until further orders.

The DLC is headed by the District Collector and includes the Divisional Forest Officer, the District Tribal Welfare Officer, and three district panchayat members.

The core legal principle in lawmaking is that all provisions in earlier laws and

court orders that are inconsistent with the provisions of a later law are null and void. The Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 itself also states that forest rights are recognised and vested in forest dwellers "notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force and subject to the provisions of this Act". The FRA violated this provision, which is a punishable offence.

Has the DLC been punished?

While the order has thus brought relief across the country, the High Court did not invoke the mechanism the FRA provides to sanction offenders. The Gram Sabha is a statutory authority under the FRA. It has to issue 60 days' notice to the State-Level Monitoring Committee to proceed against the authority violating the law.

However, the High Court ignored this provision and instead asked the DLC itself to reconsider its offence and make its decision anew in line with existing law and court orders.

The FRA does not provide for such allowances.

How has the FRA been superseded?

FRA disallows the eviction or removal of forest dwellers "from forest land under their occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete". For example, in January 2026, the Uttarakhand High Court ordered the forest department that "till final adjudication of the claims, the respondents shall refrain from initiating any coercive action, including eviction of the petitioners or interference with their peaceful possession and agricultural activities on the lands under their occupation".

However, there has been repeated disregard for and violations of the FRA. For instance, in September 2014, the Madras High Court had dismissed the plea of petitioners from Asaripallam, in Theni district, challenging eviction notices they had been issued and to consider their claims under the FRA. This was based on the forest officer's submission that they were encroachers and weren't eligible for rights under the FRA.

The Madras High Court stated that the claim process under the FRA would only

waste the authorities' time and dismissed the case.

The same High Court has dismissed similar petitions under the FRA by petitioners from Perambalur in 2017, Tuticorin in 2020, Sivagangai in 2021, and Theni in 2022. Authorities also continue to issue eviction orders under the Tamil Nadu Forest Act (TNFA) 1882, despite such orders having been overridden by the FRA.

Does the FRA allow grazing?

On March 13 this year, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court dismissed a review petition of the March 2022 order, noting that "the provisions prohibiting cattle trespass into forests under Section 57 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act", to protect wildlife and the spread of disease, were the valid legal basis for the ban.

The High Court had initially banned grazing in all forest areas of Tamil Nadu; later the same month, it restricted the ban order to tiger reserves, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries. However, it made no reference to the FRA, which recognises grazing rights in all forests, including those overlapping with tiger reserves, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries. FRA is also a central law and thus overrides a State law with regard to both prohibition and permission for grazing.

This is why the Allahabad High Court reaffirming that provisions in the later law override inconsistent provisions in previous ones, as well as in court orders, comes as a breath of fresh air. (C.R. Bijoy examines natural resource conflicts and governance issues)

THE GIST

▼ The High Court reaffirmed that provisions in a later law override inconsistent earlier court orders, striking down the DLC's rejection of the Tharus' forest rights claims.

▼ The ruling highlights repeated disregard of the Forest Rights Act, including eviction orders and denial of grazing rights, despite the law recognising and protecting these rights.

### 05M. What does the latest ruling mean for Forest Rights Act?

नवीनतम निर्णय का वन अधिकार अधिनियम के लिए क्या अर्थ है?

- On April 20, the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court reminded the **District Level Committee (DLC) under the Forest Rights Act 2006** in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh, that any previous **court orders** inconsistent with a **later law** are **null and void**.

20 अप्रैल को, इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय की लखनऊ पीठ ने उत्तर प्रदेश के लखीमपुर में वन अधिकार

अधिनियम 2006 के तहत जिला स्तरीय समिति (DLC) को याद दिलाया कि किसी भी पूर्व न्यायालय आदेश

जो किसी बाद के कानून के साथ असंगत हों, वे शून्य और निरस्त हैं।

- The **DLC** is headed by the **District Collector** and includes the **Divisional Forest Officer**, the **District Tribal Welfare Officer**, and three **district panchayat members**.

DLC का नेतृत्व जिला कलेक्टर करता है और इसमें डिविजनल फॉरेस्ट ऑफिसर, जिला जनजातीय कल्याण

अधिकारी, तथा तीन जिला पंचायत सदस्य शामिल होते हैं।

- The core **legal principle** in **lawmaking** is that all provisions in earlier **laws** and **court orders** that are inconsistent with the provisions of a **later law** are **null and void**.

कानून निर्माण का मूल कानूनी सिद्धांत यह है कि पहले के कानूनों और न्यायालय आदेशों के वे सभी प्रावधान

जो किसी बाद के कानून के प्रावधानों के साथ असंगत हों, वे शून्य और निरस्त होते हैं।

- The **Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006** itself also states that **forest rights** are recognised and vested in **forest dwellers** "notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force and subject to the provisions of this Act".

वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA) 2006 स्वयं यह कहता है कि वन अधिकार वनवासियों में मान्य और निहित

हैं, "चाहे किसी अन्य प्रचलित कानून में कुछ भी निहित हो, और इस अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के अधीन हो।"



- The **Gram Sabha** is a **statutory authority** under the **FRA**.  
ग्राम सभा, FRA के तहत एक वैधानिक प्राधिकरण है।
- It has to issue **60 days' notice** to the **State-Level Monitoring Committee** to proceed against the authority violating the law.  
उसे कानून का उल्लंघन करने वाले प्राधिकरण के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई के लिए राज्य स्तरीय निगरानी समिति को **60 दिनों का नोटिस** देना होता है।

How has the FRA been superseded? / FRA को कैसे दरकिनार किया गया है?

- **FRA** disallows the **eviction** or removal of **forest dwellers** "from forest land under their occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete".  
**FRA** वनवासियों को उनके कब्जे वाली वन भूमि से बेदखल करने या हटाने की अनुमति नहीं देता, जब तक कि मान्यता और सत्यापन प्रक्रिया पूरी न हो जाए।
- For example, in **January 2026**, the **Uttarakhand High Court** ordered the **forest department** that "till final adjudication of the claims, the respondents shall refrain from initiating any coercive action, including **eviction** of the petitioners or interference with their peaceful possession and **agricultural activities** on the lands under their occupation".  
उदाहरण के लिए, **जनवरी 2026** में **उत्तराखंड उच्च न्यायालय** ने **वन विभाग** को निर्देश दिया कि "दावों के अंतिम निर्णय तक, प्रतिवादी किसी भी **जबरन कार्रवाई**, जिसमें याचिकाकर्ताओं की **बेदखली** या उनके शांतिपूर्ण कब्जे और **कृषि गतिविधियों** में हस्तक्षेप शामिल है, से परहेज करें।"
- This was based on the **forest officer's submission** that they were **encroachers** and weren't eligible for rights under the **FRA**.  
यह **वन अधिकारी के कथन** पर आधारित था कि वे **अतिक्रमणकारी** थे और **FRA** के तहत अधिकारों के पात्र नहीं थे।
- **Authorities** also continue to issue **eviction orders** under the **Tamil Nadu Forest Act (TNFA) 1882**, despite such orders having been overridden by the **FRA**.  
प्राधिकरण अभी भी **तमिलनाडु वन अधिनियम (TNFA) 1882** के तहत **बेदखली आदेश** जारी करते हैं, जबकि ऐसे आदेश **FRA** द्वारा निरस्त किए जा चुके हैं।

Does the FRA allow grazing? / क्या FRA चराई की अनुमति देता है?

- On **March 13** this year, the **Madurai Bench** of the **Madras High Court** dismissed a **review petition** of the **March 2022 order**, noting that "the provisions prohibiting **cattle trespass** into forests under **Section 57 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act**", to protect **wildlife** and the spread of **disease**, were the valid legal basis for the **ban**.  
इस वर्ष **13 मार्च** को, **मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय** की **मदुरै पीठ** ने **मार्च 2022** के आदेश की **पुनर्विचार याचिका** खारिज कर दी, यह कहते हुए कि **तमिलनाडु वन अधिनियम** की **धारा 57** के तहत जंगलों में **पशुओं के प्रवेश पर प्रतिबंध** के प्रावधान, **वन्यजीव संरक्षण** और **रोग फैलाव रोकने** के लिए, प्रतिबंध का वैध आधार हैं।
- The **High Court** had initially banned **grazing** in all **forest areas** of **Tamil Nadu**; later the same month, it restricted the ban order to **tiger reserves, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries**.  
**उच्च न्यायालय** ने प्रारंभ में **तमिलनाडु** के सभी **वन क्षेत्रों** में **चराई** पर प्रतिबंध लगाया था; बाद में उसी महीने इसे **टाइगर रिजर्व, राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, और वन्यजीव अभयारण्यों** तक सीमित कर दिया।
- However, it made no reference to the **FRA**, which recognises **grazing rights** in all forests, including those overlapping with **tiger reserves, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries**.  
हालांकि, इसमें **FRA** का कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया, जो सभी वनों में **चराई के अधिकार** को मान्यता देता है, जिसमें **टाइगर रिजर्व, राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, और वन्यजीव अभयारण्य** भी शामिल हैं।
- **FRA** is also a **central law** and thus overrides a **State law** with regard to both **prohibition and permission** for grazing.



FRA एक केंद्रीय कानून है और इसलिए चराई के संबंध में प्रतिबंध और अनुमति दोनों मामलों में राज्य कानून पर वरीयता रखता है।

<b>GS Paper II: Governance</b>		<b>01 May 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>05M</b>	<b>SC asks Centre to examine plea on revising Aadhaar issuance norms</b> सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आधार जारी करने के नियमों में संशोधन पर केंद्र से याचिका पर विचार करने को कहा	
<b>05M</b>	<b>How to know if a medical technology actually adds value</b> यह कैसे जानें कि कोई चिकित्सा प्रौद्योगिकी वास्तव में मूल्य जोड़ती है	
<b>05M</b>	<b>Corporate governance issues at Chowgule Steamships</b> चौगुले स्टीमशिप्स में कॉर्पोरेट गवर्नेंस से जुड़े मुद्दे	

# SC asks Centre to examine plea on revising Aadhaar issuance norms

**GS II: Governance**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to examine a plea seeking issuance of new Aadhaar cards only to children, and that the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) frame "stringent guidelines" for the grant of the identity document to adults and adolescents.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked the Centre to consider a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, which said easy accessibility to Aadhaar cards should be restricted to prevent infiltrators from disguising themselves as Indian citizens.

Mr. Upadhyay said a signed rental agreement and a 182-day stay in one



The plea said accessibility to Aadhaar must be restricted to prevent infiltrators from disguising themselves as Indian citizens. FILE PHOTO

location would make a person statutorily eligible to apply for an Aadhaar card.

He said Aadhaar was being used as an entry document to "infiltrate" and obtain other Indian records, from ration cards to passports.

Mr. Upadhyay said that as per UIDAI records, there were already 144 crore

Aadhaar holders. The authority had stated that 99% of citizens had Aadhaar, including 55 crore Jan Dhan account holders and 85 crore recipients of free ration.

The court pointed out that not only Aadhaar, but other government documents were also being forged, with many of the

criminal hubs behind such acts located abroad.

Mr. Upadhyay said a cache of 87,000 fake documents had been found in Mumbai, terming it "infiltration through the Aadhaar framework".

"Infiltration is an economic offence in so far as it is done to take unlawful benefits of the resources of a country. It is done in an organised manner... The sole intent of infiltration is to settle in a country such as India and live off its resources. Almost 80 crore people are being given free ration, in which a large number of infiltrators are also present," the plea said.

The petition also sought the installation of display boards at common service centres stating that Aadhaar is only proof of identity and not of citizenship.

**05M. SC asks Centre to examine plea on revising Aadhaar issuance norms**  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आधार जारी करने के नियमों में संशोधन पर केंद्र से याचिका पर विचार करने को कहा

- SC asks Centre to examine plea on revising Aadhaar issuance norms.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आधार जारी करने के नियमों में संशोधन पर याचिका की जांच के लिए केंद्र से कहा।



- The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to examine a plea seeking issuance of **new Aadhaar cards only to children**, and that the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) frame “stringent guidelines” for the grant of the identity document to adults and adolescents.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार से एक याचिका पर विचार करने को कहा, जिसमें केवल बच्चों को नए **Aadhaar cards** जारी करने और **UIDAI** द्वारा वयस्कों और किशोरों के लिए “stringent guidelines” बनाने की मांग की गई है।
- A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked the Centre to consider a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, which said **easy accessibility to Aadhaar cards should be restricted to prevent infiltrators from disguising themselves as Indian citizens**.  
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश **सूर्यकांत** की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने केंद्र से अधिवक्ता **अश्विनी कुमार उपाध्याय** द्वारा दायर याचिका पर विचार करने को कहा, जिसमें कहा गया कि **Aadhaar cards** की आसान उपलब्धता को सीमित किया जाना चाहिए ताकि घुसपैठिए खुद को भारतीय नागरिक के रूप में प्रस्तुत न कर सकें।
- Mr. Upadhyay said **a signed rental agreement and a 182-day stay in one location would make a person statutorily eligible to apply for an Aadhaar card**.  
श्री उपाध्याय ने कहा कि एक हस्ताक्षरित किरायानामा और किसी स्थान पर 182 दिन का निवास किसी व्यक्ति को कानूनी रूप से **Aadhaar card** के लिए आवेदन करने योग्य बना देता है।
- He said **Aadhaar was being used as an entry document to “infiltrate” and obtain other Indian records, from ration cards to passports**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि **Aadhaar** का उपयोग “infiltrate” करने और राशन कार्ड से लेकर पासपोर्ट तक अन्य भारतीय दस्तावेज प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रवेश दस्तावेज के रूप में किया जा रहा है।
- Mr. Upadhyay said that **as per UIDAI records, there were already 144 crore Aadhaar holders**.  
श्री उपाध्याय ने कहा कि **UIDAI** के रिकॉर्ड के अनुसार पहले से ही 144 करोड़ **Aadhaar holders** हैं।
- **The authority had stated that 99% of citizens had Aadhaar, including 55 crore Jan Dhan account holders and 85 crore recipients of free ration**.  
प्राधिकरण ने कहा कि 99% नागरिकों के पास **Aadhaar** है, जिसमें 55 करोड़ **Jan Dhan account holders** और 85 करोड़ **free ration** पाने वाले शामिल हैं।
- **“Infiltration is an economic offence in so far as it is done to take unlawful benefits of the resources of a country**.  
“**Infiltration** एक आर्थिक अपराध है क्योंकि यह किसी देश के संसाधनों का अवैध लाभ लेने के लिए किया जाता है।
- **It is done in an organised manner...**  
यह संगठित तरीके से किया जाता है...
- The petition also sought the installation of display boards at common service centres stating that **Aadhaar is only proof of identity and not of citizenship**.  
याचिका में यह भी मांग की गई कि **common service centres** पर बोर्ड लगाए जाएं जिनमें बताया जाए कि **Aadhaar** केवल पहचान का प्रमाण है, नागरिकता का नहीं।



# How to know if a medical technology actually adds value

Unlike with consumer goods, you cannot undo an implant that causes chronic pain, reverse an unnecessary diagnostic test or erase a false diagnosis from your medical record; **expensive does not mean better in healthcare**, it means higher stakes and this distinction is critical in a country like India

CS II: Governance  
Narayana Subramaniam

**M**edicine treats the evaluation of emerging technologies as a technical problem, but it is not. It is fundamentally an economic problem.

When does a ₹30,000 genetic test represent excellent value and when does it represent wasted money? The answer depends on a question members of the medical profession almost never discuss: who's paying?

This distinction is critical in India, where millions of individuals make expensive healthcare decisions out of pocket while public health systems struggle with scarce resources and competing priorities. Yet this is precisely where thinking clearly matters most: your decisions directly affect your health and finances in ways that can't be reversed or recovered from.

### Unique vulnerability

A patient might spend ₹2 lakh on a recommended screening test that a government health system would never fund at scale – not because the test is bad but because the math works differently when you are an individual versus a system.

Yet patients rarely understand that they are trying to optimise for these incompatible situations. They simply spend money and hope it is the right decision.

Consider a genetic screening test for hereditary cancer risk in a woman with a family history of breast cancer. A positive test entails preventive surgery, significantly improved survival, lifelong surveillance, and critical family planning decisions. Here, ₹30,000 represents excellent value.

But deploy the same test in a healthy population and it is positive roughly twice per 1,000 healthy individuals. So you spend ₹3 crore identifying two individuals who benefit. The remaining 998 experience anxiety, unnecessary follow-up check-ups, and potential harm from false positives.

The same test has opposite value depending on the context and who is paying, which is why these conversations are so fraught.

### Return on investment

In India, patients and health systems evaluate the same technologies through fundamentally incompatible frameworks. An individual spending their own money asks "will this help me?" A government with scarce resources asks "What is the return per rupee across the population?". These questions cannot have the same answer, yet patients need to understand both to make informed decisions.

Consider sophisticated cancer screening once again. A wealthy individual can afford ₹50,000 a year to catch one cancer earlier – which is an excellent personal return on investment. A government screening 1 lakh women would spend ₹500 crore and catch 20-30 cancers earlier. That quantum of money would be better used to treat patients already diagnosed rather than screen



A wealthy person can afford ₹50,000 a year to catch one cancer earlier, which is an excellent personal return on investment. But a government screening 1 lakh women would spend ₹500 crore and catch 20-30 cancers earlier. Representative photo. NAVYMEDICINE/UNSPLASH

healthy people. The technology was identical but the value proposition was opposite.

As an individual, the technology is worth it if benefit exceeds cost. Your risk tolerance, values, and circumstances matter. You may rationally choose expensive screening that public health cannot justify at scale.

But is more expensive always better? Not quite.

### Newer is not better

Healthcare differs from consumer goods because the stakes are permanent. You cannot undo an implant that causes chronic pain, reverse an unnecessary diagnostic test or erase a false diagnosis from your medical record. Expensive does not mean better in healthcare. It means higher stakes.

Rather than asking whether a treatment is worth the cost, let us ask more prudent questions. For example, does it produce meaningfully better outcomes than what already exists?

A robotic surgery might be more precise but does it actually improve function compared to traditional methods? Better precision sounds good until outcomes are identical at double the cost.

Consider minimally invasive diagnostic devices. A newer needle biopsy might require special equipment and training. But if both produce identical accuracy, and one takes 15 minutes while the other takes 45 minutes, the newer device effectively consumes resources without improving your diagnosis.

Newer isn't better. Better is only when outcomes actually change.

### Recovery burden

For newer cancer drugs, survival may improve by a few months but the cost and side-effect burden may be immense – sometimes ₹5-10 lakh a month versus ₹1-2

**Newer options appear attractive but established options are backed by decades of documented safety. A medication with 30 years of outcomes in millions of patients carries substantially less risk than one with three years of data in the hundreds**

lakh for older drugs.

A drug extending one's lifespan by three months while causing severe nausea, cognitive impairment, hair loss, inability to work, and requiring weekly hospital visits isn't automatically superior to one extending life by two months with manageable side-effects that you can sustain at home.

An individual might gain 90 days of life but lose those days in hospital admissions and emergency department visits. Quality of life during treatment matters as much as survival statistics.

### Long-term safety

Newer options appear attractive but established options are backed by decades of documented safety. A medication with 30 years of outcomes in millions of patients carries substantially less risk than one with three years of data in the hundreds. That history matters when you are considering putting something new into your body.

Another distinction that matters more radically is whether some technology has been approved for your specific condition or if it is being used off-label.

Off-label use is legal in India; to make matters worse, evidence supporting it is often dramatically weaker than for approved indications.

A technology might be brilliant within its approved use and problematic outside it. For example, expandable metal stents

approved for biliary ducts were used off-label in blood vessels, where different mechanical environments caused vessel rupture, cardiac complications, and at least 13 deaths before regulators intervened.

The device worked perfectly for its intended purpose. It failed catastrophically outside that context.

### Being a good patient

Asking these questions doesn't make you a difficult patient. It makes you an informed one.

When your doctor recommends an expensive new technology, you don't need to be confrontational. Write down the questions beforehand and don't shy away from the hard ones.

Take notes on the answers. Good doctors welcome these questions because they have already asked themselves the same things.

If a doctor dismisses your questions or pressures you into deciding immediately, that is important information. You deserve time to think through expensive decisions.

Medicine is not unique in requiring difficult trade-offs – but it is unique in the stakes. A bad stock investment recovers. A bad medical technology decision becomes part of your body, your medical record, and your life forever.

The questions that matter are not intellectually complex but they may feel uncomfortable to ask. Your responsibility is to ask them anyway, demand evidence and insist on comparison. In a system designed to innovate faster than it validates, your scepticism is your only real leverage.

(Narayana Subramaniam is Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, Aster Hospitals, and Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.)

[narayana.subramaniam@gmail.com](mailto:narayana.subramaniam@gmail.com)

## 05M. How to know if a medical technology actually adds value

यह कैसे जानें कि कोई चिकित्सा प्रौद्योगिकी वास्तव में मूल्य जोड़ती है

- Unlike with **consumer goods**, you cannot undo an **implant** that causes **chronic pain**, reverse an **unnecessary diagnostic test** or erase a **false diagnosis** from your **medical**



**record; expensive does not mean better in healthcare**, it means **higher stakes** and this distinction is critical in a country like **India**

उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के विपरीत, आप ऐसे इम्प्लान्ट को वापस नहीं ले सकते जो दीर्घकालिक दर्द उत्पन्न करता है, किसी अनावश्यक निदान परीक्षण को उलट नहीं सकते या अपने चिकित्सीय अभिलेख से गलत निदान को मिटा नहीं सकते; **महंगा होना स्वास्थ्य सेवा में बेहतर होने का संकेत नहीं है, बल्कि यह अधिक जोखिम को दर्शाता है और यह अंतर भारत जैसे देश में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है**

- This distinction is critical in **India**, where millions make expensive healthcare decisions **out of pocket** while public systems struggle with **scarce resources**.

यह भेद **भारत** में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, जहाँ लाखों लोग महंगे स्वास्थ्य निर्णय **स्वयं के खर्च पर** लेते हैं, जबकि सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली **सीमित संसाधनों** से जूझती है।

- Yet this is where clear thinking matters most: your decisions affect your **health and finances** in irreversible ways.

फिर भी यही वह क्षेत्र है जहाँ स्पष्ट सोच अत्यंत आवश्यक है: आपके निर्णय आपके **स्वास्थ्य और वित्त** को अपूरणीय रूप से प्रभावित करते हैं।

### Unique vulnerability / विशिष्ट संवेदनशीलता

- A patient might spend ₹2 lakh on a recommended screening test that a **government health system** would never fund at scale.

एक रोगी अनुशंसित परीक्षण पर ₹2 लाख खर्च कर सकता है, जिसे **सरकारी स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली** व्यापक स्तर पर कभी वित्तपोषित नहीं करेगी।

- Consider a **genetic screening test** for hereditary cancer risk in a woman with a **family history** of breast cancer.

एक महिला में, जिसके परिवार में स्तन कैंसर का इतिहास है, **आनुवंशिक परीक्षण** पर विचार करें।

- A positive test entails **preventive surgery**, improved survival, lifelong surveillance, and family planning decisions.

सकारात्मक परिणाम का अर्थ है **निवारक शल्यक्रिया**, बेहतर जीवन संभावना, आजीवन निगरानी और पारिवारिक निर्णय।

- Here, ₹30,000 represents **excellent value**.

यहाँ ₹30,000 **उत्कृष्ट मूल्य** का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।

- But deploy the same test in a **healthy population**, and it is positive roughly twice per 1,000 individuals.

परंतु उसी परीक्षण को **स्वस्थ जनसंख्या** में लागू करने पर यह प्रति 1,000 में लगभग दो बार ही सकारात्मक होता है।

- So you spend ₹3 crore identifying two individuals who benefit.

इस प्रकार ₹3 करोड़ खर्च कर केवल दो लाभार्थियों की पहचान होती है।

- The remaining 998 experience **anxiety**, unnecessary follow-ups, and potential harm from **false positives**.

शेष 998 लोग **चिंता**, अनावश्यक परीक्षण और **झूठे सकारात्मक परिणामों** से संभावित हानि झेलते हैं।

- कोई तकनीक अपने **स्वीकृत उपयोग** में उत्कृष्ट हो सकती है, परंतु उसके बाहर समस्याजनक हो सकती है।

- For example, **expandable metal stents approved for biliary ducts** were used off-label in **blood vessels**.

उदाहरण के लिए, **पित्त नलिकाओं के लिए स्वीकृत विस्तार योग्य धातु स्टेंट** का उपयोग रक्त वाहिकाओं में ऑफ-लेबल किया गया।

### Being a good patient / एक सजग रोगी बनना



- Asking these questions doesn't make you a **difficult patient**. It makes you an **informed one**.  
इन प्रश्नों को पूछना आपको **कठिन रोगी** नहीं बनाता, बल्कि आपको **सचेत रोगी** बनाता है।
- When your doctor recommends an **expensive new technology**, you don't need to be confrontational.  
जब आपका चिकित्सक किसी **मंहगी नई तकनीक** की सलाह देता है, तो आपको टकरावपूर्ण होने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- Write down the questions beforehand and don't shy away from the **hard ones**.  
प्रश्नों को पहले से लिख लें और **कठिन प्रश्नों** से पीछे न हटें।
- Take notes on the answers.  
उत्तर को ध्यानपूर्वक लिखें।
- Good doctors welcome these questions because they have already asked themselves the same things.  
अच्छे चिकित्सक इन प्रश्नों का स्वागत करते हैं क्योंकि वे स्वयं भी इन्हीं प्रश्नों पर विचार कर चुके होते हैं।
- If a doctor dismisses your questions or pressures you into deciding immediately, that is **important information**.  
यदि कोई चिकित्सक आपके प्रश्नों को नज़रअंदाज़ करता है या आपको तुरंत निर्णय लेने के लिए दबाव डालता है, तो यह **महत्वपूर्ण संकेत** है।
- You deserve time to think through **expensive decisions**.  
आपको **मंहगे निर्णयों** पर विचार करने के लिए पर्याप्त समय मिलना चाहिए।
- Medicine is not unique in requiring **trade-offs** — but it is unique in the **stakes**.  
चिकित्सा में **समझौते (trade-offs)** करना अद्वितीय नहीं है, परंतु इसमें जुड़े **जोखिम** विशिष्ट हैं।
- A bad stock investment recovers.  
एक खराब निवेश पुनः सुधर सकता है।
- A bad **medical technology decision** becomes part of your body, your medical record, and your life forever.  
परंतु एक गलत **चिकित्सकीय तकनीकी निर्णय** आपके शरीर, चिकित्सा अभिलेख और जीवन का स्थायी हिस्सा बन जाता है।
- The questions that matter are not intellectually complex but may feel **uncomfortable to ask**.  
महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न बौद्धिक रूप से जटिल नहीं होते, परंतु उन्हें पूछना **असहज** लग सकता है।
- Your responsibility is to ask them anyway, demand **evidence** and insist on **comparison**.  
आपका दायित्व है कि आप उन्हें अवश्य पूछें, **साक्ष्य** की मांग करें और **तुलना** पर जोर दें।
- In a system designed to innovate faster than it validates, your **scepticism** is your only real leverage.  
ऐसी प्रणाली में जो सत्यापन से अधिक तेज़ी से नवाचार करती है, आपका **संदेह** ही आपका वास्तविक साधन है।



# Corporate governance issues at Chowgule Steamships

Central to the complaint is the allegation CSL's subsidiary CSOL sold vessels during 2018-19 but sought shareholder approval only subsequently at the annual general meeting in July 2019

## GS II: GOVERNANCE

**M. Kalyanaraman**  
CHENNAI

**A**llegations of corporate governance lapses, questionable financial transactions and inadequate disclosures at Chowgule Steamships Limited (CSL) have emerged, with promoter-shareholder Ms. Sheela Yeshwantrao Chowgule detailing what she describes as a pattern of irregularities and resistance from the company's management.

Ms. Chowgule, one of the legal heirs of the late industrialist Yeshwantrao Chowgule, has filed complaints before multiple regulatory bodies, including the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Registrar of Companies and the Income Tax Department, seeking a comprehensive investigation.

Central to the complaint is the allegation that CSL's subsidiary, Chowgule Steamships Overseas Limited (CSOL), sold vessels during 2018-19 but sought shareholder approval only subsequently at the company's annual general meeting in July 2019. The explanatory statement to shareholders, the complaint notes, did not disclose that the transactions had already been completed, raising concerns over transparency and com-



**Many queries:** Ms. Chowgule filed complaints before regulatory bodies, including Securities and Exchange Board of India. REUTERS

pliance with disclosure norms.

The complaint argues that such post-facto approvals effectively deprived shareholders of meaningful oversight.

Ms. Chowgule has also pointed to financial decisions that, according to her, weakened the company's balance sheet. These include the write-back of over \$99 million in loans owed by CSOL to group companies during 2018-19, which is said to have contributed to a substantial erosion of CSL's net worth. "The issues of ships being sold and money being brought in as loan that is later written off are indeed related," says Ms. Chowgule.

At the same time, several step-down subsidiaries of CSOL—entities incorporated in offshore jurisdictions such as the Marshall Islands that is a well-known flag of convenience—were "systemati-

cally wound up". The complaint notes that these entities had been reported as operational or profitable earlier, but were later dissolved without adequate public explanation.

The complaint highlights what it terms structural governance lapses, including the same individual holding the roles of Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, a practice it claims is in violation of Section 203 of the Companies Act, 2013.

A Panama-based entity, HAVRE SA, features prominently in the complaint. It is alleged to have engaged in related-party transactions with CSOL, but these were not disclosed until after complaints were made to SEBI in 2023.

The most contentious issue raised relates to Quail Investments Limited, shown in company filings as a foreign promoter-group shareholder holding a 6.23% stake in CSL.

According to Ms. Chowgule, due diligence conducted with authorities in Guernsey revealed that the entity had been compulsorily wound up in July 1974 and had not filed any statutory returns since then. Despite this, Quail Investments is reflected in filings as having extended a loan to CSOL during 2020-21, raising questions about the authenticity of the transaction.

The complaint further points out that regulatory filings list the entity's domicile as the "United Kingdom", whereas Guernsey is not part of the U.K., suggesting the possibility of incorrect or misleading disclosures to authorities.

Chowgule Group went through a family settlement in 2021 and was split into two groups. Sheela Chowgule was arrayed as a member of the group under Vijay Chowgule. She says she is a shareholder in Chowgule Steamships Limited with a stake of 0.32%, comprising of 115,000 equity shares, making her a minority promoter.

Emails and WhatsApp messages to Vijay Chowgule seeking a response to the complaints elicited no response. When called on the phone later, a voice on the other side said, "You have got the wrong number. And you have got the wrong things. Don't call me. I am blocking you."

## 05M. Corporate governance issues at Chowgule Steamships

### चौगुले स्टीमशिप्स में कॉर्पोरेट गवर्नेंस से जुड़े मुद्दे

- Ms. Chowgule, one of the legal heirs of the late industrialist Yeshwantrao Chowgule, has filed complaints before multiple regulatory bodies, including **the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Registrar of Companies and the Income Tax Department**, seeking a comprehensive investigation.



दिवंगत उद्योगपति यशवंतराव चौगुले की कानूनी उत्तराधिकारी शीला चौगुले ने SEBI, NCLT, Registrar of Companies और Income Tax Department सहित कई नियामक संस्थाओं में व्यापक जांच की मांग करते हुए शिकायतें दर्ज की हैं।

- Central to the complaint is the allegation that CSL's subsidiary, Chowgule Steamships Overseas Limited (CSOL), sold vessels during 2018–19 but sought shareholder approval only subsequently at the company's annual general meeting in July 2019.

शिकायत का मुख्य आरोप है कि CSL की सहायक कंपनी Chowgule Steamships Overseas Limited (CSOL) ने 2018–19 में जहाज बेचे, लेकिन शेयरधारकों की मंजूरी जुलाई 2019 की annual general meeting में बाद में ली।

- The explanatory statement to shareholders, the complaint notes, did not disclose that the transactions had already been completed, raising concerns over transparency and compliance with disclosure norms.

शिकायत के अनुसार, शेयरधारकों को दिए गए explanatory statement में यह नहीं बताया गया कि लेनदेन पहले ही पूरे हो चुके थे, जिससे transparency और disclosure norms के पालन पर सवाल उठे।

- The complaint argues that such post-facto approvals effectively deprived shareholders of meaningful oversight.

शिकायत में कहा गया है कि इस तरह की post-facto approvals ने शेयरधारकों को प्रभावी निगरानी के अधिकार से वंचित कर दिया।

- The complaint highlights what it terms structural governance lapses, including the same individual holding the roles of Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, a practice it claims is in violation of Section 203 of the Companies Act, 2013.

शिकायत में structural governance lapses का उल्लेख किया गया है, जिसमें एक ही व्यक्ति का Managing Director और Chief Financial Officer दोनों पदों पर होना शामिल है, जो Companies Act, 2013 की Section 203 का उल्लंघन बताया गया है।

<b>GS Paper II: International Relations</b>	<b>01 May 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	
<b>05M</b>	<b>Europeans have 'gotten message' from Trump on defence: NATO</b> यूरोप ने रक्षा पर ट्रंप का संदेश समझ लिया: NATO

## Europeans have 'gotten message' from Trump on defence: NATO



GS II: IR

AFP

Europeans have "heard" U.S. President Donald Trump's message of frustration over the Iran war and are "stepping up", NATO chief Mark Rutte said on Monday after Washington said it would withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany. Europe has ramped up its defence spending amid U.S.'s commitment to NATO and the Ukraine war. AFP

## 05M. Europeans have 'gotten message' from Trump on defence: NATO

### यूरोप ने रक्षा पर ट्रंप का संदेश समझ लिया: NATO

- Europeans have "heard" U.S. President Donald Trump's message of frustration over the Iran war and are "stepping up", NATO chief Mark Rutte said on Monday after Washington said it would withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany.

यूरोप ने अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के ईरान युद्ध को लेकर असंतोष के संदेश को "सुना" है और वे "कदम बढ़ा रहे हैं", NATO प्रमुख मार्क रूटे ने सोमवार को कहा, जब वाशिंगटन ने जर्मनी से 5,000 सैनिक हटाने की घोषणा की।

## GS Paper III: Economy

05 May 2026



TOPICS COVERED	
05M	<b>Das Adam Smith Problem: rethinking Smith's moral and economic worlds</b> दास एडम स्मिथ समस्या: स्मिथ की नैतिक और आर्थिक दुनिया का पुनर्विचार
05M	<b>India resumes wheat exports after a gap of four years</b> भारत ने चार वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद गेहूं निर्यात फिर से शुरू किया
05M	<b>War impacts April manufacturing PMI</b> युद्ध का असर अप्रैल के विनिर्माण PMI पर
05M	<b>National Stock Exchange unveils Electronic Gold Receipt</b> नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गोल्ड रिसीट लॉन्च किया
05M	<b>JAL: Vedanta plea dismissed by NCLAT</b> JAL: वेदांता की याचिका NCLAT द्वारा खारिज
05M	<b>Households face rising medical inflation</b> घरों को बढ़ती चिकित्सा मुद्रास्फीति का सामना
05M	<b>'No to commodity derivative investments by institutions'</b> 'संस्थानों द्वारा कमाडिटी डेरिवेटिव निवेश को नहीं'

# Das Adam Smith Problem: rethinking Smith's moral and economic worlds

The Das Adam Smith Problem shows an apparent dichotomy between sympathy and self-interest in Adam Smith's works, but most scholars now view it as a misunderstanding, arguing that his philosophy forms a coherent whole uniting ethics and economics

CS III: Economy

Atanu Biswas

Adam Smith's magnum opus, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, considered the foundation stone of modern economics, marked its 250th anniversary on March 9. While celebrating the epic work, it is also worth pondering the long-standing conflict between two of Smith's books – *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) and *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759).

## A 'problem' or a misreading?

The "problem," known as "Das Adam Smith Problem," was first formulated by German economists of the Historical School, such as Wilhelm Hasbach and August Oncken, in the late 19th century. They perceived a huge contrast between the sympathetic moral philosophy of Smith's first book and the selfishness depicted in the latter. Did Smith's perspective really evolve over those 17 years?

In the 1920s, however, Jacob Viner, a mentor of the early Chicago school of economics, showed that Smith's two books share an identical philosophical base. Furthermore, David D. Raphael and Alec A. Macfie, editors of the 1976 Glasgow Edition of *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, categorically rejected the Das Adam Smith Problem, calling it "a pseudo-problem based on ignorance and misunderstanding."

Smith extended his earlier moral philosophy into economics rather than discarding it. The 'invisible hand' was a metaphor for how individual motivations, when properly directed, could benefit society. It was never intended to be a celebration of avarice. Drawing on Rousseau's *Second Discourse*, as discussed in Charles L. Griswold's 2010 paper, "Smith and Rousseau in Dialogue: Sympathy, Pitié, Spectatorship and Narrative," Smith suggested that human beings are not naturally sociable, and that markets are extensions of morality rather than moral voids.

The Das Adam Smith Problem has come to symbolise the dual nature of modernity itself, especially in the wake of industrial capitalism. The majority of contemporary scholars see this as a misunderstanding or a partial grasp of Smith's philosophy and view it as forming a coherent whole that unites ethics and economics. As Amartya Sen wrote in a 2010 paper in the *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics*, "In economics, for example, Smith was concerned not only with the sufficiency of self-interest at the moment of exchange but also with the wider moral motivations and institutions required to support economic activity in general."

## Reconciling morality and markets

On closer inspection, Smith's two perspectives are not only compatible but also complement each other, as they are,

in fact, part of a unified system. While the *Wealth of Nations* is more outward-focused, the *Theory of Moral Sentiments* is inward-focused; both, however, view the world and the self through the lens of empathy. The *Wealth of Nations* deals with applied empathy, whereas *Theory of Moral Sentiments* is about empathy per se.

What is the root cause of the Das Adam Smith Problem? As Leonidas Montes argued in a 2003 paper in the *Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, "Scholars have long been interested in the apparent dichotomy between sympathy and self-interest in Smith." This dilemma arises because, by nature, human beings are binary thinkers. The real world, however, exists along a spectrum of grey areas. There is a constant interplay, advancement, regression, etc., of self-interest and empathy. Smith's two books engage with different points along this same spectrum.

In his 2010 work, Amartya Sen argued that "Adam Smith has had much smallness thrust upon him." Smith became the welfare theorist of today because of the innovative interpretations of the welfare economists.

Leon Walras, the famous economist, set the goal for mathematical economics in the 1880s, but it was not until Kenneth Arrow's work in the 1950s that it was realised. To comprehend what markets can accomplish collectively, Arrow developed economic theory beyond tired

dichotomies of whether they are good or bad.

## A debate that endures

There is no denying that the "Das Adam Smith Problem" has long puzzled academics, and it shows not just the dualities in Smith's work but also our own uneasy relationship with morality and markets. But it is also necessary to mention the fact that though the two different Smiths are now well connected, there is no single thread that fully links the two works. As David Wilson and William Dixon noted in a 2006 paper in the *Journal of Critical Realism*, "There is still no widely agreed version of what it is that links these two texts, aside from their common author." That is the beauty and mystery of it.

Today, the Das Adam Smith Problem has taken on a broader scope. "How do we integrate the fact that much economic analysis is based on self-regard (via the price mechanism) with renewed interest in and evidence of the importance of pro-social motivations?" Natalie Gold, of the University of Oxford, in her 2020 paper in *Social Philosophy & Policy*, writes that it's the renewed Das Adam Smith Problem for the 21st century. Thus, the cornerstone of the Scottish Enlightenment in the 18th century continues to shed light on the world in a renewed spectrum.

(Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata)

**05M. Das Adam Smith Problem: rethinking Smith's moral and economic worlds**

दास एडम स्मिथ समस्या: स्मिथ की नैतिक और आर्थिक दुनिया का पुनर्विचार



- While the **Wealth of Nations** is more **outward-focused**, the **Theory of Moral Sentiments** is **inward-focused**; both, however, view the world and the self through the lens of **empathy**.  
जहाँ *Wealth of Nations* अधिक बाह्य-केंद्रित है, वहीं *Theory of Moral Sentiments* आंतरिक-केंद्रित है; फिर भी दोनों सहानुभूति के दृष्टिकोण से विश्व और आत्म को देखते हैं।
- **The Wealth of Nations deals with applied empathy, whereas Theory of Moral Sentiments is about empathy per se.**  
*Wealth of Nations* व्यावहारिक सहानुभूति से संबंधित है, जबकि *Theory of Moral Sentiments* सहानुभूति के मूल स्वरूप पर केंद्रित है।

What is the root cause of the Das Adam Smith Problem? / दास एडम स्मिथ समस्या का मूल कारण क्या है?

- What is the **root cause** of the **Das Adam Smith Problem**?  
दास एडम स्मिथ समस्या का मूल कारण क्या है?
- As **Leonidas Montes** argued in a **2003 paper** in the **Journal of the History of Economic Thought**, “Scholars have long been interested in the apparent **dichotomy between sympathy and self-interest in Smith.**”  
जैसा कि लियोनिदास मोंटेस ने 2003 के एक शोधपत्र में **Journal of the History of Economic Thought** में तर्क दिया, “विद्वान लंबे समय से स्मिथ में सहानुभूति और स्वार्थ के बीच दिखाई देने वाले द्वैत में रुचि रखते रहे हैं।”
- **This dilemma arises because, by nature, human beings are binary thinkers.**  
यह दुविधा इसलिए उत्पन्न होती है क्योंकि स्वभावतः मनुष्य द्विआधारी सोच रखते हैं।

- The “Das Adam Smith Problem” refers to an **apparent contradiction** in the ideas of the famous economist Adam Smith.
- It questions whether Smith believed in:
  - **Self-interest (people act for their own benefit)**
  - **Or sympathy/morality (people care about others)**
- At first glance, these seem contradictory.

## Why did this problem arise?

### Two Famous Books by Adam Smith

- **The Theory of Moral Sentiments (1759)** → Focuses on sympathy, ethics, and human emotions
- **The Wealth of Nations (1776)** → Focuses on self-interest and markets

### Some scholars thought:

- First book → Humans are **moral and caring**
- Second book → Humans are **selfish and profit-seeking**

→ This difference created what is called the “Das Adam Smith Problem”

## Is it really a contradiction?

### Modern Understanding (Important Insight)



- Most modern scholars say:
  - This is **not a real problem**
  - It is a **misunderstanding**
- Smith's ideas actually form a **single unified philosophy** combining:
  - Ethics (morality)
  - Economics (markets)

### How do morality and self-interest work together?

- Humans are not purely selfish or purely moral
- They act based on a **mix of both**

### Example 1: Shopkeeper

- A shopkeeper sells goods to earn profit (**self-interest**)
- But:
  - He must treat customers fairly
  - Maintain trust
  - So, **morality supports self-interest**



GS III: Economy

### India resumes wheat exports after a gap of four years

Indian traders have begun exporting wheat for the first time in four years, as ample stocks, higher global prices and firmer freight rates have opened a window for them to make small shipments to buyers in Asia and the Middle East, trade sources said. Consumer goods conglomerate ITC started loading 22,000 metric tons of wheat at the western port of Kandla for shipment to the United Arab Emirates, sources said, declining to be identified. REUTERS

सूत्रों ने बताया कि ITC ने कांडला बंदरगाह पर 22,000 मीट्रिक टन गेहूं को संयुक्त अरब अमीरात भेजने के लिए लोड करना शुरू कर दिया है, हालांकि उन्होंने अपनी पहचान बताने से इनकार किया।

### 05M. India resumes wheat exports after a gap of four years

भारत ने चार वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद गेहूं निर्यात फिर से शुरू किया

- India resumes wheat exports after a gap of four years. भारत ने चार वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद गेहूं निर्यात फिर से शुरू किया।

- Indian traders have begun exporting wheat for the first time in four years, as ample stocks, higher global prices and firmer freight rates have opened a window for them to make small shipments to buyers in Asia and the Middle East, trade sources said.

व्यापार सूत्रों के अनुसार, भारतीय व्यापारियों ने चार वर्षों में पहली बार गेहूं निर्यात शुरू किया है, क्योंकि पर्याप्त भंडार, उच्च वैश्विक कीमतें और मजबूत फ्रेट दरों ने एशिया और मध्य पूर्व के खरीदारों को छोटे शिपमेंट भेजने का अवसर प्रदान किया है।

- Consumer goods conglomerate ITC started loading 22,000 metric tons of wheat at the western port of Kandla for shipment to the United Arab Emirates, sources said, declining to be identified.

सूत्रों ने बताया कि ITC ने कांडला बंदरगाह पर 22,000 मीट्रिक टन गेहूं को संयुक्त अरब अमीरात भेजने के लिए लोड करना शुरू कर दिया है, हालांकि उन्होंने अपनी पहचान बताने से इनकार किया।



# War impacts April manufacturing PMI

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Manufacturing activity in April 2026 slowed to its second-lowest level in nearly four years, showed a private sector survey of companies, with improvements seen compared to March, but new order levels still remaining historically low.

The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 54.7 in April 2026 from 53.9 in March. However, this level was still the second-lowest in 46 months. A reading above 50 denotes expansion in activity while one below 50 indicates a contraction.

## 'Mild recoveries'

"April data showed mild recoveries in growth of new business intakes and production among Indian manufacturers, but rates of increase were still the second-weakest since 2022," the report said. "Ex-

ports was a bright area, with firms welcoming the fastest upturn since last September."

## Lower readings

The report noted that the two largest sub-components of the PMI – new orders and output – rose since March but readings were still lower than those seen in at least three-and-a-half years.

"Survey participants indicated that advertising and demand resilience supported sales and production, but that growth was hampered by competitive conditions, the war in the Middle East and a reluctance among clients to approve pending quotes," the report said.

It further noted the survey respondents continued to say the war exerted upward pressure on inflation, with input costs and output charges rising at the quickest rates in 44 and six months, respectively.

'हल्की रिकवरी'

GS III: Economy

# National Stock Exchange unveils Electronic Gold Receipt

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) on Monday launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) as a new segment, in a bid to create a more transparent and efficient price discovery of the yellow metal. The move is expected to bridge the age-old gap between physical gold and the financial markets by offering a regulated, secure, and technologically-advanced platform for trading in the precious commodity, the exchange said in a statement. REUTERS

efficient price discovery of the yellow metal.

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) ने सोमवार को Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) को एक नए सेगमेंट के रूप में लॉन्च किया, ताकि gold की कीमत निर्धारण प्रक्रिया को अधिक transparent और efficient बनाया जा सके।

## 05M. War impacts April manufacturing PMI

### युद्ध का असर अप्रैल के विनिर्माण PMI पर

- War impacts April manufacturing PMI. अप्रैल के manufacturing PMI पर युद्ध का असर पड़ा।
- Manufacturing activity in April 2026 slowed to its second-lowest level in nearly four years, showed a private sector survey of companies, with improvements seen compared to March, but new order levels still remaining historically low.

अप्रैल 2026 में manufacturing activity लगभग चार वर्षों में अपने दूसरे सबसे निचले स्तर पर धीमी हो गई, एक निजी क्षेत्र के सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, हालांकि मार्च की तुलना में सुधार देखा गया, लेकिन new orders का स्तर अभी भी ऐतिहासिक रूप से कम रहा।

- The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 54.7 in April 2026 from 53.9 in March.

HSBC India Manufacturing PMI मार्च के 53.9 से बढ़कर अप्रैल 2026 में 54.7 हो गया।

- However, this level was still the second-lowest in 46 months.

हालांकि, यह स्तर अभी भी 46 महीनों में दूसरा सबसे कम था।

- A reading above 50 denotes expansion in activity while one below 50 indicates a contraction. 50 से ऊपर का स्तर expansion को दर्शाता है, जबकि 50 से नीचे का स्तर contraction को दर्शाता है।

## 'Mild recoveries'

## 05M. National Stock Exchange unveils Electronic Gold Receipt

### नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गोल्ड रिसीट लॉन्च किया

- National Stock Exchange unveils Electronic Gold Receipt.

नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गोल्ड रिसीट लॉन्च किया।

- The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) on Monday launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) as a new segment, in a bid to create a more transparent and

efficient price discovery of the yellow metal.

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) ने सोमवार को Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) को एक नए सेगमेंट के रूप में लॉन्च किया, ताकि gold की कीमत निर्धारण प्रक्रिया को अधिक transparent और efficient बनाया जा सके।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- The move is expected to bridge the age-old gap between physical gold and the financial markets by offering a regulated, secure, and technologically-advanced platform for trading in the precious commodity, the exchange said in a statement.  
एक्सचेंज ने बयान में कहा कि यह कदम **physical gold** और **financial markets** के बीच पुराने अंतर को कम करने में मदद करेगा, क्योंकि यह **regulated, secure** और **technologically-advanced platform** प्रदान करता है, जिससे इस **precious commodity** का व्यापार किया जा सके।

## JAL: Vedanta plea dismissed by NCLAT

GS III: Economy  
Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

A company law appeals court rejected a challenge by mining billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd. to the winning bid by Gautam Adani's group for bankrupt real estate firm Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL), whose assets include For-

mula One circuit.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) did not find merit in the issues raised by Vedanta and dismissed its two petitions. A Bench held the Committee of Creditors were right in preferring Adani Group's ₹14,535 crore bid over Vedanta's resolution plan.

### 05M. JAL: Vedanta plea dismissed by NCLAT

#### JAL: वेदांता की याचिका NCLAT द्वारा खारिज

- JAL: Vedanta plea dismissed by NCLAT.

#### JAL: Vedanta की याचिका NCLAT द्वारा खारिज।

A company law appeals court rejected a challenge by mining billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd. to the winning bid by Gautam Adani's group for bankrupt real estate firm Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL), whose assets include Formula One circuit.

एक कंपनी कानून अपीलीय अदालत ने खनन उद्योगपति **अनिल अग्रवाल** की **Vedanta Ltd.** द्वारा दिवालिया रियल एस्टेट कंपनी **Jaiprakash**

**Associates Ltd. (JAL)** के लिए **गौतम अडानी** के समूह की विजेता बोली को चुनौती देने वाली याचिका को खारिज कर दिया, जिसके परिसंपत्तियों में **Formula One circuit** शामिल है।

- The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** did not find merit in the issues raised by Vedanta and dismissed its two petitions.  
**National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** को **Vedanta** द्वारा उठाए गए मुद्दों में कोई दम नहीं मिला और उसने उसकी दोनों याचिकाओं को खारिज कर दिया।
- A Bench held the Committee of Creditors were right in preferring Adani Group's ₹14,535 crore bid over Vedanta's resolution plan.  
पीठ ने माना कि **Committee of Creditors** ने **Adani Group** की ₹14,535 करोड़ की बोली को **Vedanta** की **resolution plan** पर प्राथमिकता देकर सही निर्णय लिया।



# Households face rising medical inflation

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nivedita S.

Medical inflation in India is rising at an exponential rate every year with many households, despite government support, at risk of piling up large debt if a family member falls chronically ill or has an accident.

The government's 2025-26 Economic Survey showed health inflation slowed to 3% in December 2025 from 6% in 2023. However, the Aon's Global Medical Trends Rate 2026 and other reports put medical inflation at 12-13%.

This is significant as most Indians lack health cover and depend on out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE). In 2025, the estimated average OOPE per hospitalisation case (excluding childbirth) was ₹34,064 (₹31,484 in rural and ₹38,688 in urban) as per the Survey on Health conducted as part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey. In government hospitals, the average OOPE per hospitalisation was ₹6,631, ₹39,530 in charitable/NGO-run hospitals and ₹50,508 in private hospitals. This is a huge jump from the 75th round where the average medical expenditure was ₹20,135 in hospitalisation cases (excluding childbirth). For a large section of the population, this exceeds monthly household income.

## Factors behind inflation

The reasons for the rise in healthcare costs are multifaceted. "Rising medical inflation can be attributed to rapid technological advancement resulting in costlier treatments, increased demand as non-communicable disease burden rises and population ages," Dr. Aashna Mehta, associate professor at



**Turning pauper:** Families resort to taking loans, selling jewels and property to meet medical expenses. GETTY IMAGES/JISTOCK

the Indian Institute of Public Health, said.

She added pharmaceutical inflation (rise in drug price) was also a factor.

The advancement in healthcare relies on technology leading to higher input costs in hospitals and increased imports of costly medical devices and drugs. The fluctuations caused by global supply chain disruptions also contribute.

"When new technology is introduced in healthcare, the initial costs will be high. However, with the streamlining of the technologies and boosting local production, the costs can be reduced," said Dr. M. Muniyandi, Head of Department of Health Economics at the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis.

## Privatisation issue

Privatisation of healthcare in India is also a major factor in costs rising. In 2025, 61.25% of hospitalisation cases were at private hospitals as per the Survey on Health. Many patients often had to resort to private health institutions to take certain lab tests and undergo complex surgeries on account of quality issues and absence of these facilities in public hospitals.

## Profit-driven model

As public hospitals are overburdened and lack infrastructure, large corpo-

rate players entered the market to fill the gap. Private equity investment in Indian healthcare stood at \$5.5 billion in 2023. The profit-driven model in private hospitals worsens inequities and accessibility.

The Supreme Court on March 4, 2025, urged States to come out with guidelines to regulate pricing in private hospitals to ensure patients were not exploited or compelled to undergo expensive treatments and scans. "Enforcement of regulations is challenging given the size of the private sector and heterogeneity among providers," Dr. Mehta said.

## Lack of insurance

In a 2026 study published in Global Heart on heart failure, one of the leading causes of death in India, showed over 70% of patients lacked health cover for costly treatment and hospitalisation. As much as 90% of the total health expenditure was financed by OOPE. The average OOPE per patient was ₹1,06,566. In over 30% of the cases, the families resorted to distress financing by taking out loans, selling jewellery and even property.

As of 2025, only 47.4% rural and 44.3% of urban households had some kind of health cover. Moreover, insurance does not cover everything. "Most insurance schemes only cover

hospitalisation; OOPE as well as expenditure on medicines is left out, which means people access these by paying out of pockets," Dr. Mehta said.

The government's Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY) provides ₹5 lakh/ to 12 crore poor and vulnerable families in urban and rural areas for secondary and tertiary healthcare.

However, rejection of claims on account of incorrect documents, excessive lag in reimbursement, fraudulent activities by hospitals and reliance on digital services caused hindrances in its effectiveness.

Another problem is the "missing middle," says Dr. Mehta. "Those who are left out of coverage entirely because they are not poor enough to be eligible for government-funded schemes and not well-off enough to buy private insurance."

## Solutions ahead

India's public health expenditure is below 2% of GDP. The Union Budget 2026 allocated ₹1,04,559 crore towards the healthcare sector, which is only 0.26% of GDP. "Most countries that succeeded in keeping healthcare affordable and accessible for all have done so on the back of robust public sector provisioning as well as public spending and subsidies," Dr. Mehta said. She added there was no other alternative to address the rising medical inflation.

The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, mandates private and public hospitals to charge the rates for each type of procedure and service within the range determined by the Centre in consultation with the State Government. However, its imple-

mentation lags. As healthcare is a State subject, State governments should step in to form guidelines to enforce this measure to prevent overcharging.

"Strengthening public healthcare network via integration of hospitals is necessary. Patients must be able to move easily from a primary health centre to tertiary care. There must be massive testing and diagnostic facilities in place run by the government," Dr. Muniyandi said. He added the interventions the government introduced for addressing polio, HIV and tuberculosis, which ensured free treatment for vulnerable populations, must now be expanded to other serious illnesses and non-communicable diseases.

To address pharmaceutical inflation, the National List of Essential Medicines 2022 must be expanded. Currently, there are 384 drugs in the list and prices capped by price ceilings via market-based formula.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) list of essential medicines, however, has 520 drugs. Several experts pointed out lack of frequent updation left out several life-saving drugs from the national list.

"Apart from focusing on prevention by adopting a healthy lifestyle and opting for periodic screening against common illnesses, those who can afford to must buy private insurance with ample coverage to protect against catastrophic health expenditure," Dr. Mehta said.

There is also a need to expand the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to include healthcare services apart from medicines to ensure life-saving treatments are readily available for the public irrespective of market conditions.

## 05M. Households face rising medical inflation

### घरों को बढ़ती चिकित्सा मुद्रास्फीति का सामना

- In 2025, the estimated average OOPE per hospitalisation case (excluding childbirth) was ₹34,064 (₹31,484 in rural and ₹38,688 in urban) as per the Survey on Health conducted as



part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey.

2025 में प्रति अस्पताल भर्ती पर औसत OOPE ₹34,064 था (ग्रामीण ₹31,484 और शहरी ₹38,688), जैसा कि National Sample Survey (80th round) के Survey on Health में बताया गया।

- This is a huge jump from the 75th round where the average medical expenditure was ₹20,135 in hospitalisation cases (excluding childbirth).  
यह 75वें राउंड की तुलना में बहुत अधिक है, जहां औसत खर्च ₹20,135 था।
- For a large section of the population, this exceeds monthly household income.  
जनसंख्या के बड़े हिस्से के लिए यह उनकी मासिक आय से अधिक है।

## Factors behind inflation

### मुद्रास्फीति के कारण

- The reasons for the rise in healthcare costs are multifaceted.  
**healthcare costs** बढ़ने के कई कारण हैं।
- “Rising medical inflation can be attributed to rapid technological advancement resulting in costlier treatments, increased demand as non-communicable disease burden rises and population ages,” Dr. Aashna Mehta, associate professor at the Indian Institute of Public Health, said.  
डॉ. आशना मेहता ने कहा कि **technological advancement**, बढ़ती **non-communicable diseases** और वृद्ध होती आबादी के कारण इलाज महंगा हो रहा है।
- Many patients often had to resort to private health institutions to take certain lab tests and undergo complex surgeries on account of quality issues and absence of these facilities in public hospitals.  
गुणवत्ता और सुविधाओं की कमी के कारण मरीजों को **private hospitals** का सहारा लेना पड़ता है।

## Profit-driven model

### लाभ आधारित मॉडल

- As public hospitals are overburdened and lack infrastructure, large corporate players entered the market to fill the gap.  
**public hospitals** पर भार अधिक होने के कारण निजी कंपनियां आईं।
- Private equity investment in Indian healthcare stood at \$5.5 billion in 2023.  
2023 में **private equity investment** \$5.5 billion था।
- The Supreme Court on March 4, 2025, urged States to come out with guidelines to regulate pricing in private hospitals to ensure patients were not exploited or compelled to undergo expensive treatments and scans.  
**Supreme Court** ने 4 मार्च 2025 को राज्यों से कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए दिशानिर्देश बनाने को कहा।
- “Enforcement of regulations is challenging given the size of the private sector and heterogeneity among providers,” Dr. Mehta said.  
डॉ. मेहता ने कहा कि **regulation enforcement** कठिन है।
- The average OOPE per patient was ₹1,06,566.  
प्रति मरीज औसत **OOPE** ₹1,06,566 था।
- In over 30% of the cases, the families resorted to distress financing by taking out loans, selling jewellery and even property.  
30% मामलों में परिवारों ने **loans** और संपत्ति बेचकर खर्च किया।
- As of 2025, only 47.4% rural and 44.3% of urban households had some kind of health cover.  
2025 तक केवल 47.4% ग्रामीण और 44.3% शहरी परिवारों के पास **health cover** था।



- Moreover, insurance does not cover everything.

बीमा सब कुछ कवर नहीं करता।

## 'No to commodity derivative investments by institutions'

GS III: Economy  
Ashokamithran I.  
MUMBAI

The insurance and banking watchdogs are not inclined to allow institutions to invest in commodity derivatives, said SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said at an event.

"They were engaged with them and they had a rationale that at this moment they don't feel it is the right time," said Mr. Pandey. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said it will engage with the Centre to enable banks and pension funds to trade in commodities to promote the market.

Further speaking about the threats from Mythos, Anthropic's large language model being spoken of as a security threat, Mr. Pandey said: "innovation also brings risk. New products may be misunderstood. Technology may be misused. In an interconnected securities market, a single weak link can create wider risks. Regulated entities have to stay ahead of such risks through stronger cyber resilience, continuous monitoring and faster remediation. SEBI is in constant touch with market participants and relevant stakeholders as the latest challenge after Mythos and similar AI models test our resilience. SEBI will soon issue an initial advisory on risks emanating from such models and AI-led vulnerability detection tool. AI-algorithms may move faster than human controls."

Underlining the need for access and awareness at the same time, he said investor participation must come with responsibility.

- "Most insurance schemes only cover hospitalisation; OOPE as well as expenditure on medicines is left out," Dr. Mehta said.

डॉ. मेहता ने कहा कि अधिकांश योजनाएं केवल **hospitalisation** कवर करती हैं।

- The government's Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) provides ₹5 lakh to 12 crore poor and vulnerable families.

**Ayushman Bharat PMJAY** 12 करोड़ परिवारों को ₹5 लाख का कवर देता है।

- However, rejection of claims, delays, fraud and digital dependence affect its effectiveness.

लेकिन **claim rejection**, देरी और धोखाधड़ी इसकी प्रभावशीलता को प्रभावित करते हैं।

- Another problem is the "missing middle," says Dr. Mehta.

एक समस्या "missing middle" भी है।

- "Those who are not poor enough for government schemes and not rich enough for private insurance."

जो न तो गरीब हैं और न ही निजी बीमा खरीद सकते हैं।

### Solutions ahead

#### समाधान

- India's public health expenditure is below 2% of GDP.

भारत का **public health expenditure** GDP के 2% से कम है।

- The Union Budget 2026 allocated ₹1,04,559 crore to healthcare, only 0.26% of GDP.

**Union Budget 2026** में ₹1,04,559 करोड़ आवंटित किए गए।

- The Clinical Establishments Act, 2010 mandates pricing regulation but implementation lags.

**Clinical Establishments Act 2010** लागू है लेकिन सही से लागू नहीं होता।

- State governments should enforce pricing rules.

राज्यों को **pricing rules** लागू करने चाहिए।

- Free treatment models used in polio, HIV and TB should be expanded.

**polio, HIV, TB** जैसे कार्यक्रमों का विस्तार होना चाहिए।

- To address pharmaceutical inflation, the **National List of Essential Medicines 2022** must be expanded.

**National List of Essential Medicines 2022** का विस्तार जरूरी है।

- Currently, 384 drugs are included, while the WHO list has 520.

अभी 384 दवाएं हैं, जबकि **WHO** सूची में 520 हैं।

- There is also a need to expand the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to include healthcare services.

**Essential Commodities Act 1955** में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को शामिल करना चाहिए।

### 05M. 'No to commodity derivative investments by institutions'

#### 'संस्थानों द्वारा कमोडिटी डेरिवेटिव निवेश को नहीं'

- 'No to commodity derivative investments by institutions'.

संस्थानों द्वारा **commodity derivatives** में निवेश को नहीं।

- The insurance and banking watchdogs are **not inclined to allow institutions to invest in commodity derivatives**, said **SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey** said at an event. **insurance** और **banking watchdogs** संस्थानों को **commodity derivatives** में निवेश की अनुमति देने के पक्ष में नहीं हैं, यह **SEBI Chairperson तुहिन कांत पांडे** ने एक कार्यक्रम में कहा।



- In an interconnected securities market, a single weak link can create wider risks.  
एक जुड़े हुए **securities market** में एक कमजोर कड़ी बड़े जोखिम पैदा कर सकती है।
- Regulated entities have to stay ahead of such risks through stronger cyber resilience, continuous monitoring and faster remediation.  
**regulated entities** को मजबूत **cyber resilience**, लगातार निगरानी और तेज सुधार के माध्यम से इन जोखिमों से आगे रहना होगा।

<b>GS Paper III: Environment</b>		<b>05 May 2026</b>
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>		
<b>05M</b>	<b>Mexico City is sinking so fast, it can be seen from space</b> मेक्सिको सिटी इतनी तेज़ी से धँस रही है कि इसे अंतरिक्ष से देखा जा सकता है	

## Mexico City is sinking so fast, it can be seen from space

GS III: Environment  
Associated Press

**M**exico City is sinking by nearly 25 cm a year, according to new satellite imagery released this week by NASA, making it one of the world's fastest-subsiding metropolises.

One of the world's most sprawling and populated urban areas, at 7,800 sq. km and some 22 million people, the Mexican capital and surrounding cities were built atop an ancient lake bed. Many downtown streets were once canals, a tradition that continues in the rural fringes. Extensive groundwater pumping and urban development have dramatically shrunk the aquifer, meaning that Mexico City has been sinking for more than a century, leaving many monuments and older buildings – like the Metropolitan Cathedral, where construction began in 1573 – visibly tilted to the side. The contracting aquifer has also contributed to a chronic water crisis.

"It damages part of the critical infrastructure of Mexico City, such as the subway, the drainage system, the water,

**The NASA estimates are based on measurements taken by the NISAR satellite, which is a joint initiative between NASA and ISRO that can track real-time changes on the earth's surface**

the potable water system, housing and streets," said Enrique Cabral, a researcher studying geophysics at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. "It's a very big problem."

Mexico City is sinking so fast that the subsidence can be spotted from space.

In some parts it is happening at an average rate of 2 cm a month, according to NASA, such as at the main airport and the iconic monument commonly known as the Angel of Independence.

Overall that means a yearly subsidence rate of about 24 cm. Over the course of less than a century, the drop has been more than 12 m, according to Cabral.

The NASA estimates are based on measurements taken between October 2025 and January 2026 by the NISAR satellite, which can track real-time changes on the earth's surface and is a joint initiative between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation.

NISAR scientist Paul Rosen said that by capturing details of the earth from space, the project is also "telling us something about what's actually happening below the surface." "It's basically documentation of all of these changes within a city," Mr. Rosen said. He added: "You can see the full magnitude of the problem."

With time the team hopes to be able to zoom in even more on specific areas and get measurements on a building-by-building basis.

More broadly, researchers hope to apply the technology around the world to track things like natural disasters, changes in fault lines, the effects of climate change in regions like Antarctica and more.

Mr. Rosen said it could be used to bolster alert systems, letting scientists alert governments for evacuations in cases of volcano eruptions, for example.

For Mexico City the technology amounts to a big advance in studying the subsidence issue and mitigating its worst effects, according to Cabral.

For decades the government has largely ignored the problem other than stabilizing foundations under monuments like the cathedral. But following recent flare-ups of the water crisis, Cabral said, officials have begun to fund more research. Imagery from the NISAR satellite and the data that comes with it will be key for scientists and officials as they plan on how to address the problem.

"To do long-term mitigation of the situation," Cabral said, "the first step is to just understand."

**05M. Mexico City is sinking so fast, it can be seen from space**  
मेक्सिको सिटी इतनी तेज़ी से धँस रही है कि इसे अंतरिक्ष से देखा जा सकता है

**Mexico City is sinking / मेक्सिको सिटी धँस रही है**

- Mexico City is sinking by nearly 25 cm a year, according to new satellite imagery released this week by NASA, making it one of the world's fastest-subsiding metropolises.**

मेक्सिको सिटी प्रति वर्ष लगभग 25 सेमी की दर से धँस रही है, जैसा कि इस सप्ताह नासा द्वारा जारी उपग्रह चित्रों से पता चलता है, जिससे यह विश्व के सबसे तेजी से धँसते महानगरों में से एक बन गई है।

- One of the world's most sprawling and populated urban areas, at 7,800 sq. km and some 22 million people, the Mexican capital and surrounding cities were built atop an ancient lake bed.**

विश्व के सबसे विस्तृत और जनसंख्या वाले शहरी क्षेत्रों में से एक, लगभग 7,800 वर्ग किमी क्षेत्र और लगभग 2.2 करोड़ जनसंख्या के साथ, यह शहर एक प्राचीन झील तल पर निर्मित है।

- Many downtown streets were once canals, a tradition that continues in the rural fringes.**

कई केंद्रीय सड़कों पर पहले नहरें थीं, जिसकी

परंपरा आज भी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जारी है।



- Extensive **groundwater pumping** and urban development have dramatically shrunk the **aquifer**, meaning that Mexico City has been sinking for more than a century.  
व्यापक भूजल दोहन और शहरी विकास ने जलभृत (aquifer) को अत्यधिक सिकोड़ दिया है, जिसके कारण मेक्सिको सिटी एक सदी से अधिक समय से धँस रही है।
- This has left many **monuments and older buildings** — like the **Metropolitan Cathedral** — visibly tilted.  
इससे कई स्मारक और पुराने भवन — जैसे मेट्रोपॉलिटन कैथेड्रल — स्पष्ट रूप से झुके हुए दिखाई देते हैं।
- The contracting aquifer has also contributed to a chronic **water crisis**.  
सिकुड़ता हुआ जलभृत एक स्थायी जल संकट का कारण भी बना है।
- “It damages part of the **critical infrastructure** such as the **subway, drainage system, potable water system, housing and streets**,” said **Enrique Cabral**.  
“यह शहर की महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना जैसे मेट्रो, जल निकासी प्रणाली, पेयजल प्रणाली, आवास और सड़कों को नुकसान पहुँचाता है,” ऐसा एनरिके कैब्राल ने कहा।
- In some parts it is happening at an average rate of **2 cm a month**.  
कुछ क्षेत्रों में यह औसतन 2 सेमी प्रति माह की दर से हो रहा है।
- Such as at the **main airport** and the **Angel of Independence** monument.  
जैसे कि मुख्य हवाई अड्डा और एंजेल ऑफ इंडिपेंडेंस स्मारक।
- Overall that means a **yearly subsidence rate of about 24 cm**.  
कुल मिलाकर इसका वार्षिक अवसादन लगभग 24 सेमी है।
- **Over less than a century, the drop has been more than 12 m**.  
एक सदी से कम समय में यह गिरावट 12 मीटर से अधिक हो चुकी है।
- The NASA estimates are based on measurements taken between **October 2025 and January 2026** by the **NISAR satellite**.  
नासा के अनुमान अक्टूबर 2025 से जनवरी 2026 के बीच निसार उपग्रह द्वारा लिए गए मापों पर आधारित हैं।
- **This satellite can track real-time changes on the earth's surface**.  
यह उपग्रह पृथ्वी की सतह पर वास्तविक समय परिवर्तन को ट्रैक कर सकता है।
- **It is a joint initiative between NASA and ISRO**.  
यह नासा और इसरो की संयुक्त पहल है।
- Scientist **Paul Rosen** said the **project reveals what is happening below the surface**.  
वैज्ञानिक पॉल रोसेन ने कहा कि यह परियोजना सतह के नीचे हो रही प्रक्रियाओं को भी दर्शाती है।
- **With time, the team hopes to zoom in on specific areas and get building-by-building measurements**.  
समय के साथ, टीम विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर भवन-स्तर पर माप प्राप्त करने की आशा करती है।
- **Researchers also aim to apply the technology globally to track natural disasters, fault lines, and climate change**.  
शोधकर्ता इस तकनीक का उपयोग वैश्विक स्तर पर प्राकृतिक आपदाओं, भंश रेखाओं और जलवायु परिवर्तन को ट्रैक करने के लिए करना चाहते हैं।
- **It could help improve alert systems for events like volcanic eruptions**.  
यह ज्वालामुखी विस्फोट जैसी घटनाओं के लिए चेतावनी प्रणालियों को सुदृढ़ कर सकता है।
- **For Mexico City, this technology is a major advance in studying subsidence and mitigating its effects**.  
मेक्सिको सिटी के लिए यह तकनीक अवसादन के अध्ययन और उसके प्रभावों को कम करने में एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति है।
- **For decades, the government largely ignored the issue except stabilising monument foundations**.  
दशकों तक सरकार ने इस समस्या को मुख्यतः स्मारकों की नींव स्थिर करने तक ही सीमित रखा।