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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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PCS Special:	07 May
07M	French aircraft carrier group moving into Red Sea, Gulf of Aden फ्रांसीसी विमानवाहक पोत समूह लाल सागर और अदन की खाड़ी की ओर बढ़ रहा है
07M	CNN founder Ted Turner dead at 87 सीएनएन के संस्थापक टेड टर्नर का 87 वर्ष की आयु में निधन
07M	Gukesh sends out a massive message by beating Sindarov गुकेश ने सिंदारोव को हराकर बड़ा संदेश दिया



French aircraft carrier group moving into Red Sea, Gulf of Aden



France's Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier group is moving into the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden as part of efforts by France and Britain to prepare for a future mission to help freedom of navigation on the Strait of Hormuz, France's military said on Wednesday. It said that the aircraft carrier group had crossed the Suez Canal. REUTERS

07M. French aircraft carrier group moving into Red Sea, Gulf of Aden

फ्रांसीसी विमानवाहक पोत समूह लाल सागर और अदन की खाड़ी की ओर बढ़ रहा है

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फ्रांस के चार्ल्स डी गॉल विमानवाहक पोत समूह को लाल सागर और अदन की खाड़ी में भेजा जा रहा है, जो फ्रांस और ब्रिटेन द्वारा होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में नौवहन की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भविष्य के मिशन की तैयारी के प्रयासों का हिस्सा है, ऐसा फ्रांस की सेना ने बुधवार को कहा।

CNN founder Ted Turner dead at 87

PCS
Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Ted Turner, the flamboyant U.S. entrepreneur who transformed television news with the creation of CNN in 1980, has died at the age of 87, the network said on Wednesday.

The moustached southerner, yachting enthusiast and philanthropist, whose empire also included sports clubs, had been suffering from the degenerative disease Lewy Body Dementia.

Cable News Network

upended established broadcasting with its dedication to around-the-clock breaking news and shot to global recognition with its coverage of the Gulf War in 1990-91.

The 24-hour network was the first in the United States to run non-stop news and quickly built a worldwide footprint.

Correspondents brought live coverage from major events ranging from the collapse of the Soviet Union to the Chinese crackdown on the Tiananmen Square protests. CNN's decision to keep re-



Ted Turner

porters in Baghdad amid U.S. bombing on the Iraqi capital cemented the network's reputation as an indispensable source of breaking news.

"Ted is the giant on whose shoulders we stand, and we will all take a moment today to recognise him and his impact on our lives and the world," Mark Thompson, chairperson and CEO of CNN Worldwide, said in a statement.

"He was and always will be the presiding spirit of CNN."

CNN's success inspired the creation of other 24-hour news channels including Fox News by longtime Turner rival Rupert Murdoch, MSNBC and countless networks worldwide.

07M. CNN founder Ted Turner dead at 87

सीएनएन के संस्थापक टेड टर्नर का 87 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- Ted Turner, the flamboyant U.S. entrepreneur who transformed television news with the creation of CNN in 1980, has died at the age of 87, the network said on Wednesday.

टेड टर्नर, वह चर्चित अमेरिकी उद्यमी जिन्होंने 1980 में सीएनएन की स्थापना कर टेलीविजन समाचार जगत को बदल दिया, उनका 87 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया, नेटवर्क ने बुधवार को कहा।

- The moustached southerner, yachting enthusiast and philanthropist, whose empire also included sports clubs, had been suffering from the degenerative disease Lewy Body Dementia.

मूँछों वाले दक्षिणी अमेरिकी, नौकायन प्रेमी और परोपकारी, जिनका साम्राज्य खेल क्लबों तक फैला हुआ था, वे लेवी बॉडी डिमेंशिया नामक अपक्षयी बीमारी से पीड़ित थे।



Gukesh sends out a massive message by beating Sindarov

PCS

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WARSAW

Reigning world champion D. Gukesh on Wednesday sent out a massive message to chess buffs across the globe by beating his challenger for the world crown, Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan in the fifth round of the Super Rapid and Blitz, a part of the Grand Chess Tour, here.

Gukesh had earlier walked out of the main competition of the Grand Chess Tour, citing his form and to focus more on training ahead of his World Championship title defence.

He was, however, in full swing as he matched Sindarov move for move in a rapid encounter. The Uzbek Grandmaster had earlier dismissed claims that



Statement win: Gukesh wrapped up the win against Sindarov in 52 moves. FLICKR/GRANDCHESSTOUR

this was an important clash ahead of the World Championship match but his play clearly showed he was under some pressure.

Interestingly enough, Gukesh and Sindarov both lost their previous games coming into this round. Gukesh was outdone by Radoslav Wojtashek of Poland while Sindarov lost to tournament leader Wesley So of the United States.

So leads with eight

points from five games, having won three and drawn two. With each victory worth two points in the rapid games, Wesley is now trailed by compatriot Hans Moke Niemann who is having a great run on seven points.

Gukesh is on five points and is not too far behind with as many as four rapid and 18 blitz games remaining in the tournament that offers a dynamic format.

07M. Gukesh sends out a massive message by beating Sindarov

गुकेश ने सिंदारोव को हराकर बड़ा संदेश दिया

• Reigning world champion **D. Gukesh** on Wednesday sent out a massive message to chess buffs across the globe by **beating his challenger for the world crown, Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan** in the fifth round of the **Super Rapid and Blitz**, a part of the **Grand Chess Tour**, here.

मौजूदा विश्व चैंपियन डी. गुकेश ने बुधवार को ग्रैंड चैस टूर के हिस्से सुपर रैपिड एंड ब्लिट्ज के पांचवें दौर में विश्व खिताब के अपने चुनौतीकर्ता उज्बेकिस्तान के जावोखिर सिंदारोव को हराकर दुनिया भर के शतरंज प्रेमियों को बड़ा संदेश दिया।

• **Gukesh** had earlier walked out of the main

competition of the **Grand Chess Tour**, citing his form and to focus more on training ahead of his **World Championship title defence**.

गुकेश इससे पहले अपनी फॉर्म और विश्व चैंपियनशिप खिताब की रक्षा की तैयारी पर अधिक ध्यान देने के लिए ग्रैंड चैस टूर की मुख्य प्रतियोगिता से हट गए थे।

GS Paper II: Polity		07 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07M	Nicobar's gram sabhas signed o on infra project without mandated quorum अनिवार्य कोरम के बिना निकोबार की ग्राम सभाओं ने इंफ्रा परियोजना को मंजूरी दी	
07M	CJI's role in CEC, EC appointments was temporary, pending new law: SC CEC और EC नियुक्तियों में CJI की भूमिका अस्थायी थी, नए कानून तक सीमित: SC	
07M	When does a CM cease to hold oce? मुख्यमंत्री कब पद पर बने रहना बंद करता है?	



Nicobar's gram sabhas signed off on infra project without mandated quorum

GS II: Polity

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI) administration did not achieve the mandated 50% quorum at the gram sabha meetings held to get consent for the Centre's ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project. Instead, it claimed to have done so by attendance figures ranging from 2% to 15% of the population, which, it argued in the Calcutta High Court, counted as "proper quorum". The submissions were made by the administration in an affidavit to the Bench that is hearing a batch of petitions alleging that procedures under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) had been violated in obtaining consent for the project.

Quorum is the minimum number of members needed in such a meeting to reach a decision. According to the rules issued by the Centre for the implementation of the FRA, a quorum at a gram sabha is achieved only if 'one-half' or 50% of the adult population of that village is in attendance, of which one-third must be women.

The administration submitted that meetings were held for Campbell Bay, Laxmi Nagar, and Govind Nagar gram panchayats, covering seven villages, on August 12, 2022. The Campbell Bay meeting was attended by 105 people, the one in Laxmi Nagar by 163 people, and the Govind Nagar sabha had 81 people. The administration said all three meetings passed "unanimous" resolutions consenting to the project.

Compared to the population of these gram panchayats as per the 2011

Census, the strength of the Campbell Bay meeting was 1.83% of the total population of 5,736, that of the Laxmi Nagar was 14.72% of the population of 1,107, and the attendance at the Govind Nagar meeting was 11.98% of the population of 676. Put together, 349 people (4.6%) signed off on the project at these three gram sabhas meant to represent seven villages, whose total population stood at 7,519 as of 2011.

The submissions, which were taken on record by the High Court on Wednesday, came after the Centre sought time from the court to "demonstrate that consent has been taken from the tribal people".

In the supplementary affidavit filed by an official of the Tribal Welfare Department, the administration has argued that due process was followed under the FRA to hold special gram sabhas, with "prior notice and proper quorum", which passed resolutions on forest rights of the people and consented to the diversion of forest land for the project. The administration also justified its prior notice of one day for such meetings.

"It is irrelevant to say that tribal communities were excluded from the FRA process," the administration said, because their "adequate representation" had been ensured in the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC), which had accepted the gram sabha resolution and recommended for clearance under the FRA. The petitions before the High Court challenge not just the gram sabha resolutions but also the constitution of the SDLC.

07M. Nicobar's gram sabhas signed off on infra project without mandated quorum

अनिवार्य कोरम के बिना निकोबार की ग्राम सभाओं ने इंफ्रा परियोजना को मंजूरी दी

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI) administration did not achieve the mandated 50% quorum at the gram sabha meetings held to get consent for the Centre's ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project.

अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह (A&NI) प्रशासन केंद्र की ₹92,000 करोड़ की ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप परियोजना के लिए सहमति प्राप्त करने हेतु आयोजित ग्राम सभा बैठकों में अनिवार्य 50% कोरम हासिल नहीं कर सका।

- Instead, it claimed to have done so by attendance figures ranging from 2% to 15% of the population, which, it argued in the Calcutta High Court, counted as "proper quorum".

इसके बजाय, प्रशासन ने दावा किया कि उसने जनसंख्या के 2% से 15% तक की उपस्थिति के आधार पर यह प्रक्रिया पूरी की, जिसे उसने कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट में "उचित कोरम" बताया।

- The submissions were made by the administration in an affidavit to the Bench that is hearing a batch of petitions alleging that procedures under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) had been violated in obtaining consent for the project.

ये प्रस्तुतियाँ प्रशासन द्वारा उस पीठ के समक्ष दायर हलफनामे में की गईं, जो उन याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई कर रही है जिनमें आरोप लगाया गया है कि परियोजना के लिए सहमति प्राप्त करने में वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA) की प्रक्रियाओं का उल्लंघन किया गया।

- According to the rules issued by the Centre for the implementation of the FRA, a quorum at a gram sabha is achieved only if 'one-half' or 50% of the adult population of that village is in attendance, of which one-third must be women.

FRA के क्रियान्वयन के लिए केंद्र द्वारा जारी नियमों के अनुसार, ग्राम सभा में कोरम तभी पूरा माना जाएगा जब उस गांव की वयस्क आबादी का 'आधा' या 50% उपस्थित हो, जिसमें एक-तिहाई महिलाएँ हों।



CJI's role in CEC, EC appointments was temporary, pending new law: SC

Court's observation was in response to pleas challenging a 2023 Act, which replaced the CJI with a Union Minister on the selection panel; petitioners argue this law overrides a Constitution Bench judgment which sought a panel of PM, LoP, CJI

GS II: Polity

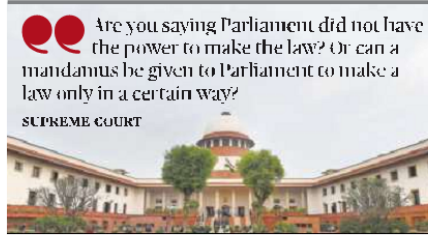
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Chief Justice of India's involvement in the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) was only meant to last until Parliament came up with a law.

The court's observation was in response to multiple petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act of 2023.

The petitioners, who include the Association for Democratic Reforms and activist Jaya Thakur, said the 2023 law clothed the political executive of the day with a dominant, if not "exclusive", control over the appointment of the CEC and ECs.

The law was introduced in December 2023, ostensibly to countermand a Constitution Bench judgment in March the same year.



This judgment had declared that CEC and EC appointments should be made on the recommendation of a committee of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha (LoP) or the leader of the largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

The court had ordered that its judgment would remain operative till "Parliament makes a law in consonance with Article 324(2) of the Constitution".

Consequently, the government brought the 2023 Act, replacing the CJI with a Union Cabinet Minister in the committee. The current CEC, Gyanesh

Kumar, was the first to be appointed to the office under the new law.

'Prime Minister's man'
On Wednesday, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for the petitioners, said the Constitution framers and the Supreme Court itself had never intended the CEC to be the "Prime Minister's baby or the Prime Minister's man".

Mr. Hansaria submitted that both the Constitution framers and the Supreme Court had warned against leaving the appointment of Election Commissioners exclusively in the hands of the executive.

He referred to the Supreme Court's own obser-

vations in the March 2023 Constitution Bench judgment (*Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India*) that the "fierce independence, neutrality and honesty" envisaged in the institution of the Election Commission required an end to government monopoly and "exclusive control" over appointments to the highest poll body.

Prior to the judgment, the CEC and ECs were appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The judgment had brought the appointment process on par with that of the CBI Director.

However, Justice Datta highlighted that even the Supreme Court had only intended the judgment to be operative till Parliament passed a law.

"Are you saying Parliament did not have the power to make the law? Or can a mandamus be given to Parliament to make a law only in a certain way?" Justice Datta asked.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, also for the petitioners, said

their case was not just about the replacement of the CJI with a Cabinet Minister in the committee. It was also about the constitutionality of an Act which had effectively reverted the control over the appointment of CEC and ECs to the Executive.

"The point is Election Commission appointments cannot be under the control of the executive," he submitted.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan said the Anoop Baranwal judgment had addressed a "legislative vacuum". Before March 2023, appointments of the CEC and ECs were made by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The "arrangement" had ensured that the power of appointment rested with the Political Executive.

"This mechanism ought to have stopped in the 1950s, but whichever parties came to power found the arrangement convenient," Mr. Sankaranarayanan said.

Arguments would continue on Thursday.

07M. CJI's role in CEC, EC appointments was temporary, pending new law: SC CEC और EC नियुक्तियों में CJI की भूमिका अस्थायी थी, नए कानून तक सीमित: SC

- The **Supreme Court** on Wednesday said the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**'s involvement in the appointment of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and **Election Commissioners (ECs)** was only meant to last until Parliament came up with a law.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को कहा कि मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) की मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) और चुनाव आयुक्तों (ECs) की नियुक्ति में भागीदारी केवल तब तक के लिए थी जब तक संसद कोई कानून नहीं बना देती।

- The court's observation was in response to multiple petitions challenging the **Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act of 2023**.

अदालत की यह टिप्पणी मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और अन्य चुनाव आयुक्त (नियुक्ति, सेवा की शर्तें और कार्यकाल) अधिनियम, 2023 को चुनौती देने वाली कई याचिकाओं के जवाब में आई।

- The petitioners, who include the **Association for Democratic Reforms** and activist **Jaya Thakur**, said the 2023 law clothed the political executive of the day with a dominant, if not "exclusive", control over the appointment of the **CEC** and **ECs**.

याचिकाकर्ताओं, जिनमें एसोसिएशन फॉर डेमोक्रेटिक रिफॉर्म्स और कार्यकर्ता जया ठाकुर शामिल हैं, ने कहा



कि 2023 का कानून CEC और ECs की नियुक्ति पर राजनीतिक कार्यपालिका को प्रमुख, यदि "विशेष" नहीं, तो नियंत्रण प्रदान करता है।

- Consequently, the government brought the **2023 Act**, replacing the **CJI** with a **Union Cabinet Minister** in the committee.

इसके बाद सरकार ने **2023 अधिनियम** लाया, जिसमें समिति में **CJI** की जगह एक **केंद्रीय कैबिनेट मंत्री** को शामिल किया गया।

- He referred to the **Supreme Court's** own observations in the March 2023 **Constitution Bench** judgment (**Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India**) that the "fierce independence, neutrality and honesty" envisaged in the institution of the **Election Commission** required an end to government monopoly and "exclusive control" over appointments to the highest poll body.

उन्होंने मार्च 2023 के संविधान पीठ के फैसले (अनूप बरनवाल बनाम भारत संघ) में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की टिप्पणियों का उल्लेख किया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि चुनाव आयोग की "कड़ी स्वतंत्रता, निष्पक्षता और ईमानदारी" सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार के एकाधिकार और "विशेष नियंत्रण" को समाप्त करना आवश्यक है।

When does a CM cease to hold office?

Can a Governor remove a Chief Minister? What does 'pleasure of the Governor' mean? When is a floor test required? What happens after the Assembly's tenure ends? Can election results be challenged in court?

GS II: Polity

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

aday after the Trinamool Congress lost the West Bengal elections to the BJP, party chairperson Mamata Banerjee on May 5 said she would not resign as Chief Minister, alleging that the verdict was the result of a "conspiracy" rather than the people's mandate. Addressing a press conference, Ms. Banerjee claimed the elections had not been conducted fairly and accused the BJP of misusing central forces to "forcibly capture" booths and influence the outcome. She added that the party would challenge the results and continue its political fight.

Can a Governor remove a CM?

Article 164(i) of the Constitution provides that "the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor." On a literal reading of the provision, therefore, the Governor appears to possess the authority to remove a CM from office. However, members of the Constituent Assembly had cautioned that such a provision could potentially lend itself to an arbitrary exercise of gubernatorial discretion.

Constituent Assembly member Mohammad Ismail Khan had moved an amendment to the provision (then Article 144 of the Draft Constitution) proposing that the phrase "during the pleasure" be replaced with the words "so long as they enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Assembly of the State." He contended that once the constitutional scheme envisaged the Governor as a nominee of the



A woman walks past banners of Mamata Banerjee, on Wednesday, in Kolkata. PTI

President, the Constitution ought to have made it explicit that the Council of Ministers would hold office not at the Governor's pleasure, but only so long as it continued to enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.

Addressing this concern, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, affirmed that the Council of Ministers shall hold office only so long as it enjoys the confidence of the majority. "The reason why we have not so expressly stated it," he explained, "is because it has not been stated in that fashion or in those terms in any of the Constitutions which lay down a parliamentary system of government."

Over the years, the Supreme Court has also interpreted the Governor's powers as flowing primarily from the "aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers. In A.G. Perarivalan v. State Through Superintendent of Police (2022), the apex court observed that the "Governor" is "but a shorthand expression for the State government". While recognising the Governor as "the formal head and sole

repository of the executive power", the court held that the office is ordinarily bound by the aid and advice of the State's Council of Ministers.

When is a floor test required?

If a Governor asks a Chief Minister to step down and invites another candidate for the post while the tenure of the Legislative Assembly is still on, there has to be a floor test – a constitutional mechanism used to determine whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature. Under this process, the Chief Minister must prove majority support in the House. Failure to do so requires the CM to resign.

If no party or coalition can form a stable government, President's Rule under Article 356 may be imposed as a measure of last resort.

What happens after the Assembly's tenure ends?

Article 172 of the Constitution deals with the duration of a State Legislative Assembly and stipulates that, "unless

sooner dissolved", an Assembly "shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer, and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Assembly."

According to the Election Commission, the current West Bengal Assembly commenced its term on May 8, 2021, and is set to expire on May 7. Thereafter, the Governor will have to initiate the process for constituting a new Assembly.

What happens next?

According to former Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary, a formal resignation following defeat in an Assembly election is largely a matter of convention. "Even if Ms. Banerjee does not resign, it would make no material difference. The tenure of the present Assembly ends on May 7, and with its dissolution, she will automatically cease to hold office as Chief Minister," he said.

He, however, pointed out that an election petition may be filed before the Calcutta High Court within 45 days from the declaration of the results of the concerned candidate. Section 100 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 enumerates the grounds on which the election of a candidate may be challenged and declared void, including corrupt practices by the candidate and non-compliance with statutory provisions by the returning officer, among other grounds. He noted that a writ petition may be maintainable where the challenge concerns the integrity of the electoral process itself, including allegations of arbitrary voter deletions during the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

"Large-scale deletion of voters in an election constitutes a violation of fundamental rights and can therefore be challenged through a writ petition," he said.

THE GIST

Though Article 164 states that the Council of Ministers holds office "during the pleasure of the Governor", this is not absolute; in practice, a Chief Minister can continue only so long as they enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.

The majority of a Chief Minister is determined through a floor test in the House, and if they fail to prove support, they must resign.



07M. When does a CM cease to hold office?

मुख्यमंत्री कब पद पर बने रहना बंद करता है?

Can a Governor remove a CM?

क्या राज्यपाल किसी मुख्यमंत्री को पद से हटा सकता है?

- **Article 164(1) of the Constitution** provides that “the **Chief Minister** shall be appointed by the **Governor** and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.”
संविधान के अनुच्छेद 164(1) में यह प्रावधान किया गया है कि “मुख्यमंत्री की नियुक्ति राज्यपाल द्वारा की जाएगी तथा अन्य मंत्रियों की नियुक्ति मुख्यमंत्री की सलाह पर राज्यपाल द्वारा की जाएगी, और मंत्री राज्यपाल के प्रसादपर्यंत पद धारण करेंगे।”
- **Constituent Assembly member Mohammad Ismail Khan** had moved an amendment to the provision (then **Article 144** of the Draft Constitution) proposing that the phrase “during the pleasure” be replaced with the words “so long as they enjoy the confidence of the **Legislative Assembly** of the State.”
संविधान सभा के सदस्य मोहम्मद इस्माइल खान ने इस प्रावधान (तत्कालीन प्रारूप संविधान के अनुच्छेद 144) में संशोधन प्रस्तुत करते हुए प्रस्ताव रखा था कि “प्रसादपर्यंत” शब्दों के स्थान पर “जब तक वे राज्य की विधानसभा का विश्वास बनाए रखें” शब्दों का प्रयोग किया जाए।
- **Over the years, the Supreme Court** has also interpreted the **Governor’s powers** as flowing primarily from the “aid and advice” of the **Council of Ministers**.
वर्षों के दौरान, उच्चतम न्यायालय ने भी राज्यपाल की शक्तियों की व्याख्या मुख्यतः मंत्रिपरिषद की “सहायता और सलाह” से उत्पन्न होने वाली शक्तियों के रूप में की है।
- In **A.G. Perarivalan v. State Through Superintendent of Police (2022)**, the apex court observed that the “Governor” is “but a shorthand expression for the State government”.
A.G. Perarivalan बनाम राज्य पुलिस अधीक्षक के माध्यम से राज्य (2022) मामले में, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने टिप्पणी की कि “राज्यपाल” वास्तव में “राज्य सरकार के लिए प्रयुक्त एक संक्षिप्त अभिव्यक्ति मात्र” है।

When is a floor test required?

फ्लोर टेस्ट की आवश्यकता कब पड़ती है?

- If a **Governor** asks a **Chief Minister** to step down and invites another candidate for the post while the tenure of the **Legislative Assembly** is still on, there has to be a **floor test** — a constitutional mechanism used to determine whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature.
यदि कोई राज्यपाल किसी मुख्यमंत्री से पद छोड़ने को कहता है तथा विधानसभा का कार्यकाल समाप्त हुए बिना किसी अन्य उम्मीदवार को पद ग्रहण करने के लिए आमंत्रित करता है, तो फ्लोर टेस्ट आवश्यक हो जाता है — यह एक संवैधानिक प्रक्रिया है जिसका उपयोग यह निर्धारित करने के लिए किया जाता है कि कार्यपालिका को विधायिका का विश्वास प्राप्त है या नहीं।
- **Under this process, the Chief Minister** must prove majority support in the House.
इस प्रक्रिया के अंतर्गत, मुख्यमंत्री को सदन में बहुमत समर्थन सिद्ध करना होता है।
- **Failure to do so requires the CM** to resign.
ऐसा करने में विफल रहने पर मुख्यमंत्री को इस्तीफा देना पड़ता है।
- If no party or coalition can form a stable government, **President’s Rule** under **Article 356** may be imposed as a measure of last resort.
यदि कोई दल अथवा गठबंधन स्थिर सरकार बनाने में सक्षम न हो, तो अंतिम उपाय के रूप में अनुच्छेद 356 के अंतर्गत राष्ट्रपति शासन लगाया जा सकता है।



What happens after the Assembly's tenure ends?

विधानसभा का कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद क्या होता है?

- According to the **Election Commission**, the current **West Bengal Assembly** commenced its term on **May 8, 2021**, and is set to expire on **May 7**.
निर्वाचन आयोग के अनुसार, वर्तमान पश्चिम बंगाल विधानसभा का कार्यकाल 8 मई 2021 से प्रारम्भ हुआ था तथा यह 7 मई को समाप्त होने वाला है।
- Thereafter, the **Governor** will have to initiate the process for constituting a new Assembly.
इसके पश्चात् राज्यपाल को नई विधानसभा के गठन की प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ करनी होगी।

What happens next?

इसके बाद क्या होगा?

- According to former **Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary**, a formal resignation following defeat in an Assembly election is largely a matter of convention.
पूर्व लोकसभा महासचिव पी. डी. टी. आचार्य के अनुसार, विधानसभा चुनाव में पराजय के बाद औपचारिक इस्तीफा देना मुख्यतः एक परंपरा का विषय है।
- “Even if **Ms. Banerjee** does not resign, it would make no material difference. The tenure of the present Assembly ends on **May 7**, and with its dissolution, she will automatically cease to hold office as **Chief Minister**,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “यदि सुश्री बनर्जी इस्तीफा नहीं भी देती हैं, तो इससे कोई वास्तविक अंतर नहीं पड़ेगा। वर्तमान विधानसभा का कार्यकाल 7 मई को समाप्त हो रहा है, और उसके विघटन के साथ ही वे स्वतः मुख्यमंत्री पद पर नहीं रहेंगी।”
- He, however, pointed out that an **election petition** may be filed before the **Calcutta High Court** within **45 days** from the declaration of the results of the concerned candidate.
हालाँकि, उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि संबंधित उम्मीदवार के परिणाम घोषित होने के 45 दिनों के भीतर कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय में निर्वाचन याचिका दायर की जा सकती है।
- Section 100** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** enumerates the grounds on which the election of a candidate may be challenged and declared void, including **corrupt practices** by the candidate and non-compliance with statutory provisions by the **returning officer**, among other grounds.
जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 100 उन आधारों का उल्लेख करती है जिन पर किसी उम्मीदवार के निर्वाचन को चुनौती दी जा सकती है तथा उसे निरस्त घोषित किया जा सकता है, जिनमें उम्मीदवार द्वारा भ्रष्ट आचरण तथा रिटर्निंग अधिकारी द्वारा वैधानिक प्रावधानों का अनुपालन न करना आदि शामिल हैं।
- He noted that a **writ petition** may be maintainable where the challenge concerns the integrity of the **electoral process** itself, including allegations of arbitrary voter deletions during the **special intensive revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal**.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा that ऐसी स्थिति में रिट याचिका स्वीकार्य हो सकती है, जहाँ चुनौती स्वयं निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया की निष्पक्षता से संबंधित हो, जिसमें पश्चिम बंगाल में मतदाता सूचियों के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण के दौरान मनमाने ढंग से मतदाताओं के नाम हटाने के आरोप शामिल हों।
- “Large-scale deletion of voters in an election constitutes a violation of **fundamental rights** and can therefore be challenged through a **writ petition**,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “चुनाव में बड़े पैमाने पर मतदाताओं के नाम हटाया जाना मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन है और इसलिए इसे रिट याचिका के माध्यम से चुनौती दी जा सकती है।”

GS Paper II: Governance

07 May 2026

TOPICS COVERED

07M Ex-Prasar Bharati CEO Vempati named CBFC Chairperson



पूर्व प्रसार भारती CEO वेंपति को CBFC का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया

Ex-Prasar Bharati CEO Vempati named CBFC Chairperson

GS II: Governance

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI



Shashi Shekhar Vempati

Former Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati has been appointed Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). He replaces Prasoon Joshi, who has been named the Prasar Bharati Chairman.

Mr. Joshi, a screenwriter and lyricist, who has also worked in advertising, had been helming the CBFC since 2017, before his appointment to the public broadcaster on May 2.

Mr. Vempati had been Prasar Bharati CEO from 2017 to 2022, following which he served in various capacities at the University Grants Commission, television ratings agency BARC, and the Department of Science and Technology. More recently, he has been running AI4India, a forum that has held discussions on fostering a domestic AI ecosystem. He is also on the Board of BharatGen, an IIT Bombay-incubated initiative that is working on Indic language-focused AI models.

Censorship expansion

Mr. Joshi's tenure at the CBFC was characterised by a digitisation effort that culminated in the e-Cine-

pramaan system, used by censor board officials to process applications and hand out certificates. While he rarely discussed his role at the CBFC, film censorship expanded in key areas, such as mention of political personalities and scrutiny of religious themes in cinema. Hundreds of hours of footage were impacted by censorship from 2018 to 2022, a period during which cut lists were readily available. The CBFC shut off ready access to cut lists last year.

The Board faced court challenges in this period from the producers of Vijay-starrer *Jana Nayagan* and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut-starrer *Emergency*, with both accusing the CBFC of illegally withholding certificates even after examining committees had approved those films.

जारी करने में करते हैं।

- The **CBFC shut off ready access to cut lists last year.**
CBFC ने पिछले वर्ष कट लिस्ट तक आसान पहुँच बंद कर दी।

07M. Ex-Prasar Bharati CEO Vempati named CBFC Chairperson

पूर्व प्रसार भारती CEO वेंपति को CBFC का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया

- Former **Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati** has been appointed Chairperson of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**.

पूर्व प्रसार भारती CEO शशि शेखर वेंपति को सेंट्रल बोर्ड ऑफ फिल्म सर्टिफिकेशन (CBFC) का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है।

- He replaces **Prasoon Joshi**, who has been named the **Prasar Bharati Chairman**.

उन्होंने प्रसून जोशी का स्थान लिया है, जिन्हें प्रसार भारती चेयरमैन बनाया गया है।

- More recently, he has been running **AI4India**, a forum that has held discussions on fostering a domestic **AI ecosystem**.

हाल ही में, वह **AI4India** चला रहे हैं, जो घरेलू **AI इकोसिस्टम** को बढ़ावा देने पर चर्चा करने वाला एक मंच है।

- He is also on the **Board of BharatGen**, an **IIT Bombay-incubated** initiative that is working on **Indic language-focused AI models**.

वह **BharatGen** के बोर्ड में भी हैं, जो **IIT Bombay-incubated** पहल है और **भारतीय भाषाओं पर केंद्रित AI मॉडल्स** पर कार्य कर रही हैं।

Censorship expansion

सेंसरशिप का विस्तार

- Mr. **Joshi's** tenure at the **CBFC** was characterised by a digitisation effort that culminated in the **e-Cinepramaan system**, used by censor board officials to process applications and hand out certificates.

जोशी का CBFC कार्यकाल डिजिटलीकरण प्रयासों के लिए जाना गया, जिसका परिणाम **e-Cinepramaan system** के रूप में सामने आया, जिसका उपयोग सेंसर बोर्ड अधिकारी आवेदन प्रक्रिया और प्रमाणपत्र

GS Paper II: International Relations		07 May 2026
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	भारत और अल्जीरिया ने पहली संयुक्त रक्षा आयोग बैठक आयोजित की
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07M	Belgium trades barbs with the U.S., Israel as antisemitism row ares यहूदी-विरोधी विवाद बढ़ने पर बेलजियम की अमेरिका और इज़राइल से तीखी बहस

Vietnam major pillar of India's Act East Policy, says Modi as defence, rare-earth ties renewed

CS II IR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's relation with Vietnam is a partnership that does not aim at any other country in the Indo-Pacific region, said senior officials on Wednesday.

The remarks came soon after India welcomed General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam's Central Committee To Lam, who is also the current Vietnamese President.

During a bilateral discussion at Hyderabad House between To Lam and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two sides elevated the bilateral relation to the level of "enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership" and signed at least 13 documents, including one on cooperation in critical minerals.

"Vietnam is a major pil-



Key partners: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Vietnamese President To Lam in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

lar of India's Act East Policy and Vision MAHASAGAR. We have a common outlook in the field of Indo-Pacific. With our strengthening ties in the field of defence and security, we are helping rule of law, peace, stability and prosperity. India will expand ties with ASEAN through its relation with Vietnam,"

said Mr. Modi, welcoming Mr. Lam.

Mr. Modi said India-Vietnam trade has touched \$16 billion and would touch \$25 billion by 2030.

Recalls Nehru's visit

Delivering a speech at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) after being hosted at Hyderabad

House by Mr. Modi, Mr. Lam referred to India's support to Vietnam's liberation and said, "We will never forget that Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was the first foreign leader to visit Vietnam in 1954, just one week after the liberation of Hanoi."

In a joint statement, the two sides welcomed the steady progress in the implementation of the defence Lines of Credit (LoC) extended by India to Vietnam, acknowledging that the LoC helped "Vietnam's defence capabilities" and advanced bilateral defence cooperation.

The Ministry of Public Security in Vietnam also firmed up plans to enhance work with the National Security Council Secretariat of India.

The visiting side also sealed thirteen documents

with India, including an MoU between the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of Vietnam on cooperation in the area of Payment Systems and innovation in digital payments as well as an MoU on radioactive and rare earth minerals.

Earlier in the day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, Phan Van Giang in New Delhi reaffirming the strong momentum in India-Vietnam defence relations.

The discussions focused on expanding cooperation in maritime security; defence industry collaboration; and joint research. The two sides also stressed the need to enhance regular military interactions

07M. Vietnam major pillar of India's Act East Policy, says Modi as defence, rare-earth ties renewed

भारत की एकट ईस्ट नीति का प्रमुख स्तंभ वियतनाम, रक्षा और रेयर-अर्थ संबंधों को नया रूप : मोदी

- During a bilateral discussion at **Hyderabad House** between **To Lam** and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, the **two sides elevated the bilateral relation to the level of "enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership"** and signed at least 13 documents, including one on cooperation in **critical minerals**.

हैदराबाद हाउस में टो लाम और प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के बीच द्विपक्षीय चर्चा के दौरान दोनों पक्षों ने संबंधों को "उन्नत व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी" के स्तर तक बढ़ाया और महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों में सहयोग सहित कम-से-कम 13 दस्तावेजों पर हस्ताक्षर किए।



- **“Vietnam is a major pillar of India’s Act East Policy and Vision MAHASAGAR.**
“वियतनाम भारत की एक्ट ईस्ट नीति और विजन महासागर का प्रमुख स्तंभ है।
- Mr. Modi said **India-Vietnam trade has touched \$16 billion and would touch \$25 billion by 2030.**
श्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारत-वियतनाम व्यापार 16 अरब डॉलर तक पहुँच चुका है और 2030 तक 25 अरब डॉलर तक पहुँच जाएगा।

Recalls Nehru’s visit

नेहरू की यात्रा को याद किया गया

- Delivering a speech at the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)** after being hosted at Hyderabad House by Mr. Modi, Mr. Lam referred to India’s support to Vietnam’s liberation and said, **“We will never forget that Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was the first foreign leader to visit Vietnam in 1954, just one week after the liberation of Hanoi.”**
श्री मोदी द्वारा हैदराबाद हाउस में आयोजित कार्यक्रम के बाद **इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ वर्ल्ड अफेयर्स (ICWA)** में भाषण देते हुए श्री लाम ने वियतनाम की स्वतंत्रता में भारत के समर्थन का उल्लेख किया और कहा, “हम कभी नहीं भूलेंगे कि प्रधानमंत्री **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** 1954 में हनोई की मुक्ति के केवल एक सप्ताह बाद वियतनाम आने वाले पहले विदेशी नेता थे।”
- In a joint statement, the two sides welcomed the steady progress in the implementation of the Defense **Lines of Credit (LoC) extended by India to Vietnam**, acknowledging that the **LoC helped “Vietnam’s defence capabilities” and advanced bilateral defence cooperation.**
संयुक्त बयान में दोनों पक्षों ने भारत द्वारा वियतनाम को दिए गए रक्षा **लाइन ऑफ क्रेडिट (LoC)** के कार्यान्वयन में हुई स्थिर प्रगति का स्वागत किया और माना कि इस LoC ने “वियतनाम की रक्षा क्षमताओं” को मजबूत किया तथा द्विपक्षीय रक्षा सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाया।
- **The visiting side also sealed thirteen documents with India, including an MoU between the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of Vietnam on cooperation in the area of Payment Systems and innovation in digital payments as well as an MoU on radioactive and rare earth minerals.**
आगत पक्ष ने भारत के साथ तेरह दस्तावेजों पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिनमें **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक और स्टेट बैंक ऑफ वियतनाम** के बीच भुगतान प्रणाली और डिजिटल भुगतान नवाचार में सहयोग पर एक **समझौता ज्ञापन**

(MoU) तथा रेडियोधर्मी और रेयर अर्थ खनिजों पर एक MoU शामिल है।

- Earlier in the day, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** held a bilateral meeting with Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, **Phan Van Giang** in New Delhi reaffirming the strong momentum in India-Vietnam defence relations.

इससे पहले दिन में रक्षा मंत्री **राजनाथ सिंह** ने नई दिल्ली में वियतनाम के उपप्रधानमंत्री और राष्ट्रीय रक्षा मंत्री **फान वान जियांग** के साथ द्विपक्षीय बैठक की और भारत-वियतनाम रक्षा संबंधों की मजबूत गति की पुनः पुष्टि की।

07M. India, Algeria hold first joint defence commission meet

भारत और अल्जीरिया ने पहली संयुक्त रक्षा आयोग बैठक आयोजित की

- **India and Algeria held their inaugural Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday, marking a significant step forward in bilateral defence ties.**

भारत और अल्जीरिया ने मंगलवार को नई दिल्ली में अपनी पहली संयुक्त आयोग बैठक आयोजित की, जो द्विपक्षीय रक्षा संबंधों में एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति



GS II: IR

India, Algeria hold first joint defence commission meet

India and Algeria held their inaugural Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday, marking a significant step forward in bilateral defence ties. According to the Defence Ministry, the discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in key areas such as training, joint military exercises, medical collaboration, and defence industry engagement. Both sides signed the Rules of Procedure to oversee the implementation of India-Algeria defence cooperation. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Amitabh Prasad and Algeria’s Chief of Staff of the Naval Forces, Major General Kaid Nour Eddine.



का संकेत है।

- According to the **Defence Ministry**, the discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in key areas such as training, joint military exercises, medical collaboration, and defence industry engagement.

रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, चर्चा का केंद्र प्रशिक्षण, संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास, चिकित्सा सहयोग और रक्षा उद्योग सहभागिता जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाना था।

- Both sides signed the **Rules of Procedure** to oversee the implementation of **India-Algeria defence cooperation**.

दोनों पक्षों ने भारत-अल्जीरिया रक्षा सहयोग के कार्यान्वयन की निगरानी के लिए रूस ऑफ प्रोसीजर पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

Indonesia's 'new' aircraft carrier: defence boost or expensive gamble?

The decommissioned Italian carrier is expected to enhance Indonesia's offensive capabilities, amid China's aggressive posturing; an expert says it is good news for ASEAN and India, which would want a stronger Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific; but Opposition parties raise concerns over its viability

GS II: IR
NEWS ANALYSIS

Aniket Singh Chauhan

In April 28, the Italian Parliament backed the Georgia Meloni-led government's plan to donate a decommissioned aircraft carrier, *Giuseppe Garibaldi*, to Indonesia. If things go as planned, the Indonesian Navy may welcome its first-ever aircraft carrier as early as October 5, as per the Naval Chief, Admiral Muhammad Ali.

With this, Indonesia will become only the second country in Southeast Asia, after Thailand, to operate an aircraft carrier. This purchase is being seen as a part of President Prabowo Subianto's push to modernise the Indonesian Armed Forces, in an effort to maintain strategic autonomy in the face of growing enmity between the United States and China.

Push for modernisation
"A big nation like us needs a strong military. No nation can be independent without having a strong military," were the words of President Subianto while addressing Indonesian Military personnel in 2025.

As per Rajiv Bhatia, distinguished fellow at Gateway House and former ambassador, "President Subianto's modernisation push in defence has been his guiding principle since his time as the Defence Minister." A former special forces operative and General in the Indonesian Army, Mr. Subianto served as the country's Defence Mi-



Giuseppe Garibaldi was decommissioned in 2024 after 40 years of service. It is V/STOL (vertical/short take-off and landing) capable and will be fully refurbished before joining the Indonesian Navy. REUTERS

nister from 2019 to 2024 in President Joko Widodo's government before ascending to the Presidency.

As a result, Mr. Subianto has inked and overseen a flurry of defence deals with a host of countries. Major deals included six FREMM-class and two Maestrale-class frigates from Italy; 42 Rafale fighters, 13 long-range radars, and two Scorpène-class submarines from France; and 48 KAAAN fighter jets and two Istanbul-class frigates from Türkiye.

Mr. Bhatia added, "President Subianto's foreign policy has been more independent and resilient than his predecessor Jokowi (Joko Widodo). He has been favouring better relations with the West, especially the U.S. However, he still prefers a balanced approach with respect to Beijing."

In 2024, Mr. Subianto stated, "Partnerships are better than conflicts,"

when questions on Chinese claims over Indonesian water arose after his visit to Beijing.

Strategic tightrope
Since swearing in, Mr. Subianto has been walking a diplomatic and strategic tightrope to balance China and the U.S., while trying to maintain the *Bebas dan Aktif* (free and active) policy of non-alignment that has guided Jakarta since independence. But recent times have proved difficult for the archipelagic nation.

China has been using increasingly aggressive postures on the Natuna Islands dispute. The dispute centres on Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone in the North Natuna Sea, roughly 650 nautical miles north of Jakarta, which China claims falls within its so-called nine-dash line.

While Indonesia, for long, maintained that it had no territorial dispute with China in the South

China Sea, the Natuna Islands have witnessed several confrontations since 2005. In 2020, when President Subianto was the Defence Minister, a major standoff drew warships, jet fighters, and even the then President Joko Widodo to the remote islands.

In 2024, a joint statement by China and Indonesia, after President Subianto's visit, resulted in Indonesia recognising the dispute officially for the first time. While the Indonesian Foreign Ministry was quick to reiterate that it did not recognise Chinese claims in the South China Sea under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Mr. Subianto had to face intense scrutiny over this controversial development.

On the other hand, in April this year, controversy arose when a leaked U.S. document reportedly detailed a deal which granted

the U.S. 'blanket overflight rights' over Indonesia, agreed upon by both governments. Essentially, it allowed U.S. aircraft to use Indonesian airspace without permission until the U.S. itself chose to deactivate the rights. The now-stalled deal triggered a massive political storm in Jakarta, putting Mr. Subianto's government in a spot, yet again.

In such a situation, the news of *Giuseppe Garibaldi* might be the positive development that President Subianto needs. "It will be interesting to see how China, the U.S., and Indonesia's internal Opposition react to *Garibaldi*. It is certainly good news for ASEAN and India, which would want a stronger Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific," added Mr. Bhatia.

'Non-war operations'
"We intend to focus the ship on non-war military operations, but it may also be deployed for other missions related to combat," said Admiral Ali when he confirmed the plans to acquire the carrier in 2025 and stressed that the vessel may also be used for disaster relief.

But Commodore Deepak Bhatia (ret.d.), who has served aboard India's aircraft carrier *INS Viraat*, states, "You don't induct an aircraft carrier only for disaster relief missions. The forthcoming carrier will certainly enhance Indonesia's offensive and power projection capabilities."

Officially designated as an aircraft-carrying cruiser by the Italian Navy, *Gari-*

baldi was built by Fincantieri and decommissioned in 2024 after nearly 40 years of service. Being V/STOL (vertical/short take-off and landing) capable, it operated Harrier II aircraft and a mix of anti-submarine helicopters. The carrier will undergo a full refurbishment before joining the Indonesian Navy.

Indonesia is reportedly considering including the Harriers in the deal as well since it has limited aircraft options. While the U.S. has rejected Indonesia's attempts to buy the F-35 Lightning II aircraft, Chinese and French options are not equipped with vertical take-off and landing capabilities. Fincantieri has proposed to convert the carrier into a helicopter and/or drone carrier, ditching the fighters. However, a final decision is yet to be taken.

Though questions on the carrier's viability and age have been raised by the Opposition parties, Mr. Bhatia said, "The refit route was better suited for Indonesia since it would have been too expensive to buy a new one." Commodore Deepak Bhatia stated, "This addition to the Indonesian Navy will definitely make it a more potent force."

However, whether Indonesia can operate a carrier effectively, given its limited defence budget and near-zero experience, remains uncertain. Thailand's *Chakri Narubet* offers a cautionary tale: plagued by maintenance failures, rarely deployed, and now better known as a tourist attraction than a warship.

07M. Indonesia's 'new' aircraft carrier: defence boost or expensive gamble?

इंडोनेशिया का 'नया' विमानवाहक पोत: रक्षा मजबूती या महंगा दांव?

- On April 28, the **Italian Parliament** backed the **Georgia Meloni-led government's** plan to donate a decommissioned aircraft carrier, **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, to Indonesia.



28 अप्रैल को इतालवी संसद ने जॉर्जिया मेलोनी सरकार की सेवानिवृत्त विमानवाहक पोत ज्यूसेप्पे गैरीबाल्डी को इंडोनेशिया को दान देने की योजना का समर्थन किया।

- If things go as planned, the **Indonesian Navy** may welcome its first-ever aircraft carrier as early as **October 5**, as per the Naval Chief, **Admiral Muhammad Ali**.

यदि सब कुछ योजना के अनुसार हुआ, तो नौसेना प्रमुख एडमिरल मुहम्मद अली के अनुसार, इंडोनेशियाई नौसेना 5 अक्टूबर तक अपना पहला विमानवाहक पोत प्राप्त कर सकती है।

- With this, **Indonesia** will become only the second country in **Southeast Asia**, after **Thailand**, to operate an aircraft carrier.

इसके साथ ही इंडोनेशिया, थाईलैंड के बाद दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया का दूसरा देश बन जाएगा जो विमानवाहक पोत संचालित करेगा।

- This purchase is being seen as a part of President **Prabowo Subianto's** push to modernise the **Indonesian Armed Forces**, in an effort to maintain strategic autonomy in the face of growing enmity between the **United States** and **China**.

इस खरीद को राष्ट्रपति प्रबोवो सुबियांतो द्वारा इंडोनेशियाई सशस्त्र बलों के आधुनिकीकरण के प्रयास का हिस्सा माना जा रहा है, ताकि अमेरिका और चीन के बीच बढ़ती दुश्मनी के बीच रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता बनाए रखी जा सके।

North Korea revises constitution to remove 'unification' with the South

GS II: IR
Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

North Korea has deleted all references to uniting with South Korea from its constitution, a document reviewed by AFP on Wednesday showed, underscoring Pyongyang's push for a more hostile policy towards Seoul.

North and South Korea remain technically at war because their 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Pyongyang's constitution had previously contained a clause stating that it aimed "to realise the unification of the motherland".



Aggressive stand: At a major congress in March, Kim Jong Un labelled Seoul as the "most hostile state". REUTERS

That reference no longer appears in the latest version, presented on Wednesday by a professor during a news conference at South Korea's Unification Ministry.

North Korean officials

considered constitutional amendments at a major congress in March, where leader Kim Jong Un labelled Seoul as the "most hostile state".

The revised constitution also includes a new clause

delineating North Korea's territory. Using South Korea's official name, it says that includes the area bordering China and Russia to the north, "and the Republic of Korea to the south".

North Korea "absolutely does not allow any infringement on its territory", it added.

"North Korea appears to have codified the message that it will no longer seek to claim South Korean territory," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor emeritus at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

In turn, Pyongyang "expects the South not to infringe on the North's territory" he told AFP.

07M. North Korea revises constitution to remove 'unification' with the South उत्तर कोरिया ने दक्षिण के साथ 'एकीकरण' हटाने के लिए संविधान में संशोधन किया

- **North Korea** has deleted all references to uniting with **South Korea** from its constitution, a document reviewed by AFP on Wednesday showed, underscoring **Pyongyang's** push for a more hostile policy towards **Seoul**.

उत्तर कोरिया ने अपने संविधान से दक्षिण कोरिया के साथ एकीकरण के सभी संदर्भ हटा दिए हैं, बुधवार को



AFP द्वारा देखे गए दस्तावेज़ से यह पता चला, जो **प्योंगयांग** की **सियोल** के प्रति अधिक शत्रुतापूर्ण नीति अपनाने की कोशिश को दर्शाता है।

- **North and South Korea remain technically at war because their 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.**

उत्तर और दक्षिण कोरिया तकनीकी रूप से अब भी युद्ध की स्थिति में हैं क्योंकि 1950-53 का युद्ध शांति संधि के बजाय युद्धविराम समझौते पर समाप्त हुआ था।

- **Pyongyang's constitution had previously contained a clause stating that it aimed "to realise the unification of the motherland".**

प्योंगयांग के संविधान में पहले एक प्रावधान था जिसमें कहा गया था कि उसका उद्देश्य "मातृभूमि का एकीकरण करना" है।

Belgium trades barbs with the U.S., Israel as antisemitism row flares

GS Paper III
Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

A Belgian probe into suspected illegal circumcisions sparked a fresh diplomatic spat on Wednesday, as Israel and the United States renewed charges of antisemitism against the country.

The row began in February after it came to light that Belgium was investigating several mohels, men who carry out circumcisions according to Jewish law, over suspicion of illegally practising medicine.

Belgium, Israel, and the United States traded fresh barbs on Wednesday after a request to refer the case

against two suspects to the Antwerp criminal court.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar described the move as "a scarlet letter on Belgian society" in a post on X.

"With this act Belgium joins a short and shameful list, together with Ireland, of countries that use criminal law to prosecute Jews for practising Judaism," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on X.

Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot rebuked his Israeli counterpart in a post responding to Mr. Saar. He told him to stop his "caricatures", saying the country's judiciary was independent and "free

from any political influence".

He noted the proceedings had been initiated by representatives of the Jewish community and rejected "defamatory" claims that Belgium was undermining Jewish people's religious freedom.

'Exercise restraint' Mr. Prevot suggested a meeting with Mr. Saar in Israel "in order to put an end to any misinterpretations".

In another post, he responded to comments by the U.S. ambassador to Belgium Bill White, who had condemned the men's prosecution as "antisemitic".

"I urge you to exercise greater restraint and to view your role in its proper context," the Belgian Minister said.

"It is inappropriate to publicly criticise a country and tarnish its image simply because you disagree with judicial proceedings. I have already told you this," said Mr. Prevot.

"Would you consider it acceptable for our Ambassador in Washington to do the same?" he added.

U.S. envoy White had condemned the prosecution of the pair, one of whom he said is American, as "WRONG and won't be tolerated" in his post.

In Belgium, all medical procedures, including

male circumcision, must be performed by a qualified healthcare professional.

The Antwerp public prosecutor's office said the indictment was ready and contained sufficient evidence to request that the two men be tried on charges of "premeditated assault and battery of two minors" and "practising medicine without a licence".

In February, it came to light that Belgium was investigating several mohels over suspicion of illegally practising medicine



Mohels are men who carry out circumcisions according to Jewish law. GETTY IMAGES

07M. Belgium trades barbs with the U.S., Israel as antisemitism row are

यहूदी-विरोधी विवाद बढ़ने पर बेलजियम की अमेरिका और इज़राइल से तीखी बहस

- A **Belgian** probe into suspected illegal circumcisions sparked a fresh diplomatic spat on Wednesday, as **Israel** and the **United States** renewed charges of antisemitism against the country.

संदिग्ध अवैध खतना की जांच को लेकर **बेलजियम** में शुरू हुई जांच ने बुधवार को नया कूटनीतिक विवाद खड़ा कर दिया, क्योंकि **इज़राइल** और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने देश पर यहूदी-विरोधी होने के आरोप फिर दोहराए।

- The row began in February after it came to light that **Belgium** was investigating several **mohels, men who carry out circumcisions according to Jewish law, over suspicion of illegally practising medicine.**

GS Paper III: Economy		07 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07M	What is Karnataka's new gig worker grievance system? कर्नाटक की नई गिग श्रमिक शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली क्या है?	
07M	Russia's share in Indian oil imports jumped in March मार्च में भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी बढ़ी	
07M	To minimise AI's impact on jobs, ILO bats for lifelong learning नौकरियों पर AI के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए ILO ने आजीवन सीखने पर जोर दिया	



What is Karnataka's new gig worker grievance system?

What gap does Karnataka's new system address? How will the welfare fee be used?

GS III: Economy
Shilpa Elizabeth

The story so far:

On May 1, 2026 – International Workers' Day – the Karnataka government announced the operationalisation of a specialised grievance redressal mechanism for platform-based gig workers in the State. Claimed to be the first government-backed grievance handling mechanism for gig workers in India, it allows workers to officially lodge complaints through the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS), the State's centralised digital platform for addressing citizen grievances related to government schemes.

How does the system work?

Platform-based gig workers can now officially lodge grievances, including those related to pay, working conditions, and platform-specific disputes, via the IPGRS.

Under the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, every aggregator platform must constitute an Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC). Grievances filed on

the IPGRS will be automatically routed to the respective platform's IDRC. Upon receiving a complaint, the IDRC is expected to attempt resolution within 15 working days, and is allowed up to 45 days to issue a final order. Any party aggrieved by the final decision can escalate the matter to the Karnataka Gig Workers Welfare Board within 30 days.

What concerns can a gig worker raise?

Gig workers can raise complaints related to suspension, blocking, or deactivation of accounts, termination from the platform, reduction or withholding of payments, unfair penalties, discrimination, unsafe working conditions, or other violations of rights guaranteed under the Act.

What gap does it address?

While many platforms have internal grievance redressal mechanisms, these systems exist outside a formal dispute resolution framework. As a result, gig workers have often reported a lack of resolution to their grievances. Many have complained that platforms quite often turn a blind eye to the workers' woes.

The Karnataka government's move seeks to bring more structure and transparency into the process and ensure legal recourse for these workers outside the formal economy. Gig workers can now officially lodge grievances through the portal, which will then be routed to the respective platform's IDRC. The government, as a central facilitator, will monitor the process.

Why is the mechanism being implemented now?

The Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, was officially notified in September 2025.

In March 2026, Karnataka became the first Indian State to notify the Rules to enact the law for gig workers. The grievance-redressal mechanism for gig workers in the State forms a crucial part of the Act. It is considered a major deterrent that would hinder arbitrary terminations or account deactivation of gig workers and address their concerns.

What are the other key developments related to the Act?

In January 2026, the Karnataka

Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Development Board was constituted to implement welfare measures.

Platforms have been mandated to furnish details of both the company and their gig workers – including name, age, phone number, Aadhaar number, UAN, and bank account details – to the Board. This data will be integrated into the Board's portal.

According to the government, so far, around 12 platforms/aggregators have provided details of 12 lakh active gig workers in the State.

However, given that several workers are associated with multiple platforms, the numbers could contain overlaps. This is expected to be sorted once the government comes up with unique IDs for each worker.

In February, the government announced that 1% of every transaction will be collected from aggregator platforms to provide social security benefits to platform-based gig workers.

What will the welfare fee be used for?

The welfare fee will go to the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Fund to provide social security and welfare benefits to platform-based gig workers in the State.

According to government officials, schemes for gig workers, depending on the platform they work for, are being developed and will be put forward for deliberation at the next board meeting. The schemes being considered include life insurance, accidental benefit, disability benefit, medical benefit, maternity benefit, and old-age protection, depending on the nature of gig work.

THE GIST

▼ Karnataka has operationalised a government-backed grievance redressal mechanism for platform-based gig workers, allowing them to lodge complaints through the IPGRS, which is routed to platform IDRCs for resolution.

▼ The move aims to bring structure, transparency, and legal recourse to gig workers, addressing issues such as pay, working conditions, and arbitrary account deactivation.

07M. What is Karnataka's new gig worker grievance system?

कर्नाटक की नई गिग श्रमिक शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली क्या है?

- On **May 1, 2026** — **International Workers' Day** — the **Karnataka government** announced the operationalisation of a specialised **grievance redressal mechanism for platform-based gig workers** in the State.

1 मई 2026 — अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रमिक दिवस — को कर्नाटक सरकार ने राज्य में प्लेटफॉर्म-आधारित गिग श्रमिकों के लिए एक विशेष शिकायत निवारण तंत्र के संचालन की घोषणा की।

- Claimed to be the **first government-backed grievance handling mechanism for gig workers in India**, it allows workers to officially lodge complaints through the **Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS)**, the State's centralised digital platform for addressing citizen grievances related to government schemes.

इसे भारत में गिग श्रमिकों के लिए पहला सरकारी समर्थित शिकायत निवारण तंत्र बताया गया है, जो श्रमिकों को इंटीग्रेटेड पब्लिक गिवांस रिड्रेसल सिस्टम (IPGRS) के माध्यम से आधिकारिक रूप से शिकायत दर्ज करने की अनुमति देता है। यह राज्य का केंद्रीकृत डिजिटल मंच है, जिसका उपयोग सरकारी योजनाओं से संबंधित नागरिक शिकायतों के समाधान हेतु किया जाता है।

How does the system work?

यह प्रणाली कैसे कार्य करती है?

- Platform-based **gig workers** can now officially lodge grievances, including those related to **pay, working conditions, and platform-specific disputes, via the IPGRS**.
प्लेटफॉर्म-आधारित गिग श्रमिक अब IPGRS के माध्यम से आधिकारिक रूप से शिकायतें दर्ज कर सकते हैं, जिनमें वेतन, कार्य परिस्थितियों, तथा प्लेटफॉर्म-विशिष्ट विवादों से संबंधित शिकायतें शामिल हैं।
- Under the **Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act**, every aggregator platform must constitute an **Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC)**.



कर्नाटक प्लेटफॉर्म-आधारित गिग श्रमिक (सामाजिक सुरक्षा एवं कल्याण) अधिनियम के अंतर्गत प्रत्येक एग्रीगेटर प्लेटफॉर्म को एक आंतरिक विवाद समाधान समिति (IDRC) गठित करनी होगी।

- **Grievances filed on the IPGRS will be automatically routed to the respective platform's IDRC.** IPGRS पर दर्ज शिकायतें स्वतः संबंधित प्लेटफॉर्म की IDRC को प्रेषित कर दी जाएंगी।
- **Upon receiving a complaint, the IDRC is expected to attempt resolution within 15 working days, and is allowed up to 45 days to issue a final order.**
शिकायत प्राप्त होने पर IDRC से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह 15 कार्य दिवसों के भीतर समाधान का प्रयास करे, तथा अंतिम आदेश जारी करने के लिए उसे अधिकतम 45 दिनों की अनुमति होगी।
- **Any party aggrieved by the final decision can escalate the matter to the Karnataka Gig Workers Welfare Board within 30 days.**
अंतिम निर्णय से असंतुष्ट कोई भी पक्ष 30 दिनों के भीतर मामले को कर्नाटक गिग वर्कर्स वेलफेयर बोर्ड के समक्ष ले जा सकता है।

What concerns can a gig worker raise?

गिग श्रमिक कौन-कौन सी शिकायतें उठा सकते हैं?

- **Gig workers can raise complaints related to suspension, blocking, or deactivation of accounts, termination from the platform, reduction or withholding of payments, unfair penalties, discrimination, unsafe working conditions, or other violations of rights guaranteed under the Act.**
गिग श्रमिक खातों के निलंबन, अवरोधन अथवा निष्क्रियकरण, प्लेटफॉर्म से निष्कासन, भुगतान में कटौती अथवा रोक, अनुचित दंड, भेदभाव, असुरक्षित कार्य परिस्थितियों, अथवा अधिनियम के अंतर्गत प्रदत्त अधिकारों के अन्य उल्लंघनों से संबंधित शिकायतें उठा सकते हैं।
- **In March 2026, Karnataka became the first Indian State to notify the Rules to enact the law for gig workers.**
मार्च 2026 में कर्नाटक गिग श्रमिकों के लिए इस कानून को लागू करने हेतु नियमों को अधिसूचित करने वाला भारत का पहला राज्य बन गया।
- **In January 2026, the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Development Board was constituted to implement welfare measures.**
जनवरी 2026 में, कर्नाटक प्लेटफॉर्म-आधारित गिग वर्कर्स कल्याण विकास बोर्ड का गठन कल्याणकारी उपायों को लागू करने हेतु किया गया।
- **Platforms have been mandated to furnish details of both the company and their gig workers — including name, age, phone number, Aadhaar number, UAN, and bank account details — to the Board.**
प्लेटफॉर्मों को निर्देशित किया गया है कि वे कंपनी तथा अपने गिग श्रमिकों दोनों का विवरण — जिसमें नाम, आयु, फोन नंबर, आधार संख्या, UAN एवं बैंक खाता विवरण शामिल हैं — बोर्ड को उपलब्ध कराएँ।
- **According to the government, so far, around 12 platforms/aggregators have provided details of 12 lakh active gig workers in the State.**
सरकार के अनुसार, अब तक लगभग 12 प्लेटफॉर्म/एग्रीगेटर्स ने राज्य के 12 लाख सक्रिय गिग श्रमिकों का विवरण उपलब्ध कराया है।
- **However, given that several workers are associated with multiple platforms, the numbers could contain overlaps.**
हालाँकि, चूँकि अनेक श्रमिक कई प्लेटफॉर्मों से जुड़े हुए हैं, इसलिए इन आँकड़ों में दोहराव हो सकता है।
- **This is expected to be sorted once the government comes up with unique IDs for each worker.**
यह समस्या तब सुलझने की अपेक्षा है जब सरकार प्रत्येक श्रमिक के लिए विशिष्ट पहचान संख्या (Unique ID) उपलब्ध कराएगी।



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



- In **February**, the government announced that **1% of every transaction** will be collected from aggregator platforms to provide **social security benefits** to platform-based gig workers.
फरवरी में, सरकार ने घोषणा की कि प्लेटफॉर्म-आधारित गिग श्रमिकों को **सामाजिक सुरक्षा लाभ** प्रदान करने हेतु एग्रीगेटर प्लेटफॉर्मों से प्रत्येक लेन-देन का **1%** एकत्र किया जाएगा।

What will the welfare fee be used for?

कल्याण शुल्क का उपयोग किस लिए किया जाएगा?

- The **welfare fee** will go to the **Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Fund** to provide **social security** and **welfare benefits** to platform-based gig workers in the State.
कल्याण शुल्क को कर्नाटक प्लेटफॉर्म-आधारित गिग वर्कर्स फंड में जमा किया जाएगा, ताकि राज्य के प्लेटफॉर्म-आधारित गिग श्रमिकों को **सामाजिक सुरक्षा** एवं **कल्याणकारी लाभ** प्रदान किए जा सकें।
- The **schemes being considered include life insurance, accidental benefit, disability benefit, medical benefit, maternity benefit, and old-age protection**, depending on the nature of gig work.
विचाराधीन योजनाओं में **जीवन बीमा, दुर्घटना लाभ, दिव्यांगता लाभ, चिकित्सा लाभ, मातृत्व लाभ** एवं **वृद्धावस्था सुरक्षा** शामिल हैं, जो गिग कार्य की प्रकृति पर निर्भर करेंगे।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Russia's share in Indian oil imports jumped in March

Outbreak of West Asian crisis hit India's Gulf oil supplies, making it turn to Russia; however, India is now getting Russian oil at a premium of 2.5% compared with a discount of 3.9% in 2025-26

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

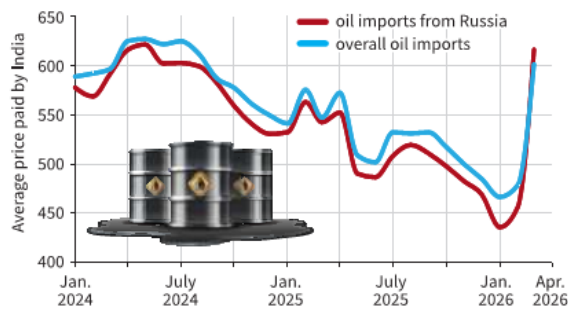
The West Asia crisis and the resultant supply constraints have meant that not only has Russia's share in India's oil imports jumped once again, but this time India is paying a substantial premium for Russian oil rather than the discount it was enjoying earlier.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that Russia's share in India's oil imports stood at 33.3% or one-third in March 2026, the first months after the West Asia crisis began. Simultaneously, the shares of the Gulf countries as well as the U.S. have fallen.

However, India is now getting Russian oil at a premium of 2.5% as compared with an average discount of

Pricey purchases

The West Asia crisis has resulted in the discount India enjoyed on Russian oil turning into a premium. (In \$ per tonne)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

3.9% it had received earlier in 2025-26.

Dynamic strategies

In the run-up to the West Asia crisis, India was in the process of cutting back on Russian oil in an effort to align with U.S. interests and push forward a trade deal with that country. In

February, Russia's share had been 25% and in January, it had fallen to a 41-month low of 19%.

However, once the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 and Iran retaliated by closing the crucial Strait of Hormuz, India had little choice but to look back to Russia as a major

oil supplier. In fact, in early March, the U.S. Treasury Department, too, issued an order to "allow" India to buy Russian oil for a period of 30 days. While India has maintained throughout that it retains the autonomy to decide where it imports oil from and how much.

Russia dependence

The data shows India substantially cut back on the volume of its overall oil imports in March 2026, likely because about a third of India's crude oil supplies depended on the Strait of Hormuz.

Total oil imports came in at 15.8 million metric tonne (MMT), down nearly 23% over February, and 41% lower than in March last year. However, out of this, Russia's share jumped to 33.3% even as India's Gulf supplies fell sharply.

07M. Russia's share in Indian oil imports jumped in March

मार्च में भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी बढ़ी

- The West Asia crisis and the resultant supply constraints have meant that not only has Russia's share in India's oil imports jumped once again, but this time India is paying a substantial premium for Russian oil rather than the discount it was enjoying earlier.
पश्चिम एशिया संकट और उससे उत्पन्न आपूर्ति बाधाओं के कारण भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी एक बार फिर बढ़ गई है, लेकिन इस बार भारत रूसी तेल पर पहले मिलने वाली छूट के बजाय बड़ा प्रीमियम चुका रहा है।
- An analysis by *The Hindu* of the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that Russia's share in India's oil imports stood at 33.3% or one-third in March 2026, the first months after the West Asia crisis began.
वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय के नवीनतम आंकड़ों के द हिंदू द्वारा किए गए विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि पश्चिम एशिया संकट शुरू होने के बाद मार्च 2026 में भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी 33.3% यानी एक-तिहाई रही।



- Simultaneously, the shares of the **Gulf countries** as well as the **U.S.** have fallen. साथ ही **खाड़ी देशों** और **अमेरिका** की हिस्सेदारी में गिरावट आई है।
- However, **India is now getting Russian oil at a premium of 2.5%** as compared with an average **discount of 3.9%** it had received earlier in 2025-26. हालांकि, भारत अब रूसी तेल **2.5% प्रीमियम** पर खरीद रहा है, जबकि उसे 2025-26 में पहले औसतन **3.9%** की छूट मिल रही थी।

Dynamic strategies

गतिशील रणनीतियाँ

- In the run-up to the **West Asia crisis**, India was in the process of cutting back on Russian oil in an effort to align with **U.S. interests** and push forward a trade deal with that country. **पश्चिम एशिया संकट** से पहले भारत **अमेरिकी हितों** के अनुरूप चलने और उस देश के साथ व्यापार समझौते को आगे बढ़ाने के प्रयास में रूसी तेल की खरीद कम कर रहा था।
- **In February, Russia's share had been 25% and in January, it had fallen to a 41-month low of 19%.** फरवरी में रूस की हिस्सेदारी **25%** थी और जनवरी में यह घटकर **41 महीने के न्यूनतम स्तर 19%** पर पहुंच गई थी।
- The data shows India substantially cut back on the volume of its overall oil imports in March 2026, likely because about **a third of India's crude oil supplies depended on the Strait of Hormuz.** आंकड़े बताते हैं कि मार्च 2026 में भारत ने अपने कुल तेल आयात की मात्रा में काफी कटौती की, संभवतः इसलिए क्योंकि भारत की लगभग एक-तिहाई कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** पर निर्भर थी।

To minimise AI's impact on jobs, ILO bats for lifelong learning

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Given the tumultuous trends reshaping labour markets across the world, lifelong learning needs to be a central pillar of governments' economic and social policies, the International Labour Organization said. Growing digitalisation, artificial intelligence (AI), green transition and demographic shifts were identified as some of the factors driving this shift.

In a report released in Geneva on Tuesday, the ILO emphasised that lifelong learning was about



Key to success: Lifelong learning is the bridge between today's jobs and tomorrow's opportunities, says Hougbo. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

more than employability and productivity. "It underpins decent work, genuine innovation, active citizenship, and social inclusion, making it a cor-

nerstone of any effective strategy for sustainable growth and development," the report noted.

Lifelong learning is the bridge between today's

jobs and tomorrow's opportunities, added ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Hougbo.

Strategic policy priority ILO argues lifelong learning should be elevated as a strategic policy priority, not just as a tool to raise productivity and facilitate sustainable growth but also as a systemic enabler of personal and societal advancement, equity, and decent work in 21st century.

It flags a 'striking gap' in comprehensive, authoritative, up-to-date research that captures the full scope of lifelong learning.

07M. To minimise AI's impact on jobs, ILO bats for lifelong learning

नौकरियों पर AI के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए ILO ने आजीवन सीखने पर जोर दिया



- Given the tumultuous trends reshaping labour markets across the world, **lifelong learning** needs to be a central pillar of governments' economic and social policies, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** said.
दुनिया भर के श्रम बाजारों को बदल रही उथल-पुथल भरी प्रवृत्तियों को देखते हुए, **अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO)** ने कहा कि **आजीवन सीखना** सरकारों की आर्थिक और सामाजिक नीतियों का केंद्रीय स्तंभ होना चाहिए।
- Growing **digitalisation, artificial intelligence (AI), green transition** and demographic shifts were identified as some of the factors driving this shift.
बढ़ता **डिजिटलीकरण, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), हरित परिवर्तन** और जनसांख्यिकीय बदलाव इस परिवर्तन को आगे बढ़ाने वाले प्रमुख कारकों के रूप में पहचाने गए।
- In a report released in **Geneva** on Tuesday, the ILO emphasised that lifelong learning was about more than employability and productivity.
मंगलवार को **जिनेवा** में जारी एक रिपोर्ट में ILO ने जोर दिया कि आजीवन सीखना केवल रोजगार क्षमता और उत्पादकता तक सीमित नहीं है।
- "It underpins **decent work, genuine innovation, active citizenship, and social inclusion, making it a cornerstone of any effective strategy for sustainable growth and development,**" the report noted.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया, "यह **सम्मानजनक कार्य, वास्तविक नवाचार, सक्रिय नागरिकता और सामाजिक समावेशन** की नींव है, जिससे यह सतत विकास और प्रगति की किसी भी प्रभावी रणनीति का आधार बन जाता है।"
- Lifelong learning is the bridge between today's jobs and tomorrow's opportunities,** added ILO Director-General **Gilbert F. Houngbo.**
ILO के महानिदेशक **गिल्बर्ट एफ. हूंगबो** ने कहा कि **आजीवन सीखना** आज की नौकरियों और कल के अवसरों के बीच पुल का काम करता है।

Strategic policy priority रणनीतिक नीतिगत प्राथमिकता

- ILO argues lifelong learning should be elevated as a **strategic policy priority**, not just as a tool to raise productivity and facilitate sustainable growth but also as a systemic enabler of personal and societal advancement, equity, and **decent work** in the 21st century.
ILO का तर्क है कि आजीवन सीखने को केवल उत्पादकता बढ़ाने और सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने के साधन के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि व्यक्तिगत और सामाजिक प्रगति, समानता और 21वीं सदी में **सम्मानजनक कार्य** को सक्षम बनाने वाली **रणनीतिक नीतिगत प्राथमिकता** के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।
- It flags a 'striking gap' in comprehensive, authoritative, up-to-date research that captures the full scope of lifelong learning.
इसने आजीवन सीखने के पूरे दायरे को समझने वाले व्यापक, प्रामाणिक और अद्यतन शोध में 'स्पष्ट कमी' की ओर भी संकेत किया।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		07 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07M	Expanding AI gets its biggest testing ground in China विस्तारित होती कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता को चीन में अपना सबसे बड़ा परीक्षण क्षेत्र प्राप्त हो रहा है	
07M	QUIZ	
07M	Hantavirus strain capable of human transmission found मानव से मानव में फैलने में सक्षम हंटावायरस स्ट्रेन मिला	



Expanding AI gets its biggest testing ground in China

GS III: S&T
Associated Press

On a recent weekday, around 50 people gathered outside the headquarters of a Chinese mobile Internet company, waiting to get help with installing an artificial intelligence (AI) assistant.

The scene in Beijing, China's capital, was repeated for days at several events and was also seen in the southern technology hub Shenzhen in March, as engineers helped crowds trying to set up the popular AI "agent" OpenClaw on their laptops. "I'm worried about falling behind in technological developments," said Sun Lei, a 41-year-old human resources manager at the Cheetah event. She said she hoped the tool might help her source and screen resumes across various recruitment platforms.

More than a year after OpenAI's Chinese rival DeepSeek stunned the world with its advanced AI model, China has become a testing ground for mass use of AI tools. Chinese people and

More than 600 million people in China were using generative AI as of December 2025, a 142% increase from a year earlier

businesses have rapidly embraced AI for all sorts of things, from booking and planning travel, ordering food and hailing rides. Of its 1.4 billion population, more than 600 million were using generative AI

as of December, a 142% increase from a year earlier, according to a report by the government-controlled China Internet Network Information Centre.

With the recent surge in the use of "agentic" AI like OpenClaw, the consumption of data by AI models has also risen. Measured in what computer scientists call tokens, or units of data such as part of a word, the weekly share used by Chinese AI models has recently surpassed U.S. models, according to OpenRouter, an AI "gateway platform" that tracks data and enforces security across different AI models. "The (AI) competition is clearly shifting from models to ecosystems," said Lizzi Lee, a fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis focused on economics and technology. "Chinese users are basically acting as real-time testers at scale."

Chinese technology companies like Tencent, Alibaba and Baidu are also racing to commercialise AI. Tencent integrated OpenClaw into WeChat, China's own "super-app" which is a messaging tool that can also be used to order food and make payments.

OpenClaw, originally created by Austrian software developer Peter Steinberger last year, won quick and enthusiastic use thanks to its ability to use various tools to complete complicated tasks. Zhao Yikang, a Chinese college student in Macao, uses OpenClaw in both his studies and daily life. "AI can understand things in a second," Zhao said. "You just need to act as a commander and tell it what to do."

Preparing to start a photo services business after graduation, Zhao asked AI to build a company website. Within 10 minutes, it had generated a fully functional site for less than 5 yuan (₹70).

Chinese companies increasingly are setting internal targets for boosting use of AI to improve efficiency, said Janet Tang, a partner & managing director focused on technology at consultancy AlixPartners.

There are "a lot of application scenarios," said Wang Xiaogang, co-founder of the Chinese AI software company SenseTime and chairman of ACE Robotics. "The industry is developing very fast and the people, they are very open and they're eager to try the AI in a lot of scenarios."

07m. Expanding AI gets its biggest testing ground in China

विस्तारित होती कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता को चीन में अपना सबसे बड़ा परीक्षण क्षेत्र प्राप्त हो रहा है

The scene in Beijing, China's capital, was repeated for days at several events and was also seen in the southern technology hub Shenzhen in March, as engineers helped crowds trying to set up the popular AI "agent" OpenClaw on their laptops.

चीन की राजधानी बीजिंग में यह दृश्य कई दिनों तक विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों में दोहराया गया तथा मार्च में दक्षिणी प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र शेन्जेन में भी देखा गया, जहाँ इंजीनियर अपने लैपटॉप पर लोकप्रिय AI "एजेंट"

OpenClaw को स्थापित करने का प्रयास कर रही भीड़ की सहायता कर रहे थे।

Chinese people and businesses have rapidly embraced AI for all sorts of things, from booking and planning travel, ordering food and hailing rides.

व्यवसायों ने यात्रा की बुकिंग एवं योजना बनाने, भोजन मंगाने तथा वाहन सेवाएँ प्राप्त करने

जैसे अनेक कार्यों के लिए तीव्र गति से कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) को अपनाया है।

- Tencent integrated OpenClaw into WeChat, China's own "super-app" which is a messaging tool that can also be used to order food and make payments.

Tencent ने OpenClaw को WeChat में एकीकृत कर दिया है, जो चीन का अपना "सुपर-ऐप" है तथा संदेश भेजने के अतिरिक्त भोजन मंगाने एवं भुगतान करने के लिए भी उपयोग किया जाता है।

- OpenClaw, originally created by Austrian software developer Peter Steinberger last year, won quick and enthusiastic use thanks to its ability to use various tools to complete complicated tasks.

पिछले वर्ष ऑस्ट्रियाई सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर Peter Steinberger द्वारा निर्मित OpenClaw ने जटिल कार्यों



को पूरा करने हेतु विभिन्न उपकरणों का उपयोग करने की अपनी क्षमता के कारण शीघ्र एवं उत्साहपूर्ण लोकप्रियता प्राप्त की।

- Preparing to start a **photo services business** after graduation, **Zhao asked AI to build a company website**.
स्नातक होने के बाद **फोटो सेवा व्यवसाय** प्रारम्भ करने की तैयारी कर रहे झाओ ने AI से एक कंपनी वेबसाइट बनाने के लिए कहा।
- **Within 10 minutes**, it had generated a fully functional site for less than **5 yuan (₹70)**.
केवल **10 मिनट** के भीतर उसने **5 युआन (₹70)** से भी कम लागत में पूर्णतः कार्यशील वेबसाइट तैयार कर दी।

Answers to May 5 quiz:

1. Drugs to block the final step in acid secretion
- **Ans: Proton-pump inhibitors**
 2. Drugs that work by blocking the COX enzymes - **Ans: NSAIDs**
 3. WHO system that gives non-brand names to drugs - **Ans: International Nonproprietary Names (INN)**
 4. Expansion of 'ARB' - **Ans: Angiotensin II receptor blockers**
 5. Copy of a biologic made by another manufacturer - **Ans: Biosimilar**
- Visual: **Beta-lactam ring**

Lansoprazole.

- These drugs are widely used for **peptic ulcer disease, GERD (acid reflux), Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, and gastritis**.
- According to standard pharmacology references and government health guidelines, PPIs are usually taken before meals for better action.
- Long-term excessive use may cause **vitamin B12 deficiency, magnesium deficiency, fractures, or kidney-related issues**.
- PPIs are among the most prescribed gastrointestinal medicines globally because of their strong acid-suppressing ability.

2. Drugs that work by blocking the COX enzymes – NSAIDs

- **NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs)** are medicines that reduce **pain, inflammation, and fever** by blocking **Cyclooxygenase (COX) enzymes**.
- COX enzymes help produce **prostaglandins**, chemicals responsible for pain and inflammation in the body.
- NSAIDs mainly block **COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes**. COX-1 protects the stomach lining, while COX-2 is mainly involved in inflammation.
- Common NSAIDs include **Ibuprofen, Diclofenac, Aspirin, Naproxen, and Indomethacin**.
- These medicines are used for **arthritis, muscle pain, headache, fever, menstrual pain, and post-surgical pain**.
- Excessive or long-term use can lead to **gastric ulcers, bleeding, kidney damage, and increased cardiovascular risks**.
- Selective COX-2 inhibitors like **Celecoxib** were developed to reduce stomach-related side effects.

3. WHO system that gives non-brand names to drugs – International Nonproprietary Names (INN)

- **International Nonproprietary Names (INN)** is a naming system developed by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to provide universal generic names for medicines.

07m. QUIZ

1. Drugs to block the final step in acid secretion – Proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs)

- **Proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs)** are medicines that reduce acid production in the stomach by blocking the **H⁺/K⁺ ATPase enzyme**, also called the proton pump, present in stomach parietal cells.
- PPIs act on the **final step of gastric acid secretion**, making them more effective than many older anti-acid drugs.
- Common examples include **Omeprazole, Pantoprazole, Rabeprazole, Esomeprazole, and**



- INN ensures that every drug has a **globally recognized scientific name**, independent of company brand names.
- For example, **Paracetamol** is an INN name, while different companies may sell it under various brand names.
- INN names often contain specific stems indicating the drug class, such as “-pril” for ACE inhibitors and “-olol” for beta blockers.

4. Expansion of ‘ARB’ – Angiotensin II receptor blockers

- **ARB** stands for **Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers**, a class of medicines mainly used to treat **high blood pressure and heart-related diseases**.
- These drugs block the action of **Angiotensin II**, a hormone that narrows blood vessels and increases blood pressure.
- By blocking its receptors, ARBs help relax blood vessels, improving blood flow and reducing strain on the heart.
- Common ARBs include **Losartan, Valsartan, Telmisartan, and Olmesartan**.
- ARBs are commonly prescribed for **hypertension, heart failure, diabetic kidney disease, and post-heart attack management**.
- Compared with ACE inhibitors, ARBs usually produce fewer side effects like persistent dry cough.
- Medical guidelines recommend ARBs as important drugs for long-term cardiovascular and kidney protection in many patients.

5. Copy of a biologic made by another manufacturer – Biosimilar

- A **biosimilar** is a biological medicine that is highly similar to an already approved original biologic drug, known as the **reference product**.
- Unlike simple chemical drugs, biologics are made from **living cells**, making exact copies difficult to produce.
- Biosimilars are developed only after the original biologic’s patent expires and must show similar **safety, quality, and effectiveness**.
- They are commonly used in diseases such as **cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, psoriasis, and autoimmune disorders**.
- Examples include biosimilar versions of **Insulin, Trastuzumab, and Adalimumab**.

Beta-lactam ring

- The **Beta-lactam ring** is a four-membered cyclic amide structure present in important antibiotics such as **Penicillins, Cephalosporins, Carbapenems, and Monobactams**.
- This ring is responsible for the antibacterial activity of beta-lactam antibiotics.
- These antibiotics kill bacteria by interfering with **bacterial cell wall synthesis**, mainly by blocking penicillin-binding proteins (PBPs).
- Because human cells do not have cell walls, beta-lactam antibiotics selectively target bacteria.
- Bacterial resistance develops when microbes produce **beta-lactamase enzymes**, which break the beta-lactam ring and inactivate the drug.
- To overcome resistance, medicines like **Clavulanic acid** are combined with some antibiotics to inhibit beta-lactamase enzymes.
- Beta-lactam antibiotics remain among the most widely used antimicrobial drugs in modern medicine.



Hantavirus strain capable of human transmission found



GS III: S&T AFP
The MV Hondius cruise ship, carrying 150 people, remains stranded off Cape Verde after a hantavirus outbreak killed three. Authorities identified the Andes strain that can be transmitted between humans in rare cases. Spain plans to receive the vessel, while infected passengers receive treatment and isolation. AP

07m. Hantavirus strain capable of human transmission found

मानव से मानव में फैलने में सक्षम हंटावायरस स्ट्रेन मिला

- The **MV Hondius** cruise ship, carrying 150 people, remains stranded on Cape Verde after a **hantavirus outbreak** killed three.

150 लोगों को ले जा रहा एमवी हॉंडियस क्रूज़ जहाज, हंटावायरस प्रकोप में तीन लोगों की मौत के बाद केप वर्डे के पास फंसा हुआ है।

- Authorities identified the **Andes strain** that can be transmitted between humans in rare cases.

अधिकारियों ने एंडीज स्ट्रेन की पहचान की है, जो दुर्लभ मामलों में इंसानों के बीच फैल सकता है।

- Spain** plans to receive the vessel, while infected passengers receive treatment and isolation.

स्पेन इस जहाज को स्वीकार करने की योजना बना रहा है, जबकि संक्रमित

यात्रियों को उपचार और आइसोलेशन दिया जा रहा है।

Hantavirus

- Hantavirus** refers to a group of viruses mainly spread by **rodents** such as rats and mice.
- Humans** become infected primarily through contact with the urine, saliva, or droppings of infected **rodents**.
- Hantaviruses** can cause severe diseases affecting the **lungs, heart, and kidneys**.
- The virus belongs to the **Hantaviridae** family.
- It is considered a **zoonotic disease**, meaning it spreads from animals to humans.
- Human-to-human transmission is extremely rare, though a few cases have been reported with certain South American strains.

Origin of the Name

- The virus was first identified during the **Korean War (1950–1953)**.
- It was named after the **Hantan River** in South Korea, near where many soldiers became ill.

Type of Virus is Hantavirus

- Hantavirus is an **RNA virus**.
- It contains a **single-stranded negative-sense RNA genome**.
- The virus survives mainly inside rodents without causing major illness in them.
- Different rodent species carry different hantavirus strains.

Important Rodent Hosts

- Deer mice
- Cotton rats
- Rice rats
- White-footed mice
- Bank voles



GS Paper III: Environment		07 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07M	India to host first Big Cat Summit in June; 95 countries set to participate भारत जून में पहले बिग कैट समिट की मेजबानी करेगा; 95 देश भाग लेंगे	
07M	What is Karnataka's new gig worker grievance system? कर्नाटक की नई गिग श्रमिक शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली क्या है?	
07M	India's cows offer biogas alternative to energy crunch भारत की गायें ऊर्जा संकट के लिए बायोगैस का विकल्प प्रदान कर रही हैं	

Solemn on the shore



A man walks next to a dead sperm whale that washed up at Melaya beach in Jembrana Regency, Bali, Indonesia on Wednesday.

SPERM WHALE

- The **Sperm Whale** is the largest toothed whale and one of the most remarkable marine mammals found in the world's oceans.
- Its scientific name is **Physeter macrocephalus**.
- It belongs to the order **Cetacea**, which also includes dolphins and other whales.
- The sperm whale is famous for its enormous head, deep-diving ability, and echolocation system.
- It is considered one of the deepest diving mammals on Earth.
- Sperm whales are highly intelligent animals with complex social structures and communication systems.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Status: Vulnerable**
- **CITES Status: Appendix I:** International commercial trade is highly restricted.
- **Wildlife Protection Act, India**
 - Protected under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
 - Included in **Schedule I** protection category, providing the highest degree of legal protection in India.

Distribution and Habitat

- Sperm whales are found in all major oceans of the world.
- They are distributed in tropical, temperate, and polar waters.
- Adult males are commonly found in colder high-latitude waters, while females and calves remain mainly in warmer tropical and subtropical regions.
- They prefer deep oceanic waters because they dive to great depths in search of prey.
- Continental slopes and submarine canyons are important habitats.



Physical Characteristics

- Adult males can reach around **16–20 metres** in length.
- Females are smaller and generally grow up to **11–13 metres**.
- Males may weigh up to **50–57 tonnes**.

India to host first Big Cat Summit in June; 95 countries set to participate

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The inaugural International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit, to be held here from June 1 to 3, is expected to adopt the first-ever global declaration on big cat conservation. Titled the 'Delhi Declaration', it will articulate shared priorities, strengthen transboundary cooperation, and promote a landscape-based approach for conserving big cats and their habitats.

Representatives from 95 countries are expected to participate, the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change said on Wednesday.

The IBCA is an association of countries that host, or have itinerant populations of at least one of the seven 'big cats' – lions, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars,



Call for action: The summit will be guided by the theme 'Save big cats, save humanity, save ecosystem'. K.R. DEEPAK

and pumas – and are committed to the conservation of these animals.

Collective action

There are 24 member countries, three observer countries, and several other 'range' countries in the alliance. Member countries are expected to coordinate action through programmes and activities aimed at improving the

state of habitats, prey, and big cats, including big cat protection and conservation, innovation and development, and capacity building. They also share relevant information about big cat protection and conservation programmes.

Summit participants are likely to include heads of State/Government of member and observer coun-

tries, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Wednesday at an event to launch the summit website and unveil its logo. The summit will be guided by the theme 'Save big cats, save humanity, save ecosystem', and will bring together over 400 conservationists, policymakers, scientists, multilateral agencies, financial institutions, corporate leaders, and community representatives from across the globe.

Launched in 2023

The IBCA, piloted and conceived by India, was officially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023. The alliance, Mr. Yadav said, reflects India's belief that conservation challenges must be addressed "collectively" through cooperation, knowledge sharing, and mutual support.

07M. India to host first Big Cat Summit in June; 95 countries set to participate

भारत जून में पहले बिग कैट समिट की मेजबानी करेगा; 95 देश भाग लेंगे

• The inaugural **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit**, to be held here from **June 1 to 3**, is expected to adopt the first-ever global declaration on **big cat conservation**.

1 से 3 जून तक आयोजित होने वाला पहला इंटरनेशनल बिग कैट अलायंस (IBCA) समिट बिग कैट संरक्षण पर पहला वैश्विक घोषणा-पत्र

अपनाने की संभावना रखता है।

- Titled the '**Delhi Declaration**', it will articulate shared priorities, strengthen transboundary cooperation, and promote a landscape-based approach for conserving big cats and their habitats.

'दिल्ली घोषणा' शीर्षक वाला यह दस्तावेज साझा प्राथमिकताओं को स्पष्ट करेगा, सीमा-पार सहयोग को मजबूत करेगा और बिग कैट्स तथा उनके आवासों के संरक्षण के लिए लैंडस्केप-आधारित दृष्टिकोण को बढ़ावा देगा।

- **Representatives from 95 countries** are expected to participate, the **Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change** said on Wednesday.

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को कहा कि 95 देशों के प्रतिनिधियों के भाग लेने की उम्मीद है।

- The **IBCA** is an association of countries that host, or have itinerant populations of at least one of the seven 'big cats' — lions, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and pumas — and are committed to the conservation of these animals.

IBCA उन देशों का संगठन है जहाँ सात 'बिग कैट्स' — शेर, बाघ, तेंदुआ, हिम तेंदुआ, चीता, जगुआर और प्यूमा — में से कम-से-कम एक प्रजाति पाई जाती है या प्रवासी रूप में आती है, और जो इनके संरक्षण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।



Collective action

सामूहिक कार्रवाई

- There are **24 member countries**, three observer countries, and several other 'range' countries in the alliance.
इस गठबंधन में **24 सदस्य देश**, तीन पर्यवेक्षक देश और कई अन्य 'रेंज' देश शामिल हैं।
- Member countries are expected to coordinate action through programmes and activities aimed at improving the state of habitats, prey, and big cats, including big cat protection and conservation, innovation, research, development, and capacity building.
सदस्य देशों से अपेक्षा है कि वे आवास, शिकार प्रजातियों और बिग कैट्स की स्थिति सुधारने हेतु कार्यक्रमों और गतिविधियों के माध्यम से समन्वित कार्रवाई करेंगे, जिसमें संरक्षण, नवाचार, अनुसंधान, विकास और क्षमता निर्माण शामिल हैं।
- They also share relevant information about big cat protection and conservation programmes.
वे बिग कैट संरक्षण कार्यक्रमों से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी भी साझा करते हैं।
- The summit will be guided by the theme '**Save big cats, save humanity, save ecosystem**', and will bring together over **400 conservationists, policymakers, scientists, multilateral agencies, financial institutions, corporate leaders, and community representatives** from across the globe.
यह समिट 'सेव बिग कैट्स, सेव ह्यूमैनिटी, सेव इकोसिस्टम' थीम पर आधारित होगा और दुनिया भर से **400** से अधिक संरक्षणविदों, नीति-निर्माताओं, वैज्ञानिकों, बहुपक्षीय एजेंसियों, वित्तीय संस्थानों, कॉर्पोरेट नेताओं और सामुदायिक प्रतिनिधियों को एक साथ लाएगा।

Launched in 2023

2023 में शुरू किया गया

- The **IBCA**, piloted and conceived by India, was officially launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in 2023.
भारत द्वारा परिकल्पित और संचालित **IBCA** को वर्ष 2023 में आधिकारिक रूप से **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने लॉन्च किया था।



Invasive species may be the wrong enemy in a changing subcontinent

India supports roughly 500 million cattle and other livestock, one of the largest such populations in the world, placing heavy grazing pressure on forests and the commons; in such conditions, 'palatable' species are suppressed while thorny, chemically defended, disturbance-tolerant plants persist

GS III, Environment
Suprabha Seshan

Across India, campaigns against invasive alien species (IAS) are gathering administrative and judicial force. Authorities now identify, map, classify, and remove species deemed ecological threats.

In the last year alone, India's English-language press has carried sustained coverage of ecological-loss studies, State eradication drives, and human-wildlife conflicts linked to such species. What was once a niche scientific concern has become a visible public issue and priority.

A recent Tamil Nadu court order even portrayed *Prosopis juliflora* shrubs as a near-Statewide threat. Government submissions have reported its clearance from 517 villages across 32 districts while the academic literature has recorded the species across the State. The plants *Lantana camara* and *Senna spectabilis* face similar campaigns elsewhere in India.

The prevailing assumption is simple: remove the invasive species and ecological recovery will follow.

Before accepting that, however, one must first ask: what condition was the landscape in before these species spread, and what conditions now sustain them?

Three patterns emerge from the evidence.

Physical changes usually came first
Throughout India, native ecological communities had already been transformed before invasive plants became dominant.

Colonial forestry, plantation expansion, and settlement removed vast tracts of forest cover. Millions of hectares were converted to tea, coffee, rubber, teak, and eucalyptus plantations. Diverse habitats gave way to simplified commercial landscapes, with lasting effects on soil biology, shade regimes, and water cycles. Logging, roads, mining, fire suppression, and chemical agriculture fragmented habitats further.

In places like Wayanad, forest edges had already degraded before species like *L. camara* spread into them. Biodiversity and its supporting conditions had already been decimated.

Removing a species alone can't restore what came before. Without functioning ecological relationships, more clearing creates new vacancies, often the very conditions in which another invasive species, or the same one, can quickly return.

P. juliflora was introduced to India in 1877 as part of a misguided ecological experiment. At first seeded from the air, it spread through the guts of cattle that browsed its pods. Then came the 'Green Revolution' and the wider post-independent agricultural intensification. Canals expanded. Borewells multiplied. Fertilizer use surged.

As a result, waterlogging and seepage increased in some regions, depleted aquifers in others, and productivity began to decline on abandoned lands. *P. juliflora* is a deep-rooted phreatophyte that can exploit such altered water and soil regimes. In parts of Tamil Nadu, researchers have linked its surge to irrigation-related moisture conditions.

In other words, the plant was present for decades – what changed was the landscape around it.

Climate change, nutrient loading, land-use change, freshwater disruption,



India uses 35-40 million tonnes of urea per year and atmospheric nitrogen deposition now adds 10-30 kg per hectare annually across many regions. Woody nitrogen-fixing species such as *Senna spectabilis* (shown) benefit from such altered conditions. PHILIPP WEGGEL (CC BY)

biodiversity loss, and chemical pollution are reshaping ecosystems worldwide. These are largely the effects of a globalised industrial culture pushing rapid urbanisation and infrastructure expansion.

Over three decades, India's urban governance footprint has roughly doubled, marking a systemic expansion of fragmented, high-disturbance landscapes that extend far beyond city boundaries into peri-urban and rural ecologies.

India also supports roughly 500 million cattle and other livestock – one of the largest such populations in the world – placing continuous and heavy grazing pressure on forests and the commons. In such conditions, 'palatable' species are repeatedly suppressed while thorny, chemically defended, disturbance-tolerant plants such as *L. camara* persist or even expand.

Studies have revealed increasing woody cover across many open landscapes worldwide, partly associated with rising atmospheric carbon and other interacting factors. Fertilizer inputs remain high – India alone uses 35-40 million tonnes of urea per year – and atmospheric nitrogen deposition now adds 10-30 kg per hectare annually across many regions. Woody nitrogen-fixing species such as *S. spectabilis* and *P. juliflora* benefit from such altered conditions.

A deeper invasion
Chemical pesticides have further altered soils and microbial networks. Over time, they can disrupt genes, reduce resilience, intensify pest cycles, and weaken the ecological foundations on which productivity itself depends.

These changes were driven less by individual choice than by policies, infrastructure, and economic systems designed to maximise production at scale. The result: food production must continue yet the same hydrological, chemical, and atmospheric systems that

increase output are also exhausting the land and degrading ecosystems now slated for restoration.

When multiple factors shift together, plant communities reorganise. *P. juliflora* growth is part of wider hydrological and chemical change across the subcontinent. Similar dynamics may apply, in differing ways, to other IAS. These plants may function as ecological first responders – species whose physiology suits rapid changes in landscape conditions.

Given time, other species follow these pioneer species. In the early stages, many may be exotic and fast-moving. Eventually, native species may also re-establish themselves. However, such ecological succession does not guarantee a return to earlier ecological states. As the underlying conditions continue to shift, new ecological assemblages are likely to emerge among the species able to thrive within them.

Life is colonial
Evolutionary and palaeoecological evidence suggests that the world's native biomes developed under very different climatic and nutrient regimes. Grasslands expanded during drier phases of history while rainforests arose and diversified in warmer, wetter conditions. Many species can't easily tolerate the nutrient-rich soils, altered climate or hydrologically changed landscapes of the present.

Some IAS species may also perform compensatory ecological roles. They can accumulate heavy metals, nitrogen, and carbon in biomass, provide cover for smaller wildlife in disturbed landscapes, create conditions into which other species later enter, provide windbreaks, and bind soil. There are, of course, real consequences. Dense thickets of invasive plants can reduce accessible forage for elephants and other herbivores in forests such as the Western Ghats. But these effects unfold in landscapes already altered by logging, plantations, and nutrient enrichment.

Conservation efforts that target only the visible plant thus risk misdiagnosing the problem. It is easier to count acres of IAS removed than to measure shifts in moisture regimes or soil chemistry. Removal alone does not address the underlying drivers. Restoration requires that we read the land comprehensively, understand its history and interacting processes, and work with the ecological and human communities that remain.

What it will take
This does not mean certain species should never be removed but that restoration is difficult and requires attention to ecological processes and biodiversity. It is local, patient, and continuous. Large-scale mechanical removal brings complications of its own. While clearing vast acreages may serve a burgeoning biomass economy, there is little proof that it supports ecological recovery, which needs time.

Fears that invasive species will take over often accompany business opportunities for earthmovers and new employment schemes. A villain, it seems, can animate an economy faster than restoration can.

Communities and practitioners embedded in these habitats are often best placed to undertake careful removal where it makes ecological and cultural sense. Success, however, remains uncertain and can only be judged over years. Restoration should proceed with least harm, phased planting, intergenerational care, and meaningful human livelihoods.

Otherwise, India risks spending much of its conservation energy removing plants that are symptoms of a wider civilisational transformation that it has yet to confront.

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07M. Invasive species may be the wrong enemy in a changing subcontinent बदलते

उपमहाद्वीप में आक्रामक प्रजातियाँ संभवतः गलत शत्रु हो सकती हैं

- India supports roughly 500 million cattle and other livestock, one of the largest such populations in the world, placing heavy grazing pressure on forests and the commons; in such conditions, 'palatable' species are suppressed while thorny, chemically defended, disturbance-tolerant plants persist.

- भारत लगभग 50 करोड़ मवेशियों एवं अन्य पशुधन का पोषण करता है, जो विश्व की सबसे बड़ी पशुधन आबादियों में से एक है, जिससे वनों एवं सामुदायिक भूमि पर अत्यधिक चराई का

दबाव पड़ता है; ऐसी परिस्थितियों में 'स्वादिष्ट/चराई योग्य' प्रजातियाँ दब जाती हैं, जबकि कांटेदार, रासायनिक रूप से संरक्षित तथा व्यवधान-सहिष्णु पौधे बने रहते हैं।

- Across India, campaigns against **invasive alien species (IAS)** are gathering administrative and judicial force.
- पूरे भारत में आक्रामक विदेशी प्रजातियों (IAS) के विरुद्ध अभियान प्रशासनिक एवं न्यायिक स्तर पर गति प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।



- Authorities now identify, map, classify, and remove species deemed ecological threats. प्राधिकरण अब उन प्रजातियों की पहचान, मानचित्रण, वर्गीकरण एवं निष्कासन कर रहे हैं जिन्हें पारिस्थितिकीय खतरा माना जाता है।

- A recent Tamil Nadu court order even portrayed **Prosopis juliflora shrubs** as a **near-Statewide threat**.

हाल ही में तमिलनाडु की एक न्यायालयीय आदेश में प्रोसोपिस जु लीफ्लोरा झाड़ियों को लगभग राज्यव्यापी खतरे के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया।

- The plants **Lantana camara** and **Senna spectabilis** face similar campaigns elsewhere in India.

लैंटाना कैमारा एवं सेन्ना स्पेक्टाबिलिस पौधे भी भारत के अन्य भागों में इसी प्रकार के अभियानों का सामना कर रहे हैं।



Physical changes usually came first

भौतिक परिवर्तन सामान्यतः पहले हुए

- Colonial forestry, plantation expansion, and settlement removed vast tracts of forest cover. औपनिवेशिक वानिकी, बागान विस्तार तथा बस्तियों की स्थापना ने विशाल वन क्षेत्र को समाप्त कर दिया।
- Millions of hectares were converted to tea, coffee, rubber, teak, and eucalyptus plantations. लाखों हेक्टेयर भूमि को चाय, कॉफी, रबर, सागौन एवं यूकेलिप्टस के बागानों में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया।
- Diverse habitats gave way to simplified commercial landscapes, with lasting effects on soil biology, shade regimes, and water cycles. विविध आवासीय पारितंत्रों का स्थान सरल व्यावसायिक परिदृश्यों ने ले लिया, जिससे मृदा जीवविज्ञान, छाया व्यवस्था एवं जल चक्र पर दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव पड़े।
- Logging, roads, mining, fire suppression, and chemical agriculture fragmented habitats further. कटाई, सड़क निर्माण, खनन, अग्नि-नियंत्रण एवं रासायनिक कृषि ने आवासीय क्षेत्रों को और अधिक खंडित कर दिया।
- Removing a species alone can't restore what came before. केवल किसी एक प्रजाति को हटाने मात्र से पूर्व की स्थिति पुनर्स्थापित नहीं की जा सकती।
- **P. juliflora** was introduced to India in 1877 as part of a misguided ecological experiment. पी. जुलीफ्लोरा को 1877 में एक भ्रामक पारिस्थितिकीय प्रयोग के अंतर्गत भारत में लाया गया था।
- Then came the 'Green Revolution' and the wider post-independent agricultural intensification. इसके बाद 'हरित क्रांति' एवं स्वतंत्रता-उपरांत व्यापक कृषि तीव्रीकरण का दौर आया।
- As a result, waterlogging and seepage increased in some regions, depleted aquifers in others, and productivity began to decline on abandoned lands. परिणामस्वरूप, कुछ क्षेत्रों में जलभराव और रिसाव बढ़ गया, अन्य क्षेत्रों में भूजल भंडार समाप्त होने लगे, और परित्यक्त भूमि पर उत्पादकता में गिरावट प्रारम्भ हो गई।
- **P. juliflora** is a deep-rooted phreatophyte that can exploit such altered water and soil regimes. P. juliflora एक गहरी जड़ों वाला फ्रियाटोफाइट है, जो इस प्रकार की परिवर्तित जल एवं मृदा परिस्थितियों का लाभ उठा सकता है।
- India also supports roughly 500 million cattle and other livestock — one of the largest such populations in the world — placing continuous and heavy grazing pressure on forests and the commons.



भारत लगभग 500 मिलियन गौवंश एवं अन्य पशुधन का भी पोषण करता है — जो विश्व की सबसे बड़ी पशुधन आबादियों में से एक है — जिससे वनों और सामुदायिक भूमि पर निरंतर एवं अत्यधिक चराई का दबाव पड़ता है।

- In such conditions, 'palatable' species are repeatedly suppressed while thorny, chemically defended, disturbance-tolerant plants such as **L. camara** persist or even expand.

ऐसी परिस्थितियों में, 'रुचिकर प्रजातियाँ' बार-बार दबा दी जाती हैं, जबकि कांटेदार, रासायनिक रूप से संरक्षित तथा व्यवधान-सहिष्णु पौधे जैसे **L. camara** बने रहते हैं अथवा और अधिक फैल जाते हैं।

- **Fertilizer inputs remain high** — India alone uses **35-40 million tonnes of urea per year** — and atmospheric nitrogen deposition now adds **10-30 kg per hectare annually** across many regions.

उर्वरकों का उपयोग अब भी उच्च स्तर पर बना हुआ है — केवल भारत ही प्रतिवर्ष **35-40 मिलियन टन यूरिया** का उपयोग करता है — तथा वायुमंडलीय **नाइट्रोजन निक्षेपण** अब अनेक क्षेत्रों में प्रतिवर्ष **10-30 किलोग्राम प्रति हेक्टेयर** की अतिरिक्त मात्रा जोड़ रहा है।

- **Woody nitrogen-fixing species** such as **S. spectabilis** and **P. juliflora** benefit from such altered conditions.

काष्ठीय **नाइट्रोजन स्थिरीकरण करने वाली प्रजातियाँ** जैसे **S. spectabilis** और **P. juliflora** ऐसी परिवर्तित परिस्थितियों से लाभान्वित होती हैं।

- **Grasslands** expanded during drier phases of history while **rainforests** arose and diversified in warmer, wetter conditions.

इतिहास के अधिक शुष्क चरणों के दौरान **घासभूमियों** का विस्तार हुआ, जबकि अधिक गर्म एवं आर्द्र परिस्थितियों में **वर्षावनों** का उद्भव और विविधीकरण हुआ।

- They can accumulate **heavy metals, nitrogen, and carbon** in biomass, provide cover for smaller wildlife in disturbed landscapes, create conditions into which other species later enter, provide windbreaks, and bind soil.

वे अपने **जैवभार** में **भारी धातुओं, नाइट्रोजन तथा कार्बन** का संचयन कर सकती हैं, व्यवधानयुक्त परिदृश्यों में छोटे वन्यजीवों को आश्रय प्रदान कर सकती हैं, ऐसी परिस्थितियाँ निर्मित कर सकती हैं जिनमें बाद में अन्य प्रजातियाँ प्रवेश करती हैं, **वायु अवरोधक** का कार्य कर सकती हैं तथा मृदा को बाँध सकती हैं।



India's cows offer biogas alternative to energy crunch



Tapping local energy: Indian women carry dried cow dung cakes on the outskirts of Allahabad. AFP

GS III: Environment

Agence France-Presse
BULANDSHAHR, INDIA

Across much of India, an energy crunch caused by the Iran war has prompted long queues for cooking gas cylinders. That's not a problem for Gauri Devi. On a stove with blue flames, she flips a chapati flatbread, burning biogas produced from cow dung – an alternative fuel helping ease pressure on supplies.

"It cooks everything," the 25-year-old said in her courtyard kitchen in Nekpur, a village in Uttar Pradesh, about 90 kilometre (55 miles) from New Delhi. "If the pressure goes down, we let it rest for half an hour and it works again."

India consumes more than 30 million tonne of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) annually, importing over half its needs. The government insists there is no shortage of cooking gas, but supply delays, panic buying and black marketeers have created long queues for cylinders.

However, since the 1980s India has also promoted biogas as a low-cost rural energy source, subsidising more than five million "digester" units that convert farm waste into methane for cooking, and nitrogen-rich slurry for fertilizer.

For Gauri, it requires mixing a couple of buckets of dung with water, then pouring the mixture into a car-sized underground tank topped with a storage balloon. It provides a piped methane supply so regular that she only uses an LPG cylinder for emergencies or large gatherings.

The biogas works for everything – "vegetables, tea, lentils", she said.

'Black gold'

The residual slurry is later spread on fields as fertilizer. It has better nitrogen availability for plants compared with raw dung, farmers say.

"The manure is so good," said farmer Pramod Singh, who installed a larger unit in 2025, enough for six people, fuelled by 30-45 kilogram of dung daily from four cows.

And he said the slurry fertilizer is particularly valuable at a time when global supplies of artificial fertilizers have been hit by trade disruptions due to the war.

"The real benefit is not just the gas – that is like a bonus," local farmer leader Pritam Singh said. "The slurry is 'black gold'."

More than 45% of India's 1.4 billion people rely on farming, and the country has one of the largest cattle populations. India – the world's most populous nation and third-largest fossil fuel polluter – has pushed large-scale biogas output to achieve a goal of carbon neutrality by 2070.

The government last year required that biogas account for at least 1% of liquid gas fuelling both vehicles and domestic use – rising to 5% by 2028.

Huge government subsidy

Dozens of multi-million dollar production plants are now in the pipeline. But small-scale rural producers are also being rolled out – units cost around ₹25,000-30,000 (\$265-\$318), often heavily subsidised by the government.

In a Hindu-majority nation where cows are revered and dung and urine used in everything from floor plastering and fuel to ritual practices, it is easy to win supporters, said Pritam Singh.

He installed his first plant in 2007 and has helped put in 15 more in his village in the past year alone. He said interest had shot up after the LPG shortages. "People who earlier were not interested now ask how to get it," he said.

"Once they see food being cooked and crops benefiting, they are convinced."

'Mini factories'

But biogas is still a small fraction of household cooking fuel – with LPG considered more convenient because companies manage the supply chain. "Biogas plants are not just equipment; they are mini factories," said A.R. Shukla, president of the Indian Biogas Association. "They need organised installation, regular operation and maintenance," he added.

"So, unless installation and upkeep are handled through community-based or cooperative enterprises, households will continue to treat biogas as secondary fuel."

And even with government support, there are barriers to uptake, including cost and space.

"We work on other people's farms the whole day. We don't have land for it," said labourer Ramesh Kumar Singh, standing in a line of around 100 queueing for LPG cylinders in the nearby village of Madalpur. "I am standing in scorching heat, hungry and thirsty," said Mahendri, 77, who had failed to secure a cylinder for three days in a row.

प्रयास कर रही भीड़ की सहायता कर रहे थे।

07M. India's cows offer biogas alternative to energy crunch

भारत की गाएँ

ऊर्जा संकट के

लिए बायोगैस का

विकल्प प्रदान कर

रही हैं

• The scene in Beijing, China's capital, was

repeated for days at several events

and was also seen in the southern

technology hub

Shenzhen in

March, as

engineers helped

crowds trying to

set up the popular AI "agent"

OpenClaw on

their laptops.

चीन की राजधानी

बीजिंग में यह दृश्य

कई दिनों तक

विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों में

दोहराया गया तथा

मार्च में दक्षिणी

प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र

शेन्जेन में भी देखा

गया, जहाँ इंजीनियर

अपने लैपटॉप पर

लोकप्रिय AI "एजेंट"

OpenClaw को

स्थापित करने का

- Chinese people and businesses have rapidly embraced AI for all sorts of things, from booking and planning travel, ordering food and hailing rides.

व्यवसायों ने यात्रा की बुकिंग एवं योजना बनाने, भोजन मंगाने तथा वाहन सेवाएँ प्राप्त करने जैसे अनेक कार्यों के लिए तीव्र गति से कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) को अपनाया है।

- Tencent integrated OpenClaw into WeChat, China's own "super-app" which is a messaging tool that can also be used to order food and make payments.



Tencent ने OpenClaw को WeChat में एकीकृत कर दिया है, जो चीन का अपना "सुपर-ऐप" है तथा संदेश भेजने के अतिरिक्त भोजन मंगाने एवं भुगतान करने के लिए भी उपयोग किया जाता है।

- **OpenClaw**, originally created by Austrian software developer **Peter Steinberger** last year, won quick and enthusiastic use thanks to its ability to use various tools to complete complicated tasks.
पिछले वर्ष ऑस्ट्रियाई सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर **Peter Steinberger** द्वारा निर्मित **OpenClaw** ने जटिल कार्यों को पूरा करने हेतु विभिन्न उपकरणों का उपयोग करने की अपनी क्षमता के कारण शीघ्र एवं उत्साहपूर्ण लोकप्रियता प्राप्त की।
- Preparing to start a **photo services business** after graduation, **Zhao** asked AI to build a company website.
स्नातक होने के बाद **फोटो सेवा व्यवसाय** प्रारम्भ करने की तैयारी कर रहे झाओ ने AI से एक कंपनी वेबसाइट बनाने के लिए कहा।
- Within **10 minutes**, it had generated a fully functional site for less than **5 yuan (₹70)**.
केवल **10 मिनट** के भीतर उसने **5 युआन (₹70)** से भी कम लागत में पूर्णतः कार्यशील वेबसाइट तैयार कर दी।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		07 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07M	CBI conducts searches in 'cyberslavery' case; 1 held 'साइबर गुलामी' मामले में CBI की छापेमारी; 1 गिरफ्तार	
07M	Overall crime rate drops 6%; cybercrime up by 17%: NCRB कुल अपराध दर में 6% की गिरावट; साइबर अपराध में 17% की बढ़ोतरी : NCRB	



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



CBI conducts searches in 'cyberslavery' case; 1 held

GS III: Internal Security
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted searches at nine locations across four States and arrested one accused on the charge of being part of a network trafficking Indian nationals for "cyberslavery" in South-east Asian countries, primarily Myanmar and Cambodia.

The agency searched the premises of suspects in Delhi, Mumbai, Uttarakhand's Kashipur, and Lucknow, Gonda and Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

"One individual has been arrested in Lucknow for his alleged role in facilitating the trafficking operations. Preliminary findings suggest that agents receive payments in exchange for supplying Indian nationals," the CBI said.

The organised network sent job seekers to these countries on the pretext of lucrative opportunities. "These facilities have been described as hubs of 'cyberslavery', where trafficked individuals are forced to participate in various forms of cyber-enabled fraud," the CBI said.

07M. CBI conducts searches in 'cyberslavery' case; 1 held 'साइबर गुलामी' मामले में CBI की छापेमारी; 1 गिरफ्तार

- "These facilities have been described as hubs of 'cyberslavery', where tracked individuals are forced to participate in various forms of cyber-enabled fraud," the CBI said.

CBI ने कहा, "इन ठिकानों को 'साइबर गुलामी' के केंद्र बताया गया है, जहां तस्करी कर लिए गए लोगों को विभिन्न प्रकार की साइबर धोखाधड़ी में जबरन शामिल किया जाता है।"

PATRIOTIC IAS