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Breaking new ground: Andreieva is the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand Slam while the 114th-ranked Chwalinska will climb to 21 after her runner-up finish. AFP

Breaking new ground: **Andreieva** is the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand Slam while the 114th-ranked Chwalinska will climb to 21 after her runner-up finish.

Actor Salim Kumar passes away at 56

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

National award-winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar, 56, passed away at a private hospital in Kochi late on Saturday night.

He was rushed to Amrita Hospital in the city after complaining of discomfort on Saturday morning and had been on ventilator support since.

Kumar has a medical history marked by recurring illnesses and had undergone a liver transplant a

few years ago.

He has won both the National and State awards for 'Best Actor' for his moving portrayal in film *Adaminte Makan Abu* (2010). He has won the Kerala State Film Award on four occasions.

During the recent Kerala Assembly election, Kumar openly supported the Congress-led UDF, appearing alongside its leaders on several occasions and criticising the LDF leadership.

Since his debut in a small role in *Ishtamanu Nooru Vattam* (1996), Ku-



Salim Kumar

mar has acted in over 250 films.

Kumar, who has acted in Tamil and Bengali movies, has also tried his luck in writing and directing.

Characters made unforgettable by him such as Manavalan in *Pulival Kalyanam*, Pyari in *Kalyanaraman*, Kannan Sranku in *Mayavi*, the mentally challenged character in *CID Moosa*, dance master Vikram in *Chathikatha Chanthu*, advocate Mukundan Unni in *Meesha Madhavan*, Koshy in *Ee Parakkum Thalika*, and Chandran in *Kunjikoonan* were among those that found enduring popularity in meme culture. (With PTI inputs)

07J6. Actor Salim Kumar passes away at 56

56 वर्ष की आयु में अभिनेता सलीम कुमार का निधन

- National award-winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar, 56, passed away at a private hospital in Kochi late on Saturday night.
राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार विजेता मलयालम अभिनेता सलीम कुमार, 56, का शनिवार देर रात कोच्चि के एक निजी अस्पताल में निधन हो गया।
- He has won both the National and State awards for 'Best Actor' for his moving portrayal in film *Adaminte Makan Abu* (2010).
उन्होंने फिल्म *Adaminte Makan Abu* (2010) में अपने मार्मिक अभिनय के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेता का राष्ट्रीय और राज्य पुरस्कार दोनों जीते थे।
- He has won the Kerala State Film Award on four occasions.
उन्होंने चार बार केरल राज्य फिल्म पुरस्कार जीता था।
- Since his debut in a small role in *Ishtamanu Nooru Vattam* (1996), Kumar has acted in over 250 films.



Ishtamanu Nooru Vattam (1996) में एक छोटे से किरदार से शुरुआत करने के बाद कुमार ने 250 से अधिक फिल्मों में अभिनय किया।

- Kumar, who has acted in Tamil and Bengali movies, has also tried his luck in writing and directing.

तमिल और बंगाली फिल्मों में अभिनय कर चुके कुमार ने लेखन और निर्देशन में भी हाथ आजमाया।

HC raps U.P. police, says officers serve 'political bosses'

PCS: GS V
Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Questioning the functioning of the Uttar Pradesh police, the Allahabad High Court recently observed that the loyalties of the State's police officers often appear to be aligned with the ruling dispensation rather than the Constitution.

The remarks came from the Bench of Justice Vinod Diwakar, which was hearing a case pertaining to the Gangsters Act against Ghaziabad resident Rajendra Tyagi and his family on Wednesday. While quashing the case, the court found that the allegations arose from land and financial disputes and did not meet the legal requirements for invoking the stringent law.

The court expressed serious concern about the arrest of Lalita Tyagi, a homemaker, who spent nearly 80 days in jail. It termed her arrest "patently illegal, arbitrary and wholly unwarranted".

Reprimanding the police, the court noted that a

Court slams illegal use of Gangsters Act to keep a homemaker in jail for 80 days

deeply entrenched culture has taken root in which the rule of law is treated less as a Constitutional mandate and more as an administrative obstacle.

"The vertical loyalty of officers runs not toward the Constitution but toward the ruling dispensation. Field officers, acutely conscious of the transfer-posting economy, calibrate their conduct to satisfy political superiors. Encounter killings, selective crack-downs, and targeted use of the Gangsters Act against inconvenient individuals have periodically attracted judicial notice," the court said.

It further recorded a *prima facie* finding that former Ghaziabad Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra appeared to have misused his authority while approving the Gangsters Act proceedings.

wholly unwarranted".

न्यायालय ने उनकी गिरफ्तारी को "स्पष्ट रूप से अवैध, मनमानी और पूरी तरह अनुचित" बताया।

- Reprimanding the police, the court noted that a deeply entrenched culture has taken root in which the rule of law is treated less as a Constitutional mandate and more as an administrative obstacle.

पुलिस को फटकार लगाते हुए न्यायालय ने कहा कि एक गहरी जड़ें जमा चुकी संस्कृति विकसित हो गई है, जिसमें कानून के शासन को संवैधानिक आदेश के बजाय प्रशासनिक बाधा के रूप में देखा जाता है।

07J6. HC raps U.P. police, says officers serve 'political bosses'

उच्च न्यायालय ने यू.पी. पुलिस को फटकार लगाई, कहा अधिकारी 'राजनीतिक आकाओं' की सेवा करते हैं

• Questioning the functioning of the Uttar Pradesh police, the Allahabad High Court recently observed that the loyalties of the State's police officers often appear to be aligned with the ruling dispensation rather than the Constitution.

उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस के कार्यकलापों पर सवाल उठाते हुए इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में टिप्पणी की कि राज्य के पुलिस अधिकारियों की निष्ठा अक्सर संविधान के बजाय सत्तारूढ़ व्यवस्था के प्रति दिखाई देती है।

• The remarks came from the Bench of Justice Vinod Diwakar, which was hearing a case pertaining to the Gangsters Act against Ghaziabad resident Rajendra Tyagi and his family on Wednesday.

ये टिप्पणियां न्यायमूर्ति विनोद दिवाकर की पीठ ने कीं, जो बुधवार को गाजियाबाद निवासी राजेंद्र त्यागी और उनके परिवार के विरुद्ध गैंगस्टर्स एक्ट से संबंधित मामले की सुनवाई कर रही थी।

• While quashing the case, the court found that the allegations arose from land and financial disputes and did not meet the legal requirements for invoking the stringent law.

मामले को निरस्त करते हुए न्यायालय ने पाया कि आरोप भूमि और वित्तीय विवादों से उत्पन्न हुए थे तथा कठोर कानून लागू करने की कानूनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा नहीं करते थे।

• The court expressed serious concern about the arrest of Lalita Tyagi, a homemaker, who spent nearly 80 days in jail.

न्यायालय ने गृहिणी ललिता त्यागी की गिरफ्तारी पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की, जिन्होंने लगभग 80 दिन जेल में बिताए।

• It termed her arrest "patently illegal, arbitrary and

- "The vertical loyalty of officers runs not toward the **Constitution** but toward the ruling dispensation.
"अधिकारियों की ऊर्ध्वाधर निष्ठा संविधान की ओर नहीं बल्कि सत्तारूढ़ व्यवस्था की ओर होती है।
- Field officers, acutely conscious of the **transfer-posting economy**, calibrate their conduct to satisfy political superiors.
मैदानी अधिकारी स्थानांतरण-पदस्थापन व्यवस्था के प्रति अत्यधिक सजग रहते हुए अपने व्यवहार को राजनीतिक वरिष्ठों को संतुष्ट करने के अनुरूप ढालते हैं।
- **Encounter killings**, selective crackdowns, and targeted use of the **Gangsters Act** against inconvenient individuals have periodically attracted judicial notice," the court said.
मुठभेड़ हत्याएं, चुनिंदा कार्रवाई तथा असुविधाजनक व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध गैंगस्टर्स एक्ट का लक्षित उपयोग समय-समय पर न्यायपालिका के संज्ञान में आया है," न्यायालय ने कहा।
- It further recorded a prima facie finding that former **Ghaziabad Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra** appeared to have misused his authority while approving the **Gangsters Act** proceedings.
न्यायालय ने आगे प्रथम दृष्टया यह भी दर्ज किया कि पूर्व गाजियाबाद पुलिस आयुक्त अजय कुमार मिश्रा ने गैंगस्टर्स एक्ट की कार्यवाही को स्वीकृति देते समय अपने अधिकार का दुरुपयोग किया प्रतीत होता है।

Praggnanandhaa caps fairytale run with title win

The 20-year-old Grandmaster becomes the first Indian to clinch the coveted crown; overnight leader So settles for the second spot; Carlsen finishes fourth while Gukesh gets the wooden spoon

PCS
NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

The usually quiet Deichman Bjorvika, a public library here, was a beehive of activity well past its working hours on Friday. The reason – an Indian player answering to the name R. Praggnanandhaa had done the unthinkable, winning a chess tournament featuring Magnus Carlsen – as rare as the Northern Lights in a southern hemisphere sky.

The 20-year-old from Chennai stormed to the title in sensational style after languishing in the last place after round six of the Open event in Norway Chess 2026. He won four classical games on the trot and his victims included Alireza Firouzja, the great Carlsen, Gukesh and Vincent Keymer.

In the process, he became the first Indian to win the prestigious title. Praggnanandhaa was as clinical as one could get as



Amazing turnaround: Praggnanandhaa outwitted Firouzja, Carlsen, Gukesh and Keymer on the trot. FLICKR/NORWAYCHESS

he accounted for the best with an impressive display as was evidenced by his decimation of Keymer.

He topped the leaderboard with 18 points, one ahead of American Wesley So, with his convincing win in the final round.

The Indian entered the game against Keymer needing to not only win but also hope that So didn't claim a victory in the classical against Firouzja. Fortune favours

the brave and Praggnanandhaa outclassed his opponent to pick up three points. With So being held to a draw, another golden chapter was added to Indian chess.

While Praggnanandhaa came up with a special performance, his compatriot and World champion D. Gukesh's form was up-and-down. He finished with the wooden spoon after a last-round loss to Carlsen, who wound up

fourth after an eminently forgettable outing.

The women's event saw Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva slump to a defeat in her final outing after having clinched the title on Thursday (with a round to spare). China's Zhu Jiner had a strong finish to take the second spot ahead of the 2025 champion Anna Muzychuk.

India's Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy suffered losses to finish fifth and sixth, respectively.

The results: 10th round:

Open: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 15.5) lost to Wesley So (USA, 17) in Armageddon; Vincent Keymer (Ger, 11) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (18); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 13) bt D. Gukesh (8).

Women: Zhu Jiner (Chn, 16) bt Koneru Humpy (8); Ju Wenjun (Chn, 13.5) bt Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 16.5); Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 15) bt Divya Deshmukh (10).

Final standings: Open: 1. Praggnanandhaa 18 points, 2. So 17, 3. Firouzja 15.5, 4. Carlsen 13, 5. Keymer 11, 6. Gukesh 8.

Women: 1. Assaubayeva 16.5, 2. Zhu 16, 3. Muzychuk 15, 4. Ju 13.5, 5. Divya 10, 6. Humpy 9. (The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Praggnanandhaa thrilled to prevail in a field featuring the elite players

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

R. Praggnanandhaa... the name is no more a tongue-twister. The chess world and fans have gotten used to it as the Indian Grandmaster just keeps winning and winning. Beating Magnus Carlsen in his own backyard in a tournament which he has dominated is no mean feat and he did it in style, winning four classical games in a row to surge to the top.

"Winning this is more special and Magnus was there. Here it's just the top players," he told the Indian media after beating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the 10th and final round to register a historic maiden triumph in Norway Chess 2026 at Deichman Bjorvika on Friday.

It may or may not be the biggest title of his career thus far, but his tourna-



Popular champion: Praggnanandhaa was swarmed by the fans after his triumph. FLICKR/NORWAYCHESS

ment win was a hugely popular one. He was swarmed by fans as the night wore on but managed to please them with autographs and pictures.

Carlsen was effusive in praise of the champion and said, "he won the last four classical games. That's

as clutch as it gets. Pragg is an incredible fighter and it is fun to see him get rewarded for that." The World No. 1 lost both his classical games to the Indian GM.

Asked what was the reason for the turnaround after two losses in the middle



The conscious effort of playing faster certainly helped me in my games

of the tournament and being last after round six, Praggnanandhaa said: "I don't think I changed anything in particular. But the conscious effort of playing faster certainly helped me in my games. I had more time than my opponent in most of the games."

After a tepid run in the middle of the event, a phone call with his mother probably was the game-changer. Praggnanandhaa said he had spoken to her (on June 1) before the match against Alireza Firouzja and that she had told him "It's a new month. You'll play well."

Play well... he really did.

07J6. Praggnanandhaa caps fairytale run with title win

प्रज्ञानानंद ने खिताब जीतकर अपने शानदार सफर को ऐतिहासिक मुकाम दिया

- The **20-year-old** from **Chennai** stormed to the title in sensational style after languishing in the last place after round six of the Open event in **Norway Chess 2026**.
चेन्नई के 20 वर्षीय खिलाड़ी ने नॉर्वे चैस 2026 के ओपन वर्ग में छह राउंड के बाद अंतिम स्थान पर रहने के बावजूद शानदार वापसी करते हुए खिताब जीत लिया।
- His victims included **Alireza Firouzja**, the great **Magnus Carlsen**, **D. Gukesh** and **Vincent Keymer**.
उन्होंने अलीरेज़ा फिरूज़जा, महान मैग्नस कार्लसन, डी. गुकेश और विन्सेंट कीमर को हराया।



- In the process, he became the **first Indian** to win the prestigious title.
इस उपलब्धि के साथ वे यह प्रतिष्ठित खिताब जीतने वाले **पहले भारतीय** बन गए।
- He topped the leaderboard with **18 points**, one ahead of American **Wesley So**, with his convincing win in the final round.
उन्होंने अंतिम राउंड में प्रभावशाली जीत दर्ज कर **18 अंक** के साथ शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया और अमेरिकी **वेस्ली सो** से एक अंक आगे रहे।
- While Praggnanandhaa came up with a special performance, his compatriot and **World Champion D. Gukesh's** form was up-and-down.
जहां प्रज्ञानानंद ने विशेष प्रदर्शन किया, वहीं उनके हमवतन और विश्व चैंपियन डी. गुकेश का प्रदर्शन उतार-चढ़ाव भरा रहा।
- He finished with the wooden spoon after a last-round loss to **Magnus Carlsen**.
अंतिम राउंड में **मैग्नस कार्लसन** से हारने के बाद वे अंतिम स्थान पर रहे।
- Carlsen** wound up fourth after an eminently forgettable outing.
कार्लसन निराशाजनक प्रदर्शन के बाद चौथे स्थान पर रहे।
- The women's event saw **Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva** slump to a defeat in her final outing after having clinched the title on Thursday with a round to spare.
महिला वर्ग में **कज़ाखस्तान की बिबिसारा असाउबायेवा** ने एक राउंड शेष रहते गुरुवार को खिताब जीत लिया था, लेकिन अंतिम मुकाबले में उन्हें हार का सामना करना पड़ा।
- China's Zhu Jiner** had a strong finish to take the second spot ahead of the 2025 champion **Anna Muzychuk**.
चीन की **झू जिनर** ने शानदार अंत करते हुए **2025 की चैंपियन अन्ना मुज़ीचुक** से आगे दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया।
- India's Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy** suffered losses to finish fifth and sixth, respectively.
भारत की **दिव्या देशमुख और कोनेरु हम्पी** को हार का सामना करना पड़ा और वे क्रमशः पांचवें तथा छठे स्थान पर रहीं।

Andreeva ends Chwalinska's dream run for first Major title

PCS

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Mirra Andreeva won her first Grand Slam title on Saturday by downing Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in straight sets in the French Open final.

The 19-year-old Russian beat Chwalinska 6-3, 6-2 to become the youngest Roland Garros women's singles champion since Monica Seles, then aged 18, won her third straight title in Paris in 1992.

With her first-ever Major crown, Andreeva also became the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand Slam.

The Coupe Suzanne Lenglen will now take centre spot in Andreeva's burgeoning trophy cabinet.

THE RESULTS

Women: Final: 8-Andreeva bt Chwalinska (Pol) 6-3, 6-2.
Men: Doubles: Final: 1-Zeballos (Arg) & Granollers (Esp) bt 2-Heliovaara (Fin) & Patten (GBR) 6-4, 6-2.

net, which already features two WTA 1000 titles.

Defeat at the final hurdle brought to an end an astonishing run which started in qualifying for Chwalinska, who won nine matches in the French capital to become the first qualifier to reach the final in the Open era.

However, the World No. 114's career will now be on a different stratosphere as she will climb to 21 in the rankings and be assured of competing regularly in tennis' biggest tournaments.

Argentina's Horacio Zeballos and Spaniard Mar-

cel Granollers won their second straight French Open men's doubles title by beating Harri Heliovaara and Henry Patten in the final.

Third title as a pair

The 41-year-old Zeballos and Granollers, 40, eased to a 6-4, 6-2 victory to secure their third Grand Slam title as a pairing, after also winning last year's US Open.

"Now we can say that it was an amazing two weeks," said Zeballos.

"I can't be more happy. I'm proud in this moment. Yeah, it's unbelievable. It's unbelievable feeling for us and for all of the team."

Finnish player Heliovaara and Britain's Patten missed out on a third Slam title themselves, having won the 2025 Australian Open and Wimbledon in 2024.

07J6. Andreeva ends Chwalinska's dream run for first Major title

एंड्रीवा ने च्वालिंस्का के सपनों के सफर को रोककर पहला ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब जीता

- Mirra Andreeva** won her first **Grand Slam** title on Saturday by downing Polish qualifier **Maja Chwalinska** in straight sets in the **French Open** final.

मिरा एंड्रीवा ने शनिवार को फ्रेंच ओपन के फाइनल में पोलैंड की क्वालीफायर **माजा च्वालिंस्का** को सीधे सेटों में हराकर अपना पहला **ग्रैंड स्लैम** खिताब जीता।

- The **19-year-old Russian** beat Chwalinska **6-3, 6-2** to become the youngest **Roland Garros women's singles champion** since **Monica Seles**, then aged 18, won her third straight title in Paris in **1992**.

19 वर्षीय रूसी खिलाड़ी ने च्वालिंस्का को **6-3, 6-2** से हराकर **1992 में मोनिका सेलेस** के बाद सबसे कम उम्र की **रोलां गैरो महिला एकल चैंपियन** बनने का गौरव हासिल किया।

- With her first-ever **Major crown**, Andreeva also became the first player, man or woman, born after **2005** to win a **Grand Slam**.
अपने पहले मेजर खिताब के साथ एंड्रीवा 2005 के बाद जन्मी पहली खिलाड़ी बनीं, जिन्होंने ग्रैंड स्लैम जीता है।
- Argentina's Horacio Zeballos** and **Spain's Marcel Granollers** won their second straight **French Open men's doubles** title by beating **Harri Heliövaara** and **Henry Patten** in the final.
अर्जेटीना के होरासियो जेबालोस और स्पेन के मार्सेल ग्रेनोलर्स ने फाइनल में हैरी हेलियोवारा और हेनरी पैटन को हराकर लगातार दूसरा फ्रेंच ओपन पुरुष युगल खिताब जीता।

Third title as a pair जोड़ी के रूप में तीसरा खिताब

- The **41-year-old Zeballos** and **40-year-old Granollers** eased to a **6-4, 6-2** victory to secure their third **Grand Slam** title as a pairing, after also winning last year's **US Open**.
41 वर्षीय जेबालोस और 40 वर्षीय ग्रेनोलर्स ने 6-4, 6-2 से जीत दर्ज कर जोड़ी के रूप में अपना तीसरा ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब हासिल किया, इससे पहले उन्होंने पिछले वर्ष का यूएस ओपन भी जीता था।

India defeats Bangladesh, wins title for the sixth time

SAFF WOMEN'S C'SHIPS

PCS

Press Trust of India
MARGAO

India clinched the SAFF Women's Championship football title for the sixth time and its first in seven years with a 3-1 win over Bangladesh in the summit clash here on Saturday.

Pyari Xaxa (42nd), Sanfida Nongrum (46th) and Lynda Kom Serto (82nd) scored for India, while Ritu Porna Chakma (45+2) pulled one back for Bangladesh. The host had beaten



Richly rewarded: The Indian women's team capped off an unbeaten run with the crown. AIFC

the same opponents 3-0 in the group stage.

India ended the tournament unbeaten, scoring 18 goals while conceding just one. After five title-wins on

the trot, India could not even reach the final in the last two editions when Bangladesh walked away with the trophy. India had last won the title in 2019.

07J6. India defeats Bangladesh, wins title for the sixth time भारत ने बांग्लादेश को हराकर छठी बार खिताब जीता

- India clinched the **SAFF Women's Championship** football title for the **sixth time** and its **first in seven years** with a **3-1** win over **Bangladesh** in the summit clash here on Saturday.
भारत ने शनिवार को फाइनल मुकाबले में बांग्लादेश को 3-1 से हराकर सैफ महिला फुटबॉल चैम्पियनशिप का खिताब छठी बार जीता और सात वर्षों बाद यह उपलब्धि हासिल की।

- **Pyari Xaxa (42nd minute), Sanfida Nongrum (46th minute) and Lynda Kom Serto (82nd minute) scored for India.**
प्यारी शाखा (42वां मिनट), सैनफिदा नॉंगरुम (46वां मिनट) और लिंडा कॉम सेर्टो (82वां मिनट) ने भारत के लिए गोल किए।
- **Ritu Porna Chakma (45+2 minute) pulled one back for Bangladesh.**
ऋतु पोर्ना चकमा (45+2 मिनट) ने बांग्लादेश के लिए एक गोल किया।
- **The host had beaten the same opponents 3-0 in the group stage.**
मेजबान टीम ने ग्रुप चरण में भी इसी प्रतिद्वंद्वी को 3-0 से हराया था।
- **India ended the tournament unbeaten, scoring 18 goals while conceding just one goal.**
भारत ने पूरे टूर्नामेंट में अजेय रहते हुए 18 गोल किए और केवल एक गोल खाया।
- **India had last won the title in 2019.**
भारत ने इससे पहले यह खिताब 2019 में जीता था।

Indian men triumph, women bag bronze

PCS
U-18 ASIA CUP HOCKEY

Agencies
KAKAMIGAHARA [JAPAN]

Ashish Tani Purti's hat-trick powered the Indian men's hockey team to the U-18 Asia Cup title win after defeating host Japan 4-1 in the final here on Saturday.

Ashish Tani Purti starred with a hat-trick, while captain Ketan Kushwaha also found the back of the net as India produced a commanding display against the host.

Numada Gaku scored for Japan, according to a press release. The Indian women's team won the



Champions: The Indian men's team celebrates the top-of-the-podium finish.
X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

bronze medal after registering a commanding 3-0 victory over Korea in the third-place match. Sandeepa Kumari, captain Sweety Kujur and Nousheen Naz were on target as the women

men capped off their campaign with podium finish. Hockey India announced a cash award of ₹3 lakh for each player in the men's team and ₹1.5 lakh for each member of

the support staff.

Each member of the women's team was awarded ₹1 lakh while the support staff got ₹50,000 each.

Purti was awarded Player of the Match for his

stellar performance in the men's final and was also recognised as the tournament's top scorer with an impressive 17 goals.

India further dominated the individual honours with Ayush Rajak being named the best goalkeeper. Among the women, Nausheen emerged as the top scorer with 12 goals. Sandeepa was adjudged the Player of the Match in women's final.

The results: Men: Final: India 4 (Ashish Tani Purti 2, 28, 34, Ketan Kushwaha 30) bt Japan 1 (Numada Gaku 52).

Women: Third place: India 3 (Sandeepa Kumari 2, Sweety Kujur 16, Nousheen Naz 33) bt Korea 0.

07J6. Indian men triumph, women bag bronze

भारतीय पुरुष टीम बनी चैंपियन, महिला टीम ने कांस्य पदक जीता

- **Ashish Tani Purti's hat-trick powered the Indian men's hockey team to the**

U-18 Asia Cup title win after defeating host Japan 4-1 in the final here on Saturday.

आशीष तानी पूर्ति की हैट्रिक की बदौलत भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम ने शनिवार को मेजबान जापान को फाइनल में 4-1 से हराकर अंडर-18 एशिया कप का खिताब जीत लिया।

- **Ashish Tani Purti starred with a hat-trick, while captain Ketan Kushwaha** also found the back of the net as India produced a commanding display against the host.

आशीष तानी पूर्ति ने हैट्रिक लगाकर शानदार प्रदर्शन किया, जबकि कप्तान केतन कुशवाहा ने भी गोल किया और भारत ने मेजबान टीम के खिलाफ प्रभावशाली खेल दिखाया।

- **Numada Gaku scored for Japan**, according to a press release.

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार नुमादा गाकु ने जापान के लिए गोल किया।

- The **Indian women's team won the bronze medal** after registering a commanding 3-0 victory over Korea in the third-place match.

भारतीय महिला टीम ने तीसरे स्थान के मुकाबले में कोरिया को 3-0 से हराकर कांस्य पदक जीता।

- **Sandeepa Kumari, captain Sweety Kujur and Nousheen Naz were on target** as the women capped off their campaign with a podium finish.

संदीपा कुमारी, कप्तान स्वीटी कुजूर और नौशीन नाज़ ने गोल किए और महिला टीम ने पदक जीतकर अपने अभियान का समापन किया।

- **Hockey India announced a cash award of ₹3 lakh for each player in the men's team and ₹1.5 lakh for each member of the support staff.**

हॉकी इंडिया ने पुरुष टीम के प्रत्येक खिलाड़ी के लिए 3 लाख रुपये तथा सहयोगी स्टाफ के प्रत्येक सदस्य के लिए 1.5 लाख रुपये की नकद पुरस्कार राशि की घोषणा की।



- Each member of the women's team was awarded ₹1 lakh while the support staff got ₹50,000 each.
महिला टीम के प्रत्येक सदस्य को 1 लाख रुपये तथा सहयोगी स्टाफ के प्रत्येक सदस्य को 50,000 रुपये दिए गए।
- Purti was awarded **Player of the Match** for his stellar performance in the men's final and was also recognised as the tournament's **top scorer** with an impressive **17 goals**.
पूति को पुरुष फाइनल में शानदार प्रदर्शन के लिए **प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच** चुना गया और 17 गोल के साथ वे टूर्नामेंट के **सर्वाधिक गोल करने वाले खिलाड़ी** भी बने।
- India further dominated the individual honours with **Ayush Rajak** being named the **best goalkeeper**.
भारत ने व्यक्तिगत पुरस्कारों में भी दबदबा कायम रखा और **आयुष रजक** को **सर्वश्रेष्ठ गोलकीपर** चुना गया।
- Among the women, **Nousheen Naz** emerged as the **top scorer** with **12 goals**.
महिला वर्ग में **नौशीन नाज़** 12 गोल के साथ **सर्वाधिक गोल करने वाली खिलाड़ी** रहीं।
- Sandeepa Kumari** was adjudged the **Player of the Match** in the women's final.
महिला फाइनल में **संदीपा कुमारी** को **प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच** चुना गया।

GS Paper 1: History		07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07J6	Besieged history घेराबंदी का इतिहास	



Besieged history

Beaufort Castle

A 12th-century hilltop castle has emerged as a key strategic flashpoint in Israel's war with Hezbollah in occupied southern Lebanon

GS I: World History

Akul Baiju

The Beaufort Castle sits right beside the Litani River in southern Lebanon, with an unobstructed view of northern Israel and the sweeping Beqaa valley. The 900-year-old structure, which literally means "beautiful fort" in Old French, has come under renewed spotlight after the Israeli military invasion on June 1.

Originally called Qalaat al-Shaqif, or the "Castle of the High Rock," Beaufort was built by European crusaders atop older fortifications in 1139. Invaded and besieged multiple times throughout its long history, the bastion has been at the centre of the Israel-Lebanon conflict and a pain point in the fragile ceasefire, announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on April 17.

In 1190, the stately structure was captured by Saladin, the first Sultan of Egypt and Syria, who used it as an important border outpost to strengthen his reign. Due to its military importance, the castle has changed hands frequently, with Crusaders (most famously the Knights Templar), Egyptian Mamluks, Ottomans, and the French all leaving their marks on it.

The Frankish Crusaders created its two-storey keep with an entry through the



REUTERS

ground floor, unlike other forts of its time. Exposed stone staircases cut directly into the rock were built, forcing visitors and attackers to ascend in a single file on the highly exposed path.

The Mamluks added curved towers to defend against the firing of spherical stones. They inscribed Arabic victory messages into the front gates of the castle. The Ottoman takeover saw the repartitioning of the 15,000-square-metre area for logistical and residential usage. They built barracks and added slits in the fort walls for precise firing.

Internal politics led to many of the early constructions being mined and later restored using crude stone.

The French period saw the stripping away of Ottoman influence and attempts at restoring Crusader architecture. Beaufort has a sharp 300m drop on one side and the valley on the other, protecting it from enemy attacks. This

vantage point is still used for military strikes, surveillance, and the deployment of weaponry.

The natural trench between the fortress and the fast-flowing Litani leads to the city of Nabatieh, an ancient centre for the trade of precious spices and commodities like Myrrh and Frankincense in its historical Souk el-Tanen market.

Caught in the war

The sand-battered behemoth is on track to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has been included on the country's 'tentative list.' November 2024 saw the global body granting it provisional enhanced protection under the 1954 Hague Convention.

During the 1970s, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attacked Israel from the fort's ramparts. Underground bunkers and command centres were constructed, with some going as deep as 65m underground.

In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon, seized the for-

treach from the PLO, and raised the 'blue and white' for the first time. This was a significant moment. Then Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon called the taking of Beirut a war that was "worth it" and rejected the allegations of it being "immoral."

The banner of Israel came down in 2000 when the Israelis blew up their bunkers and abandoned the castle, when they withdrew from Lebanon after 18 years of occupation. What followed was its opening to the public and years of restoration, with a brief pause in 2006 due to another Israeli invasion.

The 2026 invasion by Israel marks one of the most significant escalations in the conflict since the dawn of the millennium.

In March this year, Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel in retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In response, Israel launched massive air strikes which were followed by a ground invasion.

The U.S.-backed ceasefire is functionally defunct, with both sides launching attacks against each other. Israel wants to push Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon and keep the territory it has captured. Hezbollah says it would continue to fight as long as Israel continues the occupation of Lebanese land.

07J6. Besieged history

घेराबंदी का इतिहास

- A 12th-century hilltop castle has emerged as a key strategic flashpoint in Israel's war with Hezbollah in occupied southern Lebanon.

12वीं शताब्दी का एक पहाड़ी किला दक्षिणी लेबनान के कब्जे वाले क्षेत्र में इज़राइल और हिज़बुल्लाह के युद्ध का एक प्रमुख सामरिक केंद्र बनकर उभरा है।



- The **Beaufort Castle** sits right beside the **Litani River** in southern Lebanon, with an unobstructed view of northern Israel and the sweeping **Beqaa Valley**.
ब्यूफोर्ट कैसल दक्षिणी लेबनान में लितानी नदी के किनारे स्थित है, जहां से उत्तरी इजराइल और विस्तृत बेका घाटी का स्पष्ट दृश्य दिखाई देता है।
- The **900-year-old structure**, which literally means **"beautiful fort"** in Old French, has come under renewed spotlight after the Israeli military invasion on **June 1**.
यह 900 वर्ष पुरानी संरचना, जिसका पुरानी फ्रेंच भाषा में शाब्दिक अर्थ "सुंदर किला" है, 1 जून को हुए इजराइली सैन्य आक्रमण के बाद फिर से चर्चा में आ गई है।
- Originally called **Qalaat al-Shaqif**, or the **"Castle of the High Rock,"** Beaufort was built by European crusaders atop older fortifications in **1139**.
मूल रूप से कलाअत अल-शकीफ या "ऊंची चट्टान का किला" कहलाने वाला ब्यूफोर्ट, 1139 में यूरोपीय धर्मयोद्धाओं द्वारा पुराने किलाबंद ढांचे के ऊपर बनाया गया था।
- In **1190**, the stately structure was captured by **Saladin**, the first Sultan of Egypt and Syria, who used it as an important border outpost to strengthen his reign.
1190 में इस भव्य संरचना पर सलाउद्दीन ने कब्जा कर लिया, जो मिस्र और सीरिया के पहले सुल्तान थे, और उन्होंने इसे अपने शासन को मजबूत करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण सीमावर्ती चौकी के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया।
- Due to its military importance, the castle has changed hands frequently, with **Crusaders, Knights Templar, Egyptian Mamluks, Ottomans, and the French** all leaving their marks on it.
सैन्य महत्व के कारण इस किले का नियंत्रण कई बार बदला और क्रूसेडर, नाइट्स टेम्पलर, मिस्री ममलूक, उस्मानी साम्राज्य तथा फ्रांसीसियों ने इस पर अपनी छाप छोड़ी।
- The **Frankish Crusaders** created its two-storey keep with an entry through the ground floor, unlike other forts of its time.
फ्रैंकी क्रूसेडरों ने इसका दो मंजिला मुख्य भाग बनाया, जिसमें प्रवेश भूतल से होता था, जो उस समय के अन्य किलों से अलग था।
- The natural trench between the fortress and the fast-flowing **Litani** leads to the city of **Nabatieh**, an ancient centre for the trade of precious spices and commodities like **Myrrh** and **Frankincense** in its historical **Souk el-Tanen** market.
किले और तेज़ बहने वाली लितानी नदी के बीच स्थित प्राकृतिक खाई नबातियेह शहर तक जाती है, जो अपने ऐतिहासिक सूक एल-तानन बाजार में मिर और लोबान जैसे बहुमूल्य मसालों और वस्तुओं के व्यापार का प्राचीन केंद्र रहा है।

Caught in the war युद्ध की चपेट में

- The sand-battered behemoth is on track to become a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and has been included on the country's **'tentative list.'**
रेत और समय की मार झेल चुका यह विशाल किला यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल बनने की दिशा में अग्रसर है और इसे देश की 'अस्थायी सूची' में शामिल किया गया है।
- November 2024** saw the global body granting it provisional enhanced protection under the **1954 Hague Convention**.
नवंबर 2024 में वैश्विक संस्था ने इसे 1954 हेग कन्वेंशन के तहत अस्थायी उन्नत संरक्षण प्रदान किया।
- During the **1970s**, the **Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** attacked Israel from the fort's ramparts.
1970 के दशक में फिलिस्तीन मुक्ति संगठन (PLO) ने किले की प्राचीरों से इजराइल पर हमले किए।

GS Paper 1: Geography

07 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED



07J6 Industrial salt pans threaten Sambhar Lake's survival
औद्योगिक नमक पैन सांभर झील के अस्तित्व के लिए खतरा बन रहे हैं



GS I: Geography

Industrial salt pans threaten Sambhar Lake's survival

Sambhar Lake is India's largest inland saltwater wetland. When they analysed satellite data from 1984 to 2023, scientists found the lake depends heavily on seasonal rain, with water levels peaking in late summer and shrinking significantly in the dry season. Between 2022 and 2023, the lake's surface also shrank while salt pans nearby expanded. The authors said efforts to conserve the lake must separate industrial salt pans and the wetland environment, including natural saline land.

07J6. Industrial salt pans threaten Sambhar Lake's survival

औद्योगिक नमक पैन सांभर झील के अस्तित्व के लिए खतरा बन रहे हैं

- **Sambhar Lake is India's largest inland saltwater wetland.**

सांभर झील भारत की सबसे बड़ी अंतर्देशीय खारे पानी की आर्द्रभूमि है।

- The authors said efforts to conserve the lake must separate **industrial salt pans** and the **wetland environment**, including **natural saline land**.

अध्ययनकर्ताओं ने कहा कि झील के संरक्षण के लिए औद्योगिक नमक उत्पादन क्षेत्रों और आर्द्रभूमि पारितंत्र को, जिसमें प्राकृतिक लवणीय भूमि भी शामिल है, स्पष्ट रूप से अलग-अलग प्रबंधित किया जाना चाहिए।

GS Paper II: Polity

07 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED

07J6	SC balances child's right to know paternity, father's right to privacy सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बच्चे के पितृत्व जानने के अधिकार और पिता के निजता के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन बनाया
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SC balances child's right to know paternity, father's right to privacy

GS II: Polity

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

The Supreme Court, in a ruling last week, upheld the use of DNA test in a long-running paternity dispute, addressing the complex question of whether an individual's right to privacy overrides the need to determine parentage.

Earlier, the top court had consistently held in various judgments that DNA tests should not be ordered routinely, but there has never been a conclusive answer to when they should be permitted.

Paternity cases largely revolved around the concerns of legitimacy and the need to avoid illegitimising children. However, after the Supreme Court's landmark decision of *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* in 2017 which ruled that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, the court has continuously ruled that compulsory DNA testing interferes with an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy.



The top court had earlier consistently held in various judgments that DNA tests should not be ordered routinely. ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

In the present case, Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh upheld the trial court order directing a DNA test to prove paternity. The alleged father and appellant approached the court to overturn the trial order.

Section 112 of the Evidence Act, 1872 (Section 116 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam) states that a child is presumed to be legitimate unless the party disputing paternity proves that there was non-access for the relevant period of the marriage and it is upon the alleged father to prove the non-access.

In a series of older cases, the court has pulled

back from using the DNA test to prove paternity. Especially since the above said section was enacted in 1872, when there was no scientific means to determine paternity. However, the DNA testing method became commercially available in India by the 1980s.

In 2014, the Supreme Court gave a wider interpretation in *Nandlal Wasudeo Badwaik v. Lata Nandlal Badwaik* holding that "in our opinion, when there is a conflict between a conclusive proof envisaged under law and a proof based on scientific advancement accepted by the world community to be

correct, the latter must prevail over the former".

N.D. Tiwari case

In the same year, the N.D. Tiwari paternity row was highly publicised in which veteran politician Narayan Dutt Tiwari was compelled to take a DNA test that proved he was the biological father of Rohit Shekhar. The long-drawn-out six-year case established a significant legal precedent regarding privacy, scientific evidence, and the rights of children born out of wedlock. Though Tiwari strongly argued that his right to privacy was violated, the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court ordered for the test.

In the present case, neither the court gave an unrestricted right to the child to demand DNA testing nor abandon the alleged father's right to privacy, but rather held that in the domain of right to privacy, it wants to balance the interests of the alleged father's privacy with that of the child's desire for closure on a question that has loomed large on his life.

07J6. SC balances child's right to know paternity, father's right to privacy

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बच्चे के पितृत्व जानने के अधिकार और पिता के निजता के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन बनाया

- However, after the Supreme Court's landmark decision of **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** which ruled that the **right to privacy** is a fundamental right under **Article 21 of the Constitution**, the court has continuously ruled that compulsory DNA testing interferes with an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy.
हालांकि, जस्टिस के.एस. पुट्टस्वामी बनाम भारत संघ (2017) के ऐतिहासिक निर्णय के बाद, जिसमें निजता के अधिकार को संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत मौलिक अधिकार माना गया, अदालत लगातार यह कहती रही है कि अनिवार्य डीएनए परीक्षण व्यक्ति की निजता और शारीरिक स्वायत्तता के अधिकार में हस्तक्षेप करता है।
- In the present case, **Justice Sanjay Karol** and **Justice N. Kotiswar Singh** upheld the trial court order directing a DNA test to prove paternity.

वर्तमान मामले में न्यायमूर्ति संजय करोल और न्यायमूर्ति एन. कोटिस्वर सिंह ने पितृत्व सिद्ध करने के लिए डीएनए परीक्षण कराने के निचली अदालत के आदेश को बरकरार रखा।

- The alleged father and appellant approached the court to overturn the trial order. कथित पिता और अपीलकर्ता ने निचली अदालत के आदेश को निरस्त कराने के लिए अदालत का रुख किया था।
- Section 112 of the Evidence Act, 1872 (Section 116 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam)** states that a child is presumed to be legitimate unless the party disputing paternity proves that there was non-access for the relevant period of the marriage and it is upon the alleged father to prove the non-access.
भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, 1872 की धारा 112 (भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, 2023 की धारा 116) के अनुसार, किसी बच्चे को वैध माना जाएगा, जब तक कि पितृत्व पर विवाद करने वाला पक्ष यह सिद्ध न कर दे कि विवाह की संबंधित अवधि के दौरान पति-पत्नी के बीच संपर्क नहीं था, और यह साबित करने का दायित्व कथित पिता पर होता है।
- In a series of older cases, the court has pulled back from using the DNA test to prove paternity. पुराने मामलों की एक श्रृंखला में अदालत ने पितृत्व सिद्ध करने के लिए डीएनए परीक्षण के उपयोग से परहेज किया था।
- Especially since the above said section was enacted in 1872, when there was no scientific means to determine paternity. विशेष रूप से इसलिए क्योंकि उपरोक्त धारा 1872 में बनाई गई थी, जब पितृत्व निर्धारित करने का कोई वैज्ञानिक साधन उपलब्ध नहीं था।
- However, the DNA testing method became commercially available in India by the 1980s. हालांकि, डीएनए परीक्षण पद्धति भारत में 1980 के दशक तक व्यावसायिक रूप से उपलब्ध हो गई थी।
- In 2014, the Supreme Court gave a wider interpretation in **Nandlal Wasudeo Badwaik v. Lata Nandlal Badwaik** holding that "in our opinion, when there is a conflict between a conclusive proof envisaged under law and a proof based on scientific advancement accepted by the world community to be correct, the latter must prevail over the former".
2014 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **नंदलाल वासुदेव बडवाइक बनाम लता नंदलाल बडवाइक** मामले में व्यापक व्याख्या करते हुए कहा कि "हमारी राय में, जब कानून द्वारा परिकल्पित निर्णायक साक्ष्य और वैज्ञानिक प्रगति पर आधारित तथा विश्व समुदाय द्वारा सही माने गए साक्ष्य के बीच टकराव हो, तो बाद वाला पहले पर वरीयता प्राप्त करेगा।"

N.D. Tiwari case

एन.डी. तिवारी मामला

- In the same year, the **N.D. Tiwari paternity row** was highly publicised in which veteran politician **Narayan Dutt Tiwari** was compelled to take a DNA test that proved he was the biological father of **Rohit Shekhar**.
उसी वर्ष **एन.डी. तिवारी पितृत्व विवाद** काफी चर्चित रहा, जिसमें वरिष्ठ राजनेता **नारायण दत्त तिवारी** को डीएनए परीक्षण कराने के लिए बाध्य किया गया था, जिसने सिद्ध किया कि वे **रोहित शेखर** के जैविक पिता थे।
- In the present case, neither the court gave an unrestricted right to the child to demand DNA testing nor abandon the alleged father's right to privacy, but rather held that in the domain of right to privacy, it wants to balance the interests of the alleged father's privacy with that of the child's desire for closure on a question that has loomed large on his life.
वर्तमान मामले में अदालत ने न तो बच्चे को डीएनए परीक्षण की असीमित मांग का अधिकार दिया और न ही कथित पिता के निजता के अधिकार को त्यागा, बल्कि यह कहा कि निजता के अधिकार के क्षेत्र में वह कथित



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पिता की गोपनीयता और बच्चे के उस प्रश्न का उत्तर पाने की इच्छा, जिसने उसके जीवन पर गहरा प्रभाव डाला है, दोनों के हितों के बीच संतुलन बनाना चाहती है।

GS Paper II: Governance		07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
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PATRIOTIC IAS

The Gen Z trio that took on the CBSE

Vedant Shrivastava, Nisarga Adhikary and Sarthak Sidhant

The three students who were viciously trolled for raising their voice on public platforms against the CBSE's On-Screen Marking system stand vindicated after the Board admitted to flaws in the system

GS M. Governance
Maitri Porecha

Vedant Shrivastava (17), Nisarga Adhikary (19) and Sarthak Sidhant (18) were ordinary teenagers until two weeks ago, before they raised their voice on public platforms against the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) botched up On-Screen Marking system. After the board admitted to flaws in the system, the Gen Z trio stood vindicated.

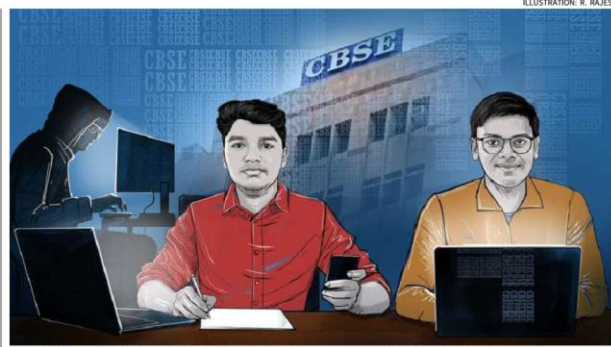
Class 12 student Vedant was in for a rude shock when he got called 'anti-national' on X, as he flagged receiving a stranger's answer sheet instead of his own to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

One of the first students to raise his voice against the On-Screen Marking system deployed by the CBSE, Vedant, who is now being referred to as 'the primary whistleblower', says that since he went public on X, what has ensued is utter 'chaos'. The trolling did not stop at being called an 'anti-national' or 'Pakistani'. "People went on to comment about my physical appearance and my speech," he says. After pointing out the botched-up, senior officials at the CBSE admitted their mistake and traced his original physics answer sheet.

"I took to X to voice my concerns as CBSE was not replying to my distress calls. Because I am a minor, X does not specifically mention country or location but highlights the larger region to which the account belongs. In my case, this was South Asia, and I was brutally trolled and called a 'Pakistani'," Vedant says.

After the CBSE portal for re-evaluation opened on June 2, Vedant applied to get 13 questions re-evaluated in four subjects – Computer Science, English, Mathematics and Physics.

An East Delhi resident, Vedant observes that the CBSE implemented On-Screen Marking in a hasty manner. "In my school, some teachers are very aged and they are used to checking answer copies by hand. They are not well versed with using computers. If the CBSE wants to implement the OSM system in 2027 they should give



Nisarga Adhikary, an 'ethical hacker', Vedant Shrivastava, and Sarthak Sidhant have exposed flaws in the CBSE's marking system.

teachers proper training," he says.

It has been two weeks since Vedant's post on X, which blew the lid off a massive evaluation fiasco in the CBSE, but the media attention over the teenager has not died down.

"The controversy started affecting me but my family was very supportive," he says adding that he got 'distracted' by the CBSE upheaval for the last two weeks but is now re-starting his preparation for the National Defence Academy entrance exams. "I aspire to be a fighter pilot with the Indian Air Force."

'Ethical hacker'

Nisarga Adhikary, a West Bengal-based 'ethical hacker', exposed "critical vulnerabilities" in the CBSE's OSM portal, including leaking sensitive student information.

The CBSE immediately issued a denial after Nisarga went public with his posts on X, and nearly after two weeks, it admitted to the flaws. "It was really frustrating for me that the CBSE and the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) took three months (since he first raised

complaints in February) to admit the flaws in their portal," Nisarga told *The Hindu*. Between 2023 and 2025, Nisarga found himself embroiled in the Joint Entrance Exams (JEE) race, which he said was 'pretty depressing'.

"I don't see a point in putting effort for an institute (Indian Institutes of Technology) when they are not even in top 100 ranking institutes across the world," he told *The Hindu*. Life came full circle for Nisarga when an expert IIT team invited him to fix the vulnerabilities in the CBSE's IT ecosystem. Asked why the students have been forced to take matters into their own hands, Nisarga says: "Gen Z holding people accountable is the way to go as some people in high places are full of ego."

At age 19, when most students are busy with regular schooling, Nisarga had already started interning in tech companies. He primarily identifies as a software engineer and has worked on digitising restaurant menus for a Mumbai-based tech company Skann before dabbling into an internship with Singapore-based crypto giant Cypherock and then interning with

Bengaluru-based tech company Wavelength. Hacking into CBSE portals was his first brush with social activism, he says.

Nisarga says he has multiple job offers from Silicon Valley in California, and he does not want to "waste his time going to college". "In case I take up an offer in the U.S., I will aim to apply for an extraordinary talent visa [U.S. O-1 nonimmigrant visa], which allows individuals who have reached the top of their fields to live and work in the U.S.," he says. "However, I will stay back in India if I get a good research opportunity to work in IITs."

Nisarga believes in combining computer programming with activism to champion public rights causes around data privacy. The teen 'ethical hacker' has also publicly stated that he is 'queer', and is concerned about the LGBTQ rights in India.

"I want to build an inclusive society where people are more accepting of each other. Religion is a coping mechanism whereas we need more scientific thought over religion to build an inclusive society," he says. Ranchi-based Sarthak Sidhant is

being chased by journalists since he alleged through comparison of public documents that the CBSE had diluted requirements to favour technology vendor COEMPT Educheck in the OSM portal issue. Sarthak became what is likely the youngest person to depose in front of a Parliamentary Panel. After his deposition on June 2, he has not been able to return home, because he says he feels 'unsafe'. He felt compelled to shift to an undisclosed location after journalists reached his accommodation in New Delhi. "In Ranchi, I gather there are journalists waiting for me outside my house. I don't want to go back home, so I am staying put at an undisclosed location," he says.

Seeds of rationality

Sarthak says he is of a curious nature and he likes spending most of his time on his computer "digging into new things". "I do not like watching movies or web shows. What I like, however, is old songs with meaningful lyrics playing in the background while I work on my computer." Sarthak is a fan of progressive Indian poet Sahir Ludhianvi and when asked what his favourite works are, without hesitation, he immediately cites lyrics – *Tu Hindu banega na Musalman banega, Insaan ki aulad hai, Insaan Banega* (You will neither be a Hindu or Muslim, you are humanity's child you will be a human).

Sarthak says his parents had an intercaste marriage and they have an evolutionary and pragmatic perspective, which sowed seeds of rationality and logic in him since a young age. "After my father passed away due to cardiac arrest two years ago, I started questioning concepts like religion, philosophy and faith."

Sarthak wants to pursue engineering and go on to blend technology with social welfare for better lives. He looks up to Dinkar's poetry and cites the poet's famous work: *Loh ke ped hare honge*, (Dried out trees will become green). "The sole message of this poetry is that one should keep asking questions and put in constant efforts to seek answers," he says.

THE GIST

Vedant Shrivastava, one of the first students to raise his voice against the On-Screen Marking system deployed by the CBSE, is now being referred to as 'the primary whistleblower'

Nisarga Adhikary, a 19-year-old cybersecurity researcher, exposed "critical vulnerabilities" in the CBSE's OSM portal, including leaking sensitive student information

Ranchi-based Sarthak Sidhant has alleged through comparison of public documents that the CBSE had diluted requirements to favour technology vendor COEMPT Educheck in the OSM portal issue

07J6. The Gen Z trio that took on the CBSE

सीबीएसई को चुनौती देने वाली जेन-जेड की तिकड़ी

- Vedant Shrivastava, Nisarga Adhikary and Sarthak Sidhant**

वेदांत श्रीवास्तव, निसर्ग अधिकारी और सार्थक सिद्धांत

- The three students who were viciously trolled for raising their voice on public platforms against the **CBSE's On-Screen Marking system** stand vindicated after the Board admitted to flaws in the system.

सीबीएसई की ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग प्रणाली के खिलाफ सार्वजनिक मंचों पर आवाज उठाने के कारण बुरी तरह ट्रोल किए गए इन तीन छात्रों को तब सही साबित किया गया जब बोर्ड ने प्रणाली में खामियों को स्वीकार कर लिया।

- Vedant Shrivastava (17), Nisarga Adhikary (19) and Sarthak Sidhant (18)** were ordinary teenagers until two weeks ago, before they raised their voice on public platforms against the **Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE)** botched up **On-Screen Marking system**.

वेदांत श्रीवास्तव (17), निसर्ग अधिकारी (19) और सार्थक सिद्धांत (18) दो सप्ताह पहले तक सामान्य

किशोर थे, जब तक उन्होंने केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) की त्रुटिपूर्ण ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग प्रणाली के खिलाफ सार्वजनिक मंचों पर आवाज नहीं उठाई थी।

- After the board admitted to flaws in the system, the **Gen Z trio** stood vindicated.

बोर्ड द्वारा प्रणाली में खामियां स्वीकार करने के बाद **जेन-जेड की यह तिकड़ी** सही साबित हुई।

- Class 12 student **Vedant** was in for a rude shock when he got called 'anti-national' on X, as he flagged receiving a stranger's answer sheet instead of his own to the **Central Board of**



Secondary Education (CBSE).

कक्षा 12 के छात्र वेदांत को उस समय बड़ा झटका लगा जब उन्हें X पर 'राष्ट्रविरोधी' कहा गया, क्योंकि उन्होंने सीबीएसई से अपनी उत्तरपुस्तिका के बजाय किसी अन्य छात्र की उत्तरपुस्तिका मिलने का मुद्दा उठाया था।

- One of the first students to raise his voice against the **On-Screen Marking system** deployed by the **CBSE**, Vedant, who is now being referred to as 'the primary whistleblower,' says that since he went public on X, what has ensued is utter 'chaos.'
- सीबीएसई** द्वारा लागू **ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग प्रणाली** के खिलाफ सबसे पहले आवाज उठाने वाले छात्रों में से एक वेदांत, जिन्हें अब 'मुख्य व्हिसलब्लोअर' कहा जा रहा है, बताते हैं कि X पर सार्वजनिक रूप से बोलने के बाद पूरी तरह 'अराजकता' फैल गई।
- The trolling did not stop at being called an 'anti-national,' or 'Pakistani'.
ट्रोलिंग केवल 'राष्ट्रविरोधी' या 'पाकिस्तानी' कहे जाने तक सीमित नहीं रही।
- "People went on to comment about my physical appearance and my speech," he says.
"लोगों ने मेरी शारीरिक बनावट और बोलने के तरीके पर भी टिप्पणियां करनी शुरू कर दीं," उन्होंने कहा।
- After pointing out the botch-up, senior officials at the **CBSE** admitted their mistake and traced his original **Physics answer sheet**.
त्रुटि की ओर ध्यान दिलाने के बाद **सीबीएसई** के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने अपनी गलती स्वीकार की और उनकी मूल **भौतिकी उत्तरपुस्तिका** खोज निकाली।
- "I took to X to voice my concerns as **CBSE** was not replying to my distress calls.
"मैंने अपनी चिंताएं व्यक्त करने के लिए X का सहारा लिया क्योंकि **सीबीएसई** मेरी शिकायतों का जवाब नहीं दे रहा था।
- Because I am a minor, X does not specifically mention country or location but highlights the larger region to which the account belongs.
क्योंकि मैं नाबालिग हूं, X विशेष रूप से देश या स्थान का उल्लेख नहीं करता बल्कि उस बड़े क्षेत्र को दर्शाता है जिससे खाता संबंधित है।
- In my case, this was **South Asia**, and I was brutally trolled and called a 'Pakistani,'" Vedant says.
मेरे मामले में यह **दक्षिण एशिया** था और मुझे बुरी तरह ट्रोल किया गया तथा 'पाकिस्तानी' कहा गया," वेदांत ने कहा।
- After the **CBSE portal** for re-evaluation opened on **June 2**, Vedant applied to get **13 questions** re-evaluated in four subjects — **Computer Science, English, Mathematics and Physics**.
2 जून को पुनर्मूल्यांकन हेतु **सीबीएसई पोर्टल** खुलने के बाद वेदांत ने कंप्यूटर साइंस, अंग्रेजी, गणित और **भौतिकी** के **13 प्रश्नों** के पुनर्मूल्यांकन के लिए आवेदन किया।
- An **East Delhi** resident, Vedant observes that the **CBSE** implemented **On-Screen Marking** in a hasty manner.
पूर्वी दिल्ली निवासी वेदांत का मानना है कि **सीबीएसई** ने **ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग** को जल्दबाजी में लागू किया।
- "In my school, some teachers are very aged and they are used to checking answer copies by hand.
"मेरे विद्यालय में कुछ शिक्षक काफी उम्रदराज हैं और वे हाथ से उत्तरपुस्तिकाएं जांचने के आदी हैं।
- They are not well versed with using computers.
वे कंप्यूटर के उपयोग में अधिक दक्ष नहीं हैं।
- If the **CBSE** wants to implement the **OSM system** in **2027** they should give teachers proper training," he says.
यदि **सीबीएसई 2027** में **ओएसएम प्रणाली** लागू करना चाहता है तो उसे शिक्षकों को उचित प्रशिक्षण देना चाहिए," उन्होंने कहा।
- It has been two weeks since Vedant's post on X, which blew the lid off a massive evaluation fiasco in the **CBSE**, but the media attention over the teenager has not died down.



वेदांत की X पोस्ट को दो सप्ताह हो चुके हैं, जिसने **सीबीएसई** के मूल्यांकन घोटाले का खुलासा किया, लेकिन मीडिया का ध्यान अब भी उन पर बना हुआ है।

- “The controversy started affecting me but my family was very supportive,” he says adding that he got ‘distracted’ by the **CBSE** upheaval for the last two weeks but is now re-starting his preparation for the **National Defence Academy** entrance exams.
“इस विवाद का मुझ पर प्रभाव पड़ने लगा था, लेकिन मेरा परिवार बहुत सहयोगी था,” उन्होंने कहा और जोड़ा कि पिछले दो सप्ताह से **सीबीएसई** विवाद के कारण उनका ध्यान भटक गया था, लेकिन अब वे **राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी** प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी फिर से शुरू कर रहे हैं।
- “I aspire to be a fighter pilot with the **Indian Air Force**.”
“मैं **भारतीय वायुसेना** में फाइटर पायलट बनना चाहता हूँ।”

‘Ethical hacker’

‘एथिकल हैकर’

- **Nisarga Adhikary**, a **West Bengal-based “ethical hacker”**, exposed “critical vulnerabilities” in the **CBSE’s OSM portal**, including leaking sensitive student information.
पश्चिम बंगाल के “एथिकल हैकर” **निसर्ग अधिकारी** ने **सीबीएसई** के **ओएसएम पोर्टल** में “गंभीर कमजोरियों” का खुलासा किया, जिनमें छात्रों की संवेदनशील जानकारी का लीक होना भी शामिल था।
- “I don’t see a point in putting effort for an institute (**Indian Institutes of Technology**) when they are not even in top 100 ranking institutes across the world,” he told **The Hindu**.
“जब **भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (IIT)** दुनिया के शीर्ष 100 संस्थानों में भी नहीं हैं, तो वहां प्रवेश पाने के लिए अत्यधिक प्रयास करने का मुझे कोई विशेष कारण नहीं दिखता,” उन्होंने कहा।
- **Life came full circle for Nisarga when an expert IIT team invited him to fix the vulnerabilities in the CBSE’s IT ecosystem.**
निसर्ग के जीवन में एक दिलचस्प मोड़ तब आया जब एक विशेषज्ञ **आईआईटी** टीम ने उन्हें **सीबीएसई** के **आईटी तंत्र** की कमजोरियों को दूर करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया।
- **Asked why the students have been forced to take matters into their own hands, Nisarga says: “Gen Z holding people accountable is the way to go as some people in high places are full of ego.”**
जब उनसे पूछा गया कि छात्रों को खुद आगे क्यों आना पड़ा, तो निसर्ग ने कहा, “**जेन-ज़ेड** द्वारा लोगों को जवाबदेह ठहराना जरूरी है क्योंकि ऊंचे पदों पर बैठे कुछ लोग अहंकार से भरे हुए हैं।”
- **At age 19, when most students are busy with regular schooling, Nisarga had already started interning in tech companies.**
19 वर्ष की आयु में, जब अधिकांश छात्र नियमित पढ़ाई में व्यस्त रहते हैं, निसर्ग तकनीकी कंपनियों में इंटरनशिप शुरू कर चुके थे।
- **He primarily identifies as a software engineer and has worked on digitising restaurant menus for a Mumbai-based tech company Skann before dabbling into an internship with Singapore-based crypto giant Cypherock and then interning with Bengaluru-based tech company Wavelength.**
वे स्वयं को मुख्य रूप से **सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर** मानते हैं और मुंबई की तकनीकी कंपनी **Skann**, सिंगापुर की क्रिप्टो कंपनी **Cypherock** तथा बेंगलुरु की तकनीकी कंपनी **Wavelength** के साथ कार्य कर चुके हैं।
- **Hacking into CBSE portals was his first brush with social activism, he says.**
उनके अनुसार **सीबीएसई** पोर्टलों से जुड़ा यह मामला सामाजिक सक्रियता का उनका पहला अनुभव था।
- **Nisarga says he has multiple job offers from Silicon Valley in California, and he does not want to ‘waste his time going to college’.**
निसर्ग का कहना है कि उन्हें **कैलिफोर्निया की सिलिकॉन वैली** से कई नौकरी प्रस्ताव मिले हैं और वे ‘कॉलेज जाकर समय बर्बाद नहीं करना चाहते’।
- **“In case I take up an offer in the U.S., I will aim to apply for an extraordinary talent visa (U.S. O-1 nonimmigrant visa), which allows individuals who have reached the top of their**

fields to live and work in the U.S.," he says.

"यदि मैं अमेरिका में कोई प्रस्ताव स्वीकार करता हूँ, तो मैं यू.एस. O-1 गैर-आप्रवासी वीज़ा के लिए आवेदन करूँगा," उन्होंने कहा।

- "However, I will stay back in India if I get a good research opportunity to work in IITs."

"हालांकि, यदि मुझे आईआईटी में अच्छा शोध अवसर मिलता है तो मैं भारत में ही रहूँगा।"

- Nisarga believes in combining computer programming with activism to champion public rights causes around data privacy.

निसर्ग कंप्यूटर प्रोग्रामिंग और सामाजिक सक्रियता को जोड़कर डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़े जनहित के मुद्दों को आगे बढ़ाने में विश्वास रखते हैं।

- The teen 'ethical hacker' has also publicly stated that he is 'queer,' and is concerned about the LGBTQ rights in India.

इस युवा 'एथिकल हैकर' ने सार्वजनिक रूप से स्वयं को 'क्वियर' बताया है और भारत में LGBTQ अधिकारों को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की है।

- "I want to build an inclusive society where people are more accepting of each other.

"मैं एक समावेशी समाज बनाना चाहता हूँ जहाँ लोग एक-दूसरे को अधिक स्वीकार करें।

- Religion is a coping mechanism whereas we need more scientific thought over religion to build an inclusive society," he says.

धर्म एक सहारा देने वाली व्यवस्था हो सकता है, लेकिन समावेशी समाज बनाने के लिए हमें अधिक वैज्ञानिक सोच की आवश्यकता है," उन्होंने कहा।

Seeds of rationality

तार्किकता के बीज

- Ranchi-based Sarthak Sidhant is being chased by journalists since he alleged through comparison of public documents that the CBSE had diluted requirements to favour technology vendor COEMPT Eduteck in the OSM portal issue.

रांची निवासी सार्थक सिद्धांत तब से मीडिया की सुर्खियों में हैं, जब उन्होंने सार्वजनिक दस्तावेजों की तुलना के आधार पर आरोप लगाया कि सीबीएसई ने COEMPT Eduteck को लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए ओएसएम पोर्टल से जुड़े मानदंडों को शिथिल किया।

- Sarthak became what is likely the youngest person to depose in front of a Parliamentary Panel.

सार्थक संभवतः संसदीय समिति के समक्ष बयान देने वाले सबसे युवा व्यक्ति बने।

- After his deposition on June 2, he has not been able to return home, because he says he feels 'unsafe'.

2 जून को बयान देने के बाद वे घर नहीं लौट सके क्योंकि उन्हें स्वयं को 'असुरक्षित' महसूस हो रहा है।

- He felt compelled to shift to an undisclosed location after journalists reached his accommodation in New Delhi.

पत्रकारों के नई दिल्ली स्थित उनके आवास तक पहुंचने के बाद उन्हें एक अज्ञात स्थान पर जाना पड़ा।

- "In Ranchi, I gather there are journalists waiting for me outside my house.

"रांची में मेरे घर के बाहर पत्रकार मेरा इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

- I don't want to go back home, so I am staying put at an undisclosed location," he says.

मैं घर वापस नहीं जाना चाहता, इसलिए एक अज्ञात स्थान पर रह रहा हूँ," उन्होंने कहा।

- Sarthak says he is of a curious nature and he likes spending most of his time on his computer "digging into new things".

सार्थक कहते हैं कि उनका स्वभाव जिज्ञासु है और वे अपना अधिकांश समय कंप्यूटर पर "नई चीजों की खोज" में बिताना पसंद करते हैं।

- "I do not like watching movies or web shows.

"मुझे फिल्में या वेब शो देखना पसंद नहीं है।



- What I like, however, is old songs with meaningful lyrics playing in the background while I work on my computer.”
लेकिन मुझे कंप्यूटर पर काम करते समय सार्थक बोल वाले पुराने गीत सुनना पसंद है।”
- Sarthak is a fan of progressive Indian poet **Sahir Ludhianvi**.
सार्थक प्रगतिशील भारतीय कवि साहिर लुधियानवी के प्रशंसक हैं।
- Sarthak says his parents had an **intercaste marriage** and they have an evolutionary and pragmatic perspective, which sowed seeds of rationality and logic in him since a young age.
सार्थक बताते हैं कि उनके माता-पिता का अंतरजातीय विवाह हुआ था और उनका दृष्टिकोण व्यावहारिक एवं प्रगतिशील था, जिसने बचपन से ही उनमें तर्कशीलता और विवेक के बीज बोए।
- “After my father passed away due to **cardiac arrest** two years ago, I started questioning concepts like religion, philosophy and faith.”
“दो वर्ष पहले मेरे पिता की हृदयाघात से मृत्यु के बाद मैंने धर्म, दर्शन और आस्था जैसे विषयों पर प्रश्न उठाने शुरू किए।”

Govt. standardises edible oil pack sizes for price comparison

GS II: Governance

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
NEW DELHI

The Department of Consumer Affairs has prescribed standard pack sizes for edible oils under the Legal Metrology framework to help consumers compare prices across brands and make informed purchasing decisions.

In a statement, the Department said it has amended the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) governing net quantity declarations and standard pack sizes for edible oils and fats. Manufacturers, packers and importers have three months to comply with the new norms.

The move follows consultations with industry associations representing nearly 90% of the edible oil sector. According to the Department, the proliferation of non-standard pack sizes in recent years has made price comparison difficult and created confusion among consumers.

The revised SoP prescribes nine standard pack sizes — 200 ml/g, 500 ml/g, 1 litre/kg, 2 litre/kg, 3 litre/kg, 4 litre/kg, 5 litre/kg, 15 litre/kg and 20 litre/kg — for major edible oils, including palm, soybean, sunflower, mustard, groundnut, sesame, rice bran, cottonseed and corn oil, as well as blended oils.

Volume declaration

The new rules also mandate declaration of both volume and equivalent



The revised SoP prescribes nine standard pack sizes.

weight on packs to improve transparency. The provisions apply to both domestically manufactured and imported edible oils. Packages below 200 ml or 200 grams and minor edible oils have been exempted from the standard pack-size requirement to ensure the continued availability of affordable small packs. Companies may adopt the new pack sizes immediately, even before the transition period ends.

Welcoming the move, Sudhakar Desai, president of the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association, said it would “restore structural sanity to retail shelves and level the playing field”.

He noted while flexibility in pack sizes was intended to give industry greater freedom, it had led to a proliferation of non-standard packs and widespread market confusion.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

“दो वर्ष पहले मेरे पिता की हृदयाघात से मृत्यु के बाद मैंने धर्म, दर्शन और आस्था जैसे विषयों पर प्रश्न उठाने शुरू किए।”

• Sarthak wants to pursue **engineering** and go on to blend technology with social welfare for bettering lives.

सार्थक इंजीनियरिंग करना चाहते हैं और आगे चलकर तकनीक को सामाजिक कल्याण के साथ जोड़कर लोगों का जीवन बेहतर बनाना चाहते हैं।

• He looks up to **Dinkar's poetry** and cites the poet's famous work: ‘**Lohe ke ped hare honge**,’ (Dried out trees will become green).

वे दिनकर की कविताओं से प्रेरित हैं और उनकी प्रसिद्ध पंक्ति ‘लोहे के पेड़ हरे होंगे’ का उल्लेख करते हैं।

• “The sole message of this poetry is that one should keep asking questions and put in constant efforts to seek answers,” he says.

“इस कविता का मुख्य संदेश है कि व्यक्ति को लगातार प्रश्न पूछते रहना चाहिए और उत्तर खोजने के लिए निरंतर प्रयास करते रहना चाहिए,” उन्होंने कहा।

07J6. Govt. standardises edible oil pack sizes for price comparison

मूल्य तुलना के लिए सरकार ने खाद्य तेल पैक आकारों का मानकीकरण किया

• The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has prescribed **standard pack sizes** for edible oils under the **Legal Metrology** framework to help consumers compare prices across brands and make informed purchasing decisions.

उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग ने उपभोक्ताओं को विभिन्न ब्रांडों की कीमतों की तुलना करने और सूचित खरीद निर्णय लेने में सहायता हेतु **लीगल मेट्रोलॉजी** ढांचे के तहत खाद्य तेलों के लिए **मानक पैक आकार** निर्धारित किए हैं।

• The revised **SoP** prescribes **nine standard pack sizes** — 200 ml/g, 500 ml/g, 1 litre/kg, 2 litre/kg, 3 litre/kg, 4 litre/kg, 5 litre/kg, 15 litre/kg and 20 litre/kg — for major edible oils.

संशोधित **SoP** के अनुसार प्रमुख खाद्य तेलों के लिए **नौ मानक पैक**

आकार — 200 मि.ली./ग्राम, 500 मि.ली./ग्राम, 1 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 2 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 3 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 4 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 5 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 15 लीटर/किलोग्राम और 20 लीटर/किलोग्राम — निर्धारित किए गए हैं।

- These include **palm, soybean, sunflower, mustard, groundnut, sesame, rice bran, cottonseed and corn oil**, as well as **blended oils**.

इनमें पाम, सोयाबीन, सूरजमुखी, सरसों, मूंगफली, तिल, राइस ब्रान, कपास बीज और मक्का तेल सहित मिश्रित तेल भी शामिल हैं।

Volume declaration

आयतन घोषणा

- The **new rules** also mandate declaration of both **volume** and **equivalent weight** on packs to improve transparency.
नए नियमों के तहत पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिए पैकेटों पर आयतन और उसके समतुल्य वजन दोनों का उल्लेख करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- He noted while flexibility in pack sizes was intended to give industry greater freedom, it had led to a proliferation of **non-standard packs** and widespread market confusion.
उन्होंने कहा कि यद्यपि पैक आकारों में लचीलापन उद्योग को अधिक स्वतंत्रता देने के उद्देश्य से था, लेकिन इससे गैर-मानक पैकों की संख्या बढ़ी और बाजार में व्यापक भ्रम की स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई।

GS Paper III: Economy		07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07J6	Why did SC back curbs on online gaming? ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंधात्मक उपायों का समर्थन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने क्यों किया?	
07J6	Prime Minister flags 'national interest' in Sterlite's 'green copper' project in TN प्रधानमंत्री ने तमिलनाडु में स्टर्लाइट की 'ग्रीन कॉपर' परियोजना में 'राष्ट्रीय हित' का मुद्दा उठाया	



Why did SC back curbs on online gaming?

What were the two sets of appeals concerning the regulation and taxation of online gaming platforms in front of the Court? What were the main objections raised by gaming companies against the GST levy? What are the likely consequences for India's online gaming industry?

GS III: Economy

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Supreme Court on May 27, 2026, delivered two rulings with major ramifications for the country's real-money gaming industry. A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan upheld the constitutional validity of the Centre's retrospective 28% GST levy on online gaming companies and, in a separate judgment, affirmed the validity of State laws prohibiting real-money gaming platforms.

What did the Court have to decide?

The judgments arose from two distinct sets of appeals concerning the regulation and taxation of online gaming platforms. The first batch related to State laws prohibiting online betting and wagering. In 2021, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka enacted legislation criminalising betting on games played in cyberspace and prescribing penalties, including imprisonment. After the Madras and Karnataka High Courts struck down these enactments, the respective State governments approached the Supreme Court, arguing that betting and gambling fall within their legislative competence under Entry 34 of List II of the Seventh Schedule. They further contended that the restrictions were necessary to address addiction and other social harms associated with online betting.

The second batch concerned the applicability of the GST regime to online gaming involving money stakes. The appeals arose from decisions of the Bombay and Karnataka High Courts, which held that online gaming transactions did not constitute actionable claims under the GST law and consequently quashed tax proceedings

The Court held that, for GST purposes, the distinction between games of skill and games of chance becomes irrelevant once money is staked on an uncertain outcome

initiated against gaming companies. The Union government thereafter challenged these rulings before the Supreme Court.

Why was the GST levy upheld?

The dispute over the GST liability of online gaming platforms stemmed from amendments approved by the GST Council in August 2023. The Council clarified that all online games involving bets or wagers, irrespective of whether they were predominantly games of skill or games of chance, would attract GST at 28% on the full value of the amount staked by players.

Following the Council's decision, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) issued a series of tax demand notices to gaming companies. The notices sought to levy GST not only under the amended regime, which came into force on October 1, 2023, but also on revenues earned during the pre-amendment period, resulting in tax demands running into several lakh crore rupees.

Challenging these demands, gaming companies argued that GST could be levied only on the consideration retained by the platform and not on the entire value of bets or contest entry fees contributed by users. Taxing the full face value of stakes, they contended, was commercially untenable and failed to account for the long-recognised distinction between games of skill and games of chance.

Rejecting these arguments, the Supreme Court held that online gaming platforms involving money stakes were distinct from conventional skill-based competitions. While participants in a skill-based contest merely pay an entry fee to compete, the Court observed that online gaming platforms are structured around wagering and often encourage repeated participation through discounts and bonuses.

The Court further held that, for GST purposes, the distinction between games of skill and games of chance becomes irrelevant once money is staked on an uncertain outcome. Referring to the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act), which expressly includes actionable claims relating to lottery, betting, and gambling within the tax net, the Court concluded that Parliament was competent to levy GST on online gaming involving money stakes. It also rejected the industry's contention that the 2023 amendments imposed a fresh levy. Instead, the Court held that the amendments merely "clarified and standardised" the existing legal framework governing the taxation of such activities and were therefore capable of operating retrospectively.

Why did the Court uphold State curbs on real-money gaming?

At the outset, the Court observed that "betting"

and "gambling" are res extra commercium (activities outside legitimate commerce) and therefore fall outside the protection ordinarily available to trade and business activities. It held that while games of skill may be constitutionally protected, the introduction of money stakes imparts the character of wagering to the activity, bringing it within the States' legislative competence.

The Bench was also not persuaded by the contention that fantasy sports are predominantly skill-based. It noted that even sophisticated predictive models are unable to forecast sporting outcomes with certainty.

The Court further observed that the widespread availability of smartphones and digital payment gateways had effectively turned every mobile phone into a virtual "gambling house". It held that State governments are competent to impose reasonable restrictions on such activities and could draw legislative support not only from Entry 34 of List II relating to betting and gambling but also from Entry 1 concerning public order.

What are the implications?

The judgments come at a time when the industry is already grappling with the fallout of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (2025 Act). The legislation prohibited all forms of online real-money gaming, with the government citing national security concerns, including the alleged use of digital wallets and cryptocurrencies for money laundering and illicit fund transfers. It, however, carved out exceptions for e-sports, educational games, and social gaming.

Sudipta Bhattacharjee, Partner at Khaitan & Co, who has represented several online gaming and casino companies before the Supreme Court, told *The Hindu* that the industry had effectively come to a standstill following the enactment of the 2025 law, which could make recovery of the tax demands difficult. "The GST ruling may not translate into any meaningful recovery for the authorities. Many companies have either shifted their operations outside India or pivoted to sectors such as social gaming and fintech. The GST demands are several times higher than the revenues these companies have ever earned and are simply beyond their ability to pay. We are also likely to see a spate of insolvency proceedings," he said.

Mr. Bhattacharjee also pointed out that the verdict could have implications for the challenge to the 2025 law on the ground that Parliament lacked the legislative competence to enact it. "The apex court has clearly held that betting and gambling are State subjects under Entry 34 and upheld State laws regulating such activities. We will now have to wait and see how the Union government defends its position that it has the legislative competence to enact the 2025 law under Entry 52 of the Union List, which permits regulation of industries where such intervention is considered expedient in the public interest," he said.



Supreme Court of India.

07J6. Why did SC back curbs on online gaming?

ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंधात्मक उपायों का समर्थन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने क्यों किया?

The Supreme Court rulings on real-money gaming industry

रियल-मनी गेमिंग उद्योग पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय

- The **Supreme Court** on May 27, 2026, delivered two rulings with major ramifications for the country's **real-money gaming industry**.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 27 मई, 2026 को देश के **रियल-मनी गेमिंग उद्योग** पर व्यापक प्रभाव डालने वाले दो महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय दिए।
- A Bench of Justices **J.B. Pardiwala** and **R. Mahadevan** upheld the constitutional validity of the Centre's retrospective **28% GST levy** on online gaming companies and, in a separate judgment, affirmed the validity of State laws prohibiting real-money gaming platforms.
न्यायमूर्ति जे.बी. पारदीवाला और आर. महादेवन की पीठ ने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग कंपनियों पर केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लगाए गए पूर्वव्यापी **28% जीएसटी** की संवैधानिक वैधता को बरकरार रखा तथा एक पृथक निर्णय में रियल-मनी गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाले राज्य कानूनों की वैधता की भी पुष्टि की।

What did the Court have to decide?

न्यायालय को किन प्रश्नों पर निर्णय देना था?

- The judgments arose from two distinct sets of appeals concerning the regulation and taxation of online gaming platforms.
ये निर्णय ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों के विनियमन और कराधान से संबंधित दो पृथक अपीलों से उत्पन्न हुए।
- The first batch related to State laws prohibiting online betting and wagering.
पहला समूह ऑनलाइन सट्टेबाजी और दांव लगाने पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाले राज्य कानूनों से संबंधित था।
- In 2021, **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka** enacted legislation criminalising betting on games played in cyberspace and prescribing penalties, including imprisonment.
वर्ष 2021 में **तमिलनाडु** और **कर्नाटक** ने साइबरस्पेस में खेले जाने वाले खेलों पर सट्टेबाजी को अपराध घोषित करने तथा कारावास सहित दंड निर्धारित करने वाले कानून बनाए।
- After the **Madras High Court** and **Karnataka High Court** struck down these enactments, the respective State governments approached the Supreme Court, arguing that betting and gambling fall within their legislative competence under **Entry 34 of List II of the Seventh Schedule**.
मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय और कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा इन कानूनों को निरस्त किए जाने के बाद संबंधित राज्य सरकारों ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया और तर्क दिया कि सट्टेबाजी और जुआ **सातवीं अनुसूची की सूची-II की प्रविष्टि 34** के अंतर्गत उनके विधायी अधिकार क्षेत्र में आते हैं।
- They further contended that the restrictions were necessary to address addiction and other social harms associated with online betting.
उन्होंने यह भी तर्क दिया कि ऑनलाइन सट्टेबाजी से जुड़ी लत और अन्य सामाजिक दुष्प्रभावों से निपटने के लिए ये प्रतिबंध आवश्यक हैं।
- The second batch concerned the applicability of the **GST regime** to online gaming involving money stakes.
दूसरा समूह धनराशि आधारित ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर **जीएसटी व्यवस्था** की प्रयोज्यता से संबंधित था।
- The appeals arose from decisions of the **Bombay High Court** and **Karnataka High Court**, which held that online gaming transactions did not constitute **actionable claims** under the GST law and consequently quashed tax proceedings initiated against gaming companies.
ये अपीलें **बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय और कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय** के उन निर्णयों से उत्पन्न हुईं, जिनमें कहा गया था कि ऑनलाइन गेमिंग लेन-देन जीएसटी कानून के अंतर्गत **कार्यान्वित दावे (Actionable Claims)** नहीं हैं और परिणामस्वरूप गेमिंग कंपनियों के विरुद्ध आरंभ की गई कर कार्यवाहियों को निरस्त कर दिया गया था।
- The Union government thereafter challenged these rulings before the Supreme Court.
इसके बाद केंद्र सरकार ने इन निर्णयों को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में चुनौती दी।

Why was the GST levy upheld?

जीएसटी अधिरोपण को क्यों बरकरार रखा गया?

- The dispute over the GST liability of online gaming platforms stemmed from amendments approved by the **GST Council** in August 2023.
ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों की जीएसटी देयता को लेकर विवाद अगस्त 2023 में **जीएसटी परिषद** द्वारा अनुमोदित संशोधनों से उत्पन्न हुआ।
- The Council clarified that all online games involving bets or wagers, irrespective of whether they were predominantly games of skill or games of chance, would attract GST at **28%** on the full value of the amount staked by players.
परिषद ने स्पष्ट किया कि दांव या सट्टे से जुड़े सभी ऑनलाइन खेल, चाहे वे मुख्यतः कौशल आधारित हों या भाग्य आधारित, खिलाड़ियों द्वारा लगाई गई पूरी राशि के मूल्य पर **28% जीएसटी** के अधीन होंगे।
- Following the Council's decision, the **Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)** issued a series of tax demand notices to gaming companies.
परिषद के निर्णय के बाद **डायरेक्टरेट जनरल ऑफ जीएसटी इंटेलिजेंस (DGGI)** ने गेमिंग कंपनियों को कर मांग संबंधी अनेक नोटिस जारी किए।
- The notices sought to levy GST not only under the amended regime, which came into force on October 1, 2023, but also on revenues earned during the pre-amendment period, resulting in tax demands running into several lakh crore rupees.
इन नोटिसों में 1 अक्टूबर 2023 से लागू संशोधित व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत ही नहीं, बल्कि संशोधन से पूर्व अर्जित राजस्व पर भी जीएसटी लगाने का प्रयास किया गया, जिससे कर मांग कई लाख करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गई।
- Challenging these demands, gaming companies argued that GST could be levied only on the consideration retained by the platform and not on the entire value of bets or contest entry fees contributed by users.
इन मांगों को चुनौती देते हुए गेमिंग कंपनियों ने तर्क दिया कि जीएसटी केवल प्लेटफॉर्म द्वारा रखी गई राशि पर लगाया जा सकता है, न कि उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा जमा की गई संपूर्ण सट्टा राशि या प्रतियोगिता प्रवेश शुल्क पर।
- Taxing the full face value of stakes, they contended, was commercially untenable and failed to account for the long-recognised distinction between games of skill and games of chance. उनका तर्क था कि दांव की पूरी अंकित राशि पर कर लगाना व्यावसायिक रूप से अव्यवहारिक है तथा यह कौशल आधारित और भाग्य आधारित खेलों के बीच लंबे समय से मान्य अंतर की उपेक्षा करता है।
- Rejecting these arguments, the Supreme Court held that online gaming platforms involving money stakes were distinct from conventional skill-based competitions.
इन तर्कों को अस्वीकार करते हुए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि धनराशि आधारित ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्म पारंपरिक कौशल-आधारित प्रतियोगिताओं से भिन्न हैं।
- While participants in a skill-based contest merely pay an entry fee to compete, the Court observed that online gaming platforms are structured around wagering and often encourage repeated participation through discounts and bonuses.
न्यायालय ने कहा कि जहां कौशल-आधारित प्रतियोगिताओं में प्रतिभागी केवल भाग लेने हेतु प्रवेश शुल्क देते हैं, वहीं ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्म सट्टेबाजी की संरचना पर आधारित होते हैं और अक्सर छूट तथा बोनस के माध्यम से बार-बार भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।
- The Court further held that, for GST purposes, the distinction between games of skill and games of chance becomes irrelevant once money is staked on an uncertain outcome.
न्यायालय ने आगे कहा कि जीएसटी के संदर्भ में जैसे ही किसी अनिश्चित परिणाम पर धनराशि लगाई जाती है, कौशल आधारित और भाग्य आधारित खेलों के बीच का अंतर अप्रासंगिक हो जाता है।
- Referring to the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act)**, which expressly includes actionable claims relating to lottery, betting, and gambling within the tax net, the Court concluded that Parliament was competent to levy GST on online gaming involving money stakes.
केंद्रीय वस्तु एवं सेवा कर अधिनियम, 2017 (CGST Act) का उल्लेख करते हुए, जो लॉटरी, सट्टेबाजी और जुए से संबंधित कार्यान्वित दावों को स्पष्ट रूप से कर के दायरे में शामिल करता है, न्यायालय ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि धनराशि आधारित ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर जीएसटी लगाने का अधिकार संसद को प्राप्त है।

- It also rejected the industry's contention that the 2023 amendments imposed a fresh levy. न्यायालय ने उद्योग के इस तर्क को भी अस्वीकार कर दिया कि वर्ष 2023 के संशोधनों द्वारा कोई नया कर लगाया गया है।
- Instead, the Court held that the amendments merely "clarified and standardised" the existing legal framework governing the taxation of such activities and were therefore capable of operating retrospectively. इसके विपरीत, न्यायालय ने कहा कि इन संशोधनों ने केवल ऐसी गतिविधियों के कराधान से संबंधित विद्यमान कानूनी ढांचे को "स्पष्ट और मानकीकृत" किया है, इसलिए इन्हें पूर्वव्यापी प्रभाव से लागू किया जा सकता है।

Why did the Court uphold State curbs on real-money gaming?

न्यायालय ने रियल-मनी गेमिंग पर राज्य सरकारों के प्रतिबंधों को क्यों बरकरार रखा?

- At the outset, the Court observed that "betting" and "gambling" are **res extra commercium** (activities outside legitimate commerce) and therefore fall outside the protection ordinarily available to trade and business activities. प्रारंभ में न्यायालय ने कहा कि "सट्टेबाजी" और "जुआ" **रेस एक्स्ट्रा कॉमर्सियम (res extra commercium)** हैं (अर्थात वैध वाणिज्यिक गतिविधियों के दायरे से बाहर की गतिविधियाँ) और इसलिए इन्हें सामान्यतः व्यापार एवं व्यवसाय को प्राप्त संवैधानिक संरक्षण उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- It held that while games of skill may be constitutionally protected, the introduction of money stakes imparts the character of wagering to the activity, bringing it within the States' legislative competence. न्यायालय ने कहा कि यद्यपि कौशल-आधारित खेलों को संवैधानिक संरक्षण प्राप्त हो सकता है, किंतु जब उनमें धनराशि दांव पर लगाई जाती है तो गतिविधि का स्वरूप **सट्टेबाजी** का हो जाता है, जिससे वह राज्यों के विधायी अधिकार क्षेत्र में आ जाती है।
- The Bench was also not persuaded by the contention that **fantasy sports** are predominantly skill-based. पीठ **फैंटेसी स्पोर्ट्स** को मुख्यतः कौशल-आधारित मानने वाले तर्क से भी सहमत नहीं हुई।
- It noted that even sophisticated predictive models are unable to forecast sporting outcomes with certainty. न्यायालय ने उल्लेख किया कि अत्याधुनिक पूर्वानुमान मॉडल भी खेल प्रतियोगिताओं के परिणामों की निश्चित भविष्यवाणी करने में सक्षम नहीं हैं।
- The Court further observed that the widespread availability of **smartphones** and **digital payment gateways** had effectively turned every mobile phone into a virtual "**gambling house**". न्यायालय ने आगे कहा कि स्मार्टफोन और डिजिटल भुगतान गेटवे की व्यापक उपलब्धता ने प्रभावी रूप से प्रत्येक मोबाइल फोन को एक आभासी "**जुआघर**" में परिवर्तित कर दिया है।
- It held that State governments are competent to impose reasonable restrictions on such activities and could draw legislative support not only from **Entry 34 of List II** relating to betting and gambling but also from **Entry 1** concerning public order. न्यायालय ने कहा कि राज्य सरकारें ऐसी गतिविधियों पर युक्तिसंगत प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए सक्षम हैं और इसके लिए वे केवल **सूची-II की प्रविष्टि 34** (सट्टेबाजी और जुआ) ही नहीं, बल्कि **लोक व्यवस्था** से संबंधित **प्रविष्टि 1** से भी विधायी आधार प्राप्त कर सकती हैं।

What are the implications?

इसके क्या निहितार्थ हैं?

- The judgments come at a time when the industry is already grappling with the fallout of the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (2025 Act)**.

ये निर्णय ऐसे समय में आए हैं जब उद्योग पहले से ही ऑनलाइन गेमिंग (संवर्धन एवं विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2025 (2025 अधिनियम) के प्रभावों से जूझ रहा है।

- The legislation prohibited all forms of online real-money gaming, with the government citing **national security concerns**, including the alleged use of digital wallets and cryptocurrencies for **money laundering** and illicit fund transfers.

इस कानून ने ऑनलाइन रियल-मनी गेमिंग के सभी रूपों पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था, जिसके लिए सरकार ने **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताओं** का हवाला दिया था, जिनमें **मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग** और अवैध धन हस्तांतरण हेतु डिजिटल वॉलेट तथा क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स के कथित उपयोग को शामिल किया गया था।

- It, however, carved out exceptions for **e-sports**, **educational games**, and **social gaming**. हालांकि, इसने **ई-स्पोर्ट्स**, **शैक्षिक खेलों** तथा **सोशल गेमिंग** के लिए अपवाद प्रदान किए।

- Sudipta Bhattacharjee**, Partner at **Khaitan & Co**, who has represented several online gaming and casino companies before the Supreme Court, told The Hindu that the industry had effectively come to a standstill following the enactment of the 2025 law, which could make recovery of the tax demands difficult.

खैतान एंड कंपनी के भागीदार **सुदीप्त भट्टाचार्य**, जिन्होंने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में अनेक ऑनलाइन गेमिंग और कैसीनो कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व किया है, ने कहा कि 2025 के कानून के लागू होने के बाद उद्योग प्रभावी रूप से ठहराव की स्थिति में पहुंच गया है, जिससे कर मांगों की वसूली कठिन हो सकती है।

- "The GST ruling may not translate into any meaningful recovery for the authorities. "जीएसटी संबंधी निर्णय से संभवतः अधिकारियों को कोई सार्थक वसूली प्राप्त नहीं होगी।
- Many companies have either shifted their operations outside India or pivoted to sectors such as **social gaming** and **fintech**.

कई कंपनियों ने या तो अपने परिचालन भारत से बाहर स्थानांतरित कर दिए हैं अथवा **सोशल गेमिंग** और **फिनटेक** जैसे क्षेत्रों की ओर रुख कर लिया है।

- The GST demands are several times higher than the revenues these companies have ever earned and are simply beyond their ability to pay. जीएसटी की मांगें इन कंपनियों द्वारा अब तक अर्जित कुल राजस्व से कई गुना अधिक हैं और उनका भुगतान करना इनके सामर्थ्य से बाहर है।

- We are also likely to see a spate of **insolvency proceedings**," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "हमें **दिवालीयापन कार्यवाहियों** की एक बड़ी संख्या भी देखने को मिल सकती है।"

- Mr. **Bhattacharjee** also pointed out that the verdict could have implications for the challenge to the 2025 law on the ground that Parliament lacked the legislative competence to enact it. **श्री भट्टाचार्य** ने यह भी इंगित किया कि यह निर्णय 2025 के कानून को इस आधार पर दी गई चुनौती को प्रभावित कर सकता है कि संसद को इसे बनाने का विधायी अधिकार प्राप्त नहीं था।

- "The apex court has clearly held that betting and gambling are State subjects under **Entry 34** and upheld State laws regulating such activities.

उन्होंने कहा, "सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट रूप से कहा है कि सट्टेबाजी और जुआ **प्रविष्टि 34** के अंतर्गत राज्य विषय हैं तथा ऐसी गतिविधियों को विनियमित करने वाले राज्य कानूनों को वैध ठहराया है।

- We will now have to wait and see how the Union government defends its position that it has the legislative competence to enact the 2025 law under **Entry 52 of the Union List**, which permits regulation of industries where such intervention is considered expedient in the public interest," he said.

अब यह देखना होगा कि केंद्र सरकार किस प्रकार यह सिद्ध करती है कि उसे **संघ सूची की प्रविष्टि 52** के अंतर्गत 2025 का कानून बनाने का विधायी अधिकार प्राप्त है, जो उन उद्योगों के विनियमन की अनुमति देती है जिनमें सार्वजनिक हित में हस्तक्षेप आवश्यक समझा जाता है।" उन्होंने कहा।



TOPICS COVERED

07J6	Bursts of rain may deal a double whammy to soil moisture, nitrogen बारिश के तीव्र दौर मिट्टी की नमी और नाइट्रोजन पर दोहरा आघात पहुँचा सकते हैं
07J6	What is a birthmark? How does it form? जन्मचिह्न (Birthmark) क्या होता है? यह कैसे बनता है?

Bursts of rain may deal a double whammy to soil moisture, nitrogen

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Two new studies, published in *Nature* and *Nature Geoscience*, have found that as climate change concentrates rainfall into fewer, more intense events, the land below may face a double whammy. In their May 13 paper in *Nature*, Dartmouth College, U.S., researchers concluded that more concentrated rain can reduce the amount of water stored in soils and

aquifers across all global climates. This is because heavy bursts of rain can exceed the soil's infiltration capacity, leading to an "infiltration excess" where water pools on the surface. Because these intense events are typically separated by longer dry intervals, the pooled water evaporates instead of recharging deep soil layers. Their work suggests that the drying effect of precipitation concentration is roughly equal in magni-

tude to the wetting effect of increasing total annual rainfall, effectively neutralising potential gains in the availability of water in many regions. In their May 25 paper in *Nature Geoscience*, researchers from across China reported a specific rainfall threshold of around 700 mm/year that seemed to determine how soil retains nitrogen. Below this threshold, the soil generally retains nitrogen because a limited amount of water

restricts the movement of nutrients and encourages competition between plants and microbes. But above 700 mm, more moisture encourages leaching, leading to significant nitrogen loss. These studies together suggest concentrated rainfall could blur the distinction between wetter and drier rainfall regimes. If a region receives 600 mm of rain in concentrated bursts rather than in steady intervals, the downpours could

wash more nitrogen out of the soils than the annual rainfall total alone would suggest. According to the *Nature* study, 27% of the world's population will face abnormally dry conditions due to concentrated rainfall alone even if total rainfall doesn't decrease. A growing body of research suggests the southwest monsoon is itself becoming more episodic, with more seasonal rainfall falling in intense downpours separated by longer dry intervals.

This, together with the *Nature Geoscience* study's findings, suggests annual total rainfall alone may no longer capture how ecosystems respond to changing rainfall patterns. Intense rainfall events can wash away nitrogen, a nutrient crucial for plant growth, before it can be used, while the subsequent dry period can quicken water loss by evaporation.

07J6. Bursts of rain may deal a double whammy to soil moisture, nitrogen बारिश के तीव्र दौर मिट्टी की नमी और नाइट्रोजन पर दोहरा आघात पहुँचा सकते हैं

- Two new studies, published in **Nature** and **Nature Geoscience**, have found that as **climate change** concentrates rainfall into fewer, more intense events, the land below may face a **double whammy**.
Nature और **Nature Geoscience** में प्रकाशित दो नए अध्ययनों में पाया गया है कि जैसे-जैसे **जलवायु परिवर्तन** वर्षा को कम लेकिन अधिक तीव्र घटनाओं में केंद्रित कर रहा है, भूमि को **दोहरी मार** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- In their **May 13** paper in **Nature**, **Dartmouth College, U.S.**, researchers concluded that more concentrated rain can reduce the amount of water stored in soils and aquifers across all global climates.
13 मई को **Nature** में प्रकाशित अपने शोधपत्र में **अमेरिका के डार्टमाउथ कॉलेज** के शोधकर्ताओं ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि अधिक केंद्रित वर्षा विश्व के सभी जलवायु क्षेत्रों में मिट्टी और भूजलभृतों (**Aquifers**) में संग्रहित जल की मात्रा को कम कर सकती है।
- This is because heavy bursts of rain can exceed the soil's **infiltration capacity**, leading to an "**infiltration excess**" where water pools on the surface.
ऐसा इसलिए होता है क्योंकि वर्षा के तीव्र दौर मिट्टी की **अवशोषण क्षमता (Infiltration Capacity)** से अधिक हो सकते हैं, जिससे "**अतिरिक्त अवशोषण स्थिति (Infiltration Excess)**" उत्पन्न होती है और जल सतह पर एकत्र हो जाता है।
- Because these intense events are typically separated by longer dry intervals, the pooled water evaporates instead of recharging deep soil layers.
चूँकि ऐसी तीव्र वर्षा घटनाओं के बीच सामान्यतः लंबे शुष्क अंतराल होते हैं, इसलिए एकत्रित जल गहरी मिट्टी की परतों को पुनर्भरित करने के बजाय वाष्पित हो जाता है।
- Their work suggests that the **drying effect** of precipitation concentration is roughly equal in magnitude to the **wetting effect** of increasing total annual rainfall, effectively neutralising potential gains in the availability of water in many regions.
उनके अध्ययन से संकेत मिलता है कि वर्षा के केंद्रीकरण का **शुष्ककारी प्रभाव** कुल वार्षिक वर्षा में वृद्धि के

आर्द्राकरण प्रभाव के लगभग बराबर होता है, जिससे अनेक क्षेत्रों में जल उपलब्धता में संभावित वृद्धि का लाभ प्रभावी रूप से समाप्त हो जाता है।

- In their **May 25** paper in **Nature Geoscience**, researchers from across **China** reported a specific rainfall threshold of around **700 mm/year** that seemed to determine how soil retains **nitrogen**.
25 मई को **Nature Geoscience** में प्रकाशित शोधपत्र में **चीन** के शोधकर्ताओं ने लगभग **700 मिमी प्रति वर्ष** की एक विशिष्ट वर्षा सीमा का उल्लेख किया, जो यह निर्धारित करती प्रतीत होती है कि मिट्टी **नाइट्रोजन** को किस प्रकार संचित रखती है।
- Below this threshold, the soil generally retains nitrogen because a limited amount of water restricts the movement of nutrients and encourages competition between plants and microbes.
इस सीमा से कम वर्षा होने पर मिट्टी सामान्यतः नाइट्रोजन को बनाए रखती है क्योंकि सीमित जल पोषक तत्वों की गति को बाधित करता है और पौधों तथा सूक्ष्मजीवों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ावा देता है।
- But above **700 mm**, more moisture encourages **leaching**, leading to significant nitrogen loss. किन्तु **700 मिमी** से अधिक वर्षा होने पर अधिक नमी **लीचिंग (Leaching)** को बढ़ावा देती है, जिससे नाइट्रोजन की उल्लेखनीय हानि होती है।
- These studies together suggest concentrated rainfall could blur the distinction between wetter and drier rainfall regimes.
ये दोनों अध्ययन मिलकर संकेत देते हैं कि केंद्रित वर्षा अधिक आर्द्र और अधिक शुष्क वर्षा व्यवस्थाओं के बीच के अंतर को धुंधला कर सकती है।
- If a region receives **600 mm** of rain in concentrated bursts rather than in steady intervals, the downpours could wash more nitrogen out of the soils than the annual rainfall total alone would suggest.
यदि किसी क्षेत्र में **600 मिमी** वर्षा नियमित अंतरालों के बजाय तीव्र दौरों में होती है, तो ऐसी मूसलाधार वर्षा मिट्टी से अपेक्षा से अधिक नाइट्रोजन बहाकर ले जा सकती है, जितना केवल वार्षिक वर्षा की मात्रा से अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है।
- According to the **Nature** study, **27% of the world's population** will face abnormally dry conditions due to concentrated rainfall alone even if total rainfall doesn't decrease.
Nature अध्ययन के अनुसार, भले ही कुल वर्षा में कमी न हो, फिर भी केवल केंद्रित वर्षा के कारण **विश्व की 27% जनसंख्या** असामान्य रूप से शुष्क परिस्थितियों का सामना करेगी।
- A growing body of research suggests the **southwest monsoon** is itself becoming more episodic, with more seasonal rainfall falling in intense downpours separated by longer dry intervals.
बढ़ते शोध यह संकेत देते हैं कि **दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून** स्वयं अधिक खंडित (episodic) होता जा रहा है, जिसमें मौसमी वर्षा का बड़ा भाग तीव्र वर्षा घटनाओं के रूप में होता है और इनके बीच लंबे शुष्क अंतराल होते हैं।
- This, together with the **Nature Geoscience** study's findings, suggests annual total rainfall alone may no longer capture how ecosystems respond to changing rainfall patterns.
यह तथ्य, **Nature Geoscience** अध्ययन के निष्कर्षों के साथ मिलकर, संकेत देता है कि केवल वार्षिक कुल वर्षा अब यह समझने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है कि पारिस्थितिक तंत्र बदलते वर्षा प्रतिरूपों पर किस प्रकार प्रतिक्रिया करते हैं।
- Intense rainfall events can wash away **nitrogen**, a nutrient crucial for plant growth, before it can be used, while the subsequent dry period can quicken water loss by **evaporation**.
तीव्र वर्षा की घटनाएँ पौधों की वृद्धि के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण पोषक तत्व **नाइट्रोजन** को उसके उपयोग से पहले ही बहा सकती हैं, जबकि इसके बाद आने वाला शुष्क काल **वाष्पीकरण** के माध्यम से जल हानि को और तेज कर सकता है।



Marks that stay

What is a birthmark?
How does it form?

GS III: S&T
A birthmark is a coloured mark on the skin that is either present at birth or develops shortly afterwards. While some of them may fade over time, others stay for life. Birthmarks are essentially 'mistakes' in the development of skin cells or blood vessels. They generally fall in one of two categories. Vascular birthmarks occur when blood vessels in a particular area do not form correctly, i.e. because there are too many of them or they may be wider than usual. The extra blood flow that results gives the skin there a red,

pink or even purple appearance. Common examples include the so-called 'stork bites' on the neck or the 'strawberry' marks. Second, pigmented birthmarks are caused when melanocytes, the cells that give your skin its colour, overgrow in an area. As these cells cluster together, they create a patch that is darker than the surrounding skin. Common variations include moles, light-brown 'café-au-lait' spots, and bluish-gray patches. The exact reason why these clusters form is not known.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

07J6. What is a birthmark? How does it form?

जन्मचिह्न (Birthmark) क्या होता है? यह कैसे बनता है?

- A **birthmark** is a coloured mark on the skin that is either present at birth or develops shortly afterwards.
जन्मचिह्न (Birthmark) त्वचा पर बना एक रंगीन निशान होता है, जो या तो जन्म के समय मौजूद होता है अथवा जन्म के कुछ समय बाद विकसित हो जाता है।
- While some of them may fade over time, others stay for life.
इनमें से कुछ समय के साथ हल्के पड़ सकते हैं, जबकि कुछ जीवनभर बने रहते हैं।
- **Birthmarks** are essentially 'mistakes' in the development of skin cells or blood vessels.
जन्मचिह्न मूलतः त्वचा कोशिकाओं या रक्त वाहिकाओं के विकास में होने वाली 'त्रुटियों' का परिणाम होते हैं।
- They generally fall in one of two categories.
सामान्यतः इन्हें दो प्रमुख श्रेणियों में विभाजित किया जाता है।

- **Vascular birthmarks** occur when blood vessels in a particular area do not form correctly, i.e. because there are too many of them or they may be wider than usual.
संवहनी जन्मचिह्न तब उत्पन्न होते हैं जब किसी विशेष क्षेत्र की रक्त वाहिकाएँ सही प्रकार से विकसित नहीं होतीं, अर्थात् उनकी संख्या अधिक होती है या वे सामान्य से अधिक चौड़ी होती हैं।
- The extra blood flow that results gives the skin there a **red, pink or even purple** appearance.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप होने वाला अतिरिक्त रक्त प्रवाह त्वचा को **लाल, गुलाबी** अथवा **बैंगनी** रंग का स्वरूप प्रदान करता है।
- Common examples include the so-called '**stork bites**' on the neck or the '**strawberry**' marks.
इसके सामान्य उदाहरणों में गर्दन पर पाए जाने वाले '**स्टॉक बाइट्स**' तथा '**स्ट्रॉबेरी**' जैसे निशान शामिल हैं।
- Second, **pigmented birthmarks** are caused when **melanocytes**, the cells that give your skin its colour, overgrow in an area.
दूसरे प्रकार के **रंजित जन्मचिह्न** तब बनते हैं जब **मेलानोसाइट्स (Melanocytes)**, जो त्वचा को रंग प्रदान करने वाली कोशिकाएँ हैं, किसी क्षेत्र में अत्यधिक बढ़ जाती हैं।
- Common variations include **moles**, light-brown '**café-au-lait**' spots, and **bluish-gray patches**.
इसके सामान्य प्रकारों में **तिल (Moles)**, हल्के भूरे रंग के '**कैफे-ओ-ले**' धब्बे (**Café-au-lait Spots**) तथा **नीले-धूसर रंग के चकते (Bluish-Gray Patches)** शामिल हैं।

GS Paper III: Environment		07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07J6	Kaziranga National Park records 30 raptor and six stork species in a rapid bird survey काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में त्वरित पक्षी सर्वेक्षण के दौरान 30 शिकारी पक्षी और छह सारस प्रजातियाँ दर्ज की गईं	



Kaziranga National Park records 30 raptor and six stork species in a rapid bird survey

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam has 30 species of raptors and six species of storks, a rapid survey focused on these two categories of birds has revealed.

The survey, conducted by a 10-member team between the last week of February and March 2, was released on Friday (June 5) to mark World Environment Day. The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve authority surveyed in collaboration with researchers of Gauhati University.

The enumerators recorded 217 individual raptors — buzzards, eagles, falcons, owls, and vultures — across 30 species and 266



A black-necked stork spotted at Kaziranga National Park in Assam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

individual storks across six species.

Critical habitats

India is home to 112 species of raptors, both diurnal and nocturnal. Kaziranga and the adjoining landscape harbour about 50 species of these raptors.

Assam's rich, diverse wetlands and the Himalayan foothills provide critical habitats for these birds of prey.

India houses eight of the 20 stork species found in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. All eight of these are found in As-

sam, although Kaziranga has recorded six.

The raptor-stork study was conducted across Kaziranga's three administrative zones — the East Assam Wildlife Division, the Biswanath Wildlife Division, and the Nagaon Wildlife Division.

The Eastern Assam Wildlife Division recorded 21 species of raptors and five species of storks. While Biswanath recorded 20 species of raptors and six species of storks, Nagaon recorded 14 and five, respectively.

Among the stork species, the Asian openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*) was the most abundant, with 92 individuals spotted. The greater adjutant stork (*Lep- totilos dubius*) was the

rarest, with three individuals recorded. Among the raptors, the Himalayan griffon vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) was the most common with 69 individual sightings, while the booted eagle and white-tailed eagle were the rarest species with one individual sighting each.

"Kaziranga's landscape also serves as a last stronghold for the enigmatic Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*). A survey conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India in January 2020 reported 10 active nests of Pallas's fish eagle in Kaziranga, making it the protected area with the highest number of [this bird's] breeding sites in the world," an official statement read.

07J6. Kaziranga National Park records 30 raptor and six stork species in a rapid bird survey

काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में त्वरित पक्षी सर्वेक्षण के दौरान 30 शिकारी पक्षी और छह सारस प्रजातियाँ दर्ज की गईं

- The **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam** has **30 species of raptors and six species of storks**, a rapid survey focused on these two categories of birds has revealed. असम स्थित काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान एवं टाइगर रिजर्व में शिकारी पक्षियों (रैप्टर्स) की 30 प्रजातियाँ और सारसों की छह प्रजातियाँ पाई गई हैं, यह जानकारी इन दो श्रेणियों के पक्षियों पर केंद्रित एक त्वरित सर्वेक्षण से सामने आई है।
- The enumerators recorded **217 individual raptors** — buzzards, eagles, falcons, owls, and vultures — across **30 species and 266 individual storks across six species**. सर्वेक्षणकर्ताओं ने 30 प्रजातियों के अंतर्गत 217 शिकारी पक्षियों — बज्र, ईगल, फाल्कन, उल्लू और गिद्ध — तथा छह प्रजातियों के अंतर्गत 266 सारसों को दर्ज किया।

Critical habitats

महत्वपूर्ण आवास

- India is home to 112 species of raptors**, both diurnal and nocturnal. भारत दिन और रात दोनों समय सक्रिय रहने वाली शिकारी पक्षियों की 112 प्रजातियों का आवास है।
- Assam's rich, diverse wetlands and the Himalayan foothills provide critical habitats for these birds of prey**. असम की समृद्ध और विविध आर्द्रभूमियाँ तथा हिमालय की तलहटी इन शिकारी पक्षियों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण आवास प्रदान करती हैं।

- **India houses eight of the 20 stork species** found in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide.
विश्व के उष्णकटिबंधीय और उपोष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्रों में पाई जाने वाली 20 सारस प्रजातियों में से आठ भारत में पाई जाती हैं।
- The raptor-stork study was conducted across **Kaziranga's three administrative zones — the East Assam Wildlife Division, the Biswanath Wildlife Division, and the Nagaon Wildlife Division.**
रैप्टर-सारस अध्ययन काजीरंगा के तीन प्रशासनिक क्षेत्रों — पूर्वी असम वन्यजीव प्रभाग, बिस्वनाथ वन्यजीव प्रभाग और नगांव वन्यजीव प्रभाग — में किया गया।
- The **greater adjutant stork (Leptoptilos dubius)** was the rarest, with **three individuals** recorded.
ग्रेटर एडजुटेंट सारस (Leptoptilos dubius) सबसे दुर्लभ पाया गया, जिसके केवल तीन पक्षी दर्ज किए गए।
- Among the raptors, the **Himalayan griffon vulture (Gyps himalayensis)** was the most common with **69 individual sightings**, while the **booted eagle** and **white-tailed eagle** were the rarest species with **one individual sighting each.**
शिकारी पक्षियों में हिमालयन ग्रिफॉन गिद्ध (Gyps himalayensis) सबसे अधिक पाया गया, जिसकी 69 बार उपस्थिति दर्ज की गई, जबकि बूटेड ईगल और व्हाइट-टेल्ड ईगल सबसे दुर्लभ रहे, जिनकी केवल एक-एक बार उपस्थिति दर्ज की गई।
- **"Kaziranga's landscape also serves as a last stronghold for the enigmatic Pallas's fish eagle (Haliaeetus leucoryphus).**
"काजीरंगा का परिदृश्य रहस्यमयी पैलस फिश ईगल (Haliaeetus leucoryphus) के अंतिम मजबूत आवासों में से एक है।
- A survey conducted by the **Wildlife Institute of India** in **January 2020** reported **10 active nests of Pallas's fish eagle in Kaziranga**, making it the protected area with the highest number of breeding sites of this bird in the world," an official statement read.
जनवरी 2020 में भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान द्वारा किए गए सर्वेक्षण में काजीरंगा में पैलस फिश ईगल के 10 सक्रिय घोंसले दर्ज किए गए थे, जिससे यह विश्व में इस पक्षी के सर्वाधिक प्रजनन स्थलों वाला संरक्षित क्षेत्र बन गया है," आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया।