



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



PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

01 JUNE 2026

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

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

PCS Special:		09 June 2026
09J6	Gallantry awards conferred on security personnel; IAF pilot receives Kirti Chakra सुरक्षा कर्मियों को वीरता पुरस्कार प्रदान किए गए; भारतीय वायु सेना के पायलट को कीर्ति चक्र प्राप्त हुआ	
09J6	Modi to complete 4,399 days as PM, set new record मोदी प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में 4,399 दिन पूरे करेंगे, नया रिकॉर्ड स्थापित करेंगे	
09J6	Sports Minister felicitates India under-18 men's and women's teams खेल मंत्री ने भारत की अंडर-18 पुरुष एवं महिला टीमों को सम्मानित किया	



PCS

A World Cup like no other

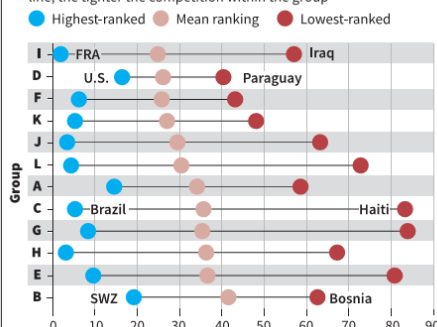
MAP 1: The tournament is hosted by three countries, the U.S., Canada and Mexico, which is a first. It is being held across 16 venues, which is the second-highest after the 2002 edition, when matches happened across 20 cities in South Korea and Japan



CHART 5: 2026 could see a competition between 37-year-old Messi, for whom this is likely to be the last World Cup, and 27-year-old Mbappe, to set a new record as the highest goal-scorer in a World Cup



CHART 6: The chart shows the highest, lowest and average rankings in the 12 groups of four members each. Shorter the line, the tighter the competition within the group





Gallantry awards conferred on security personnel; IAF pilot receives Kirti Chakra

PCS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred seven Kirti Chakras, including two posthumously, on personnel of the armed forces for displaying raw courage, unparalleled bravery and total disregard for personal safety in the line of duty.

Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, an Indian Air Force pilot and Gaganyatri, was also among the recipients of the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award. Ms. Murmu also conferred 15 Vir Chakras, including three posthumously, and 29 Shaurya Chakras, including one posthumously, on the personnel of the defence forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State and Union Territory police forces during Phase 1 of the Defence Investiture Ceremony hosted at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Defence Ministry said.

Lt. Commander Dilna K. and Lt. Commander Roopa A. of the Navy were among the Shaurya Chakra recipients. The President presented the gallantry award



President Droupadi Murmu confers Kirti Chakra on Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair during a ceremony in New Delhi. PTI

to them for their bravery and devotion to duty in 'Navika Sagar Parikrama 2'.

Lt. Commander Roopa along with Lt. Commander Dilna sailed over 25,600 nautical miles through the Indian, Pacific, Atlantic and Southern Oceans.

"While navigating through the perilous Drake Passage in stormy conditions that caused the boat to heel severely, regaining control required exceptional skill and extraordinary courage. During the expedition, they also became the first Indians to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, by sailboat," reads the citation in a post on X by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Lance Naik Meenatchi

Sundarama of Rashtriya Rifles, Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba of Para (Special Forces), Major Arshdeep Singh of Assam Rifles and Captain Lalrinawma Sailo of Para (Special Forces) have also been conferred the Kirti Chakra, according to the list of awardees shared by the government.

Sepoy Janjal Pravin Prabhakar of the Mahar Regiment of Rashtriya Rifles and Lt. Shashank Tiwari of the Sikkim Scouts have been conferred the Kirti Chakra posthumously.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the ceremony. In a post on X, he said, "We are proud of their extraordinary courage, commitment and selfless service to the nation."

09J6. Gallantry awards conferred on security personnel; IAF pilot receives Kirti Chakra

सुरक्षा कर्मियों को वीरता पुरस्कार प्रदान किए गए; भारतीय वायु सेना के पायलट को कीर्ति चक्र प्राप्त हुआ

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred seven Kirti Chakras, including two posthumously, on personnel of the armed forces for displaying raw courage, unparalleled bravery and total disregard for personal safety in the line of duty.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मु ने सोमवार को सशस्त्र बलों के कर्मियों को कर्तव्य पालन के दौरान अदम्य साहस, अद्वितीय वीरता और व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा की पूर्ण उपेक्षा का प्रदर्शन करने के लिए सात कीर्ति चक्र, जिनमें दो मरणोपरांत शामिल हैं, प्रदान किए।

Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, an Indian Air Force pilot and Gaganyatri, was also among the recipients of the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.

भारतीय वायु सेना के पायलट और गगनयात्री एयर कमोडोर प्रशांत बालकृष्णन नायर भी कीर्ति चक्र प्राप्तकर्ताओं में शामिल थे, जो भारत का शांतिकाल का दूसरा सर्वोच्च वीरता

पुरस्कार है।

- Ms. Murmu also conferred 15 Vir Chakras, including three posthumously, and 29 Shaurya Chakras, including one posthumously, on the personnel of the defence forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State and Union Territory police forces during Phase 1 of the Defence Investiture Ceremony hosted at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Defence Ministry said.

रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, राष्ट्रपति ने राष्ट्रपति भवन में आयोजित रक्षा अलंकरण समारोह के प्रथम चरण के दौरान रक्षा बलों, केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों तथा राज्यों एवं केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों की पुलिस के कर्मियों को 15 वीर चक्र, जिनमें तीन मरणोपरांत शामिल हैं, तथा 29 शौर्य चक्र, जिनमें एक मरणोपरांत शामिल है, प्रदान किए।

Wartime Award	Peacetime Equivalent
Param Vir Chakra	Ashoka Chakra
Maha Vir Chakra	Kirti Chakra
Vir Chakra	Shaurya Chakra

Modi to complete 4,399 days as PM, set new record

PCS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

As numbers go, 4,399 will not appear significant in itself except to mathematicians who may find value in the odds and evens around it, but for political observers, it marks a watershed moment in the history of post-Independence India, when Narendra Mo-

di becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of the country.

On June 10, Mr. Modi will be crossing the record set by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was elected to the post in 1952 (Nehru's previous stint, from 1947-52, was as head of an interim government since elec-

tions were yet to be institutionalised and held at the time). Later, Indira Gandhi had a fractured tenure totalling 14 years.

Mr. Modi's tenure as PM for 12 years, or 4,399 days, therefore calls for closer examination.

"Milestones do not define an epoch of transformation," Ajay Singh, former press secretary to

Presidents Ram Nath Kovind and Droupadi Murmu said.

"The milestone of surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Nehru is remarkable yet Prime Minister Modi will be remembered less for statistics and more for reimagining India's politics in the most profound way in the arena of power politics he

stands, without question, as the most consequential and transformative leader in post-Independence India," Mr. Singh said. He argues that while comparisons between Prime Ministers are redundant since they are products of a specific historical context, Mr. Modi's years at the helm of affairs have to be acknowledged as a period

during which many of the givens of Indian politics were shattered.

The National Democratic Alliance government led by Mr. Modi is marking 12 years in power this week.

The milestone of 4,399 days as Prime Minister is somehow subsumed within that, and history will likely have a better view on what his tenure has meant

09J6. Modi to complete 4,399 days as PM, set new record

मोदी प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में 4,399 दिन पूरे करेंगे, नया रिकॉर्ड स्थापित करेंगे

- Narendra Modi becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of India

नरेन्द्र मोदी भारत के सबसे लंबे समय तक लगातार निर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री बने

- As numbers go, 4,399 will not appear significant in itself except to mathematicians who may find value in the odds and evens around it, but for political observers, it marks a watershed moment in the history of post-Independence India, when **Narendra Modi becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of the country.**

संख्याओं की दृष्टि से 4,399 अपने आप में विशेष प्रतीत नहीं होती, सिवाय गणितज्ञों के जो इसके सम और विषम पक्षों में रुचि ले सकते हैं, किन्तु राजनीतिक विश्लेषकों के लिए यह स्वतंत्रता-उत्तर भारत के इतिहास का एक महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव है, जब नरेन्द्र मोदी देश के सबसे लंबे समय तक लगातार निर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री बन जाते हैं।

- On June 10, Mr. Modi will be crossing the record set by India's first Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru**, who was elected to the post in **1952**.

10 जून को श्री मोदी भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू द्वारा स्थापित रिकॉर्ड को पार कर लेंगे, जिन्हें 1952 में इस पद के लिए निर्वाचित किया गया था।

- (Nehru's previous stint, from 1947-52, was as head of an interim government since elections were yet to be institutionalised and held at the time.)

(1947 से 1952 तक नेहरू का पूर्व कार्यकाल एक अंतरिम सरकार के प्रमुख के रूप में था, क्योंकि उस समय तक चुनावी व्यवस्था संस्थागत रूप से स्थापित नहीं हुई थी और चुनाव आयोजित नहीं किए गए थे।)

- Later, **Indira Gandhi** had a fractured tenure totalling **14 years**.

बाद में इंदिरा गांधी का विभिन्न चरणों में फैला हुआ कुल 14 वर्षों का कार्यकाल रहा।

- Mr. Modi's tenure as Prime Minister for **12 years**, or **4,399 days**, therefore calls for closer examination.

इस प्रकार प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में श्री मोदी का 12 वर्षों अथवा 4,399 दिनों का कार्यकाल गहन विश्लेषण की मांग करता है।



Sports Minister felicitates India under-18 men's and women's teams

PCS

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the Indian men and women's hockey teams here on Monday for their stupendous performance in the recently concluded Under-18 Asia Cup in Japan.

The men, led by Ketan Kushwaha, were crowned champion after defeating host Japan 4-1 in the final in Kakamigahara on Friday. The minister handed a cheque of ₹61.5 lakh to the team.

On the other hand, the

women's team, led by Sweety Kujur, secured the bronze medal after registering a 3-0 win over Korea in the bronze medal match. Mandaviya handed the team a cheque of ₹21 lakh.

"I would like to congratulate both the teams for the hard work they have put in for bringing laurels for the country. The entire nation is proud of you. I would like to tell you that this is just the start.

"There is no alternative for hard work.

"Someone who has scored 13 goals should think of scoring 15 or more goals.

"Someone who has stopped 10 goals should aim for not letting the opponents even score one," said Mandaviya.

The minister also felicitated the best scorers Ashish Tani Purti (men) and Nousheen Naz (women) and goalkeeper Ayush Rajak, who saved 10 goals in the tournament.

Rani and Sardar feted

The minister also felicitated former Indian hockey captains Rani Rampal and Sardar Singh, who were the coaches of the Indian women's and men's teams respectively at the Asia Cup.



secured the **bronze medal** after registering a 3-0 win over **Korea** in the bronze medal match.

दूसरी ओर, **स्वीटी कुजूर** की अगुवाई वाली महिला टीम ने कांस्य पदक मुकाबले में **कोरिया** को 3-0 से हराकर कांस्य पदक हासिल किया।

- Mandaviya handed the team a cheque of **₹21 lakh**.

मांडविया ने टीम को **₹21 लाख** का चेक प्रदान किया।

- The minister also felicitated the best scorers **Ashish Tani Purti** (men) and **Nousheen Naz** (women) and goalkeeper **Ayush Rajak**, who saved **10 goals** in the tournament.

मंत्री ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्कोरर **आशीष तानी पुर्ति** (पुरुष) और **नौशीन नाज़** (महिला) तथा गोलकीपर **आयुष राजक** को भी सम्मानित किया, जिन्होंने टूर्नामेंट में **10 गोल** बचाए।

09J6. Sports Minister felicitates India under-18 men's and women's teams

खेल मंत्री ने भारत की अंडर-18

पुरुष एवं महिला टीमों को सम्मानित किया

- **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** felicitated the Indian men and women's hockey teams here on Monday for their stupendous performance in the recently concluded **Under-18 Asia Cup in Japan**.

खेल मंत्री मनसुख मांडविया ने सोमवार को यहाँ भारत की पुरुष और महिला हॉकी टीमों को हाल ही में **जापान** में संपन्न हुए **अंडर-18 एशिया कप** में उनके शानदार प्रदर्शन के लिए सम्मानित किया।

- The men, led by **Ketan Kushwaha**, were crowned champion after defeating host **Japan** 4-1 in the final in **Kakamigahara** on Friday.

केतन कुशवाहा की अगुवाई वाली पुरुष टीम ने शुक्रवार को **काकामिगाहारा** में खेले गए फाइनल में मेज़बान **जापान** को 4-1 से हराकर खिताब जीता।

- On the other hand, the women's team, led by **Sweety Kujur**,

GS Paper 1: History

09 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED



Visual Question:-

This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy?

This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy?

- Birsa Munda was a tribal leader from the Munda tribe of the Chotanagpur region (present-day Jharkhand).
- Led the **Ulgulan (The Great Tumult)** movement (1899–1900) against British rule, zamindars, and moneylenders.
- Mobilized tribal communities to protect their traditional land rights.
- Advocated the restoration of the **Khuntkatti system** (community-based land ownership).

Sarat Chandra Roy (1871–1942)

- Sarat Chandra Roy is widely regarded as the **Father of Indian Ethnography** and one of India's earliest professional anthropologists.
- Ethnography is the systematic study and description of peoples, cultures, customs, and social life through direct fieldwork.
- Roy lived among tribal communities and documented their culture, traditions, laws, religion, and social organization.
- His major works include:
 - The Mundas and Their Country (1912)
 - The Oraons of Chota Nagpur (1915)
 - The Birhors (1925)
 - The Hill Bhuiyas of Orissa (1935)

GS Paper 1: Society		09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09J6	Why Census 2027 matters for development, democracy and representation विकास, लोकतंत्र और प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए जनगणना 2027 क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है	

Why Census 2027 matters for development, democracy and representation

Census 2027, the world's largest count of people within a national geography, is an overdue exercise with far-reaching implications; an accurate and comprehensive count will ensure that no one is left behind and that policies, entitlements, and resources are guided by reliable data

GS II: Society
Akshay Rout

Record turnouts in the recently concluded Assembly elections have brought satisfaction to all those who believe in the ultimate say of numbers and counts in a democracy. The only concern amid this celebration is whether everyone who needs to be counted has actually been included. This sense of urgency should equally drive the ongoing Census, the mother of all counts.

The world's largest-ever count of people within a national geography got underway on April 1, with the commencement of the first of the two phases of Census 2027. The first phase will gather nationwide information on the conditions, amenities, and assets of every household. The second will collect critical demographic and socio-economic information, including details on education, migration, fertility, and, of course, caste.

Seriously overdue

The eighth Census since Independence comes after a gap of 15 years instead of the usual 10, owing first to the COVID-19 disruption and later to the Lok Sabha elections. India has certainly been missing an updated demographic database. Public and private planning alike have had to rely either on the 2011 Census or on informed extrapolations from it.

There are other credible surveys, including five rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), but these largely focus on health and nutrition. The World Bank and various UN agencies have also periodically conducted studies in their areas of interest. The United Nations Population Fund estimates India's population in 2025 at more than 146 crore. The population count in 2011 stood at 121 crore, marking a growth of 17.7% over the 2001 Census. Census 2027 is expected to record an increase of 25-30 crore. That makes the case for an accurate, secure, and comprehensive national census even more urgent.

The purpose of the Census in colonial India was to help the rulers govern more efficiently and sustain the regime. In post-Independence India, the Census has served a different purpose: improving governance and speeding up multidimensional and inclusive development. The 1951 Census, expectedly, revealed dismal levels of literacy, poverty, and life expectancy in a country depleted by colonial rule. India in 2026-27 stands on a completely different footing in terms of mobility, connectivity, infrastructure, education, healthcare and other indicators of living standards, which await measurement.

Contested demography

The season of demographic politics is here. Special intensive revision (SIR) is a rebuilding of India's electoral rolls; the process has also prompted citizens to ensure that they are counted and that their names remain on the rolls.

One act was played in Parliament in mid-April when women's reservation became a casualty of the fear of 'biased' delimitation of constituencies. New electoral boundaries will ordinarily be anchored in Census data, and the 33%



Census enumerators during a door-to-door survey of digital mapping for the Census at Shashi Garden, in New Delhi, on May 29. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

reserved seats for women in the legislature will be tied to it. This way, the Census exercise will have elaborate implications for the country's representative democracy.

Another standout feature of Census 2027 is the inclusion of the caste question for the first time. The matter has been on the political agenda for years now, often dragged into elections. The direction of the debate after the release of the data will be closely watched.

Existing reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also have the new Census as a reference. Instead of belligerent battles fought over caste, class, and community interests in the electoral cauldron, getting duly counted along these divisions could be a constructive presentation of the case. Affirmative action for marginalised groups, provided under India's legal and constitutional framework and considered as the fountainhead of social justice, depends on systematic data drawn from the Census.

Roti, kapda, makaan

The Census may appear not to offer any individual profit, but most certainly it does. Access to jobs, food, housing, cooking gas, clean drinking water, safe sanitation, schools, and hospitals are among the expectations citizens have of an elected government.

Accurately identifying needs and deprivations through reliable databases provides the basis for targeted delivery of these welfare measures and public services. Demographic profiles also

inform the Finance Commission's devolution of funds to States and local bodies and even guide private-sector investments in identified areas.

Public policy and service delivery can falter when residents are not properly counted under various buckets. Digital data collection, being done for the first time, could provide deeper and more segregated identification of issues in localities. Viewed from another perspective, departmental dashboards for social and infrastructural provisions could face reality checks post-Census, against their claims.

Guardrails of individual rights

Online self-enumeration, available for 15 days, preceding the survey and already completed by over one crore households, is an additional facilitation, but not mandatory. Self-enumeration blends digital empowerment with the right to privacy and accuracy of personal data. Inclusion is ensured by retaining the manual option and language choices. Census authorities loudly assure that 'an enumerator will definitely visit your home.' The Census Act, 1948, ensures the protection of individual data in the face of a malevolent and interconnected world.

In contemporary elections, population groups look out for targeted benefits, often casting votes in return. The ethical and economic prudence of this bargain is widely questioned. But a good Census delivers the same without moral or fiscal damage. While the government has pitched the Census as an instrument of development, citizens must proactively

grab the chance of getting counted. Census in 2011 had the tagline 'Our Census, Our Future'; in 2027, it is 'Our Census, Our Development'. One could hasten to add, 'my census, my right.'

Everyone's task, everyone's gain

High profile enumeration of the top brass in the national and State capitals carries great symbolism. But the true mandate of the Census is to ensure that no one is left behind and that no facts – or even factoids – from the remotest hamlet or the most crowded urban slum, regardless of people's circumstances, are excluded from this long-overdue exercise.

Over three million census staffers will have to overcome topographical and social barriers as they go door to door to complete this onerous task.

Although participation in the Census is mandatory, public cooperation must be driven by a heightened awareness of self-interest rather than the apathy that often characterises urban life. 'Pragati' and 'Vikas', the mascots of Census 2027, are statements not only of the purpose, but of equal role for men and women.

Millions of voters stood in line at polling booths over the past two months because they recognised the importance of their vote, even though voting remains optional. In an ocean of census operations, every individual count matters, just as every single vote matters in a large election.

(Akshay Rout is a former Director General, Election Commission of India and a Public Policy Commentator. Views expressed are personal)

09J6. Why Census 2027 matters for development, democracy and representation

विकास, लोकतंत्र और प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए जनगणना 2027 क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

- The **United Nations Population Fund** estimates India's population in 2025 at more than **146 crore**.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष के अनुसार वर्ष 2025 में भारत की जनसंख्या 146 करोड़ से अधिक होने का अनुमान है।
- Census 2027** is expected to record an increase of **25-30 crore**.
जनगणना 2027 में जनसंख्या में 25 से 30 करोड़ की वृद्धि दर्ज होने की संभावना है।
- The Census may appear not to offer any individual profit, but most certainly it does.
जनगणना देखने में भले ही किसी व्यक्ति को प्रत्यक्ष लाभ न देती प्रतीत हो, किन्तु वास्तव में ऐसा नहीं है।
- Access to jobs, food, housing, cooking gas, clean drinking water, safe sanitation, schools, and hospitals are among the expectations citizens have of an elected government.**
रोजगार, भोजन, आवास, रसोई गैस, स्वच्छ पेयजल, सुरक्षित स्वच्छता, विद्यालय और अस्पताल जैसी सुविधाएँ नागरिकों की निर्वाचित सरकार से प्रमुख अपेक्षाएँ हैं।
- Demographic profiles also inform the Finance Commission's devolution of funds to States and local bodies and even guide private-sector investments in identified areas.**
जनसांख्यिकीय प्रोफाइल वित्त आयोग द्वारा राज्यों और स्थानीय निकायों को निधियों के वितरण में भी सहायक होती है तथा चिन्हित क्षेत्रों में निजी निवेश का मार्गदर्शन भी करती है।
- Online self-enumeration, available for 15 days, preceding the survey and already completed by over one crore households, is an additional facilitation, but not mandatory.**
सर्वेक्षण से पहले उपलब्ध 15 दिनों की ऑनलाइन स्व-गणना सुविधा, जिसका उपयोग एक करोड़ से अधिक परिवारों द्वारा किया जा चुका है, एक अतिरिक्त सुविधा है, किन्तु यह अनिवार्य नहीं है।
- Self-enumeration blends digital empowerment with the right to privacy and accuracy of personal data.**
स्व-गणना डिजिटल सशक्तिकरण को गोपनीयता के अधिकार और व्यक्तिगत आँकड़ों की शुद्धता के साथ जोड़ती है।
- Census in 2011 had the tagline 'Our Census, Our Future'; in 2027, it is 'Our Census, Our Development'.**
वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना का नारा 'हमारी जनगणना, हमारा भविष्य' था; वर्ष 2027 में यह 'हमारी जनगणना, हमारा विकास' है।
- 'Pragati' and 'Vikas', the mascots of Census 2027, are statements not only of the purpose, but of equal role for men and women.**
'प्रगति' और 'विकास', जो जनगणना 2027 के शुभंकर हैं, केवल उद्देश्य का ही नहीं बल्कि महिलाओं और पुरुषों की समान भूमिका का भी प्रतीक हैं।

GS Paper 1: Geography		09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09J6	QUIZ: World Oceans Day	
09J6	Mauritius rejects reported move by Trump to buy Chagos Islands चागोस द्वीप खरीदने की ट्रंप की कथित पहल को मॉरीशस ने खारिज किया	
09J6	Houthi claim missile attack, declare 'total ban' on Israeli ships in Red Sea हूती विद्रोहियों ने मिसाइल हमले का दावा किया, लाल सागर में इज़राइली जहाजों पर 'पूर्ण प्रतिबंध' की घोषणा	



Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Why was June 8 specifically chosen for World Oceans Day and when was it first observed? **Ans: It was on this date in the 1992 Earth Summit that the concept was introduced by the Oceans Institute of Canada and the International Centre for Ocean Development. 2009.**

2. How many oceans are officially recognised and which is the smallest? **Ans: Five with Arctic being the smallest**

3. Which distinct characteristic of oceans is because of mineral runoff from land and hydrothermal activity on the seafloor? **Ans: Saltiness**

4. If the average global temperature rises by 1.5°C, the estimated loss of which remarkable biodiverse natural feature is 70 to 90%? **Ans: Coral reefs**

5. The Aral Sea dramatically shrank because of massive water diversion projects in the 1960s on two major rivers. Name the rivers. **Ans: Amu Darya and Syr Darya**

6. What is a 'seamount'? **Ans: A submarine volcanic mountain rising at least 1,000 metres above the surrounding deep-sea floor**

7. What body of water separates Madagascar from the African continent? **Ans: Mozambique Channel**

8. Which 'colourful' sea's name is a direct translation of its ancient Greek name Erythra Thalassa? **Ans: Red Sea**

Visual: Name this member of the deepest-living fish family that have been recorded in trenches of over 8000m. **Ans: Snailfish**

Early Birds: Jha Akshay Amarendra | Kaveesh Sethi | Pranab Biswas | Deepak Jiloha | Soumyabrata Kar

09J6. QUIZ

1. Why was June 8 chosen for **World Oceans Day** and when was it first observed?

- June 8 was chosen because the concept of **World Oceans Day** was first proposed on **8 June 1992** at the **Earth Summit (UNCED)** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by the **Oceans Institute of Canada** and the **International Centre for Ocean Development**.

- The United Nations officially designated 8 June as World Oceans Day in 2008, and the first official UN observance took place in **2009**.

- The day aims to raise awareness

about ocean conservation, sustainable use of marine resources, and the ocean's role in climate regulation and human livelihoods.

2. How many oceans are officially recognised and which is the smallest?

- There are **five officially recognised oceans**: the **Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Arctic Ocean**.
- The **Arctic Ocean** is the smallest and shallowest of them, covering about **14 million square kilometres**.

3. Which distinct characteristic of oceans is because of mineral runoff from land and hydrothermal activity on the seafloor?

- Ocean water contains dissolved salts primarily because rivers carry minerals weathered from rocks on land into the sea.
- Additionally, hydrothermal vents on the seafloor release minerals from Earth's interior into ocean waters. Sodium and chloride are the most abundant ions, giving seawater its salty taste.
- The **average ocean salinity is about 35 parts per thousand (35‰)**.
- Salinity influences ocean circulation, marine biodiversity, climate systems, and the distribution of marine organisms across different ocean regions.**

4. If the average global temperature rises by 1.5°C, the estimated loss of which remarkable biodiverse natural feature is 70–90%?

- According to scientific assessments of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, a global temperature increase of **1.5°C** could lead to the loss of **70–90% of the world's coral reefs**.
- Coral reefs support nearly **25% of all marine species**, despite covering less than 1% of the ocean floor.
- Rising sea temperatures cause coral bleaching, where corals expel the algae essential for their survival.
- Coral reef decline threatens biodiversity, fisheries, coastal protection, and the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide.

5. The Aral Sea dramatically shrank because of massive water diversion projects in the 1960s on two major rivers. Name the rivers.



- The two rivers are the **Amu Darya** and the **Syr Darya**. During the 1960s, large-scale irrigation projects in the former Soviet Union diverted water from these rivers to support cotton cultivation in Central Asia.
- As a result, the Aral Sea lost most of its inflow and shrank dramatically, becoming one of the world's worst environmental disasters.
- The shrinking sea caused ecological degradation, increased salinity, collapse of fisheries, dust storms carrying toxic sediments, and severe health and economic impacts on local communities.

6. What is a 'seamount'?

- A **seamount** is an underwater volcanic mountain that rises at least **1,000 metres above the surrounding deep-sea floor** but does not reach the ocean surface.
- Most seamounts are formed by volcanic activity associated with tectonic plate movements or hotspots.

7. What body of water separates Madagascar from the African continent?

- The **Mozambique Channel** separates **Madagascar** from mainland Africa, specifically from **Mozambique**. It is the longest channel in the world, extending approximately **1,600 kilometres**.
- The channel forms an important part of the western Indian Ocean and serves as a major route for marine transportation and ocean circulation.

8. Which 'colourful' sea's name is a direct translation of its ancient Greek name *Erythra Thalassa*?

- The ancient Greek name "**Erythra Thalassa**" literally translates to "**Red Sea**." Located between northeastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, the Red Sea is one of the saltiest bodies of seawater connected to an ocean.
- Its name may have originated from seasonal blooms of reddish-coloured cyanobacteria (*Trichodesmium erythraeum*) or from the surrounding reddish mountains.
- The sea is renowned for its exceptional coral reefs, rich marine biodiversity, and strategic importance for global shipping through the **Suez Canal**.

Mauritius rejects reported move by Trump to buy Chagos Islands



REUTERS

GS I: Geography
Mauritius said on Monday that it had not received any proposal from the [Donald] Trump administration on the Chagos Islands, after the *Telegraph* reported that the White House was planning to buy the islands. "Mauritius's position remains unchanged: its sovereignty over the Chagos is non-negotiable," it said. REUTERS

09J6. Mauritius rejects reported move by Trump to buy Chagos Islands

चागोस द्वीप खरीदने की ट्रंप की कथित पहल को मॉरीशस ने खारिज किया

- "Mauritius's position remains unchanged: its sovereignty over the Chagos is non-negotiable," it said.

- “मॉरीशस का रुख अपरिवर्तित है: चागोस पर उसकी संप्रभुता पर कोई समझौता नहीं किया जा सकता,” उसने कहा।

Houthis claim missile attack, declare ‘total ban’ on Israeli ships in Red Sea

Yemen-based Iran-aligned group launches air attack on Israel, says Israel-affiliated ships would again become a target in the Red Sea; the escalation comes as the Strait of Hormuz remains blockaded by Iran due to the war in West Asia with the U.S.

GS I: Geography
Agence France-Presse
SANAA

Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen announced a missile attack on Israel on Monday and declared a ban on Israeli shipping in the Red Sea, raising the spectre of a return to major disruption on the key route.

The Houthis' attack came as Israel and Iran traded fire on Monday, putting the ceasefire under renewed strain and threatening hopes for a peace deal.

The Houthis made a similar threat and targeted cargo ships in the vital sea-way during the Israel-Hamas war, forcing many companies into a lengthy detour around the tip of



War fallout: Two men examine a rocket half-buried in the ground near the West Bank city of Jericho on Monday. AFP

southern Africa. The assaults upended shipping in the Red Sea, through which about \$1 trillion of goods passed each year before the war.

Their threat comes as the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf sea and

its energy exporters, remains blockaded by Iran as a result of the war in West Asia with the U.S. and Israel.

‘Legitimate targets’

“We declare a complete and total ban on Israeli

maritime navigation in the Red Sea,” said a statement from the Houthis' armed forces. “We consider all enemy movements to be legitimate military targets for our armed forces from the moment this statement is issued.”

The statement from Brigadier General Yahya Saree was broadcast on the Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel.

The Houthis, who joined the war in support of Iran in March, had not announced a missile attack on Israel since a fragile ceasefire began on April 8.

The Houthis have fired missiles at Israel during the Israel-Hamas war and later, but haven't been fully involved in the Iran war.

They said they “launched a missile barrage targeting sensitive Israeli enemy targets”, claiming the strikes “achieved their objectives with precision”.

The Israeli military earlier wrote on Telegram that it “has identified the launch of a missile from Yemen toward Israeli territory, aerial defence systems are operating to intercept the threat”.

An Israeli military official said two missiles were fired by the Houthis since Sunday evening.

The Houthis and Lebanon-based Hezbollah form part of the “Axis of Resistance” grouping of pro-Iran forces opposed to Israel and the United States.

09J6. Houthis claim missile attack, declare ‘total ban’ on Israeli ships in Red Sea

हूती विद्रोहियों ने मिसाइल हमले का दावा किया, लाल सागर में इज़राइली जहाजों पर ‘पूर्ण प्रतिबंध’ की घोषणा

- The Houthis and Lebanon-based Hezbollah form part of the “**Axis of Resistance**” grouping of **pro-Iran** forces opposed to **Israel** and the **United States**.
- हूती और लेबनान स्थित हिज़बुल्लाह “एक्सिस ऑफ रेजिस्टेंस” नामक ईरान समर्थक समूह का हिस्सा हैं, जो इज़राइल और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका का विरोध करता है।

GS Paper II: Polity	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	A troubling judgment and endorsement of the SIR एसआईआर (SIR) के समर्थन तथा उससे संबंधित एक चिंताजनक न्यायिक निर्णय



A troubling judgment and endorsement of the SIR

ISS II: Polity

The judgment of the Supreme Court of India, delivered on May 27, 2026, on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, has thrown up many disturbing questions about the powers, the role and the conduct of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in the context of the exercise of its powers in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Although this case is related to the operationalisation of the SIR in Bihar, the issues dealt with by the Court and its findings have far-reaching implications for the right of Indian citizens to be included in electoral rolls. In its 124-page judgment, the Court dealt with all the important points raised by the petitioners against the SIR but refused to concede even a single one of them. On the other hand, the Court accepted all the arguments made by the ECI and further elucidated them.

Revisiting electoral roll revision

When the SIR was begun in Bihar just a few months before the Assembly election in Bihar, in 2025, serious reservations were expressed about the advisability of undertaking such a comprehensive and intensive revision of the electoral rolls in such haste. Apart from the inexplicably compressed timeline for completing the intensive revision of the electoral rolls, serious questions were raised about the statutory backing for such an exercise. There have been a number of articles in this daily highlighting the ECI's deviations from statutory provisions in the implementation of the SIR. So, in light of the Court's judgment upholding the ECI's actions and methods, it is useful to revisit the statutory and constitutional provisions governing electoral roll preparation and revision and assess the judgment accordingly.

Article 325 of the Constitution declares that there shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency in the country and that no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in such a roll solely on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or any of them. Article 326 says that the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies shall be on the basis of adult suffrage – which means every citizen who is 18 years and above is entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election. The other condition for inclusion in the roll is that he should not be disqualified under the Constitution or any law. Article 327 empowers Parliament to make laws for dealing with all aspects of elections including the preparation of electoral rolls. Article 324 confers the power to prepare the rolls and conduct the elections on the ECI. Preparation of electoral rolls which



P.D.T. Achary
Former Secretary
General, Lok Sabha

The top court's verdict raises constitutional concerns and casts a shadow over past electoral rolls

includes revision is governed by the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Section 21 of the RP Act deals with preparation and revision of the electoral rolls. Sections 21(2) and (3) which contained the framework of revision say in (a)(i)/(ii), electoral roll shall be revised before each general election to the Lok Sabha or the Assembly and before each by-election, (b) the roll shall be revised in any year if directed by the ECI; and Section 21(3) says that the ECI may do a special revision of the roll for any constituency or part of a constituency at any time after recording the reasons for such revision. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules says that the revision of the rolls under Section 21 (2) of the Act before the general election or by-election can be summary or intensive, which clearly implies that such revision just before the general election can be only summary considering the elaborate scheme of an intensive revision under the rules.

The framework

The question, then, is: under which category of revision does the SIR fall? The Court says that it is traceable to Section 21(3) which deals with a special revision in any constituency or a part of a constituency. But the clause does not permit an intensive revision but only a special revision. SIR is a special and intensive revision of the rolls. Intensive revision according to Rule 25 is done only under Section 21(2) and not 21(3) of the Act as the judgment claims. A careful reading of Sections 21(2) and (3) of the RP Act 1950 and Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960 would reveal that an intensive revision of the roll in a State can be undertaken only when the general election or by-election is not due. It is obvious that an intensive revision is not contemplated by the law when the elections are due because of the comprehensive nature of the revision which requires a much longer time to complete.

Now, as regards the special revision under Section 21(3), it is actually meant to be done in a constituency or a part of a constituency and not the whole State or the country. The claim made in the judgment that "any constituency" means all constituencies does not square with the context. The word "any" may mean 'all' in some contexts whereas it would mean 'single' in some other context. The words "or a part of constituency" following "any constituency" make it clear that the special revision is meant to be done only in a constituency or part of it. When intensive revision is clearly provided in Section 21(2) there is no need to provide the same in Section 21(3). Special revision may become

necessary in some constituencies because of, say, the large-scale influx of people into that area from a neighbouring area. Special revision is done in a manner fixed by the ECI whereas intensive revision under Section 21(2) needs to be done as per the prescribed procedure.

The analysis above would show that the entire SIR exercise is being done under a wrong provision of law. In the States of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal, the SIR was done a few months before the Assembly election. Under Section 21(2)(a) read with Rules 25 only a summary revision was possible before the Assembly election. But the ECI went ahead with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in clear deviation from the scheme of the law, resulting in the deletion of millions of voters from the electoral rolls without providing them any effective redress.

The issue of citizenship

The judgment grants great freedom to the ECI in the matter of determining the documents to prove citizenship. The crucial point is whether the ECI can determine what documents are required to prove citizenship. This is a function to be performed by the Home Ministry as it administers the law on citizenship. The ECI's role is to verify citizen-related documents. What actually happened was that the ECI announced a list of documents and asked the voters to produce them. The ECI was simply usurping the role of the Union Home Ministry. It is extremely surprising that during the hearing the Supreme Court did not ask the Union Home Ministry to file an affidavit containing the list of documents required to prove citizenship. The Court has now conceded the ECI's authority to determine the question of citizenship for the purpose of inclusion in or exclusion from the electoral rolls, while leaving the larger question of citizenship to the competent authority, namely the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Home Affairs will now have to decide the cases of millions of Indian citizens who will never be able to vote in their lifetime and who will face numerous disabilities arising from the denial of citizenship, albeit on a tentative basis.

The Court has hitherto applauded the work done all these years by the ECI since its establishment. But the SIR judgment speaks about the "cumulative inaccuracies in the voters list" and the "structural deficiencies that pervaded the entire roll" in the past. It is a damning indictment of the preparation and the revision of electoral rolls done by the ECI in the past. The judgment need not have gone to such an extent in order to justify the SIR of 2025.

09J6. A troubling judgment and endorsement of the SIR

एसआईआर (SIR) के समर्थन तथा उससे संबंधित एक चिंताजनक न्यायिक निर्णय

- **Article 325** of the Constitution declares that there shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency in the country and that no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in such a roll solely on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or any of them.

संविधान का अनुच्छेद 325 घोषित करता है कि देश के प्रत्येक प्रादेशिक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के लिए एक सामान्य मतदाता सूची होगी और किसी भी व्यक्ति को केवल धर्म, नस्ल, जाति, लिंग अथवा इनमें से किसी आधार पर मतदाता सूची में शामिल होने से वंचित नहीं किया जाएगा।

- **Article 326** says that the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies shall be on the basis of adult suffrage — which means every citizen who is 18 years and above is entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

अनुच्छेद 326 के अनुसार लोकसभा और विधानसभाओं के चुनाव वयस्क मतदाता के आधार पर होंगे, जिसका अर्थ है कि 18 वर्ष या उससे अधिक आयु का प्रत्येक नागरिक मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकृत होने का अधिकार रखता है।

- The other condition for inclusion in the roll is that he should not be disqualified under the Constitution or any law.

मतदाता सूची में शामिल होने की दूसरी शर्त यह है कि वह संविधान अथवा किसी विधि के अंतर्गत अयोग्य घोषित न किया गया हो।

- **Article 327** empowers Parliament to make laws for dealing with all aspects of elections including the preparation of electoral rolls.
अनुच्छेद 327 संसद को चुनावों के सभी पहलुओं, जिसमें मतदाता सूचियों की तैयारी भी शामिल है, से संबंधित कानून बनाने का अधिकार प्रदान करता है।
- **Article 324** confers the power to prepare the rolls and conduct the elections on the ECI.
अनुच्छेद 324 निर्वाचन आयोग को मतदाता सूचियाँ तैयार करने और चुनाव संपन्न कराने की शक्ति प्रदान करता है।
- Preparation of electoral rolls which includes revision is governed by the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** and the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**.
मतदाता सूचियों की तैयारी और पुनरीक्षण की प्रक्रिया **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950** तथा **निर्वाचक पंजीकरण नियम, 1960** द्वारा नियंत्रित होती है।
- **Section 21** of the RP Act deals with preparation and revision of the electoral rolls.
जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की धारा 21 मतदाता सूचियों की तैयारी और पुनरीक्षण से संबंधित है।
- **Sections 21(2) and 21(3)** which contained the framework of revision say that electoral roll shall be revised before each general election to the Lok Sabha or the Assembly and before each by-election.
पुनरीक्षण की रूपरेखा निर्धारित करने वाली धारा 21(2) और 21(3) के अनुसार लोकसभा, विधानसभा तथा प्रत्येक उपचुनाव से पहले मतदाता सूची का पुनरीक्षण किया जाएगा।
- The roll shall be revised in any year if directed by the ECI.
यदि निर्वाचन आयोग निर्देश दे तो किसी भी वर्ष मतदाता सूची का पुनरीक्षण किया जा सकता है।
- And **Section 21(3)** says that the ECI may do a special revision of the roll for any constituency or part of a constituency at any time after recording the reasons for such revision.
धारा 21(3) के अनुसार निर्वाचन आयोग किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी भाग के लिए कारण दर्ज करने के बाद किसी भी समय विशेष पुनरीक्षण कर सकता है।
- **Rule 25** of the Registration of Electors Rules says that the revision of the rolls under **Section 21(2)** of the Act before the general election or by-election can be summary or intensive.
निर्वाचक पंजीकरण नियमों के नियम 25 के अनुसार अधिनियम की धारा 21(2) के अंतर्गत सामान्य चुनाव अथवा उपचुनाव से पहले मतदाता सूची का पुनरीक्षण संक्षिप्त अथवा गहन हो सकता है।
- The Court says that it is traceable to **Section 21(3)** which deals with a special revision in any constituency or a part of a constituency.
न्यायालय का कहना है कि इसका आधार धारा 21(3) है, जो किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी भाग में विशेष पुनरीक्षण से संबंधित है।
- But the clause does not permit an intensive revision but only a special revision.
किन्तु यह उपबंध गहन पुनरीक्षण की नहीं, बल्कि केवल विशेष पुनरीक्षण की अनुमति देता है।
- SIR is a special and intensive revision of the rolls.
विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण मतदाता सूचियों का विशेष तथा गहन पुनरीक्षण है।
- Intensive revision according to **Rule 25** is done only under **Section 21(2)** and not **21(3)** of the Act as the judgment claims.
नियम 25 के अनुसार गहन पुनरीक्षण केवल धारा 21(2) के अंतर्गत किया जाता है, न कि धारा 21(3) के अंतर्गत, जैसा कि निर्णय में कहा गया है।
- A careful reading of **Sections 21(2) and 21(3)** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** and **Rule 25** of the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960** would reveal that an intensive revision of the roll in a State can be undertaken only when the general election or by-election is not due.
जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 की धारा 21(2) और 21(3) तथा निर्वाचक पंजीकरण नियम, 1960 के नियम 25 का सावधानीपूर्वक अध्ययन यह स्पष्ट करता है कि किसी राज्य में मतदाता सूची का गहन पुनरीक्षण केवल तभी किया जा सकता है जब सामान्य चुनाव या उपचुनाव निकट भविष्य में निर्धारित न हों।
- Now, as regards the special revision under **Section 21(3)**, it is actually meant to be done in a constituency or a part of a constituency and not the whole State or the country.



अब धारा 21(3) के अंतर्गत विशेष पुनरीक्षण की बात करें तो इसका उद्देश्य किसी एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी भाग में पुनरीक्षण करना है, न कि पूरे राज्य या देश में।

- The claim made in the judgment that “any constituency” means all constituencies does not square with the context.
निर्णय में किया गया यह दावा कि “किसी भी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र” का अर्थ सभी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र हैं, संदर्भ के अनुरूप नहीं प्रतीत होता।
- The word “any” may mean ‘all’ in some contexts whereas it would mean ‘single’ in some other context.
“किसी भी” शब्द का अर्थ कुछ संदर्भों में ‘सभी’ हो सकता है, जबकि अन्य संदर्भों में इसका अर्थ ‘एक’ भी हो सकता है।
- The words “or a part of constituency” following “any constituency” make it clear that the special revision is meant to be done only in a constituency or part of it.
“किसी भी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र” के बाद प्रयुक्त शब्द “या उसके किसी भाग” यह स्पष्ट करते हैं कि विशेष पुनरीक्षण केवल किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी हिस्से में ही किया जाना है।
- When intensive revision is clearly provided in Section 21(2) there is no need to provide the same in Section 21(3).
जब गहन पुनरीक्षण का स्पष्ट प्रावधान धारा 21(2) में पहले से मौजूद है, तब उसे धारा 21(3) में दोहराने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- Special revision is done in a manner fixed by the Election Commission of India whereas intensive revision under Section 21(2) needs to be done as per the prescribed procedure.
विशेष पुनरीक्षण भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा निर्धारित पद्धति के अनुसार किया जाता है, जबकि धारा 21(2) के अंतर्गत गहन पुनरीक्षण निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार किया जाना आवश्यक है।
- The analysis above would show that the entire SIR exercise is being done under a wrong provision of law.
उपरोक्त विश्लेषण यह दर्शाता है कि संपूर्ण विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण प्रक्रिया कानून के एक गलत प्रावधान के अंतर्गत संचालित की जा रही है।
- Under Section 21(2)(a) read with Rule 25 only a summary revision was possible before the Assembly election.
धारा 21(2)(a) तथा नियम 25 के संयुक्त अध्ययन के अनुसार विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले केवल संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण ही संभव था।
- But the Election Commission of India went ahead with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in clear deviation from the scheme of the law.
किन्तु भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ने कानून की रूपरेखा से स्पष्ट विचलन करते हुए विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण को आगे बढ़ाया।
- This resulted in the deletion of millions of voters from the electoral rolls without providing them any effective redress.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप लाखों मतदाताओं के नाम मतदाता सूचियों से हटा दिए गए, बिना उन्हें कोई प्रभावी राहत या प्रतिकार उपलब्ध कराए।

The issue of citizenship

नागरिकता का प्रश्न

- The judgment grants great freedom to the Election Commission of India in the matter of determining the documents to prove citizenship.
यह निर्णय भारत निर्वाचन आयोग को नागरिकता सिद्ध करने हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज़ निर्धारित करने के मामले में व्यापक स्वतंत्रता प्रदान करता है।
- The crucial point is whether the Election Commission of India can determine what documents are required to prove citizenship.



मुख्य प्रश्न यह है कि क्या **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग** यह निर्धारित कर सकता है कि नागरिकता सिद्ध करने के लिए कौन-कौन से दस्तावेज़ आवश्यक होंगे।

- This is a function to be performed by the **Home Ministry** as it administers the law on citizenship.
यह कार्य **गृह मंत्रालय** द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि नागरिकता संबंधी कानूनों का प्रशासन उसी के अधीन है।
- The ECI's role is to verify citizen-related documents.
निर्वाचन आयोग की भूमिका नागरिकता से संबंधित दस्तावेज़ों का सत्यापन करने तक सीमित है।
- What actually happened was that the ECI announced a list of documents and asked the voters to produce them.
वास्तव में हुआ यह कि निर्वाचन आयोग ने दस्तावेज़ों की एक सूची घोषित की और मतदाताओं से उन्हें प्रस्तुत करने को कहा।
- The ECI was simply usurping the role of the **Union Home Ministry**.
इस प्रकार निर्वाचन आयोग वस्तुतः **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** की भूमिका का अतिक्रमण कर रहा था।
- It is extremely surprising that during the hearing the **Supreme Court** did not ask the **Union Home Ministry** to file an affidavit containing the list of documents required to prove citizenship.
यह अत्यंत आश्चर्यजनक है कि सुनवाई के दौरान **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** से नागरिकता सिद्ध करने के लिए आवश्यक दस्तावेज़ों की सूची सहित शपथपत्र प्रस्तुत करने को नहीं कहा।
- The Court has now conceded the ECI's authority to determine the question of citizenship for the purpose of inclusion in or exclusion from the electoral rolls, while leaving the larger question of citizenship to the competent authority, namely the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
अब न्यायालय ने निर्वाचन आयोग को मतदाता सूची में नाम शामिल करने अथवा हटाने के उद्देश्य से नागरिकता के प्रश्न का निर्धारण करने का अधिकार प्रदान कर दिया है, जबकि नागरिकता के व्यापक प्रश्न को सक्षम प्राधिकारी अर्थात् **गृह मंत्रालय** के अधीन रखा है।
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** will now have to decide the cases of millions of Indian citizens who will never be able to vote in their lifetime and who will face numerous disabilities arising from the denial of citizenship, albeit on a tentative basis.
अब **गृह मंत्रालय** को उन लाखों भारतीय नागरिकों के मामलों का निर्णय करना होगा जो संभवतः अपने जीवनकाल में कभी मतदान नहीं कर पाएँगे और जिन्हें नागरिकता से वंचित किए जाने के कारण अनेक प्रकार की कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ेगा, भले ही यह स्थिति अस्थायी आधार पर हो।
- The Court has hitherto applauded the work done all these years by the ECI since its establishment.
अब तक न्यायालय निर्वाचन आयोग की स्थापना से लेकर वर्षों से किए गए उसके कार्यों की सराहना करता रहा है।
- But the **SIR judgment** speaks about the "cumulative inaccuracies in the voters list" and the "structural deficiencies that pervaded the entire roll" in the past.
किन्तु **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण संबंधी निर्णय** अतीत में "मतदाता सूची में संचित त्रुटियों" तथा "पूरी मतदाता सूची में व्याप्त संरचनात्मक कमियों" की चर्चा करता है।

GS Paper II: Governance		09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09J6	Govt. cuts subsidised LPG cylinders under Ujjwala to 4 from 9 सरकार ने उज्ज्वला योजना के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की संख्या 9 से घटाकर 4 की	
09J6	What is lost and gained in NFHS-6 एनएफएचएस-6 (NFHS-6) में क्या प्राप्त हुआ और क्या छूट गया	



09J6. Govt. cuts subsidised LPG cylinders under Ujjwala to 4 from 9 सरकार ने उज्ज्वला योजना के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की संख्या 9 से घटाकर 4 की

- Amid prevailing pressure on supplies of **liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)** globally against the backdrop of the **West Asia conflict**, the Centre has reduced the number of subsidised refills available under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** from **nine to four cylinders a year**.
पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष की पृष्ठभूमि में वैश्विक स्तर पर द्रवीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) की आपूर्ति पर बढ़ते दबाव के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध रियायती रीफिल की संख्या को प्रति वर्ष नौ सिलेंडर से घटाकर चार सिलेंडर कर दिया है।
- Under the scheme, the government provides a targeted subsidy of **₹300 per cylinder** for up to **nine refills in a year**.
इस योजना के अंतर्गत सरकार प्रति सिलेंडर 300 रुपये की लक्षित सब्सिडी एक वर्ष में अधिकतम नौ रीफिल तक प्रदान करती रही है।
- With the additional **₹300 subsidy** under the Central scheme, beneficiaries pay **₹642 per cylinder**.
केंद्रीय योजना के अंतर्गत मिलने वाली अतिरिक्त 300 रुपये की सब्सिडी के बाद लाभार्थियों को प्रति सिलेंडर 642 रुपये का भुगतान करना पड़ता है।
- While a non-PMUY cylinder priced at **₹942** is available at a discount of **45%**.
वहीं 942 रुपये मूल्य वाला गैर-पीएमयूवाई सिलेंडर 45 प्रतिशत की छूट पर उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है।
- The **PMUY scheme** has provided around **10.55 crore LPG connections** as of **May 26** this year.
प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के अंतर्गत इस वर्ष 26 मई तक लगभग 10.55 करोड़ एलपीजी कनेक्शन प्रदान किए जा चुके हैं।

09J6. What is lost and gained in NFHS-6 एनएफएचएस-6 (NFHS-6) में क्या प्राप्त हुआ और क्या छूट गया

- NFHS-6** records gains in **child nutrition, maternal care, institutional births and women's Internet use**, while also introducing new questions on **digital literacy and direct benefit transfers**; but the survey's preliminary **fact sheet** is thinner than the last round, **dropping key indicators such as anaemia, mortality, sex ratio at birth**.
एनएफएचएस-6 में बाल पोषण, मातृ देखभाल, संस्थागत प्रसव तथा महिलाओं के इंटरनेट उपयोग में प्रगति दर्ज की गई है। साथ ही, इसमें डिजिटल साक्षरता और प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) से संबंधित नए प्रश्न भी शामिल किए गए हैं; किंतु सर्वेक्षण की प्रारंभिक तथ्य-पत्रिका (फैक्ट शीट) पिछले दौर की तुलना में अधिक संक्षिप्त है, जिसमें एनीमिया, मृत्यु दर तथा जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात जैसे महत्वपूर्ण संकेतकों को शामिल नहीं किया गया है।
- India's latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) records **gains in child nutrition, maternal care, institutional births and women's Internet use**.
भारत के नवीनतम राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (एनएफएचएस-6) में बाल पोषण, मातृ देखभाल, संस्थागत प्रसव तथा महिलाओं के इंटरनेट उपयोग में सुधार दर्ज किया गया है।
- But its preliminary fact sheet is also thinner than the last round, with **101 indicators compared with 131 in NFHS-5**.

किन्तु इसकी प्रारंभिक तथ्य पत्रिका पिछले चरण की तुलना में संक्षिप्त है, जिसमें 101 संकेतक शामिल हैं, जबकि एनएफएचएस-5 में इनकी संख्या 131 थी।

Which indicators were removed from NFHS-6?

एनएफएचएस-6 से कौन-कौन से संकेतक हटाए गए?

- Key indicators such as **anaemia, mortality, sex ratio at birth, sanitation, and clean cooking fuel** have been removed from the survey.
रक्ताल्पता, मृत्यु दर, जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात, स्वच्छता तथा स्वच्छ ईंधन जैसे महत्वपूर्ण संकेतकों को सर्वेक्षण से हटा दिया गया है।
- The Union Health Ministry released the fact sheets of **NFHS-6** on May 29, covering **2023-24**.
केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने 29 मई को एनएफएचएस-6 की तथ्य पत्रिकाएँ जारी कीं, जो 2023-24 की अवधि को कवर करती हैं।
- The survey recorded data from nearly **6.8 lakh households** across every State and Union Territory except **Manipur**.
इस सर्वेक्षण में मणिपुर को छोड़कर सभी राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लगभग 6.8 लाख परिवारों से आँकड़े एकत्र किए गए।
- Preliminary findings report clear gains on several measures, including **mothers getting at least four antenatal check-ups**, up about seven percentage points from NFHS-5, an increase in institutional births and women's Internet usage.
प्रारंभिक निष्कर्षों में कई क्षेत्रों में स्पष्ट सुधार दर्ज किया गया है, जिनमें माताओं द्वारा कम से कम चार प्रसवपूर्व स्वास्थ्य जाँचें कराना, जो एनएफएचएस-5 की तुलना में लगभग सात प्रतिशत अंक अधिक है, संस्थागत प्रसवों में वृद्धि तथा महिलाओं के इंटरनेट उपयोग में बढ़ोतरी शामिल है।
- It also points to **declines in several metrics, such as exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months**, down nearly eight percentage points, and the use of **modern contraception**, down to **52.7% from 56.4%**.
सर्वेक्षण कुछ संकेतकों में गिरावट की ओर भी संकेत करता है, जैसे छह माह से कम आयु के शिशुओं को केवल स्तनपान कराने की दर में लगभग आठ प्रतिशत अंक की कमी तथा आधुनिक गर्भनिरोधक साधनों के उपयोग में 56.4 प्रतिशत से घटकर 52.7 प्रतिशत रह जाना।
- The NFHS is commissioned by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, which designates the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** to conduct the survey.
राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण का संचालन स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय द्वारा कराया जाता है, जो इसके लिए जनसंख्या विज्ञान के अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थान को नामित करता है।
- **NFHS-6 also added new questions on direct benefit transfers, self-help group memberships, digital literacy and financial transactions.**
एनएफएचएस-6 में प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण, स्वयं सहायता समूहों की सदस्यता, डिजिटल साक्षरता तथा वित्तीय लेन-देन से संबंधित नए प्रश्न भी जोड़े गए हैं।
- It also includes testing for **Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C** among women and men, as well as **dried blood spot collection from children aged 4-5 for Hepatitis-B testing**.
इसमें महिलाओं और पुरुषों के लिए हेपेटाइटिस-बी तथा हेपेटाइटिस-सी की जाँच भी शामिल है, साथ ही 4 से 5 वर्ष आयु के बच्चों से हेपेटाइटिस-बी परीक्षण हेतु सूखे रक्त नमूने एकत्र किए गए हैं।
- But for the first time, the survey has also subtracted overall, showing **a net reduction of 30 indicators in the preliminary results**.
किन्तु पहली बार इस सर्वेक्षण में कुल मिलाकर संकेतकों की संख्या में कमी भी दर्ज की गई है, और प्रारंभिक परिणामों में 30 संकेतकों की शुद्ध कमी दिखाई गई है।
- Among the dropped indicators, the most notable ones, such as **anaemia, infant and child mortality, sex ratio at birth, clean cooking fuel use, and sanitation**, have all appeared since at least NFHS-4.

हटाए गए संकेतकों में रक्ताल्पता, शिशु एवं बाल मृत्यु दर, जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात, स्वच्छ खाना पकाने के ईंधन का उपयोग तथा स्वच्छता जैसे महत्वपूर्ण संकेतक शामिल हैं, जो कम से कम एनएफएचएस-4 से सर्वेक्षण का हिस्सा रहे हैं।

- Among children, anaemia prevalence went up from 58.6% to 67.1%.
बच्चों में रक्ताल्पता की व्यापकता 58.6 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 67.1 प्रतिशत हो गई।
- Among women aged 15-49, it rose from 53.1% to 57%.
15 से 49 वर्ष आयु वर्ग की महिलाओं में यह 53.1 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 57 प्रतिशत हो गई।
- Among pregnant women, anaemia rose from 50.4% to 52.2%.
गर्भवती महिलाओं में रक्ताल्पता 50.4 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 52.2 प्रतिशत हो गई।
- The rise in anaemia was near-universal across the country, with child anaemia increasing in 28 States and Union Territories.
देशभर में रक्ताल्पता की वृद्धि लगभग सर्वव्यापी थी, और 28 राज्यों तथा केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में बाल रक्ताल्पता बढ़ी।
- In some cases the increase was by big leaps, from 35.7% to 68.4% in Assam and 19.3% to 46.4% in Mizoram.
कुछ मामलों में यह वृद्धि अत्यधिक थी, जैसे असम में 35.7 प्रतिशत से 68.4 प्रतिशत और मिज़ोरम में 19.3 प्रतिशत से 46.4 प्रतिशत तक।
- Such deterioration was reported despite the government launching the **Anaemia Mukta Bharat campaign** in 2018, aimed at tackling anaemia.
यह गिरावट उस समय भी दर्ज की गई जब सरकार ने रक्ताल्पता से निपटने के उद्देश्य से एनीमिया मुक्त भारत अभियान वर्ष 2018 में प्रारम्भ किया था।
- The official position is that the condition will now be tracked separately, through a dedicated **Diet and Biomarkers Survey** under the **National Institute of Nutrition** using a method its proponents consider more accurate.
आधिकारिक दृष्टिकोण यह है कि अब इस स्थिति की निगरानी राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान के अंतर्गत संचालित विशेष आहार एवं जैवचिह्न सर्वेक्षण के माध्यम से अलग से की जाएगी, जिसकी पद्धति को इसके समर्थक अधिक सटीक मानते हैं।
- The Diet and Biomarkers Survey in India was not a hurried replacement and was launched in **December 2022**, before NFHS-6 fieldwork began, at the **राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान, हैदराबाद**.
भारत में आहार एवं जैवचिह्न सर्वेक्षण कोई त्वरित विकल्प नहीं था; इसे दिसंबर 2022 में, एनएफएचएस-6 के क्षेत्रीय कार्य प्रारम्भ होने से पहले, **राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान, हैदराबाद** में शुरू किया गया था।
- The survey recorded data on individual dietary intake across age groups, paired with blood and urine biomarkers.
इस सर्वेक्षण में विभिन्न आयु वर्गों के व्यक्तियों के आहार सेवन संबंधी आँकड़े एकत्र किए गए तथा उन्हें रक्त और मूत्र जैवचिह्नों के साथ जोड़ा गया।
- It also built upon nutrition deficiencies and tracked obesity alongside anaemia, a first, according to the organisers.
आयोजकों के अनुसार, इस सर्वेक्षण में पोषण संबंधी कमियों का अध्ययन किया गया तथा पहली बार रक्ताल्पता के साथ-साथ मोटापे की भी निगरानी की गई।
- For anaemia, data were collected from venous blood instead of the finger-prick method that NFHS used.
रक्ताल्पता के लिए आँकड़े एनएफएचएस में प्रयुक्त उँगली से रक्त लेने की विधि के स्थान पर शिरा से लिए गए रक्त नमूनों के आधार पर एकत्र किए गए।
- Data collection is complete, but hasn't been released yet.
आँकड़ों का संग्रहण पूरा हो चुका है, किन्तु उसके परिणाम अभी तक सार्वजनिक नहीं किए गए हैं।

What other changes were made?

और कौन-कौन से परिवर्तन किए गए?

- A line-by-line comparison of the two fact sheets from **NFHS-5** and **NFHS-6** shows that the net fall of **30 indicators** actually combines **43 indicators dropped and 13 added**.
एनएफएचएस-5 और एनएफएचएस-6 की दोनों तथ्य पत्रिकाओं की पंक्ति-दर-पंक्ति तुलना से पता चलता है कि **30 संकेतकों** की शुद्ध कमी वास्तव में **43 संकेतकों को हटाने और 13 नए संकेतकों को जोड़ने** का परिणाम है।
- Several of the deletions were long-running series, and a few are closely related to the government's signature programmes.
हटाए गए अनेक संकेतक लंबे समय से सर्वेक्षण का हिस्सा थे और उनमें से कुछ सरकार की प्रमुख योजनाओं से सीधे जुड़े हुए थे।
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** government in 2019 had announced that India would be **open defecation-free**.
प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** की सरकार ने वर्ष 2019 में घोषणा की थी कि भारत **खुले में शौच से मुक्त** हो चुका है।
- NFHS-5 recorded **70%** of the country's population living in households with access to sanitation facilities.
एनएफएचएस-5 में दर्ज किया गया था कि देश की **70 प्रतिशत** जनसंख्या ऐसे परिवारों में रहती है जहाँ स्वच्छता सुविधाओं तक पहुँच उपलब्ध है।
- That data point has also been dropped.
इस संकेतक को भी अब हटा दिया गया है।
- The share of households using **clean fuel for cooking, 58.6% in NFHS-5**, is gone — a direct measure of the success of the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**.
स्वच्छ ईंधन से खाना पकाने वाले परिवारों का अनुपात, जो **एनएफएचएस-5** में **58.6 प्रतिशत** था, हटा दिया गया है। यह **प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना** की सफलता का प्रत्यक्ष मापदंड था।
- The three mortality indicators — **neonatal, infant and under-five** — have also been cut.
नवजात मृत्यु दर, शिशु मृत्यु दर और पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु की मृत्यु दर से संबंधित तीनों संकेतकों को भी हटा दिया गया है।
- But these will be tracked by the **Sample Registration System**, whose latest bulletin put infant mortality at **24 per 1,000 live births**.
हालाँकि इनका आकलन अब **नमूना पंजीकरण प्रणाली** द्वारा किया जाएगा, जिसके नवीनतम बुलेटिन के अनुसार शिशु मृत्यु दर प्रति **1,000 जीवित जन्मों पर 24** है।
- The Registration System, however, does not carry district-level data and socio-economic breakdowns that are available in NFHS.
किन्तु यह प्रणाली जिला-स्तरीय आँकड़े तथा सामाजिक-आर्थिक वर्गीकरण उपलब्ध नहीं कराती, जो राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण में उपलब्ध होते हैं।
- The **sex ratio of the total population** and the **sex ratio at birth, 929 females per 1,000 males in NFHS-5**, are both absent.
कुल जनसंख्या का लिंगानुपात तथा जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात, जो **एनएफएचएस-5** में प्रति **1,000 पुरुषों पर 929 महिलाएँ** था, दोनों को हटा दिया गया है।
- This removes a standard signal of sex-selective practices.
इससे लिंग-चयन संबंधी प्रवृत्तियों का एक महत्वपूर्ण संकेतक समाप्त हो जाता है।
- Four **cancer-screening indicators**, covering cervical, breast and oral cancer, introduced only in NFHS-5 are gone after a single round.
गर्भाशय ग्रीवा, स्तन और मुख कैंसर से संबंधित चार **कैंसर जाँच संकेतकों** को, जिन्हें केवल एनएफएचएस-5 में शामिल किया गया था, एक ही चरण के बाद हटा दिया गया है।
- A few changes are redefinitions rather than cuts.
कुछ परिवर्तन संकेतकों को हटाने के बजाय उनकी पुनर्परिभाषा से संबंधित हैं।

- Women's individual ownership of a house or land has become a household-level measure.
महिलाओं के व्यक्तिगत घर या भूमि स्वामित्व के संकेतक को अब परिवार-स्तरीय संकेतक बना दिया गया है।
- The **three-dose hepatitis B** line has become a **birth-dose measure**.
हेपेटाइटिस-बी की तीन-खुराक संबंधी श्रेणी को अब जन्म-खुराक मापदंड में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया है।
- And pre-school attendance has shifted age bands, targeting a younger demographic.
पूर्व-प्राथमिक विद्यालय में उपस्थिति के आयु-वर्ग को भी बदलकर कम आयु वाले बच्चों पर केंद्रित किया गया है।
- **International Institute for Population Sciences** has not published a rationale for the wider list.
जनसंख्या विज्ञान के अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थान ने इन व्यापक परिवर्तनों के लिए कोई औपचारिक स्पष्टीकरण प्रकाशित नहीं किया है।
- Together, the removals leave no current survey-based national figure for **infant mortality, sanitation coverage, sex ratio at birth, cancer screening rates or comprehensive HIV knowledge**.
इन हटाए गए संकेतकों के कारण अब शिशु मृत्यु दर, स्वच्छता कवरेज, जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात, कैंसर जाँच दरों तथा एचआईवी संबंधी व्यापक ज्ञान के लिए कोई वर्तमान सर्वेक्षण-आधारित राष्ट्रीय आँकड़ा उपलब्ध नहीं रहेगा।
- These are gaps that no other single source fills at the same scale.
ये ऐसे रिक्त स्थान हैं जिन्हें वर्तमान में कोई अन्य एकल स्रोत उसी स्तर पर पूरा नहीं करता।
- **How did survey results change between NFHS-5 and NFHS-6?**
एनएफएचएस-5 और एनएफएचएस-6 के बीच सर्वेक्षण परिणामों में क्या परिवर्तन हुए?
NFHS-6 reported a drop in the number of women who have experienced **spousal violence**, down to **22.3% from 29.3%**.
एनएफएचएस-6 के अनुसार वैवाहिक हिंसा का अनुभव करने वाली महिलाओं का प्रतिशत 29.3 प्रतिशत से घटकर 22.3 प्रतिशत हो गया है।
- The number of children aged five or below who are **stunted** declined too.
पाँच वर्ष या उससे कम आयु के अवरुद्ध वृद्धि वाले बच्चों की संख्या में भी कमी आई है।
- The drop from NFHS-4 to NFHS-5 was just under three percentage points, but NFHS-6 saw a drop of over six percentage points.
एनएफएचएस-4 से एनएफएचएस-5 के बीच यह कमी तीन प्रतिशत अंकों से कम थी, जबकि एनएफएचएस-6 में यह गिरावट छह प्रतिशत अंकों से अधिक रही।
- State-level changes are sharper for certain indicators.
कुछ संकेतकों के लिए राज्य-स्तरीय परिवर्तन और अधिक स्पष्ट दिखाई देते हैं।
- **Health insurance coverage** rose the most in **West Bengal**, from **33.7% of households in NFHS-5 to 88.2% in NFHS-6**.
स्वास्थ्य बीमा कवरेज में सबसे अधिक वृद्धि पश्चिम बंगाल में हुई, जहाँ यह एनएफएचएस-5 के 33.7 प्रतिशत परिवारों से बढ़कर एनएफएचएस-6 में 88.2 प्रतिशत हो गया।
- Women's **Internet use** saw its largest increase in **Andhra Pradesh**, from **21% to 63.6%**.
महिलाओं के इंटरनेट उपयोग में सबसे बड़ी वृद्धि आंध्र प्रदेश में दर्ज की गई, जहाँ यह 21 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 63.6 प्रतिशत हो गया।
- **Haryana** recorded the steepest fall in **exclusive breastfeeding among infants under six months**, from **69.5% to 41.2%**.
हरियाणा में छह माह से कम आयु के शिशुओं को केवल स्तनपान कराने की दर में सबसे अधिक गिरावट दर्ज की गई, जो 69.5 प्रतिशत से घटकर 41.2 प्रतिशत रह गई।
- The share of women classified as **overweight or obese** increased in every State.
अधिक वजन या मोटापे की श्रेणी में आने वाली महिलाओं का अनुपात प्रत्येक राज्य में बढ़ा है।



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



GS Paper II: International Relations		09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09J6	The Oman CEPA, a new gateway for India's exports ओमान-सीईपीए (CEPA), भारत के निर्यातों के लिए एक नया प्रवेशद्वार	
09J6	The trust deficit in India-Bangladesh ties भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों में विश्वास की कमी	
09J6	Trump's \$100,000 fee for H-1B visa fee is unlawful, court rules H-1B वीज़ा पर ट्रंप की \$100,000 फीस अवैध है, अदालत का फैसला	
09J6	Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss यूएनएससी में हार के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था में जर्मनी की स्थिति पर सवाल	

The Oman CEPA, a new gateway for India's exports

CS II: IR

India and Oman share one of the oldest trading relationships, with commercial and maritime links dating back thousands of years. From the movement of spices, textiles and frankincense to enduring people-to-people ties, trade has long been a cornerstone of this partnership. The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into force on June 1, 2026, reaffirms and strengthens this historic relationship by providing a modern framework to deepen trade, investment and economic cooperation for the future.

India is amongst the top suppliers for Oman and bilateral trade has grown from \$8.94 billion in FY2023-24 to \$11.18 billion in FY2025-26, reflecting the growing complementarities between the two economies.

An expansion of India's trade ties

The CEPA comes at a time when India is actively diversifying its trade partnerships and integrating more deeply with global value chains. Following agreements with the United Arab Emirates, Australia, the European Free Trade Association, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union, the Oman CEPA further strengthens India's presence in a region that is central to its energy security, trade and strategic interests.

The CEPA offers significant opportunities for Indian exporters. Oman has offered duty-free access on 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports by value. Before the agreement, only 15.33% of India's exports entered Oman at zero duty under the Most Favoured Nation regime. The CEPA, therefore, provides an immediate competitiveness boost across a broad range of sectors. In textiles and apparel, India already commands a 43% share of Oman's woven apparel imports and 31% of knitted apparel imports. The removal of the existing 5% tariff will strengthen the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers against China, which is the other dominant supplier in this market. In the case of chemicals, India already supplies nearly 39% of Oman's inorganic chemical imports, making it



Anant Goenka

President,
The Federation of
Indian Chambers
of Commerce and
Industry (FICCI)

The agreement
boosts exports,
services,
investment and
professional
mobility

one of the leading players in the market. Tariff free access will only amplify this further.

Likewise, engineering goods will also benefit. Oman imports over \$3.7 billion worth of mechanical machinery and \$3.3 billion worth of automobiles annually, where India's market share is only 5% and 2%, respectively. Preferential market access under the CEPA can help Indian exports of engineering goods expand significantly and deepen their presence in Oman's infrastructure, construction and industrial sectors.

In pharmaceuticals, where India holds around 10% market share, the agreement's value lies not in tariff reductions but in regulatory facilitation. Products approved by leading international regulators will benefit from fast-tracked approvals, reducing compliance costs and accelerating market entry. As Oman's pharmaceutical market continues to expand, Indian companies will be well-positioned to capture a larger share. Duty-free access for products such as meat, eggs, honey, butter and processed foods will further strengthen India's already strong position. At the same time, sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, edible oils and several agricultural commodities have been kept outside tariff concessions, ensuring that domestic producers remain protected.

Streamlining procedures

Significant trade facilitation measures have been introduced. Oman will accept certificates issued by India's Export Inspection Council (EIC), eliminating duplicative testing and inspections, while also recognising India's organic (NOP) and halal certification systems. There are dedicated sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) provisions, which will enhance regulatory transparency and cooperation, and streamlined customs clearance, including fast-track processing for perishables, which will reduce costs and improve export efficiency.

Another forward-looking aspect of the CEPA is its strong focus on services and professional mobility. Bilateral services trade stood at \$863

million in 2024, with India enjoying a surplus of nearly \$447 million. Yet, India's share in Oman's global services imports remains just over 5%, indicating substantial untapped potential.

Oman has undertaken binding commitments covering professionals in sectors such as accounting, engineering, information technology, health care, education and consulting. Oman also raises the quotas for intra-corporate transferees, facilitating greater mobility of Indian professionals and specialists. Provisions relating to AYUSH and traditional medicine further create opportunities for Indian health care and wellness services in the Gulf.

Strategic location advantage

Beyond trade statistics, the CEPA has a larger strategic significance. Oman occupies a unique position at the crossroads of the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and East Africa. Its ports at Sohar, Duqm and Salalah are emerging as major logistics and industrial hubs. For Indian businesses, Oman can serve not only as a destination market but also as a gateway to the wider Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and East African economies.

The India-Oman CEPA once again demonstrates the evolution of India's trade policy from tariff negotiations to comprehensive economic partnerships encompassing goods, services, investment, mobility and regulatory cooperation. Its benefits will extend from textile clusters in Tamil Nadu and the gems and jewellery industry in Gujarat to engineering hubs in Maharashtra and Punjab, and from pharmaceutical manufacturers in Telangana to seafood exporters in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

The real test will now lie in implementation and utilisation. If businesses actively leverage the opportunities created by the agreement, the CEPA can significantly expand India's export footprint, strengthen economic integration with the Gulf, and support the country's broader ambition of becoming a globally competitive manufacturing and services powerhouse. For India, the agreement opens not only the Omani market but also a broader gateway to the Gulf and beyond.

09J6. The Oman CEPA, a new gateway for India's exports ओमान-सीईपीए (CEPA), भारत के निर्यातों के लिए एक नया प्रवेशद्वार

- India and Oman share one of the oldest trading relationships, with commercial and maritime links dating back thousands of years.

भारत और ओमान विश्व के सबसे प्राचीन व्यापारिक संबंधों में से एक साझा करते हैं, जिनके वाणिज्यिक और समुद्री संबंध हजारों वर्षों पुराने हैं।

- From the movement of spices, textiles and frankincense to enduring people-to-people ties, trade has long been a cornerstone of this partnership.

मसालों, वस्त्रों और लोबान के व्यापार से लेकर स्थायी जन-से-जन संबंधों तक, व्यापार इस साझेदारी का प्रमुख आधार रहा है।

- The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into force on June 1, 2026, reaffirms and strengthens this historic relationship by providing a modern framework to deepen trade, investment and economic cooperation for the future.

भारत-ओमान व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता, जो 1 जून 2026 से प्रभावी हुआ, व्यापार, निवेश और आर्थिक सहयोग को भविष्य में और गहरा करने हेतु एक आधुनिक ढाँचा प्रदान करके इस ऐतिहासिक संबंध को पुनः सुदृढ़ करता है।

- India is amongst the top suppliers for Oman and bilateral trade has grown from \$8.94 billion in FY2023-24 to \$11.18 billion in FY2025-26, reflecting the growing complementarities

between the two economies.

भारत ओमान के प्रमुख आपूर्तिकर्ताओं में शामिल है और द्विपक्षीय व्यापार वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में 8.94 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में 11.18 अरब डॉलर हो गया है, जो दोनों अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के बीच बढ़ती परस्पर पूरकता को दर्शाता है।

An expansion of India's trade ties

भारत के व्यापारिक संबंधों का विस्तार

- The CEPA comes at a time when India is actively diversifying its trade partnerships and integrating more deeply with global value chains.
यह समझौता ऐसे समय में आया है जब भारत सक्रिय रूप से अपने व्यापारिक साझेदारी नेटवर्क का विस्तार कर रहा है और वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं के साथ अधिक गहराई से जुड़ रहा है।
- Following agreements with the **United Arab Emirates, Australia, the European Free Trade Association, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union**, the Oman CEPA further strengthens India's presence in a region that is central to its energy security, trade and strategic interests.
संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूरोपीय मुक्त व्यापार संघ, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, न्यूजीलैंड और यूरोपीय संघ के साथ हुए समझौतों के बाद, ओमान के साथ यह समझौता भारत की उस क्षेत्र में उपस्थिति को और सुदृढ़ करता है जो उसकी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, व्यापार और रणनीतिक हितों के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The CEPA offers significant opportunities for Indian exporters.
यह समझौता भारतीय निर्यातकों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण अवसर प्रदान करता है।
- Oman has offered **duty-free access on 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports by value**.
ओमान ने अपनी 98.08 प्रतिशत शुल्क श्रेणियों पर शुल्क-मुक्त पहुँच प्रदान की है, जो मूल्य के आधार पर भारत के 99.38 प्रतिशत निर्यात को कवर करती है।
- Before the agreement, only **15.33% of India's exports** entered Oman at zero duty under the Most Favoured Nation regime.
इस समझौते से पहले, भारत के केवल 15.33 प्रतिशत निर्यात को सर्वाधिक अनुकूल राष्ट्र व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत शून्य शुल्क पर ओमान में प्रवेश प्राप्त था।
- The CEPA, therefore, provides an immediate competitiveness boost across a broad range of sectors.
अतः यह समझौता अनेक क्षेत्रों में भारतीय उत्पादों की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को तत्काल बढ़ावा प्रदान करता है।
- In **textiles and apparel**, India already commands a **43% share** of Oman's woven apparel imports and **31% share** of knitted apparel imports.
वस्त्र और परिधान क्षेत्र में भारत पहले से ही ओमान के बुने हुए परिधानों के आयात में 43 प्रतिशत तथा बुने-बुनाए परिधानों के आयात में 31 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी रखता है।
- The **removal of the existing 5% tariff** will strengthen the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers against China, which is the other dominant supplier in this market.
मौजूदा 5 प्रतिशत शुल्क हटाने से भारतीय निर्माताओं की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक क्षमता चीन के मुकाबले और मजबूत होगी, जो इस बाजार का दूसरा प्रमुख आपूर्तिकर्ता है।
- In the case of **chemicals**, India already supplies nearly **39%** of Oman's inorganic chemical imports, making it one of the leading players in the market.
रसायन क्षेत्र में भारत ओमान के अकार्बनिक रसायनों के आयात का लगभग 39 प्रतिशत आपूर्ति करता है, जिससे वह इस बाजार का एक प्रमुख भागीदार बन गया है।
- Tariff-free access will only amplify this further.
शुल्क-मुक्त पहुँच इस स्थिति को और अधिक मजबूत करेगी।
- Likewise, **engineering goods** will also benefit.
इसी प्रकार अभियांत्रिकी उत्पादों को भी लाभ प्राप्त होगा।



- Oman imports over **\$3.7 billion worth of mechanical machinery** and **\$3.3 billion worth of automobiles** annually, where India's market share is only **5% and 2%**, respectively.
ओमान प्रतिवर्ष 3.7 अरब डॉलर से अधिक मूल्य की यांत्रिक मशीनरी तथा 3.3 अरब डॉलर मूल्य के वाहन आयात करता है, जिनमें भारत की बाजार हिस्सेदारी क्रमशः केवल 5 प्रतिशत और 2 प्रतिशत है।
- Preferential market access under the CEPA can help Indian exports of engineering goods expand significantly and deepen their presence in Oman's infrastructure, construction and industrial sectors.
समझौते के अंतर्गत प्राप्त प्राथमिकतापूर्ण बाजार पहुँच भारतीय अभियांत्रिकी उत्पादों के निर्यात को उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ा सकती है तथा ओमान के आधारभूत संरचना, निर्माण और औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में उनकी उपस्थिति को मजबूत कर सकती है।
- In **pharmaceuticals**, where India holds around **10% market share**, the agreement's value lies not in tariff reductions but in regulatory facilitation.
औषधि क्षेत्र में, जहाँ भारत की लगभग 10 प्रतिशत बाजार हिस्सेदारी है, इस समझौते का महत्व शुल्क कटौती में नहीं बल्कि नियामकीय सुविधा में निहित है।
- Products approved by leading international regulators will benefit from **fast-tracked approvals**, reducing compliance costs and accelerating market entry.
प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियामकों द्वारा अनुमोदित उत्पादों को त्वरित स्वीकृति प्रक्रिया का लाभ मिलेगा, जिससे अनुपालन लागत घटेगी और बाजार में प्रवेश तेज होगा।
- As Oman's pharmaceutical market continues to expand, Indian companies will be well-positioned to capture a larger share.
जैसे-जैसे ओमान का औषधि बाजार विस्तार करेगा, भारतीय कंपनियाँ अधिक हिस्सेदारी प्राप्त करने की बेहतर स्थिति में होंगी।
- Duty-free access for products such as **meat, eggs, honey, butter and processed foods** will further strengthen India's already strong position.
मांस, अंडे, शहद, मक्खन और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों को शुल्क-मुक्त पहुँच मिलने से भारत की पहले से मजबूत स्थिति और सुदृढ़ होगी।
- At the same time, **sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, edible oils and several agricultural commodities** have been kept outside tariff concessions, ensuring that domestic producers remain protected.
साथ ही दुग्ध उत्पाद, अनाज, खाद्य तेल तथा अनेक कृषि वस्तुओं जैसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों को शुल्क रियायतों से बाहर रखा गया है, जिससे घरेलू उत्पादकों के हित सुरक्षित रहेंगे।

Streamlining procedures

प्रक्रियाओं का सरलीकरण

- Significant **trade facilitation measures** have been introduced.
महत्वपूर्ण व्यापार सुगमता उपायों को लागू किया गया है।
- Oman will accept certificates issued by India's **Export Inspection Council**, eliminating duplicative testing and inspections, while also recognising India's organic and halal certification systems.
ओमान भारत की निर्यात निरीक्षण परिषद द्वारा जारी प्रमाणपत्रों को स्वीकार करेगा, जिससे दोहराव वाले परीक्षणों और निरीक्षणों की आवश्यकता समाप्त हो जाएगी। साथ ही वह भारत की जैविक तथा हलाल प्रमाणीकरण प्रणालियों को भी मान्यता देगा।
- There are dedicated **sanitary and phytosanitary provisions and technical barriers to trade provisions**, which will enhance regulatory transparency and cooperation.
विशेष स्वास्थ्य एवं पादप स्वच्छता प्रावधानों तथा व्यापार में तकनीकी बाधाओं से संबंधित प्रावधानों को शामिल किया गया है, जो नियामकीय पारदर्शिता और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देंगे।
- Streamlined customs clearance, including fast-track processing for perishables, will reduce costs and improve export efficiency.

शीघ्र नष्ट होने वाली वस्तुओं के लिए त्वरित प्रक्रिया सहित सरल सीमा-शुल्क निकासी व्यवस्था लागत को कम करेगी और निर्यात दक्षता में वृद्धि करेगी।

- **Another forward-looking aspect of the CEPA is its strong focus on services and professional mobility.**
इस समझौते का एक अन्य दूरदर्शी पक्ष सेवा क्षेत्र और पेशेवर गतिशीलता पर इसका विशेष ध्यान है।
- **Bilateral services trade stood at \$863 million in 2024, with India enjoying a surplus of nearly \$447 million.**
वर्ष 2024 में द्विपक्षीय सेवा व्यापार 863 मिलियन डॉलर रहा, जिसमें भारत को लगभग 447 मिलियन डॉलर का अधिशेष प्राप्त हुआ।
- **Yet, India's share in Oman's global services imports remains just over 5%, indicating substantial untapped potential.**
फिर भी ओमान के वैश्विक सेवा आयात में भारत की हिस्सेदारी केवल 5 प्रतिशत से थोड़ी अधिक है, जो अपार अप्रयुक्त संभावनाओं का संकेत देती है।
- **Oman has undertaken binding commitments covering professionals in sectors such as accounting, engineering, information technology, health care, education and consulting.**
ओमान ने लेखांकन, अभियांत्रिकी, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, शिक्षा और परामर्श जैसे क्षेत्रों के पेशेवरों के लिए बाध्यकारी प्रतिबद्धताएँ स्वीकार की हैं।
- **Oman also raises the quotas for intra-corporate transferees, facilitating greater mobility of Indian professionals and specialists.**
ओमान ने कंपनी के भीतर स्थानांतरित कर्मचारियों के लिए कोटा भी बढ़ाया है, जिससे भारतीय पेशेवरों और विशेषज्ञों की आवाजाही अधिक सुगम होगी।
- **Provisions relating to AYUSH and traditional medicine further create opportunities for Indian health care and wellness services in the Gulf.**
आयुष और पारंपरिक चिकित्सा से संबंधित प्रावधान खाड़ी क्षेत्र में भारतीय स्वास्थ्य एवं कल्याण सेवाओं के लिए नए अवसर उत्पन्न करते हैं।

Strategic location advantage रणनीतिक भौगोलिक लाभ

- **Beyond trade statistics, the CEPA has a larger strategic significance.**
व्यापारिक आँकड़ों से परे, इस समझौते का व्यापक रणनीतिक महत्व भी है।
- **Oman occupies a unique position at the crossroads of the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and East Africa.**
ओमान खाड़ी क्षेत्र, हिंद महासागर और पूर्वी अफ्रीका के संगम बिंदु पर एक विशिष्ट स्थान रखता है।
- **Its ports at Sohar, Duqm and Salalah** are emerging as major logistics and industrial hubs.
इसके सोहार, दुक्म और सलालाह बंदरगाह प्रमुख रसद और औद्योगिक केंद्रों के रूप में उभर रहे हैं।
- For Indian businesses, Oman can serve not only as a destination market but also as a gateway to the wider **Gulf Cooperation Council region and East African economies.**
भारतीय व्यवसायों के लिए ओमान केवल एक गंतव्य बाजार ही नहीं, बल्कि व्यापक खाड़ी सहयोग परिषद क्षेत्र और पूर्वी अफ्रीकी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं तक पहुँच का प्रवेशद्वार भी बन सकता है।
- **The India-Oman CEPA once again demonstrates the evolution of India's trade policy from tariff negotiations to comprehensive economic partnerships encompassing goods, services, investment, mobility and regulatory cooperation.**
भारत-ओमान व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता एक बार फिर यह दर्शाता है कि भारत की व्यापार नीति शुल्क वार्ताओं से आगे बढ़कर वस्तुओं, सेवाओं, निवेश, पेशेवर गतिशीलता और नियामकीय सहयोग को समाहित करने वाली व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारियों तक विकसित हो चुकी है।



The trust deficit in India-Bangladesh ties

GS II: IR

More than hundred days have passed since the Tarique Rahman government took charge in Bangladesh. However, contrary to early expectations from his leadership, India-Bangladesh relations have remained more or less the same as in the difficult months of the interim government.

Actions, not rhetoric

India reached out twice before Mr. Rahman became the Bangladesh Prime Minister. The first outreach was by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who visited Dhaka on December 31, 2025 to condole the passing of Mr. Rahman's mother, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The second time was through Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who carried Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation letter, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla who on February 17 participated in the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Rahman. But sources in the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) say such gestures in themselves are insufficient. An influential segment within the BNP feel that as a goodwill gesture towards the new government, India should have reversed some of the retributory steps that it had taken during the interim government's rule under Muhammad Yunus. These steps included the restarting of transshipments for goods from Bangladesh, full restoration of visa services including business and medical visas, and stopping the restrictive market access for Bangladeshi goods. None of these measures have been implemented so far, as per Dhaka. They argue that, by not reversing these decisions, India has not delivered any advance incentives to Mr. Rahman who will have to engage with the Jamaat-e-Islami and several anti-India student outfits before normalising ties with India.

On its part, the BNP's veteran leaders have tried to smoothen the relationship by creating greater public acceptability of the position



Kallol Bhattacharjee

Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty

that the presence of the deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India will not hold ties back, a departure from the hardline stance that the interim government had taken. Here also, Dhaka feels that such attempts have not found appreciation from the Indian side.

As proof they refer to the aggressive use of 'illegal immigration' in official communication from Delhi following the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in West Bengal and Assam. Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on sensitive issues such as illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as visa restoration and the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty.

Dhaka had sent Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman to Delhi on April 7-8 for a brief visit, to test the waters, where he met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Jaishankar. However, the election campaign in Assam and West Bengal around Bangladesh-related issues and a flurry of interviews by exiled PM Sheikh Hasina have displayed that Mr. Rahman's BNP, despite winning a landslide majority in Bangladesh, has not managed to impress India. While a senior diplomat in Dhaka said that Bangladesh was assured that the language around State elections would not reflect New Delhi's foreign policy, the Ministry of External Affairs' strident position on illegal immigration have generated 'a sense of betrayal' in Dhaka's secretariat.

According to reports, Mr. Rahman, sensing that the window for restoration of ties with India is not opening as per expectations, is in the final stages of considering visits to Malaysia and China that are likely to take place in the last week of June.

Bangladesh's dilemma

This turn to China however cannot hide the fact that it is incumbent on Bangladesh, as much as it is on India, to repair bilateral ties.

Bangladesh's ties with India remain broken because of the 2024 uprising and the subsequent interim rule whereas its ties with China, the U.S. and other players have prospered since August 2024. Further, a pragmatic assessment shows that without steady assurance from India on the main river Padma (Ganga), Bangladesh's other plans are not expected to proceed smoothly beyond 2026. River affairs expert Ainun Nishat has stated that a delay in the renewal of the 30-year-old Ganga treaty will put the Ganges-Kobadak irrigation project in a challenging situation affecting vast portions of western and central Bangladesh. The lack of predictable water supply will affect the upcoming sowing seasons, hurting Bangladesh's economy that is already dealing with the crippling effects of the energy crisis because of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran.

The compounded effect of these disruptive forces will increase pressure on the Tarique Rahman government that is already under criticism for its inept handling of the worst measles outbreak in the country that has claimed the lives of at least 600 infants. Critics have targeted the government for its weak handling of the health crisis as well as the growing incidents of sexual violence, which is a symptom of the breakdown of law and order in the country that is yet to make a recovery since the protests of August 2024. Rivals, including Sheikh Hasina's Awami League that are mobilising on the ground despite a ban, will be strengthened if Mr. Rahman fails to renew the Ganga river agreement with Delhi before the deadline of December 31, 2026.

Such material factors on the ground call for pragmatism in both the capitals as the challenges will soon overwhelm Bangladesh, reverting it to instability, which again is not in India's immediate or long-term interests.

kallol.b@thehindu.co.in

09J6. The trust deficit in India-Bangladesh ties

भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों में विश्वास की कमी

- Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on sensitive issues such as illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as **visa restoration** and the renewal of the **1996 Ganga Water Treaty**.

बांग्लादेशी राजनयिकों ने संकेत दिया है कि ढाका को अवैध प्रवासन जैसे संवेदनशील विषयों पर कम बयानबाजी और वीजा बहाली तथा 1996 की गंगा जल संधि के नवीनीकरण जैसे मुद्दों पर अधिक ध्यान देने की अपेक्षा थी।



- Further, a pragmatic assessment shows that without steady assurance from India on the **main river Padma (Ganga)**, Bangladesh's other plans are not expected to proceed smoothly beyond 2026.
इसके अतिरिक्त, व्यावहारिक आकलन यह दर्शाता है कि मुख्य नदी **पद्मा (गंगा)** के जल प्रवाह को लेकर भारत से स्थिर आश्वासन के बिना बांग्लादेश की अन्य योजनाएँ वर्ष 2026 के बाद सुचारु रूप से आगे नहीं बढ़ पाएँगी।
- River affairs expert **Ainun Nishat** has stated that a delay in the **renewal of the 30-year-old Ganga treaty** will put the **Ganges-Kobadak irrigation project** in a challenging situation affecting vast portions of western and central Bangladesh.
नदी मामलों के विशेषज्ञ **ऐनुन निशात** ने कहा है कि **30 वर्ष पुरानी गंगा संधि** के नवीनीकरण में विलंब होने पर **गंगा-कोबादक सिंचाई परियोजना** कठिन परिस्थिति में पड़ जाएगी, जिससे पश्चिमी और मध्य बांग्लादेश के विशाल क्षेत्र प्रभावित होंगे।
- Rivals, including **Sheikh Hasina's Awami League** that are mobilising on the ground despite a ban, will be strengthened if Mr. Rahman fails to renew the **Ganga river agreement with Delhi before the deadline of December 31, 2026**.
प्रतिबंध के बावजूद सक्रिय रूप से संगठित हो रही **शेख हसीना की अवामी लीग** सहित विपक्षी दलों की स्थिति मजबूत होगी, यदि श्री रहमान **31 दिसंबर 2026** की समय-सीमा से पहले दिल्ली के साथ **गंगा नदी समझौते** का नवीनीकरण कराने में असफल रहते हैं।

Trump's \$100,000 fee for H-1B visa fee is unlawful, court rules

GS II: IR
Reuters
BOSTON

A federal judge on Monday struck down a \$100,000 fee that U.S. President Donald Trump imposed on new H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers, concluding that it constituted an unlawful tax that Congress never authorised.

U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin in Boston issued the ruling in a lawsuit filed by 20 Democratic State Attorneys General challeng-

ing a fee Mr. Trump announced in September that raised the cost of obtaining H-1B visas.

The H-1B program offers 65,000 visas annually, with another 20,000 visas for workers with advanced degrees, approved for three to six years. Employers seeking a visa for a foreign worker before Mr. Trump's proclamation paid about \$2,000 to \$5,000 in fees. The increase in fees has discouraged H-1B visa requests, according to court filings.

Trump's \$100,000 fee for H-1B visa fee is unlawful, court rules

H-1B वीज़ा पर ट्रंप की \$100,000 फीस अवैध है, अदालत का फैसला

A federal judge on Monday struck down a \$100,000 fee that U.S. President Donald Trump imposed on new H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers, concluding that it constituted an unlawful tax that Congress never authorised.

सोमवार को एक संघीय न्यायाधीश ने \$100,000 शुल्क को रद्द कर दिया, जिसे अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने उच्च कौशल वाले विदेशी कामगारों के लिए नए **H-1B वीज़ा** पर लगाया था। न्यायाधीश ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि यह एक अवैध कर था, जिसे कांग्रेस ने कभी अधिकृत नहीं किया था।

The **H-1B program** offers **65,000 visas annually**, with another **20,000 visas** for workers with advanced degrees, approved for three to six years.

H-1B कार्यक्रम के तहत प्रतिवर्ष **65,000 वीज़ा** दिए जाते हैं, जबकि

उच्च डिग्री रखने वाले कामगारों के लिए अतिरिक्त **20,000 वीज़ा** उपलब्ध होते हैं, जो तीन से छह वर्षों के लिए स्वीकृत किए जाते हैं।

- Employers seeking a visa for a foreign worker before Mr. Trump's proclamation paid about **\$2,000 to \$5,000 in fees**.
श्री ट्रंप की घोषणा से पहले किसी विदेशी कामगार के लिए वीज़ा प्राप्त करने वाले नियोक्ताओं को लगभग **\$2,000 से \$5,000 तक शुल्क** देना पड़ता था।
- The increase in fees has discouraged **H-1B visa requests**, according to court filings.
अदालती दस्तावेजों के अनुसार, शुल्क में वृद्धि ने **H-1B वीज़ा आवेदनों** को हतोत्साहित किया है।



Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss

The country has failed to win a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the first time; its selective application of international law vis-a-vis Ukraine and Iran, and its cautious and often wavering approach towards Israel might have led smaller nations, especially of the Global South, to lose faith in it

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Joan Sony Cherian

On June 3, for the first time, Germany failed to win a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The largest economy in the European Union (EU) won just 104 votes, well below the required 127 votes, and lost to the other two contenders in the race, Portugal, which won 134 votes, and Austria which got 131 votes.

The UNSC has five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members who rotate every two years. Out of these 10 seats, two are reserved for the regional grouping of 'Western European and other States' which includes Germany. Members for these 10 seats are elected by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), with a contesting nation needing at least two-thirds of the vote to win a place on the UNSC. Germany has been re-elected six times; whenever it has contested. Up until now.

Steadfast with Ukraine

The loss in the UNSC election is being seen as a major foreign policy defeat for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)-led federal government of Germany and its head, Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who had, after coming to power last year, stated his desire to restore Germany's place on the world map. Opposition parties in the Bundestag, including the Greens



Losing contest: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl casts his vote during the election of non-permanent members of the UNSC at the UN headquarters in New York City on June 3, 2024. AFP

as well as the far-right AfD party, called it an "embarrassing defeat".

Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl, who had extensively lobbied for Germany's candidacy in the UNGA, stated that the loss could have been due to the fact that Germany takes a clear stance on issues that not all member states share. "There is our firm support for Ukraine; the fact that Russia does not want such a voice at the Security Council," said Mr. Wadepuhl. He also acknowledged that, "the fact that Germany must always assume a special responsibility for Israel in the Middle East conflict may also have cost votes."

With respect to Ukraine, the EU and Germany specifically have emerged as the war-torn nation's most steadfast supporters even in the face of the U.S.' changed attitude towards the country after Donald

Trump became President for a second term. Under Mr. Merz, Germany has increased its military assistance for Ukraine. Moreover, in light of Russia's aggression and the U.S.' increasingly belligerent rhetoric towards the EU and NATO, Mr. Merz has advocated for increased budget for the domestic military while also calling for stronger European defence capabilities. Mr. Merz also became a part of the 'coalition of the willing', along with France and the U.K., in order to facilitate support for Ukraine.

Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine has been condemned by almost the entire international order, with the U.S. and the EU invoking sanctions on the country. Portugal and Austria, in line with the EU's position, have also been strong supporters of Ukraine's right to sovereignty. Moreover,

they have been consistently registering their interest in the UNSC seat for over 10 years.

Austria has also been one of the strongest allies of Israel in Europe but its long-standing policy of military neutrality makes it much less of a player in matters of international conflict. But for Germany, the question of Israel and Palestine has been more complicated.

Ambiguity with Israel

Ever since the breakout of the Israel-Hamas conflict in October 2023, Germany has steadfastly upheld Israel's right to defend itself. Since October 2023, the UNGA has adopted at least six major resolutions regarding the conflict and Israel's subsequent genocide in the Gaza Strip. Berlin abstained from three of them, including the most immediate ones in 2023 calling for a ceasefire and

for enhanced UN rights for Palestine. Even as international condemnation for Israel increased due to rising casualties in the Gaza Strip, especially of children, Germany has been walking a tightrope with regards to its relation with Israel.

When Mr. Merz was elected Chancellor in early 2025, he spoke to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the phone and said that he would "find ways and means for him (Netanyahu) to visit Germany and also to be able to leave again without being arrested in Germany," in defiance of the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against Mr. Netanyahu on November 21, 2024, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Gaza Strip.

While Chancellor Merz has since then criticised Israel for its excessive campaign in the Gaza Strip, even moving to restrict arms sales to the country in August 2025, which he lifted in November 2025 after the signing of a 'cease-fire', he visited Israel in December 2025 and held talks with Mr. Netanyahu where he re-affirmed support to Israel. He also refused to join an initiative by western allies to recognise the state of Palestine.

Germany's relationship with Israel is complicated by, as Mr. Wadepuhl mentioned, its 'special responsibility' – the political doctrine of Germany to back Israel's security in the light of Nazi Germany's crimes

against Jews during the Holocaust in World War II.

Conflicting stances

Germany's standing as an upholder of international law has also taken a hit in the context of the ongoing Iran-Israel-U.S. war in West Asia which began on February 28, 2026. Mr. Merz refused to condemn the move as a violation of international law and stated that along with the U.S. and Israel, "we share the goal of ending the terror of these regimes". However, his initial support soon turned into criticism as the war progressed. The effects of the war have been increasingly hitting the German economy, with oil and gas prices rising sharply. The energy sector in Germany is already stressed as the nation has drastically reduced its dependence on Russia, which was its main source for energy, in light of the Ukraine war. By the end of April, Mr. Merz made scathing remarks against the U.S. and said that Iran's leadership was "humiliating" Washington.

Germany's selective application of international law vis-a-vis Ukraine and Iran, and its cautious and often wavering approach towards Israel might have led smaller nations, especially of the Global South, to lose faith in it and regard smaller European states as safer bets. It would be wise for Germany to re-evaluate its standing in the international order if it wishes to regain its position as an upholder of the United Nations and international law.

09J6. Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss

यूएनएससी में हार के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था में जर्मनी की स्थिति पर सवाल

- Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss. यूएनएससी में हार के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था में जर्मनी की स्थिति पर सवाल उठ रहे हैं।
- The country has failed to win a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the first time. यह देश पहली बार यूएन सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) की अस्थायी सीट जीतने में असफल रहा है।
- Its selective application of international law vis-a-vis Ukraine and Iran, and its cautious and often wavering approach towards Israel might have led smaller nations, especially of the Global South, to lose faith in it.



यूक्रेन और ईरान के संदर्भ में अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के चयनात्मक प्रयोग तथा इज़राइल के प्रति इसके सतर्क और अक्सर डगमगाते दृष्टिकोण के कारण छोटे देशों, विशेषकर ग्लोबल साउथ के देशों का इस पर विश्वास कम हो सकता है।

- On June 3, for the first time, Germany failed to win a non-permanent seat on the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.
3 जून को पहली बार जर्मनी संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) की अस्थायी सीट जीतने में विफल रहा।
- The largest economy in the **European Union (EU)** won just 104 votes, well below the required 127 votes, and lost to the other two contenders in the race, **Portugal**, which won 134 votes, and **Austria** which got 131 votes.
यूरोपीय संघ (EU) की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था को केवल 104 वोट मिले, जो आवश्यक 127 वोटों से काफी कम थे, और वह अन्य दो दावेदारों पुर्तगाल (134 वोट) तथा ऑस्ट्रिया (131 वोट) से हार गया।
- The **UNSC** has five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members who rotate every two years.
UNSC में पाँच स्थायी सदस्य और 10 अस्थायी सदस्य होते हैं जो हर दो वर्ष में बदलते हैं।
- Out of these 10 seats, two are reserved for the regional grouping of **'Western European and other States'** which includes Germany.
इन 10 सीटों में से दो सीटें 'वेस्टर्न यूरोपियन एंड अदर स्टेट्स' समूह के लिए आरक्षित हैं, जिसमें जर्मनी शामिल है।
- Members for these 10 seats are elected by the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**, with a contesting nation needing at least two-thirds of the vote to win a place on the UNSC.
इन 10 सीटों के सदस्य संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा (UNGA) द्वारा चुने जाते हैं और किसी देश को सीट जीतने के लिए कम से कम दो-तिहाई मत प्राप्त करने होते हैं।
- Germany has been re-elected six times; whenever it has contested. Up until now.
अब तक जब भी जर्मनी ने चुनाव लड़ा, वह छह बार पुनः निर्वाचित हुआ था।

Steadfast with Ukraine

यूक्रेन के प्रति दृढ़ समर्थन

- The loss in the UNSC election is being seen as a major foreign policy defeat for the **Christian Democratic Union (CDU)**-led federal government of Germany and its head, **Chancellor Friedrich Merz**, who had, after coming to power last year, stated his desire to restore Germany's place on the world map.
यूएनएससी चुनाव में यह हार क्रिश्चियन डेमोक्रेटिक यूनियन (CDU) के नेतृत्व वाली जर्मन सरकार और उसके प्रमुख चांसलर फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़ के लिए बड़ी विदेश नीति की पराजय मानी जा रही है।
- Opposition parties in the **Bundestag**, including the **Greens** as well as the far-right **AfD** party, called it an "embarrassing defeat".
बुंडेस्टाग की विपक्षी पार्टियों, जिनमें ग्रीन्स और दक्षिणपंथी AfD शामिल हैं, ने इसे "शर्मनाक हार" कहा।

GS Paper III: Economy		09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09J6	Zojila Tunnel between Kashmir and Kargil to see final breakthrough कश्मीर और कारगिल के बीच स्थित ज़ोजिला सुरंग में अंतिम सफलता मिलने की ओर प्रगति	
09J6	Strategic afterthought रणनीतिक पुनर्विचार	
09J6	Solar firms move High Court over 'unreasonable' mandate अनुचित' अनिवार्यता के खिलाफ सौर कंपनियाँ हाई कोर्ट पहुँचीं	
09J6	The real stable coin play is in the plumbing that makes it work	

स्टेबल कॉइन का असली अवसर उस आधारभूत संरचना में है जो इसे कार्यशील बनाती है

Zojila Tunnel between Kashmir and Kargil to see final breakthrough

GS III: Economy

Peerzada Ashiq

SONAMARG (GANDERBAL)

India's ambitious, strategic, all-weather Zojila Tunnel in volatile seismic zone IV will witness the final breakthrough on June 9 as Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will oversee the final blasting from the Kargil side. The 13.14-km-long tunnel cuts through the mighty Himalayas at an altitude of 11,578 feet and connects the Kashmir valley with Ladakh's Kargil.

Mr. Gadkari will preside over the process of final blasting of the last block, which will see the tunnel through. The tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods, machines and stocks to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter for the first time ever in coming winters, officials said. Earlier,



The Zojila Tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter. ANI

stocks would be maintained during early autumn months to feed soldiers on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in winters.

The Zojila Tunnel bypasses the weather-dependent Zojila Pass, which is prone to landslides and shooting stones and remains closed due to snow accumulation in winters.

A spokesman of Megha

Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd. (MEIL), which started work on the tunnel in 2020, termed the final breakthrough "a defining moment". "It demonstrates the successful execution of one of India's most complex transport infrastructure works in a hostile Himalayan environment," said senior MEIL officials.

The excavation work has been completed on the world's longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude of over 11,500 feet. "The project will deliver the long-envisioned objective of seamless, all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, bringing long-term benefits in mobility, economic integration, and strategic resilience," said MEIL officials.

Reduced travel time

The tunnel cost more than ₹6,800 crore. A 7.57-metre-high horseshoe-shaped single-tube two-lane tunnel will pass under the arduous Zojila Pass between Ganderbal district in Kashmir and Drass district of Ladakh. Officials say the travel time will come down from three hours to 20 minutes between Ganderbal and Kargil.

09J6. Zojila Tunnel between Kashmir and Kargil to see final breakthrough कश्मीर और कारगिल के बीच स्थित ज़ोजिला सुरंग में अंतिम सफलता मिलने की ओर प्रगति

- India's ambitious, strategic, all-weather **Zojila Tunnel** in volatile **Seismic Zone IV** will witness the final breakthrough on **June 9** as **Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** will oversee the final blasting from the **Kargil** side.

अस्थिर भूकंपीय क्षेत्र-4 में स्थित भारत की महत्वाकांक्षी, सामरिक और सर्व-मौसमी ज़ोजिला सुरंग में 9 जून को अंतिम सफलता का चरण पूरा होगा, जब केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्री नितिन गडकरी कारगिल की ओर से अंतिम विस्फोट प्रक्रिया की निगरानी करेंगे।

- The **13.14-km-long tunnel** cuts through the mighty Himalayas at an altitude of **11,578 feet** and connects the **Kashmir Valley** with **Kargil** in Ladakh.

13.14 किलोमीटर लंबी यह सुरंग समुद्र तल से 11,578 फीट की ऊँचाई पर हिमालय पर्वतमाला को पार करती है और कश्मीर घाटी को लद्दाख के कारगिल से जोड़ती है।

- Mr. Gadkari will preside over the process of final blasting of the last block, which will see the tunnel through.

श्री गडकरी अंतिम खंड के विस्फोट की प्रक्रिया का नेतृत्व करेंगे, जिससे सुरंग का निर्माण पूर्ण हो जाएगा।

- The tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods, machines and stocks to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter for the first time ever in coming winters, officials said.

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, यह सुरंग भविष्य की सर्दियों में पहली बार सुरक्षा बलों को लद्दाख के उच्च हिमालयी ठिकानों तक भीषण शीतकाल के दौरान सामान, मशीनरी और आवश्यक भंडार पहुँचाने में सक्षम बनाएगी।

- Earlier, stocks would be maintained during early autumn months to feed soldiers on the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in winters.

पूर्व में वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा पर तैनात सैनिकों की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए शरद ऋतु के प्रारंभिक महीनों में ही भंडारण करना पड़ता था।

- The Zojila Tunnel bypasses the weather-dependent **Zojila Pass**, which is prone to landslides and shooting stones and remains closed due to snow accumulation in winters.

ज़ोजिला सुरंग मौसम पर निर्भर ज़ोजिला दर्रे को दरकिनार करती है, जो भूस्खलन और गिरते पत्थरों के लिए संवेदनशील है तथा सर्दियों में भारी हिमपात के कारण बंद रहता है।

- A spokesman of **Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL)**, which started work on the tunnel in 2020, termed the final breakthrough “a defining moment”.

मेघा इंजीनियरिंग एंड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर्स लिमिटेड के प्रवक्ता, जिसने वर्ष 2020 में इस सुरंग का कार्य आरम्भ किया था, ने अंतिम सफलता को “एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण” बताया।

- “It demonstrates the successful execution of one of India’s most complex transport infrastructure works in a hostile Himalayan environment,” said senior MEIL officials.

कंपनी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने कहा, “यह प्रतिकूल हिमालयी परिस्थितियों में भारत की सबसे जटिल परिवहन अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं में से एक के सफल निष्पादन को प्रदर्शित करता है।”

- The excavation work has been completed on the **world’s longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude of over 11,500 feet.**

11,500 फीट से अधिक की ऊँचाई पर स्थित विश्व की सबसे लंबी एकल-नलिका द्वि-दिशात्मक सड़क सुरंग का खुदाई कार्य पूर्ण हो चुका है।

- “The project will deliver the long-envisioned objective of seamless, all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, bringing long-term benefits in mobility, economic integration, and strategic resilience,” said MEIL officials.

कंपनी अधिकारियों ने कहा, “यह परियोजना कश्मीर और लद्दाख के बीच निर्बाध एवं सर्व-मौसमी संपर्क स्थापित करने के लंबे समय से कल्पित लक्ष्य को साकार करेगी तथा परिवहन, आर्थिक एकीकरण और सामरिक मजबूती के क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक लाभ प्रदान करेगी।”

Reduced travel time

यात्रा समय में कमी

- The tunnel cost more than **₹6,800 crore**.
इस सुरंग की लागत 6,800 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक है।
- A **7.57-metre-high horseshoe-shaped single-tube two-lane tunnel** will pass under the arduous Zojila Pass between **Ganderbal district** in Kashmir and **Drass district** of Ladakh.
7.57 मीटर ऊँची घोड़े की नाल के आकार की एकल-नलिका द्वि-लेन सुरंग कश्मीर के गांदरबल जिले और लद्दाख के द्रास जिले के बीच स्थित कठिन ज़ोजिला दर्रे के नीचे से गुजरेगी।
- Officials say the travel time will come down from **three hours to 20 minutes** between **Ganderbal and Kargil**.

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, गांदरबल और कारगिल के बीच यात्रा समय तीन घंटे से घटकर मात्र 20 मिनट रह जाएगा।



GS III: Economy

Strategic afterthought

The government must be transparent with the Nicobar project

For a project so often invoked as a matter of national security strategy, the ballooning Great Nicobar Island development, now estimated to be at ₹91,000 crore, rests on a remarkably thin strategic record. The Centre has long cited the “strategic” character of its centrepiece – a transshipment port at Galathea Bay – to withhold information on its environmental clearances. Yet, the Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body, found in August 2024 that the port “lacked strategic objectives”. That label arrived only afterwards, from the Ministry of Defence and seems less like a founding rationale and more of an afterthought, retrofitted to a balance sheet. Both the PIB and the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) cleared the proposal, yet the PPPAC refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding, telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget – an unusual rebuke for a venture sold as nationally vital. If the port cannot stand on commercial returns, and if its real purpose is military, the case for a commercial transshipment hub dissolves.

Great Nicobar sits at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, wrapped in tropical rainforest and ringed by reefs of rare ecological value. The project – port, international airport, power plant and township – would clear vast tracts of that forest, much of it primary, and disturb the nesting beaches of the leatherback turtle and the habitat of the endemic Nicobar megapode. Scientists who have studied the island warn that the loss would be irreversible, and that no afforestation elsewhere can replace what is felled here. The island’s indigenous inhabitants have objections of their own, running alongside the ecological ones but not reducible to them. Tribal councils have said that consent was secured without full disclosure, and asked that ancestral land and the resettlement promised after the 2004 tsunami not be overridden by the project. Their criticism is not a refusal of all development. The quarrel is with scale, secrecy and sequence – a project conceived at a magnitude the island cannot absorb. The remedy is transparency. The Centre should release the High-Powered Committee report in full, account openly for the true cost to the public exchequer, and weigh it against an environmental loss that the exchequer can never reimburse. A project of this scale owes the country at least that much.

09J6. Strategic afterthought

रणनीतिक पुनर्विचार

The government must be transparent with the Nicobar project.

सरकार को निकोबार परियोजना के संबंध में पारदर्शिता बरतनी चाहिए।

For a project so often invoked as a matter of national security strategy, the ballooning Great Nicobar Island development, now estimated to be at ₹91,000 crore, rests on a remarkably thin strategic record.

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा रणनीति के प्रश्न के रूप में बार-बार प्रस्तुत की जाने वाली ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना, जिसकी लागत अब लगभग ₹91,000 करोड़ आँकी गई है, अत्यंत कमजोर रणनीतिक आधार पर टिकी हुई प्रतीत होती है।

The Centre has long cited the “strategic” character of its centrepiece — a transshipment port at Galathea Bay — to withhold information on its environmental clearances.

केंद्र सरकार लंबे समय से अपनी प्रमुख परियोजना — गैलेथिया खाड़ी स्थित स्थानांतरण बंदरगाह — की “रणनीतिक” प्रकृति का हवाला देकर उसकी पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृतियों से संबंधित जानकारी सार्वजनिक करने से बचती रही है।

Yet, the Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body, found in August 2024 that the port “lacked strategic objectives”.

किन्तु लोक निवेश बोर्ड, जो वित्त मंत्रालय की एक संस्था है, ने अगस्त 2024 में पाया कि इस बंदरगाह में “रणनीतिक उद्देश्य” का अभाव था।

That label arrived only afterwards, from the Ministry of Defence and seems less like a founding rationale and more of an afterthought, retrofitted to a balance sheet.

यह रणनीतिक पहचान बाद में रक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रदान की गई और यह मूल उद्देश्य की अपेक्षा बाद में जोड़े गए औचित्य जैसी प्रतीत होती है।

Both the PIB and the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee cleared the proposal, yet the latter refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding, telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget.

लोक निवेश बोर्ड और सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी मूल्यांकन समिति दोनों ने प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दी, किन्तु बाद वाली समिति ने ₹12,230 करोड़ की व्यवहार्यता अंतर वित्तपोषण सहायता देने से इनकार करते हुए बंदरगाह मंत्रालय को अपनी ही बजटीय व्यवस्था से धन जुटाने को कहा।

This was an unusual rebuke for a venture sold as nationally vital.

राष्ट्रीय महत्व की परियोजना के रूप में प्रस्तुत किए गए उपक्रम के लिए यह एक असामान्य अस्वीकृति थी।

- If the port cannot stand on commercial returns, and if its real purpose is military, the case for a commercial transshipment hub dissolves.



यदि यह बंदरगाह व्यावसायिक लाभ के आधार पर टिक नहीं सकता और उसका वास्तविक उद्देश्य सैन्य है, तो एक व्यावसायिक स्थानांतरण केंद्र के रूप में उसका औचित्य समाप्त हो जाता है।

- **Great Nicobar sits at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, wrapped in tropical rainforest and ringed by reefs of rare ecological value.**

ग्रेट निकोबार अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपसमूह के दक्षिणी छोर पर स्थित है, जो उष्णकटिबंधीय वर्षावनों से आच्छादित तथा दुर्लभ पारिस्थितिक महत्व वाली प्रवाल भित्तियों से घिरा हुआ है।

- **The project — port, international airport, power plant and township — would clear vast tracts of that forest, much of it primary, and disturb the nesting beaches of the leatherback turtle and the habitat of the endemic Nicobar megapode.**

यह परियोजना — जिसमें बंदरगाह, अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, विद्युत संयंत्र और नगर विकास शामिल हैं — विशाल वन क्षेत्रों को साफ कर देगी, जिनमें अधिकांश मूल वन हैं, तथा **लेदरबैक कछुए** के अंडे देने वाले तटों और स्थानिक **निकोबार मेगापोड** के आवास को प्रभावित करेगी।

- **Scientists who have studied the island warn that the loss would be irreversible, and that no afforestation elsewhere can replace what is felled here.**

द्वीप का अध्ययन करने वाले वैज्ञानिकों ने चेतावनी दी है कि यह क्षति अपरिवर्तनीय होगी और अन्यत्र किया गया कोई भी वनीकरण यहाँ नष्ट किए गए वनों की भरपाई नहीं कर सकेगा।

Solar firms move High Court over 'unreasonable' mandate

Industry associations from Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are up in arms against a Central rule that requires most new solar projects to be built only with domestically made cells

GS III: Economy
Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

A group of solar manufacturers and developers has approached the Karnataka High Court to defer a rule that, from June 1, requires most new solar projects to use only domestically made cells. They cite the gap between what Indian solar-cell makers charge and international prices.

Cells listed under the government's mandatory 'ALMM List-II' sell at around ₹13 a watt, against an imported price of about ₹5 a watt, the petitioners said. "₹5 and ₹13 is unreasonable. That is what we are asking [the court to address]," Ramesh Shivanna of the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KRESMA), which led the petition, told *The Hindu*.

ALMM is the government ratified Approved List of Models and Manufacturers and a list of domestic producer companies whose solar panels and constituent cells are mandatory for electricity distribution in India.

ALMM-1 is a list of about 130 module manufacturers. ALMM-2 is a smaller group of about 17 companies that makes the solar cells for these modules.

The writ petition, filed on June 6 by solar industry associations from Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, challenges Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



Price disparity: Cells listed under the 'ALMM List-II' sell at about ₹13 a watt, against an imported price of about ₹5 a watt. FILE PHOTO

(MNRE) orders that enforce ALMM List-II — the approved list of domestic solar-cell manufacturers — for projects commissioned on or after June 1, 2026. Reportedly other state associations too have filed similar petitions in other courts.

'Defer enforcement'

The petitioners said they do not oppose the list, but want its enforcement deferred, at least a year, until domestic cells are available in adequate quantity and quality, and at a competitive price. The petitioners also pointed to the Finance Ministry's classification of the West Asia conflict as a force majeure event, under which the MNRE allowed extensions of contractual deadlines to solar-cell makers; the same consideration, they said, should apply to developers.

Mr. Shivanna said the government must step in on price until domestic

supply matures. "The government should regulate the price," he said.

"When something is available so cheap in the global market and here you are being made to pay [much more], it is the government's responsibility to study what is happening globally and in India."

A handful of cell makers, he argued, were capturing the gain: by his estimate, at a 30 GW annual build and a roughly ₹8-a-watt premium, about ₹24,000 crore a year would flow to "four-five manufacturers," several of whom had also received production-linked incentives. According to MNRE database, only six of the seventeen ALMM-2 companies carry "high-efficiency" solar cells — Emmvee, Premier Energies Photovoltaic, Mundra Solar PV, Tata Power Renewable Energy (a small 247 MW line), Waaree and Jui-

pter Solartech.

The dispute exposes a structural gap at the heart of India's solar expansion. Installed solar capacity has crossed 144 GW and is growing about 40% a year, and module-assembly capacity has reached roughly 210 GW. But upstream cell manufacturing — the step the new rule targets — stood at only about 27 GW at the end of 2025, according to Mercom India, a clean-energy research group. Ratings agency CareEdge estimates domestic cells meet just 25-30% of demand, leaving India reliant on imports, mainly from China. "Right now the whole capacity (of high efficiency cells) manufactured in India is not enough for our requirement," Mr. Shivanna said.

"When we ask for cell supply, [many] don't have stock." All companies that make cells make modules but many module makers don't make cells whereby about 14 companies make up 98% of India's solar capacity addition.

MNRE has refused a blanket extension, saying in a May 25 order that industry consensus favoured "policy stability" to protect investor confidence in domestic manufacturing, and offering instead case-by-case relief for projects that are substantially built. On Monday, the ministry constituted a four-member expert committee to vet applications for time extension.

09J6. Solar firms move High Court over 'unreasonable' mandate

'अनुचित' अनिवार्यता के खिलाफ सौर कंपनियाँ हाई कोर्ट पहुँचीं

- A group of solar manufacturers and developers has approached the Karnataka High Court to defer a rule that, from June 1, requires most new solar projects to use only domestically made cells.

सौर निर्माताओं और डेवलपर्स के एक समूह ने कर्नाटक हाई कोर्ट का रुख किया है ताकि उस नियम को टाला जा सके, जिसके तहत 1 जून से अधिकांश नई सौर परियोजनाओं में केवल घरेलू रूप से निर्मित सेल का उपयोग अनिवार्य किया गया है।

- They cite the gap between what Indian solar-cell makers charge and international prices.

वे भारतीय सौर-सेल निर्माताओं द्वारा वसूली जाने वाली कीमतों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों के बीच के अंतर का हवाला देते हैं।

- Cells listed under the government's mandatory 'ALMM List-II' sell at around ₹13 a watt, against an imported price of about ₹5 a watt, the petitioners said.



याचिकाकर्ताओं के अनुसार सरकार की अनिवार्य 'ALMM List-II' में सूचीबद्ध सेल लगभग ₹13 प्रति वाट में बिकते हैं, जबकि आयातित सेल की कीमत लगभग ₹5 प्रति वाट है।

- **ALMM is the government ratified Approved List of Models and Manufacturers and a list of domestic producer companies whose solar panels and constituent cells are mandatory for electricity distribution in India.**

ALMM सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers** है तथा इसमें उन घरेलू उत्पादक कंपनियों की सूची शामिल है जिनके सौर पैनल और उनके सेल भारत में विद्युत वितरण के लिए अनिवार्य हैं।

- **ALMM-1 is a list of about 130 module manufacturers.**

ALMM-1 लगभग 130 मॉड्यूल निर्माताओं की सूची है।

- **ALMM-2 is a smaller group of about 17 companies that makes the solar cells for these modules.**

ALMM-2 लगभग 17 कंपनियों का एक छोटा समूह है जो इन मॉड्यूलों के लिए सौर सेल बनाता है।

- **Installed solar capacity has crossed 144 GW and is growing about 40% a year, and module-assembly capacity has reached roughly 210 GW.**

स्थापित सौर क्षमता 144 GW से अधिक हो चुकी है और लगभग 40% प्रतिवर्ष की दर से बढ़ रही है, जबकि मॉड्यूल-असेंबली क्षमता लगभग 210 GW तक पहुँच चुकी है।



The real stable coin play is in the plumbing that makes it work



Gaining traction: Stable coins currently in circulation are expected to surge as much as 15-fold by 2030. REUTERS

GS III: Economy
Reuters
LONDON

Stable coins grab the headlines, but the bigger prize for private equity investors may lie in the digital "plumbing" that makes them work.

We are rapidly moving into the age of AI, yet moving money still relies on architecture built for an analogue era: slow, expensive and complex. Stable coins could change that. This type of digital currency is pegged to a reserve asset like the U.S. dollar. Because of this structure, they are gaining traction in cross-border payments, treasury operations, crypto settlement and as a store of value in volatile economies.

Importantly, they are also offering something the traditional financial rails often cannot: near-instant settlement, round-the-clock operability, modest friction costs and a viable alternative where banking infrastructure is thin or trust is weak.

This tokenized form of cash is therefore more than an incremental upgrade. If properly structured and rigorously regulated, stable coins could do to money what email did to snail mail: make the old system increasingly obsolete.

Stable coins currently in circulation are expected to surge as much as 15-fold by 2030, according to Citi and Brookfield research. The debate is no longer whether they will scale, but how quickly – and who will profit when they do.

History suggests the biggest gains in a technological boom are rarely made by investing in the invention itself. They are captured in the infrastructure that enables rapid adoption. For example, in the 19th century, railroads on their own did not drive industrialization and the massive wealth creation that came with it. The gains came from the web of steel, coal, logistics and distribution networks that followed. Electrification was not about the light bulb, but the grid. Stable coins are no different. They are the spark for transforming money movement, not the engine driving conversion.

Token explosion

Wall Street is rapidly moving deeper into digital assets. This is feeding the broader trend of tokenization, the process of turning traditional assets into digital tokens. The New York Stock Exchange, part of Intercontinental Exchange, is partnering with Securitize – a major player in tokenization – on a platform for digital coins linked to stocks and ETFs. Meanwhile, Nasdaq is teaming up with Kraken – a cryptocurrency exchange – to let investors trade tokenized versions of listed stocks and ETFs.

More broadly, in a recent Broadridge survey of 950 financial services firms, 54% said their firm is investing in tokenization, while 53% believe blockchain will dramatically reshape settlement.

For established financial institutions, the choice is stark: integrate and evolve this new technology or cede ground as activity shifts to faster, cheaper, more transparent rails.

In short, this appears to be a structural shift, not a cyclical one.

The technology needed for this instantaneous, trackable movement of money already exists. What remains under built is the plumbing that will enable stable coins to connect seamlessly with the existing financial system. The opportunity lies not in stable coins themselves, but in owning the toll roads they travel on.

This infrastructure includes issuance platforms, payment processors, digital wallets, custody systems, and the other on-and off-ramps that convert traditional currency into digital and back. It also includes compliance tools such as "know your customer" (KYC), anti-money laundering (AML) and transaction monitoring services.

This is where private equity can come in.

Capital can help financial institutions modernize legacy systems, carve out digital asset units from larger groups, or support governments building national digital-currency platforms.

None of this is risk-free. Stable coins are not insured like bank deposits, and their stability depends on the quality and liquidity of the issuer's reserves. Compared with banks, the firms that manage stable coins have fewer resources to address fraud and cybersecurity risks.

Moreover, regulatory clarity is needed. Markets do not scale when faced with ambiguity. Investors and institutions will require clear rules on reserves, redemptions, supervision and consumer protection.

09J6. The real stable coin play is in the plumbing that makes it work

स्टेबल कॉइन का असली अवसर उस आधारभूत संरचना में है जो इसे कार्यशील बनाती है

• **Stable coins** grab the headlines, but the bigger prize for **private equity investors** may lie in the digital "plumbing" that makes them work.

स्टेबल कॉइन सुर्खियाँ बटोरते हैं, लेकिन **प्राइवेट इक्विटी निवेशकों** के लिए बड़ा अवसर उस डिजिटल "प्लंबिंग" में हो सकता है जो इन्हें कार्यशील बनाती है।

• We are rapidly moving into the age of **AI**, yet moving money still relies on architecture built for an analogue era: slow, expensive and complex.

हम तेजी से **AI** के युग में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं, फिर भी धन का हस्तांतरण अभी भी उस संरचना पर निर्भर है जो एनालॉग युग के लिए बनाई गई थी: धीमी, महंगी और जटिल।

• **Stable coins** could change that.

स्टेबल कॉइन इसे बदल सकते हैं।

• This type of digital currency is pegged to a reserve asset like the **U.S. dollar**.

इस प्रकार की डिजिटल मुद्रा को **अमेरिकी डॉलर** जैसी आरक्षित परिसंपत्ति से जोड़ा जाता है।

- Because of this structure, they are gaining traction in **cross-border payments, treasury operations, crypto settlement** and as a **store of value** in volatile economies.

इस संरचना के कारण ये सीमा-पार भुगतान, कोषागार संचालन, क्रिप्टो निपटान तथा अस्थिर अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में **मूल्य-संग्रहण के साधन** के रूप में लोकप्रिय हो रहे हैं।

- Importantly, they are also offering something the traditional financial rails often cannot: **near-instant settlement, round-the-clock operability**, modest friction costs and a viable alternative where banking infrastructure is thin or trust is weak.

महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, ये वह सुविधा भी प्रदान कर रहे हैं जो पारंपरिक वित्तीय व्यवस्था अक्सर नहीं कर पाती:

लगभग त्वरित निपटान, 24x7 संचालन क्षमता, कम लेनदेन लागत और उन क्षेत्रों में व्यवहार्य विकल्प जहाँ बैंकिंग अवसंरचना कमजोर है या भरोसा कम है।

- This tokenized form of cash is therefore more than an incremental upgrade.

इसलिए नकदी का यह **टोकनाइज्ड स्वरूप** केवल एक मामूली सुधार से कहीं अधिक है।



- If properly structured and rigorously regulated, **stable coins** could do to money what email did to snail mail: make the old system increasingly obsolete.
यदि इन्हें उचित ढंग से संरचित और कड़ाई से विनियमित किया जाए, तो **स्टेबल कॉइन** धन के साथ वही कर सकते हैं जो ईमेल ने पारंपरिक डाक के साथ किया था: पुराने तंत्र को धीरे-धीरे अप्रासंगिक बना देना।
- Stable coins currently in circulation are expected to surge as much as 15-fold by 2030**, according to Citi and Brookfield research.
Citi और Brookfield के शोध के अनुसार, वर्तमान में प्रचलन में मौजूद स्टेबल कॉइन की मात्रा 2030 तक 15 गुना बढ़ सकती है।
- The debate is no longer whether they will scale, but how quickly — and who will profit when they do.
अब बहस इस बात पर नहीं है कि वे बड़े पैमाने पर अपनाए जाएंगे या नहीं, बल्कि इस पर है कि यह कितनी तेजी से होगा और इससे लाभ किसे मिलेगा।
- History suggests the biggest gains in a technological boom are rarely made by investing in the invention itself.
इतिहास बताता है कि तकनीकी क्रांति के दौरान सबसे बड़ा लाभ आमतौर पर स्वयं आविष्कार में निवेश करने से नहीं मिलता।
- They are captured in the infrastructure that enables rapid adoption.
वे उस अवसंरचना में निहित होते हैं जो तीव्र अपनाने को संभव बनाती है।
- For example, in the **19th century**, railroads on their own did not drive industrialization and the massive wealth creation that came with it.
उदाहरण के लिए, **19वीं शताब्दी** में केवल रेलमार्गों ने औद्योगीकरण और उससे उत्पन्न विशाल संपत्ति निर्माण को आगे नहीं बढ़ाया था।
- The gains came from the web of **steel, coal, logistics and distribution networks** that followed.
लाभ **इस्पात, कोयला, लॉजिस्टिक्स और वितरण नेटवर्क** के व्यापक तंत्र से प्राप्त हुआ जो बाद में विकसित हुए।
- Electrification was not about the light bulb, but the **grid**.
विद्युतीकरण का अर्थ केवल बल्ब नहीं था, बल्कि **ग्रिड** था।
- Stable coins are no different.
स्टेबल कॉइन भी इससे अलग नहीं हैं।
- They are the spark for transforming money movement, not the engine driving conversion.
वे धन हस्तांतरण को बदलने वाली चिंगारी हैं, परिवर्तन को संचालित करने वाला इंजन नहीं।

Token explosion

टोकन विस्फोट

- Wall Street** is rapidly moving deeper into digital assets.
वॉल स्ट्रीट तेजी से डिजिटल परिसंपत्तियों की ओर बढ़ रहा है।
- This is feeding the broader trend of **tokenization**, the process of turning traditional assets into digital tokens.
यह **टोकनाइजेशन** की व्यापक प्रवृत्ति को बढ़ावा दे रहा है, जिसमें पारंपरिक परिसंपत्तियों को डिजिटल टोकनों में परिवर्तित किया जाता है।
- The **New York Stock Exchange**, part of **Intercontinental Exchange**, is partnering with **Securitize** — a major player in tokenization — on a platform for digital coins linked to stocks and ETFs.
न्यूयॉर्क स्टॉक एक्सचेंज, जो **Intercontinental Exchange** का हिस्सा है, **Securitize** के साथ साझेदारी कर रहा है ताकि शेयरों और ETF से जुड़े डिजिटल कॉइन के लिए एक मंच विकसित किया जा सके।
- Meanwhile, **Nasdaq** is teaming up with **Kraken** — a cryptocurrency exchange — to let investors trade tokenized versions of listed stocks and ETFs.

इसी बीच **Nasdaq, Kraken** नामक क्रिप्टोकॉरेसी एक्सचेंज के साथ मिलकर निवेशकों को सूचीबद्ध शेयरों और ETF के टोकनाइज्ड संस्करणों में व्यापार की सुविधा दे रहा है।

- More broadly, in a recent **Broadridge survey of 950 financial services firms**, 54% said their firm is investing in tokenization, while 53% believe blockchain will dramatically reshape settlement.

व्यापक रूप से देखें तो 950 वित्तीय सेवा कंपनियों पर किए गए हालिया **Broadridge सर्वेक्षण** में 54% ने कहा कि उनकी कंपनी टोकनाइजेशन में निवेश कर रही है, जबकि 53% का मानना है कि ब्लॉकचेन निपटान प्रणाली को पूरी तरह बदल देगा।

- For established financial institutions, the choice is stark: integrate and evolve this new technology or cede ground as activity shifts to faster, cheaper, more transparent rails. स्थापित वित्तीय संस्थानों के सामने स्पष्ट विकल्प है: इस नई तकनीक को अपनाकर विकसित हों या गतिविधियों के तेज, सस्ते और अधिक पारदर्शी माध्यमों की ओर स्थानांतरित होने पर अपनी स्थिति खो दें।
- In short, this appears to be a **structural shift**, not a cyclical one. संक्षेप में, यह एक **संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन** प्रतीत होता है, न कि चक्रीय परिवर्तन।
- The technology needed for this instantaneous, trackable movement of money already exists. धन के इस त्वरित और ट्रैक किए जा सकने वाले हस्तांतरण के लिए आवश्यक तकनीक पहले से मौजूद है।
- What remains under built is the plumbing that will enable stable coins to connect seamlessly with the existing financial system. जिस चीज़ का अभी भी पर्याप्त विकास नहीं हुआ है, वह वह आधारभूत संरचना है जो स्टेबल कॉइन को मौजूदा वित्तीय प्रणाली से सहज रूप से जोड़ सके।
- The opportunity lies not in stable coins themselves, but in owning the toll roads they travel on. अवसर स्वयं स्टेबल कॉइन में नहीं, बल्कि उन मार्गों के स्वामित्व में है जिन पर वे चलते हैं।
- This infrastructure includes **issuance platforms, payment processors, digital wallets, custody systems**, and the other on-and off-ramps that convert traditional currency into digital and back.

इस अवसंरचना में **जारीकरण प्लेटफॉर्म, पेमेंट प्रोसेसर, डिजिटल वॉलेट, कस्टडी सिस्टम** तथा पारंपरिक मुद्रा को डिजिटल मुद्रा में और वापस बदलने वाले अन्य माध्यम शामिल हैं।

- It also includes **compliance tools such as know your customer (KYC), anti-money laundering (AML) and transaction monitoring services**. इसमें **Know Your Customer (KYC), Anti-Money Laundering (AML)** और **लेनदेन निगरानी सेवाएँ** जैसे अनुपालन उपकरण भी शामिल हैं।
- This is where **private equity** can come in. यही वह क्षेत्र है जहाँ **प्राइवेट इक्विटी** की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण हो सकती है।
- Capital can help financial institutions modernize legacy systems, carve out digital asset units from larger groups, or support governments building national digital-currency platforms. पूंजी वित्तीय संस्थानों को पुरानी प्रणालियों का आधुनिकीकरण करने, बड़े समूहों से डिजिटल परिसंपत्ति इकाइयाँ अलग करने या राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल मुद्रा मंच विकसित करने वाली सरकारों को समर्थन देने में सहायता कर सकती है।
- None of this is risk-free. इनमें से कोई भी कार्य जोखिम-मुक्त नहीं है।
- Stable coins are not insured like bank deposits, and their stability depends on the quality and liquidity of the issuer's reserves. स्टेबल कॉइन बैंक जमा की तरह बीमित नहीं होते और उनकी स्थिरता जारीकर्ता के भंडार की गुणवत्ता तथा तरलता पर निर्भर करती है।
- Compared with banks, the firms that manage stable coins have fewer resources to address **fraud and cybersecurity risks**. बैंकों की तुलना में स्टेबल कॉइन का प्रबंधन करने वाली कंपनियों के पास **धोखाधड़ी और साइबर सुरक्षा जोखिमों** से निपटने के लिए कम संसाधन होते हैं।



- Moreover, **regulatory clarity** is needed.
इसके अतिरिक्त **नियामकीय स्पष्टता** आवश्यक है।
- Markets do not scale when faced with ambiguity.
अनिश्चितता की स्थिति में बाजार बड़े पैमाने पर विकसित नहीं हो पाते।
- Investors and institutions will require clear rules on **reserves, redemptions, supervision and consumer protection**.
निवेशकों और संस्थानों को **भंडार, मोचन, निगरानी और उपभोक्ता संरक्षण** से संबंधित स्पष्ट नियमों की आवश्यकता होगी।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology

09 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED

- 09J6** Amplifying random numbers brings a breakthrough in digital security
यादृच्छिक संख्याओं को विस्तारित करने से डिजिटल सुरक्षा में एक महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त हुई है।
- 09J6** New mustard hybrids need diverse farming plans
नई संकर सरसों किस्मों के लिए विविध कृषि योजनाओं की आवश्यकता है।

'Amplifying' random numbers brings a breakthrough in digital security

Creating a truly unguessable password is difficult as even the best computers leave behind subtle, predictable patterns; by tapping into the power of quantum physics, scientists have now found a way to turn mostly random data into flawless security keys that are practically impossible to predict.

Mathematical breakthrough
CHENNAI

Most digital security relies today on random numbers to generate cryptographic keys. Think of a cryptographic key like a long, complex password. If that password is truly random, an attacker has to guess every possible combination. But if the "random" process used to make that password has a pattern, the attacker can use that pattern to skip billions of guesses. Digital security has an Achilles' heel: the numbers it uses for encryption are rarely as random as they seem. But in a study published in *Nature*, researchers at ETH Zurich have demonstrated a new solution called randomness amplification, where they used quantum physics to turn predictable bits of data into certifiably perfect randomness.

A note from the university said the researchers had effectively "generated certified perfect randomness for the first time". Creating true randomness is actually really difficult. Most random number generators (RNGs) produce bits with a small bias. Say you're flipping a coin that lands on "heads" 5% of the time instead of 50%. That 5% difference is a bias.

Statistical limitations
In 1986, computer science researchers Miklós Santha and Umesh Vazirani showed that a classical computer cannot generate a truly random source into a perfectly random one. But another way, if a source of random numbers is predictable even in a small way, classical post-processing alone could never eliminate it. So if you give a classical computer a biased coin, any data it produces based on that coin will remain as biased and predictable, no matter how much the computer tries to improve on the input. This is why even high-end random number generators suffer from experimental imperfections — like heat or electronic noise — that make their outcomes slightly biased, and thus predictable to an advanced attacker.

"Even modern random number generators, which are based on quantum mechanical effects like the reflection of photons from beam splitters, are not entirely immune to such a systematic error or bias," Andreas Wallraff, one of the study's lead investigators and a professor at Solid State Physics, said in the note.

Over the last two decades, theoretical work has suggested that quantum physics may provide a workaround. In fact, in 2012, Roger Colbeck and Renato Renner — who is one of the authors of the new study — showed in theory that quantum physics could do it.

The ETH Zurich team achieved it using a Bell test, a physics experiment designed to prove a phenomenon called quantum entanglement. Entanglement is a state where two quantum particles — like atoms or photons — become linked such that a measurement performed on one particle instantly affects the other, no matter how far apart they are.



This was above the classical limit of 2, meaning quantum physics rather than classical physics was in play. (Entanglement is a purely quantum phenomenon.)

"It is a clean instance of quantum advantage: a task quantum physics performs that classical physics probably cannot," Martin Jevtic, founder of research-driven consulting firm Applied Quantum, wrote on his site.

However, the highest score quantum physics allows is 2.82. And the closer an experiment gets to this value, the stronger the evidence that the particles are behaving according to quantum physics alone rather than also being influenced by bias, in a lab, any heat, microscopic timing errors, and other subtle factors can create noise that biases the particles in small ways. And an attacker who understands the specific noise in a setup might notice that when the system glitches, it tends to produce a '1' more often than a '0', and use that to their advantage.

The researchers now had two resources: the original random biased bits and the new outcomes from the Bell test. They combined both using a mathematical tool called a two-source extractor. Its purpose is to blend two independent strings of data. Independent means knowing anything about String 1 must reveal nothing about String 2, and vice versa.

The extractor is designed so that if an attacker has a slight advantage in predicting String 1 and a slight advantage in predicting String 2, they have zero advantage in predicting the combination. The extractor achieves this by cancelling the strange individual biases out as long as they are independent.

In their tests, the researchers worked with 2.3 billion random biased bits and 2.6 billion bits of information from the measurements.

They combined them in 1.3 billion trials, which they ran at 50,000 times per second over nine hours. At the end of each trial, the extractor output was 45 trillion bits — all purely random. The test got pruned away because they were biased information: around 1,600 bits per second versus 1 billion bits per second.

It is also information very inefficient in that for every 10 "almost perfectly random" bits it consumed, it produced 1 "certified random" bit — whereas commercial generators produce a very large number of "almost perfectly random" bits from just one "somewhat random" bit.

In quantum physics, the act of measuring something creates new information that wasn't there before, because this information is born at the exact instant of measurement. It is impossible for anyone to have known the outcome in advance, becoming an additional source of randomness

and less efficient, it can produce randomness of a higher quality. That is, the work establishes that randomness can be amplified in lab conditions, that two in a device-independent way. It also proves that randomness can be certified from clearly stated physical assumptions," she added.

"The important caveat is that the guarantee here is conditional on the Santha-Vazirani weak-source model, the claimed bias based on the input randomness, the Bell test, and the validity of the extractor/secure analysis."

The researchers proposed one application: a public randomness beacon service that broadcasts certified random bits for use ranging from lotteries, to assign juries, to sample voting machines, and for research.

That said, M. Jevtic cautioned in his write-up that while certifiable randomness could help security today, it will not help protect encrypted information against attacks by future quantum computers.

"Better randomness was never the answer to that problem," he wrote, "integrating a post-quantum algorithm like India recently took its very first steps on this front."

09J6. Amplifying random numbers brings a breakthrough in digital security

यादृच्छिक संख्याओं को विस्तारित करने से डिजिटल सुरक्षा में एक महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त हुई है।

- Creating a truly unguessable password is difficult as even the best computers leave behind subtle, predictable patterns; by tapping into the power of quantum physics, scientists have now found a way to turn mostly random data into flawless security keys that are practically impossible to predict.

वास्तव में अनुमान न लगाए जा सकने वाला पासवर्ड बनाना कठिन है, क्योंकि सर्वोत्तम कंप्यूटर भी सूक्ष्म एवं पूर्वानुमेय प्रतिरूप छोड़ जाते हैं; क्वांटम भौतिकी की शक्ति का उपयोग करते हुए, वैज्ञानिकों ने अब अधिकांशतः यादृच्छिक डेटा को त्रुटिहीन सुरक्षा कुंजियों में परिवर्तित करने का एक तरीका खोज लिया है, जिनका पूर्वानुमान लगाना व्यावहारिक रूप से असंभव है।

- Most digital security relies today on random numbers to generate cryptographic keys. आज अधिकांश डिजिटल सुरक्षा क्रिप्टोग्राफिक कुंजियाँ (Cryptographic Keys) उत्पन्न करने के लिए यादृच्छिक संख्याओं पर निर्भर करती है।

- Think of a **cryptographic key** like a long, complex password.

एक क्रिप्टोग्राफिक कुंजी को एक लंबे और जटिल पासवर्ड के समान समझिए।

- If that password is truly random, an attacker has to guess every possible combination.



यदि वह पासवर्ड वास्तव में यादृच्छिक है, तो किसी आक्रमणकारी को प्रत्येक संभावित संयोजन का अनुमान लगाना होगा।

- But if the 'random' process used to make that password has a pattern, the attacker can use that pattern to skip billions of guesses.

किन्तु यदि उस पासवर्ड को बनाने वाली 'यादृच्छिक' प्रक्रिया में कोई पैटर्न हो, तो आक्रमणकारी उस पैटर्न का उपयोग करके अरबों अनुमानों को छोड़ सकता है।

- Digital security has an **Achilles's heel**: the numbers it uses for encryption are rarely as random as they seem.

डिजिटल सुरक्षा की एक **कमज़ोर कड़ी (Achilles's heel)** है: एन्क्रिप्शन में प्रयुक्त संख्याएँ प्रायः उतनी यादृच्छिक नहीं होतीं जितनी वे प्रतीत होती हैं।

- But in a study published in **Nature**, researchers at **ETH Zürich** have demonstrated a new solution called **randomness amplification**, where they used **quantum physics** to turn **predictable bits of data into certifiably perfect randomness**.

किन्तु **Nature** में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में **ETH Zürich** के शोधकर्ताओं ने **रैंडमनेस एम्प्लीफिकेशन (Randomness Amplification)** नामक एक नया समाधान प्रदर्शित किया, जिसमें उन्होंने **क्वांटम भौतिकी** का उपयोग करके पूर्वानुमेय डेटा बिट्स को प्रमाणित पूर्ण यादृच्छिकता में परिवर्तित किया।

- **Creating true randomness is actually really difficult.**

वास्तविक यादृच्छिकता उत्पन्न करना वास्तव में अत्यंत कठिन है।

- **Most random number generators (RNGs) produce bits with a small bias.**

अधिकांश **रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर (RNGs)** थोड़े पक्षपात वाले बिट्स उत्पन्न करते हैं।

- **Say you're flipping a coin that lands on 'heads' 51% of the time instead of 50%.**

मान लीजिए आप एक ऐसा सिक्का उछाल रहे हैं जो 50% के स्थान पर 51% बार 'हेड्स' पर गिरता है।

- **That 1% difference is a bias.**

यह 1% का अंतर एक **पक्षपात (Bias)** है।

- **So if you give a classical computer a biased coin, any data it produces based on that coin will remain just as biased and predictable, no matter how much the computer tries to improve on the input.**

अतः यदि आप किसी शास्त्रीय कंप्यूटर को एक पक्षपाती सिक्का देते हैं, तो उससे उत्पन्न कोई भी डेटा उतना ही पक्षपाती और पूर्वानुमेय बना रहेगा, चाहे कंप्यूटर इनपुट को सुधारने का कितना भी प्रयास करे।

- **This is why even high-end random number generators suffer from experimental imperfections — like heat or electronic noise — that make their outcomes slightly biased, and thus predictable to an advanced attacker.**

इसी कारण उच्च स्तरीय रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर भी ऊष्मा या इलेक्ट्रॉनिक शोर जैसी प्रायोगिक अपूर्णताओं से प्रभावित होते हैं, जो उनके परिणामों को थोड़ा पक्षपाती बना देती हैं और इस प्रकार किसी उन्नत आक्रमणकारी के लिए उन्हें पूर्वानुमेय बना सकती हैं।

- The **ETH Zürich** team achieved it using a **Bell test**, a physics experiment designed to prove a phenomenon called **quantum entanglement**.

ETH Zürich की टीम ने इसे **बेल परीक्षण (Bell Test)** का उपयोग करके प्राप्त किया, जो **क्वांटम उलझाव (Quantum Entanglement)** नामक घटना को सिद्ध करने हेतु बनाया गया एक भौतिकी प्रयोग है।

- **Entanglement is a state where two quantum particles — like atoms or photons — become linked such that a measurement performed on one particle instantly affects the other, no matter how far apart they are.**

उलझाव (Entanglement) वह अवस्था है जिसमें दो **क्वांटम कण** — जैसे परमाणु या फोटॉन — इस प्रकार जुड़े होते हैं कि एक कण पर किया गया मापन दूसरे को तुरंत प्रभावित करता है, चाहे वे एक-दूसरे से कितनी भी दूरी पर हों।

- In a **Bell test**, two **entangled particles** are separated and measured.

एक **बेल परीक्षण** में, दो **उलझे हुए कणों** को अलग किया जाता है और उनका मापन किया जाता है।

- If the particles answer in a particular highly correlated way, it will show that the answers were not secretly decided in advance.
यदि कण एक विशेष अत्यधिक सहसंबद्ध तरीके से प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं, तो यह दर्शाएगा कि उनके उत्तर पहले से गुप्त रूप से निर्धारित नहीं थे।
- In other words, the test will prove the universe itself did not know the answer until the moment the measurement happened.
दूसरे शब्दों में, यह परीक्षण सिद्ध करेगा कि स्वयं ब्रह्मांड को भी उत्तर का ज्ञान उस क्षण तक नहीं था जब तक मापन नहीं हुआ।
- Now, in **quantum physics**, the act of measuring something creates new information that wasn't there before.
अब, **क्वांटम भौतिकी** में, किसी वस्तु का मापन करने की प्रक्रिया नई सूचना उत्पन्न करती है जो पहले अस्तित्व में नहीं थी।
- For example, each of the two particles will be in a **superposition of multiple states**.
उदाहरण के लिए, दोनों कण अनेक अवस्थाओं के **अध्यारोपण** में होंगे।
- When you measure one, it will collapse into one particular state — and so will the other entangled particle.
जब आप एक का मापन करते हैं, तो वह एक विशिष्ट अवस्था में सिमट जाएगा — और दूसरा उलझा हुआ कण भी ऐसा ही करेगा।
- This 'final' state is the new information.
यह 'अंतिम' अवस्था ही नई सूचना होती है।
- Because this information is born at the exact instant of measurement, it is impossible for anyone to have known the outcome in advance.
चूँकि यह सूचना मापन के ठीक उसी क्षण उत्पन्न होती है, इसलिए किसी के लिए भी परिणाम को पहले से जानना असंभव है।
- In the work, the team used this information as an additional source of **randomness**.
इस कार्य में, टीम ने इस सूचना का उपयोग **यादृच्छिकता** के अतिरिक्त स्रोत के रूप में किया।

Quantum advantage

क्वांटम लाभ

- In their experiment, the team members entangled two particles, then placed them **30 m apart**.
अपने प्रयोग में, टीम के सदस्यों ने दो कणों को उलझाया और फिर उन्हें **30 मीटर की दूरी** पर रखा।
- This distance made sure the particles could not 'cheat' by communicating their 'final' states to each other at the **speed of light**.
इस दूरी ने सुनिश्चित किया कि कण **प्रकाश की गति** से अपनी 'अंतिम' अवस्थाओं का आदान-प्रदान करके 'धोखा' न दे सकें।
- Next, they used **random biased bits** to decide how to measure each particle.
इसके बाद, उन्होंने प्रत्येक कण का मापन कैसे किया जाए, यह निर्धारित करने के लिए **यादृच्छिक पक्षपाती बिट्स** का उपयोग किया।
- Then, with the measurement outcomes, they calculated the **Bell violation score** — a measure of how strongly the particles were entangled, and thus how clueless the universe might have been about the measurement outcomes.
फिर, मापन के परिणामों की सहायता से उन्होंने **बेल उल्लंघन स्कोर** की गणना की — यह इस बात का माप है कि कण कितनी दृढ़ता से उलझे हुए थे और इस प्रकार मापन परिणामों के बारे में ब्रह्मांड कितना अनभिज्ञ रहा होगा।
- "It is a clean instance of **quantum advantage**: a task quantum physics performs that classical physics provably cannot," Marin Ivezic, founder of research-driven consulting firm Applied Quantum, wrote on his site.
"यह **क्वांटम लाभ** का एक स्पष्ट उदाहरण है: ऐसा कार्य जिसे क्वांटम भौतिकी कर सकती है जबकि शास्त्रीय



भौतिकी सिद्ध रूप से नहीं कर सकती," शोध-आधारित परामर्श संस्था के संस्थापक मेरिन इवेज़िक ने अपनी वेबसाइट पर लिखा।

- However, the highest score quantum physics allows is **2.82**.
हालाँकि, क्वांटम भौतिकी द्वारा अनुमत उच्चतम स्कोर **2.82** है।
- And the closer an experiment gets to this value, the stronger the evidence that the particles are behaving according to quantum physics alone rather than also being influenced by bias. और कोई प्रयोग जितना अधिक इस मान के निकट पहुँचता है, उतना ही प्रबल प्रमाण मिलता है कि कण केवल क्वांटम भौतिकी के अनुसार व्यवहार कर रहे हैं, न कि किसी पक्षपात से प्रभावित होकर।
- In a lab, stray heat, microscopic timing errors, and other subtle factors can create noise that biases the particles in small ways.
प्रयोगशाला में, अतिरिक्त ऊष्मा, सूक्ष्म समयगत त्रुटियाँ और अन्य सूक्ष्म कारक ऐसा शोर उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं जो कणों को थोड़े स्तर पर पक्षपाती बना देता है।
- And an attacker who understands the specific noise in a setup might notice that when the system glitches, it tends to produce a '1' more often than a '0', and use that to their advantage.
और कोई आक्रमणकारी जो किसी व्यवस्था के विशिष्ट शोर को समझता हो, यह देख सकता है कि जब प्रणाली में त्रुटि आती है तो वह '0' की अपेक्षा '1' अधिक उत्पन्न करती है, और वह इसका लाभ उठा सकता है।
- The researchers now had two resources: the original **random biased bits** and the new outcomes from the **Bell test**.
अब शोधकर्ताओं के पास दो संसाधन थे: मूल **यादृच्छिक पक्षपाती बिट्स** और **बेल परीक्षण** से प्राप्त नए परिणाम।
- They combined both using a mathematical tool called a **two-source extractor**.
उन्होंने दोनों को **द्वि-स्रोत निष्कर्षक** नामक गणितीय उपकरण की सहायता से संयोजित किया।
- Its purpose is to blend two independent strings of data.
इसका उद्देश्य आँकड़ों की दो स्वतंत्र श्रृंखलाओं को मिलाना है।
- Independent means knowing anything about String 1 must reveal nothing about String 2, and vice versa.
स्वतंत्रता का अर्थ है कि पहली श्रृंखला के बारे में कोई भी जानकारी दूसरी श्रृंखला के बारे में कुछ भी प्रकट न करे, और इसके विपरीत भी यही सत्य हो।
- "The resulting sequence of zeros and ones is now really perfectly random, and we can even certify that," Prof. Renner, a professor at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at ETH Zürich, said in the note.
"शून्य और एक की परिणामी श्रृंखला अब वास्तव में पूर्णतः यादृच्छिक है, और हम इसका प्रमाण भी दे सकते हैं," सैद्धांतिक भौतिकी संस्थान के प्रोफेसर रेनर ने टिप्पणी में कहा।
- The certificate is the **Bell test score**.
यह प्रमाणपत्र **बेल परीक्षण स्कोर** है।
- "The technical improvements allowed us, for the first time, to create random numbers that will remain perfectly random for all eternity — no matter what analytical methods are used to assess their randomness," Prof. Renner added.
"तकनीकी सुधारों ने हमें पहली बार ऐसी यादृच्छिक संख्याएँ उत्पन्न करने में सक्षम बनाया है जो अनंत काल तक पूर्णतः यादृच्छिक बनी रहेंगी — चाहे उनकी यादृच्छिकता का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए कोई भी विश्लेषणात्मक विधि क्यों न अपनाई जाए," प्रोफेसर रेनर ने आगे कहा।
- The team also said their protocol to generate purely random numbers is **device-independent** — a gold standard in security that means even if you don't trust the person who built the hardware, even if you don't fully understand how the machine works, you can trust the output to be random.
टीम ने यह भी कहा कि पूर्णतः यादृच्छिक संख्याएँ उत्पन्न करने की उनकी प्रक्रिया **उपकरण-स्वतंत्र** है — जो सुरक्षा का स्वर्ण मानक है। इसका अर्थ है कि यदि आप हार्डवेयर बनाने वाले व्यक्ति पर विश्वास नहीं करते हों,

या मशीन की कार्यप्रणाली को पूरी तरह न समझते हों, तब भी आप उसके आउटपुट के यादृच्छिक होने पर भरोसा कर सकते हैं।

- In physics, it is mathematically impossible for a classical theory to score higher than 2 on a Bell test.
भौतिकी में, किसी शास्त्रीय सिद्धांत के लिए बेल परीक्षण में 2 से अधिक स्कोर प्राप्त करना गणितीय रूप से असंभव है।

New mustard hybrids need diverse farming plans

GS III: S&T

In the 2026-27 rabi sowing season, from October to April, Indian farmers are set to begin the wide-scale cultivation of imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids. These hybrids are designed to overcome a parasitic weed called Orobanche, a major hurdle in oilseed production.

India has long grappled with an edible oils deficit. In 2024-25, the country imported around 16 million tonnes at about ₹1.6 lakh crore. Mustard is the most vital oilseed crop to meet this demand, especially in the arid environments of North India. However, its yields have been suppressed throughout the year by Orobanche, a destructive root parasite that attaches to the mustard plant and drains it of water and nutrients. (It has more recently been called Phelipanche.)

The new IMI-resistant hybrids are a technological solution to this problem. Unlike genetically modified (GM) crops, these hybrids were developed in a process called mutation breeding – where scientists breed crops to preserve certain natural mutations. The process is based on an enzyme called acetolactate synthase (ALS), which is essential for plant growth. Normal mustard plants are killed by IMI herbicides because the herbicides inhibit ALS.

In the new IMI-resistant hybrids, a single change in the plant's DNA rendered the ALS enzyme resistant to the

herbicide, freeing farmers to spray IMI herbicides directly over the field, killing only the weeds. This strategy is particularly effective against Orobanche because, as the herbicide moves through the soil and the plant, it strikes the parasite where manual weeding can't reach.

Farmers have welcomed these hybrids because they don't increase the demand for labour exactly when it might be unavailable, especially in the narrow window when weeding is necessary, and the research community because it protects oilseeds.

However, some experts have urged caution over their long-term use. In a commentary recently published in the journal *Current Science*, Deepak Pental, a leading geneticist at the University of Delhi, acknowledged the immediate benefits but also said the technology must be managed with care to prevent the weeds from evolving their own resistance.

Prof. Pental explained that if farmers rely on only one type of herbicide year after year, the "strong directional selection" will lead to "the emergence of resistant or less susceptible weed populations, the erosion of herbicide efficacy, and ultimately the strategic failure of the production system built around that chemistry".

To that end, he wrote that the introduction of these new crops should not be viewed as a simple trade-off, where chemicals merely replace manual labour, but as a "challenge" that requires a variety of weed-control methods. Specifically, for the technology to remain viable for more than a few years, it must be part of a broader, more diverse farming strategy that includes rotating crops, using different types of herbicides with various modes of action, and continuing to use manual weeding to remove any weeds that survive the chemical spray. "A single herbicide mode of action cannot be the foundation of a sustainable weed management strategy in any agriculture," Prof. Pental wrote.

As India rolls out IMI-resistant mustard this season, the new challenge for the agricultural enterprise will be to ensure these powerful new tools become part of a "durable, and evolutionarily informed" programme rather than a quick fix.

- Mustard is the most vital oilseed crop to meet this demand, especially in the arid environments of North India.

इस मांग को पूरा करने के लिए सरसों सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तिलहन फसल है, विशेषकर उत्तर भारत के शुष्क क्षेत्रों में।

- However, its yields have been suppressed throughout the year by **Orobanche**, a destructive root parasite that attaches to the mustard plant and drains it of water and nutrients.

09J6. New mustard hybrids need diverse farming plans

नई संकर सरसों किस्मों के लिए विविध कृषि योजनाओं की आवश्यकता है।

- In the 2026-27 rabi sowing season, from October to April, Indian farmers are set to begin the wide-scale cultivation of **imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids**.

वर्ष 2026-27 के रबी बुवाई मौसम में, अक्टूबर से अप्रैल के दौरान, भारतीय किसान इमिडाज़ोलिनोन-प्रतिरोधी सरसों संकरों की व्यापक स्तर पर खेती प्रारम्भ करने वाले हैं।

- These hybrids are designed to overcome a parasitic weed called **Orobanche**, a major hurdle in oilseed production.

इन संकरों को ओरोबैंची नामक परजीवी खरपतवार से निपटने के लिए विकसित किया गया है, जो तिलहन उत्पादन में एक प्रमुख बाधा है।

- India has long grappled with an **edible oils deficit**.

भारत लंबे समय से खाद्य तेलों की कमी की समस्या से जूझ रहा है।

- In 2024-25, the country imported around **16 million tonnes** at about **₹1.6 lakh crore**.

वर्ष 2024-25 में देश ने लगभग **1.6 करोड़**

टन खाद्य तेल का आयात लगभग **1.6 लाख करोड़ रुपये** की लागत से किया।



हालाँकि, इसकी उपज पूरे वर्ष ओरोबैंकी नामक विनाशकारी जड़-परजीवी द्वारा प्रभावित होती रही है, जो सरसों के पौधे से चिपककर उसका जल और पोषक तत्व चूस लेता है।

- (It has more recently been called **Phelipanche**.)
(हाल के वर्षों में इसे फेलिपैंकी भी कहा जाने लगा है।)
- The new **IMI-resistant hybrids** are a technological solution to this problem.
नए आईएमआई-प्रतिरोधी संकर इस समस्या का एक तकनीकी समाधान हैं।
- Unlike **genetically modified crops**, these hybrids were developed in a process called **mutation breeding** — where scientists breed crops to preserve certain natural mutations.
आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित फसलों के विपरीत, इन संकरों को उत्परिवर्तन प्रजनन नामक प्रक्रिया द्वारा विकसित किया गया है, जिसमें वैज्ञानिक कुछ प्राकृतिक उत्परिवर्तनों को संरक्षित रखते हुए फसलों का प्रजनन करते हैं।
- The process is based on an enzyme called **acetolactate synthase (ALS)**, which is essential for plant growth.
यह प्रक्रिया एसीटोलैक्टेट सिंथेज़ नामक एंजाइम पर आधारित है, जो पौधों की वृद्धि के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक है।
- Normal mustard plants are killed by **IMI herbicides** because the herbicides inhibit ALS.
सामान्य सरसों के पौधे आईएमआई शाकनाशियों से नष्ट हो जाते हैं क्योंकि ये शाकनाशी एसीटोलैक्टेट सिंथेज़ की क्रिया को रोक देते हैं।
- In the new **IMI-resistant hybrids**, a single change in the plant's DNA rendered the ALS enzyme resistant to the herbicide, freeing farmers to spray IMI herbicides directly over the field, killing only the weeds.
नए आईएमआई-प्रतिरोधी संकरों में पौधे के डीएनए में एक परिवर्तन ने एसीटोलैक्टेट सिंथेज़ एंजाइम को शाकनाशी के प्रति प्रतिरोधी बना दिया है, जिससे किसान खेत में सीधे आईएमआई शाकनाशी का छिड़काव कर सकते हैं और केवल खरपतवार नष्ट होते हैं।
- This strategy is particularly effective against **Orobanche** because, as the herbicide moves through the soil and the plant, it strikes the parasite where manual weeding can't reach.
यह रणनीति विशेष रूप से ओरोबैंकी के विरुद्ध प्रभावी है क्योंकि शाकनाशी मिट्टी और पौधे के भीतर संचरित होकर उस परजीवी तक पहुँचता है जहाँ हाथ से निराई संभव नहीं होती।
- In a commentary recently published in the journal **Current Science**, **Deepak Pental**, a leading geneticist at the University of Delhi, acknowledged the immediate benefits but also said the technology must be managed with care to prevent the weeds from evolving their own resistance.
हाल ही में पत्रिका **करेंट साइंस** में प्रकाशित एक टिप्पणी में दीपक पेंटल, जो दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के एक प्रमुख आनुवंशिकीविद् हैं, ने इसके तात्कालिक लाभों को स्वीकार किया, किंतु यह भी कहा कि खरपतवारों में प्रतिरोधक क्षमता विकसित होने से रोकने के लिए इस तकनीक का सावधानीपूर्वक प्रबंधन आवश्यक है।
- Prof. Pental explained that if farmers rely on only one type of herbicide year after year, the **strong directional selection** will lead to the emergence of resistant or less susceptible weed populations, the erosion of herbicide efficacy, and ultimately the strategic failure of the production system built around that chemistry.
प्रोफेसर पेंटल ने स्पष्ट किया कि यदि किसान वर्ष दर वर्ष केवल एक प्रकार के शाकनाशी पर निर्भर रहेंगे, तो प्रबल दिशात्मक चयन के कारण प्रतिरोधी अथवा कम संवेदनशील खरपतवार आबादियाँ विकसित होंगी, शाकनाशी की प्रभावशीलता घटेगी और अंततः उस रासायनिक व्यवस्था पर आधारित उत्पादन प्रणाली विफल हो जाएगी।
- Specifically, for the technology to remain viable for more than a few years, it must be part of a broader, more diverse farming strategy that includes rotating crops, using different types of herbicides with various modes of action, and continuing to use manual weeding to remove any weeds that survive the chemical spray.
विशेष रूप से, यदि इस तकनीक को कुछ वर्षों से अधिक समय तक प्रभावी बनाए रखना है, तो इसे एक व्यापक

और विविध कृषि रणनीति का हिस्सा बनाना होगा, जिसमें फसल चक्र अपनाना, विभिन्न कार्यविधियों वाले अलग-अलग शाकनाशियों का उपयोग करना तथा रासायनिक छिड़काव से बच जाने वाले खरपतवारों को हाथ से हटाना शामिल हो।

- "A single herbicide mode of action cannot be the foundation of a sustainable weed management strategy in any agriculture," Prof. Pental wrote.
"किसी भी कृषि प्रणाली में एकमात्र शाकनाशी कार्यविधि टिकाऊ खरपतवार प्रबंधन रणनीति का आधार नहीं बन सकती," प्रोफेसर पेंटल ने लिखा।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09J6	India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025, says SIPRI	
	सिप्री (SIPRI) के अनुसार, भारत ने 2025 में अपने परमाणु शस्त्रागार का विस्तार किया	
09J6	Nicobar project will enhance maritime security: officials	
	अधिकारियों के अनुसार, निकोबार परियोजना समुद्री सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करेगी	

India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025, says SIPRI

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India is estimated to have modestly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025 and continued developing new nuclear delivery systems, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026 released on Monday.

The report estimated that India's nuclear stockpile had increased to around 190 warheads by early 2026. The country had around 180 such warheads in 2025.

SIPRI noted that New Delhi's ongoing nuclear modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing longer-range weapons capable of reaching targets across China, while continuing to address security concerns arising from its long-standing rivalry with Pakistan.

The annual assessment of global armaments, disarmament and international security also highlighted the May 2025 India-Pakistan military confrontation, describing

The report estimates India's military expenditure at \$92.1 billion, an increase of 8.9% from last year

Operation Sindoor as an "unusually severe military crisis" between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

According to SIPRI, India carried out strikes during the conflict against Pakistani air and missile bases that were likely to have nuclear-related roles. However, the institute observed that both countries took measures to prevent further escalation despite heightened tensions.

The report further noted that India and Pakistan integrated cyberoperations into active military conflict for the first time during the crisis, underscoring the evolving nature of modern warfare and deterrence in South Asia.

Beyond the nuclear domain, India retained its position as the world's fifth-largest military spender in 2025. SIPRI estimated India's military expenditure

at \$92.1 billion, an increase of 8.9% over the previous year. The country ranked behind only the United States, China, Russia and Germany in defence spending.

India also remained the world's second-largest importer of major arms during the 2021-25 period, accounting for 8.2% of global arms imports. SIPRI identified Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan as the five largest arms importers, collectively accounting for 35% of global imports during the period.

Modernising arsenals

The report said all nine nuclear-armed states – the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel – continued to modernise their arsenals and increasingly relied on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power. Globally, the nine countries possessed an estimated 12,187 nuclear warheads at the start of 2026, of which around 9,745 were held in military stockpiles for potential use.

09J6. India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025, says SIPRI

सिप्री (SIPRI) के अनुसार, भारत ने 2025 में अपने परमाणु शस्त्रागार का विस्तार किया

- India is estimated to have modestly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025 and continued developing new nuclear delivery systems, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026 released on Monday.

सोमवार को जारी स्टॉकहोम अंतरराष्ट्रीय शांति अनुसंधान संस्थान (सिप्री)

वर्षपुस्तिका 2026 के अनुसार, भारत ने वर्ष 2025 में अपने परमाणु शस्त्रागार का सीमित विस्तार किया तथा नए परमाणु प्रक्षेपण प्रणालियों के विकास को जारी रखा।

- The report estimated that India's nuclear stockpile had increased to around 190 warheads by early 2026. रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वर्ष 2026 की शुरुआत तक भारत के परमाणु भंडार में लगभग 190 परमाणु वारहेड हो गए थे।

- The country had around **180 warheads** in 2025.
वर्ष 2025 में भारत के पास लगभग **180 परमाणु वारहेड** थे।
- SIPRI noted that **New Delhi's ongoing nuclear modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing longer-range weapons capable of reaching targets across China**, while continuing to address security concerns arising from its long-standing rivalry with Pakistan.
सिप्री ने उल्लेख किया कि नई दिल्ली का जारी **परमाणु आधुनिकीकरण कार्यक्रम** अब ऐसे लंबी दूरी के हथियारों के विकास पर अधिक केंद्रित है जो चीन के विभिन्न लक्ष्यों तक पहुँच सकें, जबकि पाकिस्तान के साथ दीर्घकालिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता से उत्पन्न सुरक्षा चिंताओं का समाधान भी जारी है।
- Beyond the nuclear domain, **India retained its position as the world's fifth-largest military spender in 2025**.
परमाणु क्षेत्र से परे, भारत ने वर्ष 2025 में **विश्व के पाँचवें सबसे बड़े रक्षा व्यय करने वाले देश** के रूप में अपनी स्थिति बनाए रखी।
- SIPRI estimated India's military expenditure at **92.1 billion अमेरिकी डॉलर**, an increase of **8.9% over the previous year**.
सिप्री ने भारत का रक्षा व्यय **92.1 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर** आँका, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में **8.9 प्रतिशत** अधिक है।
- The country ranked behind only the **United States, China, Russia and Germany** in defence spending.
रक्षा व्यय के मामले में भारत केवल **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, चीन, रूस और जर्मनी** से पीछे रहा।
- India also remained the **world's second-largest importer of major arms during the 2021-25 period**, accounting for **8.2% of global arms imports**.
भारत **2021-25** की अवधि में **विश्व का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा प्रमुख हथियार आयातक** भी बना रहा, जिसकी वैश्विक हथियार आयात में **8.2 प्रतिशत** हिस्सेदारी रही।
- SIPRI identified **Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan** as the five largest arms importers, collectively accounting for **35% of global imports** during the period.
सिप्री ने **यूक्रेन, भारत, सऊदी अरब, कतर और पाकिस्तान** को पाँच सबसे बड़े हथियार आयातकों के रूप में चिन्हित किया, जिनकी संयुक्त हिस्सेदारी इस अवधि में वैश्विक आयात का **35 प्रतिशत** रही।

Modernising arsenals

परमाणु शस्त्रागारों का आधुनिकीकरण

- The report said all **nine nuclear-armed states — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel** — continued to modernise their arsenals and increasingly relied on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power.
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, सभी नौ परमाणु-सशस्त्र राष्ट्र — **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, रूस, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, फ्रांस, चीन, भारत, पाकिस्तान, उत्तर कोरिया और इज़राइल** — अपने शस्त्रागारों का आधुनिकीकरण जारी रखे हुए हैं तथा राष्ट्रीय शक्ति के साधन के रूप में परमाणु हथियारों पर उनकी निर्भरता बढ़ रही है।
- Globally, the nine countries possessed an estimated **12,187 nuclear warheads** at the start of 2026.
वैश्विक स्तर पर वर्ष 2026 की शुरुआत में इन नौ देशों के पास अनुमानतः **12,187 परमाणु वारहेड** मौजूद थे।



- Of these, around **9,745 warheads** were held in military stockpiles for potential use.
इनमें से लगभग 9,745 परमाणु वारहेड संभावित उपयोग के लिए सैन्य भंडारों में रखे गए थे।

Nicobar project will enhance maritime security: officials

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Under the Great Nicobar Island Development Project, India plans to invest around **₹13,000 crore** to build a **dual-use airport and runway** for both civilian and Navy operations, said a senior official with the Ministry of Defence on Monday.

According to sources in the Ministry, the project, expected to be completed within five years, will be jointly funded by the Ministry along with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The government views the initiative as a strategic investment aimed at strengthening maritime security, boosting regional connect-

tivity and enhancing India's presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Four components

Elaborating about the project, the official said the project comprises four major components – an **International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP)**, a **joint-user greenfield airport and Naval Air Station**, a **modern township**, and a **power plant**. Together, these projects are expected to transform Great Nicobar into a key maritime and economic hub while enhancing India's defence capabilities in the strategically significant **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Located just 40 km from the Six Degree Channel,



The project comprises a port, airport, and power plant. AFP

one of the world's busiest sea trade routes connecting the Gulf of Aden and the Malacca Strait, Great Nicobar occupies a critical position along global shipping lanes. Government officials said the project

would reduce India's dependence on foreign transshipment ports and strengthen its ability to monitor and secure vital Sea Lanes of Communication.

The proposed greenfield airport, approved by the Union Cabinet and to be operated by the Indian Navy, is expected to significantly improve maritime domain awareness, logistics support, and rapid deployment capabilities. The airport is also expected to promote tourism, officials said. It is understood that five sites, including INS Baaz at Campbell Bay, were assessed before Galathea Bay was selected for the airport. Technical constraints, limited expansion possibilities, and environ-

mental concerns reportedly made the expansion of INS Baaz unviable.

Extensive studies

Addressing concerns over environmental impact and tribal rights, officials said the project has undergone extensive environmental assessments involving institutions such as the Zoological Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India and the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History. Of the island's total area, only 166.1 square kilometres have been earmarked for development, while more than 81% will continue to remain under forests, biosphere reserves, national parks and tribal conservation zones.

A dedicated conservation package worth ₹2,220 crore over 30 years has been planned to protect wildlife, including leather-back turtles, Nicobar megapodes and crocodiles, as well as coral reefs and mangrove ecosystems. The official confirmed that that no physical displacement of tribal communities is proposed and that consultations were conducted with tribal welfare authorities and representative bodies.

Besides strategic gains, the project is expected to generate over one lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, providing a significant economic boost to the island region.

09J6. Nicobar project will enhance maritime security: officials

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, निकोबार परियोजना समुद्री सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करेगी

- Great Nicobar Island Development Project: Strategic airport and maritime hub planned**
ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना: सामरिक हवाई अड्डा और समुद्री केंद्र की योजना
- Under the **Great Nicobar Island Development Project**, India plans to invest around **₹13,000 crore** to build a **dual-use airport and runway** for both civilian and Navy operations, said a senior official with the **Ministry of Defence** on Monday.
ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना के अंतर्गत भारत नागरिक और नौसेना दोनों प्रकार के संचालन हेतु द्वि-उपयोगी हवाई अड्डा और रनवे के निर्माण के लिए लगभग 13,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करने की योजना बना रहा है, यह जानकारी सोमवार को रक्षा मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने दी।
- According to sources in the Ministry, the project, expected to be completed within **five years**, will be jointly funded by the Ministry along with the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह परियोजना, जिसके पाँच वर्षों में पूर्ण होने की अपेक्षा है, रक्षा मंत्रालय तथा नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से वित्तपोषित की जाएगी।
- The government views the initiative as a strategic investment aimed at strengthening **maritime security**, boosting regional connectivity and enhancing India's presence in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
सरकार इस पहल को समुद्री सुरक्षा सुदृढ़ करने, क्षेत्रीय संपर्क बढ़ाने तथा हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत की उपस्थिति को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से एक सामरिक निवेश के रूप में देखती है।

Four components

चार प्रमुख घटक

- Elaborating about the project, the official said the project comprises **four major components** — an **International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP)**, a **joint-user greenfield airport and Naval Air Station**, a **modern township**, and a **power plant**.
परियोजना के बारे में विस्तार से बताते हुए अधिकारी ने कहा कि इसमें चार प्रमुख घटक शामिल हैं — एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंटेनर ट्रांसशिपमेंट बंदरगाह, एक संयुक्त उपयोग वाला ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डा एवं नौसैनिक वायु स्टेशन, एक आधुनिक टाउनशिप तथा एक विद्युत संयंत्र।
- Together, these projects are expected to transform **Great Nicobar** into a key maritime and economic hub while enhancing India's defence capabilities in the strategically significant



Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

इन सभी परियोजनाओं के संयुक्त प्रभाव से ग्रेट निकोबार को एक महत्वपूर्ण समुद्री एवं आर्थिक केंद्र में परिवर्तित करने तथा सामरिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में भारत की रक्षा क्षमताओं को सुदृढ़ करने की अपेक्षा है।

- Located just **40 km from the Six Degree Channel**, one of the world's busiest sea trade routes connecting the **Gulf of Aden** and the **Malacca Strait**, Great Nicobar occupies a critical position along global shipping lanes.

सिक्स डिग्री चैनल से मात्र **40 किलोमीटर** की दूरी पर स्थित ग्रेट निकोबार, जो **अदन की खाड़ी** और **मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य** को जोड़ने वाले विश्व के सबसे व्यस्त समुद्री व्यापार मार्गों में से एक है, वैश्विक नौवहन मार्गों पर अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है।

- Government officials said the project would reduce India's dependence on foreign transshipment ports and strengthen its ability to monitor and secure vital **Sea Lanes of Communication**.

सरकारी अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह परियोजना विदेशी ट्रांसशिपमेंट बंदरगाहों पर भारत की निर्भरता कम करेगी तथा महत्वपूर्ण **समुद्री संचार मार्गों** की निगरानी और सुरक्षा क्षमता को सुदृढ़ करेगी।

- The proposed **greenfield airport**, approved by the **Union Cabinet** and to be operated by the **Indian Navy**, is expected to significantly improve maritime domain awareness, logistics support, and rapid deployment capabilities.

प्रस्तावित **ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डा**, जिसे **केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल** की स्वीकृति प्राप्त है और जिसका संचालन **भारतीय नौसेना** द्वारा किया जाएगा, समुद्री क्षेत्रीय जागरूकता, रसद सहायता तथा त्वरित तैनाती क्षमताओं में उल्लेखनीय सुधार लाने की अपेक्षा रखता है।

- The airport is also expected to promote tourism, officials said. अधिकारियों के अनुसार, यह हवाई अड्डा पर्यटन को भी बढ़ावा देगा।
- It is understood that **five sites**, including **INS Baaz at Campbell Bay**, were assessed before **Galathea Bay** was selected for the airport. यह जानकारी मिली है कि हवाई अड्डे के लिए **गैलेथिया खाड़ी** का चयन करने से पहले **कैम्पबेल बे** स्थित **आईएनएस बाज़** सहित **पाँच स्थलों** का मूल्यांकन किया गया था।

- Technical constraints, limited expansion possibilities, and environmental concerns reportedly made the expansion of **INS Baaz** unviable.

तकनीकी सीमाएँ, विस्तार की सीमित संभावनाएँ तथा पर्यावरणीय चिंताओं के कारण **आईएनएस बाज़** का विस्तार व्यवहार्य नहीं माना गया।

Extensive studies

व्यापक अध्ययन

- Addressing concerns over environmental impact and tribal rights, officials said the project has undergone extensive environmental assessments involving institutions such as the **Zoological Survey of India**, **Wildlife Institute of India** and the **Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History**.

पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव और जनजातीय अधिकारों से संबंधित चिंताओं पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इस परियोजना का व्यापक पर्यावरणीय मूल्यांकन किया गया है, जिसमें **भारतीय प्राणी सर्वेक्षण**, **भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान** तथा **सलीम अली पक्षिविज्ञान एवं प्राकृतिक इतिहास केंद्र** जैसी संस्थाएँ शामिल थीं।

- Of the island's total area, only **166.1 square kilometres** have been earmarked for development, while more than **81%** will continue to remain under forests, biosphere reserves, national parks and tribal conservation zones.

द्वीप के कुल क्षेत्रफल में से केवल **166.1 वर्ग किलोमीटर** क्षेत्र विकास के लिए निर्धारित किया गया है, जबकि **81 प्रतिशत से अधिक** क्षेत्र वन, जैवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र, राष्ट्रीय उद्यान और जनजातीय संरक्षण क्षेत्रों के अंतर्गत बना रहेगा।



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



- A dedicated conservation package worth **₹2,220 crore** over **30 years** has been planned to protect wildlife, including **leatherback turtles**, **Nicobar megapodes** and **crocodiles**, as well as coral reefs and mangrove ecosystems.
30 वर्षों की अवधि के लिए **2,220 करोड़ रुपये** का एक विशेष संरक्षण पैकेज तैयार किया गया है, जिसका उद्देश्य **लेदरबैक कछुओं**, **निकोबार मेगापोड**, **मगरमच्छों**, **प्रवाल भित्तियों** तथा **मैंग्रोव पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों** का संरक्षण करना है।

PATRIOTIC IAS