



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



PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

12 JUNE 2026

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

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

PCS Special:		12 June 2026
12J6	U.S. attacks third ship with Indian seafarers, crew safe भारतीय नाविकों वाले तीसरे जहाज़ पर अमेरिकी हमला, चालक दल सुरक्षित	
12J6	In a historic move, Colombia vows to ban female genital mutilation ऐतिहासिक कदम में, कोलंबिया ने महिला जननांग विकृति पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का संकल्प लिया	
12J6	Bangladesh wins maiden ODI series against Australia बांग्लादेश ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ पहली बार ODI श्रृंखला जीती	

Opening salvo



Celebration begins: Mexico's Julian Quinones, second from left, scores the first goal of the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the inaugural match against South Africa at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City on Thursday. REUTERS (RELATED REPORTS: PAGE 16, 17)

Celebration begins: **Mexico's Julian Quinones**, second from left, scores the first goal of the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the inaugural match against South Africa at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City on Thursday. REUTERS (RELATED REPORTS: PAGE 16, 17)

U.S. attacks third ship with Indian seafarers, crew safe

External Affairs Ministry says 'deeply worried' by attacks but blames conflict in the region; U.S. Centcom says missiles were fired into *Jalveer's* engine room as directions were not complied with

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

U.S. forces attacked a merchant ship carrying Indian seafarers for the third time in four days. Thursday's attack was on **Guinea-Bissau** flagged bitumen carrier *Jalveer* off the port of Shinas, Oman.

The vessel had 20 Indian seafarers, and they were safe, said Mukesh Mangal, Additional Secretary of the Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry. "As per the latest information, evacuation [of crew] to Shinas port has commenced," Mr. Mangal said at an inter-ministerial briefing on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the External Affairs Ministry had summoned the U.S. Chargé d'affaires Jason Meeks and lodged a "strong protest" regarding the attacks.

On Thursday, the Ministry, while emphasising that the "attacks came from the U.S. Navy stationed there", described the strikes as "deeply worrisome" but blamed them on the ongoing conflict between U.S.-Israel and Iran in the re-



The commercial vessel *Jalveer* attacked off the coast of Oman on Thursday. FORWARD SEAMEN'S UNION OF INDIA/ANI

gion. U.S. Centcom has said in a statement that two Hellfire missiles were fired into *Jalveer's* engine room after the "crew repeatedly failed to comply with directions from U.S. forces". The ship was attacked for "attempting to transport Iranian oil."

Jalveer's safety manager is an Indian company located in Chembur, Mumbai, as per the Equasis database.

U.S. aircraft attacked Palau-flagged tankers *Mari-vex* and *Settebello* on Monday and Wednesday, respectively. Three Indian seafarers on *Settebello* died

in the attack, which the Indian government confirmed on Thursday.

The three attacks have targeted the engine rooms of the ships and sometimes the steering compartment but above the waterline. This would render the ship without the means to move or manoeuvre but not sink it. The Directorate General of Shipping had issued an advisory mid-February asking seafarer recruiters and shipowners not to deploy seafarers on ships calling on Iranian ports. An official source said the crew onboard the three vessels had joined before

the advisory was issued.

Family members of seafarer Aditya Sharma (23), a deck cadet on *Settebello* who was among the dead, urged the government of Himachal Pradesh, where they live, and the Centre to get his body back to the native Galore village in Hamirpur so that his last rites could be performed. Sharma was planning to visit home in May but decided to extend his stay at the vessel for a month, they said.

The official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry Randhir Jaiswal said efforts are under way to bring back the mortal remains of the dead.

Condemning the attacks, the Congress said in a statement that PM Narendra Modi had "repeatedly showcased his personal rapport with President Donald Trump as a diplomatic achievement" and that Mr. Modi should "not evade responsibility when that relationship fails to protect Indian lives and interests."

(Inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee, M. Kalyanaraman and PTI)

12J6. U.S. attacks third ship with Indian seafarers, crew safe

भारतीय नाविकों वाले तीसरे जहाज़

पर अमेरिकी हमला, चालक दल

सुरक्षित

- Thursday's attack was on **Guinea-Bissau**-flagged bitumen carrier *Jalveer* off the port of **Shinas**, **Oman**.

गुरुवार का हमला गिनी-बिसाऊ ध्वजधारी बिटुमेन वाहक पोत जलवीर पर किया गया, जो ओमान के शिनास बंदरगाह के निकट था।

12J6. In a historic move, Colombia vows to ban female genital mutilation

ऐतिहासिक कदम में, कोलंबिया ने महिला जननांग विकृति पर प्रतिबंध

In a historic move, Colombia vows to ban female genital mutilation



AFP

PCS

Colombia's Senate approved a law on Wednesday to ban female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice that persists in some of the country's Indigenous communities, after two years of debate. If approved by leftist President Gustavo Petro, Colombia will become the first country in Latin America to pass such legislation. AFP

लगाने का संकल्प लिया

- **Colombia's Senate** approved a law on Wednesday to ban **female genital mutilation (FGM)**, a practice that persists in some of the country's **Indigenous communities**, after **two years of debate**.

कोलंबिया की सीनेट ने बुधवार को महिला जननांग विकृति (FGM) पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाले कानून को मंजूरी दी, जो दो वर्षों की बहस के बाद पारित हुआ। यह प्रथा देश के कुछ स्वदेशी समुदायों में अब भी जारी है।



Bangladesh wins maiden ODI series against Australia

PCS

Towhid Hridoy hit an unbeaten 40 as Bangladesh won the second One-Day International by five wickets on Thursday to seal its first-ever series win against Australia in the 50-over format.

Chasing a DLS revised victory target of 192 in 41 overs in a rain-hit match, Bangladesh eased home with 36 balls to spare to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Australia posted 187 for eight in 42 overs with its innings cut short and ended by rain after Marnus Labuschagne, who made an unbeaten 55, and Xavier Bartlett, who hit 52, rescued the visitor from 0-3. Opening bowlers Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed took three wickets each. The victory extended Bangladesh's winning streak to five consecutive home ODI series, following triumphs over Sri Lanka, West Indies, Pakistan and New Zealand.

The scores: Australia 187/8 in 42 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 55 n.o., Xavier Bartlett 52, Taskin Ahmed 3/33, Mustafizur Rahman 3/27) lost to Bangladesh 195/5 in 35 overs (Soumya Sarkar 42, Najmul Hossain Shanto 42, Towhid Hridoy 40 n.o.).
Target: 192 in 41 overs; Bangladesh won by DLS method.

12J6. Bangladesh wins maiden ODI series against Australia

बांग्लादेश ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ पहली बार ODI श्रृंखला जीती

Towhid Hridoy hit an unbeaten 40 as Bangladesh won the second One-Day International (ODI) by five wickets on Thursday to seal its first-ever series win against Australia in the 50-over format.

तौहिद ह्रिदोय ने नाबाद 40 रन बनाए, जिससे बांग्लादेश ने गुरुवार को दूसरा एकदिवसीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय (ODI) मैच पांच विकेट से जीतकर ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ 50 ओवर प्रारूप में अपनी पहली श्रृंखला जीत दर्ज की।

Chasing a DLS revised victory target of 192 in 41 overs in a rain-hit match, Bangladesh eased home with 36 balls to spare to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

बारिश से प्रभावित मैच में DLS संशोधित लक्ष्य 192 रन का 41 ओवरों में पीछा करते हुए बांग्लादेश ने 36 गेंद शेष रहते जीत हासिल कर तीन मैचों की श्रृंखला में अजेय 2-0 की बढ़त बना ली।

GS Paper 1: Society		12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
12J6	Should India incentivise bigger families? क्या भारत को बड़े परिवारों को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए?	



Should India incentivise bigger families?



Aparajita Chattopadhyay
Professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences



Neelanjana Sircar
Political scientist teaching at Ahmedabad University

PARLEY

For decades, Indian policymakers have encouraged population control, with the familiar slogan of 'Hum Do, Humare Do' (We two, our two). However, the recent drop in India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) — the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime — has now dropped to 1.9, below the replacement rate of 2.1, with some southern States seeing their TFR drop to 1.3. Last month, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced cash incentives of ₹30,000 and ₹40,000 to women having their third and fourth child respectively, in a bid to reverse that trend. Several other southern States have indicated that they also see the benefits of boosting population growth, though not through a cash payout. Should India incentivise bigger families? Aparajita Chattopadhyay and Neelanjana Sircar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Priscilla Jebaraj.

Why are policymakers considering a change in the approach to population control?

Aparajita Chattopadhyay: After a long struggle with family planning since independence, our fertility has started declining. There are State-level variations, but overall fertility now is 1.9. It is fine, and India can grow in this way for maybe 40 to 50 years. But reversal of fertility trends cannot be a policy driven thing. It is deeply rooted socio-culturally and is an individualistic choice. You cannot tell a group of women to increase fertility because I am giving you money. It has never happened in that way, even in European or other Asian countries.

The political implications are the immediate trigger for this policy. Is the threat of future parliamentary delimitation a reason to reverse fertility decline?

Neelanjana Sircar: There has been a lot of discussion about the growth rate of southern States as delimitation is on the horizon. But we need to look beyond pure politics because any growth spurred by these incentives is unlikely to help in the short-term. The reality is, there's a delimitation exercise happening in the next couple of years, you're not going to dramatically change the fertility rate by then.

Another reason this is being considered is because of the political economy of States with a working population that may be shrinking. But this is a ham-handed approach. Social and demographic transformations are complex phenomena, and go hand in hand with a certain level of economic development. Historically,



Children playing on the swings near the outskirts of the Amaravati capital region, amid the summer heat, in Andhra Pradesh on May 8. G.N. Rao

with a certain level of social and economic development, the fertility rate drops.

Now, there's a cash incentive at play to encourage people to have more children. For a wealthy family, this incentive is simply not enough to invest in another child. But for a poor family, perhaps it is. Here, you are not just increasing the fertility rate in a State, you are also changing other social attributes in the population, in terms of who is going to be able to respond to such an incentive and who will not. It's not as simple as saying we've created a working age population because you've fundamentally changed the composition of the working age population once you've introduced an economic incentive.

What has been the international experience of attempting to boost population growth?

AC: Incentivisation can help relatively lower income groups, and this has happened in many European countries. For example, in Poland, there was a short-term boost in birth rate only among the lower income demographics. In Sweden and France, tax incentives changed things for a short span, but it was very difficult to sustain that reversal, and the same thing happened with Singapore, Japan, South Korea.

Nowadays, the entire world is going through a poly-crisis shock. There is a lot of instability in geopolitics, the economy, and the climate.

Moreover, there are both altruistic and individualistic attitudes to fertility. The younger generation is quite aspirational. They need their prosperity — a good job and savings. So, you cannot ask them to go and have more children.

Until women confirm that there is security in every possible sense, they will not reverse the fertility rate because there are plenty of tangible and intangible costs for a woman or for the



Social and demographic transformations are complex phenomena, and go hand in hand with economic development. Historically, with a certain level of social and economic development, the fertility rate drops

NEELANJANA SIRCAR

society to have an additional child. So at this juncture, I believe that incentivisation may not work. In India, especially, it is not required because we have a huge population base, so there may not actually be a scarcity of working age labourers if you improve their skills, give them better job opportunities, improve the savings and investment scenario, and promote the silver ageing economy.

Falling fertility rates are an uneven phenomenon. What does this portend for Indian federalism?

NS: Obviously there are some immediate questions about converting populations into political representation through delimitation. But another variable would be that as we see differences in fertility rates, we're also going to see very different demographic profiles of States. And we know that the youth, the middle-aged, and the elderly all vote differently. They're in different stages of life, so they have different economic preferences in terms of what a government should be investing in, for instance, pensions versus manufacturing jobs versus childcare. So we're going to see very different political economy choices.

AC: With regard to Andhra Pradesh, if you look at the recent NFHS statistics, there are a number of areas, instead of cash incentives, where they can spend money in order to get lower middle class people to reproduce more. Almost one in four women aged 20 to 24 got married before turning 18. Only 30% of households have women who own any assets, and only 48% of women work. If Andhra Pradesh thinks that they're demographically advanced and can behave like Europe to reverse fertility trends, then the women in the workforce should be at 80%. In European countries, the motherhood penalty is almost negligible. There is enough parental leave, and workforce participation is very high. So only when your economy and social security is perfect can you think of having a reversal of fertility trends.

What are some key findings of the

Longitudinal Ageing Study in India?

AC: By 2050, 20% or more of the Indian population will be aged 60 and above, so we have to prepare ourselves, especially with regard to healthcare costs. We need tremendous investment in geriatric care, basic primary healthcare, better pension schemes, and better savings schemes. We also need to have communities for elderly living. But we still have a huge population base. Don't mix up the percentage with the number base. We can reduce the working age population so long as we have a very highly skilled population who earn well and will pay for these costs.

If population growth incentives don't work, then lower-fertility rate States may increase their working age population through migration from other States. What is the political fallout of that?

NS: Demographic anxieties have been showing up in one State after another. Even in a poorer State like West Bengal, there are demographic anxieties vis-a-vis Bangladesh. As for why this phenomenon happens, these are labour market vacancies. These are populations which have achieved a certain level of development, and yet the economy requires some people willing to do manual work, at a lower wage, in the sun. This is not a problem that can be solved by simply having more children. It is unlikely that demographic anxieties can be reduced as a function of the economic structure.

Migration is an economic phenomenon that is almost independent of the fertility rate, given what the economic condition of these States might be. The people who are being birthed there are very unlikely to be willing to do those jobs that people coming from north India are doing today in south India. It boggles the mind that somebody is trying to reverse what is a very standard social phenomenon and demographic trend at this stage of development. I understand that there are challenges in Europe where countries are well below replacement rates. But this entire debate is bizarre for the very simple reason that there are so many things the government could be spending this kind of money on which would actually address the needs of an ageing population and an underemployed population. This is a very peculiar policy decision.



To listen to the full interview scan the code or go to the link www.thehindu.com

12J6. Should India incentivise bigger families?

क्या भारत को बड़े परिवारों को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए?

- For decades, Indian policymakers have encouraged **population control**, with the familiar slogan of 'Hum Do, Humare Do' (We two, our two).

दशकों से भारतीय नीति-निर्माता **जनसंख्या नियंत्रण** को प्रोत्साहित करते रहे हैं, जिसके लिए 'हम दो, हमारे दो' का प्रसिद्ध नारा दिया गया था।

- However, the recent drop in India's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** — the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime — has now dropped to **1.9**, below the replacement rate of **2.1**, with some southern States seeing their TFR drop to **1.3**.

हालाँकि, भारत की **कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR)** — अर्थात एक महिला द्वारा अपने जीवनकाल में जन्म दिए जाने वाले बच्चों की औसत संख्या — अब घटकर **1.9** रह गई है, जो **2.1** के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से कम है, जबकि कुछ दक्षिणी राज्यों में यह घटकर **1.3** तक पहुँच गई है।

- Last month, **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu** announced cash incentives of **₹30,000** and **₹40,000** to women having their third and fourth child respectively, in a bid to reverse that trend.

पिछले महीने **आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री चंद्रबाबू नायडू** ने इस प्रवृत्ति को पलटने के प्रयास में तीसरे और चौथे बच्चे को जन्म देने वाली महिलाओं के लिए क्रमशः **₹30,000** और **₹40,000** की नकद प्रोत्साहन राशि की घोषणा की।

- Several other southern States have indicated that they also see the benefits of boosting population growth, though not through a cash payout.

कई अन्य दक्षिणी राज्यों ने भी संकेत दिया है कि वे जनसंख्या वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के लाभ देखते हैं, हालाँकि नकद प्रोत्साहन के माध्यम से नहीं।

- Should India incentivise **bigger families**?
क्या भारत को बड़े परिवारों को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए?
- Aparajita Chattopadhyay** and **Neelanjan Sircar** discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Priscilla Jebaraj**.
अपराजिता चट्टोपाध्याय और नीलांजन सरकार ने इस प्रश्न पर प्रिसिला जेबराज द्वारा संचालित एक चर्चा में अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए।

Why are policymakers considering a change in the approach to population control?
नीति-निर्माता जनसंख्या नियंत्रण के दृष्टिकोण में परिवर्तन पर विचार क्यों कर रहे हैं?

- Aparajita Chattopadhyay:** After a long struggle with **family planning** since independence, our fertility has started declining.
अपराजिता चट्टोपाध्याय: स्वतंत्रता के बाद से परिवार नियोजन के लंबे प्रयासों के परिणामस्वरूप हमारी प्रजनन दर में गिरावट आने लगी है।
- There are State-level variations, but overall fertility now is **1.9**.
राज्य स्तर पर भिन्नताएँ हैं, किन्तु कुल प्रजनन दर अब **1.9** है।
- It is fine, and India can grow in this way for maybe **40 to 50 years**.
यह स्थिति संतोषजनक है और भारत इस प्रकार अगले **40 से 50 वर्षों** तक विकास कर सकता है।
- But reversal of fertility trends cannot be a **policy driven** thing.
किन्तु प्रजनन दर की प्रवृत्तियों को पलटना केवल नीति-आधारित प्रक्रिया नहीं हो सकती।
- It is deeply rooted socio-culturally and is an **individualistic choice**.
यह सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक रूप से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ विषय है और एक व्यक्तिगत निर्णय है।
- You cannot tell a group of women to increase fertility because I am giving you money.
आप केवल धन देकर महिलाओं के किसी समूह से यह नहीं कह सकते कि वे अधिक बच्चे पैदा करें।
- It has never happened in that way, even in **European** or other **Asian countries**.
यह इस प्रकार कभी नहीं हुआ, यहाँ तक कि यूरोपीय या अन्य एशियाई देशों में भी नहीं।
- The political implications are the immediate trigger for this policy.
इस नीति के पीछे राजनीतिक प्रभाव तात्कालिक प्रेरक कारक हैं।

Is the threat of future parliamentary delimitation a reason to reverse fertility decline?
क्या भविष्य में संसदीय परिसीमन का संभावित प्रभाव प्रजनन दर में गिरावट को उलटने का कारण है?

- Neelanjan Sircar:** There has been a lot of discussion about the growth rate of southern States as **delimitation** is on the horizon.
नीलांजन सरकार: दक्षिणी राज्यों की जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर को लेकर काफी चर्चा हुई है क्योंकि परिसीमन की प्रक्रिया निकट भविष्य में संभावित है।
- But we need to look beyond pure politics because any growth spurred by these incentives is unlikely to help in the short-term.
लेकिन हमें केवल राजनीति से आगे भी देखना होगा क्योंकि इन प्रोत्साहनों से उत्पन्न कोई भी वृद्धि अल्पकाल में विशेष सहायता नहीं करेगी।
- The reality is, if there's a delimitation exercise happening in the next couple of years, you're not going to dramatically change the fertility rate by then.
वास्तविकता यह है कि यदि अगले कुछ वर्षों में परिसीमन होता है, तो तब तक प्रजनन दर में कोई नाटकीय परिवर्तन संभव नहीं होगा।
- Another reason this is being considered is because of the **political economy** of States with a working population that may be shrinking.
इस पर विचार किए जाने का एक अन्य कारण उन राज्यों की राजनीतिक अर्थव्यवस्था है जहाँ कार्यशील जनसंख्या घट सकती है।



- But this is a **ham-handed approach**.
किन्तु यह एक असावधानीपूर्ण और अपर्याप्त दृष्टिकोण है।
- Social and demographic transformations are **complex phenomena**, and go hand in hand with a certain level of economic development.
सामाजिक और जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तन **जटिल प्रक्रियाएँ** हैं और वे आर्थिक विकास के एक निश्चित स्तर के साथ जुड़े होते हैं।
- Historically, with a certain level of social and economic development, the fertility rate drops.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास के एक निश्चित स्तर पर पहुँचने के बाद प्रजनन दर में गिरावट आती है।
- Now, there's a **cash incentive** at play to encourage people to have more children.
अब लोगों को अधिक बच्चे पैदा करने के लिए **नकद प्रोत्साहन** दिया जा रहा है।
- For a wealthy family, this incentive is simply not enough to invest in another child.
किसी समृद्ध परिवार के लिए यह प्रोत्साहन राशि एक अतिरिक्त बच्चे के पालन-पोषण हेतु पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- But for a poor family, perhaps it is.
किन्तु किसी गरीब परिवार के लिए यह प्रभावी हो सकती है।
- Here, you are not just increasing the fertility rate in a State, you are also changing other social attributes in the population, in terms of who is going to be able to respond to such an incentive and who will not.
यहाँ आप केवल किसी राज्य की प्रजनन दर नहीं बढ़ा रहे हैं, बल्कि जनसंख्या की अन्य सामाजिक विशेषताओं को भी बदल रहे हैं, क्योंकि कुछ लोग ऐसे प्रोत्साहनों का लाभ उठा पाएँगे जबकि कुछ नहीं।
- It's not as simple as saying we've created a **working age population** because you've fundamentally changed the composition of the working age population once you've introduced an economic incentive.
यह कहना इतना सरल नहीं है कि हमने **कार्यशील आयु वर्ग की जनसंख्या** तैयार कर ली है, क्योंकि आर्थिक प्रोत्साहन लागू करने के बाद आप उस कार्यशील आयु वर्ग की संरचना को मूल रूप से बदल देते हैं।

What has been the international experience of attempting to boost population growth?

जनसंख्या वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयासों का अंतरराष्ट्रीय अनुभव क्या रहा है?

- **AC:** Incentivisation can help relatively **lower income groups**, and this has happened in many **European countries**.
एसी: प्रोत्साहन योजनाएँ अपेक्षाकृत **निम्न आय वर्गों** की सहायता कर सकती हैं, और ऐसा कई **यूरोपीय देशों** में देखा गया है।
- For example, in **Poland**, there was a short-term boost in birth rate only among the lower income demographics.
उदाहरण के लिए, **पोलैंड** में जन्म दर में अल्पकालिक वृद्धि केवल निम्न आय वर्ग के लोगों के बीच देखी गई थी।
- In **Sweden** and **France**, tax incentives changed things for a short span, but it was very difficult to sustain that reversal, and the same thing happened with **Singapore, Japan, South Korea**.
स्वीडन और फ्रांस में कर प्रोत्साहनों से कुछ समय के लिए परिवर्तन आया, लेकिन उस प्रवृत्ति को लंबे समय तक बनाए रखना बहुत कठिन सिद्ध हुआ, और यही स्थिति **सिंगापुर, जापान तथा दक्षिण कोरिया** में भी देखी गई।
- Nowadays, the entire world is going through a **polycrisis shock**.
वर्तमान समय में पूरा विश्व **बहुआयामी संकट (पॉलीक्राइसिस)** के दौर से गुजर रहा है।
- There is a lot of instability in **geopolitics**, the economy, and the climate.
भूराजनीति, अर्थव्यवस्था और जलवायु के क्षेत्र में व्यापक अस्थिरता विद्यमान है।
- Moreover, there are both **altruistic** and **individualistic attitudes** to fertility.
इसके अतिरिक्त, प्रजनन के प्रति **परोपकारी तथा व्यक्तिवादी दृष्टिकोण** दोनों मौजूद हैं।



- The younger generation is quite **aspirational**.
युवा पीढ़ी अत्यंत आकांक्षी है।
- They need their prosperity — a good job and savings.
उन्हें समृद्धि की आवश्यकता है — एक अच्छा रोजगार और पर्याप्त बचत।
- So, you cannot ask them to go and have more children.
इसलिए आप उनसे अधिक बच्चे पैदा करने की अपेक्षा नहीं कर सकते।
- Until women confirm that there is **security** in every possible sense, they will not reverse the fertility rate because there are plenty of tangible and intangible costs for a woman or for the society to have an additional child.
जब तक महिलाओं को प्रत्येक स्तर पर **सुरक्षा** का विश्वास नहीं होगा, वे प्रजनन दर में वृद्धि नहीं करेंगी, क्योंकि एक अतिरिक्त बच्चे के जन्म से महिला और समाज दोनों पर अनेक प्रत्यक्ष एवं अप्रत्यक्ष लागतें आती हैं।
- So at this juncture, I believe that **incentivisation** may not work.
इस समय मुझे लगता है कि **प्रोत्साहन आधारित नीति** प्रभावी सिद्ध नहीं होगी।
- In India, especially, it is not required because we have a huge **population base**, so there may not actually be a scarcity of working age labourers if you improve their skills, give them better job opportunities, improve the savings and investment scenario, and promote the **silver ageing economy**.
विशेष रूप से भारत में इसकी आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि हमारे पास विशाल **जनसंख्या आधार** है, इसलिए यदि कौशल विकास, बेहतर रोजगार अवसर, बचत एवं निवेश की स्थिति में सुधार तथा **रजत वृद्धावस्था अर्थव्यवस्था (सिल्वर एजिंग इकोनॉमी)** को बढ़ावा दिया जाए, तो कार्यशील आयु के श्रमिकों की वास्तविक कमी उत्पन्न नहीं होगी।

Falling fertility rates are an uneven phenomenon. What does this portend for Indian federalism?

घटती प्रजनन दर एक असमान प्रवृत्ति है। इसका भारतीय संघवाद पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

- NS:** Obviously there are some immediate questions about converting populations into **political representation** through **delimitation**.
एनएस: स्पष्ट रूप से **परिसीमन** के माध्यम से जनसंख्या को **राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व** में परिवर्तित करने को लेकर कुछ तात्कालिक प्रश्न हैं।
- But another variable would be that as we see differences in fertility rates, we're also going to see very different **demographic profiles** of States.
किन्तु एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण पक्ष यह है कि प्रजनन दरों में अंतर के साथ-साथ राज्यों की **जनसांख्यिकीय प्रोफाइल** भी एक-दूसरे से काफी भिन्न होती जाएगी।
- And we know that the **youth**, the **middle-aged**, and the **elderly** all vote differently.
हम जानते हैं कि **युवा**, **मध्य आयु वर्ग** तथा **वृद्धजन** सभी अलग-अलग प्रकार से मतदान करते हैं।
- They're in different stages of life, so they have different economic preferences in terms of what a government should be investing in, for instance, **pensions** versus **manufacturing jobs** versus **childcare**.
वे जीवन के विभिन्न चरणों में होते हैं, इसलिए सरकार के निवेश की प्राथमिकताओं के संबंध में उनकी आर्थिक पसंद भी अलग होती है, जैसे **पेंशन**, **विनिर्माण रोजगार**, या **बाल देखभाल**।
- So we're going to see very different **political economy choices**.
इस प्रकार हमें बहुत भिन्न प्रकार के **राजनीतिक-अर्थव्यवस्था संबंधी विकल्प** देखने को मिलेंगे।
- AC:** With regard to **Andhra Pradesh**, if you look at the recent **NFHS statistics**, there are a number of areas, instead of cash incentives, where they can spend money in order to get lower middle class people to reproduce more.
एसी: आंध्र प्रदेश के संदर्भ में यदि हाल के **NFHS आँकड़ों** को देखें, तो ऐसे अनेक क्षेत्र हैं जहाँ नकद प्रोत्साहन



देने के बजाय धन खर्च करके निम्न मध्यम वर्ग के लोगों को अधिक बच्चे पैदा करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जा सकता है।

- Almost one in four women aged 20 to 24 got married before turning 18.
20 से 24 वर्ष आयु वर्ग की लगभग प्रत्येक चार महिलाओं में से एक का विवाह 18 वर्ष की आयु से पहले हो गया था।
- Only **30% of households** have women who own any assets, and only **48% of women** work.
केवल **30% परिवारों** में महिलाओं के पास कोई संपत्ति है और केवल **48% महिलाएँ** कार्यरत हैं।
- If Andhra Pradesh thinks that they're demographically advanced and can behave like Europe to reverse fertility trends, then the women in the workforce should be at **80%**.
यदि आंध्र प्रदेश स्वयं को जनसांख्यिकीय रूप से उन्नत मानता है और प्रजनन दर की प्रवृत्ति को पलटने के लिए यूरोप जैसा व्यवहार करना चाहता है, तो कार्यबल में महिलाओं की भागीदारी **80%** होनी चाहिए।
- In **European countries**, the **motherhood penalty** is almost negligible.
यूरोपीय देशों में **मातृत्व दंड (मदरहुड पेनल्टी)** लगभग नगण्य है।
- There is enough **parental leave**, and workforce participation is very high.
वहाँ पर्याप्त **अभिभावकीय अवकाश** उपलब्ध है और कार्यबल में भागीदारी भी बहुत अधिक है।
- So only when your economy and **social security** is perfect can you think of having a reversal of fertility trends.
इसलिए केवल तब, जब आपकी अर्थव्यवस्था और **सामाजिक सुरक्षा व्यवस्था** अत्यंत सुदृढ़ हो, आप प्रजनन दर की गिरती प्रवृत्ति को पलटने के बारे में विचार कर सकते हैं।

What are some key findings of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India?

भारत में दीर्घकालिक वृद्धावस्था अध्ययन (Longitudinal Ageing Study in India) के कुछ प्रमुख निष्कर्ष क्या हैं?

- **AC: By 2050, 20% or more** of the Indian population will be aged **60 and above**, so we have to prepare ourselves, especially with regard to **healthcare costs**.
एसी: वर्ष 2050 तक भारत की **20% या उससे अधिक** जनसंख्या की आयु **60 वर्ष या उससे अधिक** होगी, इसलिए हमें विशेष रूप से **स्वास्थ्य देखभाल व्यय** के संदर्भ में तैयारी करनी होगी।
- We need tremendous investment in **geriatric care**, basic primary healthcare, better pension schemes, and better savings schemes.
हमें **जराचिकित्सा देखभाल (जेरियाट्रिक केयर)**, बुनियादी प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं, बेहतर पेंशन योजनाओं तथा बेहतर बचत योजनाओं में व्यापक निवेश की आवश्यकता है।
- We also need to have communities for **elderly living**.
हमें **वृद्धजन आवासीय समुदायों** का भी विकास करना होगा।
- But we still have a huge **population base**.
किन्तु हमारे पास अभी भी एक विशाल **जनसंख्या आधार** मौजूद है।
- Don't mix up the percentage with the number base.
प्रतिशत और वास्तविक संख्या के आधार को एक-दूसरे के साथ नहीं मिलाना चाहिए।
- We can reduce the **working age population** so long as we have a very highly skilled population who earn well and will pay for these costs.
यदि हमारे पास अत्यधिक कुशल, अच्छी आय अर्जित करने वाली जनसंख्या हो, जो इन व्ययों का वहन कर सके, तो **कार्यशील आयु वर्ग की जनसंख्या** में कमी को भी प्रबंधित किया जा सकता है।

If population growth incentives don't work, then lower-fertility rate States may increase their working age population through migration from other States. What is the political fallout of that?

यदि जनसंख्या वृद्धि प्रोत्साहन प्रभावी नहीं होते, तो निम्न प्रजनन दर वाले राज्य अन्य राज्यों से प्रवासन के माध्यम से अपनी कार्यशील आयु वर्ग की जनसंख्या बढ़ा सकते हैं। इसका राजनीतिक प्रभाव क्या होगा?



- **NS: Demographic anxieties** have been showing up in one State after another.
एनएस: जनसांख्यिकीय चिंताएँ एक के बाद एक राज्यों में उभरती दिखाई दे रही हैं।
- Even in a poorer State like **West Bengal**, there are demographic anxieties vis-a-vis **Bangladesh**.
पश्चिम बंगाल जैसे अपेक्षाकृत गरीब राज्य में भी **बांग्लादेश** के संदर्भ में जनसांख्यिकीय चिंताएँ मौजूद हैं।
- As for why this phenomenon happens, these are **labour market vacancies**.
जहाँ तक इस घटना के कारण का प्रश्न है, यह **श्रम बाजार में रिक्तियों** से संबंधित है।
- These are populations which have achieved a certain level of development, and yet the economy requires some people willing to do manual work, at a lower wage, in the sun.
ये ऐसी जनसंख्याएँ हैं जिन्होंने विकास का एक निश्चित स्तर प्राप्त कर लिया है, फिर भी अर्थव्यवस्था को ऐसे लोगों की आवश्यकता होती है जो कम वेतन पर कठिन शारीरिक श्रम करने के लिए तैयार हों।
- This is not a problem that can be solved by simply having more children.
यह ऐसी समस्या नहीं है जिसे केवल अधिक बच्चे पैदा करके हल किया जा सके।
- It is unlikely that demographic anxieties can be reduced as a function of the economic structure.
यह संभावना कम है कि केवल आर्थिक संरचना के आधार पर जनसांख्यिकीय चिंताओं को कम किया जा सके।
- **Migration** is an economic phenomenon that is almost independent of the fertility rate, given what the economic condition of these States might be.
प्रवासन एक आर्थिक प्रक्रिया है जो इन राज्यों की आर्थिक परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए प्रजनन दर से लगभग स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य करती है।
- The people who are being birthed there are very unlikely to be willing to do those jobs that people coming from north India are doing today in south India.
वहाँ जन्म लेने वाले लोग उन कार्यों को करने के लिए संभवतः तैयार नहीं होंगे, जिन्हें आज उत्तर भारत से आने वाले लोग दक्षिण भारत में कर रहे हैं।
- It boggles the mind that somebody is trying to reverse what is a very standard social phenomenon and demographic trend at this stage of development.
यह आश्चर्यजनक है कि कोई व्यक्ति विकास के इस चरण में एक सामान्य सामाजिक घटना और जनसांख्यिकीय प्रवृत्ति को उलटने का प्रयास कर रहा है।
- I understand that there are challenges in **Europe** where countries are well below **replacement rates**.
मैं समझता हूँ कि **यूरोप** में ऐसी चुनौतियाँ हैं जहाँ कई देशों की प्रजनन दर **प्रतिस्थापन स्तर** से काफी नीचे है।
- But this entire debate is bizarre for the very simple reason that there are so many things the government could be spending this kind of money on which would actually address the needs of an **ageing population** and an **underemployed population**.
किन्तु यह पूरी बहस विचित्र प्रतीत होती है क्योंकि सरकार इस प्रकार की धनराशि को ऐसे अनेक क्षेत्रों में व्यय कर सकती है जो वास्तव में **वृद्ध होती जनसंख्या** तथा **अपर्याप्त रोजगार प्राप्त जनसंख्या** की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा कर सकते हैं।
- This is a very peculiar **policy decision**.
यह एक अत्यंत असामान्य **नीतिगत निर्णय** है।

12J6. Security pact with China to remain undisclosed: Solomon Islands govt.

चीन के साथ सुरक्षा समझौता गोपनीय ही रहेगा: सोलोमन द्वीप सरकार

- The contents of a secretive **security pact** between **China** and the **Solomon Islands** will remain undisclosed due to **legal restrictions**, the Pacific nation's new government said on Thursday.

Security pact with China to remain undisclosed: Solomon Islands govt.



GS I: Geography

The contents of a secretive security pact between China and the Solomon Islands will remain undisclosed due to legal restrictions, the Pacific nation's new government said on Thursday. The deal struck in 2022 rattled Washington and Canberra because of concern it opened the door to a permanent Chinese military presence. AFP



चीन और सोलोमन द्वीप के बीच हुए गुप्त सुरक्षा समझौते की सामग्री कानूनी प्रतिबंधों के कारण सार्वजनिक नहीं की जाएगी, प्रशांत महासागर क्षेत्र के इस देश की नई सरकार ने गुरुवार को कहा।

- The deal struck in 2022 rattled Washington and Canberra because of concern it opened the door to a permanent Chinese military presence.

2022 में हुए इस समझौते ने वॉशिंगटन और कैनबरा को चिंतित कर दिया था क्योंकि आशंका थी कि इससे स्थायी चीनी सैन्य उपस्थिति का रास्ता खुल सकता है।

GS Paper II: Polity		12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
12J6	After many extensions, panel's report on SC status for Dalit converts ready कई विस्तारों के बाद, दलित धर्मांतरितों के लिए अनुसूचित जाति दर्जे पर समिति की रिपोर्ट तैयार	
12J6	Lows of the land लोकतंत्र का निम्न स्तर	
12J6	Fair and square निष्पक्ष और न्यायसंगत	
12J6	Why is Nicobar debating elections? निकोबार में चुनावों को लेकर बहस क्यों हो रही है?	

After many extensions, panel's report on SC status for Dalit converts ready

GS II: Polity

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Justice K.G. Balakrishnan (ret'd) Commission examining the issue of Scheduled Caste status for Dalit converts has finished its study and prepared the report it was tasked with almost four years ago, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The three-member Commission of Inquiry was constituted by the government in October 2022, just as the Supreme Court was about to resume hearing a batch of pleas that sought Scheduled Caste status for Dalit Muslims and Christians. The issue has been pending in the top court for 20 years now.

The commission's mandate included examining whether Scheduled Caste status can be granted to Dalits who have converted to any faith other than



Justice K.G. Balakrishnan

those mentioned in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950. Currently, only Dalits of Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh faiths are entitled to a Scheduled Caste classification, unlike the Scheduled Tribe status, which does not have a religion criterion. The Commission was initially given a two-year deadline to finish its work and submit a report to the government. Since 2024, the Commission has been

given multiple extensions, the last one in April this year, which set the latest deadline at June 10, 2026. Gazette records do not show any further extension granted to the Commission.

The Commission's study was meant to look at the demand for Scheduled Caste status for Dalit converts, the opposition to this demand and its impact on existing Scheduled Caste communities, and the levels and types of discrimination faced by Dalit communities after they convert to other faiths.

The Union Social Justice Ministry has made multiple submissions to the Supreme Court in these matters, arguing that the Scheduled Caste status should be denied to people who had converted to faiths like Islam and Christianity.

12J6. After many extensions, panel's report on SC status for Dalit converts ready

कई विस्तारों के बाद, दलित धर्मांतरितों के लिए अनुसूचित जाति दर्जे पर समिति की रिपोर्ट तैयार

- The **Justice K.G. Balakrishnan (retd) Commission** examining the issue of **Scheduled Caste status** for **Dalit converts** has finished its study and prepared the report it was tasked with almost four years ago.
दलित धर्मांतरितों को अनुसूचित जाति दर्जा दिए जाने के मुद्दे की समीक्षा कर रहे न्यायमूर्ति के.जी. बालकृष्णन (सेवानिवृत्त) आयोग ने अपना अध्ययन पूरा कर लिया है और लगभग चार वर्ष पूर्व सौंपे गए कार्य की रिपोर्ट तैयार कर ली है।
- The **three-member Commission of Inquiry** was constituted by the government in **October 2022**, just as the **Supreme Court** was about to resume hearing a batch of pleas that sought Scheduled Caste status for **Dalit Muslims and Christians**.
यह तीन सदस्यीय जाँच आयोग सरकार द्वारा अक्टूबर 2022 में गठित किया गया था, ठीक उस समय जब सर्वोच्च न्यायालय दलित मुस्लिमों और ईसाइयों को अनुसूचित जाति का दर्जा देने की मांग करने वाली याचिकाओं की सुनवाई पुनः प्रारंभ करने वाला था।
- The issue has been pending in the **Supreme Court** for **20 years** now.
यह मामला पिछले 20 वर्षों से सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में लंबित है।
- The Commission's mandate included examining whether **Scheduled Caste status** can be granted to Dalits who have converted to any faith other than those mentioned in the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950**.
आयोग के कार्यादेश में यह परीक्षण शामिल था कि क्या उन दलितों को अनुसूचित जाति का दर्जा दिया जा सकता है जिन्होंने संविधान (अनुसूचित जातियाँ) आदेश, 1950 में उल्लिखित धर्मों के अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य धर्म को अपनाया है।
- Currently, only Dalits of **Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh** faiths are entitled to a **Scheduled Caste classification**, unlike the **Scheduled Tribe** status, which does not have a religion criterion.
वर्तमान में केवल हिंदू, बौद्ध और सिख धर्मों के दलित ही अनुसूचित जाति वर्गीकरण के पात्र हैं, जबकि अनुसूचित जनजाति दर्जे में धर्म का कोई मानदंड नहीं है।
- The Commission was initially given a **two-year deadline** to finish its work and submit a report to the government.
आयोग को प्रारंभ में अपना कार्य पूरा करने और सरकार को रिपोर्ट सौंपने के लिए दो वर्ष की समय-सीमा दी गई थी।
- Since **2024**, the Commission has been given multiple extensions, the last one in **April this year**, which set the latest deadline at **June 10, 2026**.
2024 से आयोग को कई बार समय-विस्तार दिया गया, जिनमें अंतिम विस्तार इस वर्ष अप्रैल में दिया गया था, जिसके अनुसार नई समय-सीमा 10 जून 2026 निर्धारित की गई।
- **Gazette records** do not show any further extension granted to the Commission.
राजपत्र अभिलेखों में आयोग को कोई अतिरिक्त समय-विस्तार दिए जाने का उल्लेख नहीं है।
- The Commission's study was meant to look at the demand for **Scheduled Caste status** for Dalit converts, the opposition to this demand and its impact on existing Scheduled Caste communities, and the levels and types of discrimination faced by Dalit communities after they convert to other faiths.
आयोग का अध्ययन दलित धर्मांतरितों को अनुसूचित जाति दर्जा देने की मांग, इस मांग के विरोध तथा उसके वर्तमान अनुसूचित जाति समुदायों पर प्रभाव, और अन्य धर्मों में परिवर्तन के बाद दलित समुदायों द्वारा झेले जाने वाले भेदभाव के स्तर एवं प्रकारों का आकलन करने के लिए किया गया था।



- The **Union Social Justice Ministry** has made multiple submissions to the **Supreme Court** in these matters, arguing that the **Scheduled Caste status** should be denied to people who had converted to faiths like **Islam and Christianity**.

केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय ने इन मामलों में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के समक्ष कई प्रस्तुतियाँ दी हैं, जिनमें यह तर्क दिया गया है कि इस्लाम और ईसाई धर्म जैसे धर्मों को अपनाने वाले लोगों को अनुसूचित जाति का दर्जा नहीं दिया जाना चाहिए।

GS II: Polity

Lows of the land

The rejection of the papers of Congress
Rajya Sabha candidate is fraudulent

The rejection of Congress leader Mee-nakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh raises questions of institutional integrity and procedural fairness, going beyond the fate of a single candidate. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the matter on Friday. Meanwhile, all three BJP candidates have been declared elected unopposed, raising further questions on the neutrality and fairness of the process. Ms. Natarajan's nomination was rejected by the Returning Officer (RO) following objections that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in Hyderabad in her election affidavit. As the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of Telangana, she was named as one of the respondents in a private complaint filed by a former Telugu Desam Party corporator before the court of the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Hyderabad, in 2025. The complaint was not even against Ms. Natarajan; it was against another Congress leader for alleged inappropriate behaviour and criminal intimidation, and she was mentioned in the petition for allegedly not taking appropriate action against the leader. There is no criminal FIR by the Telangana police against Ms. Natarajan. Unlike a conventional police case, a private complaint originates directly before a court. The court had issued notices to the persons named in the complaint, including Ms. Natarajan.

The RO's decision to use this as grounds for the rejection of the nomination reeks of extreme arbitrariness, and even a conspiracy. The law regarding the disclosure of cases is unambiguous. Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act requires disclosure only of those cases that carry a punishment of two years or more and, above all, only of those cases in which charges have been framed. Framing of charges is a judicial step, which follows the filing of a charge sheet. The RO's position that material facts had been concealed and the nomination papers were incomplete is not merely a misinterpretation of the law, but an insult to common sense. Going by that logic, a candidate could be disqualified for failing to list notices of traffic violations too. The disclosure regime has been designed to ensure transparency regarding candidates' criminal antecedents and pending cases. What makes Ms. Natarajan's case starkly arbitrary is that in the same election cycle, another candidate was asked by the RO to amend the affidavits to meet mandatory requirements. The Election Commission of India has the sacred constitutional duty of ensuring free and fair elections. It is failing in that duty, damaging democracy in the process. The capture of a Rajya Sabha seat by the ruling BJP in complete disregard for the law is a severe setback for election integrity.

12J6. Lows of the land

लोकतंत्र का निम्न स्तर

- Ms. Natarajan's nomination was rejected by the **Returning Officer (RO)** following objections that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in Hyderabad in her election affidavit. श्रीमती नटराजन का नामांकन रिटर्निंग अधिकारी (RO) द्वारा इस आपत्ति के आधार पर अस्वीकार कर दिया गया कि उन्होंने अपने चुनावी शपथपत्र में हैदराबाद में लंबित एक आपराधिक मामले का उल्लेख नहीं किया था।

- As the **All-India Congress Committee (AICC)** in-charge of Telangana, she was named as one of the respondents in a private complaint filed by a former Telugu Desam Party corporator before the court of the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Hyderabad, in 2025. तेलंगाना की अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस समिति (AICC) प्रभारी के रूप में, वर्ष 2025 में हैदराबाद के अतिरिक्त महानगरीय मजिस्ट्रेट की अदालत में एक पूर्व तेलुगु देशम पार्टी पार्षद द्वारा दायर निजी शिकायत में उन्हें प्रतिवादियों में से एक के रूप में नामित किया गया था।

- The complaint was not even against Ms. Natarajan; it was against another Congress leader for alleged inappropriate behaviour and criminal intimidation, and she was mentioned in the petition for allegedly not taking appropriate action against the leader.

यह शिकायत स्वयं श्रीमती नटराजन के विरुद्ध नहीं थी; यह एक अन्य कांग्रेस नेता के कथित अनुचित व्यवहार और आपराधिक धमकी के आरोपों से संबंधित थी, तथा याचिका में उनका उल्लेख उस नेता के विरुद्ध उचित कार्रवाई न करने के आरोप के कारण किया गया था।

- Unlike a conventional police case, a private complaint originates directly before a court.

सामान्य पुलिस मामले के विपरीत, एक निजी शिकायत सीधे न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत की जाती है।

- The court had issued notices to the persons named in the complaint, including Ms. Natarajan.

न्यायालय ने शिकायत में नामित व्यक्तियों, जिनमें श्रीमती नटराजन भी शामिल थीं, को नोटिस जारी किए थे।

- Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act** requires disclosure only of those cases that carry a punishment of two years or more and, above all, only of those cases in which charges have been framed.

जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की धारा 33A केवल उन मामलों के प्रकटीकरण की अपेक्षा करती है जिनमें दो वर्ष या उससे अधिक की सजा का प्रावधान हो तथा विशेष रूप से उन मामलों का, जिनमें आरोप निर्धारित किए जा चुके हों।

- Framing of charges** is a judicial step, which follows the filing of



a charge sheet.

आरोप निर्धारण एक न्यायिक प्रक्रिया है, जो आरोप-पत्र दाखिल किए जाने के बाद होती है।

- The RO's position that material facts had been concealed and the nomination papers were incomplete is not merely a misinterpretation of the law, but an insult to common sense.

RO का यह मत कि महत्वपूर्ण तथ्यों को छिपाया गया और नामांकन पत्र अपूर्ण थे, केवल कानून की गलत व्याख्या नहीं बल्कि सामान्य बुद्धि का भी अपमान है।

- The disclosure regime has been designed to ensure transparency regarding candidates' criminal antecedents and pending cases.

प्रकटीकरण व्यवस्था को उम्मीदवारों के आपराधिक इतिहास और लंबित मामलों के संबंध में पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बनाया गया है।

GS II: Polity

Fair and square

T.N. Assembly Speaker is going by the letter and spirit of Tenth Schedule

Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar has followed democratic principles by deciding not to pursue disqualification proceedings against 21 AIADMK MLAs after the party's general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, condoned the actions of the rebel legislators. Contrary to their party's whip, the MLAs had supported the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government during the trust vote on May 13. Mr. Prabhakar also stood by his assurance, made on May 24, that his eventual decision would demonstrate his impartiality. Actually, 25 MLAs of the Dravidian major had violated the party's directive and favoured the new regime but four of them including two women legislators subsequently resigned their seats. This is why the Speaker's action pertained only to 21 MLAs, after receiving letters from Mr. Palaniswami stating that he had condoned the dissidents' violation of the party whip. As the official group and the rebels reached a truce on May 27, the AIADMK chief decided to condone the dissidents' actions within 15 days from the date of such voting, as prescribed under the Tenth Schedule and the Tamil Nadu Assembly's disqualification rules.

Notwithstanding Mr. Prabhakar's track record as a non-controversial politician, many wondered whether he would act fairly, given that Mr. Palaniswami and his colleagues are political adversaries of TVK. Besides, Tamil Nadu has not been free from the unfortunate tendency of Assembly Speakers acting in a partisan manner. P.H. Pandian, who served as Speaker from 1985 to 1989, had even said that the presiding officer of the Assembly possessed "sky-high powers". The discretionary powers enshrined in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which deals with defection, have been used by Speakers in various States for the wrong reasons. By dropping the proceedings against the 21 dissidents, Mr. Prabhakar has upheld constitutional morality. However, he should have initiated disqualification proceedings against the four others before accepting their resignation. The Assembly Secretariat also duly notified that vacancies had arisen in the four constituencies, following which the election authorities advised the District Election Officers to appoint Returning Officers. Mr. Prabhakar rightly went by Mr. Palaniswami's submission wherein only the names of 21 MLAs were mentioned, and decided to pursue the matter against the other four. But, this will be of a purely technical nature as the bar is only on disqualified members becoming Ministers before getting elected again. Even as Mr. Prabhakar's next course of action is awaited, it is a healthy sign that he has so far demonstrated fairness in dealing with the petitions seeking disqualification.

12J6. Fair and square

निष्पक्ष और न्यायसंगत

- T.N. The Assembly Speaker is going by the letter and spirit of the Tenth Schedule.

तमिलनाडु विधानसभा के अध्यक्ष दसवीं अनुसूची के शब्दों और भावना के अनुरूप कार्य कर रहे हैं।

- This is why the Speaker's action pertained only to 21 MLAs, after receiving letters from Mr. Palaniswami stating that he had condoned the dissidents' violation of the party whip.

इसी कारण अध्यक्ष की कार्रवाई केवल 21 विधायकों तक सीमित रही, क्योंकि उन्हें श्री पलानीस्वामी के पत्र प्राप्त हुए थे जिनमें विद्रोही विधायकों द्वारा पार्टी विधि के उल्लंघन को क्षमा किए जाने की जानकारी दी गई थी।

- As the official group and the rebels reached a truce on May 27, the AIADMK chief decided to condone the dissidents' actions within 15 days from the date of such voting, as prescribed under the Tenth Schedule and the Tamil Nadu Assembly's disqualification rules.

चूँकि 27 मई को आधिकारिक गुट और विद्रोहियों के बीच समझौता हो गया था, इसलिए AIADMK प्रमुख ने दसवीं अनुसूची तथा तमिलनाडु विधानसभा की अयोग्यता नियमावली के अनुसार मतदान की तिथि से 15 दिनों के भीतर विद्रोहियों के कृत्यों को क्षमा करने का निर्णय लिया।

- The discretionary powers enshrined in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which deals with defection, have been used by Speakers in various States for the wrong reasons.

दल-बदल से संबंधित संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची में निहित विवेकाधीन शक्तियों का विभिन्न राज्यों में अध्यक्षों द्वारा कई बार अनुचित कारणों से उपयोग किया गया है।

- The Assembly Secretariat also duly notified that vacancies had arisen in the four constituencies, following which the election authorities advised the District Election Officers to appoint Returning Officers.

विधानसभा सचिवालय ने भी विधिवत सूचना दी थी कि चार निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में रिक्तियाँ उत्पन्न हो गई हैं, जिसके बाद चुनाव अधिकारियों ने जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारियों को रिटर्निंग अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करने की सलाह दी।

Why is Nicobar debating elections?

Why are Nicobarese tribal councils wary of the administration's proposed election rules? How are Nicobarese leaders chosen today, and what changes do the draft rules propose? Why does the administration want formal elections for tribal councils? How could the proposed rules change Nicobarese self-governance?

GS II: Polity

EXPLAINER

Abhinav Lakshman

The story so far:

The centrally administered Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is planning to introduce elections, as they are conducted in the rest of India, to the Nicobarese tribal community's system of self-governance in the archipelago. This includes measures such as the delimitation of constituencies, the preparation of electoral rolls, and the reservation of seats and leadership positions for women in the community's tribal councils. This move has led to urgent discussions amongst existing tribal councils of the Nicobarese about how this might bureaucratise the governance they have been practising. Some have also suspected that it could be intended to have tribal councils that might be more favourable to the Union government's interests there, especially in Great Nicobar, where the current Nicobarese leadership has been opposing the Centre's ₹91,000 crore container port, airport, and tourist-townfield project.

What do the draft rules propose?

The draft Andaman and Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2026, was notified by the district administration on May 15 this year and prescribes the exact procedure and rules for conducting 5-yearly elections to the Village Councils and Tribal Councils. The draft rules provide for conducting elections, the structure of the new representative system, the manner in which seats and constituencies are to be delimited, the rules for candidature, nomination, and withdrawal, their duties and responsibilities, and the broader administrative set-up for conducting these elections.

The proposed structure involves Nicobarese villagers electing five to nine Captains for each village and directly voting for the position of the Chief Captain of each Island Tribal Council. The First Captains of each village of a particular Island are to vote for the position of the Vice-Chief Captain of the Island Tribal Council, and this Island Tribal Council would include the Chief Captain, the Vice-Chief Captain, and all First Captains of the Island.

These draft rules have been notified under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, a Presidential regulation promulgated in 2009 with the specific intent to bring autonomous self-governance to the Nicobarese community. Even though this Regulation provided the statutory language to set up the Village Council and Tribal Council structure, a key feature of this Regulation gave the district administration (through the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner) an absolute and unilateral veto over any decision of the councils, if they posed a threat of injury or "annoyance" to the public or might "lead to a breach of peace".

Since the 2009 Regulation was passed, there have been several attempts at notifying Draft Rules under it, the latest one in 2020. The past iterations of the draft have often been circulated among tribal council leaders, but the leadership has not been able to successfully communicate the essence of these rules and procedures to the community at large.



The Tribal Welfare Department of the A&NI administration has said that it will wait till June 15 for suggestions and objections. FILE PHOTO

Even though the Nicobarese community has been participating in Lok Sabha elections, according to officials from the Office of the CEO, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, this would be the first time a system of constituency-wise representative leadership structure will be implemented for Nicobarese self-governance if the Draft Rules are finalised.

How do the Nicobarese tribal councils function today?

The Nicobarese community, a designated Scheduled Tribe with a total population of about 30,000 across the Nicobar group of Islands, is traditionally represented by Tribal Councils that have been established over the last five to six decades. Each group of inhabited islands in the Nicobar has its own Tribal Council. Under this Tribal Council structure lies the village leadership, which comprises three Captains per village, headed by the First Captain and assisted by the Second and Third Captains. Including the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar, seven Tribal Councils represent the Nicobarese community in islands like Car Nicobar, Nancowry, Kamorta, Teressa, and others.

Since at least the mid-1970s, experts and scholars have observed that the Nicobarese have been picking village captains through adult franchise. The concept of captaincy as village leadership first emerged in the 16th Century, when the Nicobarese who would go on board passing ships of colonial empires to negotiate began calling themselves captains. The British colonists were, however, the first to start legitimising the Captaincy structure as representative leadership of the community for their own administrative advantage towards the end of the 19th Century.

This structure eventually developed into a supplement to the social structure of large joint families, often referred to as *Tuhets*, that could become a formal channel of communication with the government.

The idea of the tribal council, however, emerged only in the 1990s to facilitate and ease the community's entry into Government developmental activities, specifically in relation to a Central government scheme of the time for poverty alleviation. Today, the Nicobar district says that the Village leadership and the tribal councils have become "the

link between the Local Administration and the tribal people of the island... most of the developmental schemes are being implemented through them only".

How are leaders currently chosen in Nicobarese communities?

Even though authorities in the Nicobar district administration have maintained that under the current system, village captains are usually elected every four years, Anthropologist and community leader Anstee Justin has told *The Hindu* that "there is actually not much documentation on how exactly the leadership of the existing tribal councils operate".

A senior leader of the Tribal Council in Great Nicobar Island explained that elections for Captains and Tribal Council chairperson are held whenever the community feels the need for it. This leader, who is also the First Captain of his village on Great Nicobar Island, elaborated, "For example, the last time I was elected Captain was maybe around 2-3 years ago. There is a tradition in our community to get together for a village meeting. All residents of the village are present at this meeting."

The villagers then nominate names for the Captains of the village through popular consensus. These names are then put on a ballot paper. "We make the ballot papers and print them out ourselves, we appoint a polling officer from among us to conduct the ballot, and the person with the most votes becomes First Captain." He added that similarly, the Tribal Council on GNI has been choosing the Chairperson by popular consensus, but that it had been decades since there was an election to this position.

Villagers mostly think about candidates' level of education, fluency in Hindi (the language of government officials), "foreign" trips (an indicator of exposure to the world outside the islands), and "smartness" (the ability to deal appropriately with officials and outsiders, according to R. Venkat Ramanujam, Simronjit Singh & Arild Vatn (2012). What Ramanujam et al. noted, however, was that even though the Captains and Council were elected, "decisions were taken after popular consultation, usually through community meetings, and the tribal council did not have unilateral decision-making powers. Consequently, the captains were neither

seen as lawmakers nor as "leaders" balancing social and political concerns."

Why are the proposed changes causing concern?

Tribal Council leaders who have spoken to *The Hindu* about the implications of the new Draft Rules said that the proposed structure is largely being seen as something that would disrupt their traditional ways of perceiving governance. The tribal council leader from Great Nicobar said, "We have been using this way of governing our villages for generations. We hold elections through consensus when needed, and our traditional ways of living are so well integrated into how we oversee the islands and villages. This looks like it will turn all of this into an office job that we will have to do in addition to the lives we live on the islands."

Meanwhile, Mr. Justin has noted that there is a real chance that an attempt to notify the Rules has come now in light of the opposition the government is facing from the Tribal Council on GNI, even though he acknowledged that systemic problems of opacity have riddled the existing system of Tribal Councils and Village Captaincy. "For instance, in several Island Tribal Councils, it remains unclear when the Chairperson was last elected and what kind of authority they wield," he said.

But experts like Mr. Justin, who have worked with the government on engaging with the indigenous communities of the A&NI, have doubted whether the entire Nicobarese community in the islands will have the time and resources to understand the Draft Rules as they have been notified, the context of the Regulation under which they will be implemented, and the implications of introducing such a system for their village-level governance.

The Tribal Welfare Department of the A&NI administration has said that it will wait till June 15 for suggestions and objections, after which a final version may be notified. While the Tribal Councils of Nicobar are yet to hand in a formal objection or suggestions, the Congress party in A&NI has already objected to them and called for their withdrawal, primarily citing the lack of recognition for the *Tuhet* system and the lack of consultation with the community before bringing this draft.

THE GIST

▼ Draft rules propose formal elections for Nicobarese Village and Tribal Councils, including constituencies, voter rolls, and reservations for women.

▼ Traditional governance is consensus-based, with village captains chosen through community meetings and locally conducted ballots rather than a fixed bureaucratic electoral system.

▼ Tribal leaders fear the proposed electoral system could bureaucratise their traditional governance structure and alter existing decision-making processes.

12J6. Why is Nicobar debating elections?

निकोबार में चुनावों को लेकर बहस क्यों हो रही है?

- The centrally administered **Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands** is planning to introduce elections, as they are conducted in the rest of India, to the **Nicobarese tribal community's** system of self-governance in the archipelago.
केंद्र शासित अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह प्रशासन द्वीपसमूह में निकोबारी जनजातीय समुदाय की स्वशासन व्यवस्था में भारत के अन्य भागों की तरह चुनाव प्रणाली लागू करने की योजना बना रहा है।
- This includes measures such as the **delimitation of constituencies**, the preparation of **electoral rolls**, and the reservation of seats and leadership positions for women in the community's tribal councils.
इसमें निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों का परिसीमन, मतदाता सूची तैयार करना तथा जनजातीय परिषदों में महिलाओं के लिए सीटों और नेतृत्व पदों का आरक्षण जैसी व्यवस्थाएँ शामिल हैं।
- This move has led to urgent discussions amongst existing tribal councils of the Nicobarese about how this might bureaucratised the governance they have been practising.
इस कदम के कारण निकोबारी समुदाय की वर्तमान जनजातीय परिषदों में इस बात को लेकर गंभीर चर्चा शुरू हो गई है कि इससे उनकी पारंपरिक शासन व्यवस्था का अत्यधिक नौकरशाहीकरण हो सकता है।
- Some have also suspected that it could be intended to have tribal councils that might be more favourable to the **Union government's interests** there, especially in **Great Nicobar**, where the current Nicobarese leadership has been opposing the Centre's **₹91,000 crore container port, airport, and tourist-township project**.
कुछ लोगों को यह भी संदेह है कि इसका उद्देश्य ऐसी जनजातीय परिषदों का गठन करना हो सकता है जो केंद्र सरकार के हितों के प्रति अधिक अनुकूल हों, विशेषकर ग्रेट निकोबार में, जहाँ वर्तमान निकोबारी नेतृत्व केंद्र की ₹91,000 करोड़ की कंटेनर बंदरगाह, हवाई अड्डा और पर्यटन नगर परियोजना का विरोध कर रहा है।

What do the draft rules propose?
मसौदा नियम क्या प्रस्तावित करते हैं?

- The draft **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2026**, was notified by the district administration on **May 15** this year and prescribes the exact procedure and rules for conducting **5-yearly elections** to the Village Councils and Tribal Councils.
अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह जनजातीय परिषद (मतदाता सूची की तैयारी एवं चुनाव संचालन) नियम, 2026 का मसौदा इस वर्ष 15 मई को जिला प्रशासन द्वारा अधिसूचित किया गया था, जिसमें ग्राम परिषदों और जनजातीय परिषदों के पाँच वार्षिक चुनावों के लिए विस्तृत प्रक्रिया और नियम निर्धारित किए गए हैं।
- The draft rules provide for conducting elections, the structure of the new representative system, the manner in which seats and constituencies are to be delimited, the rules for candidature, nomination, and withdrawal, their duties and responsibilities, and the broader administrative set-up for conducting these elections.
मसौदा नियम चुनाव कराने, नई प्रतिनिधिक प्रणाली की संरचना, सीटों और निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों के परिसीमन की प्रक्रिया, उम्मीदवारता, नामांकन एवं नाम वापसी के नियम, निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों के कर्तव्यों एवं दायित्वों तथा चुनाव संचालन के व्यापक प्रशासनिक ढाँचे का प्रावधान करते हैं।
- The proposed structure involves Nicobarese villagers electing **five to nine Captains** for each village and directly voting for the position of the **Chief Captain** of each Island Tribal Council.
प्रस्तावित व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत निकोबारी ग्रामीण प्रत्येक गाँव के लिए पाँच से नौ कप्तानों का चुनाव करेंगे तथा प्रत्येक द्वीपीय जनजातीय परिषद के मुख्य कप्तान का प्रत्यक्ष चुनाव करेंगे।
- The **First Captains** of each village of a particular Island are to vote for the position of the **Vice-Chief Captain** of the Island Tribal Council, and this Island Tribal Council would include the Chief Captain, the Vice-Chief Captain, and all First Captains of the Island.
किसी विशेष द्वीप के प्रत्येक गाँव के प्रथम कप्तान द्वीपीय जनजातीय परिषद के उप-मुख्य कप्तान का चुनाव करेंगे, और इस परिषद में मुख्य कप्तान, उप-मुख्य कप्तान तथा उस द्वीप के सभी प्रथम कप्तान शामिल होंगे।

- These draft rules have been notified under the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation**, a **Presidential Regulation** promulgated in **2009** with the specific intent to bring autonomous self-governance to the Nicobarese community.
ये मसौदा नियम **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह (जनजातीय परिषद) विनियमन** के अंतर्गत अधिसूचित किए गए हैं, जो **2009** में जारी एक **राष्ट्रपति विनियमन** था और जिसका उद्देश्य निकोबारी समुदाय को स्वायत्त स्वशासन प्रदान करना था।
- Even though this Regulation provided the statutory language to set up the Village Council and Tribal Council structure, a key feature of this Regulation gave the district administration (through the **Deputy Commissioner** and **Assistant Commissioner**) an absolute and unilateral veto over any decision of the councils, if they posed a threat of injury or “annoyance” to the public or might “lead to a breach of peace”.
यद्यपि इस विनियमन ने ग्राम परिषद और जनजातीय परिषद की संरचना स्थापित करने के लिए वैधानिक आधार प्रदान किया, इसकी एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता यह थी कि इसने जिला प्रशासन (अर्थात् **उपायुक्त और सहायक आयुक्त**) को परिषदों के किसी भी निर्णय पर पूर्ण एवं एकतरफा वीटो अधिकार प्रदान किया, यदि वह निर्णय जनता को हानि या “असुविधा” पहुँचाने वाला माना जाए अथवा “शांति भंग” होने की आशंका उत्पन्न करे।
- Since the **2009 Regulation** was passed, there have been several attempts at notifying **Draft Rules** under it, the latest one in **2020**.
2009 के विनियमन के पारित होने के बाद से इसके अंतर्गत **मसौदा नियमों** को अधिसूचित करने के कई प्रयास किए गए हैं, जिनमें नवीनतम प्रयास **2020** में हुआ था।
- The past iterations of the draft have often been circulated among tribal council leaders, but the leadership has not been able to successfully communicate the essence of these rules and procedures to the community at large.
मसौदा नियमों के पूर्व संस्करण प्रायः जनजातीय परिषद के नेताओं के बीच प्रसारित किए गए, किन्तु नेतृत्व इन नियमों और प्रक्रियाओं की मूल भावना को व्यापक समुदाय तक प्रभावी ढंग से पहुँचाने में सफल नहीं हो सका।
- Even though the **Nicobarese community** has been participating in **Lok Sabha elections**, according to officials from the Office of the **CEO, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, this would be the first time a system of constituency-wise representative leadership structure will be implemented for Nicobarese self-governance if the Draft Rules are finalised.
यद्यपि **निकोबारी समुदाय लोकसभा चुनावों** में भाग लेता रहा है, फिर भी **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह के मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी (CEO)** के कार्यालय के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, यदि मसौदा नियम अंतिम रूप से लागू होते हैं तो यह पहली बार होगा जब निकोबारी स्वशासन के लिए निर्वाचन क्षेत्र आधारित प्रतिनिधिक नेतृत्व संरचना लागू की जाएगी।

How do the Nicobarese tribal councils function today?

वर्तमान में निकोबारी जनजातीय परिषदें कैसे कार्य करती हैं?

- The **Nicobarese community**, a designated **Scheduled Tribe** with a total population of about **30,000** across the Nicobar group of Islands, is traditionally represented by Tribal Councils that have been established over the last five to six decades.
निकोबारी समुदाय, जो एक अधिसूचित **अनुसूचित जनजाति** है और जिसकी कुल जनसंख्या निकोबार द्वीप समूह में लगभग **30,000** है, पिछले पाँच से छह दशकों में स्थापित जनजातीय परिषदों द्वारा पारंपरिक रूप से प्रतिनिधित्व प्राप्त करता है।
- Each group of inhabited islands in the Nicobar has its own **Tribal Council**.
निकोबार के प्रत्येक आबाद द्वीप समूह की अपनी अलग **जनजातीय परिषद** है।
- Under this Tribal Council structure lies the village leadership, which comprises **three Captains per village**, headed by the **First Captain** and assisted by the **Second and Third Captains**.

इस जनजातीय परिषद संरचना के अंतर्गत ग्राम नेतृत्व व्यवस्था आती है, जिसमें प्रत्येक गाँव के लिए **तीन कप्तान** होते हैं, जिनका नेतृत्व **प्रथम कप्तान** करता है और जिन्हें **द्वितीय तथा तृतीय कप्तान** सहयोग प्रदान करते हैं।

- Including the Tribal Council of **Little and Great Nicobar**, seven Tribal Councils represent the Nicobarese community in islands like **Car Nicobar, Nancowry, Kamorta, Teressa**, and others.

लिटिल निकोबार और ग्रेट निकोबार की जनजातीय परिषदों सहित कुल सात जनजातीय परिषदें **कार निकोबार, नैनकौरी, कामोर्टा, तेरेसा** तथा अन्य द्वीपों में निकोबारी समुदाय का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं।

- Since at least the mid-1970s, experts and scholars have observed that the Nicobarese have been picking village captains through **adult franchise**.

कम-से-कम 1970 के दशक के मध्य से विशेषज्ञों और विद्वानों ने यह देखा है कि निकोबारी समुदाय **वयस्क मताधिकार** के माध्यम से ग्राम कप्तानों का चयन करता रहा है।

- The concept of **captaincy** as village leadership first emerged in the **16th Century**, when the Nicobarese who would go on board passing ships of colonial empires to negotiate began calling themselves captains.

ग्राम नेतृत्व के रूप में **कप्तानी व्यवस्था** की अवधारणा पहली बार **16वीं शताब्दी** में उभरी, जब निकोबारी लोग औपनिवेशिक साम्राज्यों के गुजरने वाले जहाजों पर बातचीत करने के लिए जाते थे और स्वयं को कप्तान कहने लगे।

- The British colonists were, however, the first to start legitimising the Captaincy structure as representative leadership of the community for their own administrative advantage towards the end of the **19th Century**.

हालाँकि, **19वीं शताब्दी** के अंत में ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवादियों ने अपने प्रशासनिक लाभ के लिए कप्तानी व्यवस्था को समुदाय के प्रतिनिधिक नेतृत्व के रूप में वैधता प्रदान करना प्रारम्भ किया।

- This structure eventually developed into a supplement to the social structure of large joint families, often referred to as **Tuhets**, that could become a formal channel of communication with the government.

यह व्यवस्था आगे चलकर बड़े संयुक्त पारिवारिक समूहों की सामाजिक संरचना, जिन्हें प्रायः **तुहेत (Tuhets)** कहा जाता है, के पूरक रूप में विकसित हुई और सरकार के साथ औपचारिक संवाद का माध्यम बन गई।

- The idea of the tribal council, however, emerged only in the **1990s** to facilitate and ease the community's entry into Government developmental activities, specifically in relation to a Central government scheme of the time for **poverty alleviation**.

हालाँकि, जनजातीय परिषद की अवधारणा केवल **1990 के दशक** में उभरी, ताकि समुदाय को सरकारी विकासात्मक गतिविधियों, विशेष रूप से उस समय की केंद्र सरकार की **गरीबी उन्मूलन योजना** से जोड़ना और उसे सरल बनाना संभव हो सके।

- Today, the **Nicobar district** says that the Village leadership and the tribal councils have become "the link between the Local Administration and the tribal people of the island... most of the developmental schemes are being implemented through them only".

आज **निकोबार जिला प्रशासन** का कहना है कि ग्राम नेतृत्व और जनजातीय परिषदें "स्थानीय प्रशासन और द्वीप के जनजातीय लोगों के बीच सेतु" बन गई हैं तथा अधिकांश विकास योजनाएँ इन्हीं के माध्यम से लागू की जा रही हैं।

How are leaders currently chosen in Nicobarese communities?

वर्तमान में निकोबारी समुदायों में नेताओं का चयन कैसे किया जाता है?

- Even though authorities in the **Nicobar district administration** have maintained that under the current system, village captains are usually elected every **four years**, Anthropologist and community leader **Anstice Justin** has told The Hindu that "there is actually not much documentation on how exactly the leadership of the existing tribal councils operate".

यद्यपि **निकोबार जिला प्रशासन** का कहना है कि वर्तमान व्यवस्था में ग्राम कप्तानों का चुनाव सामान्यतः

प्रत्येक चार वर्ष में होता है, फिर भी मानवविज्ञानी और सामुदायिक नेता एन्स्टिस जस्टिन ने कहा है कि “वास्तव में इस बात का पर्याप्त दस्तावेजीकरण उपलब्ध नहीं है कि वर्तमान जनजातीय परिषदों का नेतृत्व किस प्रकार कार्य करता है।”

- A senior leader of the **Tribal Council in Great Nicobar Island** explained that elections for Captains and Tribal Council chairperson are held whenever the community feels the need for it.

ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप की जनजातीय परिषद के एक वरिष्ठ नेता ने बताया कि कप्तानों और जनजातीय परिषद अध्यक्ष के चुनाव तब आयोजित किए जाते हैं जब समुदाय इसकी आवश्यकता महसूस करता है।

- This leader, who is also the **First Captain** of his village on Great Nicobar Island, elaborated, “For example, the last time I was elected Captain was maybe around **2-3 years ago**. यह नेता, जो ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप स्थित अपने गाँव के **प्रथम कप्तान** भी हैं, ने विस्तार से बताया, “उदाहरण के लिए, पिछली बार मेरा कप्तान के रूप में चुनाव लगभग **2-3 वर्ष पहले** हुआ था।
- There is a tradition in our community to get together for a **village meeting**. हमारे समुदाय में **ग्राम सभा** के लिए एकत्रित होने की परंपरा है।
- All residents of the village are present at this meeting.” इस बैठक में गाँव के सभी निवासी उपस्थित रहते हैं।”
- The villagers then nominate names for the **Captains** of the village through **popular consensus**. इसके बाद ग्रामीण **सर्वसम्मति** के माध्यम से गाँव के **कप्तानों** के लिए नाम प्रस्तावित करते हैं।
- These names are then put on a **ballot paper**. इसके बाद इन नामों को **मतपत्र** पर दर्ज किया जाता है।
- “We make the ballot papers and print them out ourselves, we appoint a **polling officer** from among us to conduct the ballot, and the person with the most votes becomes **First Captain**.” “हम स्वयं मतपत्र तैयार करते हैं और उन्हें मुद्रित करते हैं, मतदान कराने के लिए अपने बीच से एक **मतदान अधिकारी** नियुक्त करते हैं, और जिसे सबसे अधिक मत प्राप्त होते हैं वह **प्रथम कप्तान** बन जाता है।”
- He added that similarly, the **Tribal Council on Great Nicobar Island (GNI)** has been choosing the **Chairperson** by popular consensus, but that it had been decades since there was an election to this position. उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि इसी प्रकार **ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप (GNI) की जनजातीय परिषद** भी अध्यक्ष का चयन सर्वसम्मति से करती रही है, किन्तु इस पद के लिए चुनाव हुए कई दशक बीत चुके हैं।
- Villagers mostly think about candidates’ level of **education**, fluency in **Hindi** (the language of government officials), “foreign” trips (an indicator of exposure to the world outside the islands), and “smartness” (the ability to deal appropriately with officials and outsiders, according to **R. Venkat Ramanujam, Simron Jit Singh & Arild Vatn (2012)**). ग्रामीण प्रायः उम्मीदवारों की शिक्षा, हिंदी में दक्षता (जो सरकारी अधिकारियों की भाषा है), “विदेश” यात्राओं (द्वीपों के बाहर की दुनिया से परिचय का संकेत) तथा “स्मार्टनेस” (अर्थात् अधिकारियों और बाहरी लोगों से उचित ढंग से व्यवहार करने की क्षमता, जैसा कि **आर. वेंकट रामानुजम, सिमरन जीत सिंह और एरिल्ड वाल्टन (2012)** ने उल्लेख किया है) को ध्यान में रखते हैं।
- What Ramanujam et al. noted, however, was that even though the Captains and Council were elected, “decisions were taken after popular consultation, usually through community meetings, and the tribal council did not have unilateral decision-making powers.” हालाँकि, रामानुजम और उनके सहयोगियों ने यह उल्लेख किया कि यद्यपि कप्तान और परिषद निर्वाचित होते थे, फिर भी “निर्णय जन-सलाह के बाद, सामान्यतः सामुदायिक बैठकों के माध्यम से लिए जाते थे, और जनजातीय परिषद के पास एकतरफा निर्णय लेने की शक्ति नहीं थी।”
- Consequently, the captains were neither seen as lawmakers nor as “leaders” balancing social and political concerns. फलस्वरूप, कप्तानों को न तो कानून निर्माता माना जाता था और न ही ऐसे “नेता” के रूप में देखा जाता था जो सामाजिक और राजनीतिक चिंताओं के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करते हों।

Why are the proposed changes causing concern?

प्रस्तावित परिवर्तन चिंता का कारण क्यों बन रहे हैं?

- Tribal Council** leaders who have spoken to The Hindu about the implications of the new **Draft Rules** said that the proposed structure is largely being seen as something that would disrupt their traditional ways of perceiving governance.

जनजातीय परिषद के जिन नेताओं ने नए **मसौदा नियमों** के प्रभावों पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए, उनका कहना है कि प्रस्तावित संरचना को ऐसी व्यवस्था के रूप में देखा जा रहा है जो शासन को समझने और संचालित करने के उनके पारंपरिक तरीकों को बाधित कर सकती है।
- The tribal council leader from **Great Nicobar** said, "We have been using this way of governing our villages for generations."

ग्रेट निकोबार के एक जनजातीय परिषद नेता ने कहा, "हम पीढ़ियों से अपने गाँवों का संचालन इसी तरीके से करते आ रहे हैं।"
- "We hold elections through consensus when needed, and our traditional ways of living are so well integrated into how we oversee the islands and villages."

"जब आवश्यकता होती है, तब हम सर्वसम्मति के माध्यम से चुनाव कराते हैं, और हमारे पारंपरिक जीवन-तरीके द्वीपों और गाँवों के प्रशासन के साथ गहराई से जुड़े हुए हैं।"
- "This looks like it will turn all of this into an **office job** that we will have to do in addition to the lives we live on the islands."

"ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि यह पूरी व्यवस्था एक **कार्यालयी कार्य** में बदल जाएगी, जिसे हमें अपने द्वीपीय जीवन के अतिरिक्त निभाना पड़ेगा।"
- Meanwhile, **Mr. Justin** has noted that there is a real chance that an attempt to notify the Rules has come now in light of the opposition the government is facing from the Tribal Council on **GNI**.

इस बीच, **श्री जस्टिन** ने कहा है कि यह वास्तविक संभावना है कि नियमों को अधिसूचित करने का प्रयास ऐसे समय में किया जा रहा है जब सरकार को **GNI** की जनजातीय परिषद से विरोध का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- Even though he acknowledged that systemic problems of **opacity** have riddled the existing system of Tribal Councils and Village Captaincy.

हालाँकि उन्होंने यह भी स्वीकार किया कि **पारदर्शिता की कमी** जैसी संरचनात्मक समस्याएँ वर्तमान जनजातीय परिषद और ग्राम कप्तानी व्यवस्था में मौजूद हैं।
- "For instance, in several Island Tribal Councils, it remains unclear when the Chairperson was last elected and what kind of authority they wield," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "उदाहरण के लिए, कई द्वीपीय जनजातीय परिषदों में यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि अध्यक्ष का अंतिम चुनाव कब हुआ था और उनके पास वास्तव में कितने अधिकार हैं।"
- But experts like **Mr. Justin**, who have worked with the government on engaging with the indigenous communities of the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI)**, have doubted whether the entire Nicobarese community in the islands will have the time and resources to understand the Draft Rules as they have been notified.

किन्तु **श्री जस्टिन** जैसे विशेषज्ञ, जिन्होंने **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह (A&NI)** की स्वदेशी समुदायों के साथ सरकारी स्तर पर कार्य किया है, इस बात को लेकर संदेह व्यक्त करते हैं कि क्या पूरा निकोबारी समुदाय अधिसूचित मसौदा नियमों को समझने के लिए पर्याप्त समय और संसाधन जुटा पाएगा।
- The context of the **Regulation** under which they will be implemented, and the implications of introducing such a system for their village-level governance.

साथ ही वे उस **विनियमन** की पृष्ठभूमि और इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था को ग्राम-स्तरीय शासन में लागू करने के प्रभावों को भी समझ पाएँगे या नहीं, यह भी प्रश्न बना हुआ है।
- The **Tribal Welfare Department** of the A&NI administration has said that it will wait till **June 15** for suggestions and objections, after which a final version may be notified.

A&NI प्रशासन के **जनजातीय कल्याण विभाग** ने कहा है कि वह **15 जून** तक सुझावों और आपत्तियों की प्रतीक्षा करेगा, जिसके बाद अंतिम संस्करण अधिसूचित किया जा सकता है।

- While the Tribal Councils of Nicobar are yet to hand in a formal objection or suggestions, the **Congress party** in A&NI has already objected to them and called for their withdrawal. यद्यपि निकोबार की जनजातीय परिषदों ने अभी तक कोई औपचारिक आपत्ति या सुझाव प्रस्तुत नहीं किए हैं, कांग्रेस पार्टी ने A&NI में इन नियमों का विरोध करते हुए इन्हें वापस लेने की मांग की है।
- Primarily citing the lack of recognition for the **Tuhet system** and the lack of consultation with the community before bringing this draft. इसके मुख्य कारणों के रूप में तुहेत प्रणाली को मान्यता न दिया जाना तथा इस मसौदे को प्रस्तुत करने से पूर्व समुदाय से पर्याप्त परामर्श न किया जाना बताया गया है।

GS Paper II: Governance		12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
12J6	FCRA Bill — expanding state control over civil society एफसीआरए विधेयक — नागरिक समाज पर राज्य के नियंत्रण का विस्तार	

FCRA Bill — expanding state control over civil society

GS II: Governance

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026, is far more than a routine regulatory measure. While presented as a step towards greater transparency and national security, it significantly increases executive power, transforming the FCRA from a law regulating foreign funding into one that enables extensive state control over non-governmental organisations (NGOs), charitable trusts, and educational and religious institutions.

From oversight to overreach

The current FCRA regime was already among the most stringent regulations governing civil society in any democracy. The 2020 amendments imposed strict restrictions: requiring all foreign contributions to pass through a single bank branch (State Bank of India) in New Delhi, reducing administrative expenditure limits from 50% to 20%, banning sub-granting to smaller organisations, and expanding suspension powers. These measures alone devastated thousands of NGOs, particularly smaller faith-based and charitable bodies serving marginalised groups.

The 2026 Bill goes much further. By introducing a new Chapter IIIA (and removing the previous Section 15) and replacing existing asset-management provisions, it creates a framework for the government to seamlessly vest organisational assets and properties without compensation or management. Its most troubling provision is the proposed Section 14B, which introduces automatic "cessation" of FCRA registration. An organisation could lose its registration not only if renewal is denied but also if it fails to apply on time or if renewal remains pending. This effectively allows institutions to be paralysed through procedural delays rather than proven misconduct, weakening due process and increasing executive discretion.

The gravest concern is Section 16A under the new Chapter IIIA. It states that when an FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered, or deemed to have ceased, all foreign contributions and assets derived from them automatically "provisionally vest" in a government-designated authority, without prior judicial review or independent adjudication. This means that a simple administrative decision can strip organisations of control over their funds and property. As cancellation under Section 14 can be based on broad and subjective grounds such as "public interest," organisations risk losing control of their assets even for minor, procedural, or disputed violations. Because cancellation under Section 14 triggers the application of Section 16A, organisations risk losing assets even for procedural, minor, or disputed breaches. The designated authority would then be empowered to manage, transfer, or dispose of these assets, with sale proceeds credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. The provision is particularly sweeping because it may cover assets funded both domestically and from abroad—potentially bringing schools, hospitals, orphanages, religious institutions, charitable organisations, and places



P. Wilson

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and a Senior Advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India

of worship such as churches, mosques, and temples built over decades under government control. The powers granted to the Designated Authority are extraordinary. It can take control of assets, manage institutions, oversee finances, and alter operations in the vaguely defined "public interest," giving the executive wide discretion. If an organisation fails to secure restoration or re-registration within the prescribed period, the vesting becomes permanent. The Authority may then transfer or sell the assets, with the proceeds credited to the Consolidated Fund of India — effectively enabling executive confiscation through legal process.

This endangers not only the survival of organisations but also the essential services and infrastructure upon which communities depend. FCRA assets include land, buildings, vehicles, equipment, and unspent funds, raising the real possibility that institutions could be effectively shut down. Foreign donors primarily support Indian charitable organisations to aid vulnerable communities, promote education, improve public health, and advance other public-interest goals. These contributions help organisations deliver tangible societal benefits.

Seizing such funds into the Consolidated Fund based on weak or disputed allegations defeats the very purpose of these donations. The new provisions thus expose Indian organisations to the constant risk of state expropriation, endangering both donated funds and the assets they support. This framework establishes sweeping procedures for "provisional vesting" and "permanent vesting" of assets in a government-appointed "Designated Authority".

The amendments also deepen executive control during suspension and investigation. The amended Section 13 bars organisations from managing their assets without prior approval during suspension, effectively paralysing their operations. The revised Section 43 centralises enforcement by requiring Union government approval before any state agency can investigate FCRA violations. Combined with broader definitions of "key functionaries" and increased personal liability for office-bearers, the Bill risks creating a climate of fear that discourages civil society participation.

Limited accountability

The 2026 Bill proposes abolishing Section 22, which currently deals with the disposal of assets of defunct or non-operational organisations. The law also lacks clear timelines for approving or rejecting FCRA licences, permissions, registrations, and renewals, leading to uncertainty and delays that can hinder projects dependent on foreign funding and disproportionately impact vulnerable communities. Often, reasons for cancellation are not publicly disclosed due to national security concerns, making it difficult for organisations to challenge such decisions. Cancellations or suspensions might occur due to procedural lapses, risking the shutdown of organisations serving communities.

The impact on minority communities,

especially Christians, is particularly worrying. Christian organisations run thousands of schools, colleges, hospitals, orphanages, tribal welfare bodies, and charitable trusts—many supported by ongoing funding from churches, diaspora groups, and humanitarian agencies. There are many such institutions in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. It is a fact that minorities operate charitable organisations that mainly benefit the majority. Under Section 16A, these could face government takeover if their registration lapses, renewal is delayed, or cancellation procedures are initiated. Institutions such as long-established convent schools, colleges, mission hospitals, and orphanages face the risk of coming under government control simply due to procedural non-compliance. But the fact remains that the government is systematically targeting organisations one after another, and between 2014 and 2026, about 22,000 FCRA licences have been cancelled for no valid or credible reasons. It could be stated with concern that the government appears to be eyeing the properties of minorities, which in reality benefits the majority.

Cancellations of FCRA licences threaten ongoing efforts in child protection, immunisation, neonatal health, nutrition, early childhood education, parental involvement, youth skills development, and access to government schemes in affected regions. The sector contributes significantly to the economy—around 2% of GDP—with roughly four lakh to eight lakh individuals per organisation losing access to vital services due to revoked licences. According to the 2014 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation report, civil society organisations generate 27 lakh jobs and 34 lakh full-time volunteers, surpassing public sector employment. A separate survey of 515 NGOs found that 47% are the main source of employment in more than half the localities where they operate. These amendments threaten not only the existence of organisations but also the infrastructure and community resources relied upon by millions.

Constitutional rights under threat

Critics view the Bill as a serious threat to civil society and minority institutions. Its vague "public interest" standard could be used against organisations working on minority rights, tribal welfare, environmental protection, human rights, or public advocacy. The result may be a chilling effect, discouraging donors, trustees, and volunteers from supporting such organisations.

The Bill also raises constitutional concerns under Articles 14, 19(1)(c), 25, 26, 29, 30, and 300A. By concentrating broad powers in the executive, it risks undermining freedom of association, the autonomy of religious and educational institutions, and property rights.

Any regulation of foreign contributions must be accompanied by due process, independent oversight, and safeguards against arbitrary state action. Without such protections, the Bill risks becoming one of the most oppressive laws affecting civil society in modern India.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, raises concerns that asset confiscation powers could disrupt welfare services relied upon by thousands in India

12J6. FCRA Bill — expanding state control over civil society एफसीआरए विधेयक — नागरिक समाज पर राज्य के नियंत्रण का विस्तार

- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026**, introduced in the **Lok Sabha** on March 25, 2026, is far more than a routine regulatory measure. 25 मार्च 2026 को लोकसभा में प्रस्तुत विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन (FCRA) विधेयक, 2026 केवल एक सामान्य नियामक उपाय से कहीं अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।
- While presented as a step towards greater **transparency** and **national security**, it significantly increases **executive power**, transforming the FCRA from a law regulating foreign funding into one that enables extensive state control over **non-governmental organisations (NGOs)**, charitable trusts, and educational and religious institutions. यद्यपि इसे अधिक पारदर्शिता और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा की दिशा में एक कदम के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, यह कार्यपालिका की शक्तियों में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि करता है और FCRA को विदेशी वित्तपोषण को नियंत्रित करने वाले कानून से बदलकर ऐसा कानून बना देता है जो गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs), धर्मार्थ न्यासों तथा शैक्षणिक एवं धार्मिक संस्थानों पर व्यापक सरकारी नियंत्रण की अनुमति देता है।

From oversight to overreach निगरानी से अतिक्रमण तक

- The current **FCRA regime** was already among the most stringent regulations governing civil society in any democracy. वर्तमान **FCRA व्यवस्था** पहले से ही किसी भी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में नागरिक समाज को नियंत्रित करने वाले सबसे कठोर नियमों में से एक थी।
- The 2020 amendments imposed strict restrictions: requiring all foreign contributions to pass through a single bank branch (**State Bank of India**) in New Delhi, reducing administrative expenditure limits from 50% to 20%, banning sub-granting to smaller organisations, and expanding suspension powers. 2020 के संशोधनों ने कठोर प्रतिबंध लगाए, जिनमें सभी विदेशी अंशदानों को नई दिल्ली स्थित **स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया** की एकमात्र शाखा से होकर गुजरने की अनिवार्यता, प्रशासनिक व्यय सीमा को 50% से घटाकर 20% करना, छोटे संगठनों को अनुदान हस्तांतरण पर रोक लगाना तथा निलंबन संबंधी शक्तियों का विस्तार शामिल था।
- These measures alone devastated thousands of NGOs, particularly smaller faith-based and charitable bodies serving marginalised groups. इन उपायों ने ही हजारों NGOs, विशेष रूप से वंचित समुदायों की सेवा करने वाले छोटे धार्मिक एवं धर्मार्थ संगठनों को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित किया।
- The 2026 Bill goes much further. 2026 का विधेयक इससे भी कहीं आगे जाता है।
- By introducing a new **Chapter IIIA** (and removing the previous **Section 15**) and replacing existing asset-management provisions, it creates a framework for the government to seamlessly vest organisational assets and properties without compensation or management. नए **अध्याय IIIA** को शामिल करके (और पूर्व **धारा 15** को हटाकर) तथा वर्तमान संपत्ति-प्रबंधन प्रावधानों को प्रतिस्थापित करके, यह सरकार को बिना किसी प्रतिपूर्ति या स्वतंत्र प्रबंधन व्यवस्था के संगठनात्मक परिसंपत्तियों और संपत्तियों को अपने नियंत्रण में लेने का ढाँचा प्रदान करता है।
- Its most troubling provision is the proposed **Section 14B**, which introduces automatic “cessation” of FCRA registration. इसका सबसे चिंताजनक प्रावधान प्रस्तावित **धारा 14B** है, जो FCRA पंजीकरण की स्वचालित “समाप्ति” की व्यवस्था प्रस्तुत करता है।
- An organisation could lose its registration not only if renewal is denied but also if it fails to apply on time or if renewal remains pending.

कोई संगठन अपना पंजीकरण केवल नवीनीकरण अस्वीकार होने पर ही नहीं, बल्कि समय पर आवेदन न करने या नवीनीकरण लंबित रहने की स्थिति में भी खो सकता है।

- This effectively allows institutions to be paralysed through procedural delays rather than proven misconduct, weakening **due process** and increasing executive discretion. इससे संस्थाओं को सिद्ध दुराचार के बजाय प्रक्रियागत विलंब के माध्यम से निष्क्रिय बनाया जा सकता है, जिससे **विधिक प्रक्रिया के सिद्धांत** कमजोर होते हैं और कार्यपालिका का विवेकाधिकार बढ़ता है।
- The gravest concern is **Section 16A** under the new Chapter IIIA. सबसे गंभीर चिंता नए अध्याय IIIA के अंतर्गत प्रस्तावित **धारा 16A** को लेकर है।
- It states that when an FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered, or deemed to have ceased, all foreign contributions and assets derived from them automatically “provisionally vest” in a **government-designated authority**, without prior judicial review or independent adjudication. इसके अनुसार, जब किसी FCRA पंजीकरण को रद्द, समर्पित या समाप्त माना जाता है, तो उससे प्राप्त सभी विदेशी अंशदान और उनसे निर्मित परिसंपत्तियाँ स्वतः ही एक **सरकार द्वारा नामित प्राधिकरण** में “अस्थायी रूप से निहित” हो जाती हैं, बिना किसी पूर्व न्यायिक समीक्षा या स्वतंत्र निर्णय प्रक्रिया के।
- This means that a simple administrative decision can strip organisations of control over their funds and property. इसका अर्थ है कि केवल एक प्रशासनिक निर्णय के आधार पर संगठनों को उनकी निधियों और संपत्तियों पर नियंत्रण से वंचित किया जा सकता है।
- As cancellation under **Section 14** can be based on broad and subjective grounds such as “public interest,” organisations risk losing control of their assets even for minor, procedural, or disputed violations. चूँकि **धारा 14** के अंतर्गत पंजीकरण रद्द करना “लोकहित” जैसे व्यापक और व्यक्तिपरक आधारों पर संभव है, इसलिए संगठनों को मामूली, प्रक्रियात्मक या विवादित उल्लंघनों के कारण भी अपनी परिसंपत्तियों पर नियंत्रण खोने का जोखिम रहता है।
- Because cancellation under Section 14 triggers the application of Section 16A, organisations risk losing assets even for procedural, minor, or disputed breaches. क्योंकि धारा 14 के अंतर्गत रद्दीकरण धारा 16A को सक्रिय कर देता है, इसलिए संगठनों को प्रक्रियागत, छोटे या विवादित उल्लंघनों के लिए भी अपनी संपत्तियाँ खोने का खतरा रहता है।
- The designated authority would then be empowered to manage, transfer, or dispose of these assets, with sale proceeds credited to the **Consolidated Fund of India**. इसके बाद नामित प्राधिकरण को इन परिसंपत्तियों का प्रबंधन, हस्तांतरण या निपटान करने का अधिकार होगा और उनकी बिक्री से प्राप्त राशि **भारत की समेकित निधि** में जमा की जाएगी।
- The provision is particularly sweeping because it may cover assets funded both domestically and from abroad—potentially bringing schools, hospitals, orphanages, religious institutions, charitable organisations, and places of worship such as churches, mosques, and temples built over decades under government control. यह प्रावधान विशेष रूप से व्यापक है क्योंकि यह घरेलू और विदेशी दोनों स्रोतों से वित्तपोषित परिसंपत्तियों को अपने दायरे में ला सकता है, जिससे दशकों में निर्मित विद्यालय, अस्पताल, अनाथालय, धार्मिक संस्थान, धर्मार्थ संगठन तथा चर्च, मस्जिद और मंदिर जैसे पूजा स्थल भी सरकारी नियंत्रण में आ सकते हैं।
- The powers granted to the **Designated Authority** are extraordinary. **नामित प्राधिकरण** को प्रदान की गई शक्तियाँ असाधारण हैं।
- It can take control of assets, manage institutions, oversee finances, and alter operations in the vaguely defined “public interest,” giving the executive wide discretion. यह परिसंपत्तियों का नियंत्रण अपने हाथ में ले सकता है, संस्थानों का प्रबंधन कर सकता है, वित्तीय गतिविधियों की निगरानी कर सकता है तथा अस्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित “लोकहित” के नाम पर संचालन में परिवर्तन कर सकता है, जिससे कार्यपालिका को व्यापक विवेकाधिकार प्राप्त हो जाता है।

- If an organisation fails to secure restoration or re-registration within the prescribed period, the vesting becomes permanent.
यदि कोई संगठन निर्धारित अवधि के भीतर पुनर्बहाली या पुनः पंजीकरण प्राप्त करने में विफल रहता है, तो यह निहितीकरण स्थायी हो जाता है।
- The Authority may then transfer or sell the assets, with the proceeds credited to the **Consolidated Fund of India** — effectively enabling executive confiscation through legal process.
इसके बाद प्राधिकरण परिसंपत्तियों का हस्तांतरण या विक्रय कर सकता है और उससे प्राप्त धनराशि **भारत की समेकित निधि** में जमा की जा सकती है, जिससे विधिक प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से कार्यपालिका द्वारा प्रभावी रूप से संपत्ति अधिग्रहण संभव हो जाता है।
- This endangers not only the survival of **organisations** but also the essential services and infrastructure upon which communities depend.
यह केवल **संगठनों** के अस्तित्व को ही नहीं, बल्कि उन आवश्यक सेवाओं और अवसंरचनाओं को भी खतरे में डालता है जिन पर समुदाय निर्भर रहते हैं।
- **FCRA assets** include land, buildings, vehicles, equipment, and unspent funds, raising the real possibility that institutions could be effectively shut down.
FCRA परिसंपत्तियों में भूमि, भवन, वाहन, उपकरण और अप्रयुक्त निधियाँ शामिल हैं, जिससे संस्थानों के प्रभावी रूप से बंद हो जाने की वास्तविक संभावना उत्पन्न होती है।
- Foreign donors primarily support Indian charitable organisations to aid **vulnerable communities**, promote education, improve public health, and advance other public-interest goals.
विदेशी दानदाता मुख्यतः भारतीय धर्मार्थ संगठनों को **वंचित समुदायों** की सहायता करने, शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य में सुधार लाने तथा अन्य लोकहितकारी उद्देश्यों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सहयोग प्रदान करते हैं।
- These contributions help organisations deliver tangible societal benefits.
ये योगदान संगठनों को समाज के लिए ठोस और प्रत्यक्ष लाभ प्रदान करने में सहायता करते हैं।
- Seizing such funds into the **Consolidated Fund of India** based on weak or disputed allegations defeats the very purpose of these donations.
कमजोर या विवादित आरोपों के आधार पर ऐसी निधियों को **भारत की समेकित निधि** में स्थानांतरित करना इन दानों के मूल उद्देश्य को ही विफल कर देता है।
- The new provisions thus expose Indian organisations to the constant risk of **state expropriation**, endangering both donated funds and the assets they support.
इस प्रकार, नए प्रावधान भारतीय संगठनों को निरंतर **राज्य द्वारा अधिग्रहण** के जोखिम के समक्ष खड़ा करते हैं, जिससे दान की गई निधियाँ और उनसे निर्मित परिसंपत्तियाँ दोनों खतरे में पड़ जाती हैं।
- This framework establishes sweeping procedures for “**provisional vesting**” and “**permanent vesting**” of assets in a government-appointed **Designated Authority**.
यह ढाँचा सरकारी नियुक्त **नामित प्राधिकरण** में परिसंपत्तियों के “**अस्थायी निहितीकरण**” तथा “**स्थायी निहितीकरण**” के लिए व्यापक प्रक्रियाएँ स्थापित करता है।
- The amendments also deepen **executive control** during suspension and investigation.
ये संशोधन निलंबन और जाँच की अवधि में **कार्यपालिका के नियंत्रण** को और अधिक सुदृढ़ करते हैं।
- The amended **Section 13** bars organisations from managing their assets without prior approval during suspension, effectively paralysing their operations.
संशोधित **धारा 13** निलंबन की अवधि के दौरान संगठनों को पूर्व अनुमति के बिना अपनी परिसंपत्तियों का प्रबंधन करने से रोकती है, जिससे उनकी गतिविधियाँ प्रभावी रूप से ठप हो सकती हैं।
- The revised **Section 43** centralises enforcement by requiring Union government approval before any state agency can investigate FCRA violations.
संशोधित **धारा 43** किसी भी राज्य एजेंसी द्वारा FCRA उल्लंघनों की जाँच प्रारम्भ करने से पहले केंद्र सरकार की अनुमति अनिवार्य बनाकर प्रवर्तन प्रक्रिया का केंद्रीकरण करती है।

- Combined with broader definitions of “**key functionaries**” and increased personal liability for office-bearers, the Bill risks creating a climate of fear that discourages civil society participation.
“**प्रमुख पदाधिकारियों**” की व्यापक परिभाषा और पदाधिकारियों की बढ़ी हुई व्यक्तिगत जवाबदेही के साथ मिलकर यह विधेयक भय का ऐसा वातावरण उत्पन्न कर सकता है जो नागरिक समाज की भागीदारी को हतोत्साहित करे।

Limited accountability सीमित जवाबदेही

- The 2026 Bill proposes abolishing **Section 22**, which currently deals with the disposal of assets of defunct or non-operational organisations.
2026 का विधेयक **धारा 22** को समाप्त करने का प्रस्ताव करता है, जो वर्तमान में निष्क्रिय या गैर-कार्यरत संगठनों की परिसंपत्तियों के निपटान से संबंधित है।
- The law also lacks clear timelines for approving or rejecting FCRA licences, permissions, registrations, and renewals, leading to uncertainty and delays that can hinder projects dependent on foreign funding and disproportionately impact vulnerable communities.
कानून में FCRA लाइसेंस, अनुमतियों, पंजीकरणों और नवीनीकरणों को स्वीकृत या अस्वीकृत करने के लिए स्पष्ट समय-सीमा का अभाव है, जिससे अनिश्चितता और विलंब उत्पन्न होता है तथा विदेशी वित्तपोषण पर निर्भर परियोजनाएँ बाधित हो सकती हैं और इसका असमान रूप से अधिक प्रभाव वंचित समुदायों पर पड़ सकता है।
- Often, reasons for cancellation are not publicly disclosed due to **national security** concerns, making it difficult for organisations to challenge such decisions.
अक्सर **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** संबंधी चिंताओं के कारण रद्दीकरण के कारणों को सार्वजनिक नहीं किया जाता, जिससे संगठनों के लिए ऐसे निर्णयों को चुनौती देना कठिन हो जाता है।
- Cancellations or suspensions might occur due to procedural lapses, risking the shutdown of organisations serving communities.
प्रक्रियागत त्रुटियों के कारण भी पंजीकरण रद्द या निलंबित किया जा सकता है, जिससे समुदायों की सेवा करने वाले संगठनों के बंद होने का खतरा उत्पन्न होता है।
- The impact on **minority communities**, especially Christians, is particularly worrying.
अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों, विशेषकर ईसाइयों, पर इसका प्रभाव विशेष रूप से चिंताजनक है।
- Christian organisations run thousands of schools, colleges, hospitals, orphanages, tribal welfare bodies, and charitable trusts—many supported by ongoing funding from churches, diaspora groups, and humanitarian agencies.
ईसाई संगठन हजारों विद्यालय, महाविद्यालय, अस्पताल, अनाथालय, जनजातीय कल्याण संस्थाएँ और धर्मार्थ न्यास संचालित करते हैं, जिनमें से अनेक को चर्चों, प्रवासी समुदायों और मानवीय सहायता एजेंसियों से निरंतर वित्तीय सहायता प्राप्त होती है।
- There are many such institutions in **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya**.
ऐसे अनेक संस्थान **केरल, तमिलनाडु, नागालैंड, मिजोरम और मेघालय** में स्थित हैं।
- It is a fact that minorities operate charitable organisations that mainly benefit the majority.
यह तथ्य है कि अल्पसंख्यकों द्वारा संचालित धर्मार्थ संगठन मुख्यतः बहुसंख्यक समाज को लाभ पहुँचाते हैं।
- Under **Section 16A**, these could face government takeover if their registration lapses, renewal is delayed, or cancellation procedures are initiated.
धारा 16A के अंतर्गत, यदि उनका पंजीकरण समाप्त हो जाए, नवीनीकरण में विलंब हो या रद्दीकरण की प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ हो जाए, तो उन्हें सरकारी अधिग्रहण का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- Institutions such as long-established convent schools, colleges, mission hospitals, and orphanages face the risk of coming under government control simply due to procedural non-compliance.

दीर्घकाल से स्थापित कॉन्वेंट विद्यालय, महाविद्यालय, मिशन अस्पताल और अनाथालय केवल प्रक्रियागत अनुपालन में कमी के कारण सरकारी नियंत्रण में आने के जोखिम का सामना कर सकते हैं।

- But the fact remains that the government is systematically targeting organisations one after another, and between 2014 and 2026, about **22,000 FCRA licences** have been cancelled for no valid or credible reasons.

किन्तु यह तथ्य बना हुआ है कि सरकार क्रमशः संगठनों को निशाना बना रही है, और 2014 से 2026 के बीच लगभग **22,000 FCRA लाइसेंस** बिना किसी वैध या विश्वसनीय कारण के रद्द किए गए हैं।

- It could be stated with concern that the government appears to be eyeing the properties of minorities, which in reality benefits the majority.

चिंता के साथ यह कहा जा सकता है कि सरकार की दृष्टि अल्पसंख्यकों की संपत्तियों पर प्रतीत होती है, जबकि वास्तव में उनका लाभ मुख्यतः बहुसंख्यक समाज को प्राप्त होता है।

- Cancellations of **FCRA licences** threaten ongoing efforts in **child protection**, immunisation, neonatal health, nutrition, early childhood education, parental involvement, youth skills development, and access to government schemes in affected regions.

FCRA लाइसेंसों की निरस्तीकरण प्रक्रिया **बाल संरक्षण**, टीकाकरण, नवजात स्वास्थ्य, पोषण, प्रारंभिक बाल्यकाल शिक्षा, अभिभावकीय सहभागिता, युवा कौशल विकास तथा प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में सरकारी योजनाओं तक पहुँच के लिए चल रहे प्रयासों को खतरे में डालती है।

- The sector contributes significantly to the economy—around **2% of GDP**—with roughly four lakh to eight lakh individuals per organisation losing access to vital services due to revoked licences.

यह क्षेत्र अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देता है—लगभग **GDP का 2%**—और लाइसेंस निरस्त होने के कारण प्रति संगठन लगभग चार लाख से आठ लाख व्यक्तियों की आवश्यक सेवाओं तक पहुँच प्रभावित होती है।

- According to the **2014 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation report**, civil society organisations generate **27 lakh jobs** and 34 lakh full-time volunteers, surpassing public sector employment.

सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय की 2014 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, नागरिक समाज संगठन **27 लाख रोजगार** और 34 लाख पूर्णकालिक स्वयंसेवकों का सृजन करते हैं, जो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के रोजगार से अधिक है।

- A separate survey of 515 NGOs found that 47% are the main source of employment in more than half the localities where they operate.

515 गैर-सरकारी संगठनों पर किए गए एक अलग सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि उनमें से 47% उन क्षेत्रों में रोजगार का प्रमुख स्रोत हैं जहाँ वे कार्यरत हैं।

- These amendments threaten not only the existence of organisations but also the infrastructure and community resources relied upon by millions.

ये संशोधन केवल संगठनों के अस्तित्व को ही नहीं बल्कि उन अवसरचक्रों और सामुदायिक संसाधनों को भी खतरे में डालते हैं जिन पर लाखों लोग निर्भर हैं।

Constitutional rights under threat

संवैधानिक अधिकारों पर संकट

- Critics view the Bill as a serious threat to **civil society** and **minority institutions**.
आलोचक इस विधेयक को **नागरिक समाज** और **अल्पसंख्यक संस्थानों** के लिए गंभीर खतरा मानते हैं।
- Its vague “**public interest**” standard could be used against organisations working on minority rights, tribal welfare, environmental protection, human rights, or public advocacy.
इसका अस्पष्ट “**लोकहित**” मानदंड अल्पसंख्यक अधिकारों, जनजातीय कल्याण, पर्यावरण संरक्षण, मानवाधिकारों अथवा जनहित वकालत से जुड़े संगठनों के विरुद्ध उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- The result may be a **chilling effect**, discouraging donors, trustees, and volunteers from supporting such organisations.

इसके परिणामस्वरूप एक **भयकारी प्रभाव** उत्पन्न हो सकता है, जो दानदाताओं, न्यासियों और स्वयंसेवकों को ऐसे संगठनों का समर्थन करने से हतोत्साहित करेगा।

- The Bill also raises constitutional concerns under **Articles 14, 19(1)(c), 25, 26, 29, 30, and 300A**.
यह विधेयक **अनुच्छेद 14, 19(1)(ग), 25, 26, 29, 30 और 300A** के अंतर्गत संवैधानिक चिंताएँ भी उत्पन्न करता है।
- By concentrating broad powers in the **executive**, it risks undermining **freedom of association**, the autonomy of religious and educational institutions, and **property rights**.
कार्यपालिका में व्यापक शक्तियों को केंद्रित करके यह **संगठन बनाने की स्वतंत्रता**, धार्मिक एवं शैक्षणिक संस्थानों की स्वायत्तता तथा **संपत्ति के अधिकारों** को कमजोर करने का जोखिम उत्पन्न करता है।
- Any regulation of **foreign contributions** must be accompanied by **due process**, independent oversight, and safeguards against arbitrary state action.
विदेशी अंशदानों के किसी भी विनियमन के साथ **विधिसम्मत प्रक्रिया**, स्वतंत्र निगरानी तथा राज्य की मनमानी कार्रवाई के विरुद्ध सुरक्षा उपाय होना आवश्यक है।
- Without such protections, the Bill risks becoming one of the most oppressive laws affecting **civil society** in modern India.
ऐसे सुरक्षा उपायों के अभाव में यह विधेयक आधुनिक भारत में **नागरिक समाज** को प्रभावित करने वाले सबसे दमनकारी कानूनों में से एक बन सकता है।

GS Paper III: Economy		12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
12J6	Homemakers are 'nation builders', their work is worth at least ₹30,000 a month, says SC गृहिणियाँ 'राष्ट्र-निर्माता' हैं, उनके कार्य का मूल्य कम से कम ₹30,000 प्रतिमाह है, उच्चतम न्यायालय ने कहा	
12J6	Implementation complete, but workers still vulnerable कार्यान्वयन पूर्ण, किन्तु श्रमिक अब भी असुरक्षित	
12J6	Indian textile sector witnessing revival of investments भारतीय वस्त्र क्षेत्र में निवेश का पुनरुत्थान देखने को मिल रहा है	
12J6	RIL, Vedanta, Adani said to join hands to cut China rare earth reliance चीन पर दुर्लभ मृदा निर्भरता कम करने के लिए RIL, Vedanta और Adani के साथ आने की बात	
12J6	Once an Arab oil embargo victim, U.S. now becomes world's top oil exporter कभी अरब तेल प्रतिबंध का शिकार रहा अमेरिका, अब बना दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल निर्यातक	



Homemakers are 'nation builders', their work is worth at least ₹30,000 a month, says SC

GS III: Economy

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

Observing that homemakers deserve to be recognised as "nation builders", the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the unpaid domestic work performed by them must be monetised at a minimum of ₹30,000 per month while calculating compensation for deaths in road accidents.

The ruling came in an appeal arising from a motor accident claim in Punjab where a woman named Reshma died in a road accident in November 2001. Her husband and three children approached the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal seeking compensation. While the tribunal



The court said motor accident compensation claims should be decided within a year.

awarded compensation in 2003, they approached the High Court to enhance the amount. On appeal, the High Court enhanced the compensation to ₹8.43 lakh with 7.5% interest, providing for a higher rate

of interest in case of delay in payment.

A Division Bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N.K. Singh said the contribution of a homemaker extended beyond the household and played a vital role in nation-building. "We are of the view that the housewife contributes to the growth of the human being and the nation," said the Bench.

Shift to 'homemaker'

Justice Karol stated that "loss of domestic care" would be an additional ground to the heads of damages previously recognised by the court.

The top court also noted the need to shift from the stereotypical terminology of daily usage from "house-

wife" to "homemaker".

The court said motor accident compensation claims should ordinarily be decided within a year. "Such cases should be decided within a year usually," the Bench said.

Recognising all aspects of being a homemaker and the unpaid labour that a homemaker undertakes, the court directed the Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal (MACT) to award a separate compensation of ₹30,000 per month under the head of "domestic care" in cases involving death of a homemaker.

It clarified that this amount would be treated as the minimum value of a homemaker's unpaid work and would increase by 10% every three years. If the

homemaker also had a paid job, this amount would be awarded in addition to her income.

However, the court resorted to the application of homemaker to the traditional image of woman. The court said, "As a result on one circumstance or another, sometimes unfortunate sometimes not, a man may too need to don the role of a homemaker. It is not to take away from the efforts of these men who also deserve recognition and acknowledgment, but for the purposes of the present case and more particularly the quantification of domestic efforts, we limit its application to the quintessential and traditional image, that of a woman."

12J6. Homemakers are 'nation builders', their work is worth at least ₹30,000 a month, says SC

गृहिणियाँ 'राष्ट्र-निर्माता' हैं, उनके कार्य का मूल्य कम से कम ₹30,000 प्रतिमाह है, उच्चतम न्यायालय ने कहा

Supreme Court recognises homemakers as "nation builders"

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने गृहिणियों को "राष्ट्र निर्माता" के रूप में मान्यता दी

- Observing that **homemakers** deserve to be recognised as "nation builders", the **Supreme Court** on Thursday ruled that the **unpaid domestic work performed by them must be monetised at a minimum of ₹30,000 per month** while calculating compensation for deaths in road accidents.

यह टिप्पणी करते हुए कि गृह-प्रबंधकों (होममेकर्स) को "राष्ट्र निर्माता" के रूप में मान्यता मिलनी चाहिए,

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने गुरुवार को निर्णय दिया कि सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में मृत्यु के मामलों में मुआवज़े की गणना करते समय उनके द्वारा किए गए अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य का न्यूनतम ₹30,000 प्रति माह के आधार पर आर्थिक मूल्यांकन किया जाना चाहिए।

- The ruling came in an appeal arising from a **motor accident claim** in **Punjab** where a woman named **Reshma** died in a road accident in **November 2001**.

यह निर्णय पंजाब में एक मोटर दुर्घटना दावा मामले से संबंधित अपील में दिया गया, जिसमें रेशमा नामक महिला की नवंबर 2001 में सड़क दुर्घटना में मृत्यु हो गई थी।

- Her husband and three children approached the **Motor Accident Claims Tribunal** seeking compensation.

उनके पति और तीन बच्चों ने मुआवज़े की मांग करते हुए मोटर दुर्घटना दावा अधिकरण (MACT) का दरवाज़ा खटखटाया।

- While the tribunal awarded compensation in **2003**, they approached the **High Court** to enhance the amount.
यद्यपि अधिकरण ने **2003** में मुआवज़ा प्रदान किया था, फिर भी परिवार ने राशि बढ़ाने के लिए **उच्च न्यायालय** में अपील की।
- On appeal, the High Court enhanced the compensation to **₹8.43 lakh** with **7.5% interest**, providing for a higher rate of interest in case of delay in payment.
अपील पर उच्च न्यायालय ने मुआवज़े की राशि बढ़ाकर **₹8.43 लाख** कर दी तथा **7.5% ब्याज** भी प्रदान किया, साथ ही भुगतान में विलंब होने पर अधिक ब्याज दर का प्रावधान किया।
- A Division Bench of **Justice Sanjay Karol** and **Justice N.K. Singh** said the contribution of a homemaker extended beyond the household and played a vital role in **nation-building**.
न्यायमूर्ति संजय करोल और न्यायमूर्ति एन.के. सिंह की खंडपीठ ने कहा कि एक गृह-प्रबंधक का योगदान केवल घर तक सीमित नहीं होता, बल्कि वह **राष्ट्र निर्माण** में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।
- "We are of the view that the housewife contributes to the growth of the human being and the nation," said the Bench.
खंडपीठ ने कहा, "हमारा मत है कि गृहिणी मानव के विकास और राष्ट्र की प्रगति में योगदान देती है।"

Shift to 'homemaker'

'हाउसवाइफ' से 'होममेकर' की ओर परिवर्तन

- Justice Karol stated that "**loss of domestic care**" would be an additional ground to the heads of damages previously recognised by the court.
न्यायमूर्ति करोल ने कहा कि "**घरेलू देखभाल की हानि**" को न्यायालय द्वारा पूर्व में मान्यता प्राप्त क्षतिपूर्ति के आधारों में एक अतिरिक्त आधार के रूप में शामिल किया जाएगा।
- The top court also noted the need to shift from the stereotypical terminology of daily usage from "**housewife**" to "**homemaker**".
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने दैनिक उपयोग की रूढ़िवादी शब्दावली "**हाउसवाइफ**" के स्थान पर "**होममेकर**" शब्द अपनाने की आवश्यकता पर भी बल दिया।
- The court said motor accident compensation claims should ordinarily be decided within **one year**.
न्यायालय ने कहा कि मोटर दुर्घटना मुआवज़ा दावों का सामान्यतः **एक वर्ष** के भीतर निस्तारण किया जाना चाहिए।
- "Such cases should be decided within a year usually," the Bench said.
खंडपीठ ने कहा, "ऐसे मामलों का सामान्यतः एक वर्ष के भीतर निर्णय किया जाना चाहिए।"
- Recognising all aspects of being a homemaker and the **unpaid labour** that a homemaker undertakes, the court directed the **Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal (MACT)** to award a separate compensation of **₹30,000 per month** under the head of "**domestic care**" in cases involving death of a homemaker.
गृह-प्रबंधक की भूमिका के सभी पहलुओं और उसके द्वारा किए जाने वाले **अवैतनिक श्रम** को मान्यता देते हुए न्यायालय ने **मोटर दुर्घटना दावा अधिकरण (MACT)** को निर्देश दिया कि गृह-प्रबंधक की मृत्यु के मामलों में "**घरेलू देखभाल**" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत **₹30,000 प्रति माह** की पृथक क्षतिपूर्ति प्रदान की जाए।
- It clarified that this amount would be treated as the **minimum value** of a homemaker's unpaid work and would increase by **10% every three years**.
न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह राशि गृह-प्रबंधक के अवैतनिक कार्य का **न्यूनतम मूल्य** मानी जाएगी और इसमें **हर तीन वर्ष में 10% की वृद्धि** की जाएगी।
- If the homemaker also had a **paid job**, this amount would be awarded in addition to her income.
यदि गृह-प्रबंधक किसी **वेतनभोगी कार्य** में भी संलग्न थी, तो यह राशि उसकी आय के अतिरिक्त प्रदान की जाएगी।



- However, the court resorted to the application of homemaker to the traditional image of woman.
हालाँकि, न्यायालय ने इस मामले में होममेकर की अवधारणा को महिला की पारंपरिक छवि से जोड़ा।
- The court said, “As a result of one circumstance or another, sometimes unfortunate sometimes not, a man may too need to don the role of a **homemaker**.”
न्यायालय ने कहा, “विभिन्न परिस्थितियों के परिणामस्वरूप, चाहे वे दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण हों या नहीं, कोई पुरुष भी **होममेकर** की भूमिका निभा सकता है।”
- “It is not to take away from the efforts of these men who also deserve recognition and acknowledgment, but for the purposes of the present case and more particularly the quantification of domestic efforts, we limit its application to the quintessential and traditional image, that of a woman.”
“यह उन पुरुषों के प्रयासों को कमतर आँकने के लिए नहीं है, जो मान्यता और सम्मान के पात्र हैं, किन्तु वर्तमान मामले तथा विशेष रूप से घरेलू कार्यों के मूल्यांकन के उद्देश्य से हम इसके प्रयोग को पारंपरिक और विशिष्ट रूप से महिला की छवि तक सीमित रखते हैं।”

PATRIOTIC IAS



Implementation complete, but workers still vulnerable

CS III: Economy

With the notification of the rules for the four labour codes in May, the implementation framework for these codes is now complete. Trade unions and academics have raised serious objections to several provisions in the new labour codes, arguing that they are regressive and detrimental to the interests of workers. It has also taken nearly six years to operationalise the codes enacted during 2019-20. The codes are The Code on Wages, 2019, The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, The Code on Social Security, 2020 and The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

Critical gaps

Rules essentially lay down the standard operating procedures (SoPs) for implementing an Act or Code. While they cannot contradict the provisions of the parent legislation, they become crucial where the law is broad or open-ended. Given the sustained opposition to several provisions in the four labour codes, it was expected that the rules would help moderate some of the contentious aspects. However, those expectations appear to have been belied.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 formally introduced the concept of Fixed-Term Employment (FTE) into India's labour law framework, although such employment arrangements have been widely used for decades. However, the Code does not specify a minimum tenure or limit the number of contract renewals.

The rules could have addressed these gaps to mitigate potential adverse effects on workers. A minimum tenure (one year) could have prevented very short tenures which are detrimental to employees. Also, there could have been some restrictions in the number of times renewals can be allowed. Otherwise, there is a possibility that even regular positions become FTEs with



Kingshuk Sarkar

Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Goa Institute of Management

Labour Code Rules leave workers' concerns unaddressed

unlimited renewals. Unfortunately, the rules remain silent on these important issues.

The Code on Wages (Central) Rules provide only a vague definition of the "floor wage" and do not clearly distinguish it from the minimum wage. While the Rules require consultation with State governments, they do not specify a detailed framework for such consultations, raising concerns that the process may remain largely symbolic. The Rules also fail to lay down clear principles for fixing minimum wages. As a result, the convention of treating a four-member family as comprising three consumption units is likely to continue. This effectively perpetuates gender bias, as an adult female is assigned a weight of 0.8 compared with 1.0 for an adult male.

The Rules further provide that the hourly wage shall be calculated by dividing the daily wage by eight. Conceptually, this is a flawed approach. An hourly wage should not merely be a pro-rata derivation of the daily wage, as workers may not be able to find work for the remaining hours of the day. Internationally, minimum hourly wages are often determined independently of daily wage rates. This issue is particularly important in India, given the large number of domestic workers and the likely expansion of gig and platform-based work in future.

Gig workers remain vulnerable

The Social Security Code (Central) Rules make no attempt to clarify the employment relationship in the gig economy. Gig and platform workers continue to be treated as self-employed and remain part of the unorganised workforce. The Rules are also silent on the mandatory gratuity insurance envisaged under the Code. Such insurance could protect workers against non-payment of gratuity by employers. However, the Rules fail to specify the modalities for implementing this safeguard, leaving an

important worker protection mechanism undefined. The Industrial Relations Code (Central) Rules provide that a sole registered trade union must have at least 30% membership to be recognised. This means that registration alone does not guarantee recognition. In large establishments, smaller or newly formed unions may find it difficult to meet this threshold, further weakening their ability to represent workers at a time when the bargaining power of trade unions has already been declining for decades. Notably, the 30% threshold does not appear in the Code itself. The Rules also fail to provide further clarity on the engagement and renewal of fixed-term employees, leaving significant scope for ambiguity and potential misuse.

Missing safeguards for workers

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (Central) Rules set out safety and welfare provisions for the various occupations covered under the Code. However, certain occupation-specific welfare measures, such as housing and medical facilities for plantation workers, are absent. The Rules also do not specify the activities for which contract labour may be engaged, nor do they clearly distinguish between core and non-core activities.

This omission is significant, given the growing informalisation of the labour market through the use of contract labour in core operations. The lack of clarity on what constitutes a core activity leaves considerable scope for ambiguity and misuse.

Broadly speaking, certain open-ended provisions contested by the trade unions and academics, could have been moderated to a certain extent while framing the Rules. But, as it is evident now, that did not happen. It is yet another missed opportunity and a further cause for concern for the country's working class.

12J6. Implementation complete, but workers still vulnerable

कार्यान्वयन पूर्ण, किन्तु श्रमिक अब भी असुरक्षित ।

- With the notification of the rules for the **four labour codes** in May, the implementation framework for these codes is now complete.
मई में चार श्रम संहिताओं के नियमों की अधिसूचना जारी होने के साथ ही इन संहिताओं के क्रियान्वयन का ढाँचा अब पूर्ण हो गया है।
- Trade unions** and academics have raised serious objections to several provisions in the new labour codes, arguing that they are regressive and detrimental to the interests of workers.
श्रमिक संगठनों और शिक्षाविदों ने नई श्रम संहिताओं के अनेक प्रावधानों पर गंभीर आपत्तियाँ व्यक्त की हैं और तर्क दिया है कि ये प्रतिगामी हैं तथा श्रमिकों के हितों के लिए हानिकारक हैं।
- It has also taken nearly six years to operationalise the codes enacted during 2019-20.
वर्ष 2019-20 के दौरान अधिनियमित इन संहिताओं को लागू करने में लगभग छह वर्ष का समय लगा है।
- The codes are **The Code on Wages, 2019, The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, The Code on Social Security, 2020 and The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.**
इन संहिताओं में वेतन संहिता, 2019, औद्योगिक संबंध संहिता, 2020, सामाजिक सुरक्षा संहिता, 2020 तथा व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य एवं कार्य परिस्थितियाँ संहिता, 2020 शामिल हैं।

Critical gaps

महत्वपूर्ण कमियाँ

- Rules essentially lay down the **standard operating procedures (SoPs)** for implementing an Act or Code.
नियम किसी अधिनियम या संहिता को लागू करने के लिए मूलतः मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाएँ (SoPs) निर्धारित करते हैं।

- While they cannot contradict the provisions of the parent legislation, they become crucial where the law is broad or open-ended.
यद्यपि वे मूल कानून के प्रावधानों का विरोध नहीं कर सकते, किन्तु जहाँ कानून व्यापक या अस्पष्ट हो, वहाँ उनकी भूमिका अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हो जाती है।
- Given the sustained opposition to several provisions in the four labour codes, it was expected that the rules would help moderate some of the contentious aspects.
चारों श्रम संहिताओं के अनेक प्रावधानों के विरुद्ध लगातार विरोध को देखते हुए यह अपेक्षा की जा रही थी कि नियम कुछ विवादास्पद पहलुओं को संतुलित करने में सहायता करेंगे।
- However, those expectations appear to have been belied.
हालाँकि, ये अपेक्षाएँ पूरी होती हुई नहीं दिखाई देती हैं।
- The **Industrial Relations Code, 2020** formally introduced the concept of **Fixed-Term Employment (FTE)** into India's labour law framework, although such employment arrangements have been widely used for decades.
औद्योगिक संबंध संहिता, 2020 ने औपचारिक रूप से **निश्चित अवधि रोजगार (FTE)** की अवधारणा को भारत के श्रम कानून ढाँचे में शामिल किया, यद्यपि इस प्रकार की रोजगार व्यवस्था दशकों से प्रचलित रही है।
- **However, the Code does not specify a minimum tenure or limit the number of contract renewals.**
हालाँकि, संहिता में न्यूनतम कार्यकाल या अनुबंध नवीनीकरणों की संख्या की कोई सीमा निर्धारित नहीं की गई है।
- The rules could have addressed these gaps to mitigate potential adverse effects on workers.
नियम इन कमियों को दूर कर श्रमिकों पर पड़ने वाले संभावित प्रतिकूल प्रभावों को कम कर सकते थे।
- A minimum tenure (one year) could have prevented very short tenures which are detrimental to employees.
एक न्यूनतम कार्यकाल (एक वर्ष) अत्यंत अल्प अवधि की नियुक्तियों को रोक सकता था, जो कर्मचारियों के लिए हानिकारक होती हैं।
- Also, there could have been some restrictions in the number of times renewals can be allowed.
इसके अतिरिक्त, अनुबंध नवीनीकरणों की संख्या पर भी कुछ प्रतिबंध लगाए जा सकते थे।
- Otherwise, there is a possibility that even regular positions become FTEs with unlimited renewals.
अन्यथा यह संभावना बनी रहती है कि नियमित पद भी असीमित नवीनीकरणों के साथ FTE में परिवर्तित हो जाएँ।
- Unfortunately, the rules remain silent on these important issues.
दुर्भाग्यवश, नियम इन महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर मौन हैं।
- The **Code on Wages (Central) Rules** provide only a vague definition of the “**floor wage**” and do not clearly distinguish it from the **minimum wage**.
वेतन संहिता (केंद्रीय) नियम “फ्लोर वेज” की केवल अस्पष्ट परिभाषा देते हैं और इसे **न्यूनतम वेतन** से स्पष्ट रूप से अलग नहीं करते।
- While the Rules require consultation with **State governments**, they do not specify a detailed framework for such consultations, raising concerns that the process may remain largely symbolic.
यद्यपि नियम **राज्य सरकारों** से परामर्श की अपेक्षा करते हैं, परंतु इसके लिए कोई विस्तृत ढाँचा निर्धारित नहीं करते, जिससे यह आशंका उत्पन्न होती है कि यह प्रक्रिया केवल औपचारिकता बनकर रह जाएगी।
- The Rules also fail to lay down clear principles for fixing minimum wages.
नियम न्यूनतम वेतन निर्धारण के लिए स्पष्ट सिद्धांत भी निर्धारित नहीं करते।
- As a result, the convention of treating a four-member family as comprising three consumption units is likely to continue.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप चार सदस्यीय परिवार को तीन उपभोग इकाइयों के बराबर मानने की परंपरा जारी रहने की संभावना है।

- This effectively perpetuates **gender bias**, as an adult female is assigned a weight of 0.8 compared with 1.0 for an adult male.
यह प्रभावी रूप से **लैंगिक पक्षपात** को बनाए रखता है, क्योंकि एक वयस्क महिला को 0.8 का भारांक दिया जाता है जबकि एक वयस्क पुरुष को 1.0 का।
- The Rules further provide that the **hourly wage** shall be calculated by dividing the daily wage by eight.
नियम यह भी निर्धारित करते हैं कि **प्रति घंटा वेतन** की गणना दैनिक वेतन को आठ से विभाजित करके की जाएगी।
- Conceptually, this is a flawed approach.
सैद्धांतिक रूप से यह एक त्रुटिपूर्ण दृष्टिकोण है।
- An hourly wage should not merely be a pro-rata derivation of the daily wage, as workers may not be able to find work for the remaining hours of the day.
प्रति घंटा वेतन केवल दैनिक वेतन का अनुपातिक विभाजन नहीं होना चाहिए, क्योंकि श्रमिकों को दिन के शेष घंटों के लिए कार्य उपलब्ध नहीं हो सकता।
- Internationally, **minimum hourly wages** are often determined independently of daily wage rates.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर **न्यूनतम प्रति घंटा वेतन** प्रायः दैनिक वेतन दरों से स्वतंत्र रूप से निर्धारित किए जाते हैं।
- This issue is particularly important in India, given the large number of **domestic workers** and the likely expansion of **gig and platform-based work** in future.
भारत में यह मुद्दा विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यहाँ **घरेलू कामगारों** की संख्या बहुत अधिक है और भविष्य में **गिग तथा प्लेटफॉर्म आधारित कार्य** के विस्तार की संभावना है।

Gig workers remain vulnerable

गिग श्रमिक अब भी असुरक्षित हैं

- The **Social Security Code (Central) Rules** make no attempt to clarify the employment relationship in the **gig economy**.
सामाजिक सुरक्षा संहिता (केंद्रीय) नियम गिग अर्थव्यवस्था में रोजगार संबंधों को स्पष्ट करने का कोई प्रयास नहीं करते हैं।
- Gig and platform workers continue to be treated as **self-employed** and remain part of the **unorganised workforce**.
गिग और प्लेटफॉर्म श्रमिकों को अब भी **स्व-नियोजित** माना जाता है और वे **असंगठित कार्यबल** का हिस्सा बने हुए हैं।
- The Rules are also silent on the mandatory **gratuity insurance** envisaged under the Code.
नियम संहिता में परिकल्पित अनिवार्य **ग्रेच्युटी बीमा** के संबंध में भी मौन हैं।
- Such insurance could protect workers against **non-payment of gratuity** by employers.
ऐसा बीमा श्रमिकों को नियोक्ताओं द्वारा **ग्रेच्युटी के भुगतान न किए जाने** की स्थिति से सुरक्षा प्रदान कर सकता है।
- However, the Rules fail to specify the modalities for implementing this safeguard, leaving an important worker protection mechanism undefined.
हालाँकि, नियम इस सुरक्षा उपाय को लागू करने की प्रक्रिया स्पष्ट नहीं करते, जिससे श्रमिक सुरक्षा का एक महत्वपूर्ण तंत्र अपरिभाषित रह जाता है।
- The **Industrial Relations Code (Central) Rules** provide that a sole registered **trade union** must have at least **30% membership** to be recognised.
औद्योगिक संबंध संहिता (केंद्रीय) नियम यह प्रावधान करते हैं कि किसी एकमात्र पंजीकृत **ट्रेड यूनियन** को मान्यता प्राप्त करने के लिए कम से कम **30% सदस्यता** होनी चाहिए।
- This means that registration alone does not guarantee recognition.
इसका अर्थ है कि केवल पंजीकरण से मान्यता की गारंटी नहीं मिलती।

- In large establishments, smaller or newly formed unions may find it difficult to meet this threshold, further weakening their ability to represent workers at a time when the bargaining power of trade unions has already been declining for decades.
बड़े प्रतिष्ठानों में छोटी या नवगठित यूनियनों के लिए इस सीमा को प्राप्त करना कठिन हो सकता है, जिससे श्रमिकों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने की उनकी क्षमता और कमजोर हो सकती है, जबकि ट्रेड यूनियनों की सौदेबाजी शक्ति पहले से ही दशकों से घट रही है।
- Notably, the **30% threshold** does not appear in the Code itself.
उल्लेखनीय है कि **30% की सीमा** स्वयं संहिता में उल्लिखित नहीं है।
- The Rules also fail to provide further clarity on the engagement and renewal of **fixed-term employees**, leaving significant scope for ambiguity and potential misuse.
नियम निश्चित अवधि के कर्मचारियों (**Fixed-Term Employees**) की नियुक्ति और नवीनीकरण के संबंध में भी अतिरिक्त स्पष्टता प्रदान नहीं करते, जिससे अस्पष्टता और संभावित दुरुपयोग की पर्याप्त गुंजाइश बनी रहती है।

Missing safeguards for workers

श्रमिकों के लिए सुरक्षा उपायों का अभाव

- The **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (Central) Rules** set out safety and welfare provisions for the various occupations covered under the Code.
व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य एवं कार्य परिस्थितियाँ संहिता (केंद्रीय) नियम संहिता के अंतर्गत आने वाले विभिन्न व्यवसायों के लिए सुरक्षा और कल्याण संबंधी प्रावधान निर्धारित करते हैं।
- However, certain occupation-specific welfare measures, such as **housing and medical facilities** for plantation workers, are absent.
हालाँकि, कुछ व्यवसाय-विशिष्ट कल्याणकारी उपाय, जैसे बागान श्रमिकों के लिए आवास और चिकित्सा सुविधाएँ, अनुपस्थित हैं।
- The Rules also do not specify the activities for which **contract labour** may be engaged, nor do they clearly distinguish between **core and non-core activities**.
नियम यह भी स्पष्ट नहीं करते कि किन गतिविधियों के लिए संविदा श्रमिकों (**Contract Labour**) को नियुक्त किया जा सकता है, और न ही वे मुख्य तथा गैर-मुख्य गतिविधियों के बीच स्पष्ट अंतर करते हैं।
- This omission is significant, given the growing **informalisation of the labour market** through the use of contract labour in core operations.
यह चूक महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि मुख्य कार्यों में संविदा श्रमिकों के उपयोग के माध्यम से श्रम बाजार का अनौपचारिकीकरण लगातार बढ़ रहा है।
- The lack of clarity on what constitutes a **core activity** leaves considerable scope for ambiguity and misuse.
मुख्य गतिविधि की स्पष्ट परिभाषा के अभाव में अस्पष्टता और दुरुपयोग की पर्याप्त संभावना बनी रहती है।
- Broadly speaking, certain open-ended provisions contested by the **trade unions** and academics, could have been moderated to a certain extent while framing the Rules.
सामान्यतः, ट्रेड यूनियनों और शिक्षाविदों द्वारा विवादित कुछ खुले और अस्पष्ट प्रावधानों को नियम बनाते समय कुछ हद तक संतुलित किया जा सकता था।
- But, as it is evident now, that did not happen.
किन्तु अब यह स्पष्ट है कि ऐसा नहीं हुआ।
- It is yet another missed opportunity and a further cause for concern for the country's **working class**.
यह एक और खोया हुआ अवसर है तथा देश के श्रमिक वर्ग के लिए चिंता का एक अतिरिक्त कारण भी है।



Indian textile sector witnessing revival of investments

GS III: Economy

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

For the textile and clothing industry, the last quarter of FY26 and the first quarter of the current financial year have seen growth in demand, triggering investments, according to industry officials.

"After 2022, the industry saw demand picking up across the textile value chain from January to mid-May. There is a slowdown in demand now after withdrawal of the import duty on cotton. We hope the situation will stabilise in a month or so," said K. Selvaraju, secretary general, the Southern India Mills Association.

"All the good performers are investing now, expanding capacities. Investments are not decided based on the performance of two or three months. For larger industries, the investments were planned at least seven or eight months before. They are looking at long-term growth," added Chandrima Chatterjee, Secretary General, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

Higher yarn exports

Yarn exports from October 2025 to March 2026 were higher compared with the same period the previous year in quantity. Export of fabrics picked up and then saw a slow down. Similarly, yarn price spike did have an impact on garments and made-ups for a few weeks. Now, fall in cotton prices again led to demand drop, Mr. Selvaraju said.

"When the market revives, it takes about three months for the entire supply chain to benefit. Cotton



Textile mills are said to be investing in modernisation and expansion.

imports have crossed 40 lakh bales between October 2025 and May 2026. Another 15-20 lakh bales are expected to come in by the end of September. Cotton prices crossed ₹75,000 a candy and are dropping now. This has led to demand slowdown. Everyone is waiting to see how much the prices will fall. The situation will be clear in the next few weeks," added Mr. Selvaraju.

Meanwhile, textile mills are said to be investing in both modernisation and expansion projects though the exact investment data is not available.

More automation

Some of the mills are investing to make value added yarns and some others modernising adopting more automation, said industry sources.

Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement with the U.K. is expected to bring in more orders for garments and made-ups. Another \$10 billion increase in exports will support the entire textile value chain. However, the West Asia war and uncertainties in the U.S. tariff are of concern, sources said.

demand drop, Mr. Selvaraju said.

अक्टूबर 2025 से मार्च 2026 तक यार्न निर्यात मात्रा के आधार पर पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि की तुलना में अधिक रहा। कपड़ों का निर्यात बढ़ा और फिर उसमें मंदी देखी गई। इसी प्रकार, यार्न की कीमतों में वृद्धि का कुछ सप्ताहों तक परिधानों और मेड-अप्स पर प्रभाव पड़ा। अब कपास की कीमतों में गिरावट के कारण फिर से मांग में कमी आई है, श्री सेल्वराजु ने कहा।

- "When the market revives, it takes about three months for the entire supply chain to benefit. Cotton imports have crossed 40 lakh bales between October 2025 and May 2026. Another

12J6. Indian textile sector witnessing revival of investments

भारतीय वस्त्र क्षेत्र में निवेश का पुनरुत्थान देखने को मिल रहा है

- For the **textile and clothing industry**, the last quarter of FY26 and the first quarter of the current financial year have seen growth in demand, triggering **investments**, according to industry officials.

वस्त्र और परिधान उद्योग के लिए, FY26 की अंतिम तिमाही और चालू वित्तीय वर्ष की पहली तिमाही में मांग में वृद्धि देखी गई है, जिससे निवेश को बढ़ावा मिला है, ऐसा उद्योग अधिकारियों का कहना है।

- "After 2022, the industry saw demand picking up across the **textile value chain** from January to mid-May. There is a slowdown in demand now after withdrawal of the **import duty on cotton**. We hope the situation will stabilize in a month or so," said **K. Selvaraju**, secretary general, the **Southern India Mills Association**.

"2022 के बाद, उद्योग ने जनवरी से मई के मध्य तक पूरे वस्त्र मूल्य श्रृंखला में मांग बढ़ते हुए देखी। अब कपास पर आयात शुल्क हटाए जाने के बाद मांग में मंदी आई है। हमें उम्मीद है कि एक महीने के भीतर स्थिति स्थिर हो जाएगी," **सदर्न इंडिया मिल्स एसोसिएशन** के महासचिव **के. सेल्वराजु** ने कहा।

- "All the good performers are investing now, expanding capacities. Investments are not decided based on the performance of two or three months. For larger industries, the investments were planned at least seven or eight months before. They are looking at **long-term growth**," added **Chandrima Chatterjee**, Secretary General, **Confederation of Indian Textile Industry**.

"सभी अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने वाले उद्योग अब निवेश कर रहे हैं और अपनी क्षमता बढ़ा रहे हैं। निवेश का निर्णय दो या तीन महीनों के प्रदर्शन के आधार पर नहीं लिया जाता। बड़े उद्योगों के लिए निवेश की योजना कम से कम सात या आठ महीने पहले बनाई गई थी। वे दीर्घकालिक विकास पर ध्यान दे रहे हैं," **कन्फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री** की महासचिव **चंद्रिमा चटर्जी** ने कहा।

Higher yarn exports

यार्न निर्यात में वृद्धि

- **Yarn exports** from October 2025 to March 2026 were higher compared with the same period the previous year in quantity. Export of fabrics picked up and then saw a slow down. Similarly, yarn price spike did have an impact on garments and made-ups for a few weeks. Now, fall in **cotton prices** again led to

15-20 lakh bales are expected to come in by the end of September. Cotton prices crossed ₹75,000 a candy and are dropping now. This has led to demand slowdown. Everyone is waiting to see how much the prices will fall. The situation will be clear in the next few weeks," added Mr. Selvaraju.

“जब बाजार में सुधार आता है, तो पूरी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को उसका लाभ मिलने में लगभग तीन महीने लगते हैं। अक्टूबर 2025 से मई 2026 के बीच कपास आयात 40 लाख गांठों से अधिक हो चुका है। सितंबर के अंत तक अतिरिक्त 15-20 लाख गांठों के आने की उम्मीद है। कपास की कीमतें ₹75,000 प्रति कैंडी से ऊपर चली गई थीं और अब गिर रही हैं। इससे मांग में मंदी आई है। सभी यह देखने की प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं कि कीमतें कितनी नीचे जाएंगी। अगले कुछ सप्ताहों में स्थिति स्पष्ट हो जाएगी,” श्री सेल्वराजु ने कहा।

- Meanwhile, **textile mills** are said to be investing in both **modernisation** and **expansion projects** though the exact investment data is not available.
इस बीच, कहा जा रहा है कि **वस्त्र मिलें आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार परियोजनाओं** दोनों में निवेश कर रही हैं, हालांकि सटीक निवेश आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

More automation

अधिक स्वचालन

- Some of the mills are investing to make **value-added yarns** and some others modernising and adopting more **automation**, said industry sources.
उद्योग सूत्रों के अनुसार, कुछ मिलें **वैल्यू एडेड यार्न** बनाने के लिए निवेश कर रही हैं और कुछ अन्य अधिक **स्वचालन** अपनाकर आधुनिकीकरण कर रही हैं।
- Implementation of the **Free Trade Agreement** with the **U.K.** is expected to bring in more orders for garments and made-ups.
यू.के. के साथ **मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA)** के कार्यान्वयन से परिधानों और मेड-अप्स के लिए अधिक ऑर्डर मिलने की उम्मीद है।
- Another **\$10 billion** increase in exports will support the entire **textile value chain**.
निर्यात में अतिरिक्त **10 अरब डॉलर** की वृद्धि पूरे **वस्त्र मूल्य श्रृंखला** को समर्थन देगी।
- However, the **West Asia war** and uncertainties in the **U.S. tariff** are of concern, sources said.
हालांकि, **पश्चिम एशिया का युद्ध** और **अमेरिकी टैरिफ** से जुड़ी अनिश्चितताएं चिंता का विषय हैं, सूत्रों ने कहा।



RIL, Vedanta, Adani said to join hands to cut China rare earth reliance

GS III: Economy

Reuters

NEW DELHI

Indian industrial groups-Reliance, Vedanta and Adani have shown interest in developing facilities to process Andhra Pradesh state's significant reserves of increasingly important rare-earth minerals, according to two sources with knowledge of the matter.

With New Delhi seeking to cut India's dependence on China for rare earths, the three companies are among about 10 who have expressed interest in setting up rare earth facilities in the southern state, one of the sources said.

The sources declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to the media. Andhra Pradesh holds 211 million metric tonne of beach sand mineral resources, including rare earths, across 16 identified coastal deposits, as per a draft document.

India has 482.6 million tonne of rare earth ore resources, according to the Geological Survey of India.

The interest comes as New Delhi steps up efforts to build domestic rare earth mining, processing and magnet manufacturing capacity, while Andhra Pradesh aims to attract ₹50,000 crore (\$5.2 billion) in rare earth and titanium investments over the next decade. The plans were set out in a draft government document.

The Andhra Pradesh government, Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), Vedanta Ltd. and Adani Enterprises Ltd. did not respond to Reuters emails seeking comments.

12J6. RIL, Vedanta, Adani said to join hands to cut China rare earth reliance

चीन पर दुर्लभ मृदा निर्भरता कम करने के लिए RIL, Vedanta और Adani के साथ आने की बात

- Indian industrial groups **Reliance**, **Vedanta** and **Adani** have shown interest in developing facilities to process **Andhra Pradesh** state's significant reserves of increasingly important **rare-earth minerals**, according to two sources with knowledge of the matter.

मामले की जानकारी रखने वाले दो सूत्रों के अनुसार, भारतीय औद्योगिक समूह **रिलायंस**, **वेदांता** और **अडानी** ने **आंध्र प्रदेश** राज्य के महत्वपूर्ण **दुर्लभ मृदा खनिजों (रेयर अर्थ मिनरल्स)** के बड़े भंडारों के प्रसंस्करण हेतु सुविधाएं विकसित करने में रुचि दिखाई है।

- With **New Delhi** seeking to cut India's dependence on **China** for rare earths, the three companies are among about **10** who have expressed interest in setting up rare earth facilities in the southern state, one of the sources said. एक सूत्र ने कहा कि **नई दिल्ली** द्वारा दुर्लभ मृदा खनिजों के लिए **चीन** पर भारत की निर्भरता कम करने के प्रयासों के बीच, ये तीनों कंपनियां उन लगभग **10** कंपनियों में शामिल हैं जिन्होंने दक्षिणी राज्य में दुर्लभ मृदा सुविधाएं स्थापित करने में रुचि दिखाई है।

- The sources declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

सूत्रों ने अपनी पहचान बताने से इनकार कर दिया क्योंकि वे मीडिया से बात करने के लिए अधिकृत नहीं थे।

- Andhra Pradesh** holds **211 million metric tonne** of beach sand mineral resources, including rare earths, across **16 identified coastal deposits**, as per a draft document.

एक मसौदा दस्तावेज़ के अनुसार, **आंध्र प्रदेश** में **16 चिन्हित तटीय भंडारों** में दुर्लभ मृदा सहित **211 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन** समुद्री तट रेत खनिज संसाधन मौजूद हैं।

- India has **482.6 million tonne** of rare earth ore resources, according to the **Geological Survey of India**.

भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (GSI) के अनुसार, भारत के पास **482.6 मिलियन टन** दुर्लभ मृदा अयस्क संसाधन हैं।

- The interest comes as **New Delhi** steps up efforts to build domestic rare earth mining, processing and **magnet manufacturing capacity**, while **Andhra Pradesh** aims to attract **₹50,000 crore (\$5.2 billion)** in rare earth and titanium investments over the next decade.

यह रुचि ऐसे समय में सामने आई है जब **नई दिल्ली** घरेलू दुर्लभ मृदा खनन, प्रसंस्करण और **चुंबक निर्माण क्षमता** विकसित करने के प्रयास तेज कर रही है, जबकि **आंध्र प्रदेश** अगले दशक में दुर्लभ मृदा और टाइटेनियम क्षेत्र में **₹50,000 करोड़ (5.2 अरब डॉलर)** का निवेश आकर्षित करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।

- The plans were set out in a draft government document. इन योजनाओं का उल्लेख एक मसौदा सरकारी दस्तावेज़ में किया गया है।

- The **Andhra Pradesh government**, **Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)**, **Vedanta Ltd.** and **Adani Enterprises Ltd.** did not respond to Reuters emails seeking comments.

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार, **रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (RIL)**, **वेदांता लिमिटेड** और **अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज लिमिटेड** ने टिप्पणी मांगने वाले रॉयटर्स के ईमेल का कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया।



Once an Arab oil embargo victim, U.S. now becomes world's top oil exporter

U.S. exports of crude and fuel climbed to about 10.5 million barrels per day in May as Saudi, Russian exports disrupted by conflict and sanctions; EU officials warn of risks in growing dependence on U.S. energy supplies; U.S. oil boom driven by private firms, contrasting with state-led output in rivals

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
HOUSTON

The United States has become the world's largest oil exporter, upending a decades-old order long dominated by Saudi Arabia and Russia, a shift that tightens American companies' grip on energy markets as Washington's war with Iran reshapes global energy trade. America's ascendancy to the top spot marks a stunning reversal for a country that was dependent on Middle Eastern oil for decades and suffered from an oil embargo imposed by some OPEC members in 1973 to retaliate against U.S. support for Israel.

Change in fortune
U.S. fortunes began to change after 2010, when oil and gas output from its shale formations soared, first making it the world's top gas and then the world's top oil producer. With the U.S.-Iran war disrupting Saudi oil exports since February 2026 and Russian oil exports suffering from Ukrainian drone attacks and U.S. sanctions on Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. has become the world's leading oil exporter. U.S. exports of crude and fuel climbed to about



Oil power: A pumpjack operates near a crude oil reserve in the Permian Basin oil field, U.S. REUTERS

10.5 million barrels per day in May on the back of high output and the release of strategic reserves, data from ship tracking services Vortexa showed, making the U.S. the top global exporter for the third month in a row.

Russian exports stood at 7 million bpd in May, according to Reuters' calculations, while Saudi Arabia's exports stood at 5.9 million bpd, according to Vortexa.

In comparison, Saudi Arabia exported about 8.1 million bpd in 2025, while the United States shipped out 6.6 million bpd, and Russian exports stood at about 5.8 million bpd, according to Vortexa data.

"Washington has a new tool they didn't realise they had before the Iran war — energy exports," said Mi-



Russian exports stood at 7 million bpd in May, according to Reuters' calculations, while Saudi Arabia's exports stood at 5.9 million bpd, according to Vortexa.

chelle Brouhard, head of policy at ship tracking firm Kpler.

OPEC price weakening
The new U.S. dominance could weaken the pricing power that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies have historically held over oil markets. U.S. President Donald Trump has long criticised OPEC for manip-

ulating the markets. The group also suffered a blow in May when one of its biggest members, the United Arab Emirates, left the organization after nearly 60 years. The biggest oil exporter spot will give Washington a powerful new lever in talks with allies and rivals in addition to its global military supremacy and its dominance of financial markets thanks to the U.S. dollar's role as the world's reserve currency.

U.S. leverage
"You can see now the leverage the United States has over some of these countries because they are dependent on the U.S. for their oil or gas," Brouhard said, adding that the U.S. was the largest provider of crude to Europe and the

second-largest provider of distillates. EU officials, who initially welcomed the U.S. oil and gas boom as an alternative to Russian and Middle Eastern supply, have grown more skeptical and warned of risks of becoming too dependent on American companies.

Oil, tariffs

The warning coincided with the EU clashing with the U.S. administration over trade tariffs and green regulations. Moscow is also finding it hard to hide frustration. U.S. energy companies were the main beneficiaries of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Igor Sechin, the boss of the Kremlin oil major Rosneft and one of the closest allies of President Vladimir Putin, said this month.

But long before the U.S.-Iran war started, both Saudi Arabia and Russia were trailing far behind U.S. companies on production growth. Crude and liquids output in the United States has nearly tripled to about 22 million bpd since 2000. Saudi crude and liquids output has largely fluctuated between 10 million and 12 million bpd depending on OPEC quotas between 2000 and 2026.

Russian oil and liquids output soared to 10 million bpd from 6 million bpd between 2000 and 2010, grew by a further 2 million bpd during the 2010s, but has largely stagnated and

declined to below 10 million bpd since 2020.

Global oil demand grew to 104 million bpd last year from 87 million in 2010, meaning the lion's share of the global growth of the past 15 years has been mostly met by the U.S. oil boom.

In 2015, the United States repealed a 40-year export ban it had in place since the Arab oil embargo, opening the gates for its oil boom to the wider world. Fast forward 10 years, it has become the biggest oil exporter, proving skeptics wrong that the growth would be short-lived as fields deplete.

Unlike in Saudi Arabia and Russia, where governments fully or partially set production and export targets, the U.S. boom hinges on private companies' decisions and is primarily driven by profits.

When oil prices rise, U.S. firms will respond by raising production, which will help bring prices down. When prices are weak, U.S. firms will cut output, which will boost prices, said Kenneth Medlock III, a fellow in Energy and Resource Economics at the Baker Institute for Public Policy. "In many ways, it's kind of a similar role to what OPEC and Saudi Arabia have been doing with spare production capacity, but it's more of a market mechanism than a strategic device," he said.

12J6. Once an Arab oil embargo victim, U.S. now becomes world's top oil exporter

कभी अरब तेल प्रतिबंध का शिकार रहा अमेरिका, अब बना दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल निर्यातक

- **U.S. exports** of crude and fuel climbed to about **10.5 million barrels per day** in May as **Saudi and Russian exports** were disrupted by conflict and sanctions.

मई में अमेरिकी निर्यात कच्चे तेल और ईंधन के मामले में बढ़कर लगभग 10.5 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन हो गया क्योंकि सऊदी और रूसी निर्यात संघर्ष और प्रतिबंधों से प्रभावित हुए।

- **EU officials** warn of risks in growing dependence on **U.S. energy supplies**. यूरोपीय संघ के अधिकारियों ने अमेरिकी ऊर्जा आपूर्ति पर बढ़ती निर्भरता के जोखिमों को लेकर चेतावनी दी है।
- The **U.S. oil boom** is driven by private firms, contrasting with state-led output in rivals. अमेरिकी तेल उछाल निजी कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित है, जो प्रतिस्पर्धी देशों में सरकार-नियंत्रित उत्पादन से भिन्न है।
- The **United States** has become the world's largest oil exporter, upending a decades-old order long dominated by **Saudi Arabia** and **Russia**, a shift that tightens American companies' grip on energy markets as **Washington's war with Iran** reshapes global energy trade.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल निर्यातक बन गया है, जिससे सऊदी अरब और रूस के लंबे समय से चले आ रहे प्रभुत्व वाली व्यवस्था बदल गई है। यह परिवर्तन ऊर्जा बाजारों पर अमेरिकी कंपनियों की

पकड़ को मजबूत करता है क्योंकि ईरान के साथ वाशिंगटन का युद्ध वैश्विक ऊर्जा व्यापार को नया स्वरूप दे रहा है।

- America's ascendancy to the top spot marks a stunning reversal for a country that was dependent on **Middle Eastern oil** for decades and suffered from an **oil embargo** imposed by some **OPEC** members in **1973** to retaliate against U.S. support for Israel.
शीर्ष स्थान पर अमेरिका का पहुंचना उस देश के लिए एक आश्चर्यजनक बदलाव है जो दशकों तक **मध्य-पूर्वी तेल** पर निर्भर रहा और **1973** में इज़राइल के समर्थन के प्रतिशोध में कुछ **ओपेक** सदस्यों द्वारा लगाए गए **तेल प्रतिबंध** का शिकार बना था।

Change in fortune भाग्य में परिवर्तन

- U.S. fortunes began to change after **2010**, when oil and gas output from its **shale formations** soared, first making it the world's top gas and then the world's top oil producer.
2010 के बाद अमेरिका की स्थिति बदलनी शुरू हुई जब उसके **शेल भंडारों** से तेल और गैस उत्पादन तेजी से बढ़ा, जिससे वह पहले दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा गैस उत्पादक और फिर सबसे बड़ा तेल उत्पादक बना।
- With the **U.S.-Iran war** disrupting Saudi oil exports since **February 2026** and Russian oil exports suffering from **Ukrainian drone attacks** and **U.S. sanctions** on Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. has become the world's leading oil exporter.
फरवरी 2026 से **अमेरिका-ईरान युद्ध** के कारण सऊदी तेल निर्यात प्रभावित होने और यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण के कारण रूस पर लगाए गए **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** तथा **यूक्रेनी ड्रोन हमलों** से रूसी निर्यात प्रभावित होने के चलते अमेरिका दुनिया का अग्रणी तेल निर्यातक बन गया है।
- U.S. exports of crude and fuel climbed to about **10.5 million barrels per day** in May on the back of high output and the release of **strategic reserves**, data from ship tracking services **Vortexa** showed, making the U.S. the top global exporter for the third month in a row.
जहाज ट्रैकिंग सेवा **वोर्टेक्सा** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, उच्च उत्पादन और **रणनीतिक भंडारों** की रिहाई के कारण मई में अमेरिका का कच्चे तेल और ईंधन निर्यात बढ़कर लगभग **10.5 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गया, जिससे वह लगातार तीसरे महीने दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक बना।
- Russian exports stood at **7 million bpd** in May, according to Reuters' calculations, while **Saudi Arabia's exports** stood at **5.9 million bpd**, according to Vortexa.
रॉयटर्स की गणनाओं के अनुसार मई में रूसी निर्यात **7 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** रहा, जबकि वोर्टेक्सा के अनुसार **सऊदी अरब का निर्यात 5.9 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** रहा।
- In comparison, **Saudi Arabia** exported about **8.1 million bpd** in **2025**, while the **United States** shipped out **6.6 million bpd**, and Russian exports stood at about **5.8 million bpd**, according to Vortexa data.
तुलनात्मक रूप से, **2025** में **सऊदी अरब** ने लगभग **8.1 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** निर्यात किया, जबकि **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने **6.6 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** और रूस ने लगभग **5.8 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** निर्यात किया।
- "Washington has a new tool they didn't realise they had before the Iran war — **energy exports**," said **Michelle Brouhard**, head of policy at ship tracking firm **Kpler**.
जहाज ट्रैकिंग कंपनी **कप्लर** की नीति प्रमुख **मिशेल ब्रूहार्ड** ने कहा, "वाशिंगटन के पास अब एक नया साधन है जिसका उसे ईरान युद्ध से पहले एहसास नहीं था — **ऊर्जा निर्यात**।"

OPEC price weakening ओपेक की मूल्य निर्धारण शक्ति कमजोर

- The new U.S. dominance could weaken the pricing power that the **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and its allies have historically held over oil markets.

अमेरिका का नया प्रभुत्व तेल बाजारों पर ओपेक और उसके सहयोगियों की ऐतिहासिक मूल्य निर्धारण शक्ति को कमजोर कर सकता है।

- **U.S. President Donald Trump** has long criticised OPEC for manipulating the markets. **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** लंबे समय से ओपेक पर बाजार में हेरफेर करने का आरोप लगाते रहे हैं।
- The group also suffered a blow in May when one of its biggest members, the **United Arab Emirates**, left the organization after nearly **60 years**.
मई में समूह को एक और झटका लगा जब उसके सबसे बड़े सदस्यों में से एक **संयुक्त अरब अमीरात** लगभग **60 वर्षों** बाद संगठन से बाहर हो गया।
- The biggest oil exporter spot will give **Washington** a powerful new lever in talks with allies and rivals in addition to its global military supremacy and its dominance of financial markets thanks to the **U.S. dollar's** role as the world's reserve currency.
दुनिया के सबसे बड़े तेल निर्यातक का दर्जा **वाशिंगटन** को अपने वैश्विक सैन्य प्रभुत्व और **अमेरिकी डॉलर** की आरक्षित मुद्रा की भूमिका के अतिरिक्त सहयोगियों और प्रतिद्वंद्वियों के साथ वार्ता में एक नया शक्तिशाली साधन प्रदान करेगा।

U.S. leverage

अमेरिका की बढ़ी हुई प्रभाव क्षमता

- "You can see now the leverage the **United States** has over some of these countries because they are dependent on the U.S. for their oil or gas," Brouhard said, adding that the U.S. was the largest provider of crude to **Europe** and the second-largest provider of distillates.
ब्रुहार्ड ने कहा, "अब आप देख सकते हैं कि **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** का कुछ देशों पर कितना प्रभाव है क्योंकि वे अपने तेल या गैस के लिए अमेरिका पर निर्भर हैं।" उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका **यूरोप** को कच्चे तेल का सबसे बड़ा और डिस्टिलेट्स का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता है।
- **EU officials**, who initially welcomed the U.S. oil and gas boom as an alternative to Russian and Middle Eastern supply, have grown more skeptical and warned of risks of becoming too dependent on American companies.
यूरोपीय संघ के अधिकारी, जिन्होंने शुरू में अमेरिकी तेल और गैस उछाल का स्वागत रूसी और मध्य-पूर्वी आपूर्ति के विकल्प के रूप में किया था, अब अधिक संशय में हैं और अमेरिकी कंपनियों पर अत्यधिक निर्भर होने के जोखिमों की चेतावनी दे रहे हैं।

Oil, tariffs

तेल और शुल्क

- The warning coincided with the **EU** clashing with the **U.S. administration** over trade tariffs and green regulations.
यह चेतावनी ऐसे समय आई जब **यूरोपीय संघ** और **अमेरिकी प्रशासन** के बीच व्यापार शुल्क और हरित नियमों को लेकर टकराव चल रहा है।
- **Moscow** is also finding it hard to hide frustration.
मॉस्को के लिए भी अपनी निराशा छिपाना कठिन हो रहा है।
- U.S. energy companies were the main beneficiaries of the closure of the **Strait of Hormuz**, **Igor Sechin**, the boss of the Kremlin oil major **Rosneft** and one of the closest allies of President **Vladimir Putin**, said this month.
इस महीने **रोसनेफ्ट** के प्रमुख और राष्ट्रपति **व्लादिमीर पुतिन** के करीबी सहयोगी **इगोर सेचिन** ने कहा कि **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** के बंद होने से सबसे अधिक लाभ अमेरिकी ऊर्जा कंपनियों को हुआ।
- But long before the **U.S.-Iran war** started, both **Saudi Arabia** and **Russia** were trailing far behind U.S. companies on production growth.

लेकिन अमेरिका-ईरान युद्ध शुरू होने से बहुत पहले ही सऊदी अरब और रूस उत्पादन वृद्धि के मामले में अमेरिकी कंपनियों से काफी पीछे थे।

- Crude and liquids output in the **United States** has nearly tripled to about **22 million bpd** since **2000**.
2000 के बाद से संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में कच्चे तेल और तरल पदार्थों का उत्पादन लगभग तीन गुना बढ़कर **22 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गया है।
- Saudi crude and liquids output has largely fluctuated between **10 million** and **12 million bpd** depending on **OPEC quotas** between **2000 and 2026**.
2000 से 2026 के बीच ओपेक कोटा के अनुसार सऊदी उत्पादन अधिकांश समय **10 से 12 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** के बीच रहा है।
- Russian oil and liquids output soared to **10 million bpd** from **6 million bpd** between **2000 and 2010**, grew by a further **2 million bpd** during the 2010s, but has largely stagnated and declined to below **10 million bpd** since **2020**.
2000 से 2010 के बीच रूसी तेल और तरल उत्पादन **6 मिलियन** से बढ़कर **10 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गया, 2010 के दशक में इसमें और **2 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** की वृद्धि हुई, लेकिन **2020** के बाद यह ठहर गया और **10 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** से नीचे आ गया।
- Global oil demand grew to **104 million bpd** last year from **87 million** in **2010**, meaning the lion's share of the global growth of the past **15 years** has been mostly met by the **U.S. oil boom**.
वैश्विक तेल मांग **2010** के **87 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** से बढ़कर पिछले वर्ष **104 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गई, जिसका अर्थ है कि पिछले **15 वर्षों** की अधिकांश वैश्विक वृद्धि की पूर्ति मुख्यतः अमेरिकी तेल उछाल ने की है।
- In **2015**, the **United States** repealed a **40-year export ban** it had in place since the Arab oil embargo, opening the gates for its oil boom to the wider world.
2015 में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने अरब तेल प्रतिबंध के बाद लागू **40 वर्ष पुराने निर्यात प्रतिबंध** को समाप्त कर दिया, जिससे उसके तेल उछाल के लिए वैश्विक बाजार खुल गए।
- Fast forward **10 years**, it has become the biggest oil exporter, proving skeptics wrong that the growth would be short-lived as fields deplete.
10 वर्ष बाद अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल निर्यातक बन गया, जिससे उन संदेहों को गलत साबित किया गया कि भंडार समाप्त होने के साथ यह वृद्धि अल्पकालिक होगी।
- Unlike in **Saudi Arabia** and **Russia**, where governments fully or partially set production and export targets, the **U.S. boom** hinges on private companies' decisions and is primarily driven by profits.
सऊदी अरब और रूस के विपरीत, जहां सरकारें उत्पादन और निर्यात लक्ष्य निर्धारित करती हैं, अमेरिकी उछाल निजी कंपनियों के निर्णयों पर आधारित है और मुख्य रूप से लाभ से संचालित होता है।
- When oil prices rise, **U.S. firms** will respond by raising production, which will help bring prices down.
जब तेल की कीमतें बढ़ती हैं, तो अमेरिकी कंपनियां उत्पादन बढ़ाती हैं, जिससे कीमतों को नीचे लाने में मदद मिलती है।
- When prices are weak, **U.S. firms** will cut output, which will boost prices, said **Kenneth Medlock III**, a fellow in Energy and Resource Economics at the **Baker Institute for Public Policy**.
बेकर इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर पब्लिक पॉलिसी के ऊर्जा एवं संसाधन अर्थशास्त्र विशेषज्ञ केनेथ मेडलॉक III ने कहा कि जब कीमतें कमजोर होती हैं तो अमेरिकी कंपनियां उत्पादन घटा देती हैं, जिससे कीमतें बढ़ती हैं।
- "In many ways, it's kind of a similar role to what **OPEC** and **Saudi Arabia** have been doing with spare production capacity, but it's more of a market mechanism than a strategic device," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "कई मायनों में यह उसी तरह की भूमिका है जैसी ओपेक और सऊदी अरब अतिरिक्त उत्पादन

क्षमता के माध्यम से निभाते रहे हैं, लेकिन यह एक रणनीतिक उपकरण की बजाय अधिक बाजार आधारित तंत्र है।”

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
12J6	Efforts on to contain Nipah outbreak: Kerala Minister निपाह प्रकोप को नियंत्रित करने के प्रयास जारी: केरल मंत्री	
12J6	Bacillary dysentery cases rise in Kerala केरल में बैसिलरी पेचिश के मामलों में वृद्धि	
12J6	Contraceptive use and the weight women carry: insights from NFHS-6 गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग और महिलाओं द्वारा वहन किया जाने वाला भार: NFHS-6 से प्राप्त अंतर्दृष्टियाँ	
12J6	Ingredient for sunscreen सनस्क्रीन के लिए घटक	
12J6	Misconceptions continue to deter men from getting vasectomies, say experts विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि भ्रांतियाँ पुरुषों को नसबंदी करवाने से अब भी हतोत्साहित करती हैं	
12J6	The Darwin of Botany वनस्पति विज्ञान के डार्विन	

Efforts on to contain Nipah outbreak: Kerala Minister

Contact list of persons who might have interacted with the patient drawn up; no containment zone needed as none other than the patient had shown symptoms, says K. Muralleedharan

GS III: S&T
The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Health Department in Kerala is maintaining maximum vigilance and taking all possible preventive measures to ensure that the current Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode is contained and that no nosocomial or human-to-human transmission of the virus occurs.

The patient, a 43-year-old man from Ramanattukara, who was transferred from a private hospital to the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode on Wednesday with encephalitis symptoms, is stable and on ventilator support.

Health Minister K. Mura-



Health workers at the Nipah isolation ward at the Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode on Thursday. K. RAGESH

leedharan, who spoke to mediapersons in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, after holding a high-level meeting with Health and medical college officials, said that a contact list of 77 persons who might have closely interacted

with the patient had been drawn up. The list includes 58 healthcare workers, 14 family members of the patient, and five co-workers and friends.

Of the 77 persons, two have been categorised as being at the “highest risk”,

13 at “high risk”, and 62 at low risk. He said that as of now, there was no need for earmarking a containment zone as none other than the patient had shown any symptoms.

The Health Department was preparing the patient's route map, and he appeared to have visited several healthcare establishments from May 10 before reaching the Kozhikode medical college, Mr. Muralleedharan said.

The Rapid Response Team in Kozhikode had met and adequate stocks of personal protection equipment and medicines were being made available. A control room has been opened at Kozhikode district medical administration's office.

12J6. Efforts on to contain Nipah outbreak: Kerala Minister

निपाह प्रकोप को नियंत्रित करने के प्रयास जारी: केरल मंत्री

- Health workers at the Nipah isolation ward at the Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode on Thursday.

गुरुवार को कोझिकोड स्थित

सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज

अस्पताल के निपाह

आइसोलेशन वार्ड में

स्वास्थ्यकर्मी।

- Contact list of

persons who might have interacted with the patient drawn up.

उन व्यक्तियों की संपर्क सूची तैयार की गई है जो रोगी के संपर्क में आए हो सकते हैं।

- No **containment zone** needed as none other than the patient had shown **symptoms**, says K. Muraleedharan.

के. मुरलीधरन ने कहा कि रोगी के अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य व्यक्ति में **लक्षण** नहीं पाए गए हैं, इसलिए किसी **नियंत्रण क्षेत्र (कंटेनमेंट ज़ोन)** की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

Kerala maintains maximum vigilance amid Nipah outbreak

निपाह प्रकोप के बीच केरल में उच्चतम स्तर की सतर्कता बरकरार

- The **Health Department** in Kerala is maintaining maximum vigilance and taking all possible preventive measures to ensure that the current **Nipah outbreak** in **Kozhikode** is contained and that no **nosocomial** or **human-to-human transmission** of the virus occurs.
केरल का स्वास्थ्य विभाग अधिकतम सतर्कता बनाए हुए है और सभी संभावित निवारक उपाय कर रहा है ताकि कोझिकोड में वर्तमान निपाह प्रकोप को नियंत्रित किया जा सके तथा वायरस का अस्पताल-जनित (नोसोकोमियल) या मानव-से-मानव संक्रमण न हो।
- The patient, a **43-year-old man** from **Ramanattukara**, who was transferred from a private hospital to the **Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode** on Wednesday with **encephalitis symptoms**, is stable and on **ventilator support**.
रामनट्टुकारा के 43 वर्षीय व्यक्ति, जिन्हें एन्सेफलाइटिस के लक्षणों के साथ बुधवार को एक निजी अस्पताल से सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल (एमसीएच), कोझिकोड स्थानांतरित किया गया था, उनकी स्थिति स्थिर है और वे वेंटिलेटर सहायता पर हैं।
- Health Minister K. Muraleedharan**, who spoke to mediapersons in **Thiruvananthapuram** on Thursday, after holding a high-level meeting with Health and medical college officials, said that a **contact list** of **77 persons** who might have closely interacted with the patient had been drawn up.
स्वास्थ्य मंत्री के. मुरलीधरन ने गुरुवार को तिरुवनंतपुरम में स्वास्थ्य विभाग और मेडिकल कॉलेज अधिकारियों के साथ उच्चस्तरीय बैठक के बाद मीडिया से बातचीत करते हुए कहा कि रोगी के निकट संपर्क में आए संभावित 77 व्यक्तियों की संपर्क सूची तैयार कर ली गई है।
- The list includes **58 healthcare workers**, **14 family members** of the patient, and **five co-workers and friends**.
इस सूची में 58 स्वास्थ्यकर्मी, रोगी के 14 परिजन, तथा पाँच सहकर्मी और मित्र शामिल हैं।
- Of the **77 persons**, two have been categorised as being at the **"highest risk"**, 13 at **"high risk"**, and 62 at **low risk**.
इन 77 व्यक्तियों में से दो को "अत्यधिक जोखिम", 13 को "उच्च जोखिम", तथा 62 को निम्न जोखिम श्रेणी में रखा गया है।
- He said that as of now, there was no need for earmarking a **containment zone** as none other than the patient had shown any symptoms.
उन्होंने कहा कि फिलहाल नियंत्रण क्षेत्र (कंटेनमेंट ज़ोन) घोषित करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि रोगी के अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य व्यक्ति में कोई लक्षण नहीं पाए गए हैं।
- The **Health Department** was preparing the patient's **route map**, and he appeared to have visited several healthcare establishments from **May 10** before reaching the Kozhikode medical college, Mr. Muraleedharan said.
श्री मुरलीधरन ने कहा कि स्वास्थ्य विभाग रोगी का यात्रा मार्ग मानचित्र (रूट मैप) तैयार कर रहा है और ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि कोझिकोड मेडिकल कॉलेज पहुँचने से पहले वह 10 मई से कई स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में गया था।
- The **Rapid Response Team** in Kozhikode had met and adequate stocks of **personal protective equipment (PPE)** and medicines were being made available.
कोझिकोड की रैपिड रिस्पॉन्स टीम की बैठक हो चुकी है तथा पर्याप्त मात्रा में व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा उपकरण (पीपीई) और दवाओं की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की जा रही है।
- A **control room** has been opened at Kozhikode district medical administration's office.
कोझिकोड जिला चिकित्सा प्रशासन के कार्यालय में एक नियंत्रण कक्ष (कंट्रोल रूम) स्थापित किया गया है।

Bacillary dysentery cases rise in Kerala

GS III: S&T
The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

More cases of shigellosis (bacillary dysentery), a highly contagious bacterial diarrhoeal disease caused by shigella, are being reported across Kerala, with a total of 34 cases reported in June alone.

Thiruvananthapuram has reported six cases, Kollam and Idukki one each, Alapuzha three, Malappuram and Kannur two each, Kozhikode 11 and Wayanad eight.

Three more children tested positive for shigellosis at Wayanad Mar Baseli HSS on Thursday, where around 514 children have shown symptoms of the infection. The results of seven more samples are awaited, Health Minister K. Muraliedharan said here on Thursday.

He said that 47 people are currently undergoing treatment in hospitals, both public and private, in Wayanad, while three people were hospitalised in Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram, and two others in Kollam.

Mr. Muraliedharan said that water samples from both the borewell as well as the well in Mar Baseli school had been sent for testing and that the well water was found to be highly contaminated.

Shigellosis is sporadically reported from all districts every year, with occasional outbreaks. Last year, a total of 133 cases had been reported, with zero deaths.

Shigellosis is a severe

form of diarrhoeal outbreak involving intestinal tissue invasion by the bacteria, causing highly infectious, bloody, and mucoid stools (bacillary dysentery) accompanied by high fever and severe abdominal cramps.

The infection spreads through contaminated water, food and contact from infected surfaces and is extremely infectious. Ingesting as few as 10 to 100 bacteria can cause an infection. It spreads rapidly via the fecal-oral route.

12J6. Bacillary dysentery cases rise in Kerala

केरल में बैसिलरी पेचिश के मामलों में वृद्धि

• More cases of **shigellosis (bacillary dysentery)**, a highly contagious bacterial diarrhoeal disease caused by **Shigella**, are being reported

across Kerala, with a total of 34 cases reported in June alone.

शिगेलोसिस (बैसिलरी पेचिश), जो शिगेला जीवाणु से होने वाला अत्यधिक संक्रामक जीवाणुजनित अतिसार रोग है, के मामले पूरे केरल में बढ़ रहे हैं। केवल जून माह में ही इसके 34 मामले दर्ज किए गए हैं।

- Mr. Muraliedharan said that **water samples** from both the **borewell** as well as the **well** in **Mar Baseli School** had been sent for testing and that the well water was found to be **highly contaminated**.

श्री मुरलीधरन ने बताया कि मार बेसिलियोस स्कूल के बोरवेल और कुएँ दोनों के जल नमूने परीक्षण के लिए भेजे गए थे तथा कुएँ का पानी अत्यधिक दूषित पाया गया है।

- Shigellosis is sporadically reported from all districts every year, with occasional outbreaks. **शिगेलोसिस** के मामले प्रत्येक वर्ष राज्य के सभी जिलों से छिटपुट रूप में सामने आते हैं और समय-समय पर इसके प्रकोप भी देखे जाते हैं।
- Shigellosis is a severe form of diarrhoeal outbreak involving **intestinal tissue invasion** by the bacteria, causing highly infectious, **bloody and mucoid stools (bacillary dysentery)** accompanied by **high fever** and **severe abdominal cramps**.

शिगेलोसिस अतिसार का एक गंभीर रूप है, जिसमें जीवाणु आंतों के ऊतकों पर आक्रमण करते हैं, जिससे अत्यधिक संक्रामक रक्तयुक्त एवं श्लेष्मायुक्त मल (बैसिलरी पेचिश), उच्च ज्वर तथा गंभीर पेट दर्द और ऐंठन की समस्या उत्पन्न होती है।

- The infection spreads through **contaminated water**, **food** and contact from **infected surfaces** and is extremely infectious. यह संक्रमण दूषित जल, दूषित भोजन तथा संक्रमित सतहों के संपर्क से फैलता है और अत्यंत संक्रामक होता है।
- Ingesting as few as **10 to 100 bacteria** can cause an infection. केवल 10 से 100 जीवाणुओं के शरीर में प्रवेश करने से भी संक्रमण हो सकता है।

- **It spreads rapidly via the fecal-oral route.**

यह संक्रमण मल-मुख मार्ग (फीकल-ओरल रूट) से अत्यंत तीव्र गति से फैलता है।

Contraceptive use and the weight women carry: insights from NFHS-6

India must invest in policies that move contraceptive use from compliance to choice; this will involve ensuring no girl is married before the age of 18, investing in rural secondary education, and increasing access to reversible scientific contraception methods

ESSAYS

Trishna Sarkar
C. Saratchand

Reproductive agency, the power to decide whether, when, and how to bear children is a vital and necessary component of women's empowerment, and yet, is often not taken into account when metrics of income, education, mobility and political representation are analysed.

India's demographic transition, as reflected in the latest round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023-24), besides revealing incremental changes in health indicators, also signals a structural shift in the domain of reproductive agency. Contraception, once framed primarily as an instrument of population control, is increasingly emerging as a marker of women's reproduction agency.

History of contraceptive use

India's engagement with contraception dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official family planning programme but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility.

The following data, drawn from the NFHS-6 (2023-24) survey of currently married women aged 15-49 years, maps the reproductive and contraceptive landscape across urban and rural India, and against the NFHS-5 baseline:

A striking finding in the NFHS-6 data is the persistence of early marriage. Nationally, 20.1% of women aged 20-24 was married before the age of 18, with the rural figure reaching 23.3% – unchanged from NFHS-5. Among men, 15.9% aged 25-29 were married before 21. These trends are not only legal failures, they are also healthcare setbacks.

A girl married before she has had the opportunity to complete secondary education or enter the paid workforce, confronts a significantly extended reproductive window. When contraceptive access is limited, awareness of healthcare attenuated, or agency within the family is negligible, unhealthy pregnancies, unsustainably more births, and heightened maternal and child health risk are the consequences. The data bears this out: 6.7% of women aged 15-19 were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey rising to 7.9% in rural areas.

From a public health standpoint, early marriage is not merely a social problem, it is a reproductive health emergency with lifelong consequences. Girls married young are less likely to know their contraceptive options, less likely to be able to negotiate their use, and more likely to undergo less spaced-out pregnancies. The cumulative physiological burden of anaemia, obstetric complications and maternal mortality is concentrated precisely in this



Reproductive rights: India's engagement with contraception dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official family planning programme but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility. FILE PHOTO

Female sterilisation remains the dominant contraceptive method, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas

demographic. Yet policy conversations about fertility routinely overlook the role of early marital unions, seeking to unsuccessfully treat the symptom (high fertility) while ignoring the structural cause (constrained reproductive agency).

The rural-urban divide in these figures is striking. Urban women tend to marry later, complete more schooling, and are exposed to a broader suite of contraceptive options. Rural women face the inverse: earlier marital unions, relatively less agency, and a healthcare infrastructure that, as we shall see, defaults to unattainable permanent solutions rather than investing in what is relevant: public healthcare.

On sterilisation

Female sterilisation remains the dominant contraceptive method in India, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas. Male sterilisation, by contrast, stands at a negligible 0.5%. This gargantuan skew is the consequence of policy design and gender disempowerment.

The NFHS-6 data also shows a modest decline in female sterilisation from 37.9% (NFHS-5) to 36.5%, alongside a sharp rise in traditional method use (from 10.3% to 16.4%) and a slight decline in modern reversible methods (from 56.4% to 52.7%). Read together, these trends suggest that some women are able to step back from sterilisation – but into informal, less

medically supported methods rather than towards reversible scientific methods that would authentically enhance reproductive autonomy.

Female sterilisation in India's public health system has a troubled history. The mass sterilisation camps epitomised by the Bilaspur tragedy of 2014, in which 13 women died following a single-day mass sterilisation drive are not aberrations but logical consequences of a system that treats women's reproductive capacity as a population management problem to be solved at scale, cheaply and rapidly. Tubectomies and sterilisation surgeries done in rural government hospitals can sometimes be risky – these facilities are overcrowded, staff are not always well-trained, and the focus is on performing as many procedures as possible rather than on scientific patient care. Women who go through these surgeries can get infections, complications from maladministered anaesthesia or failed procedures resulting in persistent morbidity. Most women are compelled to access what they can afford, namely underfunded public healthcare. Most women undergoing such procedures

are not empowered to make an informed choice due to their being at the short end of the stick of the social reproduction and social production processes.

Towards reproductive agency

An analysis of the NFHS-6 data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling reproductive agency by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture.

Three policy imperatives follow from such an analysis. First, early marriage must be addressed as a reproductive health crisis by retaining girls in school, fully implementing the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and investing in rural secondary education for girls. Second, policy must pivot from unsustainable permanent methods of contraception toward increasing access for reversible scientific contraception through augmenting community based public healthcare. Third, the diminishing of the gender skew in contraception must become a programmatic priority of policy. Sustainable demographic transition presupposes reproductive agency of women.

(Dr. Trishna Sarkar is faculty at the department of economics, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi. trishna.sarkar@gmail.com; Prof C. Saratchand is faculty at the department of economics, Satyawati College, University of Delhi chandcsarat@gmail.com.)

THE GIST

Contraception, once framed primarily as an instrument of population control, is increasingly emerging as a marker of women's reproduction agency

When contraceptive access is limited, awareness of healthcare attenuated, or agency within the family is negligible, unhealthy pregnancies, unsustainably more births, and heightened maternal and child health risk are the consequences

An analysis of the NFHS-6 data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling reproductive agency by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture

12J6. Contraceptive use and the weight women carry: insights from NFHS-6

गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग और महिलाओं द्वारा वहन किया जाने वाला भार: NFHS-6 से प्राप्त

अंतर्दृष्टियाँ

- Reproductive agency**, the power to decide whether, when, and how to bear children is a vital and necessary component of **women's empowerment**, and yet, is often not taken into account when metrics of **income, education, mobility and political representation** are analysed.

प्रजनन स्वायत्तता, अर्थात यह निर्णय लेने की शक्ति कि बच्चे कब, कैसे और कितने हों, महिला सशक्तिकरण



का एक महत्वपूर्ण और आवश्यक घटक है, फिर भी आय, शिक्षा, गतिशीलता और राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व के मापदण्डों का विश्लेषण करते समय इसे प्रायः ध्यान में नहीं रखा जाता है।

- Reproductive agency means that a woman can make decisions regarding marriage, pregnancy, childbirth, and contraception without coercion or social pressure.
- India's **demographic transition**, as reflected in the latest round of the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023–24)**, besides revealing incremental changes in health indicators, also signals a structural shift in the domain of **reproductive agency**.

भारत का **जनसांख्यिकीय संक्रमण**, जैसा कि **राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS-6, 2023–24)** के नवीनतम दौर में परिलक्षित होता है, स्वास्थ्य संकेतकों में क्रमिक परिवर्तनों को दर्शाने के साथ-साथ **प्रजनन स्वायत्तता** के क्षेत्र में एक संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन का भी संकेत देता है।

History of contraceptive use

गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग का इतिहास

- India's engagement with **contraception** dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official **family planning programme** but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility.
भारत में **गर्भनिरोध** के साथ जुड़ाव 1952 से प्रारम्भ होता है, जब वह आधिकारिक **परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम** शुरू करने वाला पहला देश बना, किन्तु इसकी अपेक्षित जिम्मेदारी का असंगत रूप से बड़ा हिस्सा महिलाओं को वहन करना पड़ा।
- A striking finding in the **NFHS-6** data is the persistence of **early marriage**.
NFHS-6 के आँकड़ों में एक उल्लेखनीय निष्कर्ष **बाल विवाह** की निरंतरता है।
- Nationally, 20.1% of women aged 20–24 was married before the age of 18, with the rural figure reaching 23.3% — unchanged from NFHS-5.
राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर, 20–24 वर्ष आयु वर्ग की 20.1% महिलाएँ 18 वर्ष की आयु से पहले विवाह कर चुकी थीं, जबकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में यह आँकड़ा 23.3% तक पहुँच गया — जो NFHS-5 की तुलना में अपरिवर्तित है।
- Among men, 15.9% aged 25–29 were married before 21.
पुरुषों में, 25–29 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के 15.9% व्यक्तियों का विवाह 21 वर्ष की आयु से पहले हो गया था।
- The data bears this out: 6.7% of women aged 15–19 were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey rising to 7.9% in rural areas.
आँकड़े इसकी पुष्टि करते हैं: 15–19 वर्ष आयु वर्ग की 6.7% महिलाएँ सर्वेक्षण के समय या तो पहले से माताएँ थीं अथवा गर्भवती थीं, जबकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में यह आँकड़ा बढ़कर 7.9% हो गया था।
- Girls married young are less likely to know their **contraceptive options**, less likely to be able to negotiate their use, and more likely to undergo less spaced-out pregnancies.
कम आयु में विवाह करने वाली लड़कियाँ अपने **गर्भनिरोधक विकल्पों** के बारे में कम जानती हैं, उनके उपयोग पर निर्णय लेने में कम सक्षम होती हैं, और उनके गर्भधारण के बीच पर्याप्त अंतर होने की संभावना भी कम होती है।
- The **cumulative physiological burden of anaemia, obstetric complications and maternal mortality** is concentrated precisely in this demographic.
एनीमिया, प्रसूति संबंधी जटिलताओं और मातृ मृत्यु दर का संचयी शारीरिक भार मुख्य रूप से इसी जनसमूह पर केंद्रित होता है।
- Urban women tend to marry later, complete more schooling, and are exposed to a broader suite of **contraceptive options**.
शहरी महिलाएँ सामान्यतः देर से विवाह करती हैं, अधिक शिक्षा प्राप्त करती हैं और **गर्भनिरोधक विकल्पों** की व्यापक श्रृंखला तक उनकी पहुँच होती है।

On sterilisation

नसबंदी पर

- **Female sterilisation** remains the dominant contraceptive method in India, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas.
महिला नसबंदी भारत में अब भी प्रमुख गर्भनिरोधक उपाय बनी हुई है, जो राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कुल गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग का 36.5% है तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में यह 38.1% तक पहुँच जाती है।
- **Male sterilisation, by contrast, stands at a negligible 0.5%.**
इसके विपरीत, पुरुष नसबंदी का स्तर मात्र 0.5% है।
- This gargantuan skew is the consequence of **policy design** and **gender disempowerment**.
यह अत्यधिक असंतुलन नीतिगत संरचना और लैंगिक असशक्तिकरण का परिणाम है।
- The **NFHS-6** data also shows a modest decline in female sterilisation from 37.9% (NFHS-5) to 36.5%, alongside a sharp rise in **traditional method** use (from 10.3% to 16.4%) and a slight decline in **modern reversible methods** (from 56.4% to 52.7%).
NFHS-6 के आँकड़े यह भी दर्शाते हैं कि महिला नसबंदी 37.9% (NFHS-5) से घटकर 36.5% हुई है, जबकि पारंपरिक विधियों के उपयोग में तीव्र वृद्धि (10.3% से 16.4%) और आधुनिक प्रतिवर्ती विधियों में हल्की गिरावट (56.4% से 52.7%) दर्ज की गई है।
- The mass sterilisation camps epitomised by the **Bilaspur tragedy of 2014**, in which 13 women died following a single-day mass sterilisation drive are not aberrations but logical consequences of **a system that treats women's reproductive capacity as a population management problem to be solved at scale, cheaply and rapidly.**
2014 की बिलासपुर त्रासदी, जिसमें एक दिवसीय सामूहिक नसबंदी अभियान के बाद 13 महिलाओं की मृत्यु हो गई थी, कोई अपवाद नहीं थी, बल्कि उस व्यवस्था का तार्किक परिणाम थी जो महिलाओं की प्रजनन क्षमता को बड़े पैमाने पर, सस्ते और त्वरित तरीके से हल किए जाने वाले जनसंख्या प्रबंधन के प्रश्न के रूप में देखती है।
- **Tubectomies and sterilisation surgeries** done in rural government hospitals can sometimes be risky — **these facilities are overcrowded, staff are not always well-trained, and the focus is on performing as many procedures as possible rather than on scientific patient care.**
ग्रामीण सरकारी अस्पतालों में की जाने वाली ट्यूबेक्टॉमी और नसबंदी शल्यक्रियाएँ कभी-कभी जोखिमपूर्ण हो सकती हैं — ये संस्थान अत्यधिक भीड़भाड़ वाले होते हैं, कर्मचारी सदैव पर्याप्त रूप से प्रशिक्षित नहीं होते, और ध्यान वैज्ञानिक रोगी देखभाल के बजाय अधिक से अधिक प्रक्रियाएँ करने पर केंद्रित रहता है।
- Women who go through these surgeries can get **infections, complications from maladministered anaesthesia or failed procedures resulting in persistent morbidity.**
इन शल्यक्रियाओं से गुजरने वाली महिलाओं को संक्रमण, गलत तरीके से दिए गए एनेस्थीसिया से उत्पन्न जटिलताएँ अथवा असफल प्रक्रियाओं के कारण दीर्घकालिक रोगग्रस्तता का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- **Most women undergoing such procedures are not empowered to make an informed choice due to their being at the short end of the stick of the social reproduction and social production processes.**
ऐसी प्रक्रियाओं से गुजरने वाली अधिकांश महिलाएँ सामाजिक पुनरुत्पादन और सामाजिक उत्पादन की प्रक्रियाओं में प्रतिकूल स्थिति में होने के कारण सूचित निर्णय लेने में सक्षम नहीं होतीं।

Towards reproductive agency

प्रजनन स्वायत्तता की ओर

- An analysis of the **NFHS-6** data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling **reproductive agency** by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture.
NFHS-6 के आँकड़ों का विश्लेषण दर्शाता है कि भारत में गर्भनिरोध अब केवल जन्मों को सीमित करने का विषय नहीं रह गया है, बल्कि असमान सामाजिक संरचना को दूर करके प्रजनन स्वायत्तता को सक्षम बनाने का माध्यम बन गया है।
- First, **early marriage** must be addressed as a reproductive health crisis by retaining girls in school, fully implementing the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act** and investing in rural secondary education for girls.



प्रथम, **बाल विवाह** को प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य संकट के रूप में संबोधित किया जाना चाहिए, जिसके लिए लड़कियों को विद्यालय में बनाए रखना, **बाल विवाह प्रतिषेध अधिनियम** का पूर्ण क्रियान्वयन करना तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों की माध्यमिक शिक्षा में निवेश करना आवश्यक है।

- **Second, policy must pivot from unsustainable permanent methods of contraception toward increasing access for reversible scientific contraception through augmenting community based public healthcare.**

द्वितीय, नीति को अस्थिर **स्थायी गर्भनिरोधक विधियों** से हटकर समुदाय-आधारित सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को सुदृढ़ करते हुए **प्रतिवर्ती वैज्ञानिक गर्भनिरोधक साधनों** की पहुँच बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए।

- **Third, the diminishing of the gender skew in contraception must become a programmatic priority of policy.**

तृतीय, गर्भनिरोध में विद्यमान **लैंगिक असंतुलन** को कम करना नीति की एक कार्यक्रमगत प्राथमिकता बनना चाहिए।

Ingredient for sunscreen



Reuters

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday said it added bemotrizinol to its list of permitted active ingredients, marking the first new UV (Ultraviolet) filter to be cleared for over-the-counter sunscreens since the late 1990s.

Bemotrizinol helps protect against both ultraviolet A and B rays and has low levels of absorption through the skin into the body, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said.

12J6. Ingredient for sunscreen सनस्क्रीन के लिए घटक

- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration** on Tuesday said it added **bemotrizinol** to its list of permitted active ingredients, marking the first new **UV (Ultraviolet) filter** to be cleared for **over-the-counter sunscreens** since the late 1990s.

मंगलवार को **अमेरिकी खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन (U.S. Food and Drug Administration)** ने कहा कि उसने **बेमोट्रिजिनोल (bemotrizinol)** को अनुमत सक्रिय अवयवों की सूची में शामिल कर लिया है, जिससे यह 1990 के दशक के उत्तरार्ध के बाद **ओवर-द-काउंटर सनस्क्रीन** के लिए स्वीकृत किया जाने वाला पहला नया **यूवी (पराबैंगनी) फ़िल्टर** बन गया है।

- **Bemotrizinol helps protect against both ultraviolet A and B rays** and has **low levels of absorption through the skin into the body**, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** said.

बेमोट्रिजिनोल पराबैंगनी A तथा B किरणों दोनों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करने में सहायता करता है और त्वचा के माध्यम से शरीर में इसका अवशोषण बहुत कम मात्रा में होता है, ऐसा **अमेरिकी खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन** ने कहा।



Misconceptions continue to deter men from getting vasectomies, say experts

GS III: S&T

Athira Elssa Johnson

According to the findings of the sixth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6), India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has remained at 2.0 children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1. The survey also points to improved access to family planning services, with the contraceptive prevalence rate increasing from 66.7% in NFHS-5 to 69.1%. The burden of contraception, however, continues to remain shouldered largely by women.

Sterilisation, accounts for a significant chunk of contraception methods used in India. As per NFHS-6, male sterilisation (vasectomy) remains at a dismal 0.5%, barely a change from 0.3% in NFHS-5.

Experts say misconceptions surrounding vasectomy continue to discourage men from taking a more active role in family planning, placing a disproportionate share of the burden on women. A study published in the journal *BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health* found that fears about loss of libido and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India, with uptake declining from 3.31% in the early 1990s.

Experts note that vasectomy is a simple, safe and highly effective long term contraceptive method that does not affect sexual performance or libido, contrary to these widespread myths. One of the most persistent

A study published in the journal *BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health* found that fears about loss of libido and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India

misconceptions surrounding vasectomy is that it diminishes sexual function. However, there is no evidence to support these claims.

N. Ragavan, senior consultant-urologist, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, said the belief is cultural and has no clinical basis. "Fertility should not be tied to misconceptions that equate a man's reproductive capacity with his masculinity as though fewer sperm somehow mean less manhood," he said, adding that vasectomy does not affect testosterone levels or sexual drive. The procedure merely involves blocking the sperm-carrying tube and does not interfere with blood supply to the testes or their normal function. It has nothing to do with libido or erectile function, he said.

Muthu Veeramani, director and senior consultant, urology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, added that studies have consistently shown that vasectomy does not affect testosterone production, sexual desire or sexual performance.

Experts also sought to dispel the notion that vasectomy is a major surgery associated with serious health risks.

Vasantharaja Ramasamy, senior consultant, urology, MGM Malar Hospital, Chennai, said the procedure is usually carried out under local anaesthesia. After identifying the vas deferens (sperm duct) through palpation, a small incision is made and the tube is divided and sealed to prevent reconnection. Patients are discharged within a few hours and can resume routine activities after a couple of days, although heavy physical activity should be avoided for about a week.

Myths from social media

Doctors also rejected several myths circulating on social media, including claims that vasectomy causes obesity, cancer, infections or long-term health complications. Dr. Ragavan said there was no indication that the procedure increased the risk of obesity or cancer, and no scientific evidence to support such claims.

Despite being simpler and less invasive than female sterilisation, vasectomy continues to have low acceptance, especially in India. One major concern among men is that vasectomy is irreversible and could lead to regrets later in life. Experts emphasise that recanalisation procedures performed within three years of vasectomy have success rates exceeding 90%. Additionally, advances in microscopic surgery have improved outcomes when reversals are undertaken after proper counselling.

Greater male participation in reproductive health, doctors noted, would make reproductive healthcare more equitable.
(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

12J6. Misconceptions continue to deter men from getting vasectomies, say experts

विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि भ्रांतियाँ पुरुषों को नसबंदी करवाने से अब भी हतोत्साहित करती हैं

- According to the findings of the sixth **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)**, India's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has remained at 2.0 children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1.

छठे राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS-6) के निष्कर्षों के अनुसार, भारत की कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR) प्रति महिला 2.0 बच्चों पर बनी हुई है, जो 2.1 के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से कम है।

- The survey also points to improved access to **family planning services**, with the **contraceptive prevalence rate** increasing from 66.7% in NFHS-5 to 69.1%.

सर्वेक्षण में परिवार नियोजन सेवाओं तक बेहतर पहुँच का भी संकेत मिला है, जिसमें गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग दर NFHS-5 के 66.7% से बढ़कर 69.1% हो गई है।

- Sterilisation**, accounts for a significant chunk of contraception methods used in India. **नसबंदी**, भारत में उपयोग किए जाने वाले गर्भनिरोधक उपायों का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।

- As per NFHS-6, **male sterilisation (vasectomy)** remains at a dismal 0.5%, barely a change from 0.3% in NFHS-5.

NFHS-6 के अनुसार, **पुरुष नसबंदी (वेसेक्टॉमी)** की दर मात्र 0.5% है, जो NFHS-5 के 0.3% से बहुत कम वृद्धि दर्शाती है।

- A study published in the journal **BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health** found that fears about **loss of libido** and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India, with uptake declining from 3.31% in the early 1990s.

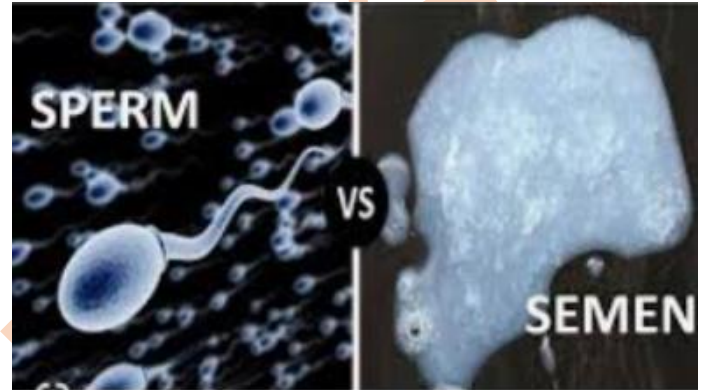
पत्रिका BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि कामेच्छा में कमी, शारीरिक कमजोरी, सामाजिक कलंक, जागरूकता की कमी तथा स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था की बाधाओं से जुड़ी आशंकाएँ भारत के विवाहित पुरुषों में वेसेक्टॉमी की स्वीकृति को अब भी बाधित करती हैं, और इसका उपयोग 1990 के दशक की शुरुआत में 3.31% से घट गया है।

- Experts note that vasectomy is a simple, safe and highly effective long term contraceptive method that does not affect sexual performance or libido, contrary to these widespread myths.
विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि वेसेक्टॉमी एक सरल, सुरक्षित और अत्यधिक प्रभावी दीर्घकालिक गर्भनिरोधक विधि है, जो यौन क्षमता या कामेच्छा को प्रभावित नहीं करती, जबकि इसके विपरीत कई भ्रांतियाँ प्रचलित हैं।
- One of the most persistent misconceptions surrounding vasectomy is that it diminishes sexual function.
वेसेक्टॉमी से जुड़ी सबसे प्रचलित भ्रांतियों में से एक यह है कि यह यौन कार्यक्षमता को कम कर देती है।
- “Fertility should not be tied to misconceptions that equate a man’s reproductive capacity with his masculinity as though fewer sperm somehow mean less manhood,” he said, adding that vasectomy does not affect testosterone levels or sexual drive.
उन्होंने कहा, “प्रजनन क्षमता को उन भ्रांतियों से नहीं जोड़ा जाना चाहिए जो पुरुष की प्रजनन क्षमता को उसकी पुरुषत्व से जोड़ती हैं, मानो कम शुक्राणु होने का अर्थ कम पुरुषत्व हो।” उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि वेसेक्टॉमी टेस्टोस्टेरोन स्तर या यौन इच्छा को प्रभावित नहीं करती।
- The procedure merely involves blocking the sperm-carrying tube and does not interfere with blood supply to the testes or their normal function.
इस प्रक्रिया में केवल शुक्राणु ले जाने वाली नलिका को अवरुद्ध किया जाता है और यह वृषणों की रक्त आपूर्ति या उनकी सामान्य कार्यप्रणाली में कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं करती।
- It has nothing to do with libido or erectile function, he said.
उन्होंने कहा कि इसका कामेच्छा या स्तंभन क्षमता से कोई संबंध नहीं है।
- Muthu Veeramani, director and senior consultant, urology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, added that studies have consistently shown that vasectomy does not affect testosterone production, sexual desire or sexual performance.
चेन्नई के SIMS अस्पताल के निदेशक एवं वरिष्ठ मूत्ररोग विशेषज्ञ मुथु वीरमणि ने कहा कि अध्ययनों ने लगातार यह सिद्ध किया है कि वेसेक्टॉमी टेस्टोस्टेरोन उत्पादन, यौन इच्छा या यौन प्रदर्शन को प्रभावित नहीं करती।
- Experts also sought to dispel the notion that vasectomy is a major surgery associated with serious health risks.
विशेषज्ञों ने इस धारणा को भी खारिज किया कि वेसेक्टॉमी एक बड़ी शल्यक्रिया है जो गंभीर स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों से जुड़ी होती है।
- Vasantharaja Ramasamy, senior consultant, urology, MGM Malar Hospital, Chennai, said the procedure is usually carried out under local anaesthesia.
चेन्नई के MGM मलार अस्पताल के वरिष्ठ मूत्ररोग विशेषज्ञ वसंथराजा रामासामी ने कहा कि यह प्रक्रिया सामान्यतः स्थानीय संवेदनाहारी के तहत की जाती है।
- After identifying the vas deferens (sperm duct) through palpation, a small incision is made and the tube is divided and sealed to prevent reconnection.
स्पर्श परीक्षण द्वारा वास डिफरेंस (शुक्रवाहिनी) की पहचान करने के बाद एक छोटा चीरा लगाया जाता है और नलिका को काटकर सील कर दिया जाता है ताकि वह दोबारा न जुड़ सके।
- Patients are discharged within a few hours and can resume routine activities after a couple of days, although heavy physical activity should be avoided for about a week.
रोगियों को कुछ घंटों के भीतर छुट्टी दे दी जाती है और वे कुछ दिनों बाद सामान्य गतिविधियाँ शुरू कर सकते हैं, हालांकि लगभग एक सप्ताह तक भारी शारीरिक कार्य से बचना चाहिए।

Myths from social media

सोशल मीडिया से फैलने वाली भ्रांतियाँ

- Doctors also rejected several myths circulating on social media, including claims that vasectomy causes **obesity, cancer**, infections or long-term health complications.
चिकित्सकों ने सोशल मीडिया पर फैल रही कई भ्रांतियों को भी खारिज किया, जिनमें यह दावा शामिल है कि वेसेक्टॉमी से मोटापा, कैंसर, संक्रमण या दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य जटिलताएँ होती हैं।
- Despite being simpler and less invasive than **female sterilisation**, vasectomy continues to have **low acceptance**, especially in India.
महिला नसबंदी की तुलना में अधिक सरल और कम जटिल होने के बावजूद, वेसेक्टॉमी की स्वीकृति विशेषकर भारत में अभी भी कम है।
- One major concern among men is that vasectomy is irreversible and could lead to regrets later in life.
पुरुषों के बीच एक प्रमुख चिंता यह है कि वेसेक्टॉमी अपरिवर्तनीय है और बाद में जीवन में पछतावे का कारण बन सकती है।
- Experts emphasise that **recanalisation procedures** performed within three years of vasectomy have success rates exceeding 90%.
विशेषज्ञों ने जोर देकर कहा कि वेसेक्टॉमी के तीन वर्षों के भीतर की जाने वाली रिकैनलाइज़ेशन प्रक्रियाओं की सफलता दर 90% से अधिक होती है।
- Additionally, **advances in microscopic surgery** have improved outcomes when reversals are undertaken after proper counselling.
इसके अतिरिक्त, सूक्ष्म शल्यचिकित्सा में हुई प्रगति ने उचित परामर्श के बाद की जाने वाली पुनर्स्थापन प्रक्रियाओं के परिणामों में सुधार किया है।
- Greater male participation in **reproductive health**, doctors noted, would make reproductive healthcare more equitable.
चिकित्सकों ने कहा कि प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य में पुरुषों की अधिक भागीदारी प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को अधिक न्यायसंगत और संतुलित बनाएगी।



The Darwin of Botany

GS III: S&T

London, June 11: Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose was entertained at a luncheon to-day by the British Indian Union. Lord Lee of Fareham, who presided, paid a tribute to Sir J.C. Bose's work in the cause of science and humanity. He stated that he understood that this "Darwin of Botany" hoped to make it possible to substitute plants for animals for vivisection.

Sir Jagdish emphasising the importance of science, said for the economic welfare of a vast continent like India, there must be two complementary activities, industry and agriculture, both depending on science.

12J6. The Darwin of Botany

वनस्पति विज्ञान के डार्विन

- London, June 11: Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose was entertained at a luncheon to-day by the British Indian Union.
लंदन, 11 जून: सर जगदीश चंद्र बोस के सम्मान में आज ब्रिटिश इंडियन यूनियन द्वारा एक भोज का आयोजन किया गया।
- Lord Lee of Fareham, who presided, paid a tribute to Sir J.C. Bose's work in the cause of science and humanity.
अध्यक्षता कर रहे लॉर्ड ली ऑफ फेयरहैम ने विज्ञान और मानवता के क्षेत्र में सर जे.सी. बोस के कार्यों को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

- He stated that he understood that this "Darwin of

Botany" hoped to make it possible to substitute plants for animals for vivisection.

उन्होंने कहा कि उनकी समझ के अनुसार यह "वनस्पति विज्ञान के डार्विन" विविसेक्शन (जीवित प्राणियों पर प्रयोग) के लिए पशुओं के स्थान पर पौधों के उपयोग को संभव बनाना चाहते थे।

- Sir **Jagdish** emphasising the importance of **science**, said for the economic welfare of a vast continent like **India**, there must be two complementary activities, **industry** and **agriculture**, both depending on science.
सर **जगदीश** ने **विज्ञान** के महत्व पर बल देते हुए कहा कि **भारत** जैसे विशाल महाद्वीप के आर्थिक कल्याण के लिए दो परस्पर पूरक गतिविधियाँ — **उद्योग** और **कृषि** — आवश्यक हैं, और दोनों ही **विज्ञान** पर निर्भर करती हैं।

GS Paper III: Environment	12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
12J6	Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol केंद्र ने उच्च इथेनॉल-मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क हटाया

Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol

Union government exempts E22, E25, E27, and E30 variants from central excise duty; clarifies that the latest reduction does not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends

GS III: Environment
Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Aiming to popularise the uptake of bio-fuels in the country, the Union government late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of ethanol. Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% would be exempted from central excise duties.

In a statement, the government clarified that the latest reduction did not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends.

"This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," the government stated.

The government clari-



In the pipeline: The move is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, the government stated. ANI

fied that the exemption specifically concerned the blending activity of ethanol with petrol, which is essentially a manufacturing activity. The objective is to avert the possibility of a dual levy.

"Petrol bears excise duty and ethanol bears GST at their respective stages. When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity,"

the Centre clarified.

"For ethanol blends of petrol up to 20%, excise duty on the blended petrol was exempted by the Ministry of Finance. The exemption ensures that the duties already paid are not charged a second time on the blend," it added.

The gazette notification comes days after India formally launched the E85 variant of petrol, that is 85% ethanol blended with

15% gasoline, on June 5.

Industry associations across the ethanol blending value chain have welcomed the move to remove excise levy.

C.K. Jain, President of the Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association (GE-MA) said that the move indicated a "strong signal of policy stability and long-term commitment".

"It is essential for attracting fresh investments across the ethanol value chain, including production capacity, logistics, storage, fuel retailing and flex-fuel mobility solutions," he said.

Welcoming the move, Bharati Balaji, Deputy Director General at the All-India Distillers Association (AIDA) added, "We urge the state governments to complement this measure with aligned tax structures so that the full benefit reaches both industry and consumers at the pump."

12J6. Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol

केंद्र ने उच्च इथेनॉल-मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क हटाया

- The Union government exempts E22, E25, E27, and E30 variants from central excise duty.
केंद्र सरकार ने E22, E25, E27 और E30 प्रकार के पेट्रोल को केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क से मुक्त कर दिया है।
- The government clarifies that the latest reduction does not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends.
सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह नवीनतम छूट उच्च इथेनॉल मिश्रणों को लागू करने का संकेत नहीं देती है।
- Aiming to popularise the uptake of biofuels in the country, the Union government late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of ethanol.
देश में जैव ईंधन (बायोफ्यूल) के उपयोग को लोकप्रिय बनाने के उद्देश्य से केंद्र सरकार ने बुधवार देर रात अधिक मात्रा में इथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क हटा दिया।
- Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% would be exempted from central excise duties.
इस निर्णय के बाद 22%, 25%, 27% और 30% इथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क से मुक्त होगा।
- In a statement, the government clarified that the latest reduction did not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends.
एक बयान में सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह नवीनतम छूट उच्च मिश्रणों को लागू करने के संबंध में कोई संकेत नहीं देती है।
- "This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," the government stated.
सरकार ने कहा, "यह भविष्य में उच्च मिश्रणों को लागू करने के लिए एक प्रारंभिक आवश्यक शर्त है, लेकिन वर्तमान में इनके लागू होने के बारे में कुछ नहीं बताती, क्योंकि ऐसा केवल व्यापक परीक्षण और परामर्श के बाद ही किया जाएगा।"
- The government clarified that the exemption specifically concerned the blending activity of ethanol with petrol, which is essentially a manufacturing activity.
सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह छूट विशेष रूप से पेट्रोल में इथेनॉल मिलाने की प्रक्रिया से संबंधित है, जो मूलतः एक विनिर्माण गतिविधि है।
- The objective is to avert the possibility of a dual levy.
इसका उद्देश्य दोहरी कराधान (ड्यूल लेवी) की संभावना को रोकना है।
- "Petrol bears excise duty and ethanol bears GST at their respective stages."
"पेट्रोल पर उसके स्तर पर उत्पाद शुल्क लगता है और इथेनॉल पर उसके स्तर पर जीएसटी लगाया जाता है।"
- "When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity," the Centre clarified.
केंद्र ने स्पष्ट किया कि जब दोनों को मिलाया जाता है, तो परिणामी उत्पाद पर पूरी मात्रा के आधार पर पुनः उत्पाद शुल्क लग सकता है।
- "For ethanol blends of petrol up to 20%, excise duty on the blended petrol was exempted by the Ministry of Finance."
"पेट्रोल में 20% तक इथेनॉल मिश्रण के लिए मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क से छूट वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा पहले ही दी जा चुकी है।"
- "The exemption ensures that the duties already paid are not charged a second time on the blend," it added.
इस छूट से यह सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि पहले से चुकाए गए करों को मिश्रित उत्पाद पर दोबारा न लगाया जाए।
- The gazette notification comes days after India formally launched the E85 variant of petrol, that is 85% ethanol blended with 15% gasoline, on June 5.
यह राजपत्र अधिसूचना भारत द्वारा 5 जून को औपचारिक रूप से E85 पेट्रोल (जिसमें 85% इथेनॉल और 15% गैसोलीन होता है) लॉन्च करने के कुछ दिनों बाद जारी की गई है।

- Industry associations across the ethanol blending value chain have welcomed the move to remove excise levy.
इथेनॉल मिश्रण मूल्य श्रृंखला से जुड़े उद्योग संगठनों ने उत्पाद शुल्क हटाने के इस कदम का स्वागत किया है।
- C.K. Jain**, President of the **Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association (GEMA)**, said that the move indicated a “strong signal of policy stability and long-term commitment”.
ग्रेन इथेनॉल मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (GEMA) के अध्यक्ष **सी.के. जैन** ने कहा कि यह कदम “नीतिगत स्थिरता और दीर्घकालिक प्रतिबद्धता का मजबूत संकेत” है।
- “It is essential for attracting fresh investments across the ethanol value chain, including production capacity, logistics, storage, fuel retailing and flex-fuel mobility solutions,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह उत्पादन क्षमता, लॉजिस्टिक्स, भंडारण, ईंधन खुदरा बिक्री और फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल मोबिलिटी समाधानों सहित पूरी इथेनॉल मूल्य श्रृंखला में नए निवेश आकर्षित करने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Welcoming the move, **Bharati Balaji**, Deputy Director General at the **All-India Distillers Association (AIDA)**, added, “We urge the state governments to complement this measure with aligned tax structures so that the full benefit reaches both industry and consumers at the pump.”
इस निर्णय का स्वागत करते हुए **ऑल-इंडिया डिस्टिलर्स एसोसिएशन (AIDA)** की उप महानिदेशक **भारती बालाजी** ने कहा, “हम राज्य सरकारों से आग्रह करते हैं कि वे समन्वित कर संरचनाओं के माध्यम से इस कदम का समर्थन करें, ताकि इसका पूरा लाभ उद्योग और उपभोक्ताओं दोनों तक पेट्रोल पंप स्तर पर पहुँच सके।”

GS Paper III: Internal Security	12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
12J6	No AFSPA in most of Northeast from 2027’ ‘2027 से पूर्वोत्तर के अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में AFSPA नहीं होगा’

‘No AFSPA in most of Northeast from 2027’

GS III: Internal Security
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, will be withdrawn from the entire Northeast next year, barring one or two States.

Speaking after signing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre, Assam, and Nagaland on mineral and oil operations in the disputed Assam-Nagaland boundary areas, Mr. Shah said fewer areas being covered under AFSPA indicate peace in the region.

“I am confident that barring one or two States, we will withdraw AFSPA from the entire Northeast next year,” he said.

The Home Minister termed the MoU a “historic moment” and said it removed the last hurdle in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a developed Northeast.

12J6. No AFSPA in most of Northeast from 2027’ ‘2027 से पूर्वोत्तर के अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में AFSPA नहीं होगा’

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** will be withdrawn from the entire **Northeast** next year, barring one or two States.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने गुरुवार को कहा कि सशस्त्र बल (विशेष अधिकार) अधिनियम (AFSPA) को अगले वर्ष पूरे पूर्वोत्तर भारत से हटा लिया जाएगा, केवल एक या दो राज्यों को छोड़कर।

- Speaking after signing a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the **Centre, Assam, and Nagaland** on mineral and oil operations in the disputed **Assam-Nagaland boundary areas**, Mr. Shah said fewer areas being covered under AFSPA indicate peace in the region.

केंद्र, असम और नागालैंड के बीच विवादित असम-नागालैंड सीमा क्षेत्रों में खनिज एवं तेल संचालन से संबंधित त्रिपक्षीय समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद श्री शाह ने कहा कि AFSPA के अंतर्गत आने वाले क्षेत्रों में कमी क्षेत्र में शांति का संकेत है।

- “I am confident that barring one or two States, we will withdraw **AFSPA** from the entire **Northeast** next year,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “मुझे विश्वास है कि एक या दो राज्यों को छोड़कर अगले वर्ष पूरे पूर्वोत्तर से **AFSPA** हटा लिया जाएगा।”