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President presents second set of Padma awards

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj, actors Mammooty and Satish Shah, cricketer Rohit Sharma, and playback singer Alka Yagnik were among the eminent personalities who received the Padma awards from President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.

The Padma awards, one of the highest civilian awards of the country, are conferred in three categories: the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and the Padma Shri.

In the second civil investiture ceremony at the Ganatantra Mandap of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President presented the Padma Vibhushan to former Supreme Court judge K. T. Thomas for public affairs and to eminent Malayalam



President Droupadi Murmu confers the Padma Vibhushan on former Supreme Court judge K.T. Thomas during the second civil investiture ceremony in New Delhi on Tuesday. Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj and playback singer Alka Yagnik received the Padma Bhushan. PTI, ANI



journalist P. Narayanan for contribution to literature and education.

Alka Yagnik, Mammooty, American oncologist Dattatreya Nori, Vijay Amritraj, industrialist S.K.M. Maeilanandhan, and social worker and educationist Vellappally Natesan received the Padma Bhushan from the Presi-

dent during the ceremony. Rupin Soren, wife of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha founder Shibui Soren, received the Padma Bhushan on behalf of the late leader.

Padma Shri

The President conferred the Padma Shri on cricketer Rohit Sharma, who led India to victory in the last

T-20 World Cup, and on hockey player Savita Punia. Actor R. Madhavan, aerospace scientist Chandramouli Gaddamanugu, who led the Akash missile system from development to deployment during Operation Sindoor, and noted writer Asok Kumar Haldar were among those who received the Padma Shri.

Vladimir Mestvirishvili, the Georgian coach who mentored Indian Olympic medallists such as Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, and Ravi Dahiya, was awarded the Padma Shri posthumously.

The President also conferred the Padma Shri on actor Satish Shah posthumously.

24J6. President presents second set of Padma awards

राष्ट्रपति ने पद्म पुरस्कारों के दूसरे समूह को प्रदान किया

- **Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj, actors Mammooty and Satish Shah, cricketer Rohit Sharma, and playback singer Alka Yagnik were among the eminent personalities who received the Padma awards from President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.**
टेनिस के दिग्गज विजय अमृतराज, अभिनेता ममूटी और सतीश शाह, क्रिकेटर रोहित शर्मा तथा पार्श्व गायिका अलका याज्ञनिक उन प्रमुख हस्तियों में शामिल थे जिन्हें मंगलवार को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मु ने पद्म पुरस्कार प्रदान किए।
- **In the second civil investiture ceremony at the Ganatantra Mandap of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President presented the Padma Vibhushan to former Supreme Court judge K. T. Thomas for public affairs and to eminent Malayalam journalist P. Narayanan for contribution to literature and education.**
राष्ट्रपति भवन के गणतंत्र मंडप में आयोजित दूसरे नागरिक अलंकरण समारोह में राष्ट्रपति ने पूर्व सर्वोच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश के. टी. थॉमस को लोक मामलों के क्षेत्र में योगदान के लिए तथा प्रख्यात मलयालम पत्रकार पी. नारायणन को साहित्य एवं शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में योगदान के लिए पद्म विभूषण प्रदान किया।
- **Alka Yagnik, Mammooty, American oncologist Dattatreya Nori, Vijay Amritraj, industrialist S.K.M. Maeilanandhan, and social worker and educationist Vellappally Natesan received the Padma Bhushan from the President during the ceremony.**
समारोह के दौरान अलका याज्ञनिक, ममूटी, अमेरिकी कैंसर विशेषज्ञ दत्तात्रेय नोरी, विजय अमृतराज, उद्योगपति एस.के.एम. मैलानंधन तथा समाजसेवी एवं शिक्षाविद् वेल्लापल्ली नटेशन को राष्ट्रपति ने पद्म भूषण प्रदान किया।
- **Rupin Soren, wife of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha founder Shibui Soren, received the Padma Bhushan on behalf of the late leader.**
झारखंड मुक्ति मोर्चा के संस्थापक शिबू सोरेन की पत्नी रूपी सोरेन ने दिवंगत नेता की ओर से पद्म भूषण ग्रहण किया।

Padma Shri

पद्म श्री



- The President conferred the **Padma Shri** on cricketer **Rohit Sharma**, who led India to victory in the last **T-20 World Cup**, and on hockey player **Savita Punia**.
 राष्ट्रपति ने क्रिकेटर रोहित शर्मा, जिन्होंने भारत को पिछले टी-20 विश्व कप में विजय दिलाई थी, तथा हॉकी खिलाड़ी सविता पुनिया को पद्म श्री से सम्मानित किया।
- Vladimir Mestvirishvili**, the Georgian coach who mentored Indian Olympic medallists such as **Sushil Kumar**, **Yogeshwar Dutt**, and **Ravi Dahiya**, was awarded the **Padma Shri** posthumously.
 व्लादिमीर मेस्तविरिशविली, जिन्होंने भारतीय ओलंपिक पदक विजेताओं सुशील कुमार, योगेश्वर दत्त और रवि दहिया का मार्गदर्शन किया था, को मरणोपरांत पद्म श्री से सम्मानित किया गया।
- The President also conferred the **Padma Shri** on actor **Satish Shah** posthumously.
 राष्ट्रपति ने अभिनेता सतीश शाह को भी मरणोपरांत पद्म श्री प्रदान किया।

Canberra town crier shouts his way into Guinness records

PCS
 Associated Press
 MELBOURNE

Joseph McGrail-Bateup, an Australian professional air conditioner cleaner and honorary town crier, has been recognised as the world's loudest person.

Guinness World Records last week acknowledged that the 58-year-old Canberra resident recorded the loudest ever shout by an individual. He yelled "now" at 122.4 decibels (dB).

That broke the previous record of 121.7 dB set by Northern Ireland schoolteacher Annalisa Flanagan in 1994. She had yelled an ear-piercing "quiet." That is in the noise range of a chain saw, a jet aircraft taking off and an ambulance siren at close range.

The record attempt was not something Mr. McGrail-Bateup could train for, he said on Tuesday.

"There's no way that you can actually practice for it. You have to just keep it for the day, especially with the world record attempt," Mr. McGrail-Bateup said.

"It took me seven attempts just for one word, which was the word 'now,' and my voice was shot for the next couple of days as well. It was husky. It was terrible. So no, you can't really practice for it. But it's a lot of fun when you're doing it".

"I'm pleased that she (Ms. Flanagan) gets to keep her record. So she's still the loudest woman and I'm the loudest man in the world," Mr. McGrail-Bateup said.

Mr. McGrail-Bateup said he stumbled upon Ms. Flanagan's record when searching Guinness World Records unsuccessfully for feats in the realm of town crying.

His shout was recorded on May 2 in a radio studio. The files were sent to Guinness World Records, which announced the record on Friday.

24J6. Canberra town crier shouts his way into Guinness records

कैनबरा के टाउन क्रायर ने अपनी आवाज़ के दम पर गिनीज रिकॉर्ड में बनाई जगह

- Joseph McGrail-Bateup**, an Australian professional air conditioner cleaner and honorary town crier, has been recognised as the world's loudest person.

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के पेशेवर एयर कंडीशनर क्लीनर और मानद टाउन क्रायर जोसेफ मैकग्रेल-बेटअप को दुनिया के सबसे ऊँची आवाज़ वाले व्यक्ति के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है।

- Guinness World Records** last week acknowledged that the **58-year-old Canberra resident** recorded the loudest ever shout by an individual. He yelled "now" at **122.4 decibels (dB)**.

गिनीज वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड्स ने पिछले सप्ताह स्वीकार किया कि **58 वर्षीय कैनबरा निवासी** ने किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा अब तक की सबसे ऊँची आवाज़ में चिल्लाने का रिकॉर्ड बनाया। उन्होंने "now" शब्द को **122.4 डेसिबल (dB)** की तीव्रता से चिल्लाया।

- That broke the previous record of **121.7 dB** set by Northern Ireland schoolteacher **Annalisa Flanagan** in 1994.

इसने 1994 में उत्तरी आयरलैंड की शिक्षिका एनालिसा फ्लैनागन द्वारा बनाए गए **121.7 dB** के पिछले रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया।

- She had yelled an ear-piercing "quiet."

उन्होंने कानों को चीर देने वाली आवाज़ में "quiet" शब्द चिल्लाया था।

- That is in the noise range of a chain saw, a jet aircraft taking off and an ambulance siren at close range.

यह ध्वनि स्तर चेन सॉ, उड़ान भरते हुए जेट विमान, और नज़दीक से सुनाई देने वाले

एम्बुलेंस सायरन के शोर के बराबर है।

- The record attempt was not something Mr. McGrail-Bateup could train for, he said on Tuesday.
 मंगलवार को श्री मैकग्रेल-बेटअप ने कहा कि यह ऐसा रिकॉर्ड नहीं था जिसके लिए वे पहले से अभ्यास कर सकते थे।

GS Paper 1: History	24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
24J6	Vijayanagara-era inscriptions come to light in A.P.'s Seshachalam forest आंध्र प्रदेश के शेषाचलम वन में विजयनगर काल के अभिलेख प्रकाश में आए

24J6 BJP chief says Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a great nationalist
भाजपा अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी एक महान राष्ट्रवादी थे

Vijayanagara-era inscriptions come to light in A.P.'s Seshachalam forest

GS I: History, Geography
A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

An expert team from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found three rare inscriptions dating to the 16th century in Sadasivakona, deep inside the Seshachalam forest in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh.

After an epigraphical survey carried out recently in the Nallamala Hills, the team focused its attention this time on Sadasivakona, a pristine and mostly under-explored forest stretch in Seshachalam range.

A team led by K. Munirathnam Reddy, Director (Epigraphy), ASI Mysuru, ventured deep into the for-



An ASI team taking an estampage of an inscription at Sadasivakona in Seshachalam forest range, Andhra Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

est range and worked for three days to find the inscriptions.

The inscriptions contained text in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada, representing characters of the 16th century. The inscrip-

tions of the Sadasiva Devaraya era of Vijayanagara dynasty in 1554 were copied in the form of estampages for preservation and further study.

The main inscription records the construction of a

Siva temple and a monastery (mutt) at Papavinasa in Sadasivakona by King Sadasivaraya during his pilgrimage to the site.

"It is thrilling to note that King Sadasivaraya personally visited this sacred spot to take a holy bath and grant a donation," Mr. Reddy said.

Though known to be India's first Siva temple, the 2nd-century BC shrine in Gudimallam remained overshadowed by other temples in its vicinity, which gained prominence over time. However, this latest inscription of the 16th century is a pointer to its past glory, when it was personally visited by the ruler of this region.

24J6. Vijayanagara-era inscriptions come to light in A.P.'s Seshachalam forest

आंध्र प्रदेश के शेषाचलम वन में
विजयनगर काल के अभिलेख
प्रकाश में आए

• An expert team from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found three rare inscriptions dating to the 16th century in Sadasivakona, deep inside the Seshachalam forest in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh.

भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण की एक

विशेषज्ञ टीम ने आंध्र प्रदेश के तिरुपति जिले स्थित शेषाचलम वन के भीतर गहरे क्षेत्र सदाशिवकोना में 16वीं शताब्दी के तीन दुर्लभ अभिलेख खोजे हैं।

- After an epigraphical survey carried out recently in the **Nallamala Hills**, the team focused its attention this time on **Sadasivakona**, a pristine and mostly under-explored forest stretch in the **Seshachalam range**.

हाल ही में नल्लमाला पहाड़ियों में अभिलेखीय सर्वेक्षण करने के बाद टीम ने इस बार शेषाचलम पर्वतमाला के एक प्राकृतिक और अधिकांशतः अन्वेषण से वंचित वन क्षेत्र सदाशिवकोना पर अपना ध्यान केंद्रित किया।

- The inscriptions contained text in **Telugu, Tamil and Kannada**, representing characters of the **16th century**.

इन अभिलेखों में तेलुगु, तमिल और कन्नड़ भाषाओं का पाठ अंकित है, जो 16वीं शताब्दी की लिपि विशेषताओं को दर्शाता है।

- The inscriptions of the **Sadasiva Devaraya era of Vijayanagara dynasty in 1554** were copied in the form of **estampages** for preservation and further study.

विजयनगर वंश के सदाशिव देवराय काल के 1554 ईस्वी के इन अभिलेखों की प्रतिलिपियाँ संरक्षण एवं आगे के अध्ययन हेतु एस्टाम्पेज के रूप में तैयार की गईं।

- The main inscription records the construction of a **Siva temple and a monastery (mutt) at Papavinasa in Sadasivakona by King Sadasivaraya** during his pilgrimage to the site.

मुख्य अभिलेख में उल्लेख है कि राजा सदाशिवराय ने अपनी तीर्थयात्रा के दौरान सदाशिवकोना स्थित पापविनाश में एक शिव मंदिर तथा एक मठ का निर्माण कराया था।

- "It is thrilling to note that **King Sadasivaraya** personally visited this sacred spot to take a holy bath and grant a donation," Mr. Reddy said.

श्री रेड्डी ने कहा, "यह जानना अत्यंत रोमांचक है कि राजा सदाशिवराय स्वयं इस पवित्र स्थल पर पवित्र स्नान करने और दान प्रदान करने के लिए आए थे।"

- Though known to be **India's first Siva temple**, the **2nd-century BC shrine in Gudimallam** remained overshadowed by other temples in its vicinity, which gained prominence over time.

यद्यपि गुडिमल्लम स्थित द्वितीय शताब्दी ईसा पूर्व का यह मंदिर भारत का प्रथम शिव मंदिर माना जाता है, फिर भी समय के साथ आसपास के अन्य मंदिरों की प्रसिद्धि के कारण यह अपेक्षाकृत कम चर्चित रहा।



- However, this latest inscription of the **16th century** is a pointer to its past glory, when it was personally visited by the ruler of this region.
किन्तु **16वीं शताब्दी** का यह नवीन अभिलेख इसके ऐतिहासिक वैभव का प्रमाण है, जब इस क्षेत्र के शासक ने स्वयं इस पवित्र स्थल की यात्रा की थी।

BJP chief says Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a great nationalist

GS I: History
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday paid tributes to Jana Sangh founder Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 73rd "Balidan Diwas", describing him as a profound thinker and a great nationalist.

"The sacrifice and patriotism of Dr. Mookerjee ji, who dedicated his entire life to the resolve of 'Nation First', serve as a guiding light for all of us. His sacrifice inspires every worker to continuously work with dedication in the interest of the nation," he said.

Stating that the dream Dr. Mookerjee envisioned and the sacrifices he made for it were finding fulfilment today, the BJP chief said the abrogation of Article 370 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a true

He worked to protect the borders of West Bengal, Assam and Punjab, says Nitin Nabin

tribute to the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Mr. Nabin said Dr. Mookerjee had worked to protect the borders of regions such as West Bengal, Assam and Punjab. Referring to the formation of the BJP government in West Bengal, he said it reflected the acceptance of the ideals for which Dr. Mookerjee had struggled and sacrificed.

He said over 14 crore BJP workers were moving forward under the leadership of PM Modi, guided by the same nationalist ideology and commitment to the nation with which Dr. Mookerjee had founded the Jana Sangh in 1951.

24J6. BJP chief says Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a great nationalist

भाजपा अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी एक महान राष्ट्रवादी थे

- BJP president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday paid tributes to Jana Sangh founder Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 73rd "Balidan Diwas", describing him as a profound thinker and a great nationalist.

भारतीय जनता पार्टी के अध्यक्ष नितिन नवीन ने मंगलवार को जनसंघ के संस्थापक डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी की 73वीं बलिदान दिवस पर उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए उन्हें एक गहन चिंतक और महान राष्ट्रवादी बताया।

- "The sacrifice and patriotism of Dr. Mookerjee, who dedicated his entire life to the resolve of 'Nation First', serve as a guiding light for all of us."

उन्होंने कहा, "डॉ. मुखर्जी का बलिदान और देशभक्ति, जिन्होंने अपना सम्पूर्ण जीवन 'राष्ट्र सर्वोपरि' के संकल्प को समर्पित कर दिया, हम सभी के लिए मार्गदर्शक प्रकाश के समान है।"

- He said over 14 crore BJP workers were moving forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, guided by the same nationalist ideology and commitment to the nation with which Dr. Mookerjee had founded the Jana Sangh in 1951.

उन्होंने कहा कि 14 करोड़ से अधिक भाजपा कार्यकर्ता प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के नेतृत्व में उसी राष्ट्रवादी विचारधारा और राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पण के साथ आगे बढ़ रहे हैं, जिसके आधार पर डॉ. मुखर्जी ने 1951 में जनसंघ की स्थापना की थी।

GS Paper 1: Geography

24 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED

24J6 T.N. raises concerns over Centre's norms on projects in Cauvery basin
तमिलनाडु ने कावेरी बेसिन में परियोजनाओं संबंधी केंद्र के मानकों पर चिंता जताई

24J6 QUIZ

Parched river



Labourers mix concrete and sand on the exposed Krishna riverbed in Vijayawada, for routine maintenance work during the seasonal low-flow period. The Prakasam Barrage is in the background. K.V.S.

Labourers mix concrete and sand on the exposed Krishna riverbed in Vijayawada, for routine maintenance work during the seasonal low-flow period. The **Prakasam Barrage** is in the background. K.V.S.



T.N. raises concerns over Centre's norms on projects in Cauvery basin

GS I: Geography
T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is deeply concerned about the latest guidelines of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Central Water Commission with regard to appraisal of water resources projects in the Cauvery basin.

On Monday, Water Resources Minister N. Anand told the Assembly that the Union government had framed the guidelines 'unilaterally' last December.

The Centre's norms assume relevance amid the controversy over the Mekedatu drinking water-cum-balancing reservoir project mooted by Karnataka.

The opposition to the guidelines is fundamental, as Tamil Nadu is of the view that the Cauvery basin is a deficit one, the position of which has been stated in the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes



The Centre's norms assume relevance in the light of the ongoing controversy over the Mekedatu project mooted by Karnataka.

Tribunal, and by the Supreme Court in a February 2018 judgment.

Under such circumstances, where does the question arise for mooted projects, regardless of the purpose and the size, a water expert asked.

An official said the State had conveyed its objections to the Centre, but the latter had defended the guidelines.

Besides, there is a provision in the guidelines for presumptive concurrence with the stand of the Central Water Commission (CWC) for a project, if the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) fails to convey its views within six months, or if the CWMA returns the project proposal without offering its views regarding conformity or otherwise of the

proposed water utilisation with the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award.

In the event of conflict in the views of the CWMA and the CWC, the former's stance will prevail.

The State is anxious about the provision as this might be used against its interests.

Project reports

As per the guidelines, detailed project reports will have to be submitted to the CWC for medium and major irrigation projects, multi-purpose projects, drinking water and industrial use projects.

After examining the reports from various angles, including inter-State issues, the CWC will send them to the CWMA for comments.

Meanwhile, the CWMA held its meeting to take stock of the current water realisation and flow.

24J6. T.N. raises concerns over Centre's norms on projects in Cauvery basin

तमिलनाडु ने कावेरी बेसिन में परियोजनाओं संबंधी केंद्र के मानकों पर चिंता जताई

Tamil Nadu is deeply concerned about the latest guidelines of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Central Water Commission with regard to appraisal of water resources projects in the Cauvery basin.

तमिलनाडु ने केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्रालय और केंद्रीय जल आयोग द्वारा कावेरी बेसिन में जल संसाधन परियोजनाओं के मूल्यांकन हेतु जारी नवीनतम दिशा-निर्देशों पर गहरी चिंता

व्यक्त की है।

- The Centre's norms assume relevance amid the controversy over the **Mekedatu drinking water-cum-balancing reservoir project** mooted by Karnataka.

ये मानदंड कर्नाटक द्वारा प्रस्तावित मेकेदातु पेयजल एवं संतुलन जलाशय परियोजना को लेकर चल रहे विवाद के बीच विशेष महत्व रखते हैं।

- The opposition to the guidelines is fundamental, as Tamil Nadu is of the view that the **Cauvery basin** is a **deficit basin**, the position of which has been stated in the final award of the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal**, and by the **Supreme Court** in a **February 2018 judgment**.

इन दिशा-निर्देशों का विरोध मूलभूत है क्योंकि तमिलनाडु का मानना है कि कावेरी बेसिन एक जल-अभावग्रस्त बेसिन है। इस स्थिति का उल्लेख कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण के अंतिम निर्णय तथा फरवरी 2018 के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय में भी किया गया है।

- Besides, there is a provision in the guidelines for **presumptive concurrence** with the stand of the **Central Water Commission (CWC)** for a project, if the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** fails to convey its views within six months, or if the CWMA returns the project proposal without offering its views regarding conformity or otherwise of the proposed water utilisation with the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal** award.

इसके अतिरिक्त, दिशा-निर्देशों में यह प्रावधान भी है कि यदि कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण छह माह के भीतर अपनी राय नहीं देता या परियोजना प्रस्ताव को प्रस्तावित जल उपयोग की कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण के निर्णय से संगति अथवा असंगति पर टिप्पणी किए बिना वापस कर देता है, तो परियोजना पर केंद्रीय जल आयोग की राय को स्वीकृत मान लिया जाएगा।

- As per the guidelines, **detailed project reports** will have to be submitted to the **Central Water Commission** for medium and major irrigation projects, multi-purpose projects, drinking water projects, and industrial use projects.

दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार मध्यम एवं प्रमुख सिंचाई परियोजनाओं, बहुउद्देशीय परियोजनाओं, पेयजल



परियोजनाओं तथा औद्योगिक उपयोग परियोजनाओं के लिए विस्तृत परियोजना प्रतिवेदन केंद्रीय जल आयोग को प्रस्तुत करना होगा।

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Which country established the first permanent research station in Antarctica, Orcadas Base, which has operated continuously since 1904? **Ans: Argentina**
2. The Antarctic Treaty applies to all territory south of which latitude? **Ans: 60° South latitude**
3. Which major scientific event of 1957-58 provided the immediate impetus for negotiating the Antarctic Treaty? **Ans: The International Geophysical Year (IGY)**
4. Which seven countries had overlapping territorial claims in Antarctica when the Treaty was signed? **Ans: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom**
5. How many countries currently have Consultative Party status, giving them voting rights in Antarctic Treaty decision-making? **Ans: 29**
6. Visual: Name this active volcano, located on Ross Island, which is the southernmost active volcano on Earth? **Ans: Mount Erebus.**

24J6. QUIZ

1. Which country established the first permanent research station in Antarctica, Orcadas Base, which has operated continuously since 1904?

Answer: Argentina

- **Argentina** established and has continuously operated **Orcadas Base** on Laurie Island in the South Orkney Islands since **22 February 1904**.
- The station originated from the **Scottish National Antarctic Expedition** and was transferred to Argentina in **1904**.
- It is recognized as the **oldest continuously operating Antarctic research station** and represents the

longest uninterrupted human presence in Antarctica.

2. The **Antarctic Treaty** applies to all territory south of which latitude?

Answer: 60° South Latitude

- The **Antarctic Treaty**, signed in 1959 and effective from 1961, applies to all land, ice shelves, and surrounding waters **south of 60° South latitude**.
- This geographical boundary was chosen to define the Antarctic region for peaceful scientific cooperation and environmental protection.
- Within this area, military activities, nuclear testing, and disposal of radioactive waste are prohibited.

3. Which major scientific event of 1957–58 provided the immediate impetus for negotiating the Antarctic Treaty?

Answer: The International Geophysical Year (IGY)

- The **International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957–58** was a global scientific initiative involving researchers from dozens of countries studying Earth systems, including Antarctica.
- During the IGY, nations established research stations and collaborated extensively in Antarctic science.
- The success of this cooperation demonstrated that Antarctica could serve as a platform for peaceful international scientific activity.
- This positive experience directly encouraged negotiations that culminated in the **Antarctic Treaty of 1959**, which institutionalized scientific collaboration and peaceful use of the continent.

4. Which seven countries had overlapping territorial claims in Antarctica when the Treaty was signed?

- **Answer: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom**
At the time of the Antarctic Treaty's signing, **seven countries** had formal territorial claims in



Antarctica: **Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom.**

- Some of these claims, particularly those of Argentina, Chile, and the United Kingdom in the Antarctic Peninsula region, overlapped significantly.
- Rather than resolving sovereignty disputes, the Antarctic Treaty effectively **froze territorial claims**, allowing countries to cooperate scientifically without abandoning or recognizing competing claims.

5. How many countries currently have Consultative Party status, giving them voting rights in Antarctic Treaty decision-making?

Answer: 29

- As of **2026**, there are **29 Consultative Parties** to the Antarctic Treaty.
- These countries possess decision-making and voting rights at the **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCMs)** because they conduct substantial scientific research activities in Antarctica.
- The group includes the twelve original signatories and additional countries that later demonstrated significant scientific engagement.
- Although the Treaty has **58 Parties** in total, only the Consultative Parties participate in consensus-based decision-making on Antarctic governance, environmental protection, and scientific cooperation.

India's Antarctic Journey

- India acceded to the **Antarctic Treaty in 1983**.
- In the same year (1983), India was granted **Consultative Party Status** because of its active scientific research programme in Antarctica.

GS Paper II: Polity		24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
24J6	Is RSS a legal person? क्या आरएसएस एक विधिक व्यक्ति है?	

Is RSS a legal person?

Should the RSS be formally registered under law? Has it been recognised in law or court cases? Can an unregistered body sue or be sued? Are RSS-affiliated organisations legally registered? What regulatory gap does the RSS debate highlight?

GS II: Polity

EXPLAINER

Rizmi Lia M.

The story so far:

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge, in a letter dated June 13 addressing the Sarsangchalak (chief) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Mohan Bhagwat, questioned the legal status of the RSS.

In an accompanying post on social media platform X, Mr. Kharge asked, "If citizens, labour, NGOs, trusts, temples and companies are expected to register, disclose and comply with the law, why should the RSS remain exempt?"

He raised similar questions towards the end of last year as well regarding the legal existence of RSS. He has asked about the registration, organisational structure, funding and donation and also about the overall functioning of the organisation.

What is a legal person?

According to legal theorist John Salmond, "A person is any being whom the law regards as capable of rights and bound by legal duties." The term 'person' is further classified into two terms: 'natural person' and 'juridical/artificial person'. Generally, in law, a living human being is considered a natural person. However, a juridical/artificial person is an entity created by law that possesses legal rights and obligations distinct from its members or the individuals associated with it. For example, companies incorporated under the Companies Act are artificial persons, statutorily recognised as legal persons.

To be a company, certain criteria must be met according to Section 9 of the Companies Act, 2013. That includes that, after registration, a company shall be a body corporate by the name contained in its memorandum - "capable of exercising all the functions of an incorporated company under this Act, having perpetual succession, having a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property both movable and immovable, tangible and intangible, to contract and to sue and be sued" by the said name.

How does RSS describe itself and what is its organisational nature?

In a similar exchange in December 2025, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat described the organisation as "a body of individuals". RSS in itself is a socio-cultural voluntary organisation with an ideal "to carry the nation to the pinnacle of glory through organising the entire society and ensuring protection of Hindu Dharma", according to the website.

RSS has been addressed as an "association of persons", according to the *Commissioner Of Income Tax v Rashtriya Swayam Sangh* on February 22, 1994, in which they have been sued with respect to tax exemption.

The Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal has referred this matter to Patna High Court to address whether the amount received from members and devotees can be taken to be *Gurudakshina* (token of gratitude to teacher) and thus be exempt from taxation. The court held that the amount received from members can be taken to be *Gurudakshina* and be exempted from tax.

Section 2(31) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, defines 'person' expansively and includes a 'body of individuals', whether incorporated or not. Under the 1961 Act, the 'body of individuals' is a separate taxable entity comprising exclusively



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh workers perform at a training camp closing ceremony, in Sambalpur on Saturday. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat describes the organisation as "a body of individuals". ANI

natural persons (human beings) who have come together for a shared purpose.

Generally, unregistered bodies cannot sue or be sued in their own names, as they are not considered separate legal persons.

The organisation is, however, named as a distinct party in cases including *Singhai Lal Chand Jain v Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh* on February 15, 1996 in the Supreme Court of India. The case revolved around the eviction of the RSS from certain premises in Panna, Madhya Pradesh, initiated by the appellant, Singhai Lal Chand Jain. The appellant filed a civil suit seeking the eviction of the RSS and its office-bearers, alleging unauthorised occupation of the premises. Holding that the RSS was properly represented by its Manager, President, and a member who jointly defended the suit, the court upheld the eviction decree.

What are the legal options for registering a voluntary association in India?

Registering a voluntary association in India requires choosing one of three primary legal structures: a Society (under the Societies Registration Act, 1860), a Trust (under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882), or a Section 8 Company (under the Companies Act, 2013).

The company after incorporation intends to apply its profits, if any, or other income only for promoting its cited objects.

What about donations/Gurudakshina?

As mentioned earlier, the RSS's legal status came under scrutiny in the 1970s during tax proceedings in Bombay and Patna. The disputes centred on whether donations received as "*Gurudakshina*" from RSS workers were taxable. In the case of *Commissioner Of Income-Tax v Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh* on 22 February, 1994, The Patna High Court addressed the matter and exempted RSS from taxes, considering donations from members as *Gurudakshina*. Also, the

Income Tax Act considers a 'body of individuals' as a 'person', as mentioned above.

There is the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, which regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies. Any donation, delivery or transfer received from a 'foreign source' whether in rupees or in foreign currency, is construed as a 'foreign contribution' under FCRA, 2010.

Even for the grant of registration under FCRA, the association should be registered under an existing statute like the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 etc. The association should be in existence for at least three years and has undertaken reasonable activity in its chosen field for the benefit of the society for which the foreign contribution is proposed to be utilised. And the applicant NGO/association will be free to choose its items of expenditure (excluding the administrative expenditure as defined in Rule 5 of FCRR, 2011) to become eligible for the minimum threshold of ₹15 lakh spent during the last three years.

How can one join RSS?

According to the Frequently Asked Questions section of the RSS website powered by Bharati Web Private Limited, "there is no formal membership enrolment in the RSS. Anyone can approach the nearest 'Shakha', which is the fundamental unit of activity of RSS and become a swayamsevak. There are no fees, no registration form, and no formal application. Once you start attending the daily shakha either in the morning or in the evening as per your convenience, you become the swayamsevak of RSS. It is that simple. If someone does not know any shakha or Swayamsevak nearby, One can join the RSS online too."

Any person who wants to work towards the *sanatan dharma* can join the RSS, even if they don't visit the shakhas.

There is no formal procedure or criterion that stops anybody for that matter from joining the organisation. There is a registration form on the website that requires one to fill up primary details for the same.

What are the RSS affiliates and are they registered?

There are around 32 sister organisations that work under the umbrella of RSS, with many more like-minded organisations. The Akhil Bhartiya Vidhyarthi Parishad, the Vidya Bharti, Bharatiya Janata Party, Vishva Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Durga Vahini, Dharam Sansad or Religious Parliament etc.

The list of RSS-affiliated bodies is vast and spans every sector of Indian society: students, education, labour, agriculture, women, tribals, culture, science, law, economics, publishing, and more. However, each of these is registered under different laws.

For example, the student body Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad began its activities around 1948 and was registered on July 9, 1949, as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. Thus, the units of the RSS function as registered entities.

Trade union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh functions within the legal framework governing labour organisations. Educational, social-service and tribal welfare bodies associated with the Sangh generally operate through registered trusts and societies.

RSS continues to describe itself as a voluntary socio-cultural organisation and a body of individuals rather than a registered corporate entity. Court records show that it has been recognised in tax proceedings and litigation, while many organisations associated with the Sangh function through separately registered bodies.

Mr. Kharge's questions, however, have renewed the debate over whether an organisation of the RSS's scale and reach should continue to operate without a formal registration framework.

THE GIST

According to legal theorist John Salmond, "A person is any being whom the law regards as capable of rights and bound by legal duties."

The RSS's legal status came under scrutiny in the 1970s during tax proceedings in Bombay and Patna. The disputes centred on whether donations received as "*Gurudakshina*" from RSS workers were taxable.

RSS continues to describe itself as a voluntary socio-cultural organisation and a body of individuals rather than a registered corporate entity.

24J6. Is RSS a legal person?

क्या आरएसएस एक विधिक व्यक्ति है?

What is a legal person?

विधिक व्यक्ति क्या है?

- Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge**, in a letter dated **June 13** addressing the **Sarsanghchalak** (chief) of the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**, **Mohan Bhagwat**, questioned the legal status of the RSS.
कर्नाटक के गृह मंत्री प्रियांक खड़गे ने 13 जून को राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ (आरएसएस) के सरसंघचालक मोहन भागवत को संबोधित एक पत्र में आरएसएस की विधिक स्थिति पर प्रश्न उठाया।
- In an accompanying post on social media platform **X**, Mr. Kharge asked, "If citizens, labour, NGOs, trusts, temples and companies are expected to register, disclose and comply with the law, why should the **RSS** remain exempt?"
सोशल मीडिया मंच एक्स पर किए गए एक संबंधित पोस्ट में श्री खड़गे ने पूछा, "यदि नागरिकों, श्रमिकों, गैर-सरकारी संगठनों, न्यासों, मंदिरों और कंपनियों से पंजीकरण, जानकारी का प्रकटीकरण तथा कानून का पालन करने की अपेक्षा की जाती है, तो आरएसएस को इससे छूट क्यों मिलनी चाहिए?"
- He raised similar questions towards the end of last year as well regarding the legal existence of RSS.
उन्होंने पिछले वर्ष के अंत में भी आरएसएस के विधिक अस्तित्व को लेकर इसी प्रकार के प्रश्न उठाए थे।
- He has asked about the registration, organisation structure, funding and donation and also about the overall functioning of the organisation.
उन्होंने संगठन के पंजीकरण, संगठनात्मक संरचना, वित्तपोषण, दान तथा उसके समग्र कार्य संचालन के संबंध में प्रश्न किए हैं।
- According to legal theorist **John Salmond**, "A person is any being whom the law regards as capable of rights and bound by legal duties."
विधि सिद्धांतकार जॉन सालमंड के अनुसार, "व्यक्ति वह है जिसे कानून अधिकारों का धारक तथा विधिक कर्तव्यों से बंधा हुआ मानता है।"
- The term '**person**' is further classified into two terms: '**natural person**' and '**juridical/artificial person**'.
'व्यक्ति' शब्द को आगे दो श्रेणियों में विभाजित किया जाता है: 'प्राकृतिक व्यक्ति' तथा 'विधिक/कृत्रिम व्यक्ति'।
- Generally, in law, a living human being is considered a **natural person**.
सामान्यतः विधि में किसी जीवित मानव को प्राकृतिक व्यक्ति माना जाता है।
- However, a **juridical/artificial person** is an entity created by law that possesses legal rights and obligations distinct from its members or the individuals associated with it.
इसके विपरीत, विधिक/कृत्रिम व्यक्ति वह इकाई होती है जिसे कानून द्वारा निर्मित किया जाता है और जिसके पास अपने सदस्यों या उससे जुड़े व्यक्तियों से पृथक विधिक अधिकार एवं दायित्व होते हैं।
- For example, companies incorporated under the **Companies Act** are artificial persons, statutorily recognised as legal persons.
उदाहरण के लिए, कंपनी अधिनियम के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत कंपनियाँ कृत्रिम व्यक्ति होती हैं, जिन्हें विधिक रूप से कानूनी व्यक्तित्व प्रदान किया जाता है।
- To be a company, certain criteria must be met according to **Section 9 of the Companies Act, 2013**.
किसी संस्था को कंपनी माने जाने के लिए कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 9 के अनुसार कुछ शर्तों को पूरा करना आवश्यक होता है।
- That includes that, after registration, a company shall be a **body corporate** by the name contained in its memorandum.
इन शर्तों में यह भी शामिल है कि पंजीकरण के पश्चात कंपनी अपने ज्ञापन में उल्लिखित नाम से एक निगमित निकाय बन जाती है।
- It shall be "capable of exercising all the functions of an incorporated company under this Act, having **perpetual succession**, having a **common seal** with power to acquire, hold and

dispose of property both movable and immovable, tangible and intangible, to contract and to sue and be sued" by the said name.

वह "इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत निगमित कंपनी के सभी कार्य करने में सक्षम होगी, उसके पास स्थायी उत्तराधिकार होगा, एक सामान्य मुहर होगी, तथा उसे चल एवं अचल, मूर्त एवं अमूर्त संपत्ति अर्जित करने, रखने और हस्तांतरित करने, अनुबंध करने तथा अपने नाम से वाद दायर करने और उसके विरुद्ध वाद चलाए जाने का अधिकार होगा।"

How does RSS describe itself and what is its organisational nature?

आरएसएस स्वयं को कैसे परिभाषित करता है और उसकी संगठनात्मक प्रकृति क्या है?

- In a similar exchange in December 2025, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat described the organisation as "a body of individuals".
दिसम्बर 2025 में हुए एक समान संवाद में आरएसएस प्रमुख मोहन भागवत ने संगठन को "व्यक्तियों का एक समूह" बताया था।
- RSS in itself is a socio-cultural voluntary organisation with an ideal "to carry the nation to the pinnacle of glory through organising the entire society and ensuring protection of Hindu Dharma", according to the website.
वेबसाइट के अनुसार, आरएसएस एक सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक स्वैच्छिक संगठन है, जिसका आदर्श "समस्त समाज को संगठित कर तथा हिन्दू धर्म की रक्षा सुनिश्चित कर राष्ट्र को गौरव के शिखर तक पहुँचाना" है।
- RSS has been addressed as an "association of persons", according to the case Commissioner of Income Tax v Rastriya Swayam Sangh on February 22, 1994, in which it was sued with respect to tax exemption.
22 फरवरी 1994 के एक न्यायिक मामले में आरएसएस को "व्यक्तियों का संघ" कहा गया था, जिसमें उस पर कर-छूट के संबंध में वाद दायर किया गया था।
- The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal referred this matter to the Patna High Court to address whether the amount received from members and devotees can be taken to be Gurudakshina and thus be exempt from taxation.
आयकर अपीलीय अधिकरण ने यह प्रश्न पटना उच्च न्यायालय को भेजा कि क्या सदस्यों और अनुयायियों से प्राप्त राशि को गुरुदक्षिणा माना जा सकता है और इस आधार पर उसे कर से मुक्त किया जा सकता है।
- The court held that the amount received from members can be taken to be Gurudakshina and be exempted from tax.
न्यायालय ने निर्णय दिया कि सदस्यों से प्राप्त राशि को गुरुदक्षिणा माना जा सकता है और उसे कर से छूट दी जा सकती है।
- Section 2(31) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 defines 'person' expansively and includes a 'body of individuals', whether incorporated or not.
आयकर अधिनियम, 1961 की धारा 2(31) में 'व्यक्ति' की व्यापक परिभाषा दी गई है, जिसमें पंजीकृत अथवा अपंजीकृत 'व्यक्तियों का समूह' भी शामिल है।
- Under the 1961 Act, the 'body of individuals' is a separate taxable entity comprising exclusively natural persons who have come together for a shared purpose.
1961 के अधिनियम के अंतर्गत 'व्यक्तियों का समूह' एक पृथक करयोग्य इकाई है, जिसमें केवल प्राकृतिक व्यक्ति शामिल होते हैं जो किसी साझा उद्देश्य के लिए एकत्रित हुए हों।
- Generally, unregistered bodies cannot sue or be sued in their own names, as they are not considered separate legal persons.
सामान्यतः अपंजीकृत संस्थाएँ अपने नाम से वाद दायर नहीं कर सकतीं और न ही उनके विरुद्ध वाद चलाया जा सकता है, क्योंकि उन्हें पृथक विधिक व्यक्तित्व प्राप्त नहीं होता।
- The organisation is, however, named as a distinct party in cases including Singhai Lal Chand Jain v Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on February 15, 1996 in the Supreme Court of India.

हालाँकि, 15 फरवरी 1996 के एक मामले सहित कई मामलों में आरएसएस को एक पृथक पक्षकार के रूप में नामित किया गया है।

- The case revolved around the eviction of the RSS from certain premises in Panna, Madhya Pradesh, initiated by the appellant, Singhai Lal Chand Jain.
यह मामला मध्य प्रदेश के पन्ना स्थित एक परिसर से आरएसएस को बेदखल करने से संबंधित था, जिसकी शुरुआत अपीलकर्ता सिंघई लालचंद जैन द्वारा की गई थी।
- The appellant filed a civil suit seeking the eviction of the RSS and its office-bearers, alleging unauthorised occupation of the premises.
अपीलकर्ता ने परिसर पर अनधिकृत कब्जे का आरोप लगाते हुए आरएसएस तथा उसके पदाधिकारियों को बेदखल करने के लिए दीवानी वाद दायर किया।
- Holding that the RSS was properly represented by its Manager, President, and a member who jointly defended the suit, the court upheld the eviction decree.
न्यायालय ने यह मानते हुए कि आरएसएस का प्रतिनिधित्व उसके प्रबंधक, अध्यक्ष तथा एक सदस्य द्वारा विधिवत किया गया था, बेदखली के आदेश को बरकरार रखा।

What are the legal options for registering a voluntary association in India?

भारत में किसी स्वैच्छिक संगठन के पंजीकरण के लिए क्या विधिक विकल्प उपलब्ध हैं?

- Registering a **voluntary association** in India requires choosing one of three primary legal structures: a **Society**, a **Trust**, or a **Section 8 Company**.
भारत में किसी स्वैच्छिक संगठन का पंजीकरण करने के लिए तीन प्रमुख विधिक संरचनाओं में से एक का चयन करना होता है: समिति, न्यास, अथवा धारा 8 कंपनी।
- A **Society** is registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
समिति का पंजीकरण समिति पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1860 के अंतर्गत किया जाता है।
- A **Trust** is registered under the **Indian Trusts Act, 1882**.
न्यास का पंजीकरण भारतीय न्यास अधिनियम, 1882 के अंतर्गत किया जाता है।
- A **Section 8 Company** is registered under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
धारा 8 कंपनी का पंजीकरण कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 के अंतर्गत किया जाता है।
- The company after incorporation intends to apply its profits, if any, or other income only for promoting its cited objects.
ऐसी कंपनी पंजीकरण के बाद अपने लाभ, यदि कोई हो, अथवा अन्य आय का उपयोग केवल अपने घोषित उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति के लिए करती है

What about donations/Gurudakshina?

दान/गुरुदक्षिणा का क्या प्रावधान है?

- As mentioned earlier, the **RSS's legal status** came under scrutiny in the **1970s** during tax proceedings in **Bombay** and **Patna**.
जैसा कि पहले उल्लेख किया गया है, 1970 के दशक में बंबई और पटना में चली कर-कार्यवाहियों के दौरान आरएसएस की विधिक स्थिति की जाँच की गई थी।
- The disputes centred on whether donations received as “**Gurudakshina**” from RSS workers were taxable.
विवाद का मुख्य प्रश्न यह था कि आरएसएस कार्यकर्ताओं से प्राप्त गुरुदक्षिणा करयोग्य है या नहीं।
- In the case of **Commissioner of Income-Tax v Rastriya Swayam Sevak Sangh** on **22 February, 1994**, the **Patna High Court** addressed the matter and exempted RSS from taxes, considering donations from members as **Gurudakshina**.
22 फरवरी 1994 के एक मामले में पटना उच्च न्यायालय ने इस विषय पर विचार करते हुए सदस्यों से प्राप्त दान को गुरुदक्षिणा मानकर आरएसएस को कर से छूट प्रदान की।

- Also, the **Income Tax Act** considers a 'body of individuals' as a 'person', as mentioned above.
इसके अतिरिक्त, आयकर अधिनियम 'व्यक्तियों के समूह' को भी 'व्यक्ति' मानता है।
- There is the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010**, which regulates the acceptance and utilisation of **foreign contribution** or **foreign hospitality** by certain individuals, associations or companies.
विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2010 भी है, जो कुछ व्यक्तियों, संगठनों तथा कंपनियों द्वारा **विदेशी अंशदान** अथवा **विदेशी आतिथ्य** को स्वीकार करने और उपयोग करने को विनियमित करता है।
- Any donation, delivery or transfer received from a 'foreign source', whether in rupees or in foreign currency, is construed as a 'foreign contribution' under **FCRA, 2010**.
विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2010 के अंतर्गत किसी **विदेशी स्रोत** से प्राप्त कोई भी दान, हस्तांतरण अथवा सहायता — चाहे वह भारतीय मुद्रा में हो या विदेशी मुद्रा में — **विदेशी अंशदान** मानी जाती है।

What about donations/Gurudakshina?

दान/गुरुदक्षिणा का क्या प्रावधान है?

- Even for the grant of registration under **FCRA**, the association should be registered under an existing statute like the **Societies Registration Act, 1860** or the **Indian Trusts Act, 1882** or **Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013** etc.
विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम के अंतर्गत पंजीकरण प्राप्त करने के लिए भी किसी संगठन का किसी विद्यमान कानून जैसे **समिति पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1860**, **भारतीय न्यास अधिनियम, 1882** अथवा **कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 8** आदि के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत होना आवश्यक है।
- The association should be in existence for at least **three years** and has undertaken reasonable activity in its chosen field for the benefit of the society for which the foreign contribution is proposed to be utilised.
संगठन का कम-से-कम **तीन वर्षों** से अस्तित्व में होना आवश्यक है तथा उसे अपने चयनित क्षेत्र में समाज के हित हेतु उचित गतिविधियाँ संचालित करनी चाहिए, जिनके लिए विदेशी अंशदान का उपयोग प्रस्तावित है।
- And the applicant NGO/association will be free to choose its items of expenditure (excluding the administrative expenditure as defined in **Rule 5 of FCRR, 2011**) to become eligible for the minimum threshold of **₹15 lakh** spent during the last three years.
आवेदक संगठन को अपने व्यय मदों का चयन करने की स्वतंत्रता होगी (हालाँकि **विदेशी अंशदान विनियमन नियम, 2011 के नियम 5** में परिभाषित प्रशासनिक व्यय को छोड़कर), ताकि वह पिछले तीन वर्षों में न्यूनतम **₹15 लाख** व्यय की पात्रता शर्त को पूरा कर सके।

How can one join RSS?

आरएसएस से कैसे जुड़ा जा सकता है?

- According to the Frequently Asked Questions section of the RSS website powered by Bharati Web Private Limited, "there is no formal membership enrolment in the RSS."
भारती वेब प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा संचालित आरएसएस की वेबसाइट के **अक्सर पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्न** अनुभाग के अनुसार, "आरएसएस में कोई औपचारिक सदस्यता नामांकन व्यवस्था नहीं है।"
- "Anyone can approach the nearest 'Shakha', which is the fundamental unit of activity of RSS and become a swayamsevak."
"कोई भी व्यक्ति निकटतम **शाखा** से जुड़ सकता है, जो आरएसएस की मूल गतिविधि इकाई है, और स्वयंसेवक बन सकता है।"
- "There are no fees, no registration form, and no formal application."
"इसमें कोई शुल्क नहीं है, कोई पंजीकरण प्रपत्र नहीं है और न ही कोई औपचारिक आवेदन प्रक्रिया है।"
- "Once you start attending the daily shakha either in the morning or in the evening as per your convenience, you become the swayamsevak of RSS."

“जैसे ही आप अपनी सुविधा के अनुसार प्रातः या सायंकाल दैनिक शाखा में भाग लेना प्रारम्भ करते हैं, आप आरएसएस के स्वयंसेवक बन जाते हैं।”

- “It is that simple.”
“यह प्रक्रिया इतनी ही सरल है।”
- “If someone does not know any shakha or swayamsevak nearby, one can join the RSS online too.”
“यदि किसी व्यक्ति को निकट में कोई शाखा या स्वयंसेवक ज्ञात नहीं है, तो वह ऑनलाइन माध्यम से भी आरएसएस से जुड़ सकता है।”
- Any person who wants to work towards **Sanatan Dharma** can join the RSS, even if they don't visit the shakhas.
जो भी व्यक्ति **सनातन धर्म** के लिए कार्य करना चाहता है, वह शाखाओं में जाए बिना भी आरएसएस से जुड़ सकता है।
- There is no formal procedure or criterion that stops anybody for that matter from joining the organisation.
संगठन से जुड़ने के लिए ऐसा कोई औपचारिक नियम या मानदंड नहीं है जो किसी व्यक्ति को इससे जुड़ने से रोकता हो।
- There is a registration form on the website that requires one to fill up primary details for the same.
वेबसाइट पर एक पंजीकरण प्रपत्र उपलब्ध है, जिसमें इच्छुक व्यक्ति को अपनी मूलभूत जानकारी भरनी होती है।

What are the RSS affiliates and are they registered?

आरएसएस से संबद्ध संगठन कौन-कौन से हैं और क्या वे पंजीकृत हैं?

- There are around **32 sister organisations** that work under the umbrella of RSS, with many more like-minded organisations.
आरएसएस के संरक्षण में लगभग **32 सहयोगी संगठन** कार्य करते हैं, इसके अतिरिक्त अनेक समान विचारधारा वाले संगठन भी हैं।
- The **Akhil Bhartiya Vidhyarthi Parishad**, the **Vidya Bharati**, **Bharatiya Janata Party**, **Vishva Hindu Parishad**, **Bajrang Dal**, **Durga Vahini**, **Dharam Sansad** or Religious Parliament etc.
इनमें **अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद**, **विद्या भारती**, **भारतीय जनता पार्टी**, **विश्व हिन्दू परिषद**, **बजरंग दल**, **दुर्गा वाहिनी**, **धर्म संसद** आदि प्रमुख हैं।
- The list of RSS-affiliated bodies is vast and spans every sector of Indian society: students, education, labour, agriculture, women, tribals, culture, science, law, economics, publishing, and more.
आरएसएस से संबद्ध संगठनों की सूची अत्यंत व्यापक है और भारतीय समाज के लगभग सभी क्षेत्रों — छात्र, शिक्षा, श्रम, कृषि, महिला, जनजातीय समाज, संस्कृति, विज्ञान, विधि, अर्थव्यवस्था, प्रकाशन आदि — को समाहित करती है।
- However, each of these is registered under different laws.
हालाँकि, इनमें से प्रत्येक संगठन विभिन्न कानूनों के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत है।
- For example, the student body **Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad** began its activities around **1948** and was registered on **July 9, 1949**, as a non-governmental organisation under the **Societies Registration Act of 1860**.
उदाहरण के लिए, छात्र संगठन **अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद** ने लगभग **1948** में अपनी गतिविधियाँ प्रारम्भ कीं और **9 जुलाई 1949** को **समिति पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1860** के अंतर्गत एक गैर-सरकारी संगठन के रूप में पंजीकृत हुआ।



- Thus, the units of the RSS function as registered entities.
इस प्रकार, आरएसएस से संबद्ध इकाइयाँ पंजीकृत संस्थाओं के रूप में कार्य करती हैं।
- Trade union **Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh** functions within the legal framework governing labour organisations.
श्रमिक संगठन **भारतीय मजदूर संघ** श्रमिक संगठनों को नियंत्रित करने वाले विधिक ढाँचे के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।
- Educational, social-service and tribal welfare bodies associated with the Sangh generally operate through registered trusts and societies.
संघ से जुड़े शैक्षिक, सामाजिक सेवा तथा जनजातीय कल्याण संगठन सामान्यतः पंजीकृत न्यासों और समितियों के माध्यम से कार्य करते हैं।
- RSS continues to describe itself as a voluntary socio-cultural organisation and a body of individuals rather than a registered corporate entity.
आरएसएस स्वयं को एक पंजीकृत निगमित संस्था के बजाय एक **स्वैच्छिक सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक संगठन** तथा **व्यक्तियों का समूह** बताता है।
- Court records show that it has been recognised in tax proceedings and litigation, while many organisations associated with the Sangh function through separately registered bodies.
न्यायालयीय अभिलेख दर्शाते हैं कि कर-संबंधी कार्यवाहियों और न्यायिक मामलों में इसकी पहचान स्वीकार की गई है, जबकि संघ से जुड़े अनेक संगठन पृथक रूप से पंजीकृत संस्थाओं के माध्यम से कार्य करते हैं।
- Mr. Kharge's questions, however, have renewed the debate over whether an organisation of the RSS's scale and reach should continue to operate without a formal registration framework.
हालाँकि, श्री खड़गे द्वारा उठाए गए प्रश्नों ने इस बहस को पुनर्जीवित कर दिया है कि आरएसएस जैसे व्यापक प्रभाव और विशाल संरचना वाले संगठन को क्या बिना किसी औपचारिक पंजीकरण ढाँचे के कार्य करते रहना चाहिए।

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Centre tightens norms for foreign donations

NGOs must stick to the activities specified by Centre in their category and geographical area

NGOs must declare everything they published: books, magazines, and articles in newspapers

Existing registrations must comply within the next year; a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh will apply

GS II: Governance

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) wanting to access foreign funds must now stick to a list of activities specified by the Centre, according to the latest amendment to the Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, notified on Monday.

While NGOs seeking foreign funds are required to register under one of the five permitted categories, namely social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious, this is the first time separate activity lists have been laid out for those in each category.

NGOs must now disclose their activities, the geographical scope of their programmes, their websites, social media accounts, and publications. They must pay separate fees for each category and State or Union Territory they operate in, as opposed to the previous single fee for FCRA registrants.

Any new registration must follow the new norms and existing registrations must comply with the changes within the next year. Any violations will be penalised with a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh, according to another order from the Union Home Ministry. The Ministry regulates all foreign donations through the FCRA.

Earlier amendments of the Rules only required NGOs to give an undertaking that their acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with foreign states or disrupt communal harmony.

Key functionaries
The amended Rules also broaden the definition of an NGO's "key functionary" beyond office-bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the Karta or head of a Hindu Undivided Family, governing body members, and

Funding check

Under the fresh changes to Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, all NGOs are required to disclose specific activities and geographical scope of their programmes to receive contributions under 5 permitted categories:



EDUCATIONAL

- Schools, colleges, and libraries
- Scholarships
- Research institutions and think tanks
- Civic-awareness and constitutional-rights programmes



ECONOMIC

- Livelihood generation
- Skill development
- Agricultural sectors
- Entrepreneurship and micro-enterprises
- Financial and digital inclusion



RELIGIOUS

- Places of worship
- Religious education
- Pilgrim services
- Meditation programmes
- Preservation of religious traditions



SOCIAL

- Public health
- Rehabilitation
- Sanitation and nutrition
- Disaster relief



CULTURAL

- Preservation of Indian arts and languages
- Museums, archives, and cultural festivals
- Heritage conservation

anyone else controlling or managing the organisation.

Associations having foreign nationals (other than persons of Indian origin) as key functionaries will ordinarily not be considered eligible for registration or prior permission, unless specifically permitted by the Centre, according to the new Rules. NGOs must

also declare whether their association or any of their key functionaries brought out any publication during the year, including books, magazines, and newspaper articles.

A senior government official said that the amendments were effected to bring uniformity in Foreign Contribution forms (F-C) and to avoid

duplication.

The amended Rules state that the certificate of registration or the application form (for fresh registrations) shall specify the purpose or purposes for which registration is granted, chosen only from such list of purposes as specified in the Schedule appended to the Rules; and the States or Union territories in

which the NGO proposes to undertake the activities.

The Rules also impose a fee on NGOs to operate for each specified purpose, and within each State or Union Territory.

Some categories specifically exclude political activities. For instance, the "educational" purpose lists 22 activities but adds the caveat that "awareness programmes on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities" must be "strictly non-political in nature."

The "cultural" purpose lists "promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions" among 18 categories, adding the caveat to "exclude political/ideological content."

There are 16 permitted categories of religious activities, including "conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)", and "burial/cremation ground development and maintenance." There are 19 activities listed

under "economic" purpose, and 30 items under the "social" category.

Fines for violations
MHA notified another order which specifies fines for FCRA violations such as excess administrative spending, speculative investments, misuse of funds, unauthorised receipt/use of foreign contributions, and using funds for unapproved purposes or in unapproved States/UTs.

Any use of funds for purposes other than those for which they were received can attract a penalty of up to 30% of the amount misused or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. Similarly, using foreign funds for purposes or in areas not covered under the NGO's approval also invites a fine of 30% of the amount or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. In addition, spending beyond the permitted expense limit is penalised with fines calculated as a percentage of the amount involved, subject to a minimum of ₹1 lakh.

24J6. Centre tightens norms for foreign donations

विदेशी अंशदानों के लिए केंद्र ने नियमों को और कड़ा किया

- **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** wanting to access **foreign funds** must now stick to a list of activities specified by the **Centre**, according to the latest amendment to the Rules of the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010**, notified on Monday.

गैर-सरकारी संगठनों को अब विदेशी धनराशि प्राप्त करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित गतिविधियों की सूची का पालन करना होगा। यह प्रावधान सोमवार को अधिसूचित विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2010 के नियमों में किए गए नवीनतम संशोधन में किया गया है।

- While NGOs seeking foreign funds are required to register under one of the five permitted categories, namely **social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious**, this is the first time separate activity lists have been laid out for those in each category.

यद्यपि विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने के इच्छुक संगठनों को सामाजिक, आर्थिक, शैक्षिक, सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक — इन पाँच अनुमत श्रेणियों में से किसी एक के अंतर्गत पंजीकरण कराना आवश्यक है, किन्तु पहली बार प्रत्येक श्रेणी के लिए अलग-अलग गतिविधियों की सूची निर्धारित की गई है।

- NGOs must now disclose their activities, the geographical scope of their programmes, their websites, social media accounts, and publications.

अब संगठनों को अपनी गतिविधियों, कार्यक्रमों के भौगोलिक दायरे, अपनी वेबसाइटों, सामाजिक मीडिया खातों तथा प्रकाशनों का विवरण देना अनिवार्य होगा।

- They must pay separate fees for each category and State or Union Territory they operate in, as opposed to the previous single fee for FCRA registrants.

उन्हें अब प्रत्येक श्रेणी तथा प्रत्येक राज्य या केंद्रशासित प्रदेश, जहाँ वे कार्यरत हैं, के लिए अलग-अलग शुल्क देना होगा, जबकि पहले केवल एक ही शुल्क लिया जाता था।

- Any new registration must follow the new norms and existing registrations must comply with the changes within the next year.

सभी नए पंजीकरणों को नए नियमों का पालन करना होगा तथा पहले से पंजीकृत संगठनों को अगले एक वर्ष के भीतर इन परिवर्तनों के अनुरूप होना होगा।

- Any violations will be penalised with a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh, according to another order from the **Union Home Ministry**.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के एक अन्य आदेश के अनुसार, किसी भी उल्लंघन पर न्यूनतम **एक लाख रुपये** का जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।

- The Ministry regulates all foreign donations through the **FCRA**.
मंत्रालय **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम** के माध्यम से सभी विदेशी दानों का विनियमन करता है।
- Earlier amendments of the Rules only required NGOs to give an undertaking that their acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with foreign states or disrupt communal harmony.
नियमों के पूर्व संशोधनों में केवल यह अपेक्षा की जाती थी कि संगठन यह आश्वासन दें कि विदेशी धन स्वीकार करने से भारत की **संप्रभुता और अखंडता**, विदेशी देशों के साथ मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंधों अथवा **साम्प्रदायिक सद्भाव** पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।

Key functionaries

प्रमुख पदाधिकारी

- The amended Rules also broaden the definition of an NGO's **"key functionary"** beyond office-bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the Karta or head of a Hindu Undivided Family, governing body members, and anyone else controlling or managing the organisation.
संशोधित नियमों में संगठन के **"प्रमुख पदाधिकारी"** की परिभाषा का विस्तार किया गया है। अब इसमें केवल पदाधिकारी और निदेशक ही नहीं, बल्कि न्यासी, साझेदार, हिन्दू अविभाजित परिवार का कर्ता या मुखिया, शासी निकाय के सदस्य तथा संगठन का नियंत्रण या प्रबंधन करने वाले अन्य व्यक्ति भी शामिल होंगे।
- Associations having foreign nationals (other than persons of Indian origin) as key functionaries will ordinarily not be considered eligible for registration or prior permission, unless specifically permitted by the Centre, according to the new Rules.
नए नियमों के अनुसार, जिन संगठनों के प्रमुख पदाधिकारियों में विदेशी नागरिक (भारतीय मूल के व्यक्तियों को छोड़कर) शामिल हैं, उन्हें सामान्यतः पंजीकरण या पूर्व अनुमति के लिए पात्र नहीं माना जाएगा, जब तक कि केंद्र सरकार विशेष रूप से अनुमति न दे।
- NGOs must also declare whether their association or any of their key functionaries brought out any publication during the year, including books, magazines, and newspaper articles.
संगठनों को यह भी घोषित करना होगा कि क्या उनके संगठन अथवा उनके किसी प्रमुख पदाधिकारी ने वर्ष के दौरान कोई प्रकाशन प्रकाशित किया है, जिसमें पुस्तकें, पत्रिकाएँ और समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशित लेख भी शामिल हैं।
- A senior government official said that the amendments were effected to bring **uniformity in Foreign Contribution forms** and to avoid duplication.
एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने कहा कि ये संशोधन **विदेशी अंशदान प्रपत्रों में एकरूपता** लाने तथा दोहराव को रोकने के उद्देश्य से किए गए हैं।
- The amended Rules state that the certificate of registration or the application form (for fresh registrations) shall specify the purpose or purposes for which registration is granted, chosen only from such list of purposes as specified in the Schedule appended to the Rules.
संशोधित नियमों के अनुसार, पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र अथवा नए पंजीकरण के आवेदन-पत्र में उन उद्देश्यों का स्पष्ट उल्लेख होगा जिनके लिए पंजीकरण प्रदान किया गया है, और ये उद्देश्य केवल नियमों की अनुसूची में निर्दिष्ट सूची में से ही चुने जा सकेंगे।

- And the States or Union Territories in which the NGO proposes to undertake the activities. साथ ही, उन राज्यों या केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों का भी उल्लेख करना होगा जहाँ संगठन अपनी गतिविधियाँ संचालित करना चाहता है।
- The Rules also impose a fee on NGOs to operate for each specified purpose, and within each State or Union Territory. नियमों के अनुसार, प्रत्येक निर्दिष्ट उद्देश्य तथा प्रत्येक राज्य या केंद्रशासित प्रदेश में कार्य करने के लिए संगठनों को अलग-अलग शुल्क देना होगा।
- Some categories specifically exclude **political activities**. कुछ श्रेणियों में **राजनीतिक गतिविधियों** को स्पष्ट रूप से बाहर रखा गया है।
- For instance, the “**educational**” purpose lists 22 activities but adds the caveat that “awareness programmes on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities” must be “strictly non-political in nature.” उदाहरण के लिए, “**शैक्षिक**” उद्देश्य के अंतर्गत 22 गतिविधियाँ सूचीबद्ध की गई हैं, किन्तु यह स्पष्ट किया गया है कि “संवैधानिक अधिकारों, मौलिक कर्तव्यों तथा नागरिक उत्तरदायित्वों पर आधारित जागरूकता कार्यक्रम” **पूर्णतः गैर-राजनीतिक प्रकृति** के होने चाहिए।
- The “**cultural**” purpose lists “promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions” among 18 categories, adding the caveat to “exclude political/ideological content.” “**सांस्कृतिक**” उद्देश्य के अंतर्गत 18 श्रेणियाँ दी गई हैं, जिनमें “भारतीय परम्पराओं से प्रेरित समकालीन कलाओं का संवर्धन” भी शामिल है, किन्तु यह शर्त जोड़ी गई है कि इसमें **राजनीतिक अथवा वैचारिक सामग्री** शामिल नहीं होनी चाहिए।
- There are **16 permitted categories** of religious activities, including “conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)”, and “burial/cremation ground development and maintenance.” धार्मिक गतिविधियों की **16 अनुमत श्रेणियाँ** निर्धारित की गई हैं, जिनमें “धार्मिक शिक्षा, नैतिक शिक्षा, सत्संग, प्रवचन तथा ध्यान शिविरों का आयोजन (धर्म-परिवर्तन को छोड़कर)” तथा “दफन या श्मशान स्थलों का विकास और रखरखाव” शामिल हैं।
- There are **19 activities** listed under “**economic**” purpose, and **30 items** under the “**social**” category. “**आर्थिक**” उद्देश्य के अंतर्गत **19 गतिविधियाँ** तथा “**सामाजिक**” श्रेणी के अंतर्गत **30 गतिविधियाँ** सूचीबद्ध की गई हैं।

Fines for violations

उल्लंघनों पर दण्ड

- **MHA** notified another order which specifies fines for **FCRA violations** such as excess administrative spending, speculative investments, misuse of funds, unauthorised receipt/use of foreign contributions, and using funds for unapproved purposes or in unapproved States/UTs. **गृह मंत्रालय** ने एक अन्य आदेश जारी किया है जिसमें **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम** के उल्लंघनों पर लगाए जाने वाले दण्डों का प्रावधान किया गया है। इनमें अत्यधिक प्रशासनिक व्यय, सट्टात्मक निवेश, धन का दुरुपयोग, विदेशी अंशदान की अनधिकृत प्राप्ति अथवा उपयोग, तथा अप्राधिकृत उद्देश्यों या अप्राधिकृत राज्यों/केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में धन का उपयोग शामिल है।
- Any use of funds for purposes other than those for which they were received can attract a penalty of up to **30% of the amount misused** or **₹1 lakh**, whichever is higher. जिस उद्देश्य के लिए धन प्राप्त किया गया था उसके अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य उद्देश्य में उसका उपयोग करने पर **दुरुपयोग की गई राशि के 30 प्रतिशत** अथवा **एक लाख रुपये**, जो भी अधिक हो, का दण्ड लगाया जा सकता है।

- Similarly, using foreign funds for purposes or in areas not covered under the NGO's approval also invites a fine of **30% of the amount** or **₹1 lakh**, whichever is higher.
इसी प्रकार, संगठन को स्वीकृत उद्देश्यों या क्षेत्रों से बाहर विदेशी धन का उपयोग करने पर भी राशि के 30 प्रतिशत अथवा एक लाख रुपये, जो भी अधिक हो, का जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।
- In addition, spending beyond the permitted expense limit is penalised with fines calculated as a percentage of the amount involved, subject to a minimum of **₹1 lakh**.
इसके अतिरिक्त, अनुमत व्यय सीमा से अधिक खर्च करने पर संबंधित राशि के अनुपात में दण्ड लगाया जाएगा, जिसकी न्यूनतम सीमा एक लाख रुपये होगी।

Reconnect public health with people's needs

Public health policies, like other public policies, are crucial in determining the overall health of the population and are an important contributor to a nation seeking to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend. One of the major claims of health policies in recent years has been the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC), a novel idea that seeks to ensure that every individual has access to needed health services without suffering financial hardship. Yet, populist ideas often dominate public policy despite evidence to the contrary, as seen in the case of publicly funded health insurance schemes. The changing nature of public health policy in recent years is particularly concerning, not only because it has often failed to be evidence-based, but also because of its inability to guarantee even minimal health benefits to the population.

More troubling is the failure of public health policies to improve access to health care at a time when such access is deteriorating significantly owing to rising costs in the private sector and poor quality in the public sector. Two recent government initiatives – the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres and the Digital Health Mission – illustrate these inadequacies.

The interpretation

The Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, introduced as a policy initiative in 2018, were intended to strengthen health infrastructure. What eventually happened, however, was that the names and identities of grassroots-level institutions – namely, the health sub-centres (SCs), primary health centres (PHCs), and community health centres (CHCs) – were altered by mandatorily adding “Health and Wellness Centre” as a prefix. The identity of these grassroots institutions and their mandates have evolved over time based on their roles within the district health system. The use of a common prefix has created considerable ambiguity among health professionals and policymakers regarding their actual mandate. Another consequence of the “health and wellness” approach has been a shift in focus from population health outcomes to individual well-being. The major challenge in using well-being as an outcome measure lies in the elusive and subjective nature of the concept itself.

A historical inquiry into the concept of wellness reveals that it was initially used to denote the absence of disease and was often contrasted with illness. It was also frequently used interchangeably with health. During the 1950s, the wellness movement popularised the idea of positive well-being by conceptualising health beyond its biological dimensions. The mental cure model similarly emphasised the psychological and spiritual aspects of healing. Influenced by these developments, the World



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Health Organization (WHO) defined health as not merely the absence of disease, thereby promoting the notion of positive well-being. Over time, wellness expanded beyond physiological health to include mental, spiritual, social and environmental dimensions, offering a more holistic understanding of health. In public health, however, the emphasis shifted towards health promotion – a population-based approach that recognises how social, economic and environmental conditions shape people's ability to adopt healthy behaviours.

Another reason for preferring health promotion over wellness was the greater rigour and feasibility associated with measuring the former. There are no universally accepted measures of well-being at the population level, as the concept is inherently individualistic and deeply subjective. Unlike health promotion, the concept of wellness places the primary responsibility on individuals, assuming that they possess the capacity and opportunity to modify their health-related choices. In doing so, it often underestimates the structural and social determinants that shape health outcomes.

The individualisation of health

The shift from population health status to individual well-being is a consequence of the changing wellness narrative brought by the public health policy. The implication is that health status, which was previously assessed through unmet needs in preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative care – including access to basic services such as drinking water, food and nutrition, chronic disease management, emergency care, and maternal and child health services – is increasingly being replaced by the aspiration to achieve individual well-being. This shift in focus has contributed to the rise of health coaches and the proliferation of social media messages promoting individual well-being, often under the banner of public health.

When health outcomes are framed primarily in terms of individual well-being, there is a risk of failing to systematically capture a wide range of unmet health needs that remain significant for the population. The broader narrative increasingly suggests that the achievement of individual well-being is the ultimate objective of health and wellness centres. This presents a serious challenge. As the well-known principle in management states, “If you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it”. Given the inherently subjective nature of well-being, an excessive policy focus on this outcome may undermine the ability to evaluate health systems effectively and address concrete deficiencies in health care access and service delivery.

Another major public health policy initiative of recent years is the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDHM), whose principal

objective is to create a digital repository of health information for every individual through a unique health ID, known as the ABHA card. In addition, the mission seeks to maintain registries of health facilities, health-care professionals and information related to health insurance. However, an information portal containing health records and details of health infrastructure cannot, by itself, address the challenges posed by inadequate access to health care. Nor does it justify the annual budget of around ₹300 crore to the ABDHM in the absence of measurable outcomes.

Factors behind inadequate access to care

It is well established that inadequate access to health care in India stems from the unaffordability of care in the private sector and the lack of quality health-care facilities in the public sector. Merely creating databases of individual health records, health facilities and health-care professionals cannot improve access to health care. If the argument is that information is the first step towards strengthening the health system, there exists a substantial body of reports and datasets that provide such information.

The more pertinent question is how information contained in an individual's health record, through an ABHA card, can guarantee access to health care when health-care infrastructure remains grossly inadequate and unaffordable for large sections of the population. Even if every individual in a district possesses an ABHA card and all health facilities and health-care professionals are digitally mapped, the delivery of health care still requires a robust institutional mechanism. Unfortunately, the ABDHM, as currently designed, has little to say about the provisioning of care. It primarily generates information on individuals, facilities and health-care professionals, all of which continue to operate largely in silos.

It is therefore difficult to identify a compelling public health rationale for this scale of data generation. What is missing from current policy initiatives are concrete measures to strengthen public health-care institutions, as envisaged under India's three-tier health-care system. Instead, these institutions continue to weaken in many parts of the country.

For most people, access to curative care constitutes an immediate and pressing need. Only after these basic health-care requirements are met can individuals meaningfully engage with preventive and promotive health interventions. When public health policies fail to recognise people's felt needs, they risk becoming mere vehicles for advancing the priorities of policymakers and health-care providers rather than addressing the actual concerns of the population.

The views expressed are personal

Access to curative care and stronger institutions must anchor India's health policy

24J6. Reconnect public health with people's needs

जनस्वास्थ्य को लोगों की आवश्यकताओं से पुनः जोड़ें

- Two recent government initiatives — the **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres** and the **Digital Health Mission** — illustrate these inadequacies.
हाल की दो सरकारी पहलें — आयुष्मान भारत हेल्थ एंड वेलनेस सेंटर तथा डिजिटल हेल्थ मिशन — इन कमियों को स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शाती हैं।

The interpretation

व्याख्या

- The **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres**, introduced as a policy initiative in 2018, were intended to strengthen **health infrastructure**.
वर्ष 2018 में नीति पहल के रूप में प्रारंभ किए गए आयुष्मान भारत हेल्थ एंड वेलनेस सेंटरों का उद्देश्य स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना को सुदृढ़ करना था।
- What eventually happened, however, was that the names and identities of grassroots-level institutions — namely, the **health sub-centres (SCs)**, **primary health centres (PHCs)**, and **community health centres (CHCs)** — were altered by mandatorily adding “Health and Wellness Centre” as a prefix.
किन्तु अंततः हुआ यह कि जमीनी स्तर की संस्थाओं — अर्थात् स्वास्थ्य उप-केंद्र (SCs), प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र (PHCs) और सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र (CHCs) — के नाम और पहचान को “Health and Wellness Centre” उपसर्ग अनिवार्य रूप से जोड़कर परिवर्तित कर दिया गया।
- Influenced by these developments, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** defined health as not merely the absence of disease, thereby promoting the notion of positive well-being.
इन विकासों से प्रभावित होकर विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने स्वास्थ्य को केवल रोग की अनुपस्थिति नहीं माना, जिससे सकारात्मक कल्याण की अवधारणा को बढ़ावा मिला।
- Over time, wellness expanded beyond physiological health to include **mental, spiritual, social and environmental dimensions**, offering a more holistic understanding of health.
समय के साथ वेलनेस की अवधारणा शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य से आगे बढ़कर मानसिक, आध्यात्मिक, सामाजिक और पर्यावरणीय आयामों को भी शामिल करने लगी, जिससे स्वास्थ्य की अधिक समग्र समझ विकसित हुई।
- Another major public health policy initiative of recent years is the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDHM)**, whose principal objective is to create a digital repository of health information for every individual through a unique health ID, known as the **ABHA card**.
हाल के वर्षों की एक अन्य प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य नीति पहल आयुष्मान भारत डिजिटल हेल्थ मिशन (ABDHM) है, जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की स्वास्थ्य जानकारी का एक डिजिटल भंडार तैयार करना है, जिसके लिए ABHA कार्ड नामक एक विशिष्ट स्वास्थ्य पहचान संख्या प्रदान की जाती है।
- In addition, the mission seeks to maintain registries of **health facilities, health-care professionals** and information related to **health insurance**.
इसके अतिरिक्त, यह मिशन स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों, स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों तथा स्वास्थ्य बीमा से संबंधित सूचनाओं का अभिलेख भी बनाए रखने का प्रयास करता है।
- However, an information portal containing health records and details of health infrastructure cannot, by itself, address the challenges posed by inadequate access to health care.
हालाँकि, स्वास्थ्य अभिलेखों और स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना के विवरणों से युक्त एक सूचना पोर्टल अपने आप स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक अपर्याप्त पहुँच से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का समाधान नहीं कर सकता।
- Nor does it justify the annual budget of around **₹300 crore** to the **ABDHM** in the absence of measurable outcomes.
और न ही यह, मापनीय परिणामों के अभाव में, ABDHM को दिए जाने वाले लगभग ₹300 करोड़ के वार्षिक बजट को उचित ठहराता है।

Factors behind inadequate access to care

स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक अपर्याप्त पहुँच के पीछे के कारक

- It is well established that inadequate access to **health care** in India stems from the **unaffordability of care** in the private sector and the lack of quality **health-care facilities** in the public sector.
यह भली-भाँति स्थापित तथ्य है कि भारत में **स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** तक अपर्याप्त पहुँच का प्रमुख कारण निजी क्षेत्र में उपचार की **अधिक लागत (Unaffordability of Care)** तथा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में गुणवत्तापूर्ण **स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं** का अभाव है।
- Merely creating databases of individual **health records**, health facilities and **health-care professionals** cannot improve access to health care.
केवल व्यक्तिगत **स्वास्थ्य अभिलेखों**, स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों और **स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों** के डेटाबेस तैयार कर देने मात्र से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच में सुधार नहीं किया जा सकता।
- If the argument is that information is the first step towards strengthening the **health system**, there exists a substantial body of reports and datasets that provide such information.
यदि यह तर्क दिया जाए कि **स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली** को सुदृढ़ करने की दिशा में सूचना पहला कदम है, तो ऐसी जानकारी उपलब्ध कराने वाली पर्याप्त रिपोर्टें और आँकड़ा-संग्रह पहले से ही मौजूद हैं।
- The more pertinent question is how information contained in an individual's health record, through an **ABHA card**, can guarantee access to health care when **health-care infrastructure** remains grossly inadequate and unaffordable for large sections of the population.
अधिक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि किसी व्यक्ति के स्वास्थ्य अभिलेख में उपलब्ध जानकारी, **ABHA कार्ड** के माध्यम से, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच की गारंटी कैसे दे सकती है, जबकि **स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना** अभी भी जनसंख्या के बड़े हिस्से के लिए अत्यंत अपर्याप्त और महँगी बनी हुई है।
- Even if every individual in a district possesses an **ABHA card** and all health facilities and health-care professionals are digitally mapped, the delivery of health care still requires a robust **institutional mechanism**.
भले ही किसी जिले का प्रत्येक व्यक्ति **ABHA कार्ड** रखता हो और सभी स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों तथा स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों का डिजिटल मानचित्रण कर दिया गया हो, फिर भी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के प्रभावी वितरण के लिए एक सुदृढ़ **संस्थागत तंत्र** की आवश्यकता बनी रहती है।
- It primarily generates information on individuals, facilities and health-care professionals, all of which continue to operate largely in silos.
यह मुख्यतः व्यक्तियों, स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों और स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों से संबंधित जानकारी उत्पन्न करता है, जबकि ये सभी अब भी बड़े पैमाने पर अलग-अलग और असंबद्ध रूप से कार्य करते हैं।
- For most people, access to **curative care** constitutes an immediate and pressing need.
अधिकांश लोगों के लिए **उपचारात्मक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं (Curative Care)** तक पहुँच एक तात्कालिक और अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता है।
- Only after these basic health-care requirements are met can individuals meaningfully engage with **preventive and promotive health interventions**.
इन बुनियादी स्वास्थ्य आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के बाद ही व्यक्ति प्रभावी रूप से **निवारक (Preventive)** तथा **स्वास्थ्य संवर्धन (Promotive Health Interventions)** संबंधी उपायों में भाग ले सकते हैं।
- When **public health policies** fail to recognise people's felt needs, they risk becoming mere vehicles for advancing the priorities of policymakers and health-care providers rather than addressing the actual concerns of the population.
जब **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य नीतियाँ** लोगों की वास्तविक एवं अनुभवजन्य आवश्यकताओं को पहचानने में विफल रहती हैं, तब वे जनसंख्या की वास्तविक समस्याओं का समाधान करने के बजाय केवल नीति-निर्माताओं और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं की प्राथमिकताओं को आगे बढ़ाने का माध्यम बनकर रह जाने का जोखिम उठाती हैं।



Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) / Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

- **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** were launched as one of the two pillars of the **Ayushman Bharat Programme** in 2018.
- Their objective is to transform existing **Sub-Health Centres (SHCs)** and **Primary Health Centres (PHCs)** into facilities that provide **Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC)** closer to people's homes.
- In recent years, AB-HWCs have been renamed **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs)**.

Why Were Health and Wellness Centres Needed?

Earlier, many government health centres focused mainly on:

- Maternal and child health.
- Immunization.
- Family welfare services.

However, India was witnessing a rapid rise in:

- Diabetes.
- Hypertension.
- Heart diseases.
- Cancer.
- Mental health problems.
- Elderly care needs.

Therefore, the government expanded the scope of primary healthcare through Health and Wellness Centres.

Main Objective

- To provide **universal, accessible, affordable and quality primary healthcare**.
- To shift healthcare from a "disease-treatment model" to a **preventive and wellness-based model**.
- To reduce the need for patients to travel long distances for basic healthcare services.

Services Provided

Unlike traditional sub-centres, Health and Wellness Centres provide a much broader range of services.

Maternal and Child Health

- Antenatal care.
- Postnatal care.
- Immunization.
- Nutrition counselling.

Communicable Diseases

- Tuberculosis.
- Malaria.
- Dengue.
- Other infectious diseases.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- Hypertension screening.
- Diabetes screening.
- Cancer screening.
- Follow-up treatment and counselling.

Mental Health Services

- Basic counselling.
- Early identification and referral.

Geriatric Care

- Health services for elderly persons.

Palliative and Rehabilitative Care

- Care for chronically ill patients.

Emergency Medical Services

- Basic emergency care and referral support.

Free Medicines and Diagnostics

- Essential drugs.
- Basic laboratory investigations.



Health Team at a Health and Wellness Centre

A typical centre may include:

- **Community Health Officer (CHO).**
- ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife).
- ASHA worker.
- Multi-purpose health workers.

The CHO often serves as the primary clinical leader at the facility.

Wellness Activities

These centres do not focus only on illness.

They also promote:

- Yoga.
- Meditation.
- Physical activity.
- Healthy lifestyle awareness.
- Nutrition education.

As of mid-2025, crores of wellness sessions had been conducted across the country.

How It Helps a Common Citizen

Example

Suppose a villager in Uttar Pradesh develops symptoms of diabetes.

Earlier:

- They might need to travel to a district hospital.
- Spend money on transport.
- Wait for consultation.

Now:

- Screening can be done at a nearby Health and Wellness Centre.
- Medicines and follow-up care may be available locally.
- Only complicated cases are referred to higher hospitals.

This reduces both cost and inconvenience.

Achievements

National Scale

- The Government originally planned to establish **1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres** across India.
- By **October 2025**, more than **1,80,906 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** had become operational.
- By **May 2026**, active centres had crossed **1.85 lakh** nationwide.

Disease Screening

Large-scale screening has been conducted for:

- Hypertension.
- Diabetes.
- Oral cancer.
- Breast cancer.
- Cervical cancer.

Telemedicine

- More than **41 crore teleconsultations** had been delivered through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs by October 2025.

Connection with Ayushman Bharat

Ayushman Bharat has **two major components**:

Component 1

- **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Health & Wellness Centres).**
- Focus on primary healthcare and disease prevention.

Component 2

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).**
- Provides health insurance coverage for hospitalization and secondary/tertiary care.

Together they aim to provide a continuum of care from prevention to hospitalization.



AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION (ABDM)

- The **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** is the Government of India's flagship initiative to create a **national digital health ecosystem**.
- It is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The mission aims to connect patients, hospitals, doctors, laboratories, pharmacies, and health insurance systems through a secure digital platform.
- ABDM was launched nationally in **September 2021** after being initially introduced as the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**.

Need for ABDM

- India's healthcare system has traditionally relied on paper records.
- Patients often carry prescriptions, reports, and medical files from one hospital to another.
- Medical records are frequently lost, duplicated, or inaccessible.
- Different hospitals and laboratories often operate separate information systems.
- ABDM seeks to create a unified, interoperable, and consent-based digital health infrastructure.

Objectives of ABDM

- To build an integrated digital health ecosystem.
- To provide every citizen with a unique digital health identity.
- To enable secure sharing of health records with patient consent.
- To improve efficiency, accessibility, affordability, and quality of healthcare.
- To reduce paperwork and duplication of medical tests.

Major Components of ABDM

Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)

- ABHA is a unique digital health identity for every citizen.
- It serves as a digital gateway to access and manage health records.
- Citizens can create and use an ABHA number to store and share medical records electronically.

Health Facility Registry (HFR)

- A national database of hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and healthcare facilities.
- Helps citizens identify and access verified healthcare institutions.

Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR)

- A centralized registry of doctors and healthcare professionals.
- Promotes authenticity and trust in healthcare services.

Personal Health Records (PHR)

- Citizens can maintain lifelong digital health records.
- Records remain under the control of the individual and can be shared only with consent.

Scan and Share Facility

- Patients can scan a QR code at hospitals for faster OPD registration.
- Reduces waiting time and paperwork.



Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026: tough by design or default?

An exam meant to filter talent is increasingly seen as rejecting it, raising questions about fairness, design, and whether the system is identifying merit — a warning that calls for deeper reflection and timely course correction, rather than remaining a mere instance of acknowledgement

CS II: Governance

Gopala Krishna V.

The story so far:

The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, introduced in 1979 following the Kothari Committee's recommendations, was designed as a screening mechanism — a 'filter and funnel' — to shortlist candidates for the descriptive Main examination. In its original format, it consisted of two components: an optional subject paper at the graduate level and a General Studies paper, with the optional paper carrying greater weight. For many years, this system functioned smoothly with minor changes.

The Alagh Committee set up in 2000 observed that the preliminary exam should have an optional paper to assess the intellectual competence of the aspirant and maintain its connection with the university system. It also proposed a Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) which would evaluate skills such as general awareness, problem-solving, data analysis and decision-making. The committee also recommended that the questions at the preliminary exam should be made challenging and a case-study approach should be adopted.

In 2009, the S.K. Khanna Committee recommended that the Preliminary Examination should be renamed as the Civil Services Aptitude Test with two common papers at the Preliminary. The preliminary exam was reconstituted to comprise two papers — General Studies Paper-I and General Studies Paper-II. The Paper I covers all conventional areas in 'Humanities', while Paper-II has questions on quantitative aptitude, reasoning, comprehension, interpersonal skills and communication, decision-making and problem-solving. The components of Paper-II were designed to test whether the aspirant had the ability to imbibe new technologies.

Both the papers had equal weightage and the combined marks in both the papers were taken to determine merit. This change practically delinked the Preliminary Examination with the university system. After a few years, due to protests, Paper-II known as CSAT was made qualifying in nature. In practice, this meant that nearly five lakh aspirants were narrowed down to about 10,000 candidates solely based on their performance in the 100 questions attempted over two hours.

Bringing down the vast pool of aspirants to a manageable number through a paper comprising just 100 questions is an inherently difficult task. As a result, examiners were forced to constantly reinvent and compile the most unpredictable questions. Over time, it became quite evident that the objective of selecting candidates was being overshadowed by the need to eliminate them. Even the qualifying paper became a tool for rejection, with overall difficulty level of questions rising.

What changed this year?

Against this evolving backdrop, the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination held in May has come under widespread criticism for the perceived inequity in the distribution and format of questions. Many aspirants found the paper unusually difficult and unpredictable — concerns that were publicly acknowledged by the UPSC Chairman, who expressed empathy with candidates.

This has sparked a broader debate on whether the nature of the paper was an unintended outcome of systemic constraints or a deliberate shift in examination design, and more importantly, what course corrections are needed to ensure fairness, balance and credibility in the screening process.

This year, UPSC committed itself to greater transparency, and agreed to release the answer key of the preliminary

exam immediately after it. Openness also meant that the questions had to be set from verifiable authoritative sources. The questions were framed using carefully curated information drawn from government websites.

Attempting the question paper entailed sifting through 55 pages and comprehending 40,000 words in two hours. In addition to this, the subject-wise distribution of questions was distorted and the style of questioning underwent a noticeable shift. Consequently, the aspirants found no link between their preparation and the questions. They had to make guesses, "some informed" and "some wild". Solving previous years' questions, which was considered as the gold standard was also of no help.

This gap between the preparation and examination, coupled with the element of surprise, prompted the aspirants to voice their concerns. The democratisation of expression through social media platforms further amplified the protests, creating a snowballing effect.

The nature of the question paper, thus, appears to be less a matter of a deliberate design and more a consequence of systemic constraints — a by-product of a short-sighted examination pattern established 15 years ago. In retrospect, the committee which introduced the pattern overlooked a dictum that is crucial in policy formulation; that anticipation is the highest form of competence. It failed to adequately foresee the challenge of balancing the increasing number of aspirants with a relatively static number of vacancies.

What is the way out?

The perceived unfairness of the Preliminary Examination has been widely voiced by aspirants and has also been recently flagged by a Parliamentary Committee. However, the Chairman's acknowledgement of the paper's difficulty should not remain a mere instance of

proverbial "ventilation therapy." Many crises in governance are not sudden surprises; they are warning signals that were noticed but not acted upon in time. This appears to be one such signal — one that calls for deeper reflection and timely course correction.

It is time for the government to appoint a committee to revisit the examination pattern and make suitable long-term changes after public consultation. The UPSC has been collecting information regarding the socio-economic profile of the aspirants. They have information about the distribution of applicants based on place of birth, schools and colleges attended, status of parents etc. as they are collecting this information at the preliminary stage itself. This information should be used as an input to align the scheme of examination to the background of the aspirants.

Questions may be unpredictable by design, but aspirants should not feel that they are incapable of rising up to the required level of the questions or the highest positions in the country are beyond their reach. The government must undertake reforms both in the examination system and the university framework by introducing 'bridge courses' along the lines of the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission. Such measures would help restore visible alignment between education and assessment.

The education system and public employment emanate from the same source — the government. Any disconnect between the two risks eroding their trust in the system. Respecting the aspirations of this generation and sustaining their faith is the order of the day. It is better to prevent a crisis rather than 'firefight' one.

The writer is the Director of Brain Tree, Hyderabad, an institute training candidates for the civil services examination.

24J6. Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026: tough by design or default? सिविल सेवा प्रारंभिक परीक्षा 2026: उद्देश्यपूर्ण रूप से कठिन या परिस्थितिवश?

- The **Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination**, introduced in **1979** following the **Kothari Committee's** recommendations, was designed as a screening mechanism — a '**filter and funnel**' — to shortlist candidates for the descriptive Main examination.

कोठारी समिति की सिफारिशों के आधार पर **1979** में प्रारम्भ की गई सिविल सेवा (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा को एक चयन तंत्र — अर्थात् '**छंटनी एवं चयन प्रक्रिया**' — के रूप में तैयार किया गया था, ताकि वर्णनात्मक मुख्य परीक्षा के लिए अभ्यर्थियों की सूची तैयार की जा सके।

- In its original format, it consisted of two components: an optional subject paper at the graduate level and a General Studies paper, with the optional paper carrying greater weight.

अपने मूल स्वरूप में इसमें दो घटक थे: स्नातक स्तर का एक वैकल्पिक विषय प्रश्नपत्र और एक सामान्य अध्ययन प्रश्नपत्र, जिसमें वैकल्पिक विषय को अधिक महत्व दिया गया था।

- For many years, this system functioned smoothly with minor changes. कई वर्षों तक यह व्यवस्था छोटे-मोटे परिवर्तनों के साथ सुचारु रूप से कार्य करती रही।
- The **Alagh Committee** set up in 2000 observed that the preliminary exam should have an optional paper to assess the intellectual competence of the aspirant and maintain its connection with the university system.
2000 में गठित अलग समिति ने सुझाव दिया कि प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा में एक वैकल्पिक विषय प्रश्नपत्र होना चाहिए, ताकि अभ्यर्थियों की बौद्धिक क्षमता का आकलन किया जा सके और परीक्षा का विश्वविद्यालय प्रणाली से संबंध बना रहे।
- It also proposed a **Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)** which would evaluate skills such as general awareness, problem-solving, data analysis and decision-making.
समिति ने सिविल सेवा अभिरुचि परीक्षा का भी प्रस्ताव रखा, जो सामान्य जागरूकता, समस्या-समाधान, आँकड़ा विश्लेषण तथा निर्णय-निर्माण जैसी क्षमताओं का मूल्यांकन करे।
- The committee also recommended that the questions at the preliminary exam should be made challenging and a case-study approach should be adopted.
समिति ने यह भी अनुशंसा की कि प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा के प्रश्न अधिक चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाए जाएँ तथा प्रकरण-अध्ययन आधारित दृष्टिकोण अपनाया जाए।
- In 2009, the **S.K. Khanna Committee** recommended that the Preliminary Examination should be renamed as the Civil Services Aptitude Test with two common papers at the Preliminary.
2009 में एस.के. खन्ना समिति ने अनुशंसा की कि प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा का स्वरूप परिवर्तित कर दो समान प्रश्नपत्रों वाली सिविल सेवा अभिरुचि परीक्षा बनाई जाए।
- The preliminary exam was reconstituted to comprise two papers — **General Studies Paper-I and General Studies Paper-II**.
इसके बाद प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा को दो प्रश्नपत्रों — सामान्य अध्ययन प्रश्नपत्र-1 और सामान्य अध्ययन प्रश्नपत्र-2 — के रूप में पुनर्गठित किया गया।
- The Paper I covers all conventional areas in **Humanities**, while Paper-II has questions on quantitative aptitude, reasoning, comprehension, interpersonal skills and communication, decision-making and problem-solving.
प्रश्नपत्र-1 में मानविकी के सभी पारंपरिक विषय शामिल किए गए, जबकि प्रश्नपत्र-2 में मात्रात्मक अभिरुचि, तर्कशक्ति, बोधगम्यता, पारस्परिक कौशल, संचार, निर्णय-निर्माण तथा समस्या-समाधान से संबंधित प्रश्न रखे गए।
- The components of Paper-II were designed to test whether the aspirant had the ability to imbibe new technologies.
प्रश्नपत्र-2 के घटकों को इस प्रकार तैयार किया गया था कि यह जाँचा जा सके कि अभ्यर्थी नई प्रौद्योगिकियों को ग्रहण करने की क्षमता रखता है या नहीं।
- Both the papers had equal weightage and the combined marks in both the papers were taken to determine merit.
दोनों प्रश्नपत्रों को समान महत्व दिया गया तथा दोनों में प्राप्त अंकों के योग के आधार पर मेरिट निर्धारित की गई।
- Against this evolving backdrop, the **Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination** held in May has come under widespread criticism for the perceived inequity in the distribution and format of questions.
इस विकसित होती पृष्ठभूमि में मई में आयोजित सिविल सेवा (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा प्रश्नों के वितरण और स्वरूप में कथित असमानता के कारण व्यापक आलोचना का विषय बन गई।
- Many aspirants found the paper unusually difficult and unpredictable — concerns that were publicly acknowledged by the **UPSC Chairman**, who expressed empathy with candidates.
अनेक अभ्यर्थियों ने प्रश्नपत्र को असामान्य रूप से कठिन और अप्रत्याशित पाया — इन चिंताओं को संघ लोक सेवा आयोग के अध्यक्ष ने भी सार्वजनिक रूप से स्वीकार किया तथा अभ्यर्थियों के प्रति सहानुभूति व्यक्त की।

- The questions were framed using carefully curated information drawn from government websites.
प्रश्नों का निर्माण सरकारी वेबसाइटों से प्राप्त सावधानीपूर्वक चयनित जानकारी के आधार पर किया गया।
- Attempting the question paper entailed sifting through **55 pages** and comprehending **40,000 words** in two hours.
प्रश्नपत्र को हल करने के लिए अभ्यर्थियों को **55 पृष्ठों** का अध्ययन करना पड़ा तथा मात्र दो घंटों में लगभग **40,000 शब्दों** को समझना पड़ा।
- In addition to this, the subject-wise distribution of questions was distorted and the style of questioning underwent a noticeable shift.
इसके अतिरिक्त, विषयवार प्रश्नों का वितरण असंतुलित था और प्रश्न पूछने की शैली में भी स्पष्ट परिवर्तन देखा गया।
- This gap between the preparation and examination, coupled with the element of surprise, prompted the aspirants to voice their concerns.
तैयारी और परीक्षा के बीच यह अंतर तथा अप्रत्याशितता का तत्व अभ्यर्थियों को अपनी चिंताएँ व्यक्त करने के लिए प्रेरित करने लगा।
- The nature of the question paper, thus, appears to be less a matter of a deliberate design and more a consequence of systemic constraints — a by-product of a short-sighted examination pattern established 15 years ago.
इस प्रकार, प्रश्नपत्र की प्रकृति किसी सुनियोजित रणनीति का परिणाम कम और व्यवस्थागत सीमाओं का परिणाम अधिक प्रतीत होती है — यह लगभग **15 वर्ष पूर्व** स्थापित एक दूरदृष्टिहीन परीक्षा पद्धति का उप-उत्पाद है।
- In retrospect, the committee which introduced the pattern overlooked a dictum that is crucial in policy formulation; that anticipation is the highest form of competence.
पुनरावलोकन करने पर प्रतीत होता है कि इस परीक्षा पद्धति को लागू करने वाली समिति ने नीति-निर्माण के एक महत्वपूर्ण सिद्धांत की उपेक्षा की थी, अर्थात् **पूर्वानुमान की क्षमता ही सर्वोच्च दक्षता होती है।**
- It failed to adequately foresee the challenge of balancing the increasing number of aspirants with a relatively static number of vacancies.
समिति अभ्यर्थियों की बढ़ती संख्या और अपेक्षाकृत स्थिर रिक्तियों के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करने की चुनौती का पर्याप्त रूप से पूर्वानुमान नहीं लगा सकी।
- The UPSC has been collecting information regarding the socio-economic profile of the aspirants.
संघ लोक सेवा आयोग अभ्यर्थियों की **सामाजिक-आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि** से संबंधित जानकारी एकत्र कर रहा है।
- They have information about the distribution of applicants based on place of birth, schools and colleges attended, status of parents etc. as they are collecting this information at the preliminary stage itself.
आयोग के पास अभ्यर्थियों के जन्मस्थान, अध्ययन किए गए विद्यालयों और महाविद्यालयों, माता-पिता की स्थिति आदि से संबंधित जानकारी उपलब्ध है, क्योंकि यह विवरण प्रारम्भिक स्तर पर ही एकत्र किया जाता है।
- The government must undertake reforms both in the examination system and the university framework by introducing 'bridge courses' along the lines of the recommendations of the **Second Administrative Reforms Commission**.
सरकार को **द्वितीय प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग** की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप **सेतु-पाठ्यक्रमों** की शुरुआत करते हुए परीक्षा प्रणाली और विश्वविद्यालय ढाँचे दोनों में सुधार करने चाहिए।
- Such measures would help restore visible alignment between education and assessment.
ऐसे उपाय शिक्षा और मूल्यांकन के बीच स्पष्ट सामंजस्य को पुनर्स्थापित करने में सहायक होंगे।



RBI tweaks process to onboard MSMEs on TReDS platform

GS II: Governance:
Government Scheme
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued its final directions on Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) for MSMEs to simplify the system.

The banking regulator fixed a minimum net worth of ₹25 crore and certification by a statutory auditor to provide discounting services. Entities

providing the service have been given a deadline of March 31, 2028 to comply with networth norm.

TReDS is an online platform which aids small businesses auction invoices or trade receivables to banks and other financial institutions to unlock working capital. The move seeks to aid MSMEs receive customer payments as they might face issues in converting trade receivables to cash.

24J6. RBI tweaks process to onboard MSMEs on TReDS platform

आरबीआई ने TReDS प्लेटफॉर्म पर MSMEs को शामिल करने की प्रक्रिया में बदलाव किया

• The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued its final directions on **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** for **MSMEs** to simplify the system.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने प्रणाली को सरल बनाने के लिए सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSMEs) हेतु ट्रेड रिसीवेबल्स डिस्काउंटिंग सिस्टम (TReDS) पर अपने अंतिम निर्देश जारी किए।

• The **banking regulator** fixed a minimum **net worth of ₹25 crore** and certification by a **statutory auditor** to provide discounting services.

बैंकिंग नियामक ने डिस्काउंटिंग सेवाएँ प्रदान करने के लिए न्यूनतम ₹25 करोड़ की नेटवर्थ तथा वैधानिक लेखा परीक्षक (Statutory Auditor) द्वारा प्रमाणन अनिवार्य किया है।

- Entities providing the service have been given a deadline of **March 31, 2028** to comply with net worth norm.

यह सेवा प्रदान करने वाली संस्थाओं को 31 मार्च, 2028 तक नेटवर्थ संबंधी मानदंडों का पालन करने की समय-सीमा दी गई है।

- TReDS** is an online platform which aids small businesses auction invoices or trade receivables to banks and other financial institutions to unlock **working capital**.

TReDS एक ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म है जो छोटे व्यवसायों को अपने इनवाइस अथवा व्यापारिक प्राप्तियों (Trade Receivables) की नीलामी बैंकों और अन्य वित्तीय संस्थानों को करने में सहायता करता है, जिससे उन्हें कार्यशील पूंजी (Working Capital) प्राप्त हो सके।

- The move seeks to aid **MSMEs** receive customer payments as they might face issues in converting **trade receivables** to cash.

यह कदम MSMEs को ग्राहकों से भुगतान प्राप्त करने में सहायता प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से उठाया गया है, क्योंकि उन्हें व्यापारिक प्राप्तियों (Trade Receivables) को नकदी में परिवर्तित करने में कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

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Evident distress

Stress from the West Asia crisis has revealed economic pain

As the resolution process of the West Asia crisis drags on, an increasing number of economic metrics are exposing key weaknesses in the Indian economy. Many of these existed before the crisis broke out in late February and are now becoming apparent as the economy faces stress. The latest data on the Index of Eight Core Industries show that these sectors cumulatively grew just 0.5% in May 2026, the second-lowest in 21 months. It would have been easy to pass this off as a war-related impact, but the data also show that the index grew by an almost equally anaemic 1.1% over the course of the entire financial year 2025-26. What remains a concern is that the domestic crude oil and natural gas sectors continued their multi-year streaks of contractions in May as well. By this time, the third month of the conflict, oil prices had settled somewhat lower than their April peaks. As a result, oil imports by oil marketing companies began rising once again to meet domestic demand. A strategic goal continues to be missed here. While imported oil can be used to meet demand, domestic production should nevertheless be ramped up to fill strategic reserves. This reserve oil, even of inferior quality, can be released in times of shortage. The same holds true for natural gas. With natural gas imports and domestic production contracting, it followed that the fertilizer sector would also contract. The good news, however, is that the contraction – of 0.9% in May 2026 – was much lower than it was even two months earlier. In any case, what impact the 'super El Niño' will have on fertilizer demand is still uncertain.

Coal production, too, contracted by the most in nearly a year. As the summer continues to heat up, electricity generation will increasingly have to rely on variable renewable sources or costly imported coal. Notably, the core sectors are not the only ones revealing economic distress. The latest Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue data too show that domestic economic activity seems to be slowing. Revenues from domestic transactions contracted 2.6% in May 2026. The government argues that this is because of a one-time windfall transfer it received in May last year. Even so, the average growth of domestic GST revenue over the last six months was just 3.1%, lower than in 2025-26 and the year before that. This is not a supply issue, since merchandise exports hit a record high in May 2026. It is a demand problem, as low real wage growth meets rising inflation to squeeze wallets. These are all distressing signals even as India enters a deficient monsoon. Trade deals are no substitute for hard-hitting reforms.

गई।

24J6. Evident distress

स्पष्ट संकट

- The latest data on the **Index of Eight Core Industries** show that **these sectors cumulatively grew just 0.5% in May 2026, the second-lowest in 21 months.**

आठ प्रमुख उद्योगों के सूचकांक (Index of Eight Core Industries) के नवीनतम आँकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि मई 2026 में इन क्षेत्रों की कुल वृद्धि केवल 0.5% रही, जो पिछले 21 महीनों में दूसरी सबसे कम वृद्धि है।

- It would have been easy to pass this off as a war-related impact, but the data also show that the index grew by an **almost equally anaemic 1.1% over the course of the entire financial year 2025-26.**

इसे युद्ध-संबंधी प्रभाव मानकर टाल देना आसान होता, किन्तु आँकड़े यह भी दर्शाते हैं कि पूरे वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के दौरान यह सूचकांक लगभग उतनी ही कमजोर दर 1.1% से बढ़ा।

- What remains a concern is that the **domestic crude oil and natural gas sectors continued their multi-year streaks of contractions in May as well.**

चिंता का विषय यह है कि घरेलू कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस क्षेत्र मई में भी कई वर्षों से जारी अपने संकुचन के क्रम को बनाए रखे हुए हैं।

- While imported oil can be used to meet demand, domestic production should nevertheless be ramped up to fill **strategic reserves.**

यद्यपि आयातित तेल से मांग पूरी की जा सकती है, फिर भी **रणनीतिक भंडारों (Strategic Reserves)** को भरने के लिए घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए।

- In any case, what impact the **'super El Niño' will have on fertilizer demand is still uncertain.**

किसी भी स्थिति में, 'सुपर एल नीनो' का उर्वरक मांग पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा, यह अभी भी अनिश्चित है।

- Coal production, too, contracted by the most in nearly a year.**

कोयला उत्पादन में भी लगभग एक वर्ष की अवधि में सबसे अधिक गिरावट दर्ज की गई।

- The latest **Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue data too show that domestic economic activity seems to be slowing.**

नवीनतम वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST) राजस्व आँकड़े भी दर्शाते हैं कि घरेलू आर्थिक गतिविधियाँ धीमी पड़ती प्रतीत हो रही हैं।

- Revenues from domestic transactions contracted 2.6% in May 2026.**

मई 2026 में घरेलू लेन-देन से प्राप्त राजस्व में 2.6% की गिरावट दर्ज की



India's next challenge — from invention to global scale

CS III: Economy

India has never lacked technological vision. Time and again, it has anticipated transformative technologies long before they became mainstream. It has built impressive scientific capabilities, developed indigenous innovations, and demonstrated remarkable ingenuity. Yet, in several critical sectors, it has struggled to convert early technological leadership into globally dominant industries.

As India embarks on ambitious missions in semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing and space technologies, it is worth reflecting on an important lesson from its past: invention alone is not enough. The true measure of technological success lies in scaling innovation into globally competitive enterprises.

Ahead of its time

Consider semiconductors. India established the Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL) in the 1970s – when semiconductors were still an emerging industry – recognising early that integrated circuits would become the foundation of the digital age. Yet, while Taiwan built TSMC and South Korea developed Samsung's semiconductor empire, India failed to translate its early lead into a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem. The problem was not vision or scientific capability, but limited capital, inadequate scale, inconsistent policy support and an inward-looking public sector approach.

A similar story can be told about ECIL. Established in 1967, it developed indigenous computers, control systems and strategic electronics when India faced severe technology embargoes. ECIL played a vital role in building technological self-reliance. However, its focus remained on strategic requirements rather than globally competitive commercial products. As a result, scientific excellence stayed within institutions instead of creating large industrial ecosystems. The Simputer followed a similar trajectory. Conceived in 1998 by Indian technologists, it anticipated many features that would later define smartphones and tablets. Yet,



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The country
must transform
innovation into
globally
dominant
technology
enterprises

despite its innovation, the supporting ecosystem was absent. Venture capital, software platforms, component supply chains and consumer markets were not mature enough to help it achieve global scale. A few years later, Apple transformed personal computing through the iPhone and built one of the world's most valuable technology ecosystems. The lesson is clear: being first matters little if you cannot scale.

India has seen similar patterns elsewhere. It developed early expertise in computing, telecommunications and electronics. Yet, many pioneering initiatives remained prototypes, pilots or public-sector achievements rather than globally dominant businesses.

Models of success

Fortunately, history also offers examples of success. India's pharmaceutical industry evolved into a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse, making the country the pharmacy of the world and a leading vaccine producer. India also developed indigenous supercomputing capabilities through the PARAM programme. More recently, Aadhaar and UPI have shown how technology platforms designed for scale can transform a nation. Scale creates ecosystems, ecosystems create industries, and industries create global leadership.

Today, India stands at another technological inflection point. AI, quantum computing and space technologies are likely to shape the next half-century, just as semiconductors and software shaped the last. India already possesses significant strengths in software engineering and digital infrastructure. The challenge now is to build globally scalable AI products and platforms. The emergence of DeepSeek showed that technological leadership is not only about building the largest models. It is also about making intelligence cheaper and more accessible. The AI race may ultimately be won by those who make intelligence affordable, ubiquitous and widely available.

India is uniquely positioned to lead this

movement. Just as UPI democratised financial inclusion, India should aspire to democratise intelligence through low-cost, energy-efficient AI models that can serve billions of people.

Quantum computing presents another opportunity. Rather than merely replicating existing approaches, India should focus on reducing the cost of quantum infrastructure and developing practical applications in health care, materials science, climate modelling and drug discovery.

The same should extend to space. The successes of Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan proved that frugal innovation can coexist with world-class ambition. As computing demands escalate globally, concepts such as space-based data centres powered by continuous solar energy are attracting serious attention. India should not merely participate in these conversations; it should lead them. We should ask bold questions about orbital computing infrastructure, space-based AI platforms or even data centres and quantum communication networks.

These ideas may seem futuristic today. But so did semiconductors, smartphones and AI when they first emerged.

Stopping too soon

The deeper lesson from SCL, ECIL and Simputer is not that India failed, but that it often stopped too soon. We celebrated technological capability before building the ecosystems needed for global scale. The next phase of India's technological journey must combine self-reliance with global ambition. The challenge is no longer merely to invent; it is to build, scale, commercialise and create enterprises that can compete globally.

India has already demonstrated world-class scientific and engineering capabilities. The opportunity now is to translate that ingenuity into globally competitive industries that shape the technologies of the future.

The countries that lead tomorrow may not be those that invent first, but those that scale best. This time, India must do both.

24J6. India's next challenge — from invention to global scale

भारत की अगली चुनौती — नवाचार से वैश्विक स्तर तक

- India has never lacked **technological vision**.

भारत में कभी भी तकनीकी दृष्टि की कमी नहीं रही है।

- Time and again, it has anticipated transformative technologies long before they became mainstream.

बार-बार भारत ने उन परिवर्तनकारी प्रौद्योगिकियों का पूर्वानुमान लगाया है, जो मुख्यधारा में आने से बहुत पहले अस्तित्व में थीं।

- It has built impressive **scientific capabilities**, developed indigenous innovations, and demonstrated remarkable ingenuity.

भारत ने प्रभावशाली वैज्ञानिक क्षमताओं का निर्माण किया है, स्वदेशी नवाचार विकसित किए हैं और उल्लेखनीय प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन किया है।

- Yet, in several critical sectors, it has struggled to convert early technological leadership into globally dominant industries.

फिर भी, अनेक महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में भारत अपनी प्रारम्भिक तकनीकी अग्रणी स्थिति को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रभुत्वशाली उद्योगों में परिवर्तित करने के लिए संघर्ष करता रहा है।

- As India embarks on ambitious missions in **semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing** and **space technologies**, it is worth reflecting on an important lesson from its past: invention alone is not enough.

जैसे-जैसे भारत **सेमीकंडक्टर, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग** और **अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी** के क्षेत्रों में महत्वाकांक्षी अभियानों की शुरुआत कर रहा है, उसके अतीत से एक महत्वपूर्ण सीख पर विचार करना आवश्यक है: केवल आविष्कार पर्याप्त नहीं है।

- The true measure of technological success lies in scaling innovation into globally competitive enterprises.
तकनीकी सफलता का वास्तविक मापदंड नवाचार को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी उद्यमों में परिवर्तित करने की क्षमता में निहित है।

Consider **semiconductors**.

सेमीकंडक्टरों पर विचार कीजिए।

- India established the **Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL)** in the 1970s — when semiconductors were still an emerging industry — recognising early that integrated circuits would become the foundation of the digital age.
भारत ने 1970 के दशक में **सेमीकंडक्टर कॉम्प्लेक्स लिमिटेड (SCL)** की स्थापना की — उस समय जब सेमीकंडक्टर उद्योग अभी प्रारम्भिक अवस्था में था — और प्रारम्भ में ही यह पहचान लिया था कि एकीकृत परिपथ (Integrated Circuits) डिजिटल युग की नींव बनेंगे।
- Yet, while **Taiwan** built **TSMC** and **South Korea** developed **Samsung's semiconductor empire**, India failed to translate its early lead into a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem.
फिर भी, जबकि **ताइवान** ने **TSMC** का निर्माण किया और **दक्षिण कोरिया** ने **सैमसंग** के सेमीकंडक्टर साम्राज्य को विकसित किया, भारत अपनी प्रारम्भिक बढ़त को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी विनिर्माण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में परिवर्तित करने में असफल रहा।
- The problem was not vision or scientific capability, but limited capital, inadequate scale, inconsistent policy support and an inward-looking public sector approach.
समस्या दृष्टि या वैज्ञानिक क्षमता की नहीं थी, बल्कि सीमित पूंजी, अपर्याप्त पैमाना, असंगत नीतिगत समर्थन तथा अंतर्मुखी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रीय दृष्टिकोण की थी।
- A similar story can be told about **ECIL**.
ऐसी ही कहानी **ECIL** के बारे में भी कही जा सकती है।
- Established in 1967, it developed indigenous computers, control systems and strategic electronics when India faced severe technology embargoes.
1967 में स्थापित इस संस्था ने उस समय स्वदेशी कंप्यूटर, नियंत्रण प्रणालियाँ और सामरिक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विकसित किए, जब भारत को गंभीर तकनीकी प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ रहा था।
- ECIL** played a vital role in building technological self-reliance.
ECIL ने तकनीकी आत्मनिर्भरता के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
- The **Simputer** followed a similar trajectory.
सिम्प्यूटर ने भी इसी प्रकार की यात्रा का अनुसरण किया।
- Conceived in 1998 by Indian technologists, it anticipated many features that would later define smartphones and tablets.
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी विशेषज्ञों द्वारा 1998 में परिकल्पित इस उपकरण ने उन अनेक विशेषताओं का पूर्वानुमान लगाया था जो बाद में स्मार्टफोन और टैबलेट की पहचान बनीं।
- Yet, despite its innovation, the supporting ecosystem was absent.
फिर भी, इसके नवाचार के बावजूद, इसे समर्थन देने वाला पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र मौजूद नहीं था।
- Venture capital, software platforms, component supply chains and consumer markets were not mature enough to help it achieve global scale.
वेंचर कैपिटल, सॉफ्टवेयर प्लेटफॉर्म, घटक आपूर्ति शृंखलाएँ तथा उपभोक्ता बाजार इतने विकसित नहीं थे कि इसे वैश्विक स्तर तक पहुँचा सकें।
- A few years later, **Apple** transformed personal computing through the **iPhone** and built one of the world's most valuable technology ecosystems.
कुछ वर्षों बाद, **एप्पल** ने **आईफोन** के माध्यम से व्यक्तिगत कंप्यूटिंग में क्रांति ला दी और विश्व के सबसे मूल्यवान प्रौद्योगिकी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्रों में से एक का निर्माण किया।



- The lesson is clear: being first matters little if you cannot scale.
सीख स्पष्ट है: यदि आप विस्तार नहीं कर सकते, तो सबसे पहले होना बहुत अधिक महत्व नहीं रखता।
- India has seen similar patterns elsewhere.
भारत ने अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी इसी प्रकार के रुझान देखे हैं।
- It developed early expertise in **computing, telecommunications and electronics**.
भारत ने कंप्यूटिंग, दूरसंचार और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स में प्रारम्भिक विशेषज्ञता विकसित की थी।
- Yet, many pioneering initiatives remained prototypes, pilots or public-sector achievements rather than globally dominant businesses.
फिर भी, अनेक अग्रणी पहलें वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रभुत्वशाली व्यवसाय बनने के बजाय केवल प्रोटोटाइप, पायलट परियोजनाएँ या सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की उपलब्धियाँ बनकर रह गईं।
- India's **pharmaceutical industry** evolved into a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse, making the country the **pharmacy of the world** and a leading **vaccine producer**.
भारत का औषधि उद्योग (Pharmaceutical Industry) एक वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी विनिर्माण शक्ति के रूप में विकसित हुआ, जिसने देश को विश्व की फार्मसी तथा एक अग्रणी वैक्सीन उत्पादक बना दिया।
- India also developed indigenous **supercomputing** capabilities through the **PARAM programme**.
भारत ने PARAM कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से स्वदेशी सुपरकंप्यूटिंग क्षमताएँ भी विकसित कीं।
- More recently, **Aadhaar** and **UPI** have shown how technology platforms designed for scale can transform a nation.
हाल के वर्षों में आधार और UPI ने यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि बड़े पैमाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किए गए तकनीकी प्लेटफॉर्म किसी राष्ट्र को कैसे परिवर्तित कर सकते हैं।
- Scale creates **ecosystems**, ecosystems create industries, and industries create **global leadership**.
विस्तार (Scale) पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र (Ecosystems) का निर्माण करता है, पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र उद्योगों का निर्माण करते हैं, और उद्योग वैश्विक नेतृत्व का निर्माण करते हैं।
- Today, India stands at another technological **inflection point**.
आज भारत एक और तकनीकी निर्णायक मोड़ (Inflection Point) पर खड़ा है।
- AI, quantum computing and space technologies** are likely to shape the next half-century, just as semiconductors and software shaped the last.
कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग और अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकियाँ आने वाली आधी शताब्दी को उसी प्रकार आकार देने की संभावना रखती हैं, जैसे सेमीकंडक्टर और सॉफ्टवेयर ने पिछली अवधि को आकार दिया था।
- India already possesses significant strengths in **software engineering** and **digital infrastructure**.
भारत के पास पहले से ही सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियरिंग और डिजिटल अवसंरचना के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण क्षमताएँ मौजूद हैं।
- The challenge now is to build globally scalable **AI products** and platforms.
अब चुनौती वैश्विक स्तर पर विस्तार योग्य AI उत्पादों और प्लेटफॉर्मों का निर्माण करने की है।
- The emergence of **DeepSeek** showed that technological leadership is not only about building the largest models.
DeepSeek के उदय ने यह दर्शाया कि तकनीकी नेतृत्व केवल सबसे बड़े मॉडलों के निर्माण तक सीमित नहीं है।
- It is also about making intelligence cheaper and more accessible.
यह बुद्धिमत्ता को अधिक सस्ता और सुलभ बनाने के बारे में भी है।
- The **AI race** may ultimately be won by those who make intelligence affordable, ubiquitous and widely available.
अंततः AI की दौड़ वही जीत सकते हैं जो बुद्धिमत्ता को किफायती, सर्वव्यापी और व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध बना सकें।



- India is uniquely positioned to lead this movement.
भारत इस आंदोलन का नेतृत्व करने के लिए विशिष्ट रूप से उपयुक्त स्थिति में है।
- Just as **UPI** democratised **financial inclusion**, India should aspire to democratise intelligence through low-cost, energy-efficient **AI models** that can serve billions of people.
जिस प्रकार **UPI** ने वित्तीय समावेशन को लोकतांत्रिक बनाया, उसी प्रकार भारत को कम लागत वाले, ऊर्जा-कुशल **AI मॉडलों** के माध्यम से बुद्धिमत्ता का लोकतंत्रीकरण करने का लक्ष्य रखना चाहिए, जो अरबों लोगों की सेवा कर सकें।
- Quantum computing** presents another opportunity.
क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग एक और अवसर प्रस्तुत करती है।
- Rather than merely replicating existing approaches, India should focus on reducing the cost of **quantum infrastructure** and developing practical applications in **health care, materials science, climate modelling and drug discovery**.
मौजूदा दृष्टिकोणों की केवल नकल करने के बजाय, भारत को **क्वांटम अवसंरचना** की लागत कम करने तथा **स्वास्थ्य सेवा, पदार्थ विज्ञान, जलवायु मॉडलिंग और औषधि खोज** में व्यावहारिक अनुप्रयोग विकसित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।
- The same should extend to **space**.
यही दृष्टिकोण **अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र** तक भी विस्तारित होना चाहिए।
- The successes of **Chandrayaan** and **Mangalyaan** proved that **frugal innovation** can coexist with world-class ambition.
चंद्रयान और मंगलयान की सफलताओं ने सिद्ध किया कि **मितव्ययी नवाचार (Frugal Innovation)** और विश्वस्तरीय महत्वाकांक्षा साथ-साथ चल सकते हैं।
- As computing demands escalate globally, concepts such as **space-based data centres** powered by continuous solar energy are attracting serious attention.
जैसे-जैसे वैश्विक स्तर पर कंप्यूटिंग की मांग बढ़ रही है, **अंतरिक्ष-आधारित डेटा केंद्रों** जैसी अवधारणाएँ, जो निरंतर सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित हों, गंभीर ध्यान आकर्षित कर रही हैं।
- India should not merely participate in these conversations; it should lead them.
भारत को केवल इन चर्चाओं में भाग नहीं लेना चाहिए, बल्कि उनका नेतृत्व करना चाहिए।
- We should ask bold questions about **orbital computing infrastructure, space-based AI platforms or even data centres and quantum communication networks**.
हमें **कक्षीय कंप्यूटिंग अवसंरचना (Orbital Computing Infrastructure), अंतरिक्ष-आधारित AI प्लेटफॉर्म, डेटा केंद्रों और क्वांटम संचार नेटवर्कों** के बारे में साहसिक प्रश्न उठाने चाहिए।
- These ideas may seem futuristic today.
आज ये विचार भविष्यवादी प्रतीत हो सकते हैं।
- But so did semiconductors, smartphones and AI when they first emerged.
किन्तु जब सेमीकंडक्टर, स्मार्टफोन और AI पहली बार सामने आए थे, तब वे भी इसी प्रकार भविष्यवादी प्रतीत होते थे।

Stopping too soon

बहुत जल्दी रुक जाना

- The deeper lesson from **SCL, ECIL and Simputer** is not that India failed, but that it often stopped too soon.
SCL, ECIL और Simputer से मिलने वाली गहरी सीख यह नहीं है कि भारत असफल रहा, बल्कि यह है कि भारत अक्सर बहुत जल्दी रुक गया।
- We celebrated **technological capability** before building the ecosystems needed for global scale.
हमने वैश्विक स्तर के विस्तार हेतु आवश्यक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का निर्माण करने से पहले ही **तकनीकी क्षमता** का उत्सव मना लिया।



- The next phase of India's technological journey must combine **self-reliance** with **global ambition**.
भारत की तकनीकी यात्रा के अगले चरण में **आत्मनिर्भरता** और **वैश्विक महत्वाकांक्षा** का समन्वय होना चाहिए।
- The challenge is no longer merely to invent; it is to build, scale, commercialise and create enterprises that can compete globally.
अब चुनौती केवल आविष्कार करने की नहीं है; बल्कि निर्माण करने, विस्तार करने, व्यावसायीकरण करने और ऐसे उद्यम खड़े करने की है जो वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धा कर सकें।
- India has already demonstrated world-class **scientific** and **engineering capabilities**.
भारत पहले ही विश्वस्तरीय **वैज्ञानिक** और **अभियांत्रिकी क्षमताओं** का प्रदर्शन कर चुका है।

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India's experience in diabetes care could guide other countries: expert

GS III: S&T
Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

With four decades of diabetes work under its belt, India now has the ability to show other low- and middle-income countries how **integrated, low-cost, and tech-enabled solutions can be deployed on the ground to launch effective interventions**, according to an article by Chennai-based **diabetologist V. Mohan**, published in the leading journal **Diabetologia** on June 23.

Striking out for indigenous innovations over a copy-paste model from high income countries, he makes the case for local solutions, integrated diabetes care, and looking at the whole heterogeneity of diabetes.

Dr. Mohan begins with the idea that diabetes in South Asia is not the same as elsewhere. People in this region, he says, deve-



The article advocates local solutions and integrated diabetes care.

lop diabetes at a lower Body Mass Index (BMI), with more visceral fat and greater insulin resistance, indicating the need for region-specific screening and treatment strategies. An important component of these strategies are lifestyle, diet, and environmental factor, particularly the intake of highly refined carbohydrates and low levels of physical activity

among the population.

The "total diabetes care" model developed at his centre, the Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre in Chennai, is no longer about just testing blood sugar, but looking at the total impact that diabetes has on the human body, and the range of metabolic disorders. There are lessons in this, Dr. Mohan argues, showing that an integrated approach to screening, treatment, education, lab work, eye, kidney, foot, and nutrition services has made care delivery more efficient. This reduces fragmentation of treatment and delays in delivering care.

One of the programme's most valuable interventions for the region is the effort to overcome specialist shortages, by training physicians, diabetes educators, and technicians, using task shifting to make sure the care is extended

beyond the tertiary or secondary care settings.

Tech interventions

In the article, Dr. Mohan also recommends the deployment of technology to enable continuity of care, listing an electronic medical record platform, an AI chatbot, a patient app for appointments and results, telemedicine, particularly for ophthalmology, and a physician decision-support tool for classifying diabetes subtypes.

He explains that diabetes care is now moving away from a one-size-fits-all paradigm to a personalised approach based on precision medicine, appreciating that not all individuals with diabetes (or even with the same type of diabetes) are alike, and that they may vary in clinical characteristics, risk of complications and response to different treatments.

24J6. India's experience in diabetes care could guide other countries: expert मधुमेह देखभाल में भारत का अनुभव अन्य देशों का मार्गदर्शन कर सकता है: विशेषज्ञ

- With **four decades of diabetes work** under its belt, **India** now has the ability to show other **low- and middle-income countries** how integrated, low-cost, and technology-enabled solutions can be deployed on the ground to launch effective interventions, according to an article by **diabetologist V. Mohan** published in the leading journal **Diabetologia** on **June 23**.
मधुमेह प्रबंधन के चार दशकों के अनुभव के साथ भारत अब अन्य निम्न एवं मध्यम आय वाले देशों को यह दिखाने की क्षमता रखता है कि किस प्रकार समेकित, कम लागत वाले तथा प्रौद्योगिकी-सक्षम समाधान धरातल पर लागू कर प्रभावी हस्तक्षेप किए जा सकते हैं। यह बात 23 जून को प्रतिष्ठित पत्रिका डायबेटोलोजिया में प्रकाशित मधुमेह विशेषज्ञ वी. मोहन के लेख में कही गई है।
- Striking out for **indigenous innovations** over a copy-paste model from high-income countries, he makes the case for local solutions, integrated diabetes care, and looking at the whole heterogeneity of diabetes.
उच्च आय वाले देशों के मॉडल की नकल करने के बजाय वे **स्वदेशी नवाचारों** पर बल देते हैं तथा स्थानीय समाधानों, समेकित मधुमेह देखभाल और मधुमेह की विविध प्रकृतियों को समझने की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हैं।
- Dr. Mohan begins with the idea that **diabetes in South Asia** is not the same as elsewhere. डॉ. मोहन इस विचार से शुरुआत करते हैं कि **दक्षिण एशिया में मधुमेह** की प्रकृति दुनिया के अन्य क्षेत्रों से भिन्न है।
- People in this region, he says, develop diabetes at a lower **Body Mass Index (BMI)**, with more **visceral fat** and greater **insulin resistance**, indicating the need for region-specific screening and treatment strategies.
उनके अनुसार, इस क्षेत्र के लोगों में अपेक्षाकृत कम **शारीरिक द्रव्यमान सूचकांक** पर ही मधुमेह विकसित हो जाता है, साथ ही उनमें अधिक **आंतरिक वसा** और अधिक **इंसुलिन प्रतिरोध** पाया जाता है, जिससे क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट जाँच और उपचार रणनीतियों की आवश्यकता स्पष्ट होती है।
- An important component of these strategies are **lifestyle, diet, and environmental factors**, particularly the intake of highly refined carbohydrates and low levels of physical activity among the population.
इन रणनीतियों का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग **जीवनशैली, आहार और पर्यावरणीय कारक** हैं, विशेषकर अत्यधिक परिष्कृत कार्बोहाइड्रेट का सेवन और जनसंख्या में शारीरिक गतिविधि का निम्न स्तर।
- The **“total diabetes care”** model developed at the **Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre in Chennai** is no longer about just testing blood sugar, but looking at the total impact that diabetes has on the human body, and the range of metabolic disorders.
चेन्नई स्थित डॉ. मोहन मधुमेह विशिष्टता केंद्र द्वारा विकसित **“समग्र मधुमेह देखभाल”** मॉडल अब केवल रक्त शर्करा की जाँच तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह मानव शरीर पर मधुमेह के समग्र प्रभाव और उससे जुड़े विभिन्न चयापचय विकारों का भी मूल्यांकन करता है।
- There are lessons in this, Dr. Mohan argues, showing that an integrated approach to screening, treatment, education, lab work, eye, kidney, foot, and nutrition services has made care delivery more efficient.
डॉ. मोहन का तर्क है कि इस मॉडल से महत्वपूर्ण सीख मिलती है, क्योंकि जाँच, उपचार, शिक्षा, प्रयोगशाला सेवाएँ, नेत्र, गुर्दा, पैर तथा पोषण सेवाओं को एकीकृत करने से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की उपलब्धता अधिक प्रभावी हुई है।
- This reduces fragmentation of treatment and delays in delivering care.
इससे उपचार की बिखरी हुई व्यवस्था तथा स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ प्रदान करने में होने वाली देरी कम होती है।
- One of the programme's most valuable interventions for the region is the effort to overcome **specialist shortages**, by training physicians, diabetes educators, and technicians, using **task shifting** to make sure the care is extended beyond the tertiary or secondary care settings.
इस कार्यक्रम का एक महत्वपूर्ण हस्तक्षेप **विशेषज्ञों की कमी** को दूर करना है। इसके लिए चिकित्सकों, मधुमेह

शिक्षकों और तकनीशियनों को प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है तथा कार्य-वितरण पद्धति अपनाई जाती है, जिससे सेवाएँ तृतीयक और द्वितीयक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों से आगे भी पहुँच सकें।

Tech interventions

प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित हस्तक्षेप

- In the article, Dr. Mohan also recommends the deployment of **technology** to enable continuity of care, listing an **electronic medical record platform**, an **AI chatbot**, a patient app for appointments and results, **telemedicine**, particularly for ophthalmology, and a physician decision-support tool for classifying diabetes subtypes.
अपने लेख में डॉ. मोहन स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी के उपयोग की भी अनुशंसा करते हैं। इनमें इलेक्ट्रॉनिक चिकित्सा अभिलेख मंच, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित संवाद प्रणाली, नियुक्तियों और परिणामों के लिए रोगी अनुप्रयोग, दूरचिकित्सा, विशेषकर नेत्र चिकित्सा के लिए, तथा मधुमेह के विभिन्न उपप्रकारों के वर्गीकरण हेतु चिकित्सकीय निर्णय-सहायता उपकरण शामिल हैं।
- He explains that diabetes care is now moving away from a **one-size-fits-all** paradigm to a **personalised approach** based on **precision medicine**, appreciating that not all individuals with diabetes, or even with the same type of diabetes, are alike.
वे बताते हैं कि मधुमेह देखभाल अब सभी के लिए एक समान उपचार की अवधारणा से आगे बढ़कर परिशुद्ध चिकित्सा पर आधारित व्यक्तिगत उपचार दृष्टिकोण की ओर अग्रसर हो रही है, क्योंकि सभी मधुमेह रोगी, यहाँ तक कि एक ही प्रकार के मधुमेह वाले व्यक्ति भी, समान नहीं होते।
- And that they may vary in clinical characteristics, risk of complications and response to different treatments.
उनकी नैदानिक विशेषताएँ, जटिलताओं का जोखिम तथा विभिन्न उपचारों के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया अलग-अलग हो सकती हैं।

The strange link between AI hallucination and creativity

A setting called temperature governs how adventurous an LLM's outputs are: the higher the temperature, the more likely the model reaches for the less likely options and surprises the user; this is the dial that one turns up when seeking a poem instead of a weather report; the trouble is that the same dial governs hallucinations

CS II: SST
Viraj Kulkarni

In the prologue to his 1989 book *The Emperor's New Mind*, the Nobel laureate Roger Penrose narrates a story. At a grand public ceremony, an ultimate supercomputer is switched on for the first time before a packed auditorium. It is the most powerful machine ever built, designed to answer any question put to it. The presenter invites the audience to ask its very first question, but no one volunteers. Everyone is afraid of looking foolish before the intelligent machine. Then a young boy named Adam, who has grown up among computers and is not intimidated by them, raises his hand and asks the first question. There the prologue ends on a cliff-hanger. We are never told what the question is.

Penrose used this story to introduce a deeper argument about the limits of computation and the nature of human understanding. He contends that there are truths a formal mathematical machine cannot reach no matter how powerful it becomes.

But reading this story a decade ago, long before ChatGPT or Claude existed, brought a different question to mind: what if the ability to answer every question correctly is not always a virtue? What if some of the qualities we value most, such as imagination and creativity, depend on our ability to venture beyond what is already known?

Today, as we build machines that can answer questions, write essays, generate code, and analyse data, that question feels very relevant.

Natural instinct

For all their remarkable capabilities, these systems sometimes make things up. We call this hallucination. Ordinarily, a hallucination means to see or hear something that is not there. In artificial intelligence (AI), a model hallucinates when it produces an answer that sounds plausible but is factually wrong. It may invent a citation, misstate a number, fabricate a legal case, or attribute a quote to the wrong person.

This is not a minor flaw. In medicine, law, finance, science, and journalism, hallucinations can be dangerous. A medical chatbot that invents advice is not being imaginative but unsafe. A legal tool that fabricates case law is being unreliable.

Our natural instinct is to want to eliminate hallucinations but this is harder than it appears. Large language models (LLMs) do not work like databases, storing facts in neat rows and columns, and retrieving the right answer when asked. They are trained on enormous collections of text and learn statistical patterns in language. When prompted, they generate a response by predicting what will come next, one piece at a time.



As AI models are encouraged to be more adventurous, their creativity and hallucinations increase together. AEDRIAN SALAZAR/UNSPLASH

An LLM generates text one word at a time, each word a probability drawn from patterns it absorbed during training. A setting called the temperature governs how adventurous those draws are. If the temperature is low, the model will pick the safest, most predictable next word and produce an accurate and dull output. If the temperature is higher, the model will reach into the less likely options and begin to surprise you. This is the dial you turn up when you want a poem instead of a weather report.

The trouble is that the same dial governs hallucinations. A 2025 study reported evidence that creativity and hallucination tend to increase together as models are encouraged to be more adventurous and explore regions of lower probabilities. In other words, the model that dares to write something genuinely new is the same model that dares to make something up.

A different 2025 study found that the mechanisms that let these systems produce novel, imaginative text by departing from learned patterns are the same mechanisms that open the door to hallucinations.

It is also easier said than done to simply build a better model that does one without the other. In September 2025,

researchers at OpenAI and Georgia Tech argued that hallucinations are not bugs to be patched but a statistical inevitability of how these systems are trained and tested. Models are rewarded, like students in an exam hall, for guessing rather than admitting ignorance. A confident wrong answer may score better than an honest "I don't know".

Scrubbed of surprise

The second study went further, and this is where Penrose returns to the room. Drawing on the foundational theorems of computer science about the limits of computation, laid by the work of Alan Turing and Kurt Gödel, they argued that no computable model can ever be universally correct. There will always be questions on which any given machine must fail. Hallucination, then, seen, is not a flaw in our engineering but a long shadow cast by the limits of computation itself.

Penrose used just this family of ideas to argue that human thinking cannot be reduced to mere computation. Many philosophers and computer scientists think he is wrong but modern researchers are pointing at the same wall from the other side. Penrose said machines are bounded, human minds are not. Modern

researchers say machines are bounded, and here is the proof. Both agree that the wall is there.

We are pouring extraordinary effort into making these systems truthful, and we should. But if accuracy and imagination draw from the same well, a machine perfectly scrubbed of error might also be a machine scrubbed of surprise. This may also teach us something about ourselves. Human beings also hallucinate in a softer, broader sense all the time. We imagine futures. We invent stories. We see patterns. We form hypotheses. Much of this is wrong – but some of it becomes science, art, philosophy, and technology. The difference is that human societies developed methods to discipline imagination. Science uses experiments. Journalism uses verification. Philosophy uses argument.

Perhaps AI needs something similar: not a ban on hallucinations but better institutions of verification around it.

(Viraj Kulkarni is an entrepreneur and AI advisor who has been building, deploying, and scaling AI systems since 2012. He studied computer science at University of California, Berkeley. kulkarni.viraj@gmail.com)

THE GIST

For all their remarkable capabilities, AI systems sometimes make things up, called hallucinations

Ordinarily, a hallucination means to see or hear something that is not there

In AI, a model hallucinates when it produces an answer that sounds plausible but is factually wrong

A system may invent a citation, misstate a number, fabricate a legal case, or attribute a quote to the wrong person

But if accuracy and imagination draw from the same well, a machine perfectly scrubbed of error might also be a machine scrubbed of surprise

The difference between AI systems and human societies is that the latter developed methods to discipline imagination: science uses experiments, journalism uses verification and philosophy uses argument

24J6. The strange link between AI hallucination and creativity

एआई मतिभ्रम (Hallucination) और रचनात्मकता के बीच का विचित्र संबंध

- A setting called **temperature** governs how adventurous an **LLM's outputs** are: the higher the **temperature**, the more likely the model reaches for the less likely options and surprises the user; this is the dial that one turns up when seeking a **poem** instead of a **weather report**; the trouble is that the same dial governs **hallucinations**.



- **टेम्परेचर (Temperature)** नामक एक सेटिंग यह निर्धारित करती है कि किसी एलएलएम (LLM) के आउटपुट कितने साहसिक या रचनात्मक होंगे: जितना अधिक टेम्परेचर होगा, उतनी ही अधिक संभावना होगी कि मॉडल कम संभावित विकल्पों का चयन करे और उपयोगकर्ता को आश्चर्यचकित करे; यही वह नियंत्रण है जिसे मौसम रिपोर्ट के बजाय कविता प्राप्त करने की इच्छा होने पर बढ़ाया जाता है; समस्या यह है कि यही नियंत्रण मतिभ्रम (Hallucinations) को भी नियंत्रित करता है।
- For all their remarkable capabilities, these systems sometimes make things up.
अपनी सभी उल्लेखनीय क्षमताओं के बावजूद, ये प्रणालियाँ कभी-कभी बातें गढ़ लेती हैं।
- We call this **hallucination**.
इसे हैलुसिनेशन (भ्रमात्मक निर्माण) कहा जाता है।
- Ordinarily, a hallucination means to see or hear something that is not there.
सामान्यतः, हैलुसिनेशन का अर्थ है ऐसी किसी वस्तु को देखना या सुनना जो वास्तव में वहाँ मौजूद नहीं है।
- In **artificial intelligence (AI)**, a model hallucinates when it produces an answer that sounds plausible but is factually wrong.
कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) में, कोई मॉडल तब हैलुसिनेट करता है जब वह ऐसा उत्तर देता है जो सुनने में विश्वसनीय लगे, किन्तु तथ्यात्मक रूप से गलत हो।
- It may invent a citation, misstate a number, fabricate a legal case, or attribute a quote to the wrong person.
यह किसी संदर्भ का आविष्कार कर सकता है, किसी संख्या को गलत बता सकता है, किसी कानूनी मामले को गढ़ सकता है, अथवा किसी उद्धरण को गलत व्यक्ति से जोड़ सकता है।
- This is not a minor flaw.
यह कोई छोटी त्रुटि नहीं है।
- In **medicine, law, finance, science, and journalism**, hallucinations can be dangerous.
चिकित्सा, विधि, वित्त, विज्ञान तथा पत्रकारिता में हैलुसिनेशन खतरनाक सिद्ध हो सकते हैं।
- A medical chatbot that invents advice is not being imaginative but unsafe.
एक चिकित्सा चैटबॉट जो सलाह गढ़ता है, वह कल्पनाशील नहीं बल्कि असुरक्षित है।
- A legal tool that fabricates case law is being unreliable.
एक कानूनी उपकरण जो न्यायिक मामलों को गढ़ता है, वह अविश्वसनीय होता है।
- **Our natural instinct** is to want to eliminate **hallucinations** but this is harder than it appears.
हमारी स्वाभाविक प्रवृत्ति हैलुसिनेशन को समाप्त करने की होती है, किन्तु यह कार्य जितना दिखाई देता है उससे अधिक कठिन है।
- Large language models (**LLMs**) do not work like databases, storing facts in neat rows and columns, and retrieving the right answer when asked.
लार्ज लैंग्वेज मॉडल्स (LLMs) डेटाबेस की तरह कार्य नहीं करते, जो तथ्यों को सुव्यवस्थित पंक्तियों और स्तंभों में संग्रहित करते हैं तथा पूछे जाने पर सही उत्तर निकालते हैं।
- They are trained on enormous collections of text and learn statistical patterns in language.
उन्हें विशाल मात्रा में पाठ-संग्रहों पर प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है और वे भाषा में मौजूद सांख्यिकीय प्रतिरूपों को सीखते हैं।
- When prompted, they generate a response by predicting what will come next, one piece at a time.
जब उन्हें कोई संकेत दिया जाता है, तो वे एक-एक भाग करके यह अनुमान लगाते हुए उत्तर उत्पन्न करते हैं कि आगे क्या आएगा।
- An **LLM** generates text one word at a time, each word a probability drawn from patterns it absorbed during training.
एक LLM एक समय में एक शब्द उत्पन्न करता है, जहाँ प्रत्येक शब्द उस प्रशिक्षण के दौरान सीखे गए प्रतिरूपों से प्राप्त संभावनाओं पर आधारित होता है।



- A setting called the **temperature** governs how adventurous those draws are.
टेम्परेचर नामक एक सेटिंग यह नियंत्रित करती है कि ये चयन कितने साहसिक होंगे।
- If the temperature is low, the model will pick the safest, most predictable next word and produce an accurate and dull output.
यदि टेम्परेचर कम हो, तो मॉडल सबसे सुरक्षित और सर्वाधिक अनुमानित अगले शब्द का चयन करेगा तथा एक सटीक किन्तु नीरस परिणाम उत्पन्न करेगा।
- If the temperature is higher, the model will reach into the less likely options and begin to surprise you.
यदि टेम्परेचर अधिक हो, तो मॉडल कम संभावित विकल्पों की ओर बढ़ेगा और आपको आश्चर्यचकित करना आरम्भ कर देगा।
- This is the dial you turn up when you want a poem instead of a weather report.
यह वही नियंत्रण है जिसे आप तब बढ़ाते हैं जब आपको मौसम रिपोर्ट के स्थान पर कोई कविता चाहिए होती है।
- The trouble is that the same dial governs **hallucinations**.
समस्या यह है कि यही नियंत्रण **हैलुसिनेशन** को भी प्रभावित करता है।
- A 2025 study reported evidence that **creativity** and **hallucination** tend to increase together as models are encouraged to be more adventurous and explore regions of lower probabilities.
वर्ष 2025 के एक अध्ययन ने प्रमाण प्रस्तुत किया कि **रचनात्मकता** और **हैलुसिनेशन** साथ-साथ बढ़ने की प्रवृत्ति रखते हैं, जब मॉडलों को अधिक साहसी बनने और कम संभावनाओं वाले क्षेत्रों का अन्वेषण करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।
- In other words, the model that dares to write something genuinely new is the same model that dares to make something up.
दूसरे शब्दों में, जो मॉडल वास्तव में कुछ नया लिखने का साहस करता है, वही मॉडल कुछ गढ़ने का साहस भी करता है।
- A different 2025 study found that the mechanisms that let these systems produce novel, imaginative text by departing from learned patterns are the same mechanisms that open the door to **hallucinations**.
वर्ष 2025 के एक अन्य अध्ययन में पाया गया कि वे तंत्र, जो इन प्रणालियों को सीखे हुए प्रतिरूपों से हटकर नवीन और कल्पनाशील पाठ उत्पन्न करने में सक्षम बनाते हैं, वही तंत्र **हैलुसिनेशन** के लिए भी द्वार खोलते हैं।
- It is also easier said than done to simply build a better model that does one without the other.
ऐसा बेहतर मॉडल बनाना, जो एक कार्य करे और दूसरे से बचे रहे, कहना जितना आसान है, करना उतना नहीं।
- In September 2025, researchers at **OpenAI** and **Georgia Tech** argued that hallucinations are not bugs to be patched but a statistical inevitability of how these systems are trained and tested.
सितम्बर 2025 में **OpenAI** और **Georgia Tech** के शोधकर्ताओं ने तर्क दिया कि हैलुसिनेशन कोई ऐसी त्रुटि नहीं है जिसे केवल ठीक किया जा सके, बल्कि यह इन प्रणालियों के प्रशिक्षण और परीक्षण की सांख्यिकीय अनिवार्यता है।
- Models are rewarded, like students in an exam hall, for guessing rather than admitting ignorance.
मॉडलों को, परीक्षा कक्ष में बैठे विद्यार्थियों की तरह, अज्ञान स्वीकार करने के बजाय अनुमान लगाने के लिए पुरस्कृत किया जाता है।
- A confident wrong answer may score better than an honest "I don't know".
एक आत्मविश्वासपूर्ण गलत उत्तर, ईमानदारी से कहे गए "मुझे नहीं पता" की तुलना में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त कर सकता है।

Scrubbed of surprise

आश्चर्य से रहित

- **Hallucination**, thus seen, is not a flaw in our engineering but a long shadow cast by the limits of computation itself.

इस दृष्टि से हैलुसिनेशन हमारी अभियांत्रिकी की त्रुटि नहीं, बल्कि स्वयं गणना की सीमाओं द्वारा डाली गई एक लंबी छाया है।

- **Penrose** used just this family of ideas to argue that human thinking cannot be reduced to mere computation.
पेनरोज़ ने इसी प्रकार के विचारों का उपयोग यह तर्क देने के लिए किया कि मानवीय चिंतन को केवल गणना तक सीमित नहीं किया जा सकता।
- Human beings also hallucinate in a softer, broader sense all the time.
मानव भी एक व्यापक और अपेक्षाकृत सौम्य अर्थ में निरंतर हैलुसिनेट करते रहते हैं।
- We imagine futures.
हम भविष्य की कल्पना करते हैं।
- We invent stories.
हम कहानियाँ गढ़ते हैं।
- We see patterns.
हम प्रतिरूपों को पहचानते हैं।
- We form hypotheses.
हम परिकल्पनाएँ बनाते हैं।
- Much of this is wrong — but some of it becomes **science, art, philosophy, and technology**.
इनमें से बहुत कुछ गलत होता है — किन्तु कुछ भाग विज्ञान, कला, दर्शनशास्त्र और प्रौद्योगिकी का रूप ले लेता है।
- The difference is that human societies developed methods to discipline imagination.
अंतर यह है कि मानव समाजों ने कल्पनाशीलता को अनुशासित करने के लिए विधियाँ विकसित की हैं।
- **Science** uses experiments.
विज्ञान प्रयोगों का उपयोग करता है।
- **Journalism** uses verification.
पत्रकारिता सत्यापन का उपयोग करती है।
- **Philosophy** uses argument.
दर्शनशास्त्र तर्क का उपयोग करता है।
- Perhaps **AI** needs something similar: not a ban on hallucinations but better institutions of verification around it.
संभवतः **AI** को भी कुछ ऐसा ही चाहिए: हैलुसिनेशन पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध नहीं, बल्कि उसके आसपास बेहतर सत्यापन संस्थाएँ।

Hallucinations (Medical Context)

A **hallucination** is a sensory experience in which a person **sees, hears, smells, tastes, or feels something that is not actually present**.

In simple words:

A person experiences something as real even though there is no external stimulus causing it.

The person is often convinced that the experience is real.

Examples of Hallucinations

Auditory Hallucinations (Hearing Things)

- Hearing voices when nobody is speaking.
- Hearing music, sounds, or conversations that are not present.

Example:

A person may hear someone calling their name repeatedly when nobody is around.

Visual Hallucinations (Seeing Things)

- Seeing people, animals, lights, or objects that are not actually there.

Example:

An elderly person may see a stranger standing in the room when the room is empty.



Olfactory Hallucinations (Smelling Things)

- Smelling odors that do not exist.

Example:

Smelling smoke or burning rubber when nothing is burning.

Gustatory Hallucinations (Tasting Things)

- Experiencing unusual tastes without any food or drink.

Tactile Hallucinations (Feeling Things)

- Feeling insects crawling on the skin.
- Feeling someone touching the body when nobody is present.

Common Medical Causes

Psychiatric Disorders

- Schizophrenia
- Severe depression with psychotic features.
- Bipolar disorder during severe manic or depressive episodes.

Neurological Disorders

- Parkinson's Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Epilepsy.
- Brain tumors.
- Stroke.

Sleep-Related Causes

- Sleep deprivation.
- Hallucinations while falling asleep (**hypnagogic hallucinations**).
- Hallucinations while waking up (**hypnopompic hallucinations**).

Substance Use

- Alcohol withdrawal.
- Certain recreational drugs.
- Some medications.

Medical Conditions

- High fever.
- Severe infections.
- Delirium.
- Liver failure.
- Kidney failure.
- Electrolyte imbalances.

Hallucination vs Delusion

Many people confuse these two terms.

Hallucination

False sensory experience

Person hears, sees, smells, tastes, or feels something unreal

"I hear voices."

Delusion

False belief

Person strongly believes something untrue

"The government is secretly monitoring me."



Carbon isotopes: clocks of sorts

GS III: S&T
Reuters

Scientists studying the comet 3I/ATLAS have determined that this interstellar visitor formed an estimated 12 billion years ago in a primordial planetary system, and has a composition unlike anything in our solar system.

An evaluation of the chemical make-up of 3I/ATLAS, only the third interstellar object ever spotted in the solar system, provided guidance about the physical and chemical conditions in the planetary system where it formed, the researchers said.

They added that 3I/ATLAS appears to have been born in a much colder environment (-243°C) than the one in which the earth and other bodies in our solar system formed roughly 4.5 billion years ago. They said it has travelled a vast distance since it was somehow expelled from its home planetary system.

The researchers measured the ratio of isotopes — different versions of chemical elements such as hydrogen and carbon — observed on 3I/ATLAS using the James Webb Space Telescope.

Its hydrogen isotopes offered evidence about temperature and radiation in the environment in which 3I/ATLAS formed. Its carbon isotope ratios offered clues about the composition of the interstellar gas cloud that gave rise to 3I/ATLAS and



The Hubble telescope's image of the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS on July 21, 2025, when the comet was 446 million km from the earth. NASA

its home planetary system.

The carbon composition indicated 3I/ATLAS formed some 12 billion years ago during a period of intense star formation in its region. The universe is thought to have begun with the Big Bang event 13.8 billion years ago, so 3I/ATLAS would date to a time when the cosmos was only around 13% of its current age.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in with the
subject 'Daily page'

24J6. Carbon isotopes: clocks of sorts

कार्बन समस्थानिक: एक प्रकार की समय-घड़ी

Scientists studying the comet 3I/ATLAS have determined that this interstellar visitor formed an estimated 12 billion years ago in a primordial planetary system, and has a composition unlike anything in our solar system.

वैज्ञानिकों ने धूमकेतु 3I/ATLAS का अध्ययन करते हुए निर्धारित किया है कि यह अंतरतारकीय आगंतुक लगभग 12 अरब वर्ष पूर्व एक आदिम ग्रह-प्रणाली में बना था, और इसकी संरचना हमारे सौरमंडल में ज्ञात किसी भी वस्तु से भिन्न है।

An evaluation of the chemical make-up of 3I/ATLAS, only the third interstellar object ever spotted in the solar system, provided guidance about the physical and chemical conditions in the planetary system where it formed, the researchers said.

शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार, 3I/ATLAS की रासायनिक संरचना के मूल्यांकन ने, जो

सौरमंडल में अब तक देखा गया केवल तीसरा अंतरतारकीय पिंड है, उस ग्रह-प्रणाली की भौतिक एवं रासायनिक परिस्थितियों के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान की जहाँ इसका निर्माण हुआ था।

- They added that 3I/ATLAS appears to have been born in a much colder environment (-243°C) than the one in which the Earth and other bodies in our solar system formed roughly 4.5 billion years ago.

उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि 3I/ATLAS का जन्म एक अत्यंत ठंडे वातावरण (-243°C) में हुआ प्रतीत होता है, जो उस वातावरण की तुलना में कहीं अधिक ठंडा था जिसमें पृथ्वी और हमारे सौरमंडल के अन्य पिंड लगभग 4.5 अरब वर्ष पूर्व बने थे।

- They said it has travelled a vast distance since it was somehow expelled from its home planetary system.

उन्होंने कहा कि अपनी मूल ग्रह-प्रणाली से किसी प्रकार बाहर निकाले जाने के बाद से इसने अत्यंत विशाल दूरी तय की है।

- The researchers measured the ratio of isotopes — different versions of chemical elements such as hydrogen and carbon — observed on 3I/ATLAS using the James Webb Space Telescope.

शोधकर्ताओं ने जेम्स वेब स्पेस टेलीस्कोप की सहायता से 3I/ATLAS पर पाए गए समस्थानिकों (Isotopes) — अर्थात् हाइड्रोजन और कार्बन जैसे रासायनिक तत्वों के विभिन्न रूपों — के अनुपात का मापन किया।

- Its hydrogen isotopes offered evidence about temperature and radiation in the environment in which 3I/ATLAS formed.



इसके हाइड्रोजन समस्थानिकों ने उस वातावरण के तापमान और विकिरण संबंधी परिस्थितियों के प्रमाण प्रदान किए, जिसमें 3I/ATLAS का निर्माण हुआ था।

- Its **carbon isotope ratios** offered clues about the composition of the **interstellar gas cloud** that gave rise to 3I/ATLAS and its home planetary system.

इसके कार्बन समस्थानिक अनुपातों ने उस अंतरतारकीय गैस बादल की संरचना के बारे में संकेत दिए, जिससे 3I/ATLAS और उसकी मूल ग्रह-प्रणाली का जन्म हुआ था।

- The **carbon composition** indicated 3I/ATLAS formed some **12 billion years ago** during a period of intense **star formation** in its region.

कार्बन संरचना से संकेत मिला कि 3I/ATLAS का निर्माण लगभग 12 अरब वर्ष पूर्व उसके क्षेत्र में तीव्र तारकीय निर्माण (Star Formation) की अवधि के दौरान हुआ था।

- The **universe** is thought to have begun with the **Big Bang** event **13.8 billion years ago**, so 3I/ATLAS would date to a time when the **cosmos** was only around **13%** of its current age.

माना जाता है कि ब्रह्मांड की शुरुआत 13.8 अरब वर्ष पूर्व हुई बिग बैंग घटना से हुई थी, इसलिए 3I/ATLAS उस समय का है जब ब्रह्मांड (Cosmos) अपनी वर्तमान आयु का केवल लगभग 13% ही था।

GS Paper III: Environment		24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
24J6	India's patchy industrial climate strategy भारत की खंडित औद्योगिक जलवायु रणनीति	



India's patchy industrial climate strategy

GS III: Environment

The inevitable conclusion emerging from the ambitious targets set up by the government's Make-in-India, Viksit Bharat (2047) and net-zero emissions (2070) commitments is that industrial decarbonisation is central to India's long-term climate goals.

As the economy grows, both existing and emerging manufacturing segments expand, fuelling a steep rise in energy demand. Balancing this industrial growth on the one hand and population-driven consumption demand on the other with national emission reduction objectives requires highly targeted policies. The recently submitted First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) by India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides a detailed account of national emissions. The report discloses that in 2022, over 20% of India's total emissions stemmed directly from the industrial sector. Specifically, it shows that the fuel consumption in manufacturing industries and construction accounts for 13% of total emissions, while industrial processes and product use accounts for another 9%. This clearly demonstrates how much manufacturing activities contribute to the overall carbon footprint, a trend that has remained consistent over time.

Mitigation planning

To mitigate industrial emissions and energy consumption, the government has relied on two major market-based mechanisms. The BTR1 acknowledges the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme as a primary initiative, which aims to reduce specific energy consumption across 13 energy-intensive industries. PAT is now transitioning to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), which focuses on reducing the emission intensity of nine industrial sectors, including aluminium, cement, fertilizers, iron and steel, petrochemicals,



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personal

Balancing industrial growth on the one hand and population-driven consumption demand on the other with national emission reduction objectives requires highly targeted policies

petroleum refining, pulp and paper, textiles, and chlor-alkali. The other four industries, which include thermal power plants, railways, DISCOMs and commercial buildings, will continue under the PAT scheme.

While these schemes set benchmarks, encourage energy efficiency, and reduce emission intensity, there is a clear gap in how mitigation planning is envisioned across Indian industries. These policies are designed almost entirely for well-defined, traditional heavy-emitting sectors such as cement, steel, fertilizers, refineries, and textiles. However, they do de facto overlook a massive proportion of industrial emissions, specifically those generated by fuel consumption in, what India's emission inventory classifies as, "non-specific industries".

A careful analysis of emissions data for India's manufacturing industries and construction sector for the latest reported year, 2020, reveals a crucial puzzle that needs to be solved urgently. The explicitly specified major industrial sectors accounted for slightly more than 55% of the total emissions generated from manufacturing industries and construction. Conversely, more than 40% of those sectoral emissions were caused by the "non-specific industries" category alone. A similar pattern has been seen in 2014, 2016, and 2019 as well, as per the detailed emission inventory available on NITI Aayog's India Climate and Energy Dashboard. To sum up, the classification of sectors in India's emission inventory reflects that a surprisingly large volume of emissions falls under a single, vague heading of "non-specific industries".

The point of concern is that the scope of mitigation policies in India has relied on an enforcement and incentive-based structure around specific, identifiable sectors. For instance, some of the explicitly identified sectors in the emission inventory,

such as power, cement, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, and textiles, are covered by mitigation measures such as PAT and CCTS. Yet, a major part of industrial emissions remains in an administrative grey area, with serious implications for India's broader industrial climate strategy. As this 40% block lacks specific sub-sectoral definitions, the various industries clustered therein effectively fall outside the primary scope of both PAT and CCTS. They are not subject to the same energy efficiency mandates or emission-reduction targets as industries such as steel or cement, despite their contributions to the emissions load. This policy gap keeps a significant portion of the country's industrial base out of the green transition.

Need to identify industries

For India to successfully decouple its industrial growth from greenhouse gas emissions, the next phase of its national climate strategy needs more transparent, disaggregated data. This must begin with breaking down the existing "non-specific industries" in the emission inventory. For timely realisation of the net-zero emissions target, policymakers need to urgently focus on identifying exactly which sub-sectors contribute to these 40% emissions, how their specific energy consumption patterns are evolving, and the part in the process chain where emissions are primarily concentrated.

Transparency in climate reporting is often framed as an international obligation, a way to prove to the world that a nation is effectively traversing the path for honouring its pledges. But the real value of transparency is deeply domestic. It provides policymakers with an appropriate level of clarity to monitor exactly where the interventions are heading and where there is scope for course correction. Therefore, to build a low-carbon economy, exact knowledge on these passive outliers is non-negotiable.

24J6. India's patchy industrial climate strategy

भारत की खंडित औद्योगिक जलवायु रणनीति

- The recently submitted **First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1)** by India to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** provides a detailed account of national emissions.

भारत द्वारा हाल ही में संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन रूपरेखा अभिसमय (UNFCCC) को प्रस्तुत की गई प्रथम द्विवार्षिक पारदर्शिता रिपोर्ट (BTR1) राष्ट्रीय उत्सर्जनों का विस्तृत विवरण प्रस्तुत करती है।

- The report discloses that in **2022**, over **20%** of India's total emissions stemmed directly from the **industrial sector**.



रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2022 में भारत के कुल उत्सर्जन का 20% से अधिक भाग सीधे औद्योगिक क्षेत्र से उत्पन्न हुआ।

- Specifically, it shows that the fuel consumption in manufacturing industries and construction accounts for 13% of total emissions, while industrial processes and product use accounts for another 9%.

विशेष रूप से, रिपोर्ट दर्शाती है कि विनिर्माण उद्योगों और निर्माण गतिविधियों में ईंधन की खपत कुल उत्सर्जन का 13% योगदान देती है, जबकि औद्योगिक प्रक्रियाएँ एवं उत्पाद उपयोग अतिरिक्त 9% उत्सर्जन के लिए उत्तरदायी हैं।

- The BTR1 acknowledges the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme as a primary initiative, which aims to reduce specific energy consumption across 13 energy-intensive industries.

BTR1 ने परफॉर्म, अचीव एंड ट्रेड (PAT) योजना को एक प्रमुख पहल के रूप में मान्यता दी है, जिसका उद्देश्य 13 ऊर्जा-गहन उद्योगों में विशिष्ट ऊर्जा खपत को कम करना है।

- PAT is now transitioning to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), which focuses on reducing the emission intensity of nine industrial sectors, including aluminium, cement, fertilizers, iron and steel, petrochemicals, petroleum refining, pulp and paper, textiles, and chlor-alkali.

PAT अब कार्बन क्रेडिट ट्रेडिंग स्कीम (CCTS) में परिवर्तित हो रही है, जिसका ध्यान उत्सर्जन तीव्रता (Emission Intensity) को कम करने पर है। इसमें एल्यूमिनियम, सीमेंट, उर्वरक, लौह एवं इस्पात, पेट्रोकेमिकल्स, पेट्रोलियम परिशोधन, पल्प एवं पेपर, वस्त्र तथा क्लोर-अल्कली सहित नौ औद्योगिक क्षेत्र शामिल हैं।

- The other four industries, which include thermal power plants, railways, DISCOMs and commercial buildings, will continue under the PAT scheme.

अन्य चार क्षेत्र, जिनमें तापीय विद्युत संयंत्र, रेलवे, डिस्कॉम तथा वाणिज्यिक भवन शामिल हैं, PAT योजना के अंतर्गत ही बने रहेंगे।

Need to identify industries

उद्योगों की पहचान की आवश्यकता

- A similar pattern has been seen in 2014, 2016, and 2019 as well, as per the detailed emission inventory available on NITI Aayog's India Climate and Energy Dashboard. नीति आयोग के इंडिया क्लाइमेट एंड एनर्जी डैशबोर्ड पर उपलब्ध विस्तृत उत्सर्जन सूची के अनुसार, 2014, 2016 और 2019 में भी इसी प्रकार की प्रवृत्ति देखी गई थी।

- For instance, some of the explicitly identified sectors in the emission inventory, such as power, cement, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, and textiles, are covered by mitigation measures such as PAT and CCTS.

उदाहरण के लिए, उत्सर्जन सूची में स्पष्ट रूप से पहचाने गए कुछ क्षेत्र, जैसे विद्युत, सीमेंट, अलौह धातुएँ, रसायन तथा वस्त्र उद्योग, PAT और CCTS जैसी शमन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत आते हैं।

- They are not subject to the same energy efficiency mandates or emission-reduction targets as industries such as steel or cement, despite their contributions to the emissions load.

उत्सर्जन में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देने के बावजूद, इन उद्योगों पर इस्पात या सीमेंट उद्योगों की तरह समान ऊर्जा दक्षता संबंधी अनिवार्यताएँ या उत्सर्जन-न्यूनन लक्ष्य लागू नहीं होते।

- Transparency in climate reporting is often framed as an international obligation, a way to prove to the world that a nation is effectively traversing the path for honouring its pledges. जलवायु रिपोर्टिंग में पारदर्शिता को प्रायः एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय दायित्व के रूप में देखा जाता है, जिसके माध्यम से यह प्रदर्शित किया जाता है कि कोई राष्ट्र अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने के मार्ग पर प्रभावी रूप से आगे बढ़ रहा है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
24J6	Manipur govt. may go soft on Arambai Tenggol members मणिपुर सरकार अरामबाई तेंगोल के सदस्यों के प्रति नरम रुख अपना सकती है	
24J6	Ban on Telegram stretched meaning of 'information' under the IT Ac टेलीग्राम पर प्रतिबंध ने आईटी अधिनियम के तहत 'सूचना' के अर्थ का विस्तार कर दिया	

Manipur govt. may go soft on Arambai Tenggol members

GS III: Internal Security
The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Manipur government may be lenient towards members of **Arambai Tenggol**, a radical group, while going hard at those who looted arms from police facilities soon after the ethnic conflict erupted in May 2023, State's Home Minister **Govindas Konthoujam** indicated on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event in Imphal, he said the government was trying to avoid arresting members of Arambai Tenggol, the outfit at the forefront of the ethnic conflict in the State, before the imposition of **President's Rule in February 2025**. He, however, asserted that there would be no let-up in the drive to recover illegally held arms and restore normality in Manipur.

Plea to surrender arms
More than 5,600 firearms, including INSAS and AK-series rifles, and 500,000 rounds of ammunition were looted from State armouries and police stations in the State in 2023. The groups accused of looting them included the Arambai Tenggol.

"Discussions have been held with the Director General of Police regarding the ongoing operations linked to the group. We have appealed to individuals and armed groups still holding such weapons to surrender them voluntarily so that



Govindas Konthoujam

further arrests can be avoided," Mr. Konthoujam said. De-weaponisation was necessary for lasting peace to return to Manipur, he said.

Continuing strife

Three major communities — Meitei, Naga, and Kuki-Zo, inhabit Manipur. The State has virtually been partitioned among these communities since the ethnic strife began in 2023.

Mr. Konthoujam appealed to the people of Imphal Valley to refrain from activities that could stoke unrest. His appeal followed protests by women across the valley, demanding the release of three Arambai Tenggol members arrested by the National Investigation Agency during the intervening night of June 19 and 20.

Members of Meira Paibi, an all-women civil society organisation, claimed that members of Arambai Tenggol undertook self-defence measures during a critical period when the government was unable to provide security to civilians.

24J6. Manipur govt. may go soft on Arambai Tenggol members

मणिपुर सरकार अरामबाई तेंगोल के सदस्यों के प्रति नरम रुख अपना सकती है

- The **Manipur government** may be lenient towards members of **Arambai Tenggol**, a radical group, while going hard at those who looted arms from police facilities soon after the ethnic conflict erupted in **May 2023**, State's Home Minister **Govindas Konthoujam** indicated on Tuesday.

मणिपुर सरकार उग्रवादी संगठन अरम्बाई तेंगोल के सदस्यों के प्रति कुछ नरम रुख अपना सकती है, जबकि मई 2023 में जातीय संघर्ष शुरू होने के तुरंत बाद पुलिस प्रतिष्ठानों से हथियार लूटने वालों के विरुद्ध कड़ी कार्रवाई जारी रख सकती है। यह संकेत राज्य के गृह मंत्री गोविंददास कोंथौजाम ने मंगलवार को दिया।

- State, before the imposition of **President's Rule in February 2025**.

इम्फाल में एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार फरवरी 2025 में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू होने से पहले राज्य के जातीय संघर्ष में अग्रणी भूमिका निभाने वाले संगठन अरम्बाई तेंगोल के सदस्यों की गिरफ्तारी से बचने का प्रयास कर रही है।

- More than **5,600 firearms**, including **INSAS** and **AK-series rifles**, and **500,000 rounds of ammunition** were looted from State armouries and police stations in the State in 2023.

2023 में राज्य के शस्त्रागारों और पुलिस थानों से 5,600 से अधिक आग्नेयास्त्र, जिनमें इंसास तथा एके-श्रेणी की राइफलें शामिल थीं, और लगभग पाँच लाख कारतूस लूट लिए गए थे।

- Three major communities — **Meitei, Naga, and Kuki-Zo** — inhabit Manipur.

मणिपुर में तीन प्रमुख समुदाय — मैतेई, नागा और कुकी-ज़ो — निवास करते हैं।

- The State has virtually been partitioned among these communities since the ethnic strife began in 2023.

2023 में जातीय संघर्ष शुरू होने के बाद से राज्य व्यवहारिक रूप से इन

समुदायों के बीच विभाजित हो गया है।

- Members of **Meira Paibi**, an all-women civil society organisation, claimed that members of **Arambai Tenggol** undertook self-defence measures during a critical period when the government was unable to provide security to civilians.

मेइरा पैबी, जो महिलाओं का एक नागरिक संगठन है, के सदस्यों ने दावा किया कि अरम्बाई तेंगोल के सदस्यों ने उस कठिन अवधि में आत्मरक्षा के उपाय किए थे जब सरकार नागरिकों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने में असमर्थ थी।

Ban on Telegram stretched meaning of 'information' under the IT Act

GS III: Internal Security

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government temporarily blocked Telegram to protect the sanctity of the NEET (UG) re-test by a single interpretative sleight of hand which compressed an entire intermediary platform into an expression: "information".

The ban won the endorsement of the Delhi High Court by stretching the meaning of "information" under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

Section 2(1)(v) of the Act had traditionally defined "information" in diminutive units, including data, messages, text, image, sound, voice, codes, computer programme, software, and databases. The Telegram ban changed that legal interpretation.

The government argued

that an online platform like Telegram was an "aggregation" or "compilation" of these units. By reading entire platforms run by companies, which were legal entities by their own nature, within the ambit of 'information' under the Act, the government has effectively weaponised the content-blocking provision of Section 69A.

Section 69A of the IT Act gives the government power to issue directions to block public access to any 'information' through a computer resource. Here, the interpretation of the Centre has led to the successful replacement of the word 'information' with an 'entire intermediary platform'.

The High Court, in its June 19 order, endorsed the Centre's view that the "blocking power under Section 69A of the IT Act extends beyond individual pieces of content and, hav-



The ban won the endorsement of the Delhi High Court.

ing regard to its wide legislative scope, encompasses the software architecture, codebase, databases, and programmatic ecosystem constituting an application".

Telegram had not accepted the "expansive" interpretation of the term "information" while noting that the government, acting through Section 69A, could only block access to "specific information".

Such a sweeping ban had disproportionately affected the very section it

Access to app restored

Access to Telegram resumed on Tuesday after a week-long blocking order expired. The platform had approached the Delhi High Court seeking a stay on the order, but the court held that the blocking direction was proportionate.

deemed to protect. Many of the 150 million Telegram users were students and educators who used the platform to share study material and educational resources for NEET preparation.

The platform's arguments are backed by the Supreme Court's judgment in the *Anuradha Bhasin* case on digital freedoms, holding that restrictions on fundamental rights must be proportionate and only the least restrictive measure must be employed.

24J6. Ban on Telegram stretched meaning of 'information' under the IT Act टेलीग्राम पर प्रतिबंध ने आईटी अधिनियम के तहत 'सूचना' के अर्थ का विस्तार कर दिया

- The Union government temporarily blocked Telegram to protect the sanctity of the NEET (UG) re-test by a single interpretative sleight of hand which compressed an entire intermediary platform into an expression: "information".

केंद्र सरकार ने नीट (स्नातक) पुनर्परीक्षा की निष्पक्षता बनाए रखने के उद्देश्य से टेलीग्राम को अस्थायी रूप से अवरुद्ध कर दिया। इसके लिए एक ऐसी व्याख्या अपनाई गई जिसमें पूरे मध्यस्थ मंच को "सूचना" की संज्ञा दे दी गई।

- The ban won the endorsement of the Delhi High Court by stretching the meaning of "information" under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

इस प्रतिबंध को दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय का समर्थन प्राप्त हुआ, क्योंकि सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 के अंतर्गत "सूचना" शब्द की व्याख्या का विस्तार किया गया।



- Section 2(1)(v) of the Act had traditionally defined “**information**” in diminutive units, including **data, messages, text, image, sound, voice, codes, computer programme, software, and databases**.
अधिनियम की धारा 2(1)(v) में परंपरागत रूप से “**सूचना**” को छोटे-छोटे घटकों के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया था, जिनमें **आँकड़े, संदेश, पाठ, चित्र, ध्वनि, आवाज़, कूट संकेत, संगणक कार्यक्रम, सॉफ्टवेयर तथा आँकड़ा-संग्रह** शामिल हैं।
- The Telegram ban changed that legal interpretation.
टेलीग्राम पर प्रतिबंध ने इस कानूनी व्याख्या को बदल दिया।
- The government argued that an online platform like **Telegram** was an “**aggregation**” or “**compilation**” of these units.
सरकार का तर्क था कि **टेलीग्राम** जैसे ऑनलाइन मंच इन सभी घटकों का एक “**संकलन**” अथवा “**समूह**” है।
- By reading entire platforms run by companies, which were legal entities by their own nature, within the ambit of ‘**information**’ under the Act, the government has effectively weaponised the content-blocking provision of **Section 69A**.
कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित संपूर्ण मंचों, जो स्वयं स्वतंत्र विधिक संस्थाएँ हैं, को ‘**सूचना**’ की परिधि में शामिल करके सरकार ने प्रभावी रूप से धारा 69ए के अंतर्गत सामग्री अवरोधन की शक्ति का व्यापक उपयोग किया है।
- Section 69A** of the **IT Act** gives the government power to issue directions to block public access to any ‘**information**’ through a computer resource.
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69ए सरकार को किसी भी ‘**सूचना**’ तक सार्वजनिक पहुँच को संगणक संसाधन के माध्यम से अवरुद्ध करने का अधिकार प्रदान करती है।
- Here, the interpretation of the Centre has led to the successful replacement of the word ‘**information**’ with an ‘**entire intermediary platform**’.
यहाँ केंद्र की व्याख्या ने ‘**सूचना**’ शब्द का स्थान प्रभावी रूप से ‘**संपूर्ण मध्यस्थ मंच**’ से प्रतिस्थापित कर दिया है।
- The **High Court**, in its **June 19 order**, endorsed the Centre’s view that the “**blocking power under Section 69A of the IT Act extends beyond individual pieces of content and, having regard to its wide legislative scope, encompasses the software architecture, codebase, databases, and programmatic ecosystem constituting an application**”.
उच्च न्यायालय ने अपने 19 जून के आदेश में केंद्र के इस दृष्टिकोण का समर्थन किया कि “**सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69ए के अंतर्गत अवरोधन की शक्ति केवल व्यक्तिगत सामग्री तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि इसके व्यापक विधायी दायरे को देखते हुए यह किसी अनुप्रयोग की सॉफ्टवेयर संरचना, कोड आधार, आँकड़ा-संग्रह तथा प्रोग्रामगत पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को भी समाहित करती है।**”
- Telegram** had not accepted the “**expansive**” interpretation of the term “**information**” while noting that the government, acting through **Section 69A**, could only block access to “**specific information**”.
टेलीग्राम ने “**सूचना**” शब्द की इस विस्तृत व्याख्या को स्वीकार नहीं किया और कहा कि सरकार धारा 69ए के अंतर्गत केवल “**विशिष्ट सूचना**” तक पहुँच को ही अवरुद्ध कर सकती है।
- Such a sweeping ban had disproportionately affected the very section it deemed to protect.
इस प्रकार के व्यापक प्रतिबंध का प्रतिकूल प्रभाव उन्हीं लोगों पर पड़ा, जिनकी सुरक्षा का दावा किया गया था।
- Many of the **150 million Telegram users** were students and educators who used the platform to share study material and educational resources for **NEET preparation**.
15 करोड़ टेलीग्राम उपयोगकर्ताओं में बड़ी संख्या विद्यार्थियों और शिक्षकों की थी, जो **नीट की तैयारी** के लिए अध्ययन सामग्री और शैक्षिक संसाधनों का आदान-प्रदान करते थे।
- The platform’s arguments are backed by the **Supreme Court’s judgment** in the **Anuradha Bhasin case** on digital freedoms, holding that restrictions on fundamental rights must be **proportionate** and only the **least restrictive measure** must be employed.
मंच के तर्कों को **अनुराधा भसीन मामले** में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय का समर्थन प्राप्त है, जिसमें कहा गया था कि मौलिक अधिकारों पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध **अनुपातिक** होने चाहिए तथा केवल **न्यूनतम आवश्यक प्रतिबंधात्मक उपाय** ही अपनाए जाने चाहिए।



GS Paper IV: Ethics	24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
24J6	The ultimate authority सर्वोच्च प्राधिकरण

FAITH

GS IV: Ethics

The ultimate authority

To attain moksha we must adhere to dharma, said Paravastu Varadarajan in a discourse. But what is dharma? What is adharma? Suppose two boys in a family are always quarrelling with each other. Their mother warns them that if they do not stop fighting, she will not give them a sweet she has made. If they still continue to fight, she will withhold the sweet. If she doesn't discipline them, there will be no peace in the family. A family has its rules, one of which is that everyone must be on friendly terms with each other. Likewise, a school has its rules. So everywhere there are rules, and not all of them are the same. A student has to wear a uniform when he goes to school, but he does not have to at other times. Two men fighting with each other in a family is wrong. But men fighting in an army against an enemy are respected. Dharma, or what is right keeps changing depending on the situation. So how do we know what dharma is?

Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that Sastras are the pramana. The rules laid down by them must be followed. "Tasmaat sastram pramaanam," says Krishna to Arjuna. The scriptures are the authority that help us know what we should do (kaarya) and what we should not do (akaarya). If the Sastras ask us to do something, that is dharma. If they forbid us from doing something, that which is forbidden is adharma. But what are Sastras? Although there is a lot of sacred literature, Vedas are the ultimate authority. It is said shaasanaath sastram. Shaasana means command. The Vedas command us to do certain things and to avoid certain things. The Vedas are the Sastra that we should follow.

depending on the situation.

धर्म, अर्थात् जो उचित है, परिस्थितियों के अनुसार बदलता रहता है।

- So how do we know what **dharma** is?
तो फिर हम कैसे जानें कि धर्म क्या है?
- **Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that Sastras are the pramana.**
भगवान् कृष्ण भगवद्गीता में कहते हैं कि शास्त्र ही प्रमाण हैं।
- The rules laid down by them must be followed.
उनके द्वारा निर्धारित नियमों का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।
- "Tasmaat sastram pramaanam," says Krishna to Arjuna.
कृष्ण अर्जुन से कहते हैं, "तस्मात् शास्त्रं प्रमाणम्।"

24J6. The ultimate authority

सर्वोच्च प्राधिकरण

- A family has its rules, one of which is that everyone must be on friendly terms with each other.

एक परिवार के अपने नियम होते हैं, जिनमें से एक यह है कि सभी सदस्य आपस में सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंध बनाए रखें।

- Likewise, a school has its rules.

इसी प्रकार, एक विद्यालय के भी अपने नियम होते हैं।

- So everywhere there are rules, and not all of them are the same.

अतः हर स्थान पर नियम होते हैं, और वे सभी समान नहीं होते।

- A student has to wear a uniform when he goes to school, but he does not have to at other times.

एक विद्यार्थी को विद्यालय जाते समय वर्दी पहननी होती है, परंतु अन्य समय ऐसा करना आवश्यक नहीं होता।

- Two men fighting with each other in a family is wrong.

एक परिवार में दो व्यक्तियों का आपस में लड़ना अनुचित है।

- But men fighting in an army against an enemy are respected.

किन्तु सेना में शत्रु के विरुद्ध युद्ध करने वाले सैनिक सम्मानित होते हैं।

- **Dharma, or what is right, keeps changing**