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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

25 JUNE 2026

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PCS Special:		25 June 2026
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25J6	DR Congo's living statue fan makes his World Cup debut डीआर कांगो के लिविंग स्टैच्यू प्रशंसक ने विश्व कप में अपना पहला पदार्पण किया।	



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

1. Who holds the record of scoring the most goals in a single World Cup match? **Ans: Oleg Salenko, Russia**
2. Who holds the record of having played in most minutes in World Cup history? **Ans: Lionel Messi, Argentina – 2315 minutes till 2022 edition**
3. Who is the only player to have won the Golden Ball and Golden Glove awards in the same World Cup tournament? **Ans: Oliver Kahn, Germany**
4. Who won the Golden Boot and Golden Ball in the same World Cup and was part of the winning team? **Ans: Paolo Rossi of Italy**
5. Who has won the World Cup as a player, coach/manager and also won the Best Young Player award? **Ans: Franz Beckenbauer, Germany**
6. Which country withdrew from the 1950 World Cup because FIFA required players to wear boots, while they were accustomed to playing barefoot? **Ans: India**
7. Visual: Who holds the records for youngest goal, hat-trick, and final goal in World Cup history? **Ans: Pete**

25J6. QUIZ: FIFA World Cup

1. Who holds the record of scoring the most goals in a single World Cup match?

- **Oleg Salenko** created FIFA World Cup history during the 1994 tournament in the United States by scoring **five goals** in Russia's 6–1 victory over Cameroon.
- This remains the highest number of goals scored by a single player in one FIFA World Cup match.
- Interestingly, although Russia was eliminated in the group stage, Salenko finished as the tournament's joint top scorer with **six goals**, sharing the **Golden Boot** with Hristo Stoichkov of Bulgaria.
- His five-goal feat remains unmatched in World Cup history.

2. Who holds the record of having played the most minutes in FIFA World Cup history?

- **Lionel Messi** holds the record for the **most minutes played** in FIFA World Cup history. After leading Argentina to victory in the **2022 FIFA World Cup**, he surpassed Paolo Maldini's previous record and had accumulated **2,315 minutes by the end of the 2022 tournament**.

3. Who is the only player to have won the Golden Ball and Golden Glove awards in the same FIFA World Cup tournament?

Answer: Oliver Kahn (Germany)

- **German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn** achieved a unique milestone at the **2002 FIFA World Cup** by becoming the only goalkeeper to win the **Golden Ball**, awarded to the tournament's best player, while also receiving the **Golden Glove** as the best goalkeeper.
- His exceptional performances guided Germany to the final, where they finished runners-up to Brazil.

4. Who won the Golden Boot and Golden Ball in the same World Cup and was part of the winning team?

Answer: Paolo Rossi (Italy)

- **Paolo Rossi** delivered one of the greatest comeback stories in football at the **1982 FIFA World Cup** in Spain.
- After returning from suspension, he scored **six goals**, winning the **Golden Boot** as the tournament's top scorer and the **Golden Ball** as its best player.
- Rossi's memorable hat-trick against Brazil and decisive goals in the semi-final and final inspired Italy to lift their third FIFA World Cup title.

5. Who has won the FIFA World Cup as a player, coach/manager, and also won the Best Young Player award?

Answer: Franz Beckenbauer (Germany)

- **Franz Beckenbauer** is one of football's greatest legends. He won the FIFA World Cup as **captain of West Germany in 1974** and later guided the team to another World Cup title as **manager in 1990**.
- Earlier, during the **1966 FIFA World Cup**, he was recognised as the tournament's **outstanding young player**, an honour retrospectively acknowledged because the official Best Young Player award was introduced later.

6. Which country withdrew from the 1950 FIFA World Cup because FIFA required players to wear boots, while they were accustomed to playing barefoot?

Answer (Updated): India (However, the traditional explanation is incomplete.)

- India qualified for the **1950 FIFA World Cup** after several Asian teams withdrew, but the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** later decided not to participate.
- Although a popular belief claims that **FIFA's prohibition on playing barefoot** caused India's **withdrawal**, historical research shows this was **not the sole or official reason**.
- Major factors included **financial constraints, insufficient preparation time, administrative decisions, and the AIFF's greater focus on the 1952 Olympics**.

Kim unveils plans for 10,000-tonne warships, nuclear navy in N. Korea



North Korea will equip its navy with nuclear weapons and build larger warships, leader Kim Jong-un said, according to state media on Wednesday. Mr. Kim made his remarks at the commissioning of the **Choe Hyon** — one of two 5,000-tonne class warships launched last year — in the port city of Nampho on Tuesday. AFP

25J6. Kim unveils plans for 10,000-tonne warships, nuclear navy in N. Korea

किम ने उत्तर कोरिया में 10,000-टन के युद्धपोतों और परमाणु नौसेना की योजना का किया अनावरण।

- **North Korea** will equip its navy with **nuclear weapons** and build larger **warships**, leader **Kim Jong-un** said, according to **state media** on Wednesday. उत्तर कोरिया अपनी नौसेना को परमाणु हथियारों से लैस करेगा और बड़े युद्धपोतों का निर्माण करेगा, ऐसा राज्य मीडिया के अनुसार बुधवार को नेता किम जोंग-उन ने कहा।
- Mr. Kim made his remarks at the **commissioning of the Choe Hyon** — one of two **5,000-tonne class warships** launched last year — in the **port city of Nampho** on Tuesday. श्री किम ने मंगलवार को नम्फो के बंदरगाह शहर में **चोए ह्योन** के

कमीशनिंग समारोह के दौरान ये बातें कहीं, जो पिछले वर्ष लॉन्च किए गए दो 5,000-टन श्रेणी के युद्धपोतों में से एक है।

DR Congo's living statue fan makes his World Cup debut



DR Congo's famous living statue finally made his World Cup debut on Tuesday. **Michel Nkuka Mboladinga**, who gained fame during the **AFCON** for posing as a statue of Congo's assassinated independence leader **Patrice Lumumba** for the entirety of games, attended the match against Colombia after missing the opener against Portugal.

25J6. DR Congo's living statue fan makes his World Cup debut

डीआर कांगो के लिविंग स्टैच्यू प्रशंसक ने विश्व कप में अपना पहला पदार्पण किया।

- **DR Congo's famous living statue** finally made his **World Cup** debut on Tuesday. डीआर कांगो की प्रसिद्ध लिविंग स्टैच्यू ने आखिरकार मंगलवार को विश्व कप में अपना पदार्पण किया।
- **Michel Nkuka Mboladinga**, who gained fame during the **AFCON** (Africa Cup of Nations) for posing as a statue of **Congo's** assassinated independence leader **Patrice Lumumba** for the entirety of games, attended the match against **Colombia** after missing the opener against **Portugal**. मिशेल नकुका म्बोलाडिंगा, जिन्होंने AFCON के दौरान कांगो के

हत्या किए गए स्वतंत्रता नेता **पैट्रिस लुमुम्बा** की प्रतिमा बनकर पूरे मैचों में खड़े रहने के कारण प्रसिद्धि प्राप्त की, **पुर्तगाल** के खिलाफ उद्घाटन मुकाबला चूकने के बाद **कोलंबिया** के विरुद्ध मैच में उपस्थित रहे।

GS Paper 1: Geography		25 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
25J6	Rasimanal in T.N. a good alternative site to Mokedatu project तमिलनाडु का रासिमनाल, मेकेदातु परियोजना का एक अच्छा वैकल्पिक स्थल	
25J6	House panel seeks Ministry report on Great Nicobar Project संसदीय समिति ने ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना पर मंत्रालय से रिपोर्ट मांगी	
25J6	Razor's edge नाजूक मोड़	

'Rasimanal in T.N. a good alternative site to Mokedatu project'

GS I: Geography
T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

A former engineer from Tamil Nadu has mooted a proposal to build a dam in Rasimanal in Krishnagiri district as an alternative to the contentious Mokedatu drinking water-cum-balancing reservoir project.

Envisaged with a capacity of 66 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft), the proposed dam will be upstream of the Mettur dam in Salem district. It can generate 360 megawatt (MW) of electricity, and its operation can be handled by the Water Resources Department of Tamil Nadu. The total area of submergence will be around 106 sq. km, about a third of which will lie in Karnataka.

"Apart from being a perfect alternative to the Mokedatu project, the Rasimanal project will bring about a win-win situation for both States, as it will cater to the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru, while addressing our concerns about the availability of water for our farmers in the Cauvery delta," says A. Stephen, former Chief Engineer in the now-abolished Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

Giving one more reason why Rasimanal, and not Mokedatu, should be preferred, the former Chief Engineer explains that the submersible area for the Mokedatu project falls under the Cauvery wildlife sanctuary with numerous



The Rasimanal project will bring about a win-win situation for both the States.

elephant corridors. "It is extremely difficult to get environmental and forest clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change," he says, wondering why Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has been giving an impression that the Mokedatu project will take off swiftly.

P.R. Pandian, a farmer-leader of the Cauvery delta, has been a strong votary of the Rasimanal dam project.

As a senior government official, Mr. Stephen took part in several meetings convened by the Union Power Ministry during 2000-2010 to arrive at a consensus among the States of the Cauvery basin on hydropower projects. He recalls that the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), a Central agency, had even identified the site in Rasimanal.

The veteran engineer, who addressed a letter to Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay a few weeks ago, suggests that the proposed dam be built as a joint venture of the two basin States.

Shaking a leg: People from **Malawi**, a country in southeastern Africa, dance in front of **St. Peter's basilica** on Wednesday, the day Pope Leo holds the weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.



Shaking a leg: People from Malawi, a country in southeastern Africa, dance in front of St. Peter's basilica on Wednesday, the day Pope Leo holds the weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. REUTERS

25J6. Rasimanal in T.N. a good alternative site to Mokedatu project

तमिलनाडु का रासिमनाल, मेकेदातु परियोजना का एक अच्छा वैकल्पिक स्थल

- A former engineer from Tamil Nadu has mooted a proposal to build a dam in Rasimanal in Krishnagiri district as an alternative to the contentious Mokedatu drinking water-cum-balancing reservoir project.

तमिलनाडु के एक पूर्व अभियंता ने कृष्णगिरि जिले के रासिमनाल में एक बाँध बनाने का प्रस्ताव रखा है, जिसे विवादास्पद मेकेदातु पेयजल-सह-संतुलन जलाशय परियोजना के विकल्प के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

- Envisaged with a capacity of 66 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft), the proposed dam will be upstream of the Mettur dam in Salem district.

66 हजार मिलियन घन फुट (टीएमसी फुट) क्षमता वाले प्रस्तावित बाँध का निर्माण सेलम जिले स्थित मेट्टूर बाँध के ऊपरी भाग में किया जाएगा।

- It can generate 360 megawatt (MW) of electricity, and its operation can be handled by the Water Resources Department of Tamil Nadu.



यह 360 मेगावाट (मेगावाट) विद्युत का उत्पादन कर सकता है और इसका संचालन तमिलनाडु जल संसाधन विभाग द्वारा किया जा सकता है।

- The total area of **submergence** will be around **106 sq. km**, about a third of which will lie in **Karnataka**.
इस परियोजना के कारण जलमग्न क्षेत्र लगभग 106 वर्ग किलोमीटर होगा, जिसका लगभग एक-तिहाई भाग कर्नाटक में स्थित होगा।
- Giving one more reason why **Rasimanal**, and not **Mekedatu**, should be preferred, the former **Chief Engineer** explains that the **submersible area** for the **Mekedatu project** falls under the **Cauvery wildlife sanctuary** with numerous **elephant corridors**.
पूर्व मुख्य अभियंता ने रासिमनाल को मेकेदातु पर प्राथमिकता देने का एक और कारण बताते हुए कहा कि मेकेदातु परियोजना का जलमग्न क्षेत्र अनेक हाथी गलियारों वाले कावेरी वन्यजीव अभयारण्य के अंतर्गत आता है।

House panel seeks Ministry report on Great Nicobar Project

GS I: Geography
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, K.C. Venugopal, has sought a report from the Union Home Ministry on the Great Nicobar Project.

The Congress has accused the government of imperilling the fragile Nicobar islands ecosystem for commercial purposes.

The PAC was meeting to deliberate the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the "establishment and functioning of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences".

During his concluding remarks, Mr. Venugopal flagged the Great Nicobar Project, pointing to the rising panic among the residents there as 1.5 crore trees are slated to be felled to make way for the project. He further pointed out, sources said, that the **naval base INS Baaz** was not given additional land for its expansion; and the government was exploiting this fragile ecology for commercial activities. Congress MP Amar Singh also backed Mr. Venugopal, detailing the implications of the project, which the go-



K. C. Venugopal

vernment, he said, was not accounting for. Sources said BJP MP Anurag Singh Thakur interceded to point out that this issue was beyond the agenda of the meeting.

Mr. Venugopal agreed, though he directed Home Secretary Govind Mohan to submit a comprehensive report detailing all aspects of the project.

On the listed subject of the day, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences, the panel pointed out there was a massive funding deficit and indefinite delay in completing the civil construction. The CAG report has also flagged deficiencies in equipment and patient care. The Home Ministry shifted the blame for these deficiencies to the Union Health Ministry.

25J6. House panel seeks Ministry report on Great Nicobar Project

संसदीय समिति ने ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना पर मंत्रालय से रिपोर्ट मांगी

• He further pointed out, sources said, that the **naval base INS Baaz** was not given additional land for its expansion; and the government was exploiting this fragile ecology for commercial activities.

सूत्रों के अनुसार उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **नौसैनिक अड्डे INS Baaz** के विस्तार के लिए अतिरिक्त भूमि नहीं दी गई, जबकि सरकार इस नाजुक पारिस्थितिकी का व्यावसायिक गतिविधियों के लिए उपयोग कर रही है।



GS I: Geography

Razor's edge

High heat and low rainfall is threatening agricultural produce

The southwest monsoon deficit nationwide has increased from 35% to 43%; the winds' northward advance was stalled near Mumbai; and both the U.S. NOAA and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) expect a moderate-to-strong El Niño this year. The El Niño suppresses the vertical air movement needed for rainclouds to form while a warming Pacific is weakening the trade winds that bring moisture to the subcontinent. The Madden-Julian Oscillation is also in an unfavourable phase and the Indian Ocean Dipole currently cannot offer a buffer. Further, while northwest India has received 5% more rain than normal, central India and the northeast face deficits of 63% and 43%, respectively. But with two-thirds of the seasonal rainfall historically arriving in July and August, the monsoon may still recover and salvage the season. Together with reservoir storage at 30.4% of capacity, compared with 25.1% during previous El Niño years, there is no reason for alarm yet. However, the effects for agriculture are more concerning. The Agriculture Ministry has already prioritised 111 districts out of 315 vulnerable ones based on their irrigation coverage. Extreme heat has been reducing farm labour productivity. High heat and rain shortfall have sown anxiety over the cardamom harvest in Idukki, a fate that bodes ill for other plantation crops in the Western Ghats.

Both the *kharif* sowing window for rice, pulses, and oilseeds and the availability of fertilizers could come under pressure, the latter due to Chinese export curbs and tensions in West Asia, heightening the risks of lower soil moisture and higher input stress. Retail food inflation was 4.2% in April; further deficits will especially threaten vegetables and pulses, complicating the monetary policy. The fundamental problem is the way India has built its rural economy around the assumption of reliable rainfall delivery. No adaptation strategy can indefinitely outpace unchecked warming, so limiting future warming should amount to reducing the extent of exposure. The ideal sustainable strategies are to switch from rain-centric to water-centric organisation, reduce dependence on water-intensive crops, and improve resilience. Pathways for the first two have already been outlined. On the last, while the Agriculture Ministry's extant contingency plans reflect the need for adjustable sowing windows and alternative seed varieties, the principal variable remains implementation at scale. Second, the government should consider a new authority to coordinate inter-State water use and cropping changes based on extended El Niño forecasts, eliminating the cropping governance currently fragmented between the Agriculture and Jal Shakti Ministries, and the IMD.

25J6. Razor's edge

नाज़ुक मोड़

- The **El Niño** suppresses the **vertical air movement** needed for **rainclouds** to form while a warming **Pacific** is weakening the **trade winds** that bring **moisture** to the **subcontinent**.

एल नीन्यो वर्षा वाले बादलों के निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक वायु की ऊर्ध्वाधर गति को कम कर देता है, जबकि गर्म होता हुआ प्रशांत महासागर उपमहाद्वीप तक आर्द्रता पहुँचाने वाली व्यापारिक पवनों को कमजोर कर रहा है।

- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation** is also in an unfavourable phase and the **Indian Ocean Dipole** currently cannot offer a buffer.

मैडन-जूलियन दोलन भी वर्तमान में प्रतिकूल अवस्था में है तथा हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव अभी संतुलनकारी प्रभाव प्रदान करने की स्थिति में नहीं है।

- Second, the **government** should consider a new **authority** to coordinate **inter-State water use** and **cropping changes** based on extended **El Niño forecasts**, eliminating the **cropping governance** currently fragmented between the **Agriculture Ministry**, the **Jal Shakti Ministry**, and the **India Meteorological Department**.

दूसरे, सरकार को विस्तारित एल नीन्यो पूर्वानुमानों के आधार पर अंतर्राज्यीय जल उपयोग तथा फसल परिवर्तन के समन्वय के लिए एक नए प्राधिकरण की स्थापना पर विचार करना चाहिए, जिससे वर्तमान में कृषि मंत्रालय, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय तथा भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग के बीच विभाजित फसल प्रबंधन व्यवस्था को एकीकृत किया जा सके।

GS Paper II: Polity		25 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
25J6	BJP councillors retake oath after court order न्यायालय के आदेश के बाद भाजपा पार्षदों ने पुनः शपथ ली	
25J6	Passport is a travel document, not proof of citizenship पासपोर्ट एक यात्रा दस्तावेज़ है, नागरिकता का प्रमाण नहीं	



BJP councillors retake oath after court order

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday directed 20 BJP councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation to retake their oaths in the name of God or by making a solemn affirmation. They had taken oath in the name of local deities, Bharath Matha, and "Balidaan" (martyrs in RSS parlance).

The order came on a petition filed by Left Demo-

cratic Front Council Party leader in the corporation, S.P. Deepak.

Justice P.V. Kunhikrishnan held that the council-
lors' original oaths were in-
valid as per the Kerala
Municipality Act, 1994.

After the order, an oath-
taking ceremony was held
and 19 councillors took
oath. One councillor is in
jail. A Congress ward mem-
ber of the Vadakkanchery
grama panchayat in Palak-
kad was also directed to re-
take oath.

25J6. BJP councillors retake oath after court order न्यायालय के आदेश के बाद भाजपा पार्षदों ने पुनः शपथ ली

- They had taken oath in the name of local deities, Bharath Matha, and "Balidaan" (martyrs in RSS parlance). उन्होंने स्थानीय देवताओं, भारत माता तथा "बलिदानियों" (आरएसएस की शब्दावली में शहीद) के नाम पर शपथ ली थी।

- The order came on a petition filed by Left Democratic Front Council Party leader in the corporation, S.P. Deepak. यह आदेश निगम में वाम लोकतांत्रिक मोर्चा परिषद दल के नेता एस.पी. दीपक द्वारा दायर याचिका पर आया।

- Justice P.V. Kunhikrishnan held that the councillors' original oaths were invalid as per the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994. न्यायमूर्ति पी.वी. कुन्हीकृष्णन ने कहा कि केरल नगरपालिका अधिनियम, 1994 के अनुसार पार्षदों द्वारा ली गई मूल शपथें वैध नहीं थीं।

'Passport is a travel document, not proof of citizenship'

GS II: Polity
Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The Indian passport is a "travel document" and not a "citizenship document", a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday. The purpose of the Indian passport is to help Indians transit and travel through foreign ports and territories and it should not be compared with other documents that are used to establish citizenship rights, the official said.

Highlighting the importance of passports in connecting the Indian workforce with the global economy, MEA officials said the government will intensify mobility engagements with western na-

tions and Japan in coming months to help citizens get secure employment opportunities in these industrialised economies.

Voter list exclusion

"Passport is a travel document, not a document of citizenship and theoretically speaking that distinguishes passport from other documents. Even though while travelling abroad, passport attests to your nationality, yet it is not a document of your citizenship," a senior official said, in response to a question from *The Hindu* on whether the Indian passport could be used to challenge an exclusion from the voter list through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that



Passport is to facilitate foreign travel. It must not be compared with documents establishing citizenship, says MEA official.

is currently under way in 16 States.

Another MEA official said that the Indian passport is issued "after a lot of due diligence and we make sure that the person who gets it is actually entitled, and we also base ourselves on documents from several government agencies like the Aadhaar, PAN

card." The second official said that the MEA will host a major event on international mobility – the Human Resource Mobility Forum to be held in New Delhi from June 30 to July 1 – that will focus on countries like Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia, and Denmark.

Ethical migration

A large number of recruitment agencies from across the country are expected to participate in the event that will highlight ethical migration and create awareness about how to avoid unscrupulous agents that use illegal means to send Indians to conflict zones and high risk areas.

"We have to demolish the myths that one can go to Italy or Greece using un-

fair means and then send home lots of money," the official said.

Speaking on the occasion of the 14th Passport Seva Divas, marked on June 24, the official said that 27 countries have given visa-free entry status to Indian passport holders, while 47 countries offer visas on arrival and 66 countries provide electronic visas (e-visas) to Indian passport holders. The MEA official said that around 10% of Indian passport-holders possess an e-passport, a chip-based document.

There are 545 passport seva kendras across the country catering to the needs of the growing number of passport applicants, and this passport network now covers almost every

Lok Sabha constituency.

In addition, one-stop centres for distressed women in the Indian diaspora have been opened in the Gulf countries and Singapore, supported by the Indian community. More such centres are expected to be established in other countries.

"Team MEA reaffirms its commitment to keep making passport services delivery faster, more transparent and accessible..." External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas, noting that chip-enabled e-passports and the opening of new passport seva kendras (PSKs) have contributed to ease of travel, helping Indians get global job opportunities.

25J6. Passport is a travel document, not proof of citizenship पासपोर्ट एक यात्रा दस्तावेज़ है, नागरिकता का प्रमाण नहीं

- The Indian passport is a "travel document" and not a "citizenship document", a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday.

भारतीय पासपोर्ट एक "यात्रा दस्तावेज़" है, "नागरिकता दस्तावेज़" नहीं, यह बात विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बुधवार को कही।

- The purpose of the Indian passport is to help Indians transit and travel through foreign ports and territories and it should not be compared with other documents that are used to establish citizenship rights, the official said.

अधिकारी ने कहा कि भारतीय पासपोर्ट का उद्देश्य भारतीयों को विदेशी बंदरगाहों और क्षेत्रों से होकर यात्रा एवं पारगमन में सहायता प्रदान करना है और इसकी तुलना उन दस्तावेजों से नहीं की जानी चाहिए जिनका उपयोग नागरिकता अधिकार स्थापित करने के लिए किया जाता है।

- Even though while travelling abroad, passport attests to your nationality, yet it is not a document of your citizenship," a senior official said, in response to a question from *The*



Hindu on whether the **Indian passport** could be used to challenge an exclusion from the **voter list** through the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of **electoral rolls** that is currently under way in **16 States**.

वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने **The Hindu** के उस प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा कि विदेश यात्रा के दौरान पासपोर्ट आपकी **राष्ट्रीयता** का प्रमाण देता है, फिर भी यह आपकी **नागरिकता** का दस्तावेज़ नहीं है। यह उत्तर इस प्रश्न पर दिया गया कि क्या **भारतीय पासपोर्ट** का उपयोग वर्तमान में **16 राज्यों** में चल रहे **निर्वाचक नामावलियों के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)** के दौरान **मतदाता सूची** से नाम हटाए जाने को चुनौती देने के लिए किया जा सकता है।

- Another **MEA official** said that **the Indian passport** is issued “after a lot of **due diligence** and we make sure that the person who gets it is actually entitled, and we also base ourselves on documents from several government agencies like the **Aadhaar, PAN card**.”

एक अन्य **विदेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारी** ने कहा कि **भारतीय पासपोर्ट** “व्यापक सत्यापन प्रक्रिया के बाद जारी किया जाता है और यह सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि पासपोर्ट प्राप्त करने वाला व्यक्ति वास्तव में इसका अधिकारी हो। इसके लिए **आधार और पैन कार्ड** जैसे विभिन्न सरकारी दस्तावेज़ों का भी आधार लिया जाता है।”

- In addition, **one-stop centres for distressed women in the Indian diaspora** have been opened in the **Gulf countries** and **Singapore**, supported by the **Indian community**. इसके अतिरिक्त, **भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय की संकटग्रस्त महिलाओं के लिए वन-स्टॉप केंद्र** खाड़ी देशों और **सिंगापुर में भारतीय समुदाय के सहयोग से** स्थापित किए गए हैं।

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TOPICS COVERED		
25J6	Symbolism over substance? Public health officials slam T.N. govt.'s gold ring scheme प्रतीकवाद बनाम वास्तविक आवश्यकता? सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों ने तमिलनाडु सरकार की स्वर्ण अंगूठी योजना की आलोचना की	
25J6	SC had agreed that right to associate is no carte blanche for foreign funds उच्चतम न्यायालय ने माना था कि संगठन बनाने का अधिकार विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने की असीमित अनुमति नहीं है	

Symbolism over substance? Public health officials slam T.N. govt.'s gold ring scheme

Under the new scheme, the govt. will spend ₹755.83 cr. annually to gift gold rings to newborns; however, several health professionals opine that while the gold may be intended as a celebration of birth, the more pressing need is investment in workforce and infrastructure that enable safe deliveries

GS II: Governance
Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Every year, the Tamil Nadu government will spend ₹755.83 crore on gifting one-gram gold rings to roughly 4.42 lakh babies born in government hospitals under its new scheme, **Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam**. The gold ring may be intended as a celebration of birth, but for many within the public health sector, the more pressing need is investment in the workforce and infrastructure that makes safe deliveries possible.

Already, the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme provides maternal assistance of ₹4,000 in cash support and two nutritional kits valued at ₹4,000. With this in place, the questions raised are plenty – Can the State government sustain a recurring cost of ₹755.83 crore a year, or ₹17,000 per ring (today's gold rate), for 4,41,667 deliveries along with administration cost? Whether symbolic incentives such as gold rings are the best use of public resources when basic gaps in the health system remain unresolved? Does this self-defeat the State's family welfare measures by incen-

Nurturing newborns

A look at the salient features of the Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Elevate the public healthcare setting from a baseline necessity to a preferred destination of pride and celebration, with dignity at birth
- Reclaim the status of government institutional deliveries by offering a high-value, permanent, tangible benefit that complements the existing maternity cash benefits and maternal kits
- Erase the socio-economic bias surrounding public health facility deliveries, recognising that every mother's journey is noble and every child is a treasure



TARGET BENEFICIARIES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Resident of Tamil Nadu
- All pregnant women giving birth at government institutions
- Mother should be registered on Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation portal with RCH ID
- Beneficiaries must submit residential proof through any one of the enlisted documents such as ration card, voter identity card or Aadhaar card
- The scheme extends coverage to all newborns, regardless of birth order. Mothers with higher-order births are eligible for benefits without restriction
- Gold rings to be distributed without any gender-based discrimination

KEY SPECIFICATIONS

- One-gram gold rings will be procured through the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC). The TNMSC-empowered vendor will supply the rings directly to 94 hospitals
- A State project/programme management unit will be set up to implement, monitor, and manage the scheme
- Each gold ring will have a fixed weight of one gram, with an official Bureau of Indian Standards hallmark. The Government of Tamil Nadu logo will be embossed on it
- Each unit will be uniquely serialised and protected by a tamper-proof seal with branding

Source: Government Order issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department

tivising higher order births?

'Bizarre move'

A head of a government institution found it bizarre that the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation

(TNMSC) is tasked with procuring and supplying the rings, based on the yearly indent given by the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. “TNMSC was set up in the 1990s with the objec-

tive of procuring quality medicines for government hospitals. But now, it is tasked with purchasing the yellow metal. How far this is ethical is a question to be asked,” he said. A health officer said that

from a policy perspective, the scheme had no connection with the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (reducing global Maternal Mortality Ratio to less than 70 deaths per 1,00,000 live births and to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age by 2030). Another public health officer said Tamil Nadu had already achieved near-universal institutional delivery coverage, with institutional deliveries exceeding 99%, leaving limited scope for further improvement on this indicator.

“A government's legitimacy comes from good governance, not symbolic kinship. Public resources should be directed towards strengthening systems and services that create lasting benefits,” he said. While more incentives are being introduced, many frontline healthcare personnel continue to face inadequate remuneration, he said, adding that Reproductive and Child Health contract staff receive approximately ₹4,500 per month.

'Self-defeating'

“There is an acute shortage of obstetricians and gynaecologists. The government should announce funds to

hire more OB-GYNs as and when they announce such schemes,” a doctor said.

“This scheme covers all newborns, irrespective of the third or fourth child. Isn't this defeating the government's own family welfare programme? On the one hand, we are motivating mothers to undergo sterilisation after having two babies, and on the other, the government is giving incentives to have any number of babies,” she said.

The doctor further added that certain conditions could be brought in for the scheme, including two mandatory post-natal visits for mothers at the end of the first week and the sixth week of delivery, and complete immunisation till 1.5 years of age for the child.

Former Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine K. Kolandasamy said it was a good scheme as it would improve institutional deliveries. The scheme could act as an incentive for families belonging to the lower-middle income group to opt for government hospitals for childbirth, thereby reducing their maternal and childbirth-related health expenditure in private hospitals, Mr. Kolandasamy added.



25J6. Symbolism over substance? Public health officials slam T.N. govt.'s gold ring scheme

प्रतीकवाद बनाम वास्तविक आवश्यकता? सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों ने तमिलनाडु सरकार की स्वर्ण अंगूठी योजना की आलोचना की

- Every year, the **Tamil Nadu government** will spend **₹755.83 crore** on gifting **one-gram gold rings** to roughly **4.42 lakh babies** born in **government hospitals** under its new scheme, **Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam**.

प्रत्येक वर्ष तमिलनाडु सरकार अपनी नई योजना थाइमामान थंगा मोथिरम थिट्टम के तहत सरकारी अस्पतालों में जन्म लेने वाले लगभग 4.42 लाख शिशुओं को एक ग्राम के स्वर्ण छल्ले उपहार में देने पर ₹755.83 करोड़ खर्च करेगी।

- The **gold ring** may be intended as a celebration of birth, but for many within the **public health sector**, the more pressing need is investment in the **workforce** and **infrastructure** that makes safe deliveries possible.

स्वर्ण छल्ला जन्मोत्सव का प्रतीक हो सकता है, लेकिन सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र से जुड़े अनेक लोगों के अनुसार अधिक आवश्यक आवश्यकता सुरक्षित प्रसव सुनिश्चित करने वाले मानव संसाधन और आधारभूत संरचना में निवेश की है।

- Already, the **Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme** provides maternal assistance of **₹14,000** in cash support and **two nutritional kits** valued at **₹4,000**.

पहले से ही डॉ. मुथुलक्ष्मी रेड्डी मातृत्व लाभ योजना के अंतर्गत ₹14,000 की नकद सहायता तथा ₹4,000 मूल्य की दो पोषण किटें प्रदान की जाती हैं।



SC had agreed that right to associate is no *carte blanche* for foreign funds

GS II: Governance

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, notified by the Union Home Ministry on June 22, has introduced tougher limits on NGOs to receive foreign donations.

These amendments, and the ones before them, source their legality from the Centre's argument in the Supreme Court that the freedom to form associations or engage in the "business" of charity does not include a right to receive unbridled foreign funds or to use the money outside "permissible activities".

Among other changes, Rule 9(1B) mandates that certificates of registration of NGOs must specify the "purpose or purposes and the States or Union Territories".

The Rules have introduced tougher limits on NGOs to receive foreign donations

The Rules limit NGOs to specific and stated spheres of activity, which exclude proselytisation, and geographical bounds.

SC judgments

The government's sweeping powers to regulate foreign donations have been blessed by the Supreme Court in multiple judgments. A three-judge Bench in *Noel Harper versus Union of India* in April 2022 declared that "no one can be heard to claim a vested right to accept foreign donation, much less an absolute right".

The court had disapproved of the tendency to seek funds abroad, saying it gave an impression that

the nation was incapable of looking after its own needs.

A March 2020 decision of the Supreme Court in *Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) versus Union of India* had agreed with the Centre that the "regulation of acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution is for the purpose of protecting national interest". The court had, however, in this case, called for a "balance" between the law's objective and the rights of the voluntary organisations to access foreign funds. The *INSAF* judgment declared that only associations which play a role in active or party politics were barred from accessing foreign funds.

The government has argued in court that the FCRA, its Rules, and amendments were meant to regulate the manner of doing business, more importantly, concerning fo-

reign contributions. The FCRA did not intend to stop charitable work. It has argued that the regulatory regime did not hurt the fundamental rights of individuals to form associations or practice a profession or carry on an occupation, trade or business under Article 19(1)(c) and Article 19(1)(g), respectively, of the Constitution.

The Centre has referred to Article 19(4) to demonstrate that it could frame laws to reasonably restrict the fundamental freedom to form associations under Article 19(1)(c) in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India or to protect public order or morality. Similarly, Article 19(6) allowed the government to impose reasonable fetters on the right to trade, business, occupation available under Article 19(1)(g) if the State could show these freedoms were against public interest.

25J6. SC had agreed that right to associate is no *carte blanche* for foreign funds

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने माना था कि संगठन बनाने का अधिकार विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने की असीमित अनुमति नहीं है

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, notified by the Union Home Ministry on June 22, has introduced tougher limits on NGOs to receive foreign donations.

22 जून को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा अधिसूचित विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन नियम, 2026 ने गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) के विदेशी चंदा प्राप्त करने पर अधिक कड़े प्रतिबंध लागू किए हैं।

- These amendments, and the ones before them, source their legality from the Centre's argument in the Supreme Court that the freedom to form associations or engage in the "business" of charity does not include a right to receive unbridled foreign funds or to use the money outside "permissible activities".
ये संशोधन तथा इनके पूर्व के संशोधन अपनी वैधता केंद्र सरकार के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में दिए गए उस तर्क से प्राप्त करते हैं कि संघ बनाने या परोपकार के "व्यवसाय" में संलग्न होने की स्वतंत्रता में असीमित विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने अथवा उसे "अनुमेय गतिविधियों" के बाहर उपयोग करने का अधिकार शामिल नहीं है।
- Among other changes, Rule 9(1B) mandates that certificates of registration of NGOs must specify the "purpose or purposes and the States or Union Territories".

अन्य परिवर्तनों के साथ नियम 9(1B) यह अनिवार्य करता है कि NGOs के पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्रों में उनके “उद्देश्य अथवा उद्देश्यों तथा संबंधित राज्यों या केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों” का उल्लेख होना चाहिए।

- The Rules limit NGOs to specific and stated spheres of activity, which exclude proselytisation, and geographical bounds.
ये नियम NGOs को केवल निर्दिष्ट और घोषित गतिविधियों तक सीमित करते हैं, जिनमें धर्मांतरण संबंधी प्रचार (Proselytisation) तथा निर्धारित भौगोलिक सीमाओं से बाहर की गतिविधियाँ शामिल नहीं हैं।

SC judgments

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय

- The government's sweeping powers to regulate foreign donations have been blessed by the Supreme Court in multiple judgments.
विदेशी चंदे को विनियमित करने संबंधी सरकार की व्यापक शक्तियों को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने अनेक निर्णयों में वैध ठहराया है।
- A three-judge Bench in Noel Harper versus Union of India in April 2022 declared that “no one can be heard to claim a vested right to accept foreign donation, much less an absolute right”.
अप्रैल 2022 में Noel Harper बनाम भारत संघ मामले में तीन-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने कहा कि “किसी भी व्यक्ति को विदेशी चंदा स्वीकार करने का निहित अधिकार, तो दूर, पूर्ण अधिकार होने का दावा नहीं किया जा सकता।”
- The court had disapproved of the tendency to seek funds abroad, saying it gave an impression that the nation was incapable of looking after its own needs.
न्यायालय ने विदेशों से धन प्राप्त करने की प्रवृत्ति पर असहमति व्यक्त करते हुए कहा था कि इससे यह संदेश जाता है कि देश अपनी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति स्वयं करने में सक्षम नहीं है।
- A March 2020 decision of the Supreme Court in Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) versus Union of India had agreed with the Centre that the “regulation of acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution is for the purpose of protecting national interest”.
मार्च 2020 में Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) बनाम भारत संघ मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने केंद्र सरकार के इस तर्क से सहमति व्यक्त की थी कि “विदेशी अंशदान की स्वीकृति और उपयोग का विनियमन राष्ट्रीय हित की रक्षा के उद्देश्य से किया जाता है।”
- The court had, however, in this case, called for a “balance” between the law's objective and the rights of the voluntary organisations to access foreign funds.
हालाँकि, न्यायालय ने इस मामले में कानून के उद्देश्य और स्वैच्छिक संगठनों के विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने के अधिकारों के बीच “संतुलन” बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया था।
- The INSAF judgment declared that only associations which play a role in active or party politics were barred from accessing foreign funds.
INSAF के निर्णय में कहा गया था कि केवल वे संघ, जो सक्रिय या दलगत राजनीति में भूमिका निभाते हैं, विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने से वंचित रहेंगे।
- It has argued that the regulatory regime did not hurt the fundamental rights of individuals to form associations or practice a profession or carry on an occupation, trade or business under Article 19(1)(c) and Article 19(1)(g), respectively, of the Constitution.
सरकार ने तर्क दिया है कि यह नियामक व्यवस्था संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19(1)(c) के तहत संघ बनाने के अधिकार तथा अनुच्छेद 19(1)(g) के तहत व्यवसाय, व्यापार, पेशा या रोजगार करने के मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन नहीं करती।
- The Centre has referred to Article 19(4) to demonstrate that it could frame laws to reasonably restrict the fundamental freedom to form associations under Article 19(1)(c) in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India or to protect public order or morality.
केंद्र सरकार ने अनुच्छेद 19(4) का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा है कि वह भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता, लोक

व्यवस्था अथवा नैतिकता के हित में अनुच्छेद 19(1)(c) के अंतर्गत संघ बनाने की स्वतंत्रता पर युक्तिसंगत प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए कानून बना सकती है।

- Similarly, **Article 19(6)** allowed the government to impose reasonable fetters on the right to trade, business, occupation available under **Article 19(1)(g)** if the State could show these freedoms were against **public interest**.

इसी प्रकार अनुच्छेद 19(6) सरकार को अनुच्छेद 19(1)(g) के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध व्यापार, व्यवसाय, पेशा या रोजगार करने के अधिकार पर युक्तिसंगत प्रतिबंध लगाने की अनुमति देता है, यदि राज्य यह प्रदर्शित कर सके कि ये स्वतंत्रताएँ लोकहित के विरुद्ध हैं।

GS Paper II: International Relations		25 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
25J6	Minister sees vast scope for BRICS nations in space sector मंत्री ने अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में ब्रिक्स देशों के लिए व्यापक संभावनाएँ देखीं	
25J6	PACOM, the deeper meaning behind a dropped prefix PACOM: हटाए गए उपसर्ग के पीछे का गहरा अर्थ	
25J6	Inspections in Iran will go ahead, working on modalities, says Grossi ग्रॉसी ने कहा, ईरान में निरीक्षण आगे बढ़ेंगे, प्रक्रियाओं पर काम जारी है।	

Minister sees vast scope for BRICS nations in space sector

GS II: IR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Wednesday pitched for a 'BRICS Space Economy'.

Participating in the valedictory session of the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) meeting in Bengaluru, he called for collective action among BRICS member-nations to unlock new opportunities in innovation, investment, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

"The future of the space economy will not be shaped by nations working in isolation. It will be shaped by partnerships, shared innovation and collective ambition. BRICS countries have the poten-



Union Minister Jitendra Singh with ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan (left) and IN-SPACe chief Pawan Goenka. K. MURALI KUMAR

tial to become one of the strongest pillars of this emerging global space ecosystem," Dr. Singh said.

Hosted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the two-day meeting was attended by heads of space agencies and senior officials from Brazil, China,

Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates. The meeting also reviewed the progress in BRICS space cooperation and deliberated on key issues including space sustainability, debris-free missions and strengthening the BRICS remote sensing satellite constellation.

25J6.
Minister sees vast scope for BRICS nations in space sector
मंत्री ने अंतरिक्ष



क्षेत्र में ब्रिक्स देशों के लिए व्यापक संभावनाएँ देखीं

- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Wednesday pitched for a '**BRICS Space Economy**'.
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी राज्य मंत्री जितेंद्र सिंह ने बुधवार को 'ब्रिक्स स्पेस इकोनॉमी' की वकालत की।
- Participating in the valedictory session of the **BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) meeting in Bengaluru**, he called for **collective action** among BRICS member-nations to unlock new opportunities in **innovation, investment, entrepreneurship** and **sustainable development**.
बेंगलुरु में आयोजित ब्रिक्स अंतरिक्ष एजेंसियों के प्रमुखों (HOSA) की बैठक के समापन सत्र में भाग लेते हुए उन्होंने ब्रिक्स सदस्य देशों से नवाचार, निवेश, उद्यमिता और सतत विकास में नए अवसरों को खोलने के लिए सामूहिक कार्रवाई का आह्वान किया।
- "The future of the **space economy** will not be shaped by nations working in isolation.
"अंतरिक्ष अर्थव्यवस्था का भविष्य अकेले कार्य करने वाले देशों द्वारा निर्धारित नहीं होगा।
- It will be **shaped by partnerships, shared innovation and collective ambition**.
यह साझेदारियों, साझा नवाचार और सामूहिक महत्वाकांक्षा से आकार लेगा।
- **BRICS countries** have the potential to become one of the **strongest pillars** of this emerging **global space ecosystem**," Dr. Singh said.
डॉ. सिंह ने कहा कि ब्रिक्स देशों में उभरते हुए वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष पारितंत्र के सबसे मजबूत स्तंभों में से एक बनने की क्षमता है।
- **Hosted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under India's BRICS Chairship 2026**, the **two-day meeting** was attended by **heads of space agencies and senior officials** from **Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates**.
भारत की BRICS अध्यक्षता 2026 के तहत भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) द्वारा आयोजित इस दो दिवसीय बैठक में ब्राज़ील, चीन, मिस्र, इथियोपिया, इंडोनेशिया, ईरान, रूस, दक्षिण अफ्रीका तथा संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के अंतरिक्ष एजेंसियों के प्रमुखों और वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया।
- **The meeting also reviewed the progress in BRICS space cooperation and deliberated on key issues including space sustainability, debris-free missions and strengthening the BRICS remote sensing satellite constellation**.
बैठक में ब्रिक्स अंतरिक्ष सहयोग की प्रगति की भी समीक्षा की गई तथा अंतरिक्ष की सततता, मलबा-मुक्त मिशनों और ब्रिक्स रिमोट सेंसिंग उपग्रह समूह को सुदृढ़ करने सहित प्रमुख मुद्दों पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया।



PACOM, the deeper meaning behind a dropped prefix

GS II: IR

The decision by the United States military to change the name of its naval command in the region from "US INDOPACOM" to "US PACOM" – United States Indo-Pacific Command to United States Pacific Command – reverting to its original name that was changed in 2018 can be dismissed as superficial, even trivial. Many have already responded with the Shakespearean "What's in a name?", even as the U.S. Department of War pointed out that US PACOM's area of responsibility, from "the waters off the West Coast of the United States to the western border of India" or what had once been described as "Hollywood to Bollywood, from polar bears to penguins", has never changed. In 2018, U.S. Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said that the name INDOPACOM was a recognition of the "growing significance" of the Indian Ocean, the Indian subcontinent, and India itself, and the U.S. dropped the term "Asia-Pacific" to "Indo-Pacific".

Current U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth gave the signal, on May 30, that this understanding has now changed, at his speech at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore – compared to more than 30 references to the "Indo-Pacific" in his speech in 2025, his speech this year contained not a single reference to the Indo-Pacific region or strategy.

Given the centre stage that the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific policy has had in India's strategic calculus since 2018, it is necessary, therefore, to go beyond the superficial to the subterranean or submarine, in this case. New Delhi must study how broader trends in U.S. policy are attempting to recast both the region and India's position within it in terms of three broader geographies.

U.S.-China ties and the Quad

The first, is the U.S.'s outreach to China, and concurrently diminishing salience of the Quad (India, Japan Australia, the U.S.), which Beijing has always protested as an "exclusive clique" or derisively as "ocean foam". In the long term, the U.S. and China cannot shy away from the fierce rivalry between them, but it is clear that in the immediate term, Trump 2.0 has decided to play nice.

U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing in May 2026 and Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to the U.S. on September 24, indicate that the two sides do not want their differences to overcome the relationship, and the U.S. is tiptoeing around the Taiwan issue. Mr. Trump's references to a "G-2", including during a press availability with Mr. Modi on the sidelines of the 52nd G-7 summit in France (June 15 to 17), are an early warning of a plan to recast the world into "spheres of influence", where China would be the predominant power in the continent, not as one pole in a multipolar Asia, as India envisions.

As a result, the Quad, rebuilt in Trump 1.0 as a



Suhasini Haidar

counter to China in the region, appears to be floundering. The U.S.'s National Defense Strategy released in January 2026 does not mention the Quad even once. In terms of substance, the Quad's combined agenda has been pared down to four areas of cooperation – maritime security, economic prosperity, critical and emerging minerals technology and disaster responses. Even within these limited objectives, there have been setbacks, such as over Artificial Intelligence cooperation. Despite Quad countries signing on to Pax Silica, and Critical Minerals Initiative Framework with the U.S., the Trump administration ordered Anthropic to end access to its latest models for all non-Americans.

Another question concerns the Quad Summit, which India has unsuccessfully sought to host since January 2024. During U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Delhi in May 2026, he offered no firm commitment that Mr. Trump would visit Delhi this year, amid indications that the Quad may be relegated to a Foreign Ministers' level grouping. The U.S. Navy's reported actions involving Iranian ship *IRIS Dena* (March 2006) and recent attacks on three ships in which three Indians were killed underscore maritime security and domain awareness concerns within the Quad framework. In July, when he hosts Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and travels to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi must discuss alternative maritime coalitions and revive the Australia-India-Japan trilateral.

The U.S.-Iran MoU and West Asia

The second geography of concern is West Asia. The U.S. ceasefire with Iran, after just a few months of a surprisingly badly planned war, is indicative of a general fatigue in Trump 2.0 with U.S. friends and allies in the region. The situation is even more volatile today than it was prior to February 28, especially given the short shrift Israel has received in negotiations with Iran, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's defiance over the ceasefire for Lebanon.

A closer look at the 14-paragraph "Islamabad MoU" released by Iran reveals several signals for the region. Paragraph four states that the U.S. commits to "remove its forces from the proximity of the Islamic Republic of Iran" within 30 days after the final deal. Paragraph five says that, after the Hormuz Strait is demined, Iran and Oman will define the Strait's future administration in consultation with Persian Gulf littoral states.

Paragraph 6 stipulates that the U.S., along with regional allies, will provide at least \$300 billion for Iran's reconstruction. These provisions imply commitments on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) states while giving Iran leverage on key issues – military, connectivity, and economic security. Oman and Qatar are now closer to Iran than

before and have been part of the Pakistan-led mediation process, while countries such as Saudi Arabia are seeking new security arrangements with Türkiye, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

India's policy towards the region requires a rapid revision in light of the post-war, post-deal power structure. What was once a finely balanced approach now appears tilted towards Israel and the United Arab Emirates. New Delhi must also urgently reconsider its compliance with U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil and the Chabahar port, given Washington's shifting positions.

The U.S. and South Asia

Finally, India must study the implications of U.S. foreign policy decisions in its neighbourhood. The appointment of Sergio Gor as both U.S. Ambassador to India and Special Envoy for South and Central Asia signals Washington's growing regional ambitions. New Delhi has pushed back on attempts by the U.S. to become a supra entity in South Asia, as well as its efforts to resolve intra-regional conflicts between India and Pakistan. This ambition was hinted at during Operation Sindoor (May 2025), and repeated by Mr. Trump over the past year, especially as he met the Pakistani leadership many times in this period.

Mr. Gor's recent travels to Kathmandu, Thimphu, Dhaka and Colombo indicate that the U.S. is keen to broaden its efforts across the region. In the absence of effective pan-regional frameworks such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) – both are constrained by New Delhi's political tensions with Islamabad and Dhaka – it is clear that the U.S. is entering into competition with China for influence in South Asia.

Beijing has already built several mechanisms for cooperation with South Asia, and both powers side-stepping India. India, as chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, and with Mr. Modi due to attend the planned BIMSTEC summit in Bangladesh and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Pakistan next year, has an opportunity to reassert its regional leadership. Given the opportunities, a revival of the SAARC grouping and other pan-regional initiatives must be considered.

Concerns over the U.S.'s moves across India's geographies may seem contrary to the bonhomie at the Modi-Trump meeting at the G-7 meet in France, and the red carpet for Mr. Rubio's India visit. Shorn of the rhetoric, however, the trends in U.S. policy are clear, and New Delhi must plan accordingly, acknowledging that the shifts run far deeper than the ripples on the surface caused by a dropped prefix.

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25J6. PACOM, the deeper meaning behind a dropped prefix

PACOM: हटाए गए उपसर्ग के पीछे का गहरा अर्थ

- The decision by the **United States military** to change the name of its **naval command** in the region from **"US INDOPACOM"** to **"US PACOM"** — **United States Indo-Pacific Command to United States Pacific Command** — reverting to its original name that was changed in 2018 can be dismissed as **superficial**, even **trivial**.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की सेना द्वारा क्षेत्र में अपने नौसैनिक कमान का नाम "संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका हिंद-प्रशांत कमान" से बदलकर "संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका प्रशांत कमान" करना — अर्थात् संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका

हिंद-प्रशांत कमान से पुनः संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका प्रशांत कमान करना — तथा 2018 से पहले के मूल नाम पर

लौटना, सतही अथवा तुच्छ परिवर्तन माना जा सकता है।



- In 2018, U.S. Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said that the name **INDOPACOM** was a recognition of the “growing significance” of the Indian Ocean, the Indian subcontinent, and India itself, and the U.S. dropped the term “Asia-Pacific” to “Indo-Pacific”.

2018 में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के रक्षा सचिव जिम मैटिस ने कहा था कि हिंद-प्रशांत कमान नाम हिंद महासागर, भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप तथा स्वयं भारत के बढ़ते हुए महत्व की स्वीकृति का प्रतीक है, और इसी कारण संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने “एशिया-प्रशांत” के स्थान पर “हिंद-प्रशांत” शब्द का प्रयोग आरम्भ किया।

- Current U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth gave the signal, on May 30, that this understanding has now changed, at his speech at the annual **Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore** — compared to more than 30 references to the “Indo-Pacific” in his speech in 2025, his speech this year contained not a single reference to the **Indo-Pacific region or strategy**.

वर्तमान संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के युद्ध सचिव पीट हेगसेथ ने 30 मई को सिंगापुर में आयोजित वार्षिक शांग्री-ला संवाद में अपने भाषण के दौरान संकेत दिया कि अब यह दृष्टिकोण बदल चुका है। 2025 के उनके भाषण में “हिंद-प्रशांत” का 30 से अधिक बार उल्लेख था, जबकि इस वर्ष के भाषण में हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र अथवा उससे संबंधित किसी रणनीति का एक बार भी उल्लेख नहीं किया गया।

- Given the centre stage that the **U.S.’s Indo-Pacific policy** has had in **India’s strategic calculus** since 2018, it is necessary, therefore, to go beyond the superficial to the subterranean or submarine, in this case.

चूँकि 2018 से संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की हिंद-प्रशांत नीति भारत की सामरिक सोच के केंद्र में रही है, इसलिए केवल सतही परिवर्तनों पर ध्यान देने के स्थान पर गहरे निहितार्थों का अध्ययन करना आवश्यक है।

U.S.-China ties and the Quad

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका-चीन संबंध और क्वाड

- The first, is the **U.S.’s outreach to China**, and concurrently diminishing salience of the **Quad (India, Japan, Australia, the U.S.)**, which **Beijing** has always protested as an “exclusive clique” or derisively as “ocean foam”.

पहला पक्ष संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका द्वारा चीन के साथ बढ़ते संपर्क तथा साथ ही क्वाड (भारत, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका) के घटते महत्व से संबंधित है, जिसे बीजिंग सदैव “विशिष्ट समूह” अथवा उपहासपूर्वक “समुद्री झाग” कहता रहा है।

- In the long term, the **U.S. and China** cannot shy away from the fierce rivalry between them, but it is clear that in the immediate term, **Trump 2.0** has decided to play nice. दीर्घकाल में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन के बीच की तीव्र प्रतिस्पर्धा से बचा नहीं जा सकता, किन्तु निकट भविष्य में यह स्पष्ट है कि ट्रंप प्रशासन के वर्तमान कार्यकाल ने सौहार्दपूर्ण व्यवहार अपनाने का निर्णय लिया है।

- Mr. Trump’s** references to a “G-2”, including during a press availability with **Mr. Modi** on the sidelines of the **52nd G-7 summit in France (June 15 to 17)**, are an early warning of a plan to recast the world into “spheres of influence”, where **China** would be the predominant power in the continent, not as one pole in a **multipolar Asia**, as **India** envisions.

श्री ट्रंप द्वारा “जी-2” का उल्लेख, जिसमें फ्रांस में आयोजित बावनवें जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन (15 से 17 जून) के अवसर पर श्री मोदी के साथ संवाद भी शामिल है, इस बात का प्रारंभिक संकेत है कि विश्व को “प्रभाव क्षेत्रों” में पुनर्गठित करने की योजना बनाई जा रही है, जिसमें चीन महाद्वीप की प्रमुख शक्ति होगा, न कि भारत की परिकल्पना के अनुसार बहुध्रुवीय एशिया का एक ध्रुव।

- As a result, the **Quad**, rebuilt in **Trump 1.0** as a counter to **China** in the region, appears to be **floundering**.

परिणामस्वरूप, ट्रंप के प्रथम कार्यकाल में क्षेत्र में चीन के संतुलन हेतु पुनर्जीवित किया गया क्वाड अब कमजोर पड़ता हुआ दिखाई दे रहा है।

- The **U.S.’s National Defense Strategy** released in **January 2026** does not mention the **Quad** even once.



जनवरी 2026 में जारी संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की राष्ट्रीय रक्षा रणनीति में क्वाड का एक बार भी उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है।

- In terms of substance, the **Quad's** combined agenda has been pared down to four areas of cooperation — **maritime security, economic prosperity, critical and emerging minerals technology and disaster responses**.
वास्तविक दृष्टि से क्वाड का संयुक्त कार्यसूची अब केवल चार सहयोग क्षेत्रों तक सीमित रह गई है — समुद्री सुरक्षा, आर्थिक समृद्धि, महत्वपूर्ण एवं उभरती खनिज प्रौद्योगिकी तथा आपदा प्रतिक्रिया।
- Despite **Quad countries signing on to Pax Silica, and Critical Minerals Initiative Framework with the U.S.**, the **Trump administration** ordered **Anthropic** to end access to its latest models for all **non-Americans**.
यद्यपि क्वाड देशों ने संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के साथ पैक्स सिलिका तथा महत्वपूर्ण खनिज पहल रूपरेखा पर सहमति व्यक्त की है, फिर भी ट्रंप प्रशासन ने एंथ्रोपिक को अपने नवीनतम प्रतिरूपों की पहुँच सभी गैर-अमेरिकी नागरिकों के लिए समाप्त करने का निर्देश दिया।
- During **U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's** visit to **Delhi** in **May 2026**, he offered no firm commitment that **Mr. Trump** would visit **Delhi** this year, **amid indications that the Quad may be relegated to a Foreign Ministers' level grouping**.
मई 2026 में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो की दिल्ली यात्रा के दौरान उन्होंने इस वर्ष श्री ट्रंप की दिल्ली यात्रा को लेकर कोई ठोस आश्वासन नहीं दिया, जबकि ऐसे संकेत मिले कि क्वाड को केवल विदेश मंत्रियों के स्तर के समूह तक सीमित किया जा सकता है।
- In **July**, when he hosts **Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi** and travels to **Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** must discuss alternative **maritime coalitions** and revive the **Australia-India-Japan trilateral**.
जुलाई में जब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जापान की प्रधानमंत्री सानाए ताकाइची की मेज़बानी करेंगे तथा इंडोनेशिया, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और न्यूज़ीलैंड की यात्रा करेंगे, तब उन्हें वैकल्पिक समुद्री साझेदारियों पर चर्चा करनी चाहिए तथा ऑस्ट्रेलिया-भारत-जापान त्रिपक्षीय सहयोग को पुनर्जीवित करना चाहिए।

The U.S.-Iran MoU and West Asia

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका-ईरान समझौता जापान और पश्चिम एशिया

- Paragraph **four** states that the **U.S.** commits to "remove its forces from the proximity of the **Islamic Republic of Iran**" within **30 days** after the final deal.
चौथे अनुच्छेद में कहा गया है कि अंतिम समझौते के 30 दिनों के भीतर संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ईरान के इस्लामी गणराज्य की सीमा के निकट से अपनी सेनाएँ हटा लेगा।
- Paragraph **five** says that, after the **Hormuz Strait** is demined, **Iran and Oman** will define the Strait's future administration in consultation with **Persian Gulf littoral states**.
पाँचवें अनुच्छेद के अनुसार, हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य से बारूदी सुरंगें हटाए जाने के बाद ईरान और ओमान फ़ारस की खाड़ी के तटीय देशों के साथ परामर्श करके उसके भावी प्रशासन का निर्धारण करेंगे।
- Paragraph **6** stipulates that the **U.S.**, along with **regional allies**, will provide at least **300 billion dollars** for **Iran's reconstruction**.
छठे अनुच्छेद में यह प्रावधान किया गया है कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका अपने क्षेत्रीय सहयोगियों के साथ मिलकर ईरान के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए कम से कम तीन सौ अरब डॉलर उपलब्ध कराएगा।
- Oman and Qatar** are now closer to **Iran** than before and have been part of the **Pakistan-led mediation process**, while countries such as **Saudi Arabia** are seeking new **security arrangements** with **Türkiye, Pakistan, and Ukraine**.
ओमान और क़तर अब पहले की तुलना में ईरान के अधिक निकट हैं तथा पाकिस्तान के नेतृत्व वाली मध्यस्थता प्रक्रिया का हिस्सा रहे हैं, जबकि सऊदी अरब जैसे देश तुर्किये, पाकिस्तान और यूक्रेन के साथ नई सुरक्षा व्यवस्थाओं की तलाश कर रहे हैं।
- India's** policy towards the region requires a rapid revision in light of the **post-war, post-deal power structure**.



भारत की क्षेत्र संबंधी नीति को युद्धोत्तर तथा समझौते के बाद की शक्ति संरचना के संदर्भ में शीघ्र पुनरीक्षित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

- What was once a finely balanced approach now appears tilted towards Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

जो नीति कभी अत्यंत संतुलित मानी जाती थी, वह अब इज़राइल और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात की ओर अधिक झुकी हुई दिखाई देती है।

The U.S. and South Asia

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और दक्षिण एशिया

- Finally, **India must study the implications of U.S. foreign policy decisions in its neighbourhood.**
अंततः भारत को अपने पड़ोसी क्षेत्र में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की विदेश नीति से जुड़े निर्णयों के प्रभावों का गहन अध्ययन करना चाहिए।
- The appointment of **Sergio Gor** as both **U.S. Ambassador to India** and **Special Envoy for South and Central Asia** signals **Washington's growing regional ambitions.**
सर्जियो गोर की भारत में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के राजदूत तथा दक्षिण और मध्य एशिया के विशेष दूत के रूप में नियुक्ति वॉशिंगटन की बढ़ती हुई क्षेत्रीय महत्वाकांक्षाओं का संकेत देती है।
- Mr. Gor's recent travels to Kathmandu, Thimphu, Dhaka and Colombo** indicate that the **U.S. is keen to broaden its efforts across the region.**
श्री गोर की हाल की काठमांडू, थिम्फू, ढाका और कोलंबो यात्राएँ इस बात का संकेत देती हैं कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका पूरे क्षेत्र में अपनी सक्रियता का विस्तार करना चाहता है।
- In the absence of effective **pan-regional frameworks** such as the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation** and the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** — both are constrained by **New Delhi's political tensions with Islamabad and Dhaka** — it is clear that the **U.S. is entering into competition with China** for influence in **South Asia.**
दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संगठन तथा बहु-क्षेत्रीय तकनीकी और आर्थिक सहयोग हेतु बंगाल की खाड़ी पहल जैसे प्रभावी क्षेत्रव्यापी संस्थागत ढाँचों के अभाव में — जो नई दिल्ली के इस्लामाबाद और ढाका के साथ राजनीतिक तनावों के कारण सीमित हो गए हैं — यह स्पष्ट है कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका दक्षिण एशिया में प्रभाव बढ़ाने के लिए चीन के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा में उतर रहा है।
- India, as chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association**, and with **Mr. Modi** due to attend the planned **BIMSTEC summit in Bangladesh** and the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Pakistan next year**, has an opportunity to reassert its **regional leadership.**
भारतीय महासागर परिक्षेत्र संगठन के अध्यक्ष के रूप में भारत, तथा अगले वर्ष श्री मोदी की बांग्लादेश में प्रस्तावित बिम्सटेक शिखर सम्मेलन और पाकिस्तान में होने वाले शंघाई सहयोग संगठन शिखर सम्मेलन में प्रस्तावित भागीदारी के माध्यम से, अपने क्षेत्रीय नेतृत्व को पुनः स्थापित करने का अवसर रखता है।
- Given the opportunities, a revival of the SAARC grouping and other pan-regional initiatives must be considered.**
इन अवसरों को देखते हुए दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संगठन तथा अन्य क्षेत्रव्यापी पहलों के पुनर्जीवन पर गंभीरता से विचार किया जाना चाहिए।



Inspections in Iran will go ahead, working on modalities, says Grossi

Iran has not allowed IAEA to return to its most sensitive nuclear sites since attacks by the U.S. and Israel in June last year; MoU states that activities to be carried out with regards to nuclear material will be supervised by IAEA, says UN watchdog

CS II: IR
Reuters
VIENNA

The UN nuclear watchdog will carry out inspections in Iran soon following an interim peace accord between the United States and Iran, but modalities have yet to be finalised, the agency's chief Rafael Grossi said on Wednesday.

The two sides signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding last week setting out broad agreements in principle to end the war. The interim accord paved the way for 60 days of talks aimed at hammering out thornier details, including issues relat-

ed to Iran's nuclear programme.

"The inspections will indeed take place," International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi told a press conference in Japan, an audio recording of which the IAEA posted online. "We will be working on the modalities — dates, procedures, places — very soon," he said of discussions with Tehran.

Iran has not let the IAEA, which polices its nuclear programme, return to its most sensitive nuclear sites since the United States and Israel bombed them in June last year. The IAEA has inspected other sites, but inspections were



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi during a meeting at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. REUTERS

suspended after the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28.

A central issue in talks is what will happen to Iran's highly enriched uranium,

including material enriched to up to 60% purity, a short step from the roughly 90% of weapons grade.

"Paragraph 8 of this

memorandum of understanding states explicitly that nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regards to nuclear material, facilities, will be supervised by the IAEA, in bold letters," Mr. Grossi said.

Iran has not informed the IAEA how much of its enriched uranium survived the attacks or where it is. The IAEA estimates Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched to up to 60% before Israel launched the first attack on June 13 of last year. If enriched further, that would be enough for 10 nuclear weapons, according to an IAEA yardstick.

25J6. Inspections in Iran will go ahead, working on modalities, says Grossi ग्रॉसी ने कहा, ईरान में निरीक्षण आगे बढ़ेंगे, प्रक्रियाओं पर काम जारी है।

- The **UN nuclear watchdog** will carry out **inspections in Iran** soon following an interim **peace accord** between the **United States** and **Iran**, but modalities have yet to be finalised, the agency's chief **Rafael Grossi** said on Wednesday.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र का परमाणु निगरानी संगठन अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच हुए अंतरिम शांति समझौते के बाद जल्द ही ईरान में निरीक्षण करेगा, लेकिन प्रक्रियाएँ अभी अंतिम रूप नहीं ले पाई हैं, एजेंसी के प्रमुख राफेल ग्रॉसी ने बुधवार को कहा।

- The **two sides** signed a **14-point memorandum of understanding** last week setting out **broad agreements in principle to end the war**.
दोनों पक्षों ने पिछले सप्ताह युद्ध समाप्त करने के सिद्धांतगत व्यापक समझौतों को निर्धारित करते हुए **14-बिंदुओं वाले समझौता** जापान पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- The interim accord paved the way for **60 days of talks** aimed at hammering out thornier details, including issues related to **Iran's nuclear programme**.
इस अंतरिम समझौते ने **60 दिनों की वार्ता** का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया, जिसका उद्देश्य ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम सहित जटिल मुद्दों पर विस्तृत सहमति बनाना है।

- "The inspections will indeed take place," **International Atomic Energy Agency** chief **Rafael Grossi** told a press conference in **Japan**, an audio recording of which the **IAEA** posted online.
"निरीक्षण निश्चित रूप से होंगे," अंतरराष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA) के प्रमुख राफेल ग्रॉसी ने जापान में एक प्रेस वार्ता में कहा, जिसकी ऑडियो रिकॉर्डिंग IAEA ने ऑनलाइन साझा की।

- "We will be working on the modalities — dates, procedures, places — very soon," he said of discussions with **Tehran**.
उन्होंने तेहरान के साथ चर्चा का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा, "हम बहुत जल्द प्रक्रियाओं—तिथियों, तरीकों और स्थानों—पर काम करेंगे।"

- Iran** has not let the **IAEA**, which polices its **nuclear programme**, return to its most sensitive **nuclear sites** since the **United States** and **Israel** bombed them in June last year.



पिछले वर्ष जून में अमेरिका और इज़रायल द्वारा बमबारी किए जाने के बाद से ईरान ने अपने परमाणु कार्यक्रम की निगरानी करने वाली IAEA को अपने सबसे संवेदनशील परमाणु स्थलों पर लौटने की अनुमति नहीं दी है।

- The IAEA has inspected other sites, but inspections were suspended after the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28.
IAEA ने अन्य स्थलों का निरीक्षण किया है, लेकिन 28 फरवरी को अमेरिका-इज़रायल के ईरान पर हमलों के बाद निरीक्षण स्थगित कर दिए गए।
- A central issue in talks is what will happen to Iran's highly enriched uranium, including material enriched to up to 60% purity, a short step from the roughly 90% of weapons grade.
वार्ता का एक प्रमुख मुद्दा यह है कि ईरान के अत्यधिक समृद्ध यूरेनियम का क्या होगा, जिसमें 60% शुद्धता तक समृद्ध किया गया पदार्थ भी शामिल है, जो लगभग 90% के हथियार-ग्रेड स्तर से केवल एक कदम दूर है।
- The IAEA estimates Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched to up to 60% before Israel launched the first attack on June 13 of last year.
IAEA का अनुमान है कि पिछले वर्ष 13 जून को इज़रायल के पहले हमले से पहले ईरान के पास 60% तक समृद्ध 440.9 किलोग्राम यूरेनियम था।
- If enriched further, that would be enough for 10 nuclear weapons, according to an IAEA yardstick.
IAEA के मानकों के अनुसार यदि इसे और अधिक समृद्ध किया जाए, तो यह 10 परमाणु हथियारों के लिए पर्याप्त होगा।

GS Paper III: Economy		25 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
25J6	₹405-cr. gold mining facility opens in A.P. आंध्र प्रदेश में ₹405 करोड़ की स्वर्ण खनन सुविधा का उद्घाटन	
25J6	Goyal to visit U.K. to review preparedness for trade deal roll-out व्यापार समझौते के क्रियान्वयन की तैयारियों की समीक्षा के लिए यू.के. जाएंगे गोयल	
25J6	BHIM UPI to offer financial products BHIM UPI पर उपलब्ध होंगे वित्तीय उत्पाद	

₹405-cr. gold mining facility opens in A.P.

GS III: Economy

K. Umashanker
KURNOOL

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the first unit of a gold mining project at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district on Wednesday.

The ₹405-crore plant was established by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Limited (GMSI). Mr. Naidu also laid the foundation stone for the second unit.

Marking the commencement of sales, he then

handed over gold produced at the unit to jewellery firms in the State.

Addressing a public meeting later, the Chief Minister said: "Jonnagiri, once known as Suvarnagiri, will emerge as a model growth centre for Andhra Pradesh." Karnataka's Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) had once dominated the national scene, but now "Jonnagiri unit is the cynosure of all eyes". "The plant will have an annual capacity of 400 kg of gold," he said.

25J6. ₹405-cr. gold mining facility opens in A.P. आंध्र प्रदेश में ₹405 करोड़ की स्वर्ण खनन सुविधा का उद्घाटन

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the first unit of a gold mining project at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district on Wednesday.

आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने बुधवार को कुरनूल जिले के जोन्नागिरि में स्वर्ण खनन परियोजना की पहली इकाई का उद्घाटन किया।

- The ₹405-crore plant was established by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Limited (GMSI).
₹405 करोड़ की इस परियोजना की स्थापना जियोमैसोर सर्विसेज इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (GMSI) द्वारा की गई।
- Mr. Naidu also laid the foundation stone for the second unit.

श्री नायडू ने दूसरी इकाई की आधारशिला भी रखी।

- Marking the commencement of sales, he then handed over gold produced at the unit to jewellery firms in the State.



बिज्जी की शुरुआत के अवसर पर उन्होंने इस इकाई में उत्पादित सोना राज्य की आभूषण निर्माण कंपनियों को सौंपा।

- Addressing a public meeting later, the Chief Minister said: “Jonnagiri, once known as Suvarnagiri, will emerge as a model growth centre for Andhra Pradesh.” बाद में एक सार्वजनिक सभा को संबोधित करते हुए मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, “जोन्नागिरि, जिसे कभी सुवर्णगिरि के नाम से जाना जाता था, आंध्र प्रदेश के लिए एक आदर्श विकास केंद्र के रूप में उभरेगा।”
- Karnataka’s Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) had once dominated the national scene, but now “Jonnagiri unit is the cynosure of all eyes”. कर्नाटक के कोलार गोल्ड फील्ड्स (KGF) ने कभी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रभुत्व स्थापित किया था, लेकिन अब “जोन्नागिरि इकाई सभी के आकर्षण का केंद्र बन गई है।”
- “The plant will have an annual capacity of 400 kg of gold,” he said. उन्होंने कहा, “यह संयंत्र प्रतिवर्ष 400 किलोग्राम सोना उत्पादन करने की वार्षिक क्षमता रखेगा।”

Goyal to visit U.K. to review preparedness for trade deal roll-out

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will travel to the United Kingdom from June 25-27 to meet his U.K. counterpart and review the preparedness of both countries for the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and its companion Double Contribution Convention (DCC) on July 15.

During the visit, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on Wednesday, Mr. Goyal will hold a high-level bilateral meeting with Peter Kyle, the U.K.’s Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

“The engagement marks an important step towards the operationalisation of the agreements and the strengthening of the economic partnership between the two countries,” the Commerce Ministry statement said.

“The bilateral discus-

Goyal will hold a meeting with Peter Kyle, U.K.’s Secretary of State for Business and Trade

sions will focus on aligning regulatory roadmaps, streamlining cross-border customs coordination and finalising administrative mechanisms to facilitate the smooth implementation of CETA and the DCC,” it added.

The Ministers will also review preparedness for the implementation of the CETA’s tariff liberalisation commitments and the operational roadmap for the DCC.

“The two sides will further discuss the operationalisation of mutual market access commitments across key services sectors and review measures aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties,” the statement said.

25J6. Goyal to visit U.K. to review preparedness for trade deal roll-out

व्यापार समझौते के क्रियान्वयन की तैयारियों की समीक्षा के लिए यू.के. जाएंगे गोयल

- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will travel to the United Kingdom from June 25-27 to meet his U.K. counterpart and review the preparedness of both countries for the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and its companion Double Contribution Convention (DCC) on July 15.

वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल 25-27 जून के दौरान यूनाइटेड किंगडम की

यात्रा करेंगे, जहां वे अपने ब्रिटिश

समकक्ष से मुलाकात करेंगे और

15 जुलाई को भारत-यू.के.

व्यापक आर्थिक एवं व्यापार

समझौता (CETA) तथा उससे

जुड़े डबल कंटीब्यूशन कन्वेंशन

(DCC) के क्रियान्वयन के लिए

दोनों देशों की तैयारियों की

समीक्षा करेंगे।

- पार और निवेश संबंधों को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से उठाए गए उपायों की भी समीक्षा करेंगे।”

25J6. BHIM UPI to offer financial products

BHIM UPI पर उपलब्ध होंगे वित्तीय उत्पाद

- From credit cards, loans, investments and over time insurance, a bouquet of financial products is planned to be offered on BHIM payments app, NPCI BHIM Services (NBSL) MD-CEO Lalitha Nataraj said.

BHIM UPI to offer financial products

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

From credit cards, loans, investments and over time insurance, a bouquet of financial products is planned to be offered on BHIM payments app, NPCI BHIM Services (NBSL) MD-CEO Lalitha Nataraj said. “We have partnered with multiple banks to distribute credit cards and working with some of the NBFCs [for loans]. Also working with banks for national pension schemes. Insurance and investments [offerings] will follow little later,” she told the media.

Since its introduction in 2016 the app has undergone revamps and sported new features, BHIM 3.0 roll out in 2025 being the last, Ms.Nataraj said.

NBSL is also actively evaluating integrating its

The platform had processed transactions worth ₹26,952 crore in May 2026

app in the mobile apps of banks. It has made a beginning with Canara Bank and is in talks with at least one more public sector lender as well as a private bank, she said. Banks stood to benefit from new features, updated infrastructure and technology via the integration while users get to experience faster UPI payments, she added.

The monthly transaction volumes via BHIM rose from 79.64 million in June 2025 to 244 million in May 2026.

The platform processed transactions worth ₹26,952 crore in May 2026.



क्रेडिट कार्ड, ऋण, निवेश और समय के साथ बीमा सहित अनेक वित्तीय उत्पादों को BHIM पेमेंट्स ऐप पर उपलब्ध कराने की योजना है, ऐसा NPCI BHIM सर्विसेज (NBSL) की एमडी-सीईओ ललिता नटराज ने कहा।

- “We have partnered with **multiple banks** to distribute **credit cards** and working with some of the **NBFCs** [for loans].
“हमने क्रेडिट कार्ड वितरित करने के लिए कई बैंकों के साथ साझेदारी की है और NBFCs के साथ [ऋण के लिए] काम कर रहे हैं।”
- Also working with banks for **national pension schemes**.
साथ ही राष्ट्रीय पेंशन योजनाओं के लिए भी बैंकों के साथ कार्य किया जा रहा है।
- **Insurance and investments** [offerings] will follow little later,” she told the media.
उन्होंने मीडिया से कहा, बीमा और निवेश से संबंधित सेवाएँ कुछ समय बाद उपलब्ध कराई जाएँगी।
- Since its introduction in 2016 the app has undergone **revamps** and sported **new features**, **BHIM 3.0** roll out in 2025 being the last, Ms. Nataraj said.
2016 में शुरू होने के बाद से इस ऐप में कई बदलाव और नई सुविधाएँ जोड़ी गई हैं, जिनमें 2025 में BHIM 3.0 का लॉन्च सबसे हालिया था, सुश्री नटराज ने कहा।
- It has made a beginning with **Canara Bank** and is in talks with at least one more **public sector lender** as well as a **private bank**, she said.
उन्होंने कहा कि इसकी शुरुआत केनरा बैंक के साथ हो चुकी है और कम-से-कम एक अन्य सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक तथा एक निजी बैंक के साथ भी बातचीत चल रही है।

GS Paper III: Environment		25 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
25J6	Kingmakers: meet the insects that make India's favourite mangoes किंगमेकर: उन कीटों से मिलिए जो भारत के सबसे प्रिय आमों का निर्माण करते हैं।	

Kingmakers: meet the insects that make India's favourite mangoes

A study has found that allowing wild insects to access flowers dramatically increased mango yield by 350%, highlighting the importance of wild insects for mango pollination; yet, native bees that transfer pollen around orchards are under threat from the insecticides that protect the crop from pests

By Kavitha Kannan

More than a thousand varieties of mangoes exist in India, the popular ones being Banganapalli, Dassheri, Alphonso, Badaami, Imaam Pasandh, and Malgoa. There is even a "Talbagh" variety in Bengaluru. Many of us associate the fruit with a summer childhood memory, of eating it with our bare hands, the mango juice dripping on our clothes. More recently, the fruit has become popular on social media platforms, where users explain hundreds of ways to cook and eat it. This year, the fruit's popularity reached a new height: the red carpet at the Met Gala in New York. Mangoes and Indian summers go hand-in-hand, yet do you know how this fruit comes to be? In other words, the mango tree gives out flowers... and then what happens?

Making a mango

Between December and March every year, mango trees across the country bloom and issue a sweet yet slightly fermented odour. Look closer at a mango tree in this time and you will find a branch with several bouquets of small, cream-coloured flowers. Each branch, which botanists call a panicle, contains a few hundred to up to 10,000 individual flowers. And a single mango tree can carry up to some 3,000 panicles, depending on its size and branching.

Each one of these flowers is the start of a mango in the making. Some flowers carry only the male parts while others only the female parts, and sometimes there can be flowers with both (which are biologically called hermaphrodites). Regardless, for the mango to form, pollen must travel between these flowers. This is where pollinators make their mark. There is a curious history here. Mango cultivars had once insisted that mango flowers are pollinated only by wind. But this theory could not explain why the flowers issued a sweet odour. It had to be to attract insects.

To confirm that insects were indeed pollinators, researchers in Bengaluru teamed up with their peers from Germany to survey several Badami mango farms in the city's urban and rural areas. Their findings, published in 2022, were striking: "We found that allowing flowers access to ants and flying visitors (bees, hoverflies, nonsyrphid flies), dramatically increased mango yield by 350%, highlighting the importance of wild insects for mango pollination," the study paper read.

These flying insects were found to include wild bees such as the dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*), giant honey bee (*Apis dorsata*), and stingless bees (*Tetragona* sp.). Other important flying visitors included hoverflies, which look like bees (*Syrphus* sp.), the common house fly (*Musca domestica*), and the blow fly (*Calliphoridae* family).

Effective pollination

The researchers also observed that the mango yields dropped when they barred crawling insects, such as ants, from the flowers. Subhadra Devi, a senior researcher at the Ashoka Trust for



Fruit tests: Visitors at a stall during a three-day mango and jackfruit fest organised by Shivamogga HOPCOMS in Karnataka in the first week of June. Attaching a monetary value to the crops could nudge policy towards actively protecting pollinators, through changes at the farm and landscape levels. S.K. DINESH

Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, and an author of the study, said ants are "messy pollinators" and that it is essential to investigate them as pollinators of mango in future studies.

Dr. Devi also said she anticipates that the pollinator community is not any different for other Indian mango varieties since the "floral traits, i.e. the flower structure, pollen, and nectar are likely to be very similar".

Researchers have conducted similar studies in Mexico, on the 'Ataulfo' mango, and in Australia, on the 'Kensington Pride' variety – and have revealed similar findings. Both teams also took more steps to determine which insects were the pollinators.

They calculated a 'pollination effectiveness' metric based on the abundance of pollinators, the number of visits to flowers (with a 'legitimate' visits quantified using video cameras on trees), and the number of pollen grains deposited. And both studies showed that wild and native insects were most efficient at pollination, producing a higher yield of fruits.

Non-native bees to Mexico, such as European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), were abundant and contributed to 80% of the pollination. Paradoxically, however, that did not result in a higher yield. The reason was that these non-native bees stayed around the same trees or in the same orchard and delivered the wrong

pollen, resulting in malformed fruits. On the other hand, the native bees transferred pollen between orchards, giving rise to more full and juicy fruits.

Farmers' friends

Yet these native bees are under threat from the same insecticides that protect the mango crop from pests. Neonicotinoid insecticides, which are commonly sprayed on mango trees, are neurotoxic and affect cognitive functions in bees, such as navigation, learning, and memory, and eventually their survival. This ripples through the entire colony, as the insecticides travel to the pollen and nectar and are brought back to the hive by bees.

The Bengaluru-based study observed that fewer bees visited the mango flowers, and the harvested fruits were lighter by almost 30%, resulting in a three-way loss for the farmer: expensive pesticides, loss of pollinators, and a loss in the fruit yield. Dr. Devi said monoculture farms that prevail in rural areas are more prone to pest attacks, and hence suffer higher pollinator loss as well. However, she also said she sees hope in bee-safe pesticides and in farmers timing their sprays to avoid peak pollinator activity – practices already in use in several western countries.

"One recent welcome move", in her words, was the Indian government recognising pollinators in the country's new 'environmental accounting'

framework. This framework recognised that India has more than 800 bee species, plus butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, bats and flies as pollinators and that they are ecologically important for agriculture. The government has also attached a monetary value equivalent to 8-10% of the total crop output value, amounting to ₹2.6 lakh crore in 2021-22, to pollinators.

Rights of pollinators

Attaching a monetary value could nudge policy towards actively protecting our pollinators, through changes at the farm and landscape levels. These could include, as the Mexico study suggested, increasing the spread of natural and semi-natural areas near orchards, such as native forest patches and wildflower strips, to attract more wild insects.

Dr. Devi also pointed out that in May, stingless bees in Peru had become the first insects to win the legal rights to exist, thrive, and be represented in court. This is significant for the conservation of the species against insecticides, climate change, and competition from non-native insects.

The question then arises: will India accord similar rights to its pollinators, which carry the weight of the country's agriculture? As you relish this season's mangoes, it could also be your food for thought.

(Kavitha Kannan is a biologist and science writer. kavithakannan1994@gmail.com)

25J6. Kingmakers: meet the insects that make India's favourite mangoes

किंगमेकर: उन कीटों से मिलिए जो भारत के सबसे प्रिय आमों का निर्माण करते हैं।

- A study has found that allowing wild insects to access flowers dramatically increased mango yield by 350%, highlighting the importance of wild insects for mango pollination; yet, native bees that transfer pollen around orchards are under threat from the insecticides that protect the crop from pests.

एक अध्ययन में पाया गया है कि जंगली कीटों को फूलों तक पहुँचने की अनुमति देने से आम की उपज में 350% की उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई, जिससे आम के परागण के लिए जंगली कीटों के महत्व पर प्रकाश पड़ता है; फिर भी, स्थानीय मधुमक्खियाँ, जो बागों में परागण का स्थानांतरण करती हैं, उन कीटनाशकों से खतरे में हैं जो फसल को कीटों से सुरक्षित रखते हैं।

- More than a thousand varieties of mangoes exist in India, the popular ones being Banganapalli, Dassheri, Alphonso, Badaami, Imaam Pasandh, and Malgoa.

भारत में आम की एक हजार से अधिक किस्में पाई जाती हैं, जिनमें बंगनपल्ली, दशहरी, अल्फांसो, बादामी, इमाम पसंद और मालगोआ प्रमुख हैं।

Making a mango

आम का निर्माण

- Between **December and March** every year, **mango trees** across the country bloom and issue a sweet yet slightly fermented odour.
प्रत्येक वर्ष दिसंबर से मार्च के बीच पूरे देश में आम के वृक्ष खिलते हैं और उनसे मीठी किंतु हल्की किण्वित गंध निकलती है।
- Look closer at a **mango tree** this time and you will find a branch with several bouquets of small, **cream-coloured flowers**.
इस समय यदि आप किसी आम के वृक्ष को ध्यान से देखें, तो आपको उसकी एक शाखा पर छोटे, क्रीम रंग के फूलों के अनेक गुच्छे दिखाई देंगे।
- Each branch, which botanists call a **panicle**, contains a few hundred to up to **10,000 individual flowers**.
प्रत्येक शाखा, जिसे वनस्पति वैज्ञानिक "पैनिकल" कहते हैं, में कुछ सौ से लेकर 10,000 तक अलग-अलग फूल हो सकते हैं।
- And a single **mango tree** can carry up to some **3,000 panicles**, depending on its size and branching.
एक आम का वृक्ष, उसके आकार और शाखाओं के विस्तार के अनुसार, लगभग 3,000 पैनिकल धारण कर सकता है।
- Each one of these **flowers** is the start of a **mango** in the making.
इनमें से प्रत्येक फूल, एक आम बनने की शुरुआत है।
- Some **flowers** carry only the **male parts** while others only the **female parts**, and sometimes there can be flowers with both (which are biologically called **hermaphrodites**).
कुछ फूलों में केवल नर भाग होते हैं, जबकि कुछ में केवल मादा भाग होते हैं, और कभी-कभी ऐसे फूल भी होते हैं जिनमें दोनों भाग उपस्थित होते हैं (जिन्हें जैविक रूप से उभयलिंगी (हर्माफ्रोडाइट) कहा जाता है)।
- Their findings, published in **2023**, were striking: "We found that **allowing flowers access to ants and flying visitors (bees, hoverflies, nonsyrphid flies)**, dramatically increased **mango yield by 350%**, highlighting the importance of **wild insects for mango pollination**," the study paper read.
2023 में प्रकाशित उनके निष्कर्ष अत्यंत उल्लेखनीय थे: "हमने पाया कि फूलों तक चींटियों तथा उड़ने वाले आगंतुकों (मधुमक्खियाँ, होवरफ्लाइज़, नॉनसिरफिड मक्खियाँ) की पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने से आम की उपज में 350% की उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई, जो आम के परागण में जंगली कीटों के महत्व को रेखांकित करती है," अध्ययन में कहा गया।
- These **flying insects** were found to include **wild bees** such as the **dwarf honey bee (Apis florea)**, **giant honey bee (Apis dorsata)**, and **stingless bees (Tetragonula sp.)**.
इन उड़ने वाले कीटों में जंगली मधुमक्खियाँ शामिल थीं, जैसे ड्वार्फ हनी बी (Apis florea), जायंट हनी बी (Apis dorsata) तथा डंक रहित मधुमक्खियाँ (Tetragonula sp.)।
- Other important **flying visitors** included **hoverflies**, which look like **bees (Syrphus sp.)**, the **common house fly (Musca domestica)**, and the **blow fly (Calliphoridae family)**.
अन्य महत्वपूर्ण उड़ने वाले आगंतुकों में होवरफ्लाइज़, जो मधुमक्खियों (Syrphus sp.) जैसी दिखती हैं, सामान्य घरेलू मक्खी (Musca domestica) तथा ब्लो फ्लाई (Calliphoridae परिवार) शामिल थीं।

Effective pollination

प्रभावी परागण



- The researchers also observed that the **mango yields** dropped when they barred **crawling insects**, such as **ants**, from the **flowers**.
शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी देखा कि जब रंगने वाले कीटों, जैसे चींटियों, को फूलों तक पहुँचने से रोका गया, तो आम की उपज में कमी आ गई।
- Neonicotinoid insecticides**, which are commonly sprayed on **mango trees**, are **neurotoxic** and affect **cognitive functions** in **bees**, such as **navigation**, **learning**, and **memory**, and eventually their **survival**.
नियोनिकोटिनाइड कीटनाशक, जिनका सामान्यतः आम के वृक्षों पर छिड़काव किया जाता है, तंत्रिका-विषैले होते हैं और मधुमक्खियों की दिशा-निर्धारण, सीखने तथा स्मरण शक्ति जैसी संज्ञानात्मक क्षमताओं को प्रभावित करते हैं तथा अंततः उनके जीवित रहने पर भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डालते हैं।
- This framework recognised that **India has more than 800 bee species**, plus **butterflies**, **moths**, **beetles**, **birds**, **bats** and **flies** as **pollinators** and that they are ecologically important for **agriculture**.
इस ढाँचे में यह स्वीकार किया गया कि भारत में मधुमक्खियों की 800 से अधिक प्रजातियाँ हैं तथा तितलियाँ, पतंगे, भृंग, पक्षी, चमगादड़ और मक्खियाँ भी परागणकर्ता हैं तथा कृषि के लिए पारिस्थितिकीय दृष्टि से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		25 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
25J6	CRPF officer suspended, 20 others transferred after 'kin protested against CAPF Bill' 'परिजनों द्वारा सीएपीएफ विधेयक के विरोध' के बाद सीआरपीएफ अधिकारी निलंबित, 20 अन्य का तबादला	

CRPF officer suspended, 20 others transferred after 'kin protested against CAPF Bill'

GS III: Internal Security
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Twenty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers have been transferred and a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) rank officer has been suspended, allegedly because they or their families voiced their opinions against the Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026.

The legislation was passed by Parliament on April 2 and came into effect on April 9.

Retired and serving officials of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) expressed concern about the suspension of the decorated DIG-rank officer.

'Politically provocative'
On June 10, the officer, posted in Tripura, was informed about a pending enquiry against him for allegedly disseminating "au-

Retired and serving CAPF officials expressed concern about suspension of the DIG-rank officer

dio/video messages and poster/banner for changing of the Government established by law across social media."

The letter said that an Inspector General-rank officer would probe his WhatsApp account and other encrypted platforms he was active on to enquire about the dissemination of "politically provocative" messages against the government. On June 17, the officer was served a suspension order based on the pending enquiry.

It is learnt that the officer has challenged the suspension, on the grounds that there is no "disciplinary proceeding contemplated or pending" against

him as required under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965.

'Targeted harassment'
Ranbir Singh, the general secretary of the Alliance of All Ex Paramilitary Association said that officers whose families participated in a protest against the CAPF Act at Jantar Mantar in the capital on March 23 and May 6, and at Rajghat on April 9 were being targeted by the CRPF's top brass.

"We want to draw the attention of Home Minister Amit Shah to this targeted harassment of CRPF officers... For the first time in the history of the CRPF, the suspension of a serving DIG without cause has sparked resentment among the paramilitary personnel. Officers are being posted to the North East as a punitive measure," Mr. Singh said.

25J6. CRPF officer suspended, 20 others transferred after 'kin protested against CAPF Bill'

'परिजनों द्वारा सीएपीएफ विधेयक के विरोध' के बाद सीआरपीएफ अधिकारी निलंबित, 20 अन्य का तबादला

- Twenty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers have been transferred and a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) rank officer has been suspended, allegedly because they or their families voiced their opinions against the **Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026**.

केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल (CRPF) के 20 अधिकारियों का तबादला कर दिया गया है और उप महानिरीक्षक (DIG) रैंक के एक अधिकारी को कथित रूप से इसलिए निलंबित कर दिया गया है क्योंकि उन्होंने या उनके परिवारों ने केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल (सामान्य प्रशासन) अधिनियम, 2026 के विरुद्ध अपने विचार व्यक्त किए थे।

- The legislation was passed by Parliament on April 2 and came into effect on April 9.



यह विधेयक 2 अप्रैल को संसद द्वारा पारित किया गया था और 9 अप्रैल से प्रभावी हो गया।

- Retired and serving officials of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** expressed concern about the suspension of the decorated **DIG-rank officer**.

केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों (CAPF) के सेवानिवृत्त और कार्यरत अधिकारियों ने सम्मानित DIG रैंक के अधिकारी के निलंबन पर चिंता व्यक्त की।

- It is learnt that the officer has challenged the suspension, on the grounds that there is no “disciplinary proceeding contemplated or pending” against him as required under the **Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965**.

जानकारी के अनुसार अधिकारी ने यह कहते हुए निलंबन को चुनौती दी है कि उनके विरुद्ध “कोई अनुशासनात्मक कार्यवाही प्रस्तावित या लंबित नहीं है”, जैसा कि केंद्रीय सिविल सेवा (वर्गीकरण, नियंत्रण एवं अपील) नियम, 1965 के तहत आवश्यक है।

PATRIOTIC IAS