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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

30 JUNE 2026

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PCS Special:		30 June
30J6	Man held for giving out poison capsules at Muharram rally मुहर्रम जुलूस में ज़हरीले कैप्सूल बाँटने के आरोप में एक व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार।	
30J6	India wins maiden gold at the World Rowing Cup in Switzerland स्विट्जरलैंड में आयोजित विश्व रोइंग कप में भारत ने पहला स्वर्ण पदक जीता	



Man held for giving out poison capsules at Muharram rally

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police have arrested a 39-year-old man for allegedly distributing capsules containing the **rodent poison zinc phosphide** to participants in a Muharram procession.

The suspect has been identified as Faiyaz Nisar Premji, a resident of Pune. The police have seized 14,900 capsules and 50 kg of the chemical compound from his possession.

According to the police, the arrest was made on Friday night during the Ashura procession in the Byculla area. Officers allegedly spotted Mr. Premji distributing capsules to members of the crowd. When questioned, he claimed that the capsules were painkillers. However, as he could not produce any authorisation for their dis-

The police have seized 14,900 capsules and 50 kg of the chemical compound

tribution and reports later emerged of people experiencing nausea and vomiting after consuming them, he was detained.

"During questioning, the accused confessed that he aimed to target specific people and cause them harm. The accused had ordered 30,000 empty capsules online. He also ordered 50 kg of **zinc phosphide**. He prepared the capsules by filling each one with one gram of **zinc phosphide**," Jayant Meena, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Zone 3, said.

The officer said Mr. Premji had visited Iran and Iraq in 2025.

30J6. Man held for giving out poison capsules at Muharram rally

मुह्रम जुलूस में जहरीले कैप्सूल बाँटने के आरोप में एक व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार।

- Mumbai Police arrest man for allegedly distributing poison-filled capsules during Muharram procession

मुंबई पुलिस ने मुह्रम जुलूस के दौरान कथित रूप से जहरयुक्त कैप्सूल वितरित करने के आरोप में एक व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तार किया।

- The Mumbai Police have arrested a 39-year-old man for allegedly distributing capsules containing the **rodent poison zinc phosphide** to participants in a Muharram procession.

मुंबई पुलिस ने 39 वर्षीय एक व्यक्ति को मुह्रम जुलूस में शामिल लोगों को चूहे मारने वाले विष जिनक फॉस्फाइड से भरे कैप्सूल कथित रूप से वितरित करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया है।

30J6. India wins maiden gold at the World Rowing Cup in Switzerland

स्विट्जरलैंड में आयोजित विश्व रोइंग कप में भारत ने पहला स्वर्ण पदक जीता

India wins maiden gold at the World Rowing Cup in Switzerland



PCS
WORLD ROWING
India scripted history at the World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, with Army-men Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh clinching the country's maiden-ever gold medal. The duo won the Lightweight men's double sculls final, crossing the finish line in 6:26.09 ahead of Hong Kong (6:27.14) and the Netherlands (6:27.36) on Saturday.

- India scripted history at the World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, with Army-men Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh clinching the country's maiden-ever gold medal.
- भारत ने लुसर्न में आयोजित विश्व रोइंग कप-III में इतिहास रच दिया, जहाँ सेना के लक्षय और उज्ज्वल कुमार सिंह ने देश के लिए पहला स्वर्ण पदक जीत लिया।
- The duo won the **Lightweight men's double sculls final**, crossing the finish line in **6:26.09** ahead of **Hong Kong (6:27.14)** and the **Netherlands (6:27.36)** on **Saturday**.
- इस जोड़ी ने लाइटवेट पुरुष डबल स्कल्स फाइनल में 6:26.09 के समय के साथ फिनिश लाइन पार करते हुए हांगकांग (6:27.14) और नीदरलैंड (6:27.36) को पीछे छोड़कर शनिवार को विजय प्राप्त की।

GS Paper 1: History	30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
30J6	Amend anti-sacrilege law: Akal Takht to Punjab govt अकाल तख्त ने पंजाब सरकार से धर्म-अवमानना विरोधी कानून में संशोधन की मांग की।



Amend anti-sacrilege law: Akal Takht to Punjab govt.

The highest Sikh temporal authority says the amendment was passed without consultations; it gives Punjab government a month to re-amend the legislation and remove objectionable clauses

GS1: History: A&C
The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal authority, has asked the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab to re-amend the recently passed anti-sacrilege amendment law in accordance with Sikh sentiments. The government has been given a month to comply.

At a meeting with invited Sikh Ministers of the State Cabinet and Sikh MLAs in Amritsar on Monday, the Akal Takht asserted that the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026 "was passed by the government without the opinion and consent of the Akal Takht Sahib, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Guru Khalsa Panth".

The legislation, passed in the Assembly unanimously on April 13, was



AAP MLAs during proceedings at the Secretariat of Sri Akal Takht Sahib in Amritsar on Monday. PTI

aimed at giving harsher punishment for acts of sacrilege against Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhism. However, Sikh clergy objected to certain clauses of the law. Hence, the Akal Takht called for the meeting.

After the discussions on Monday, Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargaji, who heads the Akal Takht, said the State government should re-amend the legislation in accordance with

Sikh sentiments and eliminate the objectionable clauses within a month.

Mr. Gargaji said that all Ministers and MLAs present at the meeting agreed to make further amendments to the law in line with Sikh sentiments. He also said that most of the MLAs admitted that they had not read the draft of the amendment before passing it, which showed that the law had been passed by the government

in a hurry. He said that 87 MLAs, including Ministers, were present at the meeting.

The amendment law was passed to amend the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, enacted by the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party government in 2008.

Talking to presspersons, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "The Jathedar has proposed certain amendments, which will be forwarded through the Punjab Assembly Speaker. Upon receipt, a decision will be taken within a month after due deliberation."

The Leader of the Opposition, Partap Singh Bajwa of the Congress, said the manner in which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal handled the legislation reflected their disregard for Sikh principles and institutions.

30J6. Amend anti-sacrilege law: Akal Takht to Punjab govt

अकाल तख्त ने पंजाब सरकार से धर्म-अवमानना विरोधी कानून में संशोधन की मांग की।

- At a meeting with invited **Sikh Ministers** of the State Cabinet and **Sikh MLAs** in **Amritsar** on Monday, the **Akal Takht** asserted that the **Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026** "was passed by the government without the opinion and consent of the **Akal Takht Sahib, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Guru Khalsa Panth**".

सोमवार को अमृतसर में राज्य मंत्रिमंडल के सिख मंत्रियों तथा सिख विधायकों के साथ आयोजित बैठक में अकाल तख्त ने कहा कि जागत जोत श्री गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब सत्कार (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2026 को अकाल तख्त साहिब, शिरोमणि गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक समिति (SGPC) तथा गुरु खालसा पंथ की राय और सहमति के बिना सरकार द्वारा पारित किया गया।

- The amendment law was passed to amend the **Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, enacted by the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party government in 2008**. यह संशोधन कानून 2008 में शिरोमणि अकाली दल-भारतीय जनता पार्टी सरकार द्वारा बनाए गए जागत जोत श्री गुरु ग्रंथ साहिब सत्कार अधिनियम में संशोधन करने के उद्देश्य से पारित किया गया था।

GS Paper 1: Society	30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
30J6	Maintenance not must when wife earns more: High Court यदि पत्नी की आय अधिक हो, तो भरण-पोषण अनिवार्य नहीं: उच्च न्यायालय।



Maintenance not must when wife earns more: High Court

GS I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Trial courts cannot straightaway award maintenance to a wife because she files a petition against her husband under various laws, especially when she earns more than her husband, observed the High Court of Karnataka.

"Only because a wife files a petition invoking the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act** or the **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act** or the **Code of Criminal Procedure...**, the courts cannot straightaway pass an order awarding some amount towards maintenance payable by the husband," said Justice Chillakur Sumalatha while setting aside an

Maintenance need not be granted on the ground women must be maintained by men, says court

award passed by a trial court.

Income, other factors

The High Court said that "when the wife is financially sound and in a case where her income is more than that of the husband and where no other liabilities are found on part of the wife, like looking after the children, courts should not be inclined to pass an order granting maintenance on the ground that women are required to be maintained by men or wife

is required to be maintained by her husband".

It should be borne in mind that only when it is shown the wife has no financial sources to maintain herself according to the standards of her husband, then courts are required to award maintenance either interim or final, the High Court clarified.

It made these observations while allowing a plea filed by a man who had challenged an award passed by a magistrate court in Mysuru under the provisions of the **Domestic Violence Act**, directing him to pay **₹20,000 per month as interim maintenance to his wife**, who had sought an interim maintenance of **₹1.13 lakh per month**.

30J6. Maintenance not must when wife earns more: High Court

यदि पत्नी की आय अधिक हो, तो भरण-पोषण अनिवार्य नहीं: उच्च

न्यायालय।

• "Only because a wife files a petition invoking the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act** or the **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act** or the **Code of Criminal Procedure**, the courts cannot straightaway pass an order awarding some amount towards maintenance payable by the husband," said **Justice Chillakur Sumalatha** while setting aside an award passed by a trial court.

न्यायमूर्ति चिल्लाकुर सुमलता ने विचारण न्यायालय के आदेश को निरस्त करते हुए कहा, "केवल इस कारण कि पत्नी ने घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं का संरक्षण अधिनियम,

हिन्दू दत्तक एवं भरण-पोषण अधिनियम अथवा दण्ड प्रक्रिया संहिता के अंतर्गत याचिका दायर की है, न्यायालय सीधे पति को भरण-पोषण राशि देने का आदेश नहीं दे सकते।"

GS Paper 1: Geography		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	Dozens killed as Pakistan targets Afghan militants पाकिस्तान द्वारा अफ़ग़ान उग्रवादियों को निशाना बनाए जाने से दर्जनों लोगों की मृत्यु।	
30J6	Europe's heatwave scorches Italy and Balkans as wildfire fears rise यूरोप की भीषण गर्मी ने इटली और बाल्कन को झुलसाया, जंगलों में आग लगने की आशंका बढ़ी	



In ruins: Afghan residents look at a building damaged in a Pakistani air strike at a village in Paktia province on Monday. AFP

30J6. Dozens killed as Pakistan targets Afghan militants
पाकिस्तान द्वारा अफ़ग़ान उग्रवादियों को निशाना बनाए जाने से दर्जनों लोगों की मृत्यु।

• Mr. **Tarar** said the latest offensive targeted **Jamaatul-Ahrar**, a splinter group of the **Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**.

श्री तारड़ ने कहा कि नवीनतम अभियान का लक्ष्य जमात-उल-अहरार था, जो तहरीक-ए-तालिबान पाकिस्तान (TTP) का एक अलग हुआ गुट है।

- **Pakistan** says its forces use "precise targeting" to aim at **militant hideouts** and **weapons stores**, especially those of the **TTP** that has waged a violent campaign against it for years. पाकिस्तान का कहना है कि उसकी सेनाएँ "सटीक लक्ष्यीकरण" का उपयोग करते हुए उग्रवादियों के ठिकानों और हथियार भंडारों को निशाना बनाती हैं, विशेषकर TTP के ठिकानों को, जिसने वर्षों से उसके विरुद्ध हिंसक अभियान चला रखा है।



Europe's heatwave scorches Italy and Balkans as wildfire fears rise

30J6. Europe's heatwave scorches Italy and Balkans as wildfire fears rise



यूरोप की भीषण गर्मी ने इटली और बाल्कन को झुलसाया, जंगलों में आग लगने की आशंका बढ़ी

GS I: Geography AFP
Italy and the Balkans felt the impact on Monday of the heatwave that has caused hundreds of excess deaths across Europe. A red alert was issued in Croatia. In Serbia, soaring temperatures were predicted for next few days. Albania contained a raging wildfire. In Italy, 22 cities were covered by a red heat warning. REUTERS

BALKANS (OR THE BALKAN PENINSULA)

- The **Balkans** (or the **Balkan Peninsula**) is a **geographical and geopolitical region** located in **Southeastern Europe**.
- It forms a **strategic land bridge between Europe and Asia**, making it one of the world's most historically and geopolitically significant regions.
- The region has witnessed the rise and fall of several empires, ethnic conflicts, religious interactions, and nationalist movements. Because of its complex political history, it has often been referred to as the "**Powder Keg of Europe**."

Location and Boundaries

- The Balkan Peninsula is bounded by the **Adriatic Sea** in the west.
- It is bounded by the **Ionian Sea** in the southwest.
- It is bounded by the **Aegean Sea** in the south.
- It is bounded by the **Black Sea** in the east.
- The **Danube**, **Sava**, and **Kupa** rivers are generally considered its northern geographical boundary.

The Balkans generally include:

- **Albania**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Bulgaria**
- **Croatia** (major part)
- **Kosovo** (partially recognized)
- **Montenegro**
- **North Macedonia**
- **Romania** (southern part)
- **Serbia**
- **Slovenia** (sometimes included)
- **Greece**



- European part of Türkiye (Eastern Thrace)

Origin of the Name

- The term "Balkan" is derived from the Turkish word "Balkan", meaning **mountain** or **wooded mountain range**.
- It originally referred to the **Balkan Mountains of Bulgaria** before being applied to the entire peninsula.

Physical Geography

- **Balkan Mountains (Stara Planina)** – Bulgaria.
- **Dinaric Alps** – Along the Adriatic coast.
- **Pindus Mountains** – Greece.
- **Rhodope Mountains** – Bulgaria and Greece.
- **Šar Mountains** – North Macedonia and Kosovo.

Major Rivers

- **Danube** (Europe's second-longest river).
- **Sava**.
- **Drina**.
- **Morava**.
- **Vardar (Axios)**.

GS Paper II: Polity		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	Kharge reappointed Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition; seeks stronger coordination खड़गे पुनः राज्यसभा में विपक्ष के नेता नियुक्त; बेहतर समन्वय पर दिया जोर।	

Kharge reappointed Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition; seeks stronger coordination

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and seven other newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha took oath on Monday. Mr. Kharge was also reappointed the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha with effect from June 26.

After taking oath, Mr. Kharge expressed gratitude to the Congress leadership, including Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, as well as Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan and Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

He also extended greetings to his colleagues in the INDIA bloc and the broader Opposition. Mr. Kharge said he was looking forward to "even stronger coordination" during the coming Monsoon Session of Parliament to make "the government of the day more accountable".



Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan greets Mallikarjun Kharge after the oath-taking ceremony on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We will continue to raise the burning concerns, aspirations, and voices of the people with sincerity, conviction and determination. That remains our foremost responsibility, and I shall discharge it with the utmost commitment," he said.

He took oath separately in Mr. Radhakrishnan's chamber. The Vice-President congratulated Mr. Kharge and said the Upper House would benefit from his long experience. Ms. Gandhi and other Congress leaders – Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra, K.C. Venugopal, Mukul Wasnik, Jairam Ramesh and Syed Nasseer Hussain – were present during the event. Mr. Kharge's wife, daughter, and granddaughter, along with her spouse, were present.

Mr. Radhakrishnan later administered the oath to seven other newly elected members – Mansingh Meraman Parmar, Tarun Chugh, Alka Singh, Jitendra Meghjiabhai Kanzariya, Rajendra Hiralal Jain, M. Nagaraja, and Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi.

30J6. Kharge reappointed Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition; seeks stronger coordination

खड़गे पुनः राज्यसभा में विपक्ष के नेता नियुक्त; बेहतर समन्वय पर दिया जोर।

- Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and seven other newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha took oath on Monday. Mr. Kharge was also reappointed as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha with effect from June 26.

कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे तथा राज्यसभा के सात अन्य नव-निर्वाचित सदस्यों ने सोमवार को शपथ ग्रहण की। श्री खड़गे को 26 जून से प्रभावी राज्यसभा में विपक्ष का नेता भी पुनः नियुक्त किया गया।

- Mr. Radhakrishnan later administered the oath to seven other newly elected members – Mansingh Meraman Parmar, Tarun Chugh, Alka Singh, Jitendra Meghjiabhai Kanzariya, Rajendra Hiralal Jain, M. Nagaraja, and Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi.



इसके बाद सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन ने सात अन्य नव-निर्वाचित सदस्यों — मानसिंह मेरामन परमार, तरुण चुध, अलका सिंह, जितेंद्र मेघजीभाई कंजारिया, राजेंद्र हीरालाल जैन, एम. नागराज तथा अधिकारिमायुम शारदा देवी — को शपथ दिलाई।

GS Paper II: Governance		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	Why are States opposing VB-G RAM G? राज्य VB-G RAM G का विरोध क्यों कर रहे हैं?	
30J6	Rise in food poisoning cases highlights lapses in food safety खाद्य विषाक्तता के मामलों में वृद्धि खाद्य सुरक्षा में कमियों को उजागर करती है	

Why are States opposing VB-G RAM G

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

EXPLAINER

Sobhana K. Nair

On July 1, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) will become operational, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The Union Rural Development Ministry notified the draft rules for the new employment scheme on May 22, giving a month to stakeholders to submit their feedback.

The difference

The VB-G RAM G marks a shift from a "demand-driven framework" to a "supply-driven scheme". Under the new system, allocations will be capped within a fixed budget determined by the Union government based on "objective parameters".

While the new Act increases the number of guaranteed workdays from

100 to 125, it also significantly raises the financial burden on States from the current 10% share to 40% of total expenditure. Under the MGNREGA, the Union government was responsible for 100% of the labour wages and 75% of the material wages. In practice, this translated to a 90:10 cost share between the Centre and the States.

Section 5(1) empowers the Union government to "notify rural areas in a State" where the scheme will be implemented. This is a departure from the MGNREGA, which was universal. Another departure from the MGNREGA is that the new law allows for a blackout period, pausing the programme during peak agricultural seasons to "facilitate availability of labour".

Objections by the States

At least three States – Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, two of them with BJP-led governments – questioned the shift in



At least three States have raised questions about the shift in the financial model of VB-G RAM G.

the financial model, which now requires a majority of States to bear 40% of the total expenditure, in contrast to the MGNREGA.

Five States have sought a revision of wage rates, and four have aired reservations over the provision of 60 non-working days during the peak agricultural season.

Bihar has sought that wages should increase from the present ₹255 to ₹413. Jammu & Kashmir, meanwhile, wants an in-

crease in wages from ₹272 to ₹311. Both Jharkhand and Punjab argued that wages should be competitive and in line with market conditions. Uttarakhand underlined the tough landscape that workers have to work on and sought a compensatory hike. Nearly all States have highlighted delays in clearing the wage and material bill by the Centre.

Centre to hold power

One of the key concerns raised by academics and activists is that the VB-G RAM G gives disproportionate power to the Centre. As per the draft rules on inter-State distribution of funds, the Union government will adopt objective parameters utilised for horizontal devolution among States as recommended by the 16th Finance Commission. The exact application methodology is determined at the discretion of the Union government, a clause, flagged as concerning.

30J6. Why are States opposing VB-G RAM G? राज्य VB-G RAM G का विरोध क्यों कर रहे हैं?

- On July 1, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) will become operational, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).



1 जुलाई से विकसित भारत-गारंटी फॉर रोजगार एंड आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) [VB-G RAM G] लागू होगा, जो महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (MGNREGA) का स्थान लेगा।

- The **Union Rural Development Ministry** notified the draft rules for the new employment scheme on **May 22**, giving a month to stakeholders to submit their feedback.
केंद्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने 22 मई को नई रोजगार योजना के मसौदा नियम अधिसूचित किए और हितधारकों को अपनी प्रतिक्रिया देने के लिए एक माह का समय दिया।

The difference

मुख्य अंतर।

- The **VB-G RAM G** marks a shift from a “**demand-driven framework**” to a “**supply-driven scheme**”.
VB-G RAM G “मांग-आधारित व्यवस्था” से “आपूर्ति-आधारित योजना” की ओर परिवर्तन का संकेत देता है।
- Under the new system, allocations will be capped within a fixed budget determined by the **Union government** based on “**objective parameters**”.
नई व्यवस्था के तहत आवंटन केंद्र सरकार द्वारा “वस्तुनिष्ठ मानकों” के आधार पर निर्धारित निश्चित बजट की सीमा के भीतर रहेगा।
- While the new Act increases the number of guaranteed workdays from **100 to 125**, it also significantly raises the financial burden on **States** from the current **10%** share to **40%** of the total expenditure.
नया अधिनियम गारंटीकृत कार्य दिवसों की संख्या 100 से बढ़ाकर 125 करता है, लेकिन इसके साथ ही राज्यों पर वित्तीय भार वर्तमान 10% से बढ़ाकर कुल व्यय का 40% कर देता है।
- Under the **MGNREGA**, the **Union government** was responsible for **100%** of the labour wages and **75%** of the material wages.
MGNREGA के अंतर्गत केंद्र सरकार श्रम मजदूरी का 100% तथा सामग्री व्यय का 75% वहन करती थी।
- In practice, this translated to a **90:10** cost share between the **Centre** and the **States**.
व्यवहार में इसका अर्थ केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच 90:10 के व्यय साझाकरण से था।
- Section 5(1)** empowers the **Union government** to “**notify rural areas in a State**” where the scheme will be implemented.
धारा 5(1) केंद्र सरकार को यह अधिकार देती है कि वह किसी राज्य के उन ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को अधिसूचित करे जहाँ यह योजना लागू की जाएगी।
- This is a departure from the **MGNREGA**, which was universal.
यह प्रावधान MGNREGA से भिन्न है, क्योंकि वह सार्वभौमिक रूप से लागू था।
- Another departure from the **MGNREGA** is that the new law allows for a **blackout period**, pausing the programme during peak agricultural seasons to “**facilitate availability of labour**”.
MGNREGA से एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण अंतर यह है कि नया कानून ब्लैकआउट अवधि का प्रावधान करता है, जिसके तहत कृषि के चरम मौसम में श्रमिकों की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए योजना को अस्थायी रूप से रोका जा सकता है।

Objections by the States

राज्यों की आपत्तियाँ।

- At least three States — **Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand**, two of them with **BJP-led governments** — questioned the shift in the financial model, which now requires a majority of States to bear **40%** of the total expenditure, in contrast to the **MGNREGA**.
कम-से-कम तीन राज्यों — मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार और झारखंड, जिनमें से दो में भाजपा-नेतृत्व वाली सरकारें हैं — ने नए वित्तीय मॉडल पर प्रश्न उठाए, जिसके तहत अधिकांश राज्यों को कुल व्यय का 40% वहन करना होगा, जबकि MGNREGA में व्यवस्था अलग थी।



- Five States have sought a revision of **wage rates**, and four have aired reservations over the provision of **60 non-working days during the peak agricultural season**.
पाँच राज्यों ने मजदूरी दरों में संशोधन की मांग की है, जबकि चार राज्यों ने कृषि के चरम मौसम में 60 गैर-कार्य दिवसों के प्रावधान पर आपत्ति जताई है।
- Nearly all States have highlighted delays in clearing the **wage and material bill** by the Centre.
लगभग सभी राज्यों ने केंद्र द्वारा मजदूरी और सामग्री बिल के भुगतान में होने वाली देरी का मुद्दा उठाया।
- As per the draft rules on inter-State distribution of funds, the **Union government** will adopt objective parameters utilised for horizontal devolution among States as recommended by the **16th Finance Commission**.
राज्यों के बीच निधियों के वितरण से संबंधित मसौदा नियमों के अनुसार, केंद्र सरकार 16वें वित्त आयोग द्वारा अनुशंसित राज्यों के बीच क्षैतिज वितरण के लिए प्रयुक्त वस्तुनिष्ठ मानकों को अपनाएगी।
- The exact application methodology is determined at the discretion of the **Union government**, a clause flagged as concerning.
इन मानकों को लागू करने की सटीक कार्यप्रणाली केंद्र सरकार के विवेक पर निर्भर होगी, जिसे एक चिंताजनक प्रावधान के रूप में चिह्नित किया गया है।

Rise in food poisoning cases highlights lapses in food safety

Nearly three-fourths of all States and Union Territories tended to have low or moderate scores on the Food Safety Index

GS II: Governance

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

Two suspected events of food poisoning reported this month, one at a private school in Indore in Madhya Pradesh, and another at a popular eatery in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra, which affected over 200 people have once again highlighted the need for strengthening the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act.

As per the latest Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report, a total of 1,122 people died due to food poisoning in India in 2024 (Chart 1).

Such avoidable deaths should be seen in the context of lapses in the implementation of the Act, as revealed by the government's own State Food Safety Index released last for 2023-24. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) measures this index for all States and Union Territories based on five key parameters: human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing infrastructure and surveillance, training and capacity building, and consumer empowerment.

While a strong correlation could not be established, the index showed that States that saw high numbers of food poisoning cases also tended to have low or moderate scores on the index (Chart 2).

Nearly three-fourths of all States and Union Territories scored less than 50 out of the highest-possible score of 100. Jharkhand, where over 130 persons died of food poisoning in 2024, scored 26.5. Uttar Pradesh, which reported over 200 casualties in 2024, scored 44.25.

The FSS Act mandates periodic inspections and analysis of food samples from all registered Food Business Operators (FBOs). An amendment to the Act notified this month has made the frequency of the inspections to be based on a dynamic risk-based assessment of

all FBOs, depending on the type of establishment, their past records and other such factors. While the amended provisions are yet to be implemented, FSSAI data for the year 2024-25 showed that inspections conducted and food samples analysed by various States were much lower when compared with the number of registered FBOs (Chart 3). For instance, only 20,877 samples were lifted in Maharashtra which has over 1.8 lakh registered or active FBO licences, as per the data available with the Food Safety Compliance System.

With the effective implementation of the regulations largely dependent on authorities working at the central and State levels, data showed that while the FSSAI is responsible for ensuring overall coordination, it is the State Food Safety Authorities who are primarily responsible for enforcement at the field level. However, these institutes suffer from vacancies.

The FSSAI, which has a sanctioned strength of 822 officers, saw vacancies increase from about 30% to almost 40% in the last five years. Further, data submitted in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha in March this year showed that only 2,997 of the sanctioned positions of 4,208 Food Safety Officers (FSO) across all States and UTs have been filled as of the third quarter of FY 2025-26.

The World Health Organization's Foodborne Disease Estimates (2026) estimated that unsafe food causes around 866 million illnesses and 1.5 million deaths annually. It also stated that 57.1 million days of Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) were lost in 2021 from foodborne diseases, and 30% of this burden was borne by children under 5 years.

Though the total foodborne disease burden has declined since 2000, a country-wise analysis of the rate of years of life lost due to foodborne diseases showed that India ranked 15th, along with several low-income African nations (Chart 4).

Slipping safety standards

The data for charts were sourced from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India and the World Health Organization



Quality check: Food safety officials conducting inspections in a milk booth in Visakhapatnam in February 2026 in the wake of a milk adulteration incident in Rajahmundry. V. RAJU

CHART 1: More than a thousand cases and deaths due to food poisoning were reported in 2024

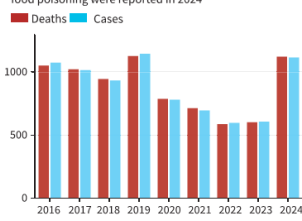


CHART 2: States that saw a high number of food poisoning cases tended to have low or moderate scores on Food Safety Index

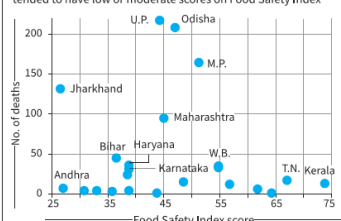


CHART 3: Samples collected for testing in 2024-25 compared with the total registered food business operators in select States

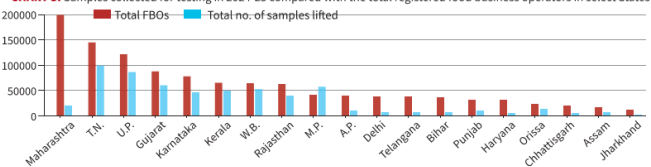
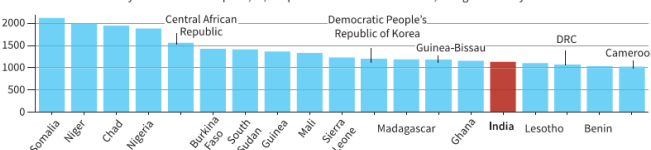


CHART 4: "Foodborne years of lives lost" per 1,00,000 persons. India is ranked 15th, along with many African countries



J6. Rise in food poisoning cases highlights lapses in food safety

30

खाद्य विषाक्तता के मामलों में वृद्धि खाद्य सुरक्षा में कमियों को उजागर करती है

- Nearly three-fourths of all States and Union Territories tended to have low or moderate scores on the Food Safety Index.
लगभग तीन-चौथाई राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों ने खाद्य सुरक्षा सूचकांक (Food Safety Index) में निम्न या मध्यम स्तर के अंक प्राप्त किए।
- Two suspected events of food poisoning reported this month, one at a private school in Indore in Madhya Pradesh, and another at a popular eatery in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra, which affected over 200 people, have once again highlighted the need for strengthening the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act.
इस माह खाद्य विषाक्तता (Food Poisoning) की दो संदिग्ध घटनाएँ सामने आईं। इनमें से एक मध्य प्रदेश के इंदौर स्थित एक निजी विद्यालय में तथा दूसरी महाराष्ट्र के भिवंडी स्थित एक लोकप्रिय भोजनालय में हुई, जिनसे 200 से अधिक लोग प्रभावित हुए। इन घटनाओं ने एक बार फिर खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक (FSS) अधिनियम के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन को सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित किया है।
- As per the latest Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report, a total of 1,122 people died due to food poisoning in India in 2024 (Chart 1).
भारत में आकस्मिक मृत्यु एवं आत्महत्या संबंधी नवीनतम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2024 में भारत में खाद्य विषाक्तता के कारण कुल 1,122 लोगों की मृत्यु हुई थी (चार्ट 1)।
- Such avoidable deaths should be seen in the context of lapses in the implementation of the Act, as revealed by the government's own State Food Safety Index released last for 2023-24.
ऐसी रोकी जा सकने वाली मृत्यु घटनाओं को अधिनियम के क्रियान्वयन में हुई कमियों के संदर्भ में देखा जाना चाहिए, जैसा कि सरकार द्वारा 2023-24 के लिए जारी स्टेट फूड सेफ्टी इंडेक्स से स्पष्ट होता है।
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) measures this index for all States and Union Territories based on five key parameters: human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing infrastructure and surveillance, training and capacity building, and consumer empowerment.
भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण (FSSAI) सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के लिए इस सूचकांक का मूल्यांकन पाँच प्रमुख मानकों के आधार पर करता है। इनमें मानव संसाधन एवं संस्थागत आँकड़े, अनुपालन, खाद्य परीक्षण अवसंरचना एवं निगरानी, प्रशिक्षण एवं क्षमता निर्माण, तथा उपभोक्ता सशक्तिकरण शामिल हैं।
- While a strong correlation could not be established, the index showed that States that saw high numbers of food poisoning cases also tended to have low or moderate scores on the index (Chart 2).
यद्यपि कोई सशक्त सहसंबंध स्थापित नहीं किया जा सका, फिर भी सूचकांक से यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि जिन राज्यों में खाद्य विषाक्तता के अधिक मामले दर्ज हुए, उनके सूचकांक में अंक सामान्यतः निम्न अथवा मध्यम स्तर के रहे (चार्ट 2)।
- Nearly three-fourths of all States and Union Territories scored less than 50 out of the highest possible score of 100.
लगभग तीन-चौथाई राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों ने अधिकतम 100 अंकों में से 50 से कम अंक प्राप्त किए।
- Jharkhand, where over 130 persons died of food poisoning in 2024, scored 26.5.
झारखंड, जहाँ 2024 में खाद्य विषाक्तता के कारण 130 से अधिक लोगों की मृत्यु हुई, ने 26.5 अंक प्राप्त किए।
- Uttar Pradesh, which reported over 200 casualties in 2024, scored 44.25.
उत्तर प्रदेश, जहाँ 2024 में 200 से अधिक लोगों की मृत्यु दर्ज की गई, ने 44.25 अंक प्राप्त किए।
- The FSS Act mandates periodic inspections and analysis of food samples from all registered Food Business Operators (FBOs).



FSS अधिनियम के अंतर्गत सभी पंजीकृत फूड बिजनेस ऑपरेटर (FBOs) के यहाँ समय-समय पर निरीक्षण तथा खाद्य नमूनों का विश्लेषण करना अनिवार्य है।

- An amendment to the **Act** notified this month has made the frequency of the **inspections** to be based on a dynamic **risk-based assessment** of all **FBOs**, depending on the type of establishment, their past records and other such factors.

इस माह अधिसूचित अधिनियम के संशोधन के अनुसार, निरीक्षणों की आवृत्ति अब सभी FBOs के जोखिम-आधारित गतिशील मूल्यांकन पर आधारित होगी, जिसमें प्रतिष्ठान का प्रकार, उसका पूर्व रिकॉर्ड तथा अन्य संबंधित कारकों को ध्यान में रखा जाएगा।

- While the amended provisions are yet to be implemented, **FSSAI** data for the year **2024-25** showed that **inspections** conducted and **food samples** analysed by various **States** were much lower when compared with the number of registered **FBOs** (**Chart 3**).

यद्यपि संशोधित प्रावधान अभी लागू होने शेष हैं, फिर भी 2024-25 के FSSAI आँकड़ों से स्पष्ट हुआ कि विभिन्न राज्यों द्वारा किए गए निरीक्षण तथा जाँचे गए खाद्य नमूनों की संख्या पंजीकृत FBOs की संख्या की तुलना में बहुत कम थी (चार्ट 3)।

- For instance, only **20,877 samples** were lifted in **Maharashtra**, which has over **1.8 lakh** registered or active **FBO licences**, as per the data available with the **Food Safety Compliance System**.

उदाहरण के लिए, महाराष्ट्र में, जहाँ फूड सेफ्टी कम्प्लायंस सिस्टम के अनुसार 1.8 लाख से अधिक पंजीकृत अथवा सक्रिय FBO लाइसेंस हैं, वहाँ केवल 20,877 नमूने जाँच के लिए लिए गए।

- With the effective implementation of the regulations largely dependent on authorities working at the **Central** and **State** levels, data showed that while the **FSSAI** is responsible for ensuring overall coordination, it is the **State Food Safety Authorities** who are primarily responsible for enforcement at the **field level**.

इन नियमों के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन की जिम्मेदारी मुख्यतः केंद्र और राज्य स्तर की संस्थाओं पर निर्भर करती है। आँकड़ों से स्पष्ट हुआ कि जहाँ FSSAI समग्र समन्वय के लिए उत्तरदायी है, वहीं राज्य खाद्य सुरक्षा प्राधिकरण मैदानी स्तर पर प्रवर्तन के लिए मुख्य रूप से जिम्मेदार हैं।

- However, these **institutions** suffer from **vacancies**.

हालाँकि, ये संस्थाएँ बड़ी संख्या में रिक्त पदों की समस्या से जूझ रही हैं।

- The **FSSAI**, which has a sanctioned strength of **822 officers**, saw **vacancies** increase from about **30%** to almost **40%** in the last **five years**.

FSSAI, जिसमें 822 अधिकारियों के स्वीकृत पद हैं, वहाँ पिछले पाँच वर्षों में रिक्तियों का स्तर लगभग 30% से बढ़कर लगभग 40% हो गया है।

- Further, data submitted in response to a question in the **Rajya Sabha** in **March** this year showed that only **2,997** of the sanctioned positions of **4,208 Food Safety Officers (FSOs)** across all **States** and **Union Territories** have been filled as of the **third quarter of FY 2025-26**.

इसके अतिरिक्त, इस वर्ष मार्च में राज्यसभा में पूछे गए एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में प्रस्तुत आँकड़ों से ज्ञात हुआ कि सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में स्वीकृत 4,208 खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिकारियों (FSOs) के पदों में से वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 की तीसरी तिमाही तक केवल 2,997 पद ही भरे गए थे।

- The **World Health Organization's Foodborne Disease Estimates (2026)** estimated that **unsafe food** causes around **866 million illnesses** and **1.5 million deaths** annually.

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) की फूडबोर्न डिजीज एस्टिमेट्स (2026) रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, असुरक्षित भोजन के कारण प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 866 मिलियन लोग बीमार पड़ते हैं तथा 15 लाख लोगों की मृत्यु होती है।

- It also stated that **57.1 million days of Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)** were lost in **2021** from **foodborne diseases**, and **30%** of this burden was borne by **children under 5 years**.

रिपोर्ट में यह भी बताया गया है कि 2021 में खाद्य जनित रोगों के कारण 57.1 मिलियन डिसएबिलिटी-

एडजस्टेड लाइफ ईयर्स (DALYs) का नुकसान हुआ तथा इस कुल भार का 30% हिस्सा पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों ने वहन किया।



- Though the total **foodborne disease** burden has declined since **2000**, a country-wise analysis of the rate of **years of life lost** due to **foodborne diseases** showed that **India** ranked **15th**, along with several **low-income African nations** (Chart 4).
यद्यपि 2000 के बाद से कुल **खाद्य जनित रोगों** का भार कम हुआ है, फिर भी **खाद्य जनित रोगों** के कारण **जीवन के खोए हुए वर्षों (Years of Life Lost)** की देशवार दर के विश्लेषण में **भारत** का स्थान **15वाँ** रहा, जो कई निम्न-आय वाले अफ्रीकी देशों के साथ था (चार्ट 4)।

GS Paper II: International Relations		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	'Turkiye must be included in Europe security structures' 'यूरोप की सुरक्षा संरचनाओं में तुर्किये को शामिल किया जाना चाहिए'	
30J6	Israeli attacks 'led to genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity' इज़रायली हमलों से 'नरसंहार, युद्ध अपराध और मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध' हुए	

'Turkiye must be included in Europe security structures'

GS II: IR
Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

Turkiye must be included in all of Europe's defence structures and defence trade restrictions between NATO members must be removed, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday ahead of a key NATO summit.

His remarks come as Europe revamps its defences to counter Russia and the risk of a U.S. pullback from NATO, which is to hold a summit in the Turkish capital Ankara on July 7-8.

"Turkiye's indispensable contributions to European security are sometimes overlooked," Mr.

At issue is Turkiye's access to the EU's 150-billion-euro Security Action for Europe initiative

Erdogan told parliamentary delegates from all 32 NATO member states. He said Turkiye wanted "to participate in all defence and security initiatives" on the continent.

At issue is Turkiye's access to the EU's 150-billion-euro Security Action for Europe (SAFE) initiative – to strengthen European defence capabilities.

"We expect your support, lawmakers, for Turki-

ye's inclusion in the defence and security initiatives announced by the EU," Mr. Erdogan said.

Within SAFE, firms from non-EU countries such as Turkiye, Britain and the U.S. can only supply up to 35% of the component costs of weaponry funded by the scheme.

If Turkiye wants its companies to be able to tap a bigger part of the funds, Ankara needs to sign a partnership with the EU and then negotiate special access with Brussels – a process that would require approval from all 27 EU members.

Greece has threatened to block such a move.

30J6. 'Turkiye must be included in Europe security structures'

'यूरोप की सुरक्षा संरचनाओं में तुर्किये को शामिल किया जाना चाहिए'

• **Turkiye must be included in all of Europe's defence structures and defence trade restrictions between NATO members must be removed,** President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** said on Monday ahead of a key **NATO summit**.

• **तुर्किये को यूरोप की सभी रक्षा संरचनाओं में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए तथा NATO सदस्य देशों के बीच रक्षा व्यापार पर लगे प्रतिबंध हटाए जाने चाहिए, यह बात राष्ट्रपति रेचप तैय्यप एर्दोआन ने सोमवार को महत्वपूर्ण NATO शिखर सम्मेलन से पहले कही।**

- His remarks come as **Europe** revamps its **defences** to counter **Russia** and the risk of a **U.S.** pullback from **NATO**, which is to hold a summit in the Turkish capital **Ankara** on **July 7-8**.
- उनकी यह टिप्पणी ऐसे समय आई है जब **यूरोप**, **रूस** का मुकाबला करने तथा **NATO** से **अमेरिका** की संभावित दूरी के जोखिम से निपटने के लिए अपनी **रक्षा व्यवस्था** को मजबूत कर रहा है। **NATO** का शिखर सम्मेलन **7-8 जुलाई** को तुर्किये की राजधानी **अंकारा** में आयोजित होगा।
- At issue is **Turkiye's access to the EU's 150-billion-euro Security Action for Europe (SAFE) initiative — to strengthen European defence capabilities.**
मुख्य मुद्दा तुर्किये की यूरोपीय संघ (EU) की 150 अरब यूरो की सिक्योरिटी एक्शन फॉर यूरोप (SAFE) पहल तक पहुँच है, जिसका उद्देश्य यूरोप की रक्षा क्षमताओं को सुदृढ़ करना है।
- "We expect your support, lawmakers, for Turkiye's inclusion in the defence and security initiatives announced by the EU," Mr. Erdogan said.
श्री एर्दोआन ने कहा, "हम यूरोपीय संघ (EU) द्वारा घोषित रक्षा एवं सुरक्षा पहलों में तुर्किये को शामिल किए जाने के लिए सांसदों से आपके समर्थन की अपेक्षा करते हैं।"



- Within **SAFE**, firms from **non-EU countries** such as **Turkiye, Britain** and the **U.S.** can only supply up to **35%** of the component costs of weaponry funded by the scheme.
SAFE के अंतर्गत, **गैर-यूरोपीय संघ (Non-EU)** देशों जैसे **तुर्किये, ब्रिटेन और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका (U.S.)** की कंपनियाँ इस योजना के तहत वित्तपोषित हथियारों के **घटक लागत** का केवल **35%** तक ही आपूर्ति कर सकती हैं।
- If **Turkiye** wants its companies to be able to tap a bigger part of the funds, **Ankara** needs to sign a partnership with the **EU** and then **negotiate special access with Brussels** — a process that would require approval from all **27 EU members**.
यदि **तुर्किये** चाहता है कि उसकी कंपनियाँ इन निधियों का अधिक बड़ा हिस्सा प्राप्त कर सकें, तो **अंकारा** को **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** के साथ साझेदारी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने होंगे और उसके बाद **ब्रुसेल्स** के साथ विशेष पहुँच के लिए वार्ता करनी होगी। यह प्रक्रिया **यूरोपीय संघ के सभी 27 सदस्य देशों** की स्वीकृति पर निर्भर करेगी।
- **Greece has threatened to block such a move.**
ग्रीस ने इस प्रकार के कदम को **अवरुद्ध** करने की **धमकी** दी है।

Israeli attacks 'led to genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity'

International criminal law defines genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and recognises that these offences may be committed against children and produce child specific harms; recently, an independent UN inquiry found that Israel actions deliberately targeted Palestinian children

GS II: IR

EXPLAINER

Rizmi Lia M.

Israeli authorities and security forces deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Gaza, and war crimes in the occupied West Bank," an independent UN inquiry said on Tuesday.

International criminal law, as codified in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and customary international law, defines genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes and recognises that these offences may be committed against children and produce child-specific harms.

Act of genocide

According to Article 6 of the Rome statute of the ICC, "genocide" means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such.

The acts include, killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures



Israel has killed over 73,000 Palestinians in the Gaza strip since October 2023. AFP

intended to prevent births within the group, forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Widespread attack

Under Article 7 of the Rome Statute, crimes against humanity are specific acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population, with knowledge of that attack.

The Rome Statute lists a range of acts that may constitute crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation or forcible transfer of populations, unlawful imprisonment, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution of identifiable groups on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or gender

grounds, enforced disappearance, apartheid, and other inhumane acts intentionally causing serious physical or mental harm.

Geneva convention

Article 8 of the Rome Statute defines war crimes as serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during an armed conflict. The Court exercises jurisdiction particularly where such crimes are committed as part of a plan or policy or on a large scale.

War crimes include grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, such as wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury, unlawful destruction or seizure of property, compelling prisoners of war to serve hostile forces, denying prison-

ers a fair trial, unlawful deportation or confinement, and taking hostages.

The statute also criminalises a broader range of serious violations of the laws and customs of war. The statute applies these prohibitions to both international and non-international armed conflicts.

On Israel's actions

In a previous report dated September 16, 2025, the Commission has found that the Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces have committed and are continuing to commit four categories of underlying acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip with the specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinian group, as such. Three of those four categories are especially relevant to children, namely (i) killing

members of the group; (ii) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; and (iii) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. They also found that the elements for crimes against humanity have been fulfilled in Gaza, namely that attacks by the Israeli security forces since October 7, 2023 have involved "multiple commission of acts" directed against any civilian population that are widespread or systematic.

The Commission has found in a previous report in September 2025 that (i) the extensive and deliberate targeting of Palestinians, including children, showed that the military operations were not conducted solely to defeat Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups as Israeli officials claimed, nor can they legitimately contribute to the other stated goals of defending the state of Israel and securing the release of Israeli hostages; and (ii) the intentional targeting of Palestinian children was intended to physically destroy the larger Palestinian group in Gaza.

The Commission finds that Israeli security forces have committed the following war crimes against and affecting Palestinian children, consistent with its findings in previous reports: wilful killing, tor-

ture and inhuman and degrading treatment causing severe physical and psychological harm, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health through deliberate deprivation and violence, intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population, destruction of property, and outrages upon personal dignity, designed to dehumanise and subjugate the Palestinian population, including children.

The report says that Israel continues to blatantly disregard the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion of 19 July 2024 in respect of the 'Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem', and importantly, the orders for provisional measures issued on 26 January, 28 March 2024 and 24 May 2024 in the case of the 'Application on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)', which are binding on Israel. In the case, South Africa accuses Israeli forces of genocide, but it could take years to reach a conclusion.

The Commission's findings, though not judicial determinations, may inform ongoing international investigations and proceedings.

30J6. Israeli attacks 'led to genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity'

इज़रायली हमलों से 'नरसंहार, युद्ध अपराध और मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध' हुए

- **FE) initiative** — to strengthen **European defence capabilities**.
- मुख्य मुद्दा **यूरोपीय संघ** की **150 अरब यूरो** की **Security Action for Europe (SAFE)** पहल तक **तुर्किये** की पहुँच का है, जिसका उद्देश्य **यूरोप की रक्षा क्षमताओं** को मजबूत करना है।
- "We expect your support, lawmakers, for **Turkiye's** inclusion in the **defence and security initiatives** announced by the **EU**," Mr. **Erdogan** said.
- श्री **एर्दोआन** ने कहा, "हम आशा करते हैं कि **यूरोपीय संघ** द्वारा घोषित **रक्षा एवं सुरक्षा पहलों** में **तुर्किये** को शामिल किए जाने के लिए आप सांसदों का समर्थन मिलेगा।"
- Within **SAFE**, firms from **non-EU countries** such as **Turkiye, Britain** and the **U.S.** can only supply up to **35%** of the component costs of weaponry funded by the scheme.
- **SAFE** के अंतर्गत **तुर्किये, ब्रिटेन और अमेरिका** जैसे **गैर-यूरोपीय संघ देशों** की कंपनियाँ इस योजना के तहत वित्तपोषित हथियारों के घटक लागत का केवल **35%** तक ही आपूर्ति कर सकती हैं।
- If **Turkiye** wants its companies to be able to tap a bigger part of the funds, **Ankara** needs to sign a partnership with the **EU** and then negotiate special access with **Brussels** — a process that would require approval from all **27 EU members**.
- यदि **तुर्किये** चाहता है कि उसकी कंपनियाँ इन निधियों का बड़ा हिस्सा प्राप्त कर सकें, तो **अंकारा** को **यूरोपीय संघ** के साथ साझेदारी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने होंगे और उसके बाद **बुसेल्स** के साथ विशेष पहुँच पर बातचीत करनी होगी। इस प्रक्रिया के लिए **यूरोपीय संघ के सभी 27 सदस्य देशों** की स्वीकृति आवश्यक होगी।
- **Greece** has threatened to block such a move.
- **ग्रीस** ने ऐसे किसी भी कदम को अवरुद्ध करने की चेतावनी दी है।
- **International criminal law** defines **genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes**, and recognises that these offences may be committed against children and produce child specific harms. Recently, an independent **UN** inquiry found that **Israel** actions deliberately targeted **Palestinian children**.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक कानून नरसंहार, मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध और युद्ध अपराधों को परिभाषित करता है तथा यह स्वीकार करता है कि ये अपराध बच्चों के विरुद्ध भी किए जा सकते हैं और बच्चों के लिए विशेष प्रकार की हानि उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं। हाल ही में **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)** की एक स्वतंत्र जांच में पाया गया कि **इज़रायल** की कार्रवाइयों ने जानबूझकर **फ़िलिस्तीनी बच्चों** को निशाना बनाया।
- "**Israeli authorities and security forces** deliberately targeted **Palestinian children**, resulting in **genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes** in **Gaza**, and **war crimes** in the occupied **West Bank**," an independent **UN** inquiry said on Tuesday.
मंगलवार को **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)** की एक स्वतंत्र जांच में कहा गया कि "इज़रायली प्राधिकरणों और सुरक्षा बलों ने जानबूझकर **फ़िलिस्तीनी बच्चों** को निशाना बनाया, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **गाज़ा** में **नरसंहार, मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध और युद्ध अपराध**, तथा कब्जे वाले **वेस्ट बैंक** में **युद्ध अपराध** हुए।"
- **International criminal law**, as codified in the **Rome Statute** of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** and customary international law, defines **genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes** and recognises that these offences may be committed against children and produce child-specific harms.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक कानून, जैसा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध न्यायालय (ICC) के रोम संविधि (Rome Statute) तथा प्रथागत अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून में संहिताबद्ध है, **नरसंहार, मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध और युद्ध अपराधों** को परिभाषित करता है तथा यह मान्यता देता है कि ये अपराध बच्चों के विरुद्ध भी किए जा सकते हैं और बच्चों के लिए विशेष प्रकार की हानि उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।

Act of genocide
नरसंहार का कृत्य

- According to **Article 6** of the **Rome Statute** of the ICC, “**genocide**” means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such.
ICC की रोम संविधि के अनुच्छेद 6 के अनुसार, “**नरसंहार**” का अर्थ ऐसे किसी भी कृत्य से है जो किसी राष्ट्रीय, जातीय, नस्लीय या धार्मिक समूह को पूर्णतः अथवा आंशिक रूप से नष्ट करने के उद्देश्य से किया जाए।
- The acts include, killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group, forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
इन कृत्यों में समूह के सदस्यों की हत्या करना, उन्हें गंभीर शारीरिक या मानसिक क्षति पहुँचाना, समूह पर जानबूझकर ऐसी जीवन परिस्थितियाँ थोपना जिनसे उसका पूर्ण या आंशिक भौतिक विनाश हो, समूह में जन्म रोकने के उद्देश्य से उपाय लागू करना तथा समूह के बच्चों को बलपूर्वक किसी अन्य समूह में स्थानांतरित करना शामिल है।

Widespread attack व्यापक हमला

- Under **Article 7** of the **Rome Statute**, **crimes against humanity** are specific acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population, with knowledge of that attack.
रोम संविधि के अनुच्छेद 7 के अंतर्गत, **मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध** वे विशिष्ट कृत्य हैं जो किसी नागरिक आबादी के विरुद्ध व्यापक या व्यवस्थित हमले के हिस्से के रूप में तथा उस हमले की जानकारी रखते हुए किए जाते हैं।
- The **Rome Statute** lists a range of acts that may constitute **crimes against humanity**, including **murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation** or forcible transfer of populations, unlawful imprisonment, **torture, rape** and other forms of sexual violence, persecution of identifiable groups on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or gender grounds, **enforced disappearance, apartheid**, and other inhumane acts intentionally causing serious physical or mental harm.
रोम संविधि उन अनेक कृत्यों की सूची देती है जो **मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराध** हो सकते हैं, जिनमें **हत्या, समूह विनाश, दासता, निर्वासन** अथवा आबादी का बलपूर्वक स्थानांतरण, अवैध कारावास, **यातना, बलात्कार** तथा यौन हिंसा के अन्य रूप, राजनीतिक, नस्लीय, राष्ट्रीय, जातीय, सांस्कृतिक, धार्मिक या लैंगिक आधार पर पहचाने जाने वाले समूहों का उत्पीड़न, **बलपूर्वक गुमशुदगी, रंगभेद (अपार्थाइड)** तथा गंभीर शारीरिक या मानसिक क्षति पहुँचाने वाले अन्य अमानवीय कृत्य शामिल हैं।

Geneva convention जिनेवा अभिसमय

- Article 8** of the **Rome Statute** defines **war crimes** as serious violations of **international humanitarian law** committed during an armed conflict.
रोम संविधि का अनुच्छेद 8 **युद्ध अपराधों** को सशस्त्र संघर्ष के दौरान किए गए **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवीय कानून** के गंभीर उल्लंघनों के रूप में परिभाषित करता है।
- The Court exercises jurisdiction particularly where such crimes are committed as part of a plan or policy or on a large scale.
न्यायालय विशेष रूप से उन मामलों में अधिकार क्षेत्र का प्रयोग करता है जहाँ ऐसे अपराध किसी योजना या नीति के अंतर्गत अथवा बड़े पैमाने पर किए गए हों।
- War crimes** include grave breaches of the **Geneva Conventions**, such as wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury, unlawful destruction or seizure of property, compelling prisoners of war to serve hostile forces, denying prisoners a fair trial, unlawful deportation or confinement, and taking hostages.

युद्ध अपराधों में जिनेवा अभिसमयों का गंभीर उल्लंघन शामिल है, जैसे जानबूझकर हत्या, यातना या अमानवीय व्यवहार, जानबूझकर अत्यधिक पीड़ा या गंभीर चोट पहुँचाना, संपत्ति का अवैध विनाश या कब्ज़ा, युद्धबंदियों को शत्रु बलों की सेवा करने के लिए विवश करना, उन्हें निष्पक्ष सुनवाई से वंचित करना, अवैध निर्वासन या हिरासत तथा बंधक बनाना।

- The statute also criminalises a broader range of serious violations of the laws and customs of war.
यह संविधि युद्ध के कानूनों और परंपराओं के व्यापक गंभीर उल्लंघनों को भी अपराध घोषित करती है।
- The statute applies these prohibitions to both international and non-international armed conflicts.
यह संविधि इन निषेधों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय तथा गैर-अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों प्रकार के सशस्त्र संघर्षों पर लागू करती है।

On Israel's actions

इज़रायल की कार्रवाइयों पर

- In a previous report dated **September 16, 2025**, the **Commission** has found that the **Israeli authorities** and **Israeli security forces** have committed and are continuing to commit four categories of underlying acts of **genocide** in the **Gaza Strip** with the specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the **Palestinian** group, as such.
16 सितंबर, 2025 की अपनी पूर्व रिपोर्ट में **आयोग** ने पाया कि **इज़रायली प्राधिकरणों** और **इज़रायली सुरक्षा बलों** ने **गाज़ा पट्टी** में **फ़िलिस्तीनी** समूह को पूर्णतः या आंशिक रूप से नष्ट करने के विशेष उद्देश्य से **नरसंहार** की चार श्रेणियों के मूल कृत्य किए हैं और उन्हें जारी रखा है।
- Three of those four categories are especially relevant to children, namely (i) killing members of the group; (ii) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; and (iii) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.
उन चार श्रेणियों में से तीन विशेष रूप से बच्चों से संबंधित हैं, अर्थात् (i) समूह के सदस्यों की हत्या करना, (ii) समूह के सदस्यों को गंभीर शारीरिक या मानसिक क्षति पहुँचाना, तथा (iii) समूह पर जानबूझकर ऐसी जीवन परिस्थितियाँ थोपना जिनसे उसका पूर्ण या आंशिक भौतिक विनाश हो।
- They also found that the elements for **crimes against humanity** have been fulfilled in **Gaza**, namely that attacks by the **Israeli security forces** since **October 7, 2023** have involved "multiple commission of acts" directed against any civilian population that are widespread or systematic.
उन्होंने यह भी पाया कि **गाज़ा** में **मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराधों** के तत्व पूरे हुए हैं, अर्थात् **7 अक्टूबर, 2023** से **इज़रायली सुरक्षा बलों** द्वारा किए गए हमलों में नागरिक आबादी के विरुद्ध व्यापक या व्यवस्थित रूप से "अनेक कृत्य" किए गए हैं।
- The **Commission** has found in a previous report in **September 2025** that (i) the extensive and deliberate targeting of **Palestinians**, including children, showed that the military operations were not conducted solely to defeat **Hamas** and other **Palestinian armed groups** as **Israeli officials** claimed, nor can they legitimately contribute to the other stated goals of defending the state of **Israel** and securing the release of **Israeli hostages**.
आयोग ने **सितंबर 2025** की अपनी पूर्व रिपोर्ट में पाया कि (i) बच्चों सहित **फ़िलिस्तीनियों** को व्यापक और जानबूझकर निशाना बनाए जाने से यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि सैन्य अभियान केवल **हमास** और अन्य **फ़िलिस्तीनी सशस्त्र समूहों** को पराजित करने के लिए नहीं चलाए गए थे, जैसा कि **इज़रायली अधिकारियों** ने दावा किया था, और न ही वे **इज़रायल** की रक्षा तथा **इज़रायली बंधकों** की रिहाई जैसे घोषित उद्देश्यों में वैध रूप से योगदान दे सकते हैं।
- (ii) the intentional targeting of **Palestinian children** was intended to physically destroy the larger **Palestinian** group in **Gaza**.
(ii) **फ़िलिस्तीनी बच्चों** को जानबूझकर निशाना बनाने का उद्देश्य **गाज़ा** में व्यापक **फ़िलिस्तीनी** समूह का भौतिक विनाश करना था।



- The **Commission** finds that **Israeli security forces** have committed the following **war crimes** against and affecting **Palestinian children**, consistent with its findings in previous reports: willful killing, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment causing severe physical and psychological harm, willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health through deliberate deprivation and violence, intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population, destruction of property, and outrages upon personal dignity, designed to dehumanise and subjugate the **Palestinian** population, including children.

आयोग ने पाया कि **इज़रायली सुरक्षा बलों** ने **फ़िलिस्तीनी बच्चों** के विरुद्ध तथा उन्हें प्रभावित करने वाले निम्नलिखित **युद्ध अपराध** किए हैं, जो उसकी पूर्व रिपोर्टों के निष्कर्षों के अनुरूप हैं: जानबूझकर हत्या, यातना तथा अमानवीय और अपमानजनक व्यवहार जिससे गंभीर शारीरिक एवं मानसिक क्षति पहुँची, जानबूझकर वंचित करने और हिंसा के माध्यम से अत्यधिक पीड़ा या गंभीर शारीरिक क्षति पहुँचाना, नागरिक आबादी पर जानबूझकर हमले करना, संपत्ति का विनाश तथा व्यक्तिगत गरिमा का अपमान, जिनका उद्देश्य बच्चों सहित **फ़िलिस्तीनी** आबादी का अमानवीकरण और दमन करना था।

- The report says that **Israel** continues to blatantly disregard the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** advisory opinion of **19 July 2024** in respect of the 'Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem', and importantly, the orders for provisional measures issued on **26 January, 28 March 2024** and **24 May 2024** in the case of the 'Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (**South Africa v. Israel**)', which are binding on **Israel**.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि **इज़रायल** 'अधिकृत फ़िलिस्तीनी क्षेत्र, जिसमें पूर्वी यरूशलम भी शामिल है, में इज़रायल की नीतियों और प्रथाओं से उत्पन्न कानूनी परिणाम' संबंधी **19 जुलाई 2024** की **अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय (ICJ)** की परामर्शात्मक राय की खुलेआम अवहेलना करता रहा है, तथा विशेष रूप से 'गाज़ा पट्टी में नरसंहार अपराध की रोकथाम और दंड संबंधी अभिसमय के अनुप्रयोग (**दक्षिण अफ्रीका बनाम इज़रायल**)' मामले में **26 जनवरी, 28 मार्च 2024** और **24 मई 2024** को जारी अंतरिम उपायों के आदेशों की भी, जो **इज़रायल** पर बाध्यकारी हैं।

- In the case, **South Africa** accuses **Israeli forces** of **genocide**, but it could take years to reach a conclusion.
इस मामले में **दक्षिण अफ्रीका** ने **इज़रायली बलों** पर **नरसंहार** का आरोप लगाया है, लेकिन अंतिम निष्कर्ष तक पहुँचने में कई वर्ष लग सकते हैं।
- The **Commission's findings**, though not judicial determinations, may inform ongoing international investigations and proceedings.
आयोग के निष्कर्ष, यद्यपि न्यायिक निर्णय नहीं हैं, फिर भी वे चल रही अंतरराष्ट्रीय जांचों और न्यायिक कार्यवाहियों के लिए उपयोगी आधार प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

GS Paper III: Economy		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	On the delay in India-U.S. trade deal भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार समझौते में देरी पर	
30J6	Has RBI changed the rules for scam compensation? क्या भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने धोखाधड़ी से संबंधित मुआवज़े के नियमों में परिवर्तन किया है?	
30J6	Union Cabinet okays ₹30,000 cr. additional investment in NIF for new fund creation केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने NIF में नए फंड के सृजन के लिए ₹30,000 करोड़ के अतिरिक्त निवेश को मंजूरी दी।	
30J6	FPIs pour in a record ₹53,300 cr. to compensate for debt equity exit	



	ऋण और इक्विटी से निकासी की भरपाई के लिए FPI ने रिकॉर्ड ₹53,300 करोड़ का निवेश किया।
30J6	U.S. firm Signa forays into India, to curb counterfeiters with AI अमेरिकी कंपनी Signa ने AI की मदद से जालसाजों पर रोक लगाने के लिए भारत में प्रवेश किया।

On the delay in India-U.S. trade deal

India and the U.S. announced in February 2025 that they would work towards a Bilateral Trade Agreement, but differences over agriculture and Russian oil, along with legal battles in Washington and investigations initiated by the Trump administration, have clouded its prospects

EXPLAINER

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

India and the U.S. in February 2025 announced that they would work towards a comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) that was to be finalised by fall 2025. Then, in February 2026, they signed a framework agreement for an interim trade deal that was to be implemented by April-May 2026. Neither deal has come to pass.

Why was the BTA delayed?

Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump announced their intentions to complete a BTA in February 2025, it became clear that a comprehensive deal would be elusive. The talk among government officials was about finalising at least the first tranche of the deal by fall 2025 (September-November 2025).

Talks intensified post April 2025, after Mr. Trump first announced his 'Liberation Day' reciprocal tariffs and then paused them for 90 days so he could negotiate deals with U.S. trade partners. However, despite several meetings, India and the U.S. could not finalise the first tranche, with key sticking points being India's reluctance to open up its agricultural and dairy sectors, and its decision to buy oil from Russia.

In two successive announcements in late July and early August, Mr. Trump raised tariffs on imports from India to 25% and then to 50%, with the latter hike being a penalty for India's Russian oil imports. This decision froze negotiations for a few months before matters thawed once again and talks resumed in October.

What is the interim deal?

Once talks resumed, Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump in February 2026 signed a



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framework for an interim agreement on trade. This was not a trade deal itself, but the framework along which one could be worked out. At the time, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal expressed his confidence that the deal would be completed by April, or at the latest by early May 2026.

Under the framework, the U.S. was to reduce total tariffs on Indian imports to 18%, providing it a competitive advantage over its competitors. Both sides also committed to providing each other preferential market access in "sectors of respective interest".

Why has this deal been delayed?

Soon after the framework was announced, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the reciprocal tariff system itself, saying the law it was based on – the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of the U.S. – did not allow for such tariffs. That removed a major foundation on which the deal negotiations had taken place.

Since then, the U.S. has taken several decisions that have further added to the tariff uncertainty.

Right after the Supreme Court's decision, Mr. Trump announced that he would be imposing a flat 10% tariff on imports from all countries under the Trade Act of 1974, which he said authorised him to take action to address the U.S.'s ballooning trade deficit. This tariff was temporary, supposed to last 150 days up to July 24. Mr. Trump said he would raise it to 15%, but never did.

The U.S. Court of International Trade deemed these illegal as well, but an appeals court put a stay on that order.

What fresh investigations have added more uncertainty?

In March, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) said it had initiated two investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act into several of its trade partners that could potentially see further tariffs being imposed on them.

The first investigation against 16

economies, including India, was to see whether these economies were using excess manufacturing capacity to export to the U.S. in a manner that was hurting American businesses.

The second one, against 60 countries including India, was to look into whether these countries had taken "sufficient steps" to prohibit the import of goods produced with forced labour and how the "failure to eradicate" these practices impacts U.S. workers and businesses.

Under the forced labour investigation, the U.S. government in early June proposed to levy a tariff of 12.5% on imports from 54 countries, including India, as they have "failed to impose and effectively enforce" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour. To be sure, this does not mean the U.S. is saying that India uses forced labour, but that it has not stopped the import of goods that have been manufactured using forced labour.

India has made its representations to the U.S. on this matter and the final hearing is on July 7. The findings of the excess capacity investigations are expected in mid-July.

What is India's stance on the deal?

As repeatedly expressed by Mr. Goyal, India remains committed to finalising a trade deal with the U.S. but is firm about the fact that it should receive a comparative advantage over its competitors as was agreed in February. For this, the Section 301 investigations will have to be completed and the tariffs decided on various countries.

In the meantime, the two sides continue to negotiate on the other non-tariff aspects of the deal, such as enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors. The latest visit by USTR Jamieson Greer to India on June 23-24 did not yield any deadlines.

THE GIST

India and the U.S. missed both the planned 2025 Bilateral Trade Agreement and the 2026 interim deal after disagreements over agriculture, dairy and Russian oil imports, followed by shifting U.S. tariff policies and legal challenges that disrupted negotiations.

New U.S. Section 301 investigations into excess manufacturing capacity and forced-labour-related imports have delayed tariff decisions, while both sides continue negotiating non-tariff issues, with India insisting on a comparative tariff advantage before finalising the deal.

30J6. On the delay in India-U.S. trade deal

भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार समझौते में देरी पर

- India and the U.S. announced in **February 2025** that they would work towards a **Bilateral Trade Agreement**, but differences over **agriculture** and **Russian oil**, along with **legal battles** in **Washington** and **investigations** initiated by the **Trump administration**, have clouded its prospect.

भारत और अमेरिका ने फ़रवरी 2025 में घोषणा की थी कि वे द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते (Bilateral Trade Agreement) की दिशा में कार्य करेंगे, किंतु कृषि तथा रूसी तेल को लेकर मतभेदों के साथ-साथ वॉशिंगटन में चल रही कानूनी लड़ाइयों और ट्रम्प प्रशासन द्वारा प्रारंभ की गई जाँचों ने इसकी संभावनाओं को धूमिल कर दिया है।

- Then, in **February 2026**, they signed a **framework agreement** for an **interim trade deal** that was to be implemented by **April-May 2026**.

इसके बाद फरवरी 2026 में दोनों देशों ने एक अंतरिम व्यापार समझौते के लिए रूपरेखा समझौते

(Framework Agreement) पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसे अप्रैल-मई 2026 तक लागू किया जाना था।

- However, despite several meetings, **India** and the **U.S.** could not finalise the **first tranche**, with **key sticking points** being **India's** reluctance to open up its **agricultural** and **dairy**



sectors, and its decision to buy oil from Russia.

हालाँकि, कई बैठकों के बावजूद भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका समझौते के पहले चरण को अंतिम रूप नहीं दे सके। इसके प्रमुख अवरोध भारत की अपने कृषि और डेयरी क्षेत्रों को खोलने में अनिच्छा तथा रूस से तेल खरीदने के निर्णय थे।

- This was not a **trade deal** itself, but the **framework** along which one could be worked out. यह स्वयं कोई व्यापार समझौता नहीं था, बल्कि ऐसा रूपरेखा दस्तावेज़ था, जिसके आधार पर आगे व्यापार समझौता तैयार किया जा सकता था।
- Under the **framework**, the **U.S.** was to reduce total **tariffs** on **Indian imports** to **18%**, providing it a **competitive advantage** over its competitors. इस रूपरेखा के अनुसार संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को भारतीय आयातों पर कुल शुल्क घटाकर 18% करना था, जिससे भारत को अपने प्रतिस्पर्धियों की तुलना में प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ प्राप्त होता।
- Both sides also committed to providing each other **preferential market access** in “**sectors of respective interest**”. दोनों पक्षों ने “पारस्परिक रुचि वाले क्षेत्रों” में एक-दूसरे को अधिमान्य बाज़ार पहुँच (Preferential Market Access) प्रदान करने की भी प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की।

Why has this deal been delayed?

इस समझौते में देरी क्यों हुई है?

- Soon after the **framework** was announced, the **U.S. Supreme Court** invalidated the **reciprocal tariff** system itself, saying the law it was based on — the **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)** of the **U.S.** — did not allow for such **tariffs**. रूपरेखा (Framework) की घोषणा के तुरंत बाद अमेरिकी उच्चतम न्यायालय ने पारस्परिक शुल्क (Reciprocal Tariff) व्यवस्था को ही अमान्य घोषित कर दिया और कहा कि जिस कानून — अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपातकालीन आर्थिक शक्तियाँ अधिनियम (IEEPA) — पर यह आधारित था, वह ऐसे शुल्कों की अनुमति नहीं देता।
- That removed a major foundation on which the deal **negotiations** had taken place. इससे वह प्रमुख आधार समाप्त हो गया, जिस पर इस समझौते की वार्ताएँ आधारित थीं।
- Right after the **Supreme Court's** decision, **Mr. Trump** announced that he would be imposing a flat **10% tariff** on imports from all countries under the **Trade Act of 1974**, which he said authorised him to take action to address the **U.S.'s** ballooning **trade deficit**. उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय के तुरंत बाद श्री ट्रम्प ने घोषणा की कि वे 1974 के व्यापार अधिनियम (Trade Act of 1974) के अंतर्गत सभी देशों से होने वाले आयात पर 10% का समान शुल्क लगाएंगे। उनका कहना था कि यह अधिनियम उन्हें अमेरिका के बढ़ते व्यापार घाटे से निपटने के लिए कार्रवाई करने का अधिकार देता है।
- The first **investigation** against **16 economies**, including **India**, was to see **whether these economies were using excess manufacturing capacity** to export to the **U.S.** in a manner that was hurting **American businesses**. भारत सहित 16 अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के विरुद्ध पहली जाँच का उद्देश्य यह पता लगाना था कि क्या ये देश अतिरिक्त विनिर्माण क्षमता का उपयोग करके अमेरिका को ऐसे निर्यात कर रहे हैं, जिससे अमेरिकी व्यवसायों को नुकसान हो रहा है।
- The **second one**, against **60 countries** including **India**, was to look into whether these countries had taken “**sufficient steps**” to prohibit the import of goods produced with **forced labour** and how the “**failure to eradicate**” these practices impacts **U.S. workers and businesses**. दूसरी जाँच, जो भारत सहित 60 देशों के विरुद्ध की गई, का उद्देश्य यह देखना था कि क्या इन देशों ने बलात् श्रम (Forced Labour) से निर्मित वस्तुओं के आयात पर रोक लगाने के लिए “पर्याप्त कदम” उठाए हैं तथा इन प्रथाओं को “समाप्त करने में विफलता” का अमेरिकी श्रमिकों और व्यवसायों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है।
- Under the **forced labour investigation**, the **U.S. Government** in **early June** proposed to levy a **12.5% tariff** on imports from **54 countries**, including **India**, as they have “**failed to**



impose and effectively enforce” prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour.

बलात् श्रम जाँच के अंतर्गत जून के प्रारम्भ में अमेरिकी सरकार ने भारत सहित 54 देशों से होने वाले आयात पर 12.5% शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव रखा, क्योंकि उनके अनुसार इन देशों ने बलात् श्रम से निर्मित वस्तुओं के आयात पर प्रतिबंधों को “लागू करने और प्रभावी रूप से प्रवर्तित करने में विफलता” दिखाई है।

- To be sure, this does not mean the U.S. is saying that India uses forced labour, but that it has not stopped the import of goods that have been manufactured using forced labour. स्पष्ट रूप से, इसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि अमेरिका यह कह रहा है कि भारत स्वयं बलात् श्रम का उपयोग करता है, बल्कि उसका कहना है कि भारत ने बलात् श्रम से निर्मित वस्तुओं के आयात को पर्याप्त रूप से नहीं रोका है।
- In the meantime, the two sides continue to negotiate on the other non-tariff aspects of the deal, such as enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors.

इस बीच दोनों पक्ष समझौते के अन्य गैर-शुल्कीय पहलुओं, जैसे बेहतर बाज़ार पहुँच, डिजिटल व्यापार, आपूर्ति शृंखला की सुदृढ़ता, गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं में कमी तथा रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों में विस्तारित सहयोग पर वार्ता जारी रखे हुए हैं।

Has RBI changed the rules for scam compensation?

Who can claim compensation, how much can they receive, and what are the eligibility conditions?

CS III: Economy
Aroon Deep

The story so far:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday issued fresh rules to protect customers from scam transactions where they lose money to fraudsters and cyberattacks. These directions amend the RBI's 2017 circular on “Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions”. That previous framework only left banks liable to compensate scammed customers if transactions were not even authorised by customers, such as in a successful hacking incident. These rules are only a pilot for now, but may be extended in the future. They are effective from January 1, 2027, and last for the year.

What has the RBI changed?

In Wednesday's amendments, a draft version of which was released for public comment in March, customers can get reimbursed when they fall prey to certain scams, like digital arrests (where they are “coerced” into paying money), or when

one-time passcodes (OTPs) are “fraudulently” stolen from them. Most financial fraud currently relies on “social engineering” attacks, which require hoodwinking customers in one way or another; since banks’ core cybersecurity infrastructure is heavily regulated and subject to RBI audits, “zero click” hacks are vanishingly rare.

The new key concept is “fraudulent electronic banking transactions (EBTs)”. RBI defines these as transactions which are “executed by a third-party using the credentials obtained from the customer through fraudulent means or executed by the customer by granting approval under coercion or duress from the third-party” or “an EBT which is not authorised by a customer and inter alia includes an EBT occurring on account of negligence by a bank and/or a third-party breach.”

This means that customers who ignore fraud signal warnings, such as those on a UPI PIN screen that a given transaction could be a scam, would not be eligible for any compensation. In cases of a third-party hack, the timeline for a customer to report the loss has been

increased to five calendar days from three working days. As in the 2017 rules, if any amount is deducted after a customer reports fraud, the customer bears no liability and is entitled to a reversal of the transaction.

Banks can waive customers’ liability even if a transaction is negligent, but this is subject to their own discretion. If a user does not have their latest phone number or email address registered with the bank, this counts as negligence, as the bank would not send fraud alerts to the right contact.

How much compensation can customers receive?

For losses up to ₹50,000, individual victims can claim 85% of the amount as compensation, only once in their lifetime, up to ₹25,000. (This means that for any amount from ₹29,412 till ₹50,000, customers will receive a flat ₹25,000 compensation.) Roughly three-fourths of the amount will be paid by RBI itself, while the customer and beneficiary banks will pay half the remaining amount.

A customer must report to the

cybercrime helpline (1930) within five days to be eligible for this. It is worth noting that scams above ₹50,000 don't seem to be covered in this framework at all.

What changed between the draft and final rules?

From the March draft, banks have been given more time to implement this new system; the draft rules had a July 1 effective date. This is now January 1, 2027. Complaint settlement timelines are also now increased to 45-60 days, with the latter applying for international transactions.

Dvara Research, a non-profit financial inclusion think tank, had suggested that the vulnerability of customers be taken into account. “Research suggests that Indians encounter fraud attempts multiple times a week, that these attempts are growing more sophisticated, and therefore, it is not unlikely that customers may fall for them more than once,” the body wrote.

“Vulnerable customers may not be expected to meet high standards of attentiveness or defend themselves against frauds that are sophisticated even for the more evolved customers ... Under the Indian Contract Act, contracts executed under information asymmetry, external influence, or fraudulent pretext are voidable ... Bundling such different transactions under the common definition of ‘authorised transaction’ diminishes their fundamental difference and may even reduce the significance of a liability framework.”

THE GIST

RBI's revised rules expand customer protection by allowing compensation for certain fraud caused by coercion or stolen credentials, not just unauthorised transactions.

Eligible customers can claim up to ₹25,000 for losses of up to ₹50,000 if they report the fraud within five days; the pilot framework takes effect from January 1, 2027.

30J6. Has RBI changed the rules for scam compensation?

क्या भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने धोखाधड़ी से संबंधित मुआवज़े के नियमों में परिवर्तन किया है?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday issued fresh rules to protect customers from scam transactions where they lose money to fraudsters and cyberattacks. भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने बुधवार को ग्राहकों को धोखाधड़ी वाले लेन-देन, ठगों तथा साइबर हमलों के कारण होने वाली वित्तीय हानि से बचाने के लिए नए नियम जारी किए।
- These directions amend the RBI's 2017 circular on “Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions”. ये निर्देश “अनधिकृत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक बैंकिंग लेन-देन में ग्राहकों की देयता सीमित करने” संबंधी RBI के 2017 के परिपत्र में संशोधन करते हैं।
- That previous framework only left banks liable to compensate scammed customers if transactions were not even authorised by customers, such as in a successful hacking incident.

पूर्व व्यवस्था के अनुसार बैंकों को केवल उन्हीं मामलों में धोखाधड़ी के शिकार ग्राहकों को क्षतिपूर्ति करनी होती थी, जहाँ लेन-देन ग्राहकों द्वारा अधिकृत ही न हो, जैसे किसी सफल हैकिंग की घटना में।

- They are effective from **January 1, 2027**, and last for the year.
ये 1 जनवरी 2027 से प्रभावी होंगे और एक वर्ष तक लागू रहेंगे।

What has the RBI changed?

RBI ने क्या बदलाव किए हैं?

- In **Wednesday's amendments**, a draft version of which was released for **public comment** in **March**, customers can get reimbursed when they fall prey to certain **scams**, like **digital arrests** (where they are "**coerced**" into paying money), or when **one-time passcodes (OTPs)** are "**fraudulently**" stolen from them.

बुधवार को जारी संशोधनों में, जिसका प्रारूप मार्च में सार्वजनिक टिप्पणियों के लिए जारी किया गया था, ग्राहकों को कुछ विशेष धोखाधड़ी का शिकार होने पर प्रतिपूर्ति प्राप्त हो सकेगी, जैसे डिजिटल गिरफ्तारी (जिसमें उन्हें धन भुगतान करने के लिए "मजबूर" किया जाता है), अथवा जब उनके वन-टाइम पासकोड (OTP) "धोखाधड़ीपूर्वक" प्राप्त कर लिए जाते हैं।

- Most **financial fraud** currently relies on "**social engineering**" attacks, which require hoodwinking **customers** in one way or another; since **banks'** core **cybersecurity infrastructure** is heavily regulated and subject to **RBI audits**, "**zero click**" hacks are vanishingly rare.

वर्तमान में अधिकांश वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी "सोशल इंजीनियरिंग" हमलों पर आधारित होती है, जिनमें किसी-न-किसी प्रकार से ग्राहकों को भ्रमित किया जाता है। चूँकि बैंकों की मूल साइबर सुरक्षा संरचना कड़े नियमन और RBI ऑडिट के अधीन है, इसलिए "ज़ीरो-क्लिक" हैक अत्यंत दुर्लभ हैं।

- The new key concept is "**fraudulent electronic banking transactions (EBTs)**".
इस संशोधन का प्रमुख नया सिद्धांत "धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण इलेक्ट्रॉनिक बैंकिंग लेन-देन (EBTs)" है।
- **RBI defines these as transactions which are "executed by a third-party using the credentials obtained from the customer through fraudulent means or executed by the customer by granting approval under coercion or duress from the third-party" or "an EBT which is not authorised by a customer and inter alia includes an EBT occurring on account of negligence by a bank and/or a third-party breach."**

RBI ने इन्हें ऐसे लेन-देन के रूप में परिभाषित किया है, जो "तीसरे पक्ष द्वारा ग्राहक से धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण तरीके से प्राप्त प्रमाण-पत्रों का उपयोग करके किए जाएँ अथवा ग्राहक द्वारा तीसरे पक्ष के दबाव या जबरदस्ती में स्वीकृति देकर किए जाएँ", अथवा "ऐसे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक बैंकिंग लेन-देन जो ग्राहक द्वारा अधिकृत न हों तथा जिनमें बैंक की लापरवाही अथवा तीसरे पक्ष की सुरक्षा चूक के कारण हुए लेन-देन भी शामिल हों।"

- This means that **customers** who ignore **fraud signal warnings**, such as those on a **UPI PIN** screen that a given transaction could be a **scam**, would not be eligible for any **compensation**.

इसका अर्थ है कि वे ग्राहक जो धोखाधड़ी संबंधी चेतावनियों, जैसे UPI PIN स्क्रीन पर प्रदर्शित किसी लेन-देन के धोखाधड़ी होने की चेतावनी, को नज़रअंदाज़ करते हैं, वे किसी भी क्षतिपूर्ति के पात्र नहीं होंगे।

- In cases of a **third-party hack**, the timeline for a **customer** to report the loss has been increased to **five calendar days** from **three working days**.
तीसरे पक्ष द्वारा हैकिंग के मामलों में ग्राहक द्वारा हानि की सूचना देने की समय-सीमा तीन कार्य दिवसों से बढ़ाकर पाँच कैलेंडर दिवस कर दी गई है।
- As in the **2017 rules**, if any amount is deducted after a **customer** reports **fraud**, the **customer** bears no liability and is entitled to a reversal of the transaction.
2017 के नियमों की भाँति, यदि ग्राहक द्वारा धोखाधड़ी की सूचना देने के बाद कोई राशि कटती है, तो उसकी कोई देयता नहीं होगी तथा वह उस लेन-देन को वापस कराने का अधिकार रखेगा।
- **Banks** can waive **customers'** liability even if a transaction is **negligent**, but this is subject to their own discretion.

बैंक किसी लापरवाहीपूर्ण लेन-देन की स्थिति में भी ग्राहकों की देयता माफ कर सकते हैं, किन्तु यह उनके विवेक पर निर्भर करेगा।

- If a user does not have their latest **phone number** or **email address** registered with the **bank**, this counts as **negligence**, as the **bank** would not send **fraud alerts** to the right contact.
यदि किसी उपयोगकर्ता ने अपना नवीनतम फ़ोन नंबर अथवा ईमेल पता बैंक में पंजीकृत नहीं कराया है, तो इसे लापरवाही माना जाएगा, क्योंकि ऐसी स्थिति में बैंक सही संपर्क पर धोखाधड़ी संबंधी चेतावनी नहीं भेज पाएगा।

How much compensation can customers receive?

ग्राहकों को कितनी क्षतिपूर्ति मिल सकती है?

- For losses up to **₹50,000**, individual victims can claim **85%** of the amount as **compensation**, only **once in their lifetime**, up to **₹25,000**.
₹50,000 तक की हानि होने पर व्यक्तिगत पीड़ित 85% राशि तक क्षतिपूर्ति का दावा कर सकते हैं, किन्तु यह सुविधा जीवन में केवल एक बार उपलब्ध होगी और अधिकतम ₹25,000 तक सीमित रहेगी।
- (This means that for any amount from **₹29,412** till **₹50,000**, **customers** will receive a flat **₹25,000 compensation**.)
(अर्थात ₹29,412 से लेकर ₹50,000 तक की किसी भी हानि पर ग्राहकों को अधिकतम ₹25,000 की निश्चित क्षतिपूर्ति मिलेगी।)
- Roughly **three-fourths** of the amount will be paid by **RBI** itself, while the **customer** and **beneficiary banks** will pay half the remaining amount.
कुल राशि का लगभग तीन-चौथाई भाग RBI स्वयं वहन करेगा, जबकि शेष राशि का आधा भाग ग्राहक और लाभार्थी बैंक वहन करेंगे।
- A **customer** must report to the **cybercrime helpline (1930)** within **five days** to be eligible for this.
इस सुविधा का लाभ प्राप्त करने के लिए ग्राहक को पाँच दिनों के भीतर साइबर अपराध हेल्पलाइन (1930) पर शिकायत दर्ज करानी होगी।
- It is worth noting that **scams** above **₹50,000** do not seem to be covered in this framework at all.
यह उल्लेखनीय है कि ₹50,000 से अधिक की धोखाधड़ी इस व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत शामिल नहीं प्रतीत होती।

What changed between the draft and final rules?

प्रारूप और अंतिम नियमों के बीच क्या परिवर्तन हुए?

- From the **March draft**, **banks** have been given more time to implement this new system; the draft rules had a **July 1** effective date.
मार्च के प्रारूप की तुलना में बैंकों को इस नई व्यवस्था को लागू करने के लिए अधिक समय दिया गया है; प्रारूप नियमों में इसे 1 जुलाई से लागू किया जाना प्रस्तावित था।
- This is now **January 1, 2027**.
अब इसकी प्रभावी तिथि 1 जनवरी 2027 कर दी गई है।
- Complaint settlement timelines** are also now increased to **45-60 days**, with the latter applying for **international transactions**.
शिकायत निस्तारण की समय-सीमा भी अब बढ़ाकर 45-60 दिन कर दी गई है, जिसमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय लेन-देन के लिए 60 दिन की समय-सीमा लागू होगी।
- Dvara Research**, a non-profit **financial inclusion** think tank, had suggested that the **vulnerability** of **customers** be taken into account.
द्वारा रिसर्च, जो वित्तीय समावेशन पर कार्य करने वाला एक गैर-लाभकारी शोध संस्थान है, ने सुझाव दिया था कि ग्राहकों की संवेदनशीलता को भी ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए।



- “Research suggests that Indians encounter fraud attempts multiple times a week, that these attempts are growing more sophisticated, and therefore, it is not unlikely that customers may fall for them more than once,” the body wrote.
संस्थान ने लिखा कि “अनुसंधान से पता चलता है कि भारतीयों को सप्ताह में कई बार धोखाधड़ी के प्रयासों का सामना करना पड़ता है, ये प्रयास लगातार अधिक परिष्कृत होते जा रहे हैं, और इसलिए यह असंभव नहीं है कि ग्राहक एक से अधिक बार इनके शिकार हो जाएँ।”
- “Vulnerable customers may not be expected to meet high standards of attentiveness or defend themselves against frauds that are sophisticated even for the more evolved customers Under the Indian Contract Act, contracts executed under information asymmetry, external influence, or fraudulent pretext are voidable... Bundling such different transactions under the common definition of ‘authorised transaction’ diminishes their fundamental difference and may even reduce the significance of a liability framework.”
“संवेदनशील ग्राहकों से यह अपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती कि वे अत्यधिक सतर्कता का परिचय दें या ऐसे परिष्कृत

Union Cabinet okays ₹30,000 cr. additional investment in NIIF for new fund creation

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved an additional investment by the Government of India of ₹30,000 crore in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** to be used for its upcoming funds, the government announced on Monday.

The decision itself was taken last week, it said. This would take the government's total commitment in NIIF to ₹60,000 crore. The NIIF is India's sovereign anchored fund, in which the government of India is a 49% shareholder. It currently manages capital commitments of about ₹40,000 crore across its funds and investment strategies, the government said.

“We are grateful for this allocation of ₹30,000 crore, which is a strong reaffirmation of Government support to NIIF and reinforces the catalytic capital model that has defined NIIF since inception,” Sanjiv Aggarwal, Managing Director and CEO of NIIF said.

New fund

According to a release by NIIF, this additional allocation from the government will help NIIF raise larger funds, attract investors across geographies, and deepen its presence in key sectors of the economy.



This additional investment of ₹30,000 crore will be used to set up NIIF's second infrastructure focussed fund, the successor to its first flagship fund with this mandate

The government said that this additional investment of ₹30,000 crore will be used to set up NIIF's second infrastructure focussed fund, the successor to its first flagship fund with this mandate.

“NIIF Infrastructure Fund II is proposed to have a target corpus of close to ₹30,000 crore and is expected to undertake investments across transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, and emerging areas such as urban infrastructure and e-mobility,” the government release said.

It added that the allocation will also support NIIF's new fund strategies and upcoming bilateral and strategic funds.

“Over the past decade, GoI's anchor commitment has enabled us to build a very strong institutional investor base, spanning leading sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, multilateral and bilateral institutions, and domestic financial institutions,” Mr. Aggarwal added.

धोखाधड़ी प्रयासों से स्वयं की रक्षा कर सकें, जो अनुभवी ग्राहकों के लिए भी चुनौतीपूर्ण हों... भारतीय संविदा अधिनियम के अंतर्गत सूचना की असमानता, बाहरी प्रभाव अथवा धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण आधार पर किए गए अनुबंध निरस्त किए जा सकते हैं... ऐसे भिन्न प्रकार के लेन-देन को ‘अधिकृत लेन-देन’ की एक ही परिभाषा के अंतर्गत रखना उनके मूलभूत अंतर को कम कर देता है तथा देयता संबंधी व्यवस्था के महत्व को भी घटा सकता है।”

30J6. Union Cabinet okays ₹30,000 cr. additional investment in NIIF for new fund creation

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने NIIF में नए फंड के सृजन के लिए ₹30,000

करोड़ के अतिरिक्त निवेश को मंजूरी दी।

- The Union Cabinet approves additional investment in NIIF

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने NIIF में अतिरिक्त निवेश को मंजूरी दी

- The Union Cabinet has approved an additional investment by the Government of India of ₹30,000 crore in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** to be used for its upcoming funds, the government announced on Monday.

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने भारत सरकार द्वारा राष्ट्रीय निवेश एवं अवसंरचना कोष (NIIF) में उसके आगामी फंडों के लिए उपयोग किए जाने हेतु ₹30,000 करोड़ के अतिरिक्त निवेश को मंजूरी दे दी है, जिसकी घोषणा सरकार ने सोमवार को की।

- The decision itself was taken last week, it said.
सरकार ने कहा कि यह निर्णय पिछले सप्ताह ही लिया गया था।

- This would take the government's total commitment in NIIF to ₹60,000 crore.

इससे NIIF में सरकार की कुल प्रतिबद्धता ₹60,000 करोड़ हो जाएगी।

- The NIIF is India's sovereign anchored fund, in which the Government of India is a 49% shareholder.

NIIF भारत का सॉवरेन एंकरेड फंड है, जिसमें भारत सरकार की 49% हिस्सेदारी है।

- It currently manages capital commitments of about ₹40,000 crore across its funds and investment strategies, the government said.

सरकार ने कहा कि वर्तमान में यह अपने विभिन्न फंडों और निवेश रणनीतियों के अंतर्गत लगभग ₹40,000 करोड़ की पूंजी प्रतिबद्धताओं का प्रबंधन करता



है।

- “We are grateful for this allocation of **₹30,000 crore**, which is a strong reaffirmation of **Government** support to **NIIF** and reinforces the catalytic capital model that has defined **NIIF** since inception,” **Sanjiv Aggarwal, Managing Director and CEO of NIIF** said.
NIIF के प्रबंध निदेशक एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (CEO) संजीव अग्रवाल ने कहा, “हम **₹30,000 करोड़** के इस आवंटन के लिए आभारी हैं, जो **NIIF** के प्रति **सरकार** के समर्थन की मजबूत पुनर्पुष्टि है और स्थापना के समय से **NIIF** की पहचान रहे उत्प्रेरक पूंजी मॉडल को और सुदृढ़ करता है।”
- **New fund**
- **नया फंड**
- According to a release by **NIIF**, this additional allocation from the government will help **NIIF** raise larger funds, attract investors across geographies, and deepen its presence in key sectors of the economy.
NIIF द्वारा जारी विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, सरकार से प्राप्त यह अतिरिक्त आवंटन **NIIF** को बड़े फंड जुटाने, विभिन्न भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों से निवेशकों को आकर्षित करने तथा अर्थव्यवस्था के प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में अपनी उपस्थिति को और मजबूत करने में सहायता करेगा।
- The government said that this additional investment of **₹30,000 crore** will be used to set up **NIIF's second infrastructure focussed fund**, the successor to its first flagship fund with this mandate.
सरकार ने कहा कि **₹30,000 करोड़** का यह अतिरिक्त निवेश **NIIF** के दूसरे **अवसंरचना-केंद्रित फंड** की स्थापना के लिए उपयोग किया जाएगा, जो इस उद्देश्य वाले उसके पहले प्रमुख फंड का उत्तराधिकारी होगा।
- “**NIIF Infrastructure Fund II** is proposed to have a target corpus of close to **₹30,000 crore** and is expected to undertake investments across **transportation, energy, digital infrastructure**, and emerging areas such as **urban infrastructure and e-mobility**,” the government release said.
सरकारी विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया कि **NIIF Infrastructure Fund II** का प्रस्तावित लक्ष्य कोष लगभग **₹30,000 करोड़** होगा और इसके माध्यम से **परिवहन, ऊर्जा, डिजिटल अवसंरचना** तथा **शहरी अवसंरचना** एवं **ई-मोबिलिटी** जैसे उभरते क्षेत्रों में निवेश किए जाने की अपेक्षा है।
- It added that the allocation will also support **NIIF's** new fund strategies and upcoming **bilateral and strategic funds**.
विज्ञप्ति में यह भी कहा गया कि यह आवंटन **NIIF** की नई फंड रणनीतियों तथा आगामी **द्विपक्षीय और रणनीतिक फंडों** को भी समर्थन प्रदान करेगा।
- “Over the past decade, **Gol's anchor commitment** has enabled us to build a very strong institutional investor base, spanning leading **sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, multilateral and bilateral institutions**, and domestic **financial institutions**,” Mr. Aggarwal added.
श्री अग्रवाल ने आगे कहा, “पिछले एक दशक में **भारत सरकार की एंकर प्रतिबद्धता** ने हमें एक अत्यंत मजबूत संस्थागत निवेशक आधार विकसित करने में सक्षम बनाया है, जिसमें प्रमुख **सॉवरेन वेल्थ फंड, पेंशन फंड, बहुपक्षीय एवं द्विपक्षीय संस्थान** तथा **घरेलू वित्तीय संस्थान** शामिल हैं।”

FPIs pour in a record ₹53,300 cr. to compensate for debt equity exit

GS III: Economy

MUMBAI

Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) poured a record ₹53,363 crore in all types of debt securities to compensate for a near equal amount sold in equities in

June 2026. This led to a net inflow of about ₹334 crore in all instruments, according to data from NSDL.

Debt security investments are classified into General Limit, Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) and Fully Accessible Route

(FAR) – a large section of which could be attributed to government securities.

Inflows in the General Limit and Fully Accessible Route (FAR) came in at ₹28,196 and ₹21,788 crore in June 2026. FAR bond investments were up five

times and General Limit investments increased from an outflow of ₹100 crore last month. The increase in inflows comes weeks after the Ministry of Finance emptied government securities from long-term capital gains and increased the te-

nors of bonds in the FAR category in a bid to deepen bond markets. The move also comes at a time when the overall foreign investor behaviour leans towards aversion to the Indian markets, largely due to sub-par returns in equities owing

to higher valuations and a depreciated rupee. Equity outflow, however, continued for the fourth consecutive month to ₹51,456 crore in June 2026. In the past six months put together, equity outflows alone were ₹2.76 lakh crore.

30J6. FPIs pour in a record ₹53,300 cr. to compensate for debt equity exit ऋण और इक्विटी से निकासी की भरपाई के लिए FPI ने रिकॉर्ड ₹53,300 करोड़ का निवेश किया।

- **FII investment in Debt Securities**
ऋण प्रतिभूतियों में FII का निवेश
- **Foreign Institutional Investors (FII)** poured a record **₹53,363 crore** in all types of **debt securities** to compensate for a near equal amount sold in **equities** in **June 2026**.
विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों (FII) ने जून 2026 में इक्विटी में लगभग समान राशि की बिक्री की भरपाई करने के लिए सभी प्रकार की ऋण प्रतिभूतियों (Debt Securities) में रिकॉर्ड ₹53,363 करोड़ का निवेश किया।
- **This led to a net inflow of about ₹334 crore** in all instruments, according to data from **NSDL**.
NSDL के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, इससे सभी निवेश साधनों में लगभग ₹334 करोड़ का शुद्ध प्रवाह (Inflow) दर्ज किया गया।
- **Debt security** investments are classified into **General Limit, Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) and Fully Accessible Route (FAR)** — a large section of which could be attributed to **government securities**.
ऋण प्रतिभूति (Debt Security) में निवेश को जनरल लिमिट (General Limit), स्वैच्छिक प्रतिधारण मार्ग (Voluntary Retention Route- VRR) और पूर्णतः सुलभ मार्ग (Fully Accessible Route- FAR) में वर्गीकृत किया जाता है, जिनका एक बड़ा हिस्सा सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों (Government Securities) से संबंधित हो सकता है।
- Inflows in the **General Limit and Fully Accessible Route (FAR)** came in at **₹28,196 and ₹21,788 crore** in **June 2026**.
जून 2026 में जनरल लिमिट (General Limit) के अंतर्गत ₹28,196 करोड़ तथा पूर्णतः सुलभ मार्ग (FAR) के अंतर्गत ₹21,788 करोड़ का निवेश प्रवाह दर्ज किया गया।
- **FAR bond** investments were up **five times** and **General Limit** investments increased from an **outflow of ₹100 crore** last month.
FAR के अंतर्गत बॉन्ड निवेश में पाँच गुना वृद्धि हुई, जबकि जनरल लिमिट के अंतर्गत निवेश पिछले महीने के ₹100 करोड़ के बहिर्प्रवाह (Outflow) से बढ़ गया।
- The increase in **inflows** comes weeks after the **Ministry of Finance** exempted **government securities** from **long-term capital gains** and increased the **tenors of bonds** in the **FAR** category in a bid to deepen **bond markets**.
निवेश प्रवाह (Inflows) में यह वृद्धि वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों को दीर्घकालिक पूंजीगत लाभ (Long-Term Capital Gains) से छूट देने तथा FAR श्रेणी में बॉन्ड की अवधि (Tenors of Bonds) बढ़ाने के कुछ सप्ताह बाद हुई है, जिसका उद्देश्य बॉन्ड बाजारों को और गहरा बनाना है।
- The move also comes at a time when the **overall foreign investor** behaviour leans towards **aversion to the Indian markets**, largely due to **sub-par returns in equities** owing to **higher valuations** and a **depreciated rupee**.
यह कदम ऐसे समय आया है जब समग्र रूप से विदेशी निवेशकों का रुझान भारतीय बाजारों से दूरी बनाने की ओर है, जिसका प्रमुख कारण उच्च मूल्यांकन (Higher Valuations) तथा कमजोर रुपये (Depreciated Rupee) के कारण इक्विटी में औसत से कम प्रतिफल (Sub-par Returns) है।
- **Equity outflow**, however, continued for the **fourth consecutive month** to **₹51,456 crore** in **June 2026**.
हालाँकि, इक्विटी से बहिर्प्रवाह (Equity Outflow) जून 2026 में लगातार चौथे महीने भी जारी रहा और यह ₹51,456 करोड़ रहा।
- In the past **six months** put together, **equity outflows** alone were **₹2.76 lakh crore**.
पिछले छह महीनों में केवल इक्विटी से बहिर्प्रवाह ही ₹2.76 लाख करोड़ रहा।



U.S. firm Signa forays into India, to curb counterfeiters with AI

GS III: Economy

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

U.S.-based brand protection and investigations firm Signa Techlaw Corp. has entered the Indian market, marking its first expansion into the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 2023 by Daniel Estrada and Andrés Argoti, the company combines artificial intelligence with investigative expertise to detect counterfeit products, unauthorized sellers, and illicit trade networks across digital and physical marketplaces.

Industry reports have consistently identified China, India, and Turkey as some of the world's largest sources of counterfeit goods, underlining the scale of the global challenge.

Mr. Estrada, who has served as a reserve police lieutenant attached to crime investigations and Interpol, aims to position Signa as a technology-driven platform supporting international organizations in tackling illicit trade originating from these regions.

"The problem is no longer limited to luxury goods or fashion accessories. Counterfeit medicines, cosmetics, food items, and alcoholic beverages are increasingly reaching consumers, posing significant risks to public health and safety," Daniel Estrada,



On a mission: Founder and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Estrada, left, with co-founder Andrés Argoti. BY ARRANGEMENT

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Signa, said in an interview.

"Today, the largest counterfeit marketplace is no longer a traditional street market—it is online. As consumers increasingly shop digitally, counterfeiters have followed them," he emphasised.

India's counterfeit trade is rapidly shifting to digital platforms, with e-commerce websites and social media emerging as key distribution channels, he added.

According to the ASPA-CRISIL State of Counterfeiting in India 2025 report, online platforms account for 53% of counterfeit purchases, while nearly 89% of urban Indian consumers have unknowingly or knowingly purchased counterfeit products at least once.

Signa's technology plat-

form collects intelligence including seller identities, payment information, phone numbers, and location data to assist investigations and enforcement agencies.

The company is currently working with more than 32 brands across 12 countries and has identified counterfeit products worth over \$150 million globally, and has supported enforcement actions safeguarding products valued at more than \$40 million, it said.

With India's digital economy expanding rapidly and online shopping becoming mainstream, brand protection is expected to become an even greater priority for businesses.

Signa plans to initially focus on sectors such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare, cosmetics, food, and beverages, where counter-

feit products can have serious consequences for consumer safety. Later, it will foray into garments and lifestyle segments.

The company is already supporting global clients including Procter & Gamble, Roche, Diageo, and several multinational pharmaceutical and spirits companies operating in India.

It is also collaborating with investigators, law firms, and enforcement authorities while strengthening its local presence. Additionally, Signa is developing a WhatsApp-based verification tool that will enable consumers and authorities to authenticate products simply by sharing a photograph.

The company's infrastructure runs on AWS, where it uses Amazon DynamoDB as its primary operational database and event-driven serverless services to process millions of data points efficiently.

"On the AI side, we leverage OpenAI's models together with our own proprietary detection and investigation pipelines to identify counterfeit products, analyse evidence, and automate complex enforcement workflows across marketplaces, social media, and the open web," co-founder Andrés Argoti said.

30J6. U.S. firm Signa forays into India, to curb counterfeiters with AI

अमेरिकी कंपनी Signa ने AI की मदद से जालसाजों पर रोक लगाने के लिए भारत में प्रवेश किया।

- **U.S.-based** brand protection and investigations firm **Signa Techlaw Corp.** has entered the **Indian market**, marking its first expansion into the **Asia-Pacific region**.
अमेरिका स्थित ब्रांड सुरक्षा और जांच कंपनी **Signa Techlaw Corp.** ने भारतीय बाजार में प्रवेश किया है, जो एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में उसका पहला विस्तार है।
- Established in **2023** by **Daniel Estrada** and **Andrés Argoti**, the company combines **artificial intelligence** with investigative expertise to detect **counterfeit products**, **unauthorized sellers**, and **illicit trade networks** across digital and physical marketplaces.
2023 में डेनियल एस्ट्राडा और एंड्रेस आर्गोटी द्वारा स्थापित यह कंपनी कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (**Artificial Intelligence**) को जांच संबंधी विशेषज्ञता के साथ जोड़कर डिजिटल और भौतिक बाजारों में **नकली उत्पादों**, **अनधिकृत विक्रेताओं** तथा **अवैध व्यापार नेटवर्कों** की पहचान करती है।
- Industry reports have consistently identified **China**, **India**, and **Turkey** as some of the world's largest sources of **counterfeit goods**, underlining the scale of the global challenge.
उद्योग संबंधी रिपोर्टों ने लगातार **चीन**, **भारत** और **तुर्किये** को विश्व में **नकली वस्तुओं** के सबसे बड़े स्रोतों में शामिल बताया है, जो इस वैश्विक चुनौती के व्यापक स्तर को रेखांकित करता है।
- **Mr. Estrada**, who has served as a **reserve police lieutenant** attached to crime investigations and **Interpol**, aims to position **Signa** as a technology-driven platform supporting international organizations in tackling illicit trade originating from these regions.
श्री एस्ट्राडा, जिन्होंने अपराध जांच और **इंटरपोल (Interpol)** से जुड़े **रिजर्व पुलिस लेफ्टिनेंट** के रूप में कार्य किया है, **Signa** को एक प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित मंच के रूप में स्थापित करना चाहते हैं, जो इन क्षेत्रों से उत्पन्न **अवैध व्यापार** से निपटने में अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनों की सहायता करे।
- "The problem is no longer limited to **luxury goods** or **fashion accessories**.
"यह समस्या अब केवल **लक्जरी वस्तुओं** या **फैशन एक्सेसरीज़** तक सीमित नहीं रह गई है।
- **Counterfeit medicines**, **cosmetics**, **food items**, and **alcoholic beverages** are increasingly reaching consumers, posing significant risks to **public health** and **safety**," **Daniel Estrada**, **Founder** and **Chief Executive Officer** of **Signa**, said in an interview.
नकली दवाइयाँ, **कॉस्मेटिक्स**, **खाद्य पदार्थ** और **मादक पेय पदार्थ** तेजी से उपभोक्ताओं तक पहुँच रहे हैं, जिससे **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य** और **सुरक्षा** के लिए गंभीर खतरे उत्पन्न हो रहे हैं," **Signa** के **संस्थापक एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी डेनियल एस्ट्राडा** ने एक साक्षात्कार में कहा।
- "Today, the largest **counterfeit marketplace** is no longer a traditional street market—it is **online**.
"आज सबसे बड़ा **नकली वस्तुओं का बाजार** कोई पारंपरिक सड़क बाजार नहीं, बल्कि **ऑनलाइन** है।
- As consumers increasingly shop digitally, counterfeiters have followed them," he emphasised.
उन्होंने जोर देते हुए कहा कि जैसे-जैसे उपभोक्ता डिजिटल माध्यम से खरीदारी कर रहे हैं, वैसे-वैसे नकली उत्पाद बेचने वाले भी उसी दिशा में बढ़ गए हैं।
- **India's counterfeit trade** is rapidly shifting to **digital platforms**, with **e-commerce websites** and **social media** emerging as key distribution channels, he added.
उन्होंने कहा कि **भारत का नकली उत्पाद व्यापार** तेजी से **डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्मों** की ओर बढ़ रहा है, जहाँ **ई-कॉमर्स वेबसाइटें** और **सोशल मीडिया** प्रमुख वितरण माध्यम बनकर उभर रहे हैं।
- According to the **ASPAC-CRISIL State of Counterfeiting in India 2025** report, **online platforms** account for **53%** of counterfeit purchases, while nearly **89%** of urban Indian consumers have unknowingly or knowingly purchased counterfeit products at least once.
ASPAC-CRISIL State of Counterfeiting in India 2025 रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म** नकली वस्तुओं की **53%** खरीद के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं, जबकि लगभग **89%** शहरी भारतीय उपभोक्ताओं ने जानबूझकर या अनजाने में कम-से-कम एक बार नकली उत्पाद खरीदे हैं।
- **Signa's** technology platform collects intelligence including **seller identities**, **payment information**, **phone numbers**, and **location data** to assist investigations and enforcement agencies.

Signa का प्रौद्योगिकी मंच विक्रेताओं की पहचान, भुगतान संबंधी जानकारी, फोन नंबर तथा स्थान संबंधी डेटा जैसी सूचनाएँ एकत्र करता है, जिससे जांच एवं प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों को सहायता मिलती है।

- The company is currently working with more than **32 brands** across **12 countries** and has identified counterfeit products worth over **\$150 million** globally, and has supported enforcement actions safeguarding products valued at more than **\$40 million**, it said. कंपनी ने कहा कि वह वर्तमान में **12 देशों** में **32 से अधिक ब्रांडों** के साथ कार्य कर रही है तथा वैश्विक स्तर पर **150 मिलियन डॉलर** से अधिक मूल्य के नकली उत्पादों की पहचान कर चुकी है और **40 मिलियन डॉलर** से अधिक मूल्य के उत्पादों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने वाले प्रवर्तन अभियानों में सहयोग कर चुकी है।
- With **India's digital economy** expanding rapidly and **online shopping** becoming mainstream, **brand protection** is expected to become an even greater priority for businesses.

भारत की डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था के तेजी से विस्तार और **ऑनलाइन खरीदारी** के मुख्यधारा बनने के साथ, **ब्रांड सुरक्षा** व्यवसायों के लिए और भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिकता बनने की अपेक्षा है।

- Signa** plans to initially focus on sectors such as **pharmaceuticals, healthcare, cosmetics, food, and beverages**, where counterfeit products can have serious consequences for **consumer safety**.

Signa प्रारंभिक रूप से **फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, कॉस्मेटिक्स, खाद्य पदार्थ तथा पेय पदार्थों** जैसे क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की योजना बना रही है, जहाँ नकली उत्पाद **उपभोक्ता सुरक्षा** के लिए गंभीर परिणाम उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।

- Later, it will foray into **garments and lifestyle** segments. बाद में कंपनी **परिधान और लाइफस्टाइल** क्षेत्रों में भी प्रवेश करेगी।
- The company is already supporting global clients including **Procter & Gamble, Roche, Diageo**, and several multinational **pharmaceutical and spirits** companies operating in India. कंपनी पहले से ही **Procter & Gamble, Roche, Diageo** तथा भारत में कार्यरत कई बहुराष्ट्रीय **फार्मास्यूटिकल और स्पिरिट्स** कंपनियों सहित वैश्विक ग्राहकों को सेवाएँ प्रदान कर रही है।
- It is also collaborating with **investigators, law firms, and enforcement authorities** while strengthening its local presence. यह अपने स्थानीय नेटवर्क को मजबूत करने के साथ-साथ **जांचकर्ताओं, विधि फर्मों और प्रवर्तन प्राधिकरणों** के साथ भी सहयोग कर रही है।

- Additionally, **Signa** is developing a **WhatsApp-based verification tool** that will enable consumers and authorities to authenticate products simply by sharing a photograph. इसके अतिरिक्त, **Signa** एक **WhatsApp-आधारित सत्यापन उपकरण** विकसित कर रही है, जिसके माध्यम से उपभोक्ता और प्राधिकरण केवल एक फोटो साझा करके उत्पादों की प्रामाणिकता की पुष्टि कर सकेंगे।

- The company's infrastructure runs on **AWS**, where it uses **Amazon DynamoDB** as its primary operational database and **event-driven serverless services** to process millions of data points efficiently. कंपनी का अवसंरचना तंत्र **AWS** पर संचालित होता है, जहाँ यह **Amazon DynamoDB** को अपने मुख्य परिचालन डेटाबेस के रूप में तथा **इवेंट-ड्रिवेन सर्वरलेस सेवाओं** का उपयोग लाखों डेटा बिंदुओं के कुशल प्रसंस्करण के लिए करती है।

- "On the **AI** side, we leverage **OpenAI's models** together with our own proprietary detection and investigation pipelines to identify counterfeit products, analyse evidence, and automate complex enforcement workflows across marketplaces, social media, and the open web," co-founder **Andrés Argoti** said.

सह-संस्थापक **एंड्रेस आर्गोटी** ने कहा, "कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (**AI**) के क्षेत्र में हम **OpenAI के मॉडलों** के साथ अपनी स्वामित्वयुक्त पहचान एवं जांच प्रणालियों का उपयोग करते हैं, ताकि नकली उत्पादों की पहचान की जा सके, साक्ष्यों का विश्लेषण किया जा सके तथा मार्केटप्लेस, सोशल मीडिया और खुले वेब पर जटिल प्रवर्तन प्रक्रियाओं को स्वचालित बनाया जा सके।"

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	Scientists test cockatoos to see if animals understand death वैज्ञानिक यह जानने के लिए कॉकाटू पक्षियों का परीक्षण कर रहे हैं कि क्या पशु मृत्यु को समझते हैं	
30J6	It's a bad idea to scratch a bug bite, research says शोध के अनुसार, कीट के काटने वाली जगह को खुजलाना उचित नहीं है	

Scientists test cockatoos to see if animals understand death

In a 2020 paper with cognitive scientist Antonio J. Osuna-Mascaró, philosopher Susana Monsó argued that two forms of anthropocentrism – the belief that human beings are superior to all others – undergird humans' reluctance to acknowledge ability of animals to understand death

ESSAY

Sayantan Datta

One day in 2025, Jane perched facing a computer screen. The screen's top half displayed a black circle on a magenta background. The bottom half had a black arrow on white. After what appeared to be a moment of deliberation, Jane extended her neck and touched the circle. Small pellets of food appeared in the tray before her. Then, the magenta was replaced by green.

When she touched the circle this time, the screen flashed a bright red before reverting to green. This time, no food appeared. Jane looked at the screen, checked the tray, and looked at the screen again. Then, she touched the arrow. A new background appeared, and with that came the renewed possibility of obtaining more food.

Jane is a Goffin's cockatoo housed at the Messeri Research Institute, University of Veterinary Medicine (UVM), Vienna. With 14 of her peers, she has helped researchers demonstrate that the parrots can recognise and adapt to permanent non-functionality – the notion of something that previously worked ceasing to be functional in a specific context.

This might be the first step in testing experimentally whether an animal has the cognitive requirements to understand death, according to the researchers who conducted the study, published in *Scientific Reports* earlier this month.

But before that, people have to redefine what it means to understand death.

'Minimal death'

For many philosophers and anthropologists, the ability to understand death has been a defining feature of humanity. For example, the German philosopher Martin Heidegger declared in a 1939 seminar that "mortals are they who can experience death as death. Animals cannot do this."

"Only man dies. The animal perishes," he added in his 1971 book *Poetry, Language, Thought*. By that, he meant that only humans possessed the ability to understand death's significance. Philosopher Susana Monsó, associate professor at the National University of Distance Education, Madrid, disagreed. In a 2020 paper with UVM cognitive scientist Antonio J. Osuna-Mascaró, she argued that two forms of anthropocentrism – the belief that human beings are superior to all others – undergird humans' reluctance to acknowledge animals' ability to understand death.

One: the framing of death as an abstract concept, "as something that we know will inevitably befall all of us, but which we cannot point to or perceive with any of our senses." The duo called this intellectual anthropocentrism. The second they called emotional anthropocentrism: "the excessive focus on grief as a reaction to death."

These might be the reasons why existing accounts of animals' reactions to their kin's deaths are limited to those deemed exceptionally intelligent – chimpanzees, elephants, orcas, and crows – and focus overtly on their



Jane is a Goffin's cockatoo housed at the Messeri Research Institute. With 14 of her peers, she has helped researchers demonstrate that the parrots can recognise and adapt to the notion of something that previously worked ceasing to be functional in a specific context. ANTONIO J. OSUNA-MASCARÓ

human-like displays of grief and rituals. Instead, Dr. Monsó proposed in 2019 the "minimal concept of death": the bare minimum that would be required for an animal to understand what happens when an individual dies.

"It does not require a human-like concept of eternity, or a sophisticated understanding that another individual's mind is gone," Dr. Osuna-Mascaró, her collaborator, explained. "It requires only that an animal recognise death as the irreversible loss of the characteristic functions of a living body," he added.

Recognising permanent non-functionality would be one of the cognitive components relevant to such an understanding.

Testing the bird

While Dr. Monsó thought about how they could test animals' ability to recognise and adapt to permanent non-functionality, Dr. Osuna-Mascaró and his colleagues' work had already shown that Goffin's cockatoos are able to recognise and discard non-functional tools.

"So they were a great candidate species for testing whether animals can understand when something is irreversibly broken," Dr. Monsó said.

To test whether Goffin's cockatoos could comprehend permanent non-functionality, the team designed a touchscreen-based task. They trained parrots to learn that if they touched the round button on the screen, they received a food reward. The parrots could also touch an arrow to proceed to the next trial.

Then, the researchers tested the birds on a slightly more complex task. At times, when the birds touched the round button, the screen would flash and the button would stop working – but only against a



particular background. Against other backgrounds, the button still worked. The question was whether the cockatoos could learn more than "this button no longer works," Dr. Osuna-Mascaró explained.

In fact, they had to learn that a flashing event meant that the "particular context" was no longer useful," he added.

Further, the cockatoos had to distinguish the non-functional background from new ones in later trials.

The researchers found that as the trials proceeded, the cockatoos learned to skip the backgrounds in which the button had stopped working. However, they continued to touch it when it appeared against other backgrounds.

That is, "they had not simply lost trust in the touchscreen, but were adjusting their behaviour to the specific context," Dr. Osuna-Mascaró said.

Thus, they concluded the cockatoos had "acquired flexible sensitivity to permanent non-functionality," the authors wrote in their paper.

'One cognitive capacity' Some birds reacted strongly to the button's dysfunction. Rose, a juvenile female, called out in a manner typically used to obtain food or attention. Renki, a juvenile male, displayed aggression.

Even though these displays were not a

part of the study's analysis, they "made the task feel very real from the birds' perspective. Something that had just worked suddenly no longer did," Eleonora Rovegno, one of the study's lead authors, said.

That said, all (independent) animal cognition researchers this reporter spoke to were reluctant to take this as evidence for cockatoos' understanding of death – minimal or otherwise.

While calling the study "cool" and worthy of applause, Anindita Bhadra, professor of biology at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata, cautioned that the "study shows only that the cockatoos can learn the non-permanence of rewards and cues."

Dr. Bhadra works on the social lives of free-ranging dogs.

"Being able to recognise non-permanence of inanimate objects is very different from understanding non-permanence of a living being," she added. "Food rewards are very different from social interactions with other individuals."

Similarly, Anindya Sinha, a cognitive ethologist and professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru., said the cockatoos' actions are "truly significant in terms of their mechanical problem-solving abilities" but added that there is still "no empirical evidence yet of any conceptualisation of inactivity following the death of a living being".

Dr. Osuna-Mascaró agreed that the study "does not show that cockatoos understand death." However, he added, "it does suggest that they possess at least one cognitive capacity that contributes to such an understanding."

(Sayantan Datta is an independent science journalist and a faculty member at Alliance University, Bengaluru. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)



30J6. Scientists test cockatoos to see if animals understand death

वैज्ञानिक यह जानने के लिए काँकाटू पक्षियों का परीक्षण कर रहे हैं कि क्या पशु मृत्यु को समझते हैं

- For example, the German philosopher **Martin Heidegger** declared in a **1939** seminar that “mortals are they who can experience death as death. Animals cannot do this.”
उदाहरण के लिए, जर्मन दार्शनिक **मार्टिन हाइडेगर्** ने **1939** के एक संगोष्ठी में कहा था कि “नश्वर वही हैं जो मृत्यु को मृत्यु के रूप में अनुभव कर सकते हैं। पशु ऐसा नहीं कर सकते।”
- “Only man dies. The animal perishes,” he added in his **1971** book **Poetry, Language, Thought**.
उन्होंने अपनी **1971** की पुस्तक **Poetry, Language, Thought** में आगे कहा, “केवल मनुष्य मरता है। पशु केवल नष्ट हो जाता है।”
- In a **2020** paper with UVM cognitive scientist **Antonio J. Osuna-Mascaró**, she argued that two forms of **anthropocentrism** — the belief that **human beings** are superior to all others — undergird humans’ reluctance to acknowledge animals’ ability to understand **death**.
उन्होंने **2020** में UVM के संज्ञानात्मक वैज्ञानिक **एंटीनियो जे. ओसुना-मास्कारो** के साथ प्रकाशित शोधपत्र में तर्क दिया कि **मानव-केंद्रितता (Anthropocentrism)** के दो रूप—अर्थात् यह विश्वास कि **मनुष्य** सभी अन्य जीवों से श्रेष्ठ है—मनुष्यों द्वारा **पशुओं की मृत्यु** को समझने की क्षमता स्वीकार न करने के मूल कारण हैं।
- One: the framing of death as an abstract concept**, “as something that we know will inevitably befall all of us, but which we cannot point to or perceive with any of our senses.”
पहला कारण **मृत्यु** को एक **अमूर्त अवधारणा (Abstract Concept)** के रूप में प्रस्तुत करना है, अर्थात् ऐसी घटना जिसे हम जानते हैं कि वह सभी के साथ घटेगी, किन्तु जिसे हम अपनी किसी भी इंद्रिय से प्रत्यक्ष रूप से अनुभव नहीं कर सकते।
- The duo called this **intellectual anthropocentrism**.
दोनों शोधकर्ताओं ने इसे **बौद्धिक मानव-केंद्रितता (Intellectual Anthropocentrism)** कहा।
- The second they called **emotional anthropocentrism**: “the excessive focus on **grief** as a reaction to **death**”.
दूसरे रूप को उन्होंने **भावनात्मक मानव-केंद्रितता (Emotional Anthropocentrism)** कहा, अर्थात् **मृत्यु** के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया के रूप में केवल **शोक** पर अत्यधिक बल देना।
- These might be the reasons why existing accounts of **animals’ reactions to their kin’s deaths** are limited to those deemed exceptionally intelligent — **chimpanzees, elephants, orcas, and crows** — and focus overtly on their human-like displays of **grief and rituals**.
संभवतः यही कारण है कि अपने समूह के सदस्यों की **मृत्यु** पर **पशुओं की प्रतिक्रियाओं** से जुड़े अधिकांश विवरण केवल अत्यधिक बुद्धिमान माने जाने वाले **चिंपेंजी, हाथी, ऑर्का और कौए** जैसे जीवों तक सीमित हैं तथा उनमें मानव-सदृश **शोक और अनुष्ठानों** पर विशेष बल दिया जाता है।
- “It requires only that an **animal** recognise **death** as the irreversible loss of the characteristic functions of a **living body**,” he added.
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इसके लिए केवल इतना आवश्यक है कि कोई **पशु मृत्यु** को एक **जीवित शरीर की विशिष्ट क्रियाओं के अपरिवर्तनीय रूप से समाप्त हो जाने के रूप में पहचान** सके।



It's a bad idea to scratch a bug bite, research says

GS III: S&T
Associated Press

A lot of things can cause itchiness, sometimes serious diseases. Whatever the cause, doctors have long warned that scratching too much can damage the skin. Now researchers better understand why even a mildly annoying itch could put you on an itch-and-scratch cycle if you give in.

How did they find out? In part by putting tiny "cones of shame" onto mice to uncover what happens on a cellular level when an itch gets scratched – or left alone. They also gained insight into why a good scratch at least at first brings a sigh of relief. After all, not just people and other mammals scratch, even fish do. The commonality suggests there must be some evolutionary reason and the mouse experiment hints at a little germ protection – but still not a reason to scratch.

Daniel Kaplan, a University of Pittsburgh dermatologist whose lab studies immune reactions in skin, was exploring a run-of-the-mill type of itch called allergic contact dermatitis, caused

Normal mice scratched and inflammatory immune cells rushed to the site, increasing swelling. The rash was much milder in mice bred with defective itch-sensing nerve cells

by irritants such as poison ivy or nickel in jewellery.

Kaplan's research team put a rash-inducing irritant on the ears of mice. Normal mice scratched and inflammatory immune cells rushed to the site, increasing swelling. The rash was much milder in mice bred with defective itch-sensing nerve cells. But was the difference really the scratching?

Normal mice put into collars like those veterinary "cones of shame" so they itched but couldn't scratch gave the answer: They, too, had much less swelling and fewer inflammatory cells.

Kaplan said that evidence matches people's everyday experiences that scratching really can make things worse.

Ignore a mosquito bite and the itch is "gone in five or 10 minutes for most people," he said. "But if you start scratching it, it's your friend for a week," getting itchier and more inflamed.

To understand what was happening in the skin, Kaplan's team took a deeper look at mast cells, among the immune system's first responders. When called into action, they release compounds that can help fight germs or toxins – or, through a compound called histamine, trigger itchy allergic reactions.

Scientists have long known that allergens can activate mast cells. But other signals can summon mast cells, too, including pain. And when we scratch, "we tend to scratch until it starts to hurt," Kaplan noted.

Pain-sensing nerve cells release a chemical messenger called substance P. In findings published last year, Kaplan's team reported that substance P can activate mast cells through a different molecular pathway than allergens do – a double whammy that explains why scratching further inflames itchy rashes or bites.

If we experience pain like touching a hot stove, we'll learn not to do that again. Yet relief from a good scratch, in evolutionary terms, is positive feedback.

One long-held theory is that it may help creatures slough off parasites like fleas or mites. But Kaplan also was intrigued by other labs' findings that mast cells could fend off a common type of skin bacteria called *Staphylococcus aureus*. Sure enough, mice who scratched had lower levels of that germ on their ears, maybe because of the extra inflammation or some other mast cell-related compound.

30J6. It's a bad idea to scratch a bug bite, research says

शोध के अनुसार, कीट के काटने वाली जगह को खुजलाना उचित नहीं है

- To understand what was happening in the skin, Kaplan's team took a deeper look at **mast cells**, among the immune system's first responders.

त्वचा में क्या हो रहा था, इसे समझने के लिए कैपलन की टीम ने मास्ट कोशिकाओं (Mast Cells) का गहन अध्ययन किया, जो प्रतिरक्षा तंत्र की प्रारंभिक प्रतिक्रिया देने वाली कोशिकाओं में से हैं।

- When called into action, they release compounds that can help fight germs or toxins — or, through a compound called **histamine**, trigger itchy allergic reactions. सक्रिय होने पर ये ऐसी रासायनिक पदार्थों का स्राव करती हैं, जो रोगाणुओं या विषैले पदार्थों से लड़ने में सहायता करते हैं, अथवा हिस्टामिन (Histamine) नामक पदार्थ के माध्यम से खुजली वाली एलर्जिक प्रतिक्रियाएँ उत्पन्न करते हैं।

- Scientists have long known that **allergens can activate mast cells**. वैज्ञानिक लंबे समय से जानते हैं कि

एलर्जन मास्ट कोशिकाओं को सक्रिय कर सकते हैं।

- Pain-sensing nerve cells release a chemical messenger called substance P.** दर्द का अनुभव करने वाली तंत्रिका कोशिकाएँ सबस्टेंस पी (Substance P) नामक एक रासायनिक संदेशवाहक का स्राव करती हैं।
- In findings published last year, Kaplan's team reported that **substance P can activate mast cells through a different molecular pathway than allergens do — a double whammy that explains why scratching further inflames itchy rashes or bites.** पिछले वर्ष प्रकाशित निष्कर्षों में कैपलन की टीम ने बताया कि सबस्टेंस पी मास्ट कोशिकाओं को एलर्जन से भिन्न आणविक मार्ग द्वारा सक्रिय कर सकता है, जो एक दोहरे प्रभाव की तरह कार्य करता है और यह स्पष्ट करता है कि खुजलाने से खुजली वाले चकते या कीट के काटने की सूजन और अधिक क्यों बढ़ जाती है।



- If we experience **pain** like touching a hot stove, we'll learn not to do that again.
यदि हमें गर्म चूल्हे को छूने जैसा **दर्द** अनुभव होता है, तो हम दोबारा ऐसा न करने की सीख लेते हैं।
- Yet relief from a good scratch, in evolutionary terms, is positive feedback.**
किन्तु विकासवादी दृष्टि से अच्छी तरह **खुजलाने** से मिलने वाली राहत एक सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया (Positive Feedback) के समान होती है।
- One long-held theory is that it **may help creatures slough off parasites like fleas or mites.**
एक लंबे समय से प्रचलित सिद्धांत के अनुसार, यह जीवों को **पिस्सू (Fleas)** या **माइट्स (Mites)** जैसे **परजीवियों** से छुटकारा पाने में सहायता कर सकता है।
- But Kaplan also was intrigued by other labs' findings that **mast cells could fend off a common type of skin bacteria called Staphylococcus aureus.**
किन्तु कैपलन अन्य प्रयोगशालाओं के उन निष्कर्षों से भी प्रभावित हुए, जिनमें बताया गया था कि **मास्ट कोशिकाएँ स्टैफिलोकोकस ऑरियस (Staphylococcus aureus)** नामक सामान्य त्वचा जीवाणु से भी रक्षा कर सकती हैं।

GS Paper III: Environment	30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
30J6	Radio-tagged white-rumped vulture electrocuted रेडियो-टैग लगाए गए व्हाइट-रम्पड गिद्ध की विद्युत करंट लगने से मृत्यु।

Radio-tagged white-rumped vulture electrocuted

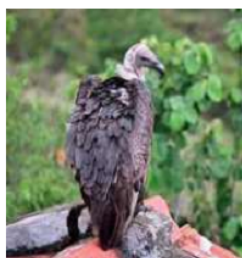
GS III: Environment
Rohan Premkumar
UDHAGAMANDALAM

A captive-bred, radio-tagged white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) that was released earlier this year at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu was electrocuted on Sunday.

The bird came into contact with a power line and was killed at Ebbanad village overlooking the Sigur plateau, Forest Department officials said.

The bird, initially released in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra in December 2025, made its way into Karnataka, where it had to be captured and treated after showing signs of illness.

In April, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Karnataka Forest Department had



The radio-tagged vulture that was electrocuted on Sunday.
M. SATHYAMOORTHY.

discussions with their counterparts in Tamil Nadu and received permission to release the bird in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, which is home to the last sizeable population of white-rumped vultures in South India.

Failed to acclimatise
Foresters hoped the bird would associate with other vultures and acclimatise to

the region. However, officials said the release proved to be more difficult than expected, with the vulture failing to acclimatise to its new surroundings and embarking on exploratory forays around the tiger reserve, including to Gudalur, and later up the slopes towards Kalhaty and Ebbanad.

"We had captured the bird multiple times and released it into the Sigur, hoping it would acclimatise," said R. Kiruba Shankar, Field Director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

However, on Sunday, during one of the bird's explorations of Ebbanad in the Nilgiris forest division, it came into contact with a power line and was killed, officials from the forest department confirmed.

The death of the vulture has signalled the end of the

first attempted reintroduction of a captive-bred bird of the species into the landscape and could have consequences for conservation policies in the future.

Identifying threats

"There have long been calls for captive-bred birds to be released into Mudumalai to bolster populations. With this reintroduction having failed, steps must be taken to identify why the bird was unable to adapt and also to identify the threats to the endangered species, such as power lines which have led to multiple vulture deaths in the region over the last few years," said a conservationist from the Nilgiris.

S. Bharathidasan, secretary of Arulagam, a conservation NGO working on protecting vultures in the

region, said power lines that cross through vulture habitats need to be reinforced with bunch-cabling and need to be insulated to prevent birds and other wildlife from being accidentally electrocuted.

"We will have discussions with the BNHS and other researchers to understand the reasons for why this particular bird was unable to acclimatise and adapt. We will also find out if the other captive-bred birds released in other parts too have faced similar challenges," said Mr. Kiruba Shankar.

Besides, The Forest Department is also looking into the possibility of adapting power infrastructure in the region towards minimising threats to avian species, such as installing bird diverters on transmission lines.

30J6. Radio-tagged white-rumped vulture electrocuted

रेडियो-टैग लगाए गए व्हाइट-रम्पड गिद्ध की विद्युत करंट लगने से मृत्यु।

- A **captive-bred, radio-tagged White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)** that was released earlier this year at the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu** was electrocuted on Sunday.



इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में तमिलनाडु के नीलगिरि जिले स्थित मुदुमलाई टाइगर रिज़र्व में छोड़ा गया बंदी प्रजनन से तैयार, रेडियो-टैगयुक्त श्वेत-पृष्ठ गिद्ध (Gyps bengalensis) रविवार को करंट लगने से मृत हो गया।

- The bird, initially released in the **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra** in **December 2025**, made its way into **Karnataka**, where it had to be captured and treated after showing signs of illness.

इस पक्षी को प्रारंभ में दिसंबर 2025 में महाराष्ट्र के ताडोबा-अंधारी टाइगर रिज़र्व में छोड़ा गया था। बाद में यह कर्नाटक पहुँच गया, जहाँ बीमारी के लक्षण दिखाई देने पर इसे पकड़कर उपचार किया गया।

- In **April**, the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** and the **Karnataka Forest Department** had discussions with their counterparts in **Tamil Nadu** and received permission to release the bird in the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, which is home to the last sizeable population of White-rumped Vultures in South India.**

अप्रैल में बॉम्बे नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसायटी (BNHS) तथा कर्नाटक वन विभाग ने तमिलनाडु के अधिकारियों के साथ चर्चा की और पक्षी को मुदुमलाई टाइगर रिज़र्व में छोड़ने की अनुमति प्राप्त की, जहाँ दक्षिण भारत में श्वेत-पृष्ठ गिद्धों की अंतिम उल्लेखनीय आबादी निवास करती है।

- The **death of the vulture** has signalled the end of the first attempted reintroduction of a **captively-bred bird of the species into the landscape and could have consequences for conservation policies in the future.**

इस गिद्ध की मृत्यु के साथ इस प्रजाति के बंदी प्रजनन से तैयार पक्षी को प्राकृतिक आवास में पुनः स्थापित करने का पहला प्रयास समाप्त हो गया है तथा इसका भविष्य की संरक्षण नीतियों पर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

Identifying threats

खतरों की पहचान।

- “There have long been calls for **captively-bred birds to be released into Mudumalai to bolster populations.** With this reintroduction having failed, steps must be taken to identify why the bird was unable to adapt and also to identify the threats to the endangered species, such as **power lines** which have led to multiple vulture deaths in the region over the last few years,” said a conservationist from the **Nilgiris.**

नीलगिरि के एक संरक्षण विशेषज्ञ ने कहा, “गिद्धों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए लंबे समय से बंदी प्रजनन से तैयार पक्षियों को मुदुमलाई में छोड़े जाने की माँग होती रही है। अब जबकि यह पुनर्स्थापन प्रयास विफल रहा है, यह पता लगाना आवश्यक है कि पक्षी स्थानीय परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप क्यों नहीं ढल पाया तथा बिजली की लाइनों जैसे उन खतरों की भी पहचान करनी होगी, जिनके कारण पिछले कुछ वर्षों में इस क्षेत्र में कई गिद्धों की मृत्यु हुई है।”

GS Paper III: Internal Security		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	Surveillance boost: Army to raise ‘Baaz Battalions’ निगरानी क्षमता में वृद्धि: सेना ‘बाज़ बटालियनों’ का गठन करेगी।	
30J6	What India’s 12 ‘operationally deployed’ nuclear warheads really mean भारत के 12 ‘ऑपरेशनल रूप से तैनात’ परमाणु वारहेड वास्तव में क्या दर्शाते हैं?	



Surveillance boost: Army to raise 'Baaz Battalions'

GS III: Internal Security
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army is raising dedicated 'Baaz Battalions' to significantly enhance its Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) capability, a move aimed at strengthening battlefield surveillance, intelligence gathering and rapid response through a specialised drone force, defence sources said.

Sources in the Indian Army have confirmed the development and said that the new battalions will be built upon the Army's existing RPA Flights and will comprise a specialist pool of trained personnel responsible for operating and managing Remotely Piloted Aircraft systems.

The initiative is intended to bolster the Army's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities by providing integrated aerial surveillance, persistent battlefield awareness and improved situational awareness for frontline formations.

The Baaz Battalions will centralise the Army's expanding drone capabilities and will be designed to handle the entire lifecycle of RPA operations, including deployment, maintenance, data exploitation and seamless integration with ground forces.

30J6. Surveillance boost: Army to raise 'Baaz Battalions' निगरानी क्षमता में वृद्धि: सेना 'बाज़ बटालियनों' का गठन करेगी।

- The **Indian Army** is raising dedicated '**Baaz Battalions**' to significantly enhance its **Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)** capability, a move aimed at strengthening **battlefield surveillance**, **intelligence gathering**, and **rapid response** through a specialised drone force, defence sources said.

रक्षा सूत्रों के अनुसार भारतीय सेना अपनी रिमोटली पायलटेड एयरक्राफ्ट (RPA) क्षमता को उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ाने के लिए समर्पित 'बाज़ बटालियन' का गठन कर रही है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य विशेषीकृत ड्रोन बल के माध्यम से युद्धक्षेत्र निगरानी, खुफिया जानकारी संग्रहण तथा त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता को सुदृढ़ करना है।

- Sources in the **Indian Army** have confirmed the development and said that the new battalions will be built upon the Army's existing **RPA Flights** and will comprise a specialist pool of trained personnel responsible for operating and managing **Remotely Piloted Aircraft systems**.

भारतीय सेना के सूत्रों ने इस विकास की पुष्टि करते हुए कहा कि नई बटालियनें सेना की वर्तमान RPA फ्लाइट्स के आधार पर गठित की जाएँगी। इनमें विशेष रूप से प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों का एक विशेषज्ञ समूह होगा, जो रिमोटली पायलटेड एयरक्राफ्ट प्रणालियों के संचालन एवं प्रबंधन के लिए उत्तरदायी होगा।

- The initiative is intended to bolster the Army's **Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)** capabilities by providing integrated **aerial surveillance**, persistent **battlefield awareness**, and improved **situational awareness** for frontline formations.

इस पहल का उद्देश्य सेना की इंटेलिजेंस, सर्विलांस एवं रिकॉनसैस (ISR) क्षमताओं को सुदृढ़ करना है। इसके माध्यम से अग्रिम मोर्चे की सैन्य इकाइयों को एकीकृत हवाई निगरानी, सतत युद्धक्षेत्र जागरूकता तथा बेहतर स्थिति संबंधी जागरूकता उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी।

- The **Baaz Battalions** will centralise the Army's expanding **drone capabilities** and will be designed to handle the entire lifecycle of **RPA operations**, including **deployment**, **maintenance**, **data exploitation**, and **seamless integration with ground forces**.

बाज़ बटालियनें सेना की निरंतर विकसित हो रही ड्रोन क्षमताओं का केंद्रीकृत संचालन करेंगी। इन्हें RPA संचालन के संपूर्ण जीवनचक्र का प्रबंधन करने के लिए विकसित किया जाएगा, जिसमें तैनाती, रखरखाव, डेटा विश्लेषण एवं उपयोग तथा स्थल सेना के साथ निर्बाध समन्वय शामिल होगा।

What India's 12 'operationally deployed' nuclear warheads really mean

SIPRI's latest assessment shows the maturation of India's second-strike capability rather than a shift away from its long-standing 'no first use' doctrine; the development comes amid a broader global trend of nuclear modernisation and weakening arms-control frameworks

GS III: Internal Security:
Defence

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual yearbook in June. For the first time, it classified 12 of India's estimated stockpile of 190 nuclear warheads to be operationally deployed, i.e., positioned with active military forces mated with delivery systems and ready for use.

This sounds alarming – but the alarm itself may not be warranted. The reason is that India has neither crossed a strategic threshold nor has it abandoned its decades-old 'no first use' policy.

India's promise

India's 'no first use' (NFU) policy is a pillar of its nuclear doctrine and its credible minimum deterrence posture. At the UN High-Level Meeting commemorating the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in September 2025, India's representative Sibi George reaffirmed India's commitment to NFU and to the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states.

The political foundations of the doctrine are intact even as some analysts within India have periodically called for a conditional or hybrid first-use posture. Those calls have not prevailed.

Under NFU, India commits to not launching a pre-emptive nuclear strike. What it needs is the absolute certainty that even after absorbing a nuclear first strike, enough of its nuclear arsenal will survive to deliver a devastating retaliatory blow. This survivability guarantee is what strategists call a second-strike capability, and without it, NFU is not a doctrine but a liability. In other words, the doctrine depends on a force that can survive and retaliate.

The SIPRI report does not indicate a shift towards first use, a lowering of the threshold for nuclear employment or indeed any revision of the political controls that govern India's nuclear weapons. Instead, it documents the maturing of India's ability to credibly deliver the second strike.

Stockpile v. Deployment

This distinction is significant. Possessing a nuclear warhead and deploying it as part of an operational deterrent is not the same thing. For most of its nuclear history, India has kept its warheads in a de-mated state, meaning the warheads were stored separately from their delivery vehicles, in a central storage site and under strict civilian and political oversight. The idea was to maximise safety, reduce the risk of accidental use, and signal restraint to the international community.

Deployment, on the other hand, means a weapon has been paired with a delivery system – a missile, aircraft, or submarine – and positioned with operational military forces in a state of readiness. Again, this does not mean the weapons are about to be used; it means they are configured for use if authorised. A de-mated weapon requires time to prepare and deploy; a mated weapon can, in principle, be launched more quickly.

What SIPRI has recorded when it classified 12 Indian warheads as being deployed is that a small – but no doubt



The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute noticed India's increasing reliance on canisterised Agni-series missiles. FILE PHOTO

significant – fraction of India's arsenal now is being maintained in a state of operational readiness. And SIPRI has linked this assessment to the maturation of India's nuclear triad, particularly its sea-based deterrent, suggesting that a small number of warheads may now be deployed aboard a nuclear ballistic missile submarine (which are also called SSBN) conducting occasional deterrence patrols.

India's Arihant-class submarines have steadily strengthened the survivability of the country's second-strike capability, with additional platforms expected to further consolidate this leg of the triad. SIPRI also noticed India's increasing reliance on canisterised Agni-series missiles. This means the missiles are kept ready with fuel in a sealed cylinder, from which they can be directly fired without further preparations. Canisterisation thus indicates a greater level of operational readiness.

Overall, it seems India's long-envisioned deterrent posture is becoming increasingly operational across land and sea-based delivery systems – but not that the country is on a war footing.

NFU architecture

Bearing in mind India's pursuit of a doctrine of credible minimum deterrence centred on assured retaliation, the maturation of its submarine-based deterrent doesn't depart from NFU but is a means of strengthening it.

A doctrine that relies on retaliation requires forces capable of surviving an adversary's first strike. Land-based missiles, however capable, sit at known and mappable locations. An adversary confident in its intelligence could, in theory, target them in a disarming first strike before a retaliatory order is ever

issued. On the other hand, a stealth submarine operating in the ocean can't be found, tracked or destroyed in time.

This is a fundamental difference – and in fact, ballistic missile submarines provide the most secure second-strike capability available. As the scholar Vipin Narang has written, states pursuing assured retaliation postures must, above all, solve the survivability problem, and sea-basing is the most robust solution available.

India has now done that. With three operational SSBNs sufficient to keep at least one submerged and on patrol at all times, India has closed the central vulnerability any NFU doctrine faces.

Manpreet Sethi, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies, New Delhi, said, "With the operationalisation of tri-SSBNs, it is not surprising that some of India's nuclear warheads now stand mated with delivery platforms. This in no way implies a doctrinal shift. Rather, it makes assured retaliation more credible and, hence, India more confident in its commitment to 'no first use'."

Wider warning

SIPRI's documentation of India's deployment milestone lies within a broader, more concerning global trend. The organisation's 2026 Yearbook observed that states are "increasingly relying on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power", signalling a reversal of decades of gradual progress in disarmament.

As of January this year, the world's nine nuclear-armed states collectively possessed an estimated 12,187 nuclear warheads. China's arsenal has grown to approximately 620 and continues to expand at a pace unmatched by any other

nuclear power. In this context, India's reported deployment of 12 operationally assigned warheads is strategically significant.

India's nuclear choices must be understood from within this evolving security environment. SIPRI has noted that India's modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing long-range delivery systems capable of reaching targets throughout China – while continuing to account for Pakistan.

With China's arsenal now more than three times the size of Pakistan's estimated stockpile, and Beijing simultaneously expanding its sea-based nuclear deterrent, India's SSBN programme appears directed as much towards maintaining credible deterrence against China as towards preserving stability with Pakistan.

The world that the SIPRI report has described is one in which the post-Cold War nuclear order is under mounting strain. Arms-control agreements have weakened or collapsed while competition in areas such as hypersonic delivery systems, artificial intelligence-enabled decision support, missile defence, and anti-submarine warfare continues to intensify.

The risk of miscalculation is correspondingly increasing. India's evolving deterrent posture should therefore be seen not as an isolated development but as part of a wider transformation in the global strategic environment. Policymakers should treat this as a warning that the institutions designed to manage nuclear risk must adapt quickly enough to keep pace with the capabilities now being fielded. (Shrawani Shigun is a researcher focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance)

30J6. What India's 12 'operationally deployed' nuclear warheads really mean

भारत के 12 'ऑपरेशनल रूप से तैनात' परमाणु वारहेड वास्तव में क्या दर्शाते हैं?

- For the first time, it classified 12 of India's estimated stockpile of 190 nuclear warheads to be operationally deployed, i.e., positioned with active military forces mated with delivery systems and ready for use.

पहली बार, इसने भारत के अनुमानित 190 परमाणु वारहेडों के भंडार में से 12 को संचालनात्मक रूप से तैनात (Operationally Deployed) श्रेणी में रखा, अर्थात् वे सक्रिय सैन्य बलों के साथ डिलीवरी प्रणालियों में संयोजित होकर उपयोग के लिए तैयार स्थिति में हैं।

- This sounds alarming — but the alarm itself may not be warranted.
यह स्थिति चिंताजनक प्रतीत हो सकती है, किन्तु यह चिंता आवश्यक रूप से उचित नहीं हो सकती।
- The reason is that **India** has neither crossed a strategic threshold nor has it abandoned its decades-old '**No First Use (NFU)**' policy.
इसका कारण यह है कि **भारत** ने न तो कोई सामरिक सीमा पार की है और न ही अपनी दशकों पुरानी '**पहले प्रयोग न करने (No First Use-NFU)**' की नीति का परित्याग किया है।

India's promise

भारत की प्रतिबद्धता

- **India's 'No First Use (NFU)' policy** is a pillar of its **nuclear doctrine** and its **credible minimum deterrence posture**.
भारत की '**पहले प्रयोग न करने (No First Use-NFU)**' की नीति उसकी परमाणु सिद्धांत (Nuclear Doctrine) तथा विश्वसनीय न्यूनतम प्रतिरोध (Credible Minimum Deterrence) की नीति का एक प्रमुख आधार है।
- At the **UN High-Level Meeting** commemorating the **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** in **September 2025**, **India's** representative **Sibi George** reaffirmed **India's** commitment to **NFU** and to the non-use of **nuclear weapons** against **non-nuclear-weapon states**.
सितंबर 2025 में परमाणु हथियारों के पूर्ण उन्मूलन के अंतरराष्ट्रीय दिवस के अवसर पर आयोजित संयुक्त राष्ट्र उच्च स्तरीय बैठक में भारत के प्रतिनिधि **सिबी जॉर्ज** ने **NFU** नीति तथा गैर-परमाणु हथियार संपन्न देशों के विरुद्ध **परमाणु हथियारों** का प्रयोग न करने की भारत की प्रतिबद्धता को पुनः दोहराया।
- **Under NFU, India commits to not launching a pre-emptive nuclear strike**.
NFU के अंतर्गत **भारत** यह प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त करता है कि वह **पूर्व-प्रत्याशित परमाणु हमला (Pre-emptive Nuclear Strike)** नहीं करेगा।
- **What it needs is the absolute certainty that even after absorbing a nuclear first strike, enough of its nuclear arsenal will survive to deliver a devastating retaliatory blow**.
इसके लिए आवश्यक है कि **प्रथम परमाणु हमले** को झेलने के बाद भी उसके **परमाणु शस्त्रागार** का पर्याप्त भाग सुरक्षित रहे, ताकि वह **विनाशकारी प्रतिघाती हमला (Retaliatory Blow)** कर सके।
- **This survivability guarantee is what strategists call a second-strike capability, and without it, NFU is not a doctrine but a liability**.
जीवित बने रहने की इसी क्षमता को रणनीतिक विशेषज्ञ **द्वितीय प्रहार क्षमता (Second-Strike Capability)** कहते हैं, और इसके बिना **NFU** कोई प्रभावी सिद्धांत नहीं, बल्कि एक रणनीतिक कमजोरी बन जाएगा।
- In other words, the **doctrine depends on a force that can survive and retaliate**.
दूसरे शब्दों में, यह सिद्धांत ऐसे सैन्य बल पर आधारित है जो जीवित रहकर प्रभावी प्रतिघात करने में सक्षम हो।
- The **SIPRI** report does not indicate a shift towards **first use**, a lowering of the threshold for **nuclear employment** or indeed any revision of the political controls that govern **India's nuclear weapons**.
SIPRI की रिपोर्ट **पहले प्रयोग (First Use)** की नीति की ओर किसी परिवर्तन, **परमाणु हथियारों** के प्रयोग की सीमा को कम करने अथवा **भारत के परमाणु हथियारों** पर लागू राजनीतिक नियंत्रणों में किसी संशोधन का संकेत नहीं देती।
- Instead, it documents the maturing of **India's** ability to credibly deliver the **second strike**.
इसके विपरीत, यह रिपोर्ट **भारत** की विश्वसनीय **द्वितीय प्रहार क्षमता** के क्रमिक सुदृढीकरण को दर्शाती है।

Stockpile v. Deployment भंडारण बनाम तैनाती

- This distinction is significant.
यह अंतर अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Possessing a **nuclear warhead** and deploying it as part of an operational **deterrent** is not the same thing.
किसी परमाणु वारहेड का स्वामित्व रखना और उसे संचालनात्मक प्रतिरोधक क्षमता (Deterrent) के रूप में तैनात करना एक ही बात नहीं है।
- For most of its **nuclear history**, India has kept its **warheads** in a **de-mated state**, meaning the **warheads** were stored separately from their **delivery vehicles**, in a central storage site and under strict **civilian** and **political oversight**.
अपने अधिकांश परमाणु इतिहास के दौरान भारत ने अपने वारहेडों को डी-मेटेड अवस्था (De-mated State) में रखा है, अर्थात् वारहेडों को उनके डिलीवरी वाहनों से अलग एक केंद्रीय भंडारण स्थल पर कड़े नागरिक तथा राजनीतिक नियंत्रण के अंतर्गत सुरक्षित रखा जाता रहा है।
- The idea was to maximise **safety**, reduce the risk of **accidental use**, and signal **restraint to the international community**.
इस व्यवस्था का उद्देश्य सुरक्षा को अधिकतम करना, दुर्घटनावश प्रयोग के जोखिम को कम करना तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय के समक्ष संयम का संदेश देना था।
- Deployment, on the other hand, means a **weapon** has been paired with a **delivery system** — a **missile, aircraft, or submarine** — and positioned with operational **military forces** in a state of **readiness**.
दूसरी ओर, तैनाती (Deployment) का अर्थ है कि किसी हथियार को उसके डिलीवरी सिस्टम — जैसे मिसाइल, विमान, अथवा पनडुब्बी — के साथ जोड़ा गया हो और उसे संचालनात्मक सैन्य बलों के साथ तत्परता की स्थिति में तैनात किया गया हो।
- Again, this does not mean the **weapons** are about to be used; it means they are configured for use if authorised.
फिर भी इसका यह अर्थ नहीं है कि हथियारों का प्रयोग तुरंत किया जाने वाला है; इसका केवल यह अर्थ है कि अनुमति मिलने पर वे उपयोग के लिए तैयार स्थिति में हैं।
- A **de-mated weapon** requires time to prepare and deploy; a **mated weapon** can, in principle, be launched more quickly.
डी-मेटेड हथियार को तैयार करने और तैनात करने में समय लगता है, जबकि मेटेड हथियार को सिद्धांततः अधिक शीघ्रता से प्रक्षेपित किया जा सकता है।
- What **SIPRI** has recorded when it classified **12 Indian warheads** as being **deployed** is that a small — but no doubt significant — fraction of **India's nuclear arsenal** now is being maintained in a state of operational readiness.
जब **SIPRI** ने भारत के 12 परमाणु वारहेडों को तैनात श्रेणी में रखा, तो उसका आशय यह था कि भारत के परमाणु शस्त्रागार का एक छोटा, किन्तु निस्संदेह महत्वपूर्ण भाग अब संचालनात्मक तत्परता की स्थिति में रखा जा रहा है।
- And **SIPRI** has linked this assessment to the maturation of **India's nuclear triad**, particularly its **sea-based deterrent**, suggesting that a small number of **warheads** may now be deployed aboard a **nuclear ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)** conducting occasional **deterrence patrols**.
SIPRI ने इस आकलन को भारत की परमाणु त्रयी (Nuclear Triad), विशेष रूप से उसके समुद्र-आधारित प्रतिरोधक तंत्र, के परिपक्व होने से जोड़ा है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, अब कुछ वारहेड समय-समय पर प्रतिरोधक गश्त (Deterrence Patrols) करने वाली परमाणु बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल पनडुब्बियों (SSBN) पर तैनात हो सकते हैं।
- India's Arihant-class submarines** have steadily strengthened the survivability of the country's **second-strike capability**, with additional platforms expected to further consolidate



this leg of the **nuclear triad**.

भारत की अरिहंत श्रेणी की पनडुब्बियों ने देश की द्वितीय प्रहार क्षमता की जीवित रहने की क्षमता को लगातार सुदृढ़ किया है, और भविष्य में अतिरिक्त प्लेटफॉर्म परमाणु त्रयी के इस घटक को और अधिक मजबूत करेंगे।

- SIPRI also noticed India's increasing reliance on **canisterised Agni-series missiles**. SIPRI ने भारत द्वारा कैनिस्टरयुक्त अग्नि श्रृंखला की मिसाइलों पर बढ़ती निर्भरता का भी उल्लेख किया है।
- This means **the missiles are kept ready with fuel in a sealed cylinder, from which they can be directly fired without further preparations**. इसका अर्थ है कि मिसाइलों को ईंधन सहित एक सीलबंद कैनिस्टर में तैयार अवस्था में रखा जाता है, जहाँ से उन्हें बिना अतिरिक्त तैयारी के सीधे प्रक्षेपित किया जा सकता है।
- **Canisterisation** thus indicates a greater level of operational readiness. इस प्रकार कैनिस्टरकरण (Canisterisation) संचालनात्मक तत्परता के उच्च स्तर का संकेत देता है।
- Overall, it seems India's long-envisioned **deterrent posture** is becoming **increasingly operational across land and sea-based delivery systems** — but not that the country is on a **war footing**.

समग्र रूप से ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि भारत की दीर्घकाल से परिकल्पित प्रतिरोधक रणनीति अब स्थल-आधारित तथा समुद्र-आधारित डिलीवरी प्रणालियों में अधिक संचालनात्मक होती जा रही है, किन्तु इसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि देश युद्ध की स्थिति में पहुँच गया है।

NFU architecture

NFU की संरचना

- Bearing in mind India's pursuit of a **doctrine of credible minimum deterrence** centred on **assured retaliation**, the maturation of its **submarine-based deterrent** does not depart from NFU but is a means of strengthening it. भारत की विश्वसनीय न्यूनतम प्रतिरोध तथा सुनिश्चित प्रतिघात पर आधारित नीति को ध्यान में रखते हुए, उसके पनडुब्बी-आधारित प्रतिरोधक तंत्र का परिपक्व होना NFU से विचलन नहीं है, बल्कि उसे और अधिक सुदृढ़ करने का माध्यम है।
- A doctrine that relies on **retaliation** requires forces capable of surviving an adversary's **first strike**. प्रतिघात पर आधारित किसी भी सिद्धांत के लिए ऐसे सैन्य बल आवश्यक होते हैं जो शत्रु के प्रथम आक्रमण के बाद भी सुरक्षित रह सकें।
- On the other hand, a **stealth submarine** operating in the **ocean** cannot be found, tracked or destroyed in time. इसके विपरीत, महासागर में संचालित स्टील्थ पनडुब्बी का समय रहते पता लगाना, उसका पीछा करना या उसे नष्ट करना अत्यंत कठिन होता है।
- This is a fundamental difference — and in fact, **ballistic missile submarines** provide the most secure **second-strike capability** available. यही मूलभूत अंतर है, और वास्तव में बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल पनडुब्बियाँ उपलब्ध विकल्पों में सबसे सुरक्षित द्वितीय प्रहार क्षमता प्रदान करती हैं।
- With **three operational SSBNs** sufficient to keep at least **one** submerged and on patrol at all times, India has closed the central vulnerability any NFU doctrine faces. तीन संचालनात्मक SSBN होने के कारण कम-से-कम एक पनडुब्बी हमेशा समुद्र में गश्त पर और जलमग्न रह सकती है, जिससे भारत ने NFU सिद्धांत की सबसे बड़ी संरचनात्मक कमजोरी को दूर कर दिया है।
- Manpreet Sethi, distinguished fellow at the **Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies**, New Delhi, said, **"With the operationalisation of tri-SSBNs, it is not surprising that some of India's nuclear warheads now stand mated with delivery platforms. This in no way implies a doctrinal shift. Rather, it makes assured retaliation more credible and, hence, India more confident in its commitment to 'No First Use'."** नई दिल्ली स्थित सेंटर फॉर एयरोस्पेस पावर एंड स्ट्रैटेजिक स्टडीज़ की विशिष्ट फेलो मनप्रीत सेठी ने कहा,

“तीन SSBN के संचालनात्मक होने के बाद यह आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि भारत के कुछ परमाणु वारहेड अब डिलीवरी प्लेटफॉर्मों के साथ मेटेड अवस्था में हैं। इसका किसी भी प्रकार से सिद्धांत में परिवर्तन का अर्थ नहीं है। बल्कि इससे सुनिश्चित प्रतिघात की विश्वसनीयता बढ़ती है और परिणामस्वरूप ‘पहले प्रयोग न करने (No First Use)’ की भारत की प्रतिबद्धता और अधिक मजबूत होती है।”

Wider warning व्यापक चेतावनी

- The organisation's **2026 Yearbook** observed that states are “**increasingly relying on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power**”, signalling a reversal of decades of gradual progress in **disarmament**.
संस्था की 2026 ईयरबुक में उल्लेख किया गया है कि देश “राष्ट्रीय शक्ति के साधन के रूप में परमाणु हथियारों पर लगातार अधिक निर्भर होते जा रहे हैं”, जो निःशस्त्रीकरण की दिशा में दशकों से हुई क्रमिक प्रगति के उलट जाने का संकेत है।
- As of **January** this year, the world's **nine nuclear-armed states** collectively possessed an estimated **12,187 nuclear warheads**.
इस वर्ष जनवरी तक विश्व के नौ परमाणु हथियार संपन्न देशों के पास सामूहिक रूप से लगभग 12,187 परमाणु वारहेड होने का अनुमान था।
- China's** arsenal has grown to approximately **620** and continues to expand at a pace unmatched by any other **nuclear power**.
चीन का परमाणु शस्त्रागार बढ़कर लगभग 620 वारहेड तक पहुँच गया है और इसका विस्तार किसी भी अन्य परमाणु शक्ति की तुलना में अधिक तीव्र गति से जारी है।
- With **China's** arsenal now more than **three times** the size of **Pakistan's** estimated stockpile, and **Beijing** simultaneously expanding its **sea-based nuclear deterrent**, **India's SSBN programme** appears directed as much towards maintaining credible deterrence against **China** as towards preserving stability with **Pakistan**.
चूँकि चीन का परमाणु शस्त्रागार अब पाकिस्तान के अनुमानित भंडार से तीन गुना से अधिक हो चुका है और बीजिंग समानांतर रूप से अपने समुद्र-आधारित परमाणु प्रतिरोधक तंत्र का विस्तार कर रहा है, इसलिए भारत का SSBN कार्यक्रम जितना चीन के विरुद्ध विश्वसनीय प्रतिरोध बनाए रखने की दिशा में है, उतना ही पाकिस्तान के साथ सामरिक स्थिरता बनाए रखने की दिशा में भी प्रतीत होता है।
- Arms-control agreements** have weakened or collapsed while competition in areas such as **hypersonic delivery systems, artificial intelligence-enabled decision support, missile defence, and anti-submarine warfare** continues to intensify.
शस्त्र नियंत्रण समझौते या तो कमजोर हो गए हैं अथवा समाप्त हो चुके हैं, जबकि हाइपरसोनिक डिलीवरी प्रणालियों, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित निर्णय सहायता, मिसाइल रक्षा, तथा पनडुब्बी-रोधी युद्ध क्षमता जैसे क्षेत्रों में प्रतिस्पर्धा लगातार तीव्र होती जा रही है।

GS Paper IV: Ethics		30 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
30J6	Delayed honour विलंबित सम्मान	



GS IV: Ethics

Delayed honour

Operational secrecy during wars is a must, but there must be accountability

War is secretive and strategy may require deception. But that is no good explanation for the fact that the Narendra Modi government took over a year before formally acknowledging that six soldiers had lost their lives in Operation Sindoor in 2025. India had launched cross-border military strikes in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pahalgam terrorist attack, in April 2025, that killed 26 innocent people. From the beginning, the government has been reluctant to share any meaningful details of Operation Sindoor even as it continuously kept the hyperbolic self-congratulatory posture. Its decision to not publicly acknowledge and honour the supreme sacrifice of the fallen soldiers contemporaneously was hardly a sign of any wise strategy. Casualties can happen in any military operation and that is a key consideration in any military planning, and more importantly, the political decision to go to war or not. Not being transparent about losses, human and material, may serve the political interests of the ruling party, but not national interest. By trying to be clever and selective about facts, the government undermined its own credibility and did a disservice to those who paid with their lives. Soon after the operation concluded in May 2025, the then Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, paid tribute, during a press briefing on May 11, 2025, to Indian military personnel who had made the supreme sacrifice, though their names were not disclosed.

The cremations were done with full military honours. In August 2025, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh visited the family of Sergeant Surendra Kumar, who was killed during the operation, while the Ministry of Defence also announced gallantry awards for the fallen personnel. Tributes were simultaneously carried on the Indian Army's official social media platforms. In the Lok Sabha on July 28, 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that "no Indian soldiers were harmed" during Operation Sindoor. Following accusations that it has misled Parliament, the government is now explaining that the Minister's remarks were made in the context of reports that Indian aircraft were shot down and were meant to clarify that no pilot was killed during the mission. The government has also maintained that details relating to aircraft losses during the conflict remain operationally sensitive and refused to disclose them. There is a distinction to be made between operational secrecy and requirements of public accountability. War is a stark demonstration of the fact that it is the public that always pays for all actions of the government. A public accounting of the gains and the losses is the best way to ensure wise decision making.

30J6. Delayed honour

विलंबित सम्मान

• Operational secrecy during wars is a must, but there must be accountability.

युद्धों के दौरान संचालन संबंधी गोपनीयता अनिवार्य है, किंतु इसके साथ जवाबदेही भी सुनिश्चित होनी चाहिए।

• War is secretive and strategy may require deception.

युद्ध स्वभावतः गोपनीय होता है और रणनीति में कभी-कभी भ्रम उत्पन्न करने की आवश्यकता पड़ सकती है।

• But that is no good explanation for the fact that the Narendra Modi Government took over a year before formally acknowledging that six soldiers had lost their lives in Operation Sindoor in 2025.

किन्तु यह इस तथ्य का उचित स्पष्टीकरण नहीं हो सकता कि नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार ने 2025 के ऑपरेशन सिंदूर में छह सैनिकों के शहीद होने की औपचारिक पुष्टि करने में एक वर्ष से अधिक का समय लिया।

• Casualties can happen in any military operation and that is a key consideration in any military planning, and more importantly, the political decision to go to war or not.

किसी भी सैन्य अभियान में हानि होना संभव है और यह किसी भी सैन्य योजना तथा उससे भी अधिक, युद्ध करने या न करने के राजनीतिक निर्णय का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू होता है।

• Not being transparent about losses, human and material, may serve the political interests of the ruling party, but not national interest.

मानवीय और भौतिक क्षति के विषय में पारदर्शिता न रखना सत्तारूढ़ दल के राजनीतिक हितों की पूर्ति कर सकता है, किन्तु यह राष्ट्रीय हित के अनुरूप नहीं है।

• By trying to be clever and selective about facts, the Government undermined its own credibility and did a disservice to those who paid with their lives.

तथ्यों को चुनिंदा ढंग से प्रस्तुत करने का प्रयास करके सरकार ने अपनी विश्वसनीयता को कमजोर किया तथा उन लोगों के साथ न्याय नहीं किया जिन्होंने अपने प्राणों का सर्वोच्च बलिदान दिया।

• Soon after the operation concluded in May 2025, the then Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, paid tribute, during a press briefing on May 11, 2025, to Indian military personnel who had made the supreme sacrifice, though their names were not disclosed.

मई 2025 में अभियान समाप्त होने के तुरंत बाद तत्कालीन डायरेक्टर जनरल

ऑफ मिलिट्री ऑपरेशंस (DGMO) लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल राजीव घई ने 11 मई 2025 को आयोजित प्रेस वार्ता के दौरान भारतीय सैन्य कर्मियों को सर्वोच्च बलिदान के लिए श्रद्धांजलि दी, यद्यपि उनके नाम सार्वजनिक नहीं किए गए।

• The cremations were done with full military honours.

शहीदों का अंतिम संस्कार पूर्ण सैन्य सम्मान के साथ किया गया।

• Tributes were simultaneously carried on the Indian Army's official social media platforms.

इसी दौरान भारतीय सेना के आधिकारिक सोशल मीडिया मंचों पर भी श्रद्धांजलि संदेश प्रकाशित किए गए।



- In the Lok Sabha on July 28, 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that “no Indian soldiers were harmed” during Operation Sindoor.
28 जुलाई 2025 को लोकसभा में रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा कि ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान “कोई भी भारतीय सैनिक हताहत नहीं हुआ।”
- Following accusations that it has misled Parliament, the Government is now explaining that the Minister’s remarks were made in the context of reports that Indian aircraft were shot down and were meant to clarify that no pilot was killed during the mission.
संसद को गुमराह करने के आरोपों के बाद सरकार अब यह स्पष्टीकरण दे रही है कि मंत्री का वक्तव्य उन रिपोर्टों के संदर्भ में था जिनमें भारतीय विमानों के मार गिराए जाने की बात कही गई थी और उसका उद्देश्य यह स्पष्ट करना था कि अभियान के दौरान किसी पायलट की मृत्यु नहीं हुई।
- The Government has also maintained that details relating to aircraft losses during the conflict remain operationally sensitive and refused to disclose them.
सरकार ने यह भी कहा है कि संघर्ष के दौरान विमानों की क्षति से संबंधित विवरण अभी भी संचालनात्मक रूप से संवेदनशील हैं और इसलिए उन्हें सार्वजनिक नहीं किया जा सकता।
- There is a distinction to be made between operational secrecy and requirements of public accountability.
संचालनात्मक गोपनीयता और लोक उत्तरदायित्व की आवश्यकताओं के बीच स्पष्ट अंतर किया जाना चाहिए।
- War is a stark demonstration of the fact that it is the public that always pays for all actions of the Government.
युद्ध इस तथ्य का स्पष्ट प्रमाण है कि अंततः सरकार के सभी निर्णयों की वास्तविक कीमत जनता ही चुकाती है।